

## William Augustus Knapp

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 24 February 1934

### Emigrating at Seventy-Five

#### WELL KNOWN NEWPORTONIAN LEAVING FOR CHICAGO

Few men would care to leave the associations of a lifetime and go to a new home 4000 miles away at the age of 75, yet a well known and esteemed resident of Newport proposes to do so. He is Mr. W. A. Knapp, one of the travelling representatives of Messrs. Thomas, Gater, Bradfield and Co., of Rydal Mount, Avondale-road, Newport. Mr. Knapp is retiring next month after 50 years' service with that firm and its predecessors in the general merchants and milling business at Newport. A sad story of family bereavement has unfortunately led Mr. Knapp to decide to leave his native Isle. During the last few years he has suffered the loss of his wife and daughter, and he is therefore going to spend the rest of his life with his only surviving daughter, Mrs. John Lawrie, in Chicago. The numerous friends he has made in business activities in all parts of the Island and his associates in the religious and musical life of Newport, in which he has been prominent, will heartily wish him every happiness as the result of this great adventure.

Mr. Knapp is a native of Wootton. He commenced work as a lad as a clerk in the employ of King Bros., fruit and potato merchants, who then had premises in the High-street, where Morris's furnishing emporium now stands. After 11 years he joined the staff of Messrs. Ash and Thomas, general provision merchants, of Quay-street, who later developed the milling business at Pan and Blackwater Mills. They introduced roller milling to the Island at Pan and the business was continued by James Thomas and Co., Ltd., and latterly by Thomas, Gater, Bradfield, and Co. For over 40 years Mr. Knapp has been a traveller for these firms in succession, calling on bakers, grocers, and corn merchants throughout the Island.

A devoted Wesleyan, Mr. Knapp has rendered yeoman service to the Victoria Church in Pyle-street, Newport. He was secretary of the Sunday-school for a number of years while the late Mr. John Deacon (father of Ald. J. H. Deacon) was superintendent, and when there were 500 scholars on the roll secretary of the Newport and Cowes Circuit Sunday-school Union, and Society Steward and ably conducted it for some years. His musical gifts (which were inherited by his late daughter, Miss H. Knapp, the skilful accompanist of the Newport Gleemen) were displayed as the leading 'cellist of the old Newport Orchestral Society, as a member of the Newport Choral Society which flourished under the leadership of the late Mr. J. T. Read, and as the conductor of an orchestra and choir in connection with the Wesleyan Church which for many years gave concerts in Newport and district, gaining a high reputation for their pleasing entertainment. In all these interests Mr. Knapp's quiet efficiency and charming, gentle ways have won the sincere esteem of his associates, and his many-sided life of usefulness will be remembered with feelings of gratitude mingled with regret that one so active in good works and estimable in character is shortly to say farewell.

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Isle of Wight County Press - 2 November 1946

#### NEWPORT

**Mr. W. A. Knapp's Ashes Interred.**—The casket containing the ashes of Mr. William Augustus Knapp, a former well known townsman who died in Chicago in 1941, were interred beside his wife's grave in Carisbrooke Cemetery on Thursday, following a service at the Victoria Methodist Church, with which he had been closely and actively associated. It was following the death of his wife and daughter in 1932 that Mr. Knapp retired as a traveller for Messrs. Thomas, Gater, Bradfield, and Co., millers and corn merchants, and went to live with another daughter, Mrs. John Laurie, at 2210 North Lowell-avenue, Chicago, where he died in his 82nd year on May 9th, 1941. It was his wish that his ashes should be buried in Carisbrooke Cemetery, but this could not be carried out until now, owing to wartime transport restrictions.

The metal container was received by Messrs, H. and F. Damp, and encased in a polished light oak casket, bearing the inscription "William Augustus Knapp. Died May 9th, 1941. Aged 81 years", and rested on a table in front of the rostrum in the church during the service. The Rev. J. L. Stafford (minister) officiated, and Mr. E. J. H. Quarrier, at the organ, accompanied the hymns "For all the Saints" and "Praise to the holiest". In an appreciation of Mr. Knapp, the Rev. J. L. Stafford said that the attendance of so many friends bore witness of the esteem and affection in which he was held. He had heard friends of Mr. Knapp say that he was one of the straightest men they had known.

The mourners were Messrs. H. and A. Knapp (brothers), Mrs. A. J. Knapp (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. F. White (brother-in-law and sister), and Miss Knapp and Mrs. Woods (nieces). Those also present were Mr. and Mrs. F. Heal, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. and Mr. and Mrs. A. Gentle, Mesdames H. J. Heal, New, D. L. Cooper, H. Stevens, A. Elderfield, Rickard, and B. Gentle, Misses A. Etheridge, New (Lake), and Porter, and Messrs. W. Elderfield (society steward), W. Spanner, W. Warne, A. J. Hayles, W. Webber, H. F. Payne (Messrs. Leigh Thomas and Co.), F. Chiverton (Messrs. Upward and Rich), W. W. Wells, C. G. Brown, and C. J. Cooper. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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