

## William Ash

### 1891 census – 20 High Street, Newport

<b>William Ash</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>General Merchant</b>	<b>Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight</b>
Isabella M Ash	Wife	44		Godshill, Isle of Wight
William E Ash	Son	24	Traveller	Newport, Isle of Wight
Samuel Ash	Son	20	Farmers Bailiff	Newport, Isle of Wight
Albert Ash	Son	19	Drapers Assistant	Newport, Isle of Wight
Arthur Ash	Son	17	Merchants Clerk	Newport, Isle of Wight
Rose M Ash	Daughter	12	Scholar	Newport, Isle of Wight

### Isle of Wight County Press – 18 August 1894

#### DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM ASH.

With regret we have to record the death of Mr. William Ash, senior member of the well-known firm of Messrs. Ash and Thomas, of Newport, Southampton, and Portsmouth, which took place at his Newport residence early on Thursday morning. Deceased had been in somewhat indifferent health for some time, but his condition had recently shown some improvement, and the end came very unexpectedly. He was out on the day preceding his death, visiting his farm at Fairlee. The late Mr. Ash was a man of remarkable business capacity, which enabled him in a comparatively short space of time to build up one of the largest commercial undertakings in the South of England. He was for some time a member of the Newport Corporation, and he was intimately identified with the Bible Christian Church, which by his death loses a warm and generous friend. In politics he was a thorough-going Gladstonian, though he never was conspicuous in party matters. Cut off in the prime of life and in the very height of an active business career, his death is mourned by many friends, and it cannot but be regarded as a great loss to the commercial enterprise of the district in which he figured so prominently. The deepest sympathy of the community is with Mrs. Ash and the other members of the bereaved family in their sorrow, and the same feeling will be extended to the surviving partner of the important firm which has been deprived of its able and vigorous head. The funeral takes place on Monday at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

### Isle of Wight County Press – 25 August 1894

#### THE LATE MR. WILLIAM ASH.

The funeral of this respected townsman of Newport took place on Monday afternoon last. The first part of the service was performed at the Bible Christian Chapel, in the presence of a crowded congregation, during whose assembling Mr. W. J. Bailey, jun., presiding at the organ, played appropriate selections with touching effect. The body was received at the entrance to the chapel by the Rev. Dr. Woolcock, who conducted the service, assisted by the Revs. J. T. Henwood and H. J. Petty. The principal mourners were the five sons of the deceased – Messrs. Edwin, Frank, Sam, Herbert, and Arthur Ash; five brothers – Messrs. John, Samuel, Frederick, Edwin, and James Ash; Mr. James Thomas, C.C. (partner), the Rev. J. Matthews, Messrs. Oliver and Edwin Morgan and Harry Haines

(brothers-in-law), the Rev. J. H. Batt, and Messrs. Robert Bullen, J.P., Walter, George, Herbert, and David Brown, W. J. Bailey, sen., W. J. Bailey, jun. (solicitor), W. Ash, Starks, Dacomb, and F. E. Morey. Amongst others present were Dr. Groves, J.P. (medical attendant), and Messrs. W. T. Arnell, John Roach, Charles King, G. A. Brannon, H. W. Morey, W. Rice, Morris Jackman, T. Jenkins, C. Russell, A. E. Cave, E. H. F. Payn, G. H. Yelf, W. Wells, C. J. Godfrey, J. W. Marshall, J. H. Ash, B. Lower, F. North, C. Varty, J. L. Manning, E. Morris, J. Laine, J. K. Alderslade, W. Coombes, A. Mearman, H. Greengrass, Colenutt, J. W. Wooldridge, W. Scovell, and many others, some of whom joined the procession when it reached the Cemetery at Carisbrooke. Immediately after the carriages followed the employees in the various branches of the business of the deceased's firm, about 60 in number, among these being Messrs. Knapp and Leach (counting-house), O. Morgan, jun., and A. Newnham (store), and F. Watson (chief of stables), Newport; Trim, Smythers, and Keen, Southampton; Mace and Troft, Portsmouth; Chandler, Pan Mill; W. Wyatt, Blackwater Mill; and Isaac Notting, foreman of farm hands.

The service at the chapel was commenced with prayer by the Rev. J. T. Henwood and the singing of the hymn "Thee we adore, Eternal Name," after which the Rev. Dr. Woolcock read the 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm and part of the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Corinthians.

Then followed an address by the rev. Doctor, in the course of which he said they were met in that church in the presence of the mortal remains of the late William Ash, in order that they might show their respect for one who for more than 30 years had been an honourable inhabitant of the town, and a kind, genial friend and neighbour. Their presence in such large numbers was a convincing proof of the high esteem in which he was held as a Christian, a merchant, and a fellow-townsmen. It was universally acknowledged that their departed friend was a man of great business capacity, possessing a well-balanced mind, and, therefore, capable of clear and sound judgement. In religious matters, also, both in the opinions he held and in his actions, he was strictly conscientious, and was so scrupulously anxious to be morally right that he had a wholesome fear lest any act of his should bring reproach upon the Christian Church. But he was a man who, as all the members of his family readily admitted, was at his best in his home, enjoying the confidence of his family. As to his strong convictions about religion, he well remembered him saying, with evident emotion, in the presence of all the guests at his son's wedding, "I would like all my children to first seek the Kingdom of God, for if we cannot make the best of life by acknowledging God in our ways, we cannot without." Death came to their friend somewhat suddenly. Up to within a few days of his death he was engaged in his business, and the idea was not entertained that his end was so near. Drawing a solemn lesson for all from the death of their friend, Dr. Woolcock concluded a deeply impressive and feeling address.

The hymn "How blest the righteous when he dies" was then sung, and this part of the service closed with prayer by the Rev. H. J. Petty. The interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery, the Rev. Dr. Woolcock performing the last solemn offices at the grave. The coffin was of oak, and the breast-plate was inscribed-

WILLIAM ASH,  
Died 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1894,  
Aged 51 years.

There were a large number of wreaths, telling of the esteem in which the deceased was held. ....

There were many signs of mourning in the town on the day of the funeral of one who had figured so prominently in its commercial life, and on the vessels at the Quay flags were flying at half-mast.

Messrs H. and F. Damp were entrusted with the funeral arrangements, which were excellently carried out.

Transcription by Bob Jacobs for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
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