

John Thomas Read

**Isle of Wight County Press
17 December 1921**

NEWPORT

DEATH OF MR. JOHN T. READ. – We regret to record the death on Tuesday, at his residence, Little Gatcombe, in his 80th year, of Mr. John T. Read, who was the esteemed and capable organist of Carisbrooke Church for 53 years. He was appointed organist of the Garrison Church, Parkhurst, at the age of 18, and held the position two years, after which he was organist at St. John's for six years, being appointed to Carisbrooke in 1868. His services were rendered with exemplary skill and reverence, and with remarkable regularity, he having played the organ at Carisbrooke Church at every harvest festival for 53 years, and during that period he missed only one Christmas service owing to influenza. He was prominently associated with the musical life of the district throughout the greater part of his life, having for many years been the able conductor of the old Choral Society and the Orchestral Society. He was an accomplished pianoforte player at concerts. On attaining his jubilee as organist at Carisbrooke Church in 1918, he was presented with a public testimonial, consisting of an illuminated address and 69 guineas, the subscription list being headed by H.R.H. Princess Beatrice, who in late years frequently attended the church during her residence at Carisbrooke Castle, and at the presentation sent her congratulations to the veteran organist. The late Mr. Read had the distinction of being the senior of the old Volunteers, having been No. 1 of the 5th Volunteer Battalion, joining on January 12 1860 and resigning at the end of 1894. He was a keen and skilled marksman and won valuable prizes on the range both in the Island and at Wimbledon. He was an ardent sportsman, with a partiality for cricket and shooting, a great lover of dogs and in former days a frequent follower of the hounds. The funeral took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery yesterday (Friday) afternoon, the Rev. A. S. Harrison (vicar of St. Mary's, Cowes) officiating. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. H. Jackson (daughter and son-in-law), Miss Read (daughter), Mr. F. T. Aman (nephew, representing Mrs. J. F. Aman, sister of the deceased), Mr. J. Lock (grandson), Mr. F. W. Dudley (nephew), and Miss Gale (Ventnor). Those also attending were the Rev. H. W. Davy (formerly curate at Carisbrooke, and a close friend of the deceased), the Rev. T. Story Busher (vicar of Carisbrooke), Mr. and Mrs. R. Bird Cheverton, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. Arbory, Mrs. R. Fisk, Miss Smith, Dr. S. V. H. Underhill, Capt. F. King, T.D., Capt. C. W. Brannon, M.C., and Messrs. H. L. Morris (churchwarden), W. H. and F. G. Wadham, J. H. Black, J. Way, E. Moore, C. H. Cave, A. E. King, F. E. Welsh, G. Wales, W. Griffin, W. E. Moon (organist at St. Mary's, Cowes), and Mr. G. R. Barrett (organist), and the following members of the Carisbrooke Church choir: Mesdames J. W. Lockhart, B. Lock, and Overs, Miss Attrill, and Messrs R. J. Philpot and F. Attrill. There were many beautiful floral tributes. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

Transcription by Michael Mew for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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