

Samuel William Pring Whitcombe

Isle of Wight County Press 14 December 1918

(an erroneous entry!)

NEWPORT

DEATH OF MR. "SAM" WHITCOMBE.--Newport loses a familiar figure by the death of Mr. Samuel William Pring Whitcombe, who passed away on Thursday at the advanced age of 91. Up to quite recently deceased had been in vigorous health. He was a great pedestrian, and even when nearing the "nineties" he thought nothing of walking 20 miles at a stretch. As his name indicates, deceased was connected with well-known local families. From his early years he took a great interest in maritime matters, and he would often talk of the voyages he made when a young man. He was popularly called "Captain," of which designation he was particularly proud, and when sometimes addressed as "admiral," he showed not the smallest diffidence in accepting the rank! He claimed to be an authority on river and harbour questions, and in times of controversy the Corporation of Newport have experienced no keener criticism than that offered, in strident tones, by Mr. "Sam" Whitcombe. He was always partial to a boat and "a bit of fishing," and only a few weeks ago he told the writer that he was making everything ready for a fine season on his beloved river. Our readers may remember that in a note by "Stylus" in the *County Press* a fortnight since it was stated that there were only two survivors of those who took an active part in Newport Regatta in 1858, one being Capt. William Minns and the other the "evergreen" Mr. "Sam" Whitcombe. Now both are gone. Thus one by one the "old familiar faces" pass away. Peace to them.

Isle of Wight County Press 21 December 1918

NEWPORT

MR. S. W. P. WHITCOMBE.--In correction of an obituary notice published in last week's *County Press* on what we had reason to believe was reliable authority, we are glad to be able to state that at the time this paragraph was written our nonagenarian friend, Mr. "Sam" Whitcombe, was still in the land of the living.

Isle of Wight County Press 6 March 1920

NEWPORT

DEATH OF MR. SAM WHITCOMBE.--Death has removed a well-known figure in the person of Mr. Samuel W. P. Whitcombe, who died on Monday, at the age of 92. For well over 50 years he had been a familiar figure in Newport, particularly in connection with the river, where he had a smack named the Fawn. He was often in conflict with the youthful frequenters of the riverside, his somewhat eccentric manners of living tending to invite mischievous interference. On one occasion he was in danger of being suffocated whilst sleeping in the cabin of the Fawn, owing to

boys having got aboard and stopped up the smoke stack leading from the stove. In former days his naturally contentious nature prompted frequent opposition to Corporation policy, which found expression in resisting payment of rates, but he eventually tired of this futile method of objecting, advancing age proving a slightly mellowing influence. He belonged to a family well known at Portsmouth. The funeral will take place tomorrow (Sunday) at Carisbrooke, at 2 o'clock.

Transcription by Pamela Cowan for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2023
<https://www.fnocc.org.uk>