Arnold Frank Shepard

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS 24 September 1938

Death of Mr. A.F. Shepard of Newport.

FORMER PRINCIPAL OF LOCAL TRANSPORT FIRM.

The death at his residence, 26 Sea-street, Newport on Wednesday, at the age of 82, of Mr. Arnold Frank Shepard has removed a very familiar figure from the business life of his native town, and one regarded with particular affection amongst those whose work centres on the Newport Quay and its busy river traffic. His family has been connected with the shipping and transport business latterly styled Shepard Bros., Ltd., for at least a century, his grandfather, William Shepard, who died in 1858, having been the founder. Mr. Shepard succeeded his father in the business, and was for some years managing director after the firm became a limited liability company about the beginning of the century, retiring from active participation in February, 1937, when there was a further re-organisation, owing to the co-ordination of the local carrying interests under the Railway Company. A man of dominating character, but possessing, under a gruff manner, a heart of gold, the late Mr. Shepard was noted for his able direction of a number of difficult tasks in the handling of heavy and bulky merchandise, such as large boilers. One particularly praiseworthy feat, some 25 years ago, was the disembarking at St. Helens Harbour, without the aid of a crane such as is used for the purpose nowadays, of engines and rolling stock for the Freshwater, Yarmouth, and Newport Railway, accomplished by sheer man power. He will also be remembered as one of the chief opponents of the Corporation in the free stores High Court action of a few years ago, and also by older residents in a similar action as to rights on the Quay many years previously. Well known also by reason of his business interests in Portsmouth and Southampton, Mr. Shepard will be greatly missed, and sympathy will be felt in her bereavement with his widow, whom he married some five years ago, following the death of his first wife.

Mr Shepard had taken little part in politics or local government, but since 1925 he had ably represented the Newport traders on the Cowes Harbour Commissioners, of which he was vice-chairman from 1926 until his retirement last year. His chief interest outside his business was membership of the Medina Lodge of Freemasons, Cowes, in which he had held the office of Worshipful Master, and was for many years Director of Ceremonies. He was also a Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden of the Hants and I.W. Province, a Past Z of the Asher Barfield Royal Arch Chapter (No. 35), and a Past Master of the Medina Mark Lodge (No. 14Q).

The Funeral will take place to-day (Saturday) at the Newport Parish Church at 2.30.

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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS 1 October 1938

THE LATE MR. A.F. SHEPARD, OF NEWPORT

LARGE GATHERING AT FUNERAL

The large gathering at the funeral on Saturday of Mr. Arnold Frank Shepard, of 26 Seastreet, Newport, was evidence of the high esteem in which he was held. Mr. Shepard, whose death at the age of 82 was recorded last week, was the former principal of the well known Island transport company of Messrs. Shepard Bro., and many of the employees of that firm, as well as a large number of brethren of the Masonic Lodges in the Cowes district, with which he was connected, were among those present. The service was held in the Parish Church and the interment was in Carisbrooke Cemetery.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Newport (the Rev. W.M.B. Hogg), who was assisted by the Rev. T.V. Ruddock. The Masonic brethren formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church, and the choir preceded the cortege up the aisle. Mr. A.H. Griffiths, A.R.C.M., was at the organ and accompanied the chanting of Psalm 23 and the singing of the hymns "Through the night of doubt and sorrow" and "Sun of my soul". The Masonic brethren sang their funeral ode and the organist played Chopin's "March Funebre" as the coffin was carried from the church.

The chief mourners were Mrs. Shepard (widow), Mrs. Wetherick and the Misses Shepard (sisters), Miss E. Borders (sister-in-law), Mr. W.J. Borders and Mr. F. Read (brothers-in-law), Mrs. Sear, Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Corner, Miss C. Shepard, of Southampton, and Mr. A.R. Borders (nephews and nieces), Mr. A. Chappell (cousin), Mr. L.H. Sear, the Rev. A.F. Hill, the Mayor of Newport (Mr. F.E. Welsh), Mr. J.B. Alderslade, and Nurse Webb. Mr. P. Shepard, of Southampton (brother) was unable to attend owing to illness.

