

William Charles Black

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Death of Mr. W. C. Black, of Newport

PROMINENT ACCOUNTANT AND FREEMASON

A figure well known and greatly respected in business circles throughout the Island has been removed by the rather sudden death at his home, Fairford, St. John's Road, Newport, of Mr. William Charles Black, aged 83. Until nine years ago Mr. Black enjoyed excellent health, but since then he had suffered from recurrent heart trouble, and his death followed an attack on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Black became a fellow of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors in 1893, and had built up an extensive accountancy practice under the style of W. C. Black and Co. The firm, in which he was in partnership with Mr. J. A. Morgan and his daughter (Miss M. D. Black), had offices in Newport, Ventnor, and (until the premises were destroyed by bombing during the war) at Portsmouth. The firm has long and close associations with the Newport Town Council, to whom Mr. Black was an elective auditor for over 50 years. More recently he was succeeded by his daughter until the office was discontinued, and the firm now act as professional auditors to the council. Previously Mr. Black also frequently acted as trustee in bankruptcy cases.

He had been a churchwarden both at Carisbrooke and Newport, but for the last 20 years he had been closely associated with the work of the Newport Unitarian Church. He was secretary of the I.W. County Club for many years. Mr. Black was particularly well known as a Freemason. He joined the Albany Lodge, Newport, in 1907, was Worshipful Master in 1918, and held the rank of Provincial Grand Junior Deacon in 1928. He was also a member and part Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter, in which he had also held Provincial rank, and of the Mark Degree, which he joined in 1911.

His wife died 18 years ago and there is one surviving child, his other daughter (Mrs. W. H. Margham) having died in recent years.

The funeral will take place on Monday, service at the Newport Unitarian Church at 11.30 a.m.

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