

Winifred Daisie Rich

Isle of Wight County Press – 24 September 1955

DEATH OF MISS W. D. RICH

DIRECTOR OF NEWPORT'S OLDEST BUSINESS

Newport lost an esteemed resident who had been actively associated with its business and social life, by the death at the Royal I.W. County Hospital on Tuesday of Miss Winifred Daisie Rich, of Seymour House, Nodgham Lane, Carisbrooke, eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Rich, of Marl Hill House, Carisbrooke. Miss Rich fractured a femur in a fall at her home on Sept. 4th and was removed to hospital. She was making a good recovery when she succumbed to a heart attack.

In her younger days Miss Rich hunted with the I.W. Foxhounds and later was a keen member of the Newport V.A.D. of the British Red Cross Society, serving at the Gatcombe House Hospital during the first world war. She was also a skilful violinist, frequently playing solos at local concerts and being leader of the Newport Philharmonic Society orchestra.

Her father was a partner in the firm of Messrs. Upward and Rich, of Pyle Street, Newport, which was founded in 1650, and when the business was turned into a company about 20 years ago, following the death of her parents, she continued the family association with it by becoming a director. In this capacity she had taken an active interest in the firm and particularly in the welfare of its employees, who held her in the highest esteem. Following the recent death of Mr. G. V. Upward, Miss Rich's demise severs the last link between the business and the families which built it up. She was a lady of charming disposition and kindness and her death is mourned by many friends.

INQUEST VERDICT-

“ACCIDENTAL DEATH”

The Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) held an inquest at his office at Ryde on Thursday, when Mr. H. R. Palmer represented the executors. – Miss Ada Knapp, companion and housekeeper to Miss Rich, said she had had no serious illness for six or seven years and was in fairly good health for a person of her age. She had not recently complained of giddiness. On Sunday, September 4th, at about 12.15 p.m., Miss Rich was in the lounge and as she got near the door she slipped on the polished floor and fell on her left side. Witness was in the kitchen at the time and went to her immediately she heard the fall. Miss Rich told her “I have broken my leg.” Witness called the doctor, who came immediately and ordered her to hospital. She believed Miss Rich's fall was due to the slippers she wore, which had rather shiny soles.

Dr. Edward Hugh Jackson Smyth, orthopaedic surgeon at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, said that Miss Rich was operated on on September 5th. She had a fractured hip, which was pinned. There was nothing unusual about the operation. She made a good recovery and got up, and the wound healed well. Things only started going wrong a few minutes before she died. She was walking on crutches and suddenly felt ill. She sat down and died within a quarter of an hour. The cause of death was heart failure, the accident probably being a contributory cause. – The Coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Isle of Wight County Press – 1 October 1955

NEWPORT.

Funeral of Miss W. D. Rich. – Representatives of many local business firms attended at the funeral service of Miss Winifred Daisie Rich, of Seymour House, Nodgham Lane, Carisbrooke, at St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke, on Saturday. Her death occurred at the County Hospital on Tuesday week after a fall in her home. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. Souttar) and Mr. E. H. Abraham (organist) accompanied the hymn "The King of Love" and the Nunc Dimittis. The personal mourners included Miss A. Rich (cousin, also representing Mrs. M. Wilson, niece), Miss K. Rich (cousin), Mr. W. G. Cutmore, also representing Dr. Burdon Cooper, Miss A. Knapp, Mr. H. R. Palmer (solicitor), Mrs. E. G. Taylor and Mrs. V. Stokes, also representing Dr. H. Upward. Also present were her fellow directors of Messrs. Upward and Rich and many past and present employees. Sir Peter Macdonald, M.P., K.B.E., was represented by Mr. H. C. Simpkins. Organisations and firms represented included the Carisbrooke branch of the I.W. Conservative and Unionist Association, Messrs. W. H. Croucher and Son, S. Guy Ltd., Sothcott Stores, Bembridge, Messrs. A. E. Harvey, Ltd., Messrs. Cross and Blackwell, Messrs. Wray and Sons, the I.W. Grocer's Association, Carisbrooke C. of E. Infants' School, Carisbrooke Football Club, Carisbrooke Cottage Garden Society, National Provincial Bank, County Girl Guides Association, and the I.W. Branch of the British Red Cross Society... The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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Further note: Following the death of Miss Winifred Daisie Rich in 1955, a Trust was set up to look after the welfare of former employees of Upward and Rich (www.daisierichtrust.org.uk)