

## **Fanny Louisa Read**

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### **NEWPORT LADY HOTELIER'S DEATH**

#### **MRS. READ OF "THE WHEATSHEAF"**

Newport lost one of its oldest and most esteemed residents by the death on Saturday, at the age of 86, of Mrs. Fanny Louisa Read, hostess of the Wheatsheaf Hotel. Until she was taken ill several months ago she had ably controlled the hostelry, first in association with her late husband, Mr. Harry T. Read and since his death in 1942 with the assistance of her daughter, Joan, her period as hostess extending over about 50 years. She took a lively interest in the welfare of the many organisations, societies and businesses represented among the regular users of the hotel. Her personality was aptly summed up by the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth in his tribute at the funeral service at the Parish Church on Tuesday, when he offered thanks for "her high example, sympathetic interest in the affairs of other friendliness and human understanding, willingness to help good causes, large-hearted motherliness, affection and good humour."

Mrs. Read was a native of the borough, the eldest daughter of the late Mr. E. Matthews, for many years County Court bailiff. She leaves a son and daughter. An elder daughter, the first wife of Major P. W. F. Erith (head master of the King James I Grammar School) died in 1936.

Mrs Read was a regular worshipper at the Parish Church, where the funeral service was held. Miss K. Lower (organist) accompanied the hymns "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "Ten thousand times, ten thousand," and played "Jesu, joy of man's desiring" (Bach), "Air on the G string," (Bach), "I know that my Redeemer Liveth" (Handel), and "O, for the wings of a dove" (Mendelssohn), the last as a recessional.

The chief mourners were Jim and Joan (son and daughter), Mrs. A. Shoosmith (sister), Messrs. W., C., A.R., and R. Matthews (brothers), Major Erith (son-in-law) and Mrs. Erith, Mr. H. Matthews (nephew) and Mrs. Matthews, Mr. G. Matthews (cousin, also representing Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burton) and the staff of the Wheatsheaf Hotel. Mrs. Malcolm Knight (grand-daughter) was unavoidably prevented from attending.

Among the large attendance at the church were Messrs. L.P. and J.H. Mew and Lt-Col. F.J.T. Mew, T.D. (directors of Messrs. W.B. Mew Langton and Co. Ltd.), and representatives of the I.W. Hunt, Royal I.W. Agricultural Society, National Farmers' Union, I.W. Meat Traders' Association, the Folly Regatta Committee, I.W. Golf Alliance, I.W. County Coursing Club, Newport Rowing Club, Lloyds Bank, Island Oils, Ltd., Messrs. Wray and Sons, Ltd., and Messrs. S. Guy, Ltd.

The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Among the many floral tributes were those from the staff of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, the directors of Messrs. W.B. Mew Langton and Co. Ltd., I.W. Golf Alliance, I.W. County Coursing Club, I.W. Hunt, Newport Rowing Club, Messrs. Wray and Sons, Ltd., and Messrs. S. Guy, Ltd. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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