

## **Edward Matthews**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
23 March 1935**

### **Death of An Ex-Mace-Bearer of Newport**

We regret to announce the death in his 87th year of Mr. E. Matthews, formerly senior mace-bearer to the Corporation, which occurred at 27 West-street, Newport, on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. In his official capacity the deceased was one of the best known public servants, and for many years he was a familiar figure at Corporation functions. He retired from office in September last after many years' service, and on that occasion a high tribute was paid to the faithful manner in which he had discharged his duties.

He had led a remarkably active life and could recall many interesting facts concerning the affairs of the town. He was one of the first employees of the I.W. Central Railway, and three of his sons have since been employed on the Island railway. It is not given to many married couples to enjoy the pleasure of celebrating their diamond wedding, but this was the fortunate lot of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews,, who received the congratulations of their Majesties the King and Queen. They were married at St. John's Church, Newport, on October 8th, 1871, and in 1931 there was a happy family reunion at 27 West-street, where they have resided for 59 years. On that occasion Mr. Matthews gave many details of his career for publication in the *County Press*.

The deceased was a son of William Matthews, of New-street, one of the old Island coach drivers. His wife was formerly Miss Louisa Bennet, of East Cowes, and among those who sent diamond wedding presents were her two nieces, her girl bridesmaids of 60 years ago, who are still living at Cowes.

Mr. Matthews inherited his father's love for and skill in handling horses, and by the older generation of townspeople he will be best remembered as coachman for 13 years to the late Dr. G. H. R. Dabbs until the latter's removal to Shanklin. After leaving the doctor's service Mr. Matthews carried on business as a dealer, and later filled the public offices of bailiff to the County Court and senior mace-bearer to the Corporation. The former office he held for 27 years and for 35 years he was a trusted and respected servant of the Corporation.

Among his town reminiscences were the lighting of a huge bonfire to celebrate the end of the Crimean war in 1856, the merrymaking in a large meadow between West-street and Bedford-place now built over, and the visit of General Garibaldi to Newport in 1864. As a young man he was a good cricketer, and once secured the bat for the highest average (42) when the matches of the Newport Cricket Club were played at Shide-fields. He was a very old member of the Conservative Club, and at one time a skilful billiard player. His interest in all kinds of sport never waned. He leaves a widow, who is 84, six sons, and three daughters.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday), the first part of the service being held in St. John's Church, conducted by the Rev. W. E. Mackinnon (vicar). The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The family mourners were Mr. C. Matthews (brother), Messrs. W., H., Christopher, Charles, and E. Matthews (sons), Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Read (son-in-law and daughter), Mesdames W., H., and Christopher Matthews (daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. H. Shoosmith (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. G. Matthews (nephew), and Mrs. Dyett and Miss Saunders (nieces). Mr. and Mrs. C. Roberts (son-in-law and daughter) were unable to be present.

Those also present included Ald. F. E. Whitcher, J.P., Messrs. F. Chiverton, T.C., H. W. Horan, E. R. Dore, C.C., C. A. Good, A. Jordan, T. Stone, O.B.E., F. Turnham, J. Scovell, H. W. Dore, F. Feltham, H. E. Blow, J. E. Killeen, H. Adams, sen., W. Phillips (town sergeant), and W. Clarke (mace bearer), and Mesdames F. W. Dudley and F. Salter (representing the Newport branch, I.W. Conservative Association), K. Westmore, and P. W. F. Erith. There was a large number of choice floral tributes. The arrangements were carried out by Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son.

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020*  
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>