

John Martin Mansbridge

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 23 March 1940

NEWPORT

DEATH OF MR. J. M. MANSBRIDGE

An interesting link with the more leisurely days of the past has been severed by the death on Wednesday at 71 Medina-avenue of Mr. John Martin Mansbridge, aged 85. The deceased had lived in the Island for all but the earliest years of his life, and belonged to a large and well-known family most of whom were millers. The deceased, however, the last surviving member of the family, chose the calling of blacksmith, and amongst his early memories were those of assisting to shoe Queen Victoria's horses while working at Whippingham. He retained a vivid recollection of the days when the Court was at Osborne, particularly of the Queen's dour Scot retainer, John Brown. For 37 years, the major portion of his working life, he was a master blacksmith at Blackwater, where he had charge of the local Post Office. He was a very skilful workman at a time when metal work was almost exclusively handmade, and examples of his art in wrought iron are still to be seen in many parts of the Island.

While in Blackwater he became interested in Methodism, which interest proved lifelong. He was superintendent of the local Methodist Sunday-school and an ardent worker for the church. In 1879 he became a local preacher on the former Primitive Methodist plan, and was transferred to the Wesleyan circuit when Methodist union took place, remaining on the plan until his death, although he had not been able to preach for some years. He was one of the oldest local preachers in the Island. He was a former chairman of the South Arreton Parish Council and was the second oldest member of the Island's Pioneer Tent of Rechabites, his name having been on the books since 1875. Mr. Mansbridge, who retired in 1918, lived to see his son, Mr. F. W. Mansbridge, now of Bagshot, retire after a career as a teacher. Mrs. Mansbridge died in 1932. The funeral takes place to-day (Saturday), the service being at 3.15 p.m. in the Victoria Methodist Church.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 30 March 1940

THE FUNERAL

The funeral of Mr. John Martin Mansbridge of 71 Medina-avenue, who died last week, aged 85, took place on Saturday at the Victoria Methodist Church, the Rev. H. J. Franklin officiating, assisted by the Rev. H. W. Hamon (superintendent), in the presence of a large congregation. The hymns "O Jesus, I have promised," and "Rock of ages" were sung, and the Minister paid eloquent tribute to deceased's life and witness, Mr. E. J. H. Quarrier (organist) played "O for the wings of a dove" and "O rest in the Lord" as voluntaries. The mourners were Mr. F. W. Mansbridge (son), Mrs. F. New (daughter), and Mrs. E. Upward (niece), Mr. S. New and Mr. G. Mansbridge (nephews), Mrs. F. W. Mansbridge (daughter-in-law), and Messrs F. Cottell and A. Cogger, Miss M. Mansbridge (niece) and Mr. A. Mansbridge (nephew) were prevented from attending.

The Interment was in Carisbrooke Cemetery, the many floral tributes including those from the Victoria Methodist Church and the local preachers of the West Wight circuit. Mr. W. W. Wells made the arrangements.

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