

Frederick Blake

Isle of Wight County Press - 15th January 1898

DEATH OF MR. FREDERICK BLAKE.

With deep regret we report the death of Mr. Frederick Blake, which took place last evening at the residence of his son, The Towers, Shanklin. It is impossible at this moment to deal at all adequately with a career so long and so honoured as was that of the late Mr. Blake. He was the senior member of the legal profession in the Isle of Wight, if not the whole of Hampshire, and his learning and soundness as a lawyer had become proverbial. He was for a long period Coroner for the Island (a position now held by his son), and at the time of his death he was the Registrar of the Isle of Wight County Court and Clerk to the Newport borough justices, the duties of which appointments, as all other positions he filled, he discharged with consummate ability until advancing years compelled him to relinquish their more active pursuit. And while his professional qualities commanded admiration and confidence, his social gifts and charm of manner won for him the deep regard of all whose privilege it was to know him in private life. It will be especially difficult for the people of Newport to realise that they will see no more in their streets the bright and cheery form of him who had always a glad smile and a pleasant greeting for them. Eighty six were the years which he numbered, and his wonderful mental faculties were maintained unimpaired practically to the last. His only son, Mr. Edward F. Blake—and never was there a more devoted son—has himself been seriously ill, but we were glad to learn last night that he was then much better. The deep sympathy of this community is with him and his family in their bereavement. The funeral of the lamented deceased will take place on Wednesday next, at the Carisbrooke Cemetery, where the remains of his wife repose.

Isle of Wight County Press - 22nd January 1898

THE LATE MR. FREDERICK BLAKE.

The death of this esteemed and honoured gentleman, at the age of 86, was announced in last week's *County Press*. We have now to record the following public tributes to his work and worth:-

THE BOROUGH BENCH.

When the Newport borough magistrates took their seats on Monday last the Mayor (Mr. Charles E. Pinnock) said that before they proceeded with the business of the Court he thought it only fitting that he should allude to the great loss which the Bench had sustained by the death of their respected Clerk, Mr. Frederick Blake. For a very long period the late Mr. Blake had fulfilled the important duties of Clerk to the magistrates of that borough, and although for some years past he had been precluded by advancing age from taking an active part in the discharge of those duties, he (the Mayor) was sure the recollection of the able, faithful, and conscientious manner in which he discharged the duties of his office would always be gratefully cherished by the Bench and borough. The high character which he bore in the town and the unfailing courtesy he had always shown to every one in that Court must have conducted very greatly to the proper administration of justice and the conduct of the business of the Bench. He noticed present one of the senior magistrates, who would be able to speak from more personal knowledge of the deceased gentleman.— Mr Robey F. Eldridge, as the senior magistrate present, said that speaking for the permanent magistracy of the borough he most fully endorsed what the Mayor had said. Their departed friend, Mr Frederick Blake, was one whom they all looked upon as one of the soundest lawyers they had ever known, and his unfailing courtesy, his desire at all times to help them with his advice, his great experience, and the dignified manner in which he discharged his duties made them feel that that important position was occupied by one in whom they had the greatest and fullest confidence. His loss to the Isle of Wight was a great one and they sincerely sympathised with his son, who had so frequently represented the deceased gentleman

there, and with all the other members of the bereaved family in their sorrow. Personally he (the speaker) felt that loss very greatly. Next, perhaps, to his own father he looked upon the late Mr Blake as one of the kindest of friends in a professional sense, and one always ready to give the benefit of his advice to a younger practitioner. They were grateful for his work and example and they could not over-estimate the loss by the departure of one whose life they looked back upon with that pleasure with which he was sure they would desire that others should look back upon their whom the time came for them to pass away.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEWPORT MAGISTRATES.

At a special meeting of the Newport borough justices convened in connection with the death of their venerable Clerk, and held at the Guildhall on Wednesday morning last, there were present the Mayor (Mr Charles E. Pinnock), the Deputy Mayor (Ald. Francis Pittis), the ex-Mayor (Mr F. T. Mew), Mr. Robey F. Eldridge, Mr Roach Pittis, Mr. Robert Pinnock, Ald. James George, Mr Robert Bullen, Mr. James Thomas, and Ald. R. B. Cheverton. The Town Clerk (Mr. H. R. Hooper, B. A.) was also present. The Mayor read a letter from the senior magistrate, Mr A. Harbottle Estcourt, in which he expressed regret at his inability to be present with his brother magistrates to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of probably his oldest acquaintance and friend in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Henry Mortimer, Ald. John Lock, Ald. W. C. Way, Mr. Edwin Witcher, and Mr J. L. Moore, also regretted that they were unable to attend.

The Mayor said he had asked them to meet there that morning to pay tribute of respect to there late esteemed Clerk and at the same time to afford them an opportunity, which he thought they would desire, of placing on record their sense of late Mr. Frederick Blake's high worth and their appreciation of the great services he rendered during the long period that he held the position of Clerk to the borough; justices. As far as he could ascertain, Mr Blake received that appointment as far back as 1835, which he believed was the date when the Commission of the Peace for the borough was established, and, as they all knew, it was only within the last few years that increasing age had prevented him from fulfilling personally the duties of the office.

