

Ernest John Willsted

Isle of Wight County Press 16th December 1950

Death of Mr. E. J. Willsted of Carisbrooke.

The death on Saturday at his home, Nodgham Cottage, Carisbrooke, of Mr. Ernest John Willsted, aged 70, has removed one who was well known in Island business circles for the greater part of his life. Belonging to a well known local family, Mr. Willsted was trained as an accountant at the office of Messrs. W. C. Black and Co., and was among the earliest associates of the London Association of Accountants, his number being in region of 1000. Later he was employed by Messrs. Fisk and Fisher, but he commenced an unbroken association of some 30 years with local milling and provender firms when he transferred to the staff of Arnell Bros. When the firm was taken over by Messrs. Thomas, Gater, Bradfield, and Co. he became the accountant, continuing in that capacity until a further reorganisation, when Messrs. Rank acquired the firm, and the present company, Leigh Thomas & Co., was formed to carry on the provender side. He then became secretary to the last-named company, and continued in that capacity until his retirement about four years ago, when he received a presentation from his colleagues. He continued his association with local business life after his retirement from full-time work by retaining the secretaryships of the Vectis Shipping Co. and the Borough Hall Garage, Ltd., which he had held since the inception of the two companies, as well as doing professional work for many local firms. In his leisure time he was much interested in music, and will be remembered as a tenor singer in the former Newport Gleemen, and as having assisted the Quay Street Methodist choir. He gave valued service to Methodism as a former steward at the Bowcombe Methodist Church, and he had acted as honorary auditor to local organisations, notably the I.W. Musical Competition Festival and the former Carisbrooke Nursing Association. His death is much regretted, and sympathy is expressed with his son and daughter, his wife predeceased him. *[[Ella Mary Willsted, died 1938, buried Northwood Cemetery]]*

The funeral was on Tuesday, a service at the Quay Street Methodist Church being conducted by the Rev. H. Harrison. Mr. W. G. Bartlett (organist) played suitable music, and accompanied the singing of the hymn "The Lord's my Shepard." The mourners were Messrs. T. C. Willsted (son), A. Willsted (brother), E. A. W. Simmonds (son-in-law), H. Dibbens (nephew), A. Allen, B. Miller, F. H. Roach, C. Cole, and C. Matthews. The Vectis Shipping Co. was represented by Messrs. S. V. Croucher, J.P., G. C. Russell, J.P., W. Guy, Leigh Thomas, H. H. Gould, and C. Perkyns (directors), with Miss Cox (assistant secretary), Mr. M. S. Croucher (assistant manager), and Mr. S. Mew (a former skipper with the company), Mr. Russell also represented the Borough Hall Garage, Ltd., and Mr. Leigh Thomas Messrs, Leigh Thomas and Co. Also present representing the staffs of the two last-named firms were Messrs. G. Siggery and F. Knight (Borough Hall Garage) and Messrs. H. F. Payn, F. Cave, D. Westmore, and T. Sanders (Leigh Thomas and Co.). Those also present included Mr. and Mrs. E. Levison (representing Marders), Mr. and Mrs. H. Barnes, Mesdames E. Abbott, Jackson (representing Mr. S. Jackson), and E. Chick, Miss Smith, and Messrs. J. H. Knighton, W. Read, J. R. Toogood, G. T. Harris (representing Mrs. Harris and family), A. H. Richardson (representing Edmonds and Co.), L. Nicholls (representing John Sheath and Co.), L. Chick, W. G. Sibbick, J.P., J. F. Launder, T.C., R. Taylor, A. Newberry, R. Harris, R. D. Whittingham, and G. A. Purkis. The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery, and the many floral tributes included those from Messrs. Leigh Thomas and Co., the Vectis Shipping Co., and the Borough Hall Garage. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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