

## James Kearney

Isle of Wight County Press

1 September 1923

### Parkhurst

**DEATH OF MR. JAMES KEARNEY.**- By the death of Tuesday, at the age of 72, of Mr. James Kearney, of 1 Hill Crest-terrace, Albany-road, the Parkhurst district loses a widely esteemed and very popular resident, who for a quarter of a century had been a very familiar figure, especially to those connected with the barracks, where from 1896 till early in 1920, when he retired, he was the chief clerk in the Army Service Corps office, and barrack warden. The late Mr. Kearney had a wonderful, if not unique, record of unbroken service with the Army, extending over the long period of 53 years. The son of a soldier, he enlisted in the 91st (Argyle and Sutherland) Highlanders in India in December, 1866, saw active service in the Zulu war of 1879, for which he held the medal, and later served continuously in the paymaster's department, and as a military staff clerk until 1896, when he took up his duties at Parkhurst. From the very first he showed a genial spirit of fellowship and readiness to aid any good work, and as a talented cornet soloist and vocalist, he soon won hosts of friends in Newport and the neighbourhood. His tasteful baritone solos at local concerts, often accompanied by his son (Mr. G. Kearney, a skilful pianist) are still a pleasant memory to many, and as a member of the old St. Paul's Band, of the Volunteer Band, and Philharmonic Orchestra, he won further popularity and regard. In the cricket field, too, he was equally well-known. During the early years of his life at Parkhurst he often played and proved himself a skilful exponent of the game, and in later years his services were often sought as an umpire. Just recently he was awarded the Meritorious Service medal, which reached him only a week before his death. He had been in failing health for some months. He leaves a widow and with her and the members of the family sincere sympathy is felt. The late Mr. Kearney was one of the oldest members of the Newport Roman Catholic Church. He was a man whose courtesy, geniality, kindness, and uprightness of character immediately impressed all brought into contact with him, and his passing will be seriously mourned by a wide circle of friends, who held him in the highest esteem. It is rather pathetic that Mr. Kearney was denied the pleasure of witnessing the return of his old regiment, the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, to Parkhurst Barracks. They are due to arrive within a few weeks, and he was hoping that he should be spared to have his Meritorious Service medal presented by their commanding officer. The funeral took place yesterday (Friday). There was a requiem mass in the morning at the R.C. Church. In accordance with the wishes of the deceased the obsequies were of a simple character. The Rev. Father T. Watson officiated here and at the graveside at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The principal mourners were four sons of the deceased, Messrs. James, Thomas, Edward and George Kearney, Mr. T. Downer, Mr. R. Meech, Mr. McMullan, Mr. F. Rizmon, Mr. W. D. Peachey, and Mr. H. Harris. Deceased's son William and Mr. Spittal were prevented from attending by illness, and Capt. W. F. Osborne (son-in-law) was also unable to attend. Those also present included the Rev. Father J. O' Hanlon (Cowes), and the Rev. Father F. H. Clark (East Cowes).

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