It was given to few men to have such a record of public work as that, and it was given to fewer still, at the close of a long and active life, to retain their mental faculties so absolutely unclouded to the last as did their late friend. One felt that a deep debt of gratitude was owing to him whom they now mourned for the eminent public service he had rendered, and in regard for his personal qualities they knew the kindness and the courtesy which always distinguished him (hear, hear). For himself he could not remember on instance of an unkindly or an unfriendly word emanating from him (hear, hear). By his death there was severed another of the few remaining ties which linked the present with the past public life of the Isle of Wight. Such a life required no lengthened eulogy. It spoke for itself more eloquently than any words could employ. There were those who, from personal knowledge and experience, could speak of the high standing which the late Mr. Blake took in his profession, but to the community generally he was known and would be remembered as an able and faithful public servant, commanding universal confidence and enjoying universal esteem (hear, hear). He was sure that deep and general sympathy would be extended to their late friend's son, Mr. Edward Blake, who was himself prostrated with serious illness. Mr Edward Blake's absolute devotion to and loving care of his father won the admiration of all, and it must be some consolation to know that his affectionate solicitude did much to brighten his father's declining years, and, speaking humanly, to prolong his days (hear, hear). The Mayor concluded by moving that the justices of the peace for the borough of Newport desired to express their deep sense of the loss they had sustained in the death of their respected Clerk, Mr. Frederick Blake, and to record their grateful appreciation of his valued and faithful services during his long official connection with the magistrates of that borough. They also wished to convey to Mr. Edward Blake and the other members of the family their sincere and respectful sympathy and condolence with them in their bereavement (hear, hear)

Mr. Robey Eldridge, as the senior magistrate present, seconded the proposition in feeling terms. He had known Mr. Blake during the whole of his (the speaker's) professional life and at all times he

had received at the hands of his revered and lamented friend the most absolute courtesy and kindness and the most the generous consideration During the time that it had been his (the speaker's) honour to be a magistrate for the borough he had often and often felt the profoundest admiration for the late Mr. Blake as their legal adviser

(hear, hear). They could ever rely upon the law as they heard it from his lips, and his views were always expressed with the most admirable conciseness and clearness (hear, hear). The speaker endorsed the Mayor's tribute to Mr. Edward Blake for his splendid filial devotion and said the sympathy conveyed by the proposition which his worship had had so touchingly moved was a sincere expression of the feelings of their hearts (hear, hear).

The proposition was carried in silence, all the justices standing.

THE FUNERAL.

The mortal remains of the late Mr. Frederick Blake were brought from Shanklin on Wednesday morning and interred in Carisbrooke Cemetery by the side of those of his wife. The funeral started from the deceased's residence in Quay-street, Newport, the car containing the coffin, which was completely covered with wreaths of the most beautiful flowers, being preceded by a section of the county police, in charge of Chief Inspector Ayres, with Sergt. Spanner, and followed by a long line of carriages. The flag at the Guildhall was flying at half-mast, there were signs of mourning all along route to the Cemetery, and the knells of Newport and Carisbrooke churches were solemnly tolled. Serious illness prevented the attendance of the deceased's only son, Mr. Edward F. Blake. The chief mourners were Mr. Sapte Blake (grandson) and Mrs. Sapte Blake, Miss May Blake, Miss Ethel Blake, Mr. Algernon Blake (grandchildren), Mr. James Blake (brother), Mrs. Allan Waterworth, and Gen. Berthon. Amongst others present were the Mayor of Newport (Mr. Charles Pinnock), Mr. Robey Eldridge, J. P., C. C., Ald. Francis Pittis, J. P., Mr. Roach Pittis, J. P., C. C., Mr. Robert Pinnock, J. P., Ald. James George, J. P., Mr. Francis T. Mew, J. P., C. C., Mr. James Thomas, J. P., C. C., Mr. R. Bullen, J. P., Ald. R. B. Cheverton, J. P., the Town Clerk of Newport (Mr. H. R. Hooper), Mr. Arthur Atherley, J. P., Dr. Dabbs, J. P., Gen. Berthon, Mr. Selby Lowndes, Dr. Allan Waterwoth, Mr. Robert Urry, Mr. George Conquest and Master Conquest, Mr. T. Lee, Mr. W. T. Way Buckell, Mr. John Marsh, Mr. J. C. Mould, Mr. James Eldridge, Mr. Francis A. Joyce, Mr. Innes Wilkins, Mr. J. Ruffin Blake, C. C., Mr. Reginald Black Roach, M. A., Mr. J. R. Scott Blake, Mr George A. Bannon, Mr. R. T. Way, Mr. C. W. Dunlop, Mr Cornelius Salter, T. C., Mr. J. D. Jolliffe, Mr Edmund Peel, Mr A. Bevis, Mr. H. Thurlow, Mr. Rowland Russell, Mr. A. Burt, and others.

Mr John Fardell, Clerk to the county justices, were holding a special sitting on Wednesday, was thus prevented from being present at the funeral. Public business also prevented Mr W. A. Wooldridge, and Mr. H. C. Damant from attending. The body was received at the entrance to the Cemetery by the Vicar of Carisbrooke (the Rev. A. W. Milroy), who read the opening sentences of the burial office and also took part with the Rev. W. Barry Cole, rector of Shanklin, in the service in the mortuary chapel. In the last solemn rites at the grave the Rector of Shanklin was the officiating minister. The breast-plate of the coffin bore the following inscription:-

FREDERICK BLAKE,
Born December 4, 1811,
Died January 14, 1896,

Transcribed by Roger O'Nions for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries 2018
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