

ALBERT EDWARD HARVEY
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DEATH OF MR. A.E. HARVEY, J.P.

THRICE MAYOR OF NEWPORT

The Island capital has lost a prominent and honoured townsman by the sudden death of Mr. Albert Edward Harvey, J.P., of Clifton, Carisbrooke, aged 82. He suffered a heart attack early on Monday morning, and died shortly afterwards.

The youngest son of a prominent farmer, the late John Harvey, of Tapnell, he had been in business in the town for 62 years, first as a grocer and for over 40 years as the proprietor of the Borough Restaurant in High-street and the associated bakery and confectionery business. A man of enterprise and keen business acumen, he had considerable interests in many local undertakings, and, in addition to controlling his own business, he was chairman, both of Messrs. W. J. Rugg, Ltd., and Messrs. Gould, Hibberd, and Randall, Ltd. Between the wars he acquired the Halberry estate at Fairlee, and was associated with building development there, giving his name to Harvey-road.

Mr. Harvey commenced his public services when he was elected to the Town Council in 1909. Four years later he became mayor and served for two consecutive terms, including the difficult period covering the outbreak of the first world war until November, 1914. In 1922 he was honoured by being appointed an alderman, and he retained this office until his retirement in 1940, having again served as mayor during another important period, that covering the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1935. Though not a fluent speaker, he brought dignity and efficiency to the office of chief magistrate, in which he had the able and charming support as Mayoress of his wife, whose sudden death in January, 1944, was a blow from which he never really recovered. He did work of real solid worth for the town "behind the scenes," particularly as chairman for many years of two very important committees, those dealing with the waterworks and finance. In addition he became a Borough Justice in 1923, and brought to his work on the Bench the same qualities of judgement and perspicacity which his colleagues on the Council found so valuable.

He found time to take an active and generous interest in many local organisations, the offices he held including those of vice-president of the I. W. Conservative Association, honorary life member of the Newport Literary Society, trustee of the Newport Charities and of the I. W. Savings Bank, vice-president of the Central Wight Boy Scout Association, and manager of the Newport C. E. School.

At Carisbrooke Mr. Harvey took a keen and practical interest in local affairs. He was a regular worshipper at the Parish Church, and the beautiful gardens at Clifton were frequently placed at the disposal of organisations in which he and Mrs. Harvey were interested. A man of precise and energetic personal habits – he always walked the two miles between Newport and Carisbrooke – Mr. Harvey was responsible for many acts of

generosity performed with self-effacing goodwill, as, for instance, his action during the war in placing accommodation at Halberry House at the disposal of the Red Cross Central Hospital Supply Service. Both in business and public life he set an example of unassuming integrity, and worthily upheld the traditions of the borough as a member of the distinguished company who have given freely of their time, substance, and abilities in its service.

At the Newport Petty Sessions on Monday, Mr. F. E. Whicher, who presided, said they had heard with deep regret of Mr. Harvey's death. He had been one of the senior magistrates, and although he had not attended so frequently in recent years, his advice, judgment, and help had been of great assistance in their deliberations – Inspector A. R. Bird associated himself with the chairman's remarks on behalf of the police.

The Funeral.

On Thursday, when the funeral took place at Carisbrooke, the borough standard was flying at half-mast over the Guildhall, many black shutters were displayed on business premises, and the Newport Conservative Club flew the Union Jack at half-mast. The service was at Carisbrooke Parish Church in the presence of a large and representative gathering and was officially attended by the Mayor and Corporation and magistrates.

The civic procession from the Sunday-school was headed by Police Inspector A. R. Bird, and the borough maces were draped with crepe. The cortège was met at the lych-gate by the Rev. H. Ewbank, R. D. (vicar), and the robed choir. The maces, carried by Messrs. W. Phillips (town sergeant) and W. Clark, were deposited near the altar during the service, which included Psalm 23 and the hymns "The strife is o'er" and "Jesus lives." Mr. G. R. Barrett (organist) played suitable music, including "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "O rest in the Lord." In an eloquent tribute, the Vicar referred to the fact that Mr. Harvey belonged to a very ancient Island family, whose coat of arms had been hanging over that pulpit since 1661. He had not been particularly interested in his distinguished ancestry, but had set out to make a career and a name for himself, and in this he had been singularly successful. In the course of his long life he had never besmirched the famous and honourable names which he held. His retiring nature led him to perform many kindnesses and generous acts in a manner which gained him little public credit, and he was never happier than when at work, either in his own business or in some public service. He carried his years in a way which many a younger man might have envied, and in saying farewell to a distinguished citizen they were thankful for his fine example. The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

The mourners were Messrs. H. E. and G. F. Harvey (sons), Mrs. L. R. Smith (daughter), Mr. R. B. Harvey (brother), Mr. L. R. Smith (son-in-law), Mrs. G. F. Harvey (daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Pilgrim (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), the Misses O., D., L., A., and R. Harvey (nieces), Messrs. A. Howard and E., V., L., and A. Harvey (nephews), Miss Sayer, Capt. L. Harvey, Mr. W. J. Whittington, J. P., and Mrs. Curtis, Mr. L. Harvey also represented Mr. L. C. Attrill.

The Mayor (Ald. H. Whitehead) was accompanied by the Town Clerk (Mr. F. H. W. Buxton) and the following civic representatives: Alderman Lt.-Col. F. J. T. Mew (deputy mayor), Mrs. E. R. Chandler, J.P., W. Blake, J.P., and J. J. Simmonds, Councillors F. Chiverton, J. Salter, J. W. Lockhart, A. E. King, W. H. Downer, H. Godwin, A. O. Purdy, J. W. Coare, S. V. Croucher, H. W. Lincoln, J. F. Launder, A. B. Shaw, M.B.E., J. W. Blackman, and E. C. Pearson, M.S.M., Mesdames K. Lockhart, J.P., C. Abraham, J.P., and D. M. Read, J.P., Messrs. G. N. Rogers, J.P., G. C. Russell, J.P., C.C., W. G. Sibbick, J.P., H. R. Palmer (magistrate's clerk), R. Penning (borough engineer), R. J. Machin (borough accountant), Dr. W. S. Wallace (medical officer of health), and Miss Black (mayor's auditor). The Mayoress (Mrs. H. Whitehead) and her daughter, Mrs. R. Perkins, were also in the large congregation. Members of Mr. Harvey's staff present included Miss Farrar (manageress), Mesdames Sims, W. and Mrs. Brewer, Symons, Wells, Hayward, Haines, Spragg, Plumer, Holbrooke, and Lewis, the Misses Jacobs, Buckle, Stagg, A. Watson, M. Rogers, J. Hardy, Smith, J. Godwin, and C. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. E. Plucknett, and Messrs. B. Loxley, H. Emery, F. Hannaford, E. Ash, F. Bullock, E. J. Ryall, A. Chambers, and W. Edmunds and Mr. H. J. Grist (gardener).

[only personal mourners transcribed]

Transcription by Shani Watts for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries.
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