

Leonard Andrews

Isle of Wight County Press

18 February 1958

DEATH OF A NEWPORT CHARACTER

MR. L. ANDREWS

Mr. Leonard Andrews, of 18 Orchard Street, Newport, who died at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on Monday, in his 85th year, was a familiar character in the town – as a business man and a church worker, and as one who loved to wander abroad and enjoy an open-air life. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. Richard Andrews, coach-builder, of Winchester, who drove Queen Victoria when she made a State visit to the city in the 1880's, and was educated at Winchester College. He joined the National and Westminster Bank at Petersfield and cycled daily the 15 miles from his home. In 1891 he was transferred to Newport and within a short time became a teacher in St. John's Church Sunday-school and pianist to the Bible Class. His wife to be, a daughter of Mr. W. Gray, of Elm Grove, was then a teacher in the school, and also a noted pianist.

After serving at the local branch of the National and Westminster Bank for two years he was transferred to Cambridge and suffered a break-down in health after four years there, so he decided to give up banking and returned to the Island, living in Terrace Road, Newport. At that time he had thought of becoming a missionary, but a £300 bequest from an uncle provided him with the capital to go into business on his own account. He purchased the pipe clay factory in Orchard Street and soon made it a thriving concern. He manufactured the once popular clay pipes, and later, when a deposit of a special kind of clay was discovered near Newport, he made fire clay for repairing grates. Mr. Andrews spent most of his time travelling around the south of England and in the West Country getting orders. He had a family of nine, seven of whom survive – four in the Island and two in Australia – and he was never happier than when, after church on Sundays, he would shepherd them on long walks around the district. Mr. Andrews delighted in walking and strangely preferred such light footwear as sandshoes. Up to the time of his admission to the Royal I.W. County Hospital four months ago he was a familiar figure on Island roads, steadfastly refusing all offers of lifts, although handicapped by rheumatism. When past 80 he went daily for three short walks. His wife died in 1939, since when he had lived alone, spending his time supervising the 22 properties which he had acquired in the town. He had a reputation for being a kindly and generous landlord, who kept his tenants' homes in a better state of repair than his own home. On occasions, when valued tenants became ill, he sent them to specialists and paid their bills. It was typical of his determination never to give in that although he could hardly walk he accompanied services on the piano at the Church Army Anchorage Home and at the meetings of the St. Thomas's Bible Class. He never drank intoxicants or smoked and was a vegetarian.

The funeral service was at St. John's Church, Newport, on Thursday, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper).

The lessons were read by Mr. F. Chiverton (diocesan reader) and a tribute was paid by Capt. L. Gray. The large attendance included members of the congregation of St. John's and St. Thomas's churches and representatives of the Church Army and St. John's Covenanters. The hymn "The King of Love" was sung. The family mourners were Mrs. E. Sykes (daughter), Mr. H. Andrews (son), Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Truscott (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. R. Andrews (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. P. Andrews (son), and Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Domoney (grandchildren). Mr. Andrews' only surviving sister, Miss Jessica Andrews of Winchester, died on the same day, within an hour of her brother. There were no flowers, by request. Interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

Transcription by Shani Watts for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries.
©2020

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