

## Henry Knight

Isle of Wight County Press – 27 September 1930

### NEWPORT.

*(contributed by Dave Clark)*

**DEATH OF "ADMIRAL" KNIGHT.** Everyone associated with the town quay and with traffic on the Medina is mourning the death on Thursday at his residence at 11 Orchard street of Henry Knight, aged 71, the Doyen of local seafarers, familiarly known as "Admiral."

This was no mere sobriquet as Knight was by sheer merit the Admiral of the river as the senior captain of the fleet of vessels owned by Messrs, Shepard Bros Ltd., and as a highly capable skipper whose pardonable boast was that in well over 40 years as master of vessels trading between Newport and Southampton he had never missed a passage through stress of weather. Knight was faithful and highly esteemed servant of Shepard Bros Ltd., for over 55 years from a lad until ill-health caused his retirement two years ago.

In his early days he sailed on the Bee, a vessel that was recently put out of commission after well over a century's active service, and he was successively master of sailing ketches Iona and Arrow, and of the steamship Foam. His knowledge of the rather tortuous route to and from Southampton seemed almost uncanny when demonstrated in time of fog. No matter how thick the fog the "Admiral" would keep rigidly to the time of departure either from Newport or Southampton, and often when passenger steamers dared not make the crossing, Knight would pilot his vessel across the Solent so surely that his time of arrival was very little delayed. It was the same in the most boisterous weather, nothing could daunt this hardy seaman, and sometimes in winter, when he brought his vessel alongside the store at Little London, his whiskers were adorned with icicles.

As may be imagined from such a sturdy record he was a typical seaman - bluff, hearty, and as hard as nails; in fact he was like a living character from one of W.W. Jacobs's sea stories. His skill as a sailor and his upright personal qualities won him the admiration and true esteem of his fellows, and his memory will be cherished in seafaring circles both here and at Southampton where he was an equally popular figure.

On one occasion many years ago when on a trip to Southampton in a gale he found a Missions to Seaman vessel in distress near the Calshot Spit and towed her safely to Southampton, receiving a letter of thanks and a reward from the society, and on several occasions he saved persons from drowning at Southampton. Knight, it will be recalled, was a very amusing and effective witness for his employers during the litigation between them and the corporation over the free stores dispute. He caused consternation which turned to amusement, when, during the hearing of the case in London, he left the witness box and engaged in a confidential chat with the judge in his anxiety clearly to explain some point raised as he was giving evidence. The judge at first looked a little annoyed, but he quickly succumbed to the breezy charm of the old sailor and evidently appreciated his "close" assistance. This action was typical of the gallant "Admiral"; he was masterful and fearless at all times.

He was one of the oldest members of the Newport Court of Foresters and of the Order of Shepherds. He leaves a widow and grown-up family of four sons and three daughters. The funeral will take place at Carisbrooke Cemetery this (Saturday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 4 October 1930**

**NEWPORT.**

*(transcribed by Tony Barton)*

**FUNERAL OF "ADMIRAL" KNIGHT.** – The remains of the late Mr. Henry Knight, of 11 Orchard-street, known throughout the district as the ex-"Admiral" of Messrs. Shepard Bros. fleet of vessels, whose death was recorded last week, were laid to rest at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a large gathering of relatives, fellow workman at the Quay, and other friends. The personal mourners were the widow, Mr. and Mrs. W. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. F. Knight, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Knight (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Ross (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr. H. Vine (son-in-law), and Mr. F. Knight, of East Cowes (grandson). His son, Mr. George Knight, of East Cowes, and Mrs. Vine were both prevented from attending by illness. Amongst those also attending were Capt. J. Williams, Mr. W. J. Chappell (late wharfinger), and the following representatives of Messrs. Shepard Bros., Ltd.: Mr. A. F. Shepard (managing director), Mr. Harry Shepard, J.P., Mr. J. F. Launder (secretary), Mr. A. C. Denham (Southampton manager), Messrs. L. Smith, B. Matthews, F. Reynard, W. Kemp, E. Knight, J. Harley, G. Plumbley, A. and H. Cox, and A. Woodford (employees). There were over 30 floral tributes, including one from his former fellow workers at Shepard Bros. (in the form of an anchor), and one from the members of the local branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements. – Mrs. Knight and the family express heartfelt appreciation of the numerous letters of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes.

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