

## Thomas William Freeman

Isle of Wight County Press

8 April 1939

NEWPORT

**Death of Mr. T. W. Freeman.** - Keen regret is felt among his many friends and customers at the death of Mr. Thomas William Freeman, shoemaker, of 58 New-street, who had carried on business in partnership with Mr. H. Miller for 20 years, and was held in high respect. Mr. Freeman, who was 60, passed away on Saturday after two months' illness. He was a Nottingham man, who received a thorough training as a shoemaker in his youth, and then joined his county regiment, the Sherwood Foresters, where he continued his trade. After three years he left the service at Parkhurst on his marriage to Miss Cant, of New-street, and became shoemaker at the I.W. County Mental Hospital. Later he commenced business as a boot and shoe repairer in Lower High-street, and continued it until the outbreak of the Great War, when he rejoined his regiment and served in France, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, gaining the rank of corporal and being twice wounded. On his demobilisation in 1918 he opened the business in New-street, with which he had been associated until his death. He was a highly skilled worker, and a genial, kindly man. Many poor families will remember him with gratitude, as he often repaired the children's footwear without charge. He leaves a widow, three sons, and four daughters, with whom much sympathy is felt in their bereavement. The funeral took place on Wednesday and the fact that nearly 50 wreaths were placed on the grave in Carisbrooke Cemetery, many of them from friends, neighbours and customers, testified to the esteem he enjoyed. A service was held at the Quay-street Methodist Church, conducted by the Rev. H. W. Hamon, and the organist (Mr. W. G. Bartlett) accompanied the hymns "O bless the Lord" and "Praise my soul" and played "But the Lord is mindful" and "O rest in the Lord." The chief mourners were Messrs. W. C. and R. Freeman (sons), G. Grainger, E. Carver, and J. Thompson (sons-in-law), E. Ash and T. Glassey (brothers-in-law), and H. Early, Masters D. and J. Cant (nephews), Mr. H. Miller, and Mr. F. W. Buttery (an old comrade in the Sherwood Foresters). Mr. R. Cant (brother-in-law) was unable to attend owing to illness. Others attending were: Mesdames H. Biles, Barton, and Blackman, Messrs. C. Wyatt, J. Scovell, E. Matthews, W. G. Sibbick, and B. Gibert, and a number of neighbours. The floral tributes included one from neighbours in New-street and one from the Quay-street Methodist Bible Class Athletic Club, of which the deceased's eldest son (Mr. W. Freeman) is the instructor. Mr. H. W. Purnell made the arrangements.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,

© 2020

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>