

## **William Harrison Wood**

**Isle of Wight County Press 24 February 1906**

### **DEATH OF MR. W. H. WOOD, OF NEWPORT.**

We record with much regret the death, which took place on Monday afternoon, of Mr. William Harrison Wood, well known and esteemed in Newport and other parts of the Island as the overseer and Postmaster's deputy at the Newport central Post-office. The news of his sudden and serious illness came as a great shock on Saturday to those who, a few hours before, had seen him moving about among them, apparently in his usual health. Whilst on duty just before 11 o'clock on Saturday morning he experienced a paralytic seizure, due to cerebral haemorrhage, and he was further stricken with a series of epileptic fits. After lingering until 3.15 on Monday afternoon, without regaining consciousness, he passed peacefully away. He was attended by Dr. Thompson, medical officer at the Post-office, with Dr. Castle and Dr. Underhill. During the fits deceased partly swallowed some false teeth, which, however, were safely extracted from his throat, though with difficulty. Deceased, who was in the prime of life, his age being only 48, had been in the service of the Newport Post-office from youth, having commenced as Postmaster's assistant during the postmastership of the late Mr. Duke in 1873. He then became a sorting clerk and telegraphist. His discharge of his duties was such as to ensure advancement in the service to the responsible position of chief clerk and overseer, being appointed to the latter post in 1894, and he stood well for promotion to a postmastership. His advancement came as the well-deserved recognition of services rendered with exemplary efficiency, fidelity, and conscientiousness, and he not only enjoyed the confidence of those above him, but he won the warmest respect of those under him in the service, whilst his unfailing courtesy, obliging manner, and other personal qualities gained the universal respect and warm appreciation of the public generally. He was a valued member and supporter of friendly societies, being connected with the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows, and he was also an esteemed member of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons. A keen and skilful bowler, and a cyclist, he was a lover of all manly sports, and the Carisbrooke Bowling Club and other sports clubs have lost a valued member by his untimely death. The heavy loss which his family is mourning by his death is accentuated by the fact that his wife died suddenly less than two years ago, and the greatest sympathy is felt with his family of six children, three of whom are dependent, in their irreparable bereavement.

The funeral took place on Thursday, when there were many signs of mourning in the town, indicating the high esteem in which the deceased was held. The first part of the service took place at the Newport Parish-church and was choral. The Vicar (the Rev. H. Edmund Sharpe) officiated, assisted by the Rev. Miles Atkinson. "Angels, ever bright and fair" and "O rest in the Lord" were played by the organist (Mr. H. Cushing, A.R.C.O.) before the arrival of the cortege. The body was met at the west entrance by the clergy and choir, and the Vicar read the opening sentences. The lesson was read by the Rev. Miles Atkinson, the hymns "Brief

life is here our portion" and "On the Resurrection morning" were sung, and the concluding prayers were read by the Vicar. As the coffin was borne from the church the organist gave an impressive interpretation of Chopin's "March funebre." The principal mourners were Mr. W. W. Wood (son), Misses A., M., and W. Wood (daughters), Messrs. W. Wood (father) and D. Wood (brother), Mrs. Young (sister), Mrs. Hancock (sister-in-law), Mr. W. Watson (brother-in-law), Messrs. C. Ledger, W. Leigh, F. Billows, Alex. Smith, E. Pearce, and H. Bennett. Next came the head postmaster of Newport (Mr. J. Corfield), Dr. Thompson (medical officer), the head postmaster of Ryde (Mr. Edward A. A. Coote), Messrs. H. Brummell, C. H. Coombs, A. Snow, W. A. Furnage, E. W. Hardy, H. J. Digby, and W. H. Baker (clerical staff of the Newport Post-office), Messrs. James (chief clerk) and Brett (inspector of postmen), of the Ryde Post-office; several sub-postmasters, including Messrs. Newnham (Shorwell), W. Dore (Newport), Cooper (Hunnyhill), G. Mew (Wootton), and Mr. R. Lever, jun., and Miss Lever, representing their father, Mr. R. Lever, of Freshwater Station Post-office, who was unable to attend. There was also a full muster of the postmen in uniform belonging to the Newport town and rural district, as well as several other rural postmen, and also telegraph messengers at the Newport post-office. Members of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons awaited the arrival of the cortege at the church and joined in the procession, those present including Bros. H. T. Read, W.M., J. P. Shepard, I.P.M., J. C. Millgate, S.W., G. A. Brannon, P.M., Treas., E. H. Walker, J.D., T. A. Brearley, I.G., J. G. Jones, J. G. Pinnock, P.M., E. W. Way, C. Alderslade, H. G. Groundsell, W. D. Hutton, N. H. T. Mursell, and S. Brisker. The Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows was represented by Bros. G. Henley, N.G., H. Prouten, J. B. Alderslade, Prov. C.S. (trustees), C. Ratcliffe, F. J. Martin, and A. Scott (elective secretary), Bros. C. Steel (permanent secretary) and F. King (trustee) being unavoidably prevented from attending. The Carisbrooke Bowling Club was represented by Messrs. N. H. T. Mursell (capt.) and W. Saunders (hon. secretary). Among others present were the Mayor (Mr. Councillor H. Shepard), Mr. Robey F. Eldridge, J.P., Capt. Hills, Messrs. T. Lee, E. O. White, W. J. Rugg, T.C., G. H. Yelf, H. Tullidge, A. Richards, G. Quarrier, T. B. O'Flahertie, W. Ayres, J. J. Gash, W. Bristow, W. K. Ediss, Evans (ex-Sergt.-Major I.W. Rifle Volunteers), J. Way, Cooper, Barham, Dockrill, W. Fuller, F. Mew, H. Burt, and many others. The interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery. There were a large number of beautiful floral tributes.

Messrs. Barton and Co. Carried out the funeral arrangements.---The family of the late Mr. W. H. Wood desire to thank all kind friends for their sympathy and for flowers sent.

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