

Hugh Geoffrey Jeffery

Isle of Wight County Press 24 January 1948

Death of Well-Known Island Entomologist.

MR. H. G. JEFFERY, OF NEWPORT.

We regret to record the death at his home, Oxford Villa, Castle Road, Newport, on Tuesday, after a short illness, of Mr. Hugh Geoffrey Jeffery, who had been in business at 75 Pyle Street, Newport, for about 40 years as a furrier and taxidermist, and was more widely known as an entomologist and general student of wild life and botany.

Mr. Jeffery, who was 77, was attending to his business as usual on Saturday, but complained of feeling ill that evening, and heart trouble led to his death early on Tuesday morning. He was a native of Lymington, and was employed in a furrier's business at Croydon before he came to Newport. His wife died in June, 1946, and he leaves four daughters, with whom much sympathy is felt in their unexpected bereavement. Mr. Jeffery's skill at his calling and his quiet, helpful ways had won him the esteem of all who knew him. Just as he was a master of his craft, so he was a master of the natural history subjects of which he had made a study. He specialised in beetles and the smaller families of moths, and possessed a very fine collection of these insects, which he had personally secured in his searches in the Island and in the New Forest, but he had also gained an extensive knowledge of all forms of insect life and of birds and botany. The 'County Press' had often been grateful to him for identifying rare natural history specimens sent by readers. His reputation as an entomologist extended far beyond the Island. Visiting entomologists often sought his help and advice. He had given many talks on insect life at the meetings of the I.W. Natural History Society, and was a member of the council of that society, and also a member of the Society for British Entomology. A fellow entomologist, Mr. J. W. Saunt, of East Cowes, said of him: "There was no one in the Island who possessed such a wide knowledge of ornithology, botany, and entomology."

The funeral took place on Thursday, a service at St. John's Church preceding the interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The Rev. E. A. B. Royds (vicar) officiated, and the service included Psalm 121 and the hymn "Peace, perfect peace," and Miss D. Welby-Pryer, at the organ, played "O rest in the Lord" as the cortege left the church. The mourners were: Mesdames H. C. Taylor and H. S. Newbery and Miss R. M. Jeffery (daughters), Mr. H. S. Newbery (son-in-law), Miss E. J. Newbery (sister-in-law), Mrs. F. Pay, and the Misses F. E. M. Scott and I. Palmer. Miss G. E. Jeffery (daughter), Mr. H. C. Taylor (son-in-law), and Mrs. H. S. Wakely, of Herne Hill, were unable to attend.

Those also present included Mr. and Mrs. H. Moody, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Porter, Mesdames F. Attrill (representing Mr. and Mrs. A. Hess), P. C. Morgan (representing Mr. P. C. Morgan), and J. T. Collins (representing Mr. J. T. Collins), the Misses Oram, D. Etheridge (representing the Misses K. and A. Etheridge), and Croucher, and Messrs. A. B. Gould (representing Mrs. A. B. Gould), C. Heal, J. W. Saunt, A. J. Taylor, F. Gwilliam, F. Neat, and W. L. Bright.

There were numerous floral tributes. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

*Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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