

## William Williams

Isle of Wight County Press 27 April 1929

### NEWPORT

**ASHANTI WAR VETERAN'S FUNERAL.**- The remains of Mr. William Williams, formerly a sergeant in the Royal Engineers, who for 39 years lived in Portland-street, were laid to rest at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Monday in the presence of a goodly number of friends. The Rev. W. H. Mackinnon, M.A. (vicar of St. John's) officiated. The chief mourners were Miss Minnie Williams (daughter), Mrs. Ida Williams (sister-in-law), Mrs. H. Brown (Brook Farm), Mr. H. Smith (Mottiston Manor), Mr. H. Smith (godson of Ryde), Mr. J. Farrington, late R.E., Mr. Roy Meech, Miss F. Meech, and Mr. W. Kerley, of Cowes. Mrs. W. Williams (widow) and Miss Jessie Williams (daughter) were prevented from attending by illness. There were some 30 beautiful floral tributes testifying to the esteem and affection in which the late Mr. Williams was held, one of which, a handsome cross, bore the following inscription: "With very sincere sympathy and regret, from a few lovers of cricket and friends of 'The Major.'" this being the familiar name by which the venerable old soldier was generally known in Newport. Maj.-Gen. J. E. B. Seely, D.S.O., kindly lent one of his cars, and Lieut.- Col. M. F. Day, M.C. (commanding the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry at Parkhurst), sent a bugler, who sounded the Last Post as the coffin was lowered into the grave. Messrs. O. H. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

The late Sergt. Williams served for more than 21 years in the Royal Engineers, being attached to the then Sir Garnet Wolseley's force which took Kumasai, the capital of Ashanti, in the war of 1873-4. He held three medals, namely, the Ashanti with the Kumasai bar, the long service and good conduct medal, and the meritorious service medal, the last-mentioned being quite recently given him with an extra £10 pension per annum. On completing his military service the late Mr. Williams worked in the telegraph department of the Newport Post-office for 15 years with his old friend Mr. J. Farrington, who has resided next door to him for 35 years. Until old age and inevitable infirmities crept on, the late Mr. Williams spent much of his leisure time in quiet walks in the country and in watching cricket and hockey games on the Victoria Recreation-ground. He was an amiable old soldier who had reached the age of 82, and he will be greatly missed in Newport and the vicinity - Mrs. W. Williams and family desire to express their most grateful thanks to all kind friends for inquiries and for flowers sent, especially to Lieut.-Col. Day and Maj.-Gen. J. E. B. Seely.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
© 2022

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>