

## William Hillier

Isle of Wight County Press 4 December 1965

### GODSHILL

**Former Island Machinery Officer.**-----The death took place suddenly on Sunday of Mr. William Hillier, aged 94, of Grasmere, Newport Road. Believed to have been the oldest resident of the district, Mr. Hillier was best known as machinery officer of the Island War Agricultural Executive Committee from 1940 until 1945. In this capacity his knowledge of Island land and its varying potentialities, gained as a member of one of the Island's oldest farming families, was of inestimable value. Writing as the war-time executive officer Mr. S. A. Watson, of Elenors Grove, Quarr, says "I know of no one who played a greater part in the successful food production in the Island and I salute his memory." Born at Rowridge Farm, Mr. Hillier had farmed extensively in many parts of the Island and was at Pidford, Rookley, for 25 years. While there he took an active part in the life of the village and was a school manager. He retired from farming on his own account and came to live at Grasmere in 1939. Previously he had been a partner in the firm of Hillier and Duke, later Duke Bros., of Newport. In the village he took an interest in horticulture and had been active in his garden and greenhouse until a few days before his death. He resided with his eldest daughter, Mrs. D. A. Hayles and he leaves a son and another daughter. The funeral service took place at Gatcombe Parish Church on Thursday.

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**The Late Mr. W. Hillier.**-----The funeral service took place at St. Olave's Church, Gatcombe, on Thursday week for Mr. William Hillier, of Grasmere, whose death was reported last week. The Rev. J. Evans (rector) officiated and the choir, with Mr. E. H. Abraham at the organ, led the hymns "How sweet the name" and "Ye holy angels bright," and the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm and Nunc Dimittis. The mourners were Mr. W. H. Hillier (son), Mrs. D. A. Hayles (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Morris (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. A. J. Rust (son-in-law), Messrs. T. Hillier and D. D. Rust (grandsons), Messrs. H. Hillier (representing Mr. J. Hillier) and H. B. and A. R. Minns (nephews) and Mesdames W. J. Barnes, R. Hall and F. B. Newnham and Miss E. Reynolds (nieces). Those also present included Mr. S. A. Watson (war-time executive officer), and Miss B. Warder (former machinery secretary), both late of the I.W. War Agricultural Executive, and representatives of the Horticultural Society, the Conservative Association, the Women's Institute and the Gatcombe Parochial Church Council. The floral tributes included those from Godshill Horticultural Society, the Women's Institute and the rector and Gatcombe Parochial Church Council. Interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery in the family plot. The arrangements were made by Messrs. A. A. and R. J. Westmore.

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