

**Percy Wilberforce Rootham**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 22 July 1939**

**DEATH OF MR. P. W. ROOTHAM, OF CARISBROOKE**

**A Well Known Lawn Tennis Administrator.**

The death took place after a short illness on Thursday at the residence of his niece (Mrs. A. J. Carr), Four Ways, Carisbrooke, of Mr. Percy Wilberforce Rootham, aged 67, who was very well known in English lawn tennis circles and as a Freemason.

Mr. Rootham was a founder and the first hon. secretary of the Dulwich Covered Courts, and also promoted the London and Paris series of international covered court matches. His membership of the L.T.A. went back to 1910, and he was elected a vice-president in 1922. He did much useful work as a member of the coaching and other committees.

In addition to being president until recently of the Surrey County L.T.A. he had played an active part in the encouragement of tennis overseas and in junior tennis in this country. In 1924 he was chairman of the committee of management of the Junior Championships of Great Britain at Wimbledon, and acted as honorary referee.

Until two years ago, when he and his wife came to live in retirement with Mr. and Mrs. Carr, Mr. Rootham resided at Dulwich, and was for many years in business as a produce broker with extensive trading associates in the colonies. His business connections enabled him to support his favourite game in the colonies, and he was a life vice-president of the Kenya Lawn Tennis Club and chairman of the tennis section of the Dominion Students' Athletic Union. He recently gave a tennis challenge cup to the Newport Grammar School, where Mr. Carr is senior master.

He was educated at Bristol Grammar School, and came of a distinguished musical family, his father having been for 50 years conductor of the Bristol Madrigal Society. He as a brother of Dr. Cyril Rootham, Mus.Doc., who died last year, after having been organist and musical director of St. John's College, Cambridge, for 37 years, and a composer of wide repute. Though he adopted a business career, the late Mr. Rootham shared the family musical tradition, and was a pianist, organist, and singer of no mean ability. He found opportunity to continue his interest in the art at Carisbrooke, and was a warm supporter of local musical activities. All who had the privilege of his friendship will cherish the memory of an able and outstanding personality. He leaves a widow, but no family.

The funeral will take place this (Saturday) afternoon, service at Carisbrooke Church at 1.30 p.m.

**Isle of Wight County Press - 29 July 1939**

**CARISBROOKE**

**The Late Mr. P. W. Rootham.**—The funeral of Mr. Percy W. Rootham, the well-known lawn tennis legislator, who died at Four Ways, Clatterford, last week, took place on Saturday, a service being held at the Parish Church and interment following at the cemetery. The Vicar (the Rev. H. Ewbank) officiated and the organist (Mr. G. R. Barrett) accompanied the hymn "Thine for ever" and played Wesley's "Choral Song" at the close. Mr. A. J. Carr represented the widow and the other chief mourners were Mrs. Carr (niece), Mr. J. St. John Rootham (nephew), Mr. and Mrs. R. Baker (cousins), and Mrs. Meaning. Mr. H. A. Sabeill, C.B.E., J. P., (secretary), represented the Lawn Tennis Association.

Mr. E. B. Ames (hon. treasurer) the Surrey Lawn Tennis Association, and others attending at the church were the Rev. and Mrs. L. J. D. Wheatley, Masters G. Lambert and C., Wheatley (representing the Newport Grammar School pupils), Mr. R. Taylor (Carisbrooke branch Toc H), Capt. J. S. Brown, T.C., Mrs. Ewbank, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Attrill, Miss Brannon, Dr. C. K. Sylvester, Capt. R. G. Forbes, and Messrs. F. Chiverton, T.C., C. H. Chowdery, and H. Webb. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2021*  
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>