

Charles Wyatt

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PROMINENT NEWPORT METHODIST

DEATH OF MR. C. WYATT

The death took place at St. Mary's Hospital on Saturday of Mr. Charles Wyatt, formerly of 49 New Street, Newport. Mr. Wyatt, who was 94, was well known in Island Methodist circles as a member of the former chapel at Blackwater and of the Newport Victoria Methodist Church, and was also a familiar figure in golfing circles as a former popular professional at the Newport Golf Club.

Born at Littleton, near Wootton, Mr. Wyatt's boyhood was in the days before compulsory education, and he received no schooling. Although he was able to print letters, he was never able to write, but taught himself to read, and was for many years an able lay preacher. He began his working life at about the age of 10 as a "crow-starver" at a wage of a shilling a week. His children and grandchildren can recall his vivid descriptions of himself at this work, flapping his arms to keep the birds from the corn, and calling out the traditional cry of "Take a little, leave a little for my master," to frighten them away. He later worked for the late Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, of Standen Elms, where he became coachman. During the first world war, when he was well over 50, he was employed by the Newport Golf Club and for the first time became acquainted with the "Royal Game." He quickly picked up the game and remained as the club professional for over 20 years. On his retirement he was made an honorary member of the club, a tribute to his popularity and loyalty.

A lifelong worshipper of the Methodist denomination, he was for many years a society steward and a class leader at the former chapel at Blackwater, and joined the Victoria Methodist congregation at Pyle Street when the Blackwater chapel was closed. He was a vice-president of the Newport P.S.A. Brotherhood, and often addressed the meetings until he was over 90.

Mr. Wyatt was twice married. His first wife, formerly Miss Fanny Morey, died 58 years ago, and his second, formerly Miss Alice Jolliffe, 17 years ago. He latterly made his home with his son, Mr. J.A. Wyatt, at 49 New Street, Newport, but three years ago went to live at the County Council guest house at Elmdon, moving a year later to Polars. He went to St. Mary's Hospital in August, and this was the first occasion in his long life that he had needed hospital attention. He is survived by a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren, and lived to see the birth of the fourth generation of his descendants, a great-great-grand-daughter, Sandra Lale, born to one of his daughters' grandsons 18 months ago.

The funeral took place on Thursday, a service at the Victoria Methodist Church being conducted by the Rev. C. Carey. The hymns "A charge to keep I have" and "Rock of ages" were sung. The chief mourners were Mr. J. Wyatt (son), Mr. and Mrs. E. Realey (son-in-law and daughter), Messrs. H. and A. Realey (grandsons, also representing Mr. O. Golden, son-

in-law), Mrs. J. Guy and Mrs. C. Edmunds (sisters), Messrs. A. and M.N. Wyatt, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Jolliffe, Mr. and Mrs. L. Edmunds, Mesdames E. White, E.R. Hannam, W. Unwin, and E. Bartlett, and Miss M. Guy (nephews and nieces), Mrs. H. Jolliffe, and Mrs. A. Wyatt (sisters-in-law), Mr. G. Grayson (also representing Miss C. Wyatt, grand-daughter, and Mrs. Grayson, daughter-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. T. Etherington.

The Victoria Methodist Church was represented by Messrs. J.H. Knighton and G. Norman, C.C.: the Newport Golf Club by Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Earley and Miss H. Walden; the P.S.A. Brotherhood by Messrs. C.J. Cooper, J. Clark, N. Nolan, and W. Simmonds; the local preachers of the West Wight Methodist Circuit by Messrs. H.H. Perry, C.C. and W.H. Downer, T.C.; the Congregational church by Mr. L. Upward; the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows by Mr. A.D. Callaway, P.P.G.M.; St. Thomas's Bible Class by Mr. F. Chiverton; and neighbours and friends in New Street by Mrs. Goff. The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery, and among over 20 wreaths were those from the Victoria Methodist Church; P.S.A. Brotherhood; Newport Golf Club; Polars Guest Home; and neighbours in New Street. Mr. W.W. Wells made the arrangements.

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