The Masonic brethren attending, representing the Asher Barfield Royal Arch Chapter (No. 35), and the Medina Mark Lodge (No. 140), were: Wor. Bros. R.G. Burke (W.M.), H.R. Tuffin, H.B. Jolliffe, J.T. Iliffe, G.E. Scadding, E. Pearson, T.G Hale, H. Glading, and G.C. Knight (the last two named also representing the Osborne Lodge, No. 2169), and Bros. C.W. Richardson, S.C. Lallow, A.B. Woodyear, A.A. Lewis, C.D. Purdy, and J. Langford.

Messrs. P.J. and P.J. Croucher represented Messrs. Crouchers, Ltd., Messrs. E.A. Walmesley and T.E Duke (directors), Mr. J.F. Launder (secretary) Shepard Bros., Mr. E.G. Woodnutt Messrs. Pickfords, Ltd., and the following members of the staff of Shepard Bros, attended: Messrs. B. Matthews, L. Smith, F. Eldridge, V. Gustar, C. Way, and E. Browne (clerical), B. Willis and A. Cox (removal department), G. Plumbley, W. Cox, G. West, T. Minter, H. Cox, J. Appleton, and F. Ryall (transport department), W. and P. Knight and R. Woodford (master mariners), J. Brewer, J. Woodford, T. Sheaf, W. Kemp, E. Knight, and J. Lockyer (seamen), F. Reynard and H. Brewer (marine motor drivers), B. Arnold, G. Lockyer, W. Brading (mechanics), and the following retired employees of the firm: Messrs. H. and A. Woodford, R. West, and W. Humphry and F. Dyer.

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Those also present included Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Good, Mesdames Sheaf, Dacombe, Philpot (representing Capt. H.G. Adams-Conner), Sheath, Quarrier, Haigh (representing Mrs. G.W. Ball and family), and Hutton, and Mrs. and Miss Webb, Nurse Cheverton, Capt. J.B. Brown (Cowes Harbour Commissioners), Ald. J.C. Millgate, J.P., Ald. A.E. Harvey, J.P. and Messrs. J.H. James, W.H. Cox, W. Elliott, W. Prince, F. Leigh, E.R. Dore, C.C., J. Lockhart, G.W. Ranger (retired staff, representing the Southern Railway and Masonic Lodge, No. 4058), W. Snellgrove, C.A., J.P.., R.S.B. Mullett and Bridgewater (representing the Freshwater and Yarmouth Gas Company), P.H. Millidge, G.T. Harris, A.E. Brudenell (representing Messrs. Ball, of Cowes), W. Jukes, W.C. Smith, T.C., J.R. Thomas, J.W. Gibbs, E.J. White, E.W. Way, S. Elliott, W.A.Hurst, W.J. Whittington, J.P., C.V. Cheverton, W. Way, G.W. Crews, S.C. Wadham, H.T. Read, W.C. Black, W.J. Rugg, F. Chiverton (St. Thomas's Young Men's Bible Class), A. Alabone, A.D. Callaway, and J. Roach. Mr. A.V.P. Jackman, of Asher Barfield Chapter, was prevented from attending through indisposition.

The grave at the Cemetery had been decorated by the Mayoress of Newport (Mrs. F.E. Welsh), and the large number of beautiful floral tributes included wreaths bearing the following inscriptions: With deepest sympathy and a token of sincere esteem, from the W.M., officers, and brethren of Medina Mark Lodge No. 140; with sincere sympathy from the principals and companions of Asher Barfield Chapter No. 35; in sincere sympathy, from the W.M., officers, and brethren of Medina Lodge, No 35; with deepest sympathy from the directors and staff of Shepard Bros., Ltd, and a token of esteem and respect from the staff of Shepard Bros., Ltd.

The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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