

Harry Iverson Digby

Isle of Wight County Press – 2 September 1939

NEWPORT.

Popular Postal Official's Retirement. – With the sincere goodwill of his colleagues and his host of friends in the town, Mr. Harry I. Digby, senior overseer at the Head Post Office, retired on Monday, after 45 years' service, 41 years in the Newport office. Mr. Digby has set a fine example of quiet efficiency in the performance of his duties and of unflinching courtesy and consideration for the public, while his scrupulous fairness in all his dealings with his subordinates in the Post Office has won him the genuine regard of all. Mr. Digby commenced his Post Office career as an assistant at the Yarmouth office in June, 1894, and after four years there he was transferred to the Newport office, where he has been employed ever since. He has served under 10 postmasters, being chief assistant to the last two. The "County Press" would like publicly to acknowledge its appreciation of Mr. Digby's ready and helpful co-operation at all times in the many directions in which a newspaper necessarily has to rely on Post Office assistance. He has been succeeded by Mr. C. J. Guy, the junior overseer, and Mr. H. E. Croucher has been promoted to the position of junior overseer. A social gathering of the Postal staff had been arranged for Tuesday, at which Mr. Digby was to have received a parting gift of goodwill from his colleagues and also the King's Imperial Service Medal for unblemished service, but this farewell gathering had to be postponed owing to extra duties falling on the staff as the result of the crisis. Mr. Digby received the King's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935.

Isle of Wight County Press – 16 June 1962

DEATH OF MR. H. I. DIGBY OF NEWPORT.

An old and esteemed resident of Newport, Mr. Harry Iverson Digby, of 5 Hearn street, died in St. Mary's Hospital on Tuesday, in his 83rd year. He spent his whole career in the Post Office, retiring as second in command at Newport, and his cheerful and courteous manner won the respect of his colleagues and the general public. He was also of great help in numerous ways beyond the bounds of duty to many people, particularly the elderly.

Mr. Digby was the oldest of a family of nine children. His father, who came from the mainland, was owner and captain of vessels which plied between Yarmouth and British and French ports, mainly with coal. It was a long-lived family, and Mr. Digby is survived by two brothers and three sisters on the mainland. His 45 year's service with the Post Office began in 1894 as an assistant at Yarmouth sub-office. In 1898 he was transferred to Newport and the following year was appointed sorting clerk and telegraphist. He was made overseer at Newport in 1917. In 1933, still as overseer, he assumed the duties of second in command of that office, retiring in August, 1939. In recognition of an unblemished record in Government service, Mr. Digby was awarded the Imperial Service Medal on his retirement and received a valedictory letter from the Postmaster General thanking him for his long and outstandingly efficient service.

One of the oldest members of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, Mr. Digby was also a member of Newport Conservative Club and the Social Club and a former member of the Literary Society. A sportsman, he was a keen billiards and snooker player and in his early days played cricket for a Newport

club. He was a widower and had no children. His wife Emily, who died in 1951, was the second daughter of Henry Stickland, of Great East Standen Manor Farm. Since his wife's death, Mr. Digby had spent week-ends and holidays at the residence of his wife's younger sister, Mrs. Hilda May Barton, of Mersley, Chatfield Road, Niton, who, with her husband, formerly kept Mersley Farm, Newchurch.

The funeral takes place at 2 p.m. today, at Carisbrooke Cemetery Chapel.

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