

William Henry Nettleton

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LOSS TO ISLAND FREEMASONRY

DEATH OF MR. W.H. NETTLETON OF NEWPORT

Freemasons from all parts of the Island were present in the Castlehold Baptist Church, Newport, on Thursday, to pay tribute to a highly esteemed brother, Mr. William Henry Nettleton, of Rostrevor, 189 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Worshipful Master of the Albany Mark Lodge of Freemasons, who died in St. Mary's Hospital on Monday, aged 76.

Mr. Nettleton was born in Gibraltar, where his father was serving in the Royal Engineers. His early life was spent in the Mediterranean fortress until he reached school age, when he was sent to the Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin. At the age of 17, on leaving school, he enlisted as a boy in the Royal Engineers and later took on a regular engagement. When he received his discharge he held the rank of Clerk of Works Warrant Officer (Class II). The Army did not lose his services, however, as he continued as an established civilian clerk of works until his retirement. From 1911 until 1914 he was stationed in the Freshwater area, where he and his wife enjoyed a reputation as vocal duettists. He later served at Portland and Spurn Head and came back to the Island in 1917 and was clerk of works for 37 years, retiring in 1945. Much of his overseas service was spent in Gibraltar, and in Sierra Leone when service in the West African station was restricted to 12 months. In all, he was connected with the Army for 54 years, and his services gained official recognition in 1951 when he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Mr. Nettleton became a Freemason almost 50 years ago, and at the time of his death was Worshipful Master of the Albany Mark Lodge. He was also a past master of the Albany Lodge and a past principal of the Asher-Barfield Chapter, Cowes. He was a talented amateur conjurer, frequently entertaining at children's parties, and such was his good nature that he spent many hours giving private shows to bedridden people.

Mr. Nettleton was a devoted member of the Newport Baptist Church and held the appointments of deacon, sidesman, and property steward. Whenever he was able he also assisted in running the youth club. He had a heart attack last year and was confined to bed for some time, but was out and about again, when he collapsed about a week before his death and was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital. He leaves a widow, two daughters, and a son with whom much sympathy is felt.

THE FUNERAL

The minister (the Rev. W.H. Price) officiated at the service at the church and at the interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery, and Mrs. Pilcher (organist) accompanied the hymns "Fight the good fight" and "The Lord's my Shepherd". The masonic ode was sung by a company of some 90 brethren after the masonic oration. The family mourners were Mrs. B. J. Nettleton (widow), Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Nettleton (son and daughter-in-law), and

Mrs. W. Jewell (daughter), Mrs. F. Pumphrey (daughter) was unavoidably prevented from attending. With them were Mr. Nettleton's fellow deacons of the church, Ald. G. C. Russell, J.P., and Messrs. S. F. Holmes, F. H. J. Damp, and A. R. and F. A. Piper. Also represented were the Baptist Youth Club, Commander R. E. and R. E. Services, and the Newport and District Home Guard Association.

Mr. Price said that Mr. Nettleton had been greatly loved. From the moment he transferred to the church in 1936 he was quickly recognised as a friendly man and became a deacon, the highest office that could be conferred on a layman. He spent his years in retirement caring for the fabric of that church, as carefully as any gardener tended his flowers. He was a man of charm and people felt at ease in his presence. He had an unusual interest in small things and gave great attention to detail, and in the Baptist church he would be remembered for the little things he did so well, which many took for granted.

The many floral tributes included those from Albany Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the Worshipful Masters, officers and brethren of the Albany Lodge, and principals and companions of Asher Barfield Chapter; the Youth Club; late colleagues of the R.E. Works Service, members and friends of Castlehold Baptist Church, Castlehold Sunday-school, and Newport and District Home Guard.

Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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