

Ben Locke

Isle of Wight County Press - 8 January 1955

CARISBROOKE

The Late Mr. Ben Locke. — The death occurred suddenly at his home on Monday of Mr. Benjamin Locke, aged 88, of Elm Cottage, 71 High Street. Mr. Locke, who celebrated his diamond wedding anniversary last June, was in fairly good health and with his wife spent a happy Christmas with one of their daughters at Sandown. He was a member of a much respected local family and was well known throughout the Island as an expert thatcher, a craft he learned from his father, Mr. James Locke, of Shorwell. He is believed to have the last surviving member of old Atherfield lifeboat crew and took part in several of the more famous rescue attempts undertaken by the lifeboat. These included the saving of the passengers and crew of the North German Lloyd liner Elder on New Year's Day, 1892. Originally a Conservative, Mr. Locke became one of the pioneers of the Island Labour movement, in which Mrs. Locke also takes a keen interest. He leaves five daughters, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. The funeral service took place in the house on Thursday. It was conducted by the Rev. Dr. W. H. Mildon and included the hymn "Abide with me," sung by the daughters. The family mourners were: Mrs. F. Locke (widow), Mr. and Mrs. A. Gill, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dearman, Mr. and Mrs. W. Squibb, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Williams (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs. W. Cowie (daughter, also representing Mr. W. Cowie), Mr. and Mrs. W. Overs, Mr. and Mrs. V. Denham, Mr. and Mrs. A. Doherty (grandchildren), Messrs. E. Scott and M. Squibb (grandsons, also representing Mesdames Scott and Squibb respectively), and Mrs. P. Riddett (niece). Mr. and Mrs. J. Toogood (nephew and niece) were unable attend through Indisposition. The Carisbrooke ward Labour Party was represented, and among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the Labour Party. The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp. - Mrs. B. Locke and family wish to acknowledge the wonderful attention given by Dr. J. C. Jones. They also thank all friends and neighbours who have kindly help them in the past.

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