

William Charles Stevens
Isle of Wight County Press 10 October 1953
NEWPORT

Golden Wedding.- Congratulations have been extended to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Stevens, of 75 Trafalgar Road, who were married 50 years ago on Wednesday. They are celebrating their golden anniversary with a family gathering at the Leigh Richmond Hall to-day, at which 35 relatives are expected to be present, including one of Mrs. Steven's bridesmaids, now Mrs. Maud Jolliffe, of Cowes, and Mr. and Mrs. Steven's five daughters, four sons, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. For over 27 years, until 1929, Mr. Stevens was a policeman in the Island and was stationed in the town apart from four years in Yarmouth. Previous to this he had been in the Hampshire Militia, joining in 1894 and shortly after being transferred to the 18th Hussars. In the following year, he went to India and in 1898 to South Africa. Whilst at Dundee, South Africa, the South African War broke out and he was on the spot when the fighting started. After the war, he returned to the Island, where he joined the police. In the first World War he was in the 40th Division Military Mounted Police from 1915 to 1919. A companion of his discovered a china ornament, inscribed "Isle of Wight" and bearing the Borough crest, in the rubble of a shelled house in Armentieres, where some of the Division's horses were stabled. After leaving the police force in 1929, Mr. Stevens became yard inspector for Red Funnel Steamers at Cowes, where he controlled the movements of vehicles using the ferry. During the second World War, he was a security policeman at Messrs. Saunders-Roe Ltd., retiring after 10 years service in 1945. Mr. Stevens is 79 and his wife 77.

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Military and Police Veteran's Death.- The funeral took place on Saturday at St. John's Church, of Mr. William Charles Stevens, of 75 Trafalgar Road, who died on Thursday week, aged 83. Mr. Stevens had a fine record of military and police service. He joined the 18th Hussars in 1894 and served in India and in South Africa through the Boer War. He left the army in 1903 and joined the Isle of Wight Constabulary. During the first world war he served in France in the Mounted Military Police, retiring in 1929. He became traffic inspector at Fountain Pier, Cowes, for the Southampton, Isle of Wight, and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Ltd., until the outbreak of the second world war. During that war he was a security policeman at Saunders-Roe, Ltd., East Cowes. He then settled down to a well-deserved retirement, to enjoy life out of uniform. The funeral service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper). The mourners were Mrs. F. Stevens (widow), Mr. and Mrs. H. Stevens and Mrs. A. W. Stevens (son and daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. W. Hambury, Mr. and Mrs. M. Redfern, Mr. and Mrs. J. Plumley, Miss H. Stevens, and Mrs. C. Morey (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs. E. Stevens (sister-in-law), Mr. W. A. Lockyer, Miss M. Reed, the Misses V. and G. Church, and Mr. L. Church. Mr. A. W. Stevens (son) and Mr. S. Stevens (brother) were unable to attend owing to illness. The police, who sent floral tributes, were represented by several old colleagues of the Isle of Wight Force and members of the Hampshire and I.W. Constabulary. The interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

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