

Alfred William Abraham

**Isle of Wight County Press
30 September 1939**

DEATH OF MR. A. W. ABRAHAM

WELL KNOWN NEWPORT TRADESMAN AND FREE CHURCHMAN

The death occurred on Monday, after a long period of failing health, of Mr. Alfred William Abraham, aged 74, of Alderbourne, Elm Grove, Newport. He was a life-long supporter of the Castlehold Baptist Church, and for over 45 years was associated with one of the leading businesses in the town.

Mr. Abraham was a native of Newport. His long and faithful association with the Baptist Church was referred to at the funeral by the Rev. E. G. Keed, who said: "Our brother's heart was ever in the life and concerns of this church, and with the guidance of its affairs he had much to do for upwards of half a century. Not many days ago he referred to the fact that his connection with it extended, as child and man, over sixty-nine years. He began in the infants' class of the Sunday-school, and eventually passed through all its offices in turn, holding the superintendency for thirty years, that connection covering in all some 45 years. He was early elected to the diaconate of the church, and in 1904 became church secretary, holding office with but a brief break for 31 years." The beautiful gardens at Alderbourne, which reflected his interest in horticulture, were frequently placed at the disposal of religious bodies for fetes and meetings. Before her death three years ago, Mrs. Abraham took an equally keen interest in church affairs. Their activities for the church were recognised by various gifts, including a cake basket on their silver wedding anniversary in 1913, and a gold watch to Mr. Abraham some years later.

Mr. Abraham purchased the well known pork butcher's business in Nodehill nearly half a century ago. It was founded by the late Mr. George Sheath, and passed to the late Mr. H. Adams for about 18 months before being taken over by Mr. Abraham, who retired only six months ago.

In 1905 he was elected to the Town Council, and served for three years. For 53 years Mr. Abraham was a member of Court Island Foresters, 1821, having joined in May, 1886, at the age of 20. There is a family of four sons and six daughters.

The Rev. E. G. Keed officiated at the funeral service in the Castlehold Baptist Church and at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Thursday, when he referred to the loss to the community occasioned by Mr. Abraham's death, and to his generosity. Mrs. Pilcher, at the organ, played appropriate music and accompanied the hymns "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds" and "Give me the wings of faith."

The mourners were the Misses L. C., M. K., and G. E. Abraham (daughters), Mrs. H. Greening, Mr. and Mrs. B. Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Piper (sons-in-law and daughters), Messrs. F. P., D. E., A. C., and K. M. Abraham (sons), Mr. E. Abraham (brother), Mr. D. F. Abraham (grandson), and Mr. K. H. Spanner (nephew).

Others attending included Messrs. C. J. Smart and C. Prince (staff of Messrs. A. W. Abraham and Co.), Messrs. R. D. Goddard and A. J. Williams (secretary and treasurer of the I.W. District of Foresters), the Mayor (Mr. G. C. Russell) and Mrs. Russell, Ald. F. E. Witcher, J.P., Messrs. L. Jordan, J.P., H. E. Lower, T.C., J. R. Wise, T.C., J. A. Hayles, F. H. J. Damp, J. B. and W. M. Alderslade, F. Hall, A. H. Downer, E. V. Harvey, A Piper, E. J. H. Quarrier, W. R. Pilcher, E. A. Elliott, W. Sawyer, H. E. Blow, L. Reynolds, A. P. Knight, A. R. Ashby, J. H. Brown, J.P., F. Peach, F. Heal, E. Shepard, and A. F. Hart, The Rev. J. M. Connor, D.S.O., Mr. and Mrs. A. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Croucher, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Fifield, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Long, Mesdames Piper, Shobridge, Hatcher, Day, H. Piper, Prentice, W. Reynolds, Sawyer, Hawkins, Hunt, Bronwin, and King, and the Misses Alderslade and Saunders.

The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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