

Charles Blake O'Dogherty

Isle of Wight County Press - 23rd June 1900

DISTRESSING DEATH OF A NEWPORT OARSMAN.

We regret to record the death, which took place with distressing suddenness on Monday afternoon, of Mr. Charles Blake O'Dogherty, residing at Portland-terrace, Newport, a member of the clerical staff of the Newport branch of the National Provincial Bank and an enthusiastic oarsman. Deceased, who was the youngest son of Mr. F. O'Dogherty, of Salash, Cornwall, was only 19 years old. He was a keen sportsman and very active and much esteemed member of the Newport Rowing Club. Passionately fond of rowing, the deceased had as recently as Whit Monday taken part with Club colleagues in a four-oared galley pleasure trip across the Solent to Beaulieu, and throughout the journey and after the return he appeared in his usual health and spirits. He was boating again on the following Thursday, and it was not till Friday that he complained of the effects of internal complications, which developed so seriously. He rapidly grew worse and on Sunday night it was deemed advisable to remove him in the ambulance waggon to the Royal I.W. Infirmary for an operation. It was then found that his condition was hopeless and he died about 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon.

At a well-attended meeting of the Newport Rowing Club specially convened on Tuesday evening, a resolution of condolence and sympathy with the family of the deceased was passed. Mr. T. R. Tilling (vice president) presided, and he said the president of the Club (Mr. Francis T. Mew, J.P., C.C.), who regretted inability to be present through being out of the town, had asked him to express his deep sympathy with the object of the meeting. Mr. C. F. Fox had also written regretting his absence owing to a prior engagement, and several other members were also unavoidably prevented from attending. Proceedings to refer to the object of the meeting, the Chairman said the event which had brought them together was one of the saddest and most touching it had been their lot as a club to experience. They had not forgotten, and were not likely to forget, the thrill of sorrow that went through the Club when, after a long illness, their first president, the late Mr. Arthur Estcourt, was taken from them; but it seemed to him that the death of Mr. O'Dogherty was perhaps even more affecting on account of its terrible suddenness. As one of their youngest and most prominent rowing members, Mr. O'Dogherty would be greatly missed. Till practically the last he was apparently in full vigour of health and energy, ever ready to take part in and do everything possible to advance the interests of the Club and to make things go pleasantly; he was a good sportsman, keen on training, always taking his place in the boat; he was practising almost to the last moment, and his general character and excellent qualities were such as to make friends of all with whom he came into contact. As in sport so in business the late Mr. O'Dogherty showed that same cheerful and manly bearing, and it seemed impossible to realise that one who had just embarked upon life with every prospect of success would never be seen amongst them again. He had left them a good example, the recollection of which they would all cherish with feelings of the greatest respect and affection (hear, hear). It was impossible for them to imagine the depth of grief which had been brought so suddenly upon the bereaved family, and if sympathy was any slight solace in their hour of grief he was sure no sympathy would be more sincere than that of the members of Newport Rowing Club, with which the late Mr. O'Dogherty was so closely associated and in which he took such an active interest (hear, hear). He concluded by proposing a very sincere vote of condolence and sympathy with the family in their exceptionally sad bereavement. Mr. Arthur Chappell seconded the resolution, remarking that the late Mr. O'Dogherty was one of the most esteemed and popular members of the Club, owing to his geniality, kindness of disposition,

and readiness at all times to do his best in the most unselfish way for the interests of that Club and rowing, being willing at all times to help in making up a crew. Little did they think when rowing with him to Beaulieu, only a week ago, when their deceased friend was in his usual health and excellent spirits, that they would so soon be mourning the loss of one of their Club's most zealous, valued, and enthusiastic supporters. He was sure he was only expressing what their departed comrade would have been most anxious should be made perfectly clear, in view of what had been suggested outside, that rowing was not to blame for that very sad event. Mr. A. H. Villetard (captain) endorsed what had been so well said by the proposer and seconder, and the resolution was then carried in silence, the members rising.

The funeral of de cease took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Thursday afternoon, the Rev. A. H. C. Edlin officiating. The body, enclosed in a polished elm coffin with brass furniture, was borne from Ryde in an open hearse, the father of the deceased being the principal mourner. He was accompanied by Mr. W. Pearce (manager of the Newport branch of the National Provincial Bank), and others of the Bank staff who followed were Messrs. A. B. Holland, J. L. Graham (cashier), H. Steeple, H. J. Simpson, and Palmer. The Newport Rowing Club was also well represented by, amongst others, Messrs. T. R Tilling, W. T. James, T.C. (vice presidents), A.H. Villetard, (captain), A. G. Weeks (deputy captain and hon. sec.), A. Chappell, W. L. Bright, W. Blake, R. Pring, J. Bird, Henna (Cowes), J. B. Alderslade, T. J. Bomford, H. R. Bennett, H. Simmonds, A Blackwell, F. Wray, T. Mew, Welsh, Palmer, C. H. Cowdrey, J. Dove, and B. White. The Vicar of Newport (the Rev. H. Edmund Sharpe) was prevented from being present through having to take the service which took place simultaneously at the parish church, and Mr. G. A. Brannon was among others connected with the Club who were unavoidably absent. The beautiful floral mementos on the coffin included an anchor, "With deepest sympathy from the members of Newport Rowing Club," and others were thus inscribed: "From father and sisters in remembrance of a dearly loved lad," "With deepest sympathy from the Bank staff," "With sincere sympathy from his friends, H. E. Blunt, A. H. Villetard, T. J. Bromford, A. G. Weeks, and H. R. Bennett," "In affectionate remembrance from Mr. And Mrs. Frank Weeks," "With sincere regard from Mrs. Gibson." Mr. C. Langdon, of Ryde, carried out the funeral arrangements.

Transcribed by Roger O'Nions for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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