

## **James Ruddle**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 22 May 1926**

### **NEWPORT**

**DEATH OF THE REV. J. RUDDLE.**- We regret to record the death. on Thursday, from pleurisy, of the Rev. James Ruddle, aged 78, of 2 Chelsea- villas, Carisbrooke-road, a retired Unitarian minister, who was for some years pastor of the local church of that denomination, and had since rendered valued assistance at the services. He was also esteemed for his charitable work in the town, notably with the Guild of Help and the Newport Benevolent Society, of the latter of which he was hon. secretary for some time. He was actively identified with literary, educational, natural history, and other activities, took a leading part in the Debating Society in the town and was a valued member of the local Adult School. His daughter, Miss Ruddle, with whom much sympathy is felt, is the president of the Carisbrooke Women's Institute, and deceased only recently conducted a Shakespearian reading class in connection with it. He was about as usual until the latter part of last week, when he contracted a chill, which ended fatally.

**Isle of Wight County Press - 29 May 1926**

### **FUNERAL OF THE REV. J. RUDDLE.**

The funeral of the Rev. J. Ruddle, of Newport, took place on Tuesday, the service, held in the Unitarian Church, Newport, being attended by a large number of members of the church and others, who held its former minister in high esteem. It was conducted by the Rev. W. G. Tarrant, an old college friend, assisted by the Rev. W. Clark Lewis, who succeeded the deceased as minister. Prior to the commencement the organist (Mrs. G. Cooper) played "O rest in the Lord" and "He that shall endure to the end." The hymns were "Thou grace divine, encircling all" and "God giveth quietness at last." The mourners were Mr. and Mrs K. B. Fisher (daughter and son-in-law), Miss Ruddle (daughter), Mr. F. H. Ruddle (brother), the Rev. & Mrs. C. A. Ashelford (nephew & niece), Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Clark Lewis and Mr. J. Dowden (representing the Unitarian Church), and Messrs. H. H. Penning, A. J. Clarke and I. Hailstone (representing the Adult School). There were also present the Rev. H. S. Footman (Vicar of Carisbrooke), the Rev. T. Lecher, Dr. S. V. Undercliff, Messrs. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., J. Way, and T. Buckler, Nurse Buckler, Mesdames Bird Cheverton, Dalby, and Hopkins, the Misses Haynes and Cogger, and the following members of the Carisbrooke Women's Institute: Mrs. Brannon and Miss N. Footman (vice-presidents), Miss Witham, and Mesdames Phillips, Matthews, Fairley, Coward, Watson, Knott, Philpot, Harvey, and George. The Rev. W. G. Tarrant said all of them who mourned the loss of the dear man who for nine years was the minister of that congregation, and who knew at all well the spirit of his ministry, would also know well the kind of thoughts he would have them cherish at that time. He was before all things a minister of the Gospel of Christ. He had given nearly 30 years - the best of his life - to the service of that Gospel before he came to Newport, and they might truly say that he was still dedicated to its service in the last years spent in that town. For some 45 years James Ruddle walked faithfully and consistently as a servant of truth, and they felt that he would wish all whom he loved so much and cared for to take to heart the deep truth of the religion they professed. They thanked God that so much activity of mind and body remained with him to the last; but for earth the end had come, and the place that knew him would know him no more. Their friend and teacher taught them to

believe that within all that faded there was an enduring reality. They would indeed miss the well-known form, the cheery voice, the cordial clasp of the hand, but the immortal part was greater than all that their bodily senses could perceive. The spirit that dwelt in a tabernacle of flesh was set free and was for ever safe in the Divine keeping. Therefore, though they must needs mourn, they did not sorrow as without hope. Rather they took that to be an hour of solemnly grateful recognition of the blessing which came to them in such a life, and an hour of peaceful surrender, for such time as they too awaited the call to follow him into the unseen. It was the Lord Who gave, Who made him all he was, with his fine gifts of mind and heart, his sincerity and courage, his quiet sympathy, his manly humility, and devout spirit. It was the same Lord Who had taken away. All was well with him - "Blessed be the name of the Lord." They would return from those last tender rites to their usual duties, cares, and everyday joys. Should they go back to them with an added sense of the worth of life and of the high opportunities which every day brought them. They, too, had their part in the ministry of the Gospel of Christ. The lives of Christ, like men and women were more eloquent of that Gospel than even the noblest of preaching could be. Such living words were never more needed than today. As the Lord of the Harvest called home their beloved one, who went bearing his sheaves with him, let them, every one, be attentive to the call that came to them to be labourers in that spiritual harvest, so that in their eventide, as in his, there might be heard the welcome which came to him. "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord." At the close Chopin's Marche Funebre was played. The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The wreaths included those from members of the church, the Adult School, the Sunday-school, and the Carisbrooke Women's Institute. The arrangements were efficiently carried out by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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