

Edwin Williams

Isle of Wight County Press 31 March 1888

NEWPORT

DEATH OF MR. EDWIN WILLIAMS.---We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Edwin Williams, who was for some years clerk to the Registrar of the Isle of Wight County Court, and who during his residence in Newport had made many friends and won much respect. The illness of the deceased was of very short duration, and he passed away last Monday in the very flower of his young manhood, his years numbering only 24. The late Mr. Williams possessed considerable musical talent, both as a vocalist and a violinist, and he was at all times ready to devote his gifts for the benefit of any good cause. He was a member of Carisbrooke Church choir, and also of the Newport Amateur String Band. His funeral took place on Thursday last at Carisbrooke Cemetery with military honours, the deceased having been a member of the C company of Volunteers. The parade was under the command of Sergeant Major Beadle, and the firing party was in charge of Sergeant Way. At half past two the Volunteers, preceded by the band of the headquarter companies, under Batt. Bandmaster J. G. Jones, marched to the residence of the deceased in Trafalgar-road. The coffin, which was a handsome one of polished elm, with silver mountings, was draped with the Union Jack, and upon it, almost hidden by floral wreaths, were the helmet and belt of the deceased Volunteer. The firing party came first in the procession, followed by the band, immediately behind which was the coffin, borne by comrades of the deceased. Then came three carriages, in the first of which was Mr. Edward F. Blake, and with him was Mr. Williams, a brother of the deceased. After this came a carriage containing Mr. J. T. Read (organist), and Messrs. Frank King, E. J. Airs, and S. Wadham, members of the Carisbrooke Church choir. Mr. Reynolds, who was for some time a fellow clerk of the late Mr. Williams, was also one of the mourners. Then came a large number of the officers and members of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows, to which the deceased had belonged, and the rear was brought up with Volunteers and a number of spectators. With the band playing the "Dead March" in *Saul*, the procession slowly wended its way to the cemetery, at the entrance to which the cortege was met by the Rev. F. Rogers, curate of Carisbrooke, who conducted the service. At the grave Mr. A. S. Estcourt, read the funeral address of the order of Oddfellows, after which the three volleys fired by the Volunteers over the grave of their departed comrade brought to a conclusion a deeply impressive service. The organist and choir of Carisbrooke Church sent a wreath "as a token of sincere regard for the memory of an esteemed and valued member of the choir"; the vicar of Carisbrooke also sent a floral memorial; and among a number of other wreaths was a beautiful one with the name "Mamie" attached to it.

At Carisbrooke Church yesterday (Good Friday) the funeral hymn, "Christ shall gather in His own," was sung, the vicar stating that it had been selected by the clergy and choir to be

sung by the congregation as a token of affectionate regard and esteem for Edwin Williams, who had endeared himself to all who knew him by his gentleness and amiability, his unassuming manners, and undeviating probity of conduct. For the space of two full years, continued the vicar, his voice had been continually heard in the choir, singing the praises of God, and his continued interest in the worship of that House of God was shown by what he said to a friend who paid him a visit last Sunday (the day before his death). He asked what the service would be that evening, and on being told that the anthem would be "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me," he said "That was the anthem when I first joined the Carisbrooke choir on Palm Sunday, 1886." At the conclusion of the service, the organist (Mr. J. T. Read) played as an out-voluntary Beethoven's Funeral March. The deceased was, we believe, a native of Truro, and the sympathy of all who knew him here is with the bereaved friends.

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