

**George Henry Snellgrove**

**Isle of Wight County Press**

**9 July 1955**

**A FINE CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN**

**DEATH OF MR. G. H. SNELGROVE, OF NEWPORT**

The death occurred in the Royal I.W. Hospital, Ryde, on Sunday after an illness extending over five years, of one of the Island's best known businessmen- Mr. George Henry Snellgrove, aged 69, of 11 Dover Street, Ryde. He was held in the highest esteem by the business community of the Island, being the third generation of the Newport family which in 1951 celebrated the centenary of its business.

Messrs. Snellgroves, Ltd., builders' and decorators' merchants, was founded on its present site in Nodehill, Newport, in 1851, by Mr. J. E. Snellgrove, his grandfather, although an area used 100 years ago for living accommodation and greenhouses has long since become a part of the business premises. He succeeded to the control of the business on the death of his father, and lived over the premises, moving to Ryde shortly after the war when his son, Mr. W. J. H. Snellgrove, well known for his competitive motoring successes, became the fourth generation to assume the management.

The son of Mr. W. H. Snellgrove, J.P., a former town councillor, he was an old boy of the King James I Grammar School, of which he eventually became one of the governors as a member of the Newport Charity Trustees. The family business was his main interest, and the strain of carrying it on almost single-handed during the difficult war years told on him. In his younger days he was a great sportsman and prominent in soccer circles. He played at inside forward for Newport F.C. for several seasons until a leg injury ended his playing career. When the club became a limited liability company he became one of the first shareholders. He was also interested in golf and tennis and was a member of Newport Golf Club and the Victoria Sports Club. Between the wars he was hon. secretary of Newport Liberal Club. He leaves a widow, a daughter of the late Mr. W. J. Bailey, a Newport solicitor, and a son.

**THE FUNERAL**

The funeral was at Pyle Street Methodist Church on Wednesday where he worshipped before he went to live in Ryde, and where he was one of the trustees. There was a large attendance of business representatives and his employees, including Mr. W. H. Downer, former town councillor, who has served under four generations of Snellgroves. The service was conducted by the Minister (the Rev. C. Cardy) assisted by the Circuit Superintendent Minister (the Rev. Dr. W. H. Mildon), and the hymns "Art thou weary" and "now the labourer's task is o'er" were sung.

Dr. Mildon said that they mourned a fine Christian gentleman. He was a popular and considerate employer who carried into business Christian courtesy and goodwill. His was a

knightly spirit moving in the 20th century, and his life was full of simple piety, truth, and honour.

The family mourners were Mr. and Mrs. W. J. H. Snellgrove (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. E. A., Mr. and Mrs. G. R., Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Snellgrove (brothers and sisters-in-law), Mrs. B. Gentle, Mrs. N. F. Tyler (sisters), Mr. and Mrs. J. Johns (brother-in-law and sister), Miss F. and Miss M. Johns, Miss E. Gentle, Mr. and Mrs. B. Snellgrove, Mrs. C. Fergusson, and Mr. A. J. Gentle (nieces and nephews), and Mr. and Mrs. B. Bailey, Mr. W. Spanner and Miss F. Bailey (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law). Mrs. E. D. Snellgrove (widow) was unable to be present through illness.

Societies, organisations and businesses represented were: Governors and trustees of Newport Charity Trustees, the Blue Coat Foundation, Newport Golf Club, Newport Football Club, the Master Builders' Federation, King James I Grammar School, St. Thomas's Church, the Methodist Circuit, the I.W. Association of Building Trades Employers, Messrs. Cave and Sherwood, G. H. Scott and Sons, W. Matthews and Sons, H. and F. Damp, R. C. Gray, L. Truscott and Son, John Hall and Son, Ashley United Industries, Ltd., Gosport, Wallstyles Ltd., Ryde, S. Adams and Sons, Ryde, O. C. Hamilton and Son, G. E. Tomlinson, F. W. Bright and Co., Bright and Minns, Owen G. Day, Ltd., H. Scott and Son, Wrays, Borough Hall Garage, Canning Day, Ltd., Westminster Bank, Ltd., Ralph's Nurseries, H. Lower and Sons, G. and F. Cooper and Godwins.

There were 60 floral tributes, including those from the staff, the Victoria Methodist Church, the Trustees of Newport Charities, the headmaster and boys of King James I Grammar School, Newport Social Club, and Newport Golf Club.

The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Messrs. W. W. Wells made the arrangements.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries, © 2019

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>