

## **Hubert Godwin**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 3 September 1960**

### **DEATH OF MR. H. GODWIN, OF NEWPORT**

#### **Built Up Gent's Outfitting Business**

Newport lost one of its oldest and most highly esteemed business men by the death of Mr. Hubert Godwin, which occurred yesterday at his home, Elm Bank, Watergate Road, at the age of 77, after a long illness. He founded the family business of Godwin's, gent's outfitters and clothiers, in St. James's Square, over 50 years ago, and built it up to a flourishing concern with several Island branches. He was an extremely popular personality, a good mixer, and commanded the loyalty of the staff, several of whom have been with the firm for many years. He also took a keen interest in civic, social and sporting affairs.

Mr. Godwin was born in Wolverhampton, where his father had an outfitting business. He came to the Island 52 years ago to manage the shop in St. James's Square for a Mrs. Tuffley. Shortly afterwards he married Miss Nora Kathleen Draper, daughter of a solicitor at Oxford. About a year after his managership Mrs. Tuffley died, and Mr. Godwin acquired the business. With the assistance of his wife, the business expanded to include branches at Cowes, East Cowes, Freshwater, Yarmouth and Ryde. It was a bitter disappointment to Mr. Godwin when his only son, Mr. Kenneth William Joseph Godwin, died in 1945 at the age of 36, thus severing the link of direct succession to the family business. For that reason he disposed of the Ryde and Yarmouth branches. The other branches are still in the Godwin family, the interest being retained by Mr. Godwin's widow and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. M. K. Godwin.

Mr. Godwin saw active service in the South African war - he joined at 17, representing himself to be older - and was a prisoner for three months. He was a member of a home defence unit during the first world war, and the Home Guard during the second. He was a keen sportsman, being a member of Newport Football Club, the Hampshire County Cricket Club, and, in an active capacity, Newport Golf Club, of which he was at one time captain. He was prominent in Freemasonry, as a member of the Needles and Albany Mark Lodges, served at one time on the town council, and was a member of the County Club. He was treasurer of the South African War Veterans' Association, a member of Newport Business and Professional Association, and the National Association of Outfitters, in the latter regard making many mainland trips for conferences. He was a generous supporter of Newport activities and of the church - both St. Thomas's where he worshipped, and St. John's.

Since his health failed Mr. Godwin confined his business activities to morning visits to the shop and he was last there in July. He was passionately fond of his garden at Watergate Road.

A funeral service is to be held privately at the house on Tuesday, followed by cremation at Southampton. By Mr. Godwin's request there are to be no flowers and no mourning.

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2021*  
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>