

William Joseph Smith

Isle of Wight County Press – 10 January 1931

Newport

VETERAN NEWPORTONIAN'S DEATH. We regret to record the death on Thursday morning of one of Newport's oldest and most respected citizens in the person of Mr. William Joseph Smith, aged 84. The sad event occurred rather suddenly from heart failure, following a short illness, at Pan Foundry, the residence of his elder son, Mr. W. C. Smith, with who he had made his home for many years since the death of his wife. The deceased, who was a skilled tinsmith, whitesmith, and fitter, was for the greater part of his working life – over 45 years – in the employ of the late Albert Midlane, the famous local children's hymn writer, who carried on an ironmongery business for many years. The deceased will also be remembered by the older inhabitants for long and efficient service as a member of the old Borough Fire Brigade, with which he was connected for about 30 years. He was one of the oldest members of the local Court of Foresters and Shepherds. He was formerly connected with the Baptist Church and also with St. John's Church, his late wife being one of the earliest members of the St. John's Women's Bible Class. The deceased had an interesting store of recollections of old Newport, upon which he attractively drew for the entertainment of friends when opportunity offered for reminiscence.

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