

William Kellow Baker

**Isle of Wight County Press
5 July 1947**

**DEATH OF MR. W. K. BAKER,
OF NEWPORT.**

Well-Known Buffalo and Licensed Victualler

We regret to record the death, which occurred at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on Saturday, of Mr. William Kellow Baker, licensee of the Bell Inn, Newport, who during his 37 years in the Island had rendered outstanding service to the R.A.O.B. and the I.W. Licensed Victuallers' Society. Mr. Baker, who was 66, had been in ill-health for some time. He was a native of Winchester, and after service in the Royal Navy joined the prison service at Winchester. He came to Newport on July 20th, 1910, to take over the licence of the Bell Inn and, apart from the 1914-18 war period when he served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment in France, he had been the host there ever since. He was especially well known for his long and active association with the R.A.O.B. He was Prov. Grand Primo in 1922 and had been hon. treasurer of the Island Province from 1924 until ill-health caused him to retire in 1946. In recognition of his services he was presented with an illuminated certificate recording deep appreciation of his work for upwards of 30 years. He was also treasurer of the Beatrice Lodge (No. 718) and treasurer of the Knights' Chapter. Mr. Baker was a member of the Roll of Honour, and soon after he received the certificate from the Province he was awarded a similar honour by the Beatrice Lodge.

Mr. Baker was a much-valued and highly respected member of the licensed trade and was an energetic and conscientious worker on behalf of his fellow licensees in the Island, through his association with the I.W. Licensed Victuallers' Society. He succeeded the late Mr. J. A. McQueen of the old Red Lion,, Newport, as secretary in 1931, and he held that office until his health broke down, and he was succeeded last year by Mr. M. L. Betteridge, of the Eight Bells Hotel, Carisbrooke. He had been a regular delegate to the annual conferences of the national organisation and to the meetings of the No. 8 District, N.T.D.L. His wise counsel was always sought in the many complex problems affecting the trade, and Mr. Baker was respected by both the licensees and the brewers. He leaves a widow and one son and one daughter, with whom sincere sympathy is felt. His other son died in 1940.

The funeral took place on Thursday, with full R.A.O.B. honours. The service, in Newport Parish Church, was attended by members of the order from all parts of the Island, and by a large number of members of the I.W. Licensed Victuallers' Society. The past and present officers of the I.W. Province, R.A.O.B., wearing their sashes, and the members of the Beatrice Lodge wearing regalia, together with the representatives of other Island lodges, formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church. The service was conducted by Canon. W. B. Hogg (vicar of Newport), assisted by the Rev.. C. E. Paterson, of Cowes (P.G. chaplain), who said that their late brother had done more for the order than anyone else in the Island. He was always courteous, and always the same. They thanked God for his life and example. Miss. K. Lower, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., L.T.C.L., was at the organ, and the choir led the singing of the hymns "The King of Love" and "Abide with me", and Psalm 23 was chanted. The Nunc Dimittis was chanted as the cortege left the church. At the graveside at Carisbrooke Cemetery the P.G. Chaplain recited the R.A.O.B. funeral office, and the brethren formed an unbroken chain, after which they sang their ode "Absent brethren", and then filed past the grave dropping ivy leaves on the coffin.

The mourners were Mrs. Baker (widow), Mr. and Mrs. W. L. C. Baker (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. H. Evans (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. L. Effemy (brother-in-law and sister), and Mr. T. Baker, of Winchester (brother).

{only family mourners transcribed}

Messrs. H. and F. Damp, of Newport, made the arrangements.

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