

Marguerite Rosa Stark

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ISLAND MUSICIAN'S DEATH - MRS. M. STARK, OF CARISBROOKE

Island music circles suffered a great loss by the death at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on Friday week, of Mrs. Marguerite Rosa Stark, aged 76, of Westerdale, 75 Clatterford Road, Carisbrooke. A wonderful musician and teacher, she was a life supporter of the I.W. Musical Competition Festival.

Mrs. Stark was the widow of Artificer Engineer A. E. Stark, R.N., who was killed in action in 1917 aboard H.M.S. Drake. She was born in Cowes, of a mainland family. Music was her life and she received her grounding in eminent quarters, being a pupil of Tobias Matthay and Dalcroze. She established a school for music in Newport, teaching principally piano, eurythmics and percussion. In 1954 she moved to Westerdale, Carisbrooke, and continued the school there, but about three years later began to relinquish the work owing to failing health.

A talented pianist, she numbered gold medalists among her pupils and one who was awarded the gold medal for the British Isles. Mrs. Stark was a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

Mrs. Stark took a keen interest in the Music Festival from the inception in 1923. She was formerly chairman of the music selection committee, and was a member of the general committee at the time of her death.

Mrs. Stark is survived by her sister (Mrs. E. Stockton, with whom she resided), one son (Mr. Richard Stark) and four grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke, where Mrs. Stark was confirmed in 1901 and married in 1911. The vicar (the Rev. J. Souttar) officiated. The hymn "The Lord's my shepherd" was sung to Crimond and the music played by Mr. E. H. Abraham at the organ was "Jesu, joy of man's desiring" and "I know that my Redeemer liveth".

The chief mourners were Mrs. E. Stockton (sister), Mr. and Mrs. R. Stark (son and daughter-in-law), Terry, Alan and Colin Stark (grandchildren), Miss M. Morris, Mrs. D. Thornton, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Morris (cousins), Mr. Jackson Stewart, Mrs. F. Guy, Mrs. L. Linfield, and Mr. A. L. Smith. Evelyn Stark (grandchild) was unable to attend.

The I.W. Music Competition Festival were represented by Mr. C.G. Crawley, M.B.E. (chairman), and members. The floral tributes included those from the Musical Festival, Denham Pharmacy (Denham, Bucks), and friends and neighbours. The Interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Transcription by Rosemary Stewart for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries
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