

William Hollis

Hampshire Independent – 1 July 1868

NEWPORT

FUNERAL OF A NEWPORT VOLUNTEER. – On Friday afternoon last the mortal remains of William Hollis, late a member of the 2nd Isle of Wight (Newport) Volunteers, were consigned to their last resting place in the Carisbrooke Cemetery, in the presence of about two thousand spectators. The ceremony was invested with all the impressive solemnities of a military funeral. The members of the Newport Company assembled in St. Thomas's Square at half-past five. There was a good muster of the Volunteers, and a full attendance of officers, amongst the latter being Capt. Pittis, Lieut. Arnell, Ensign Harvey, Capt. and Adjutant McGrotty, and Dr. Wilkins, the hon. surgeon of the corps. About a quarter of an hour after mustering the Volunteers marched to the residence of the deceased in Trafalgar-road, and on the coffin being brought from the house the firing party of twelve, under the command of Sergeant Reed, presented arms. The company formed into open rank for the passage through of the corpse and mourners, and the firing party, with arms reversed, went to the front. The procession then moved on in slow time in the following order : - The firing party; the band of the Newport Volunteers, playing that incomparable musical lamentation, the "Dead March," in *Saul*; the coffin, borne by post-office employees (the deceased was a rural postman); the relatives of the deceased; Mr. Duke, postmaster, and other officials; the Rev. F. J. Austin, and members of the St. James's-street Mutual Improvement Society and Young Men's Sunday School, to both of which the deceased belonged; the Volunteers; and members of the Newport Court of Foresters, of which the deceased was a member, the latter wearing the distinctive badges of their Order. On the top of the coffin were placed the shako, bayonet, and belt of the deceased, and his Forester's horn and sack. Members of the Volunteer Corps acted as pall bearers. On reaching the second cemetery gate the firing party halted, and formed open rank, leaning upon their arms reversed until the rest of the procession had passed. The coffin was taken direct to the place of interment, and here again the firing party, standing close to the grave of their late comrade, rested their bowed heads upon their reversed rifles. The funeral service was read by the Rev. F. J. Austin, minister of St. James's-street Congregational Church, who afterwards offered up an impressive *extempore* prayer, and delivered a few suitable and touching remarks to the immense crowd who pressed round the grave, earnestly entreating all to prepare for that great change which must sooner or later come to us all. At the close of this service an officer of the Newport Court of Foresters, standing at the foot of the grave, read the funeral oration prescribed by the Order, and the firing party then loaded with blank cartridge and fired three volleys into the air. Between each volley was to be heard the solemn rolling of the muffled drums. The number of persons present was perhaps the largest that has ever been seen in the Carisbrooke Cemetery, and by all the utmost order and decorum was manifested. The deceased, who was only 22 years old, was a young man of exemplary

character, and was esteemed by all who knew him. He was the stay and support of his widowed mother. His death was made the subject of an impressive funeral discourse at St. James`s-street Chapel on Sunday evening last, when the Rev. F. J. Austin preached to an overflowing congregation.

Transcription by Jeremy Hallam for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2022
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>