

Frederick Spanner

**Isle of Wight County Press
5 July 1937**

DEATH OF MR. F. SPANNER OF NEWPORT

Loss to Island Forestry

It is with great regret that we record the death at his residence, Colecroft, Fairlee-road, Newport, on Saturday, of Mr. Frederick Spanner, at the age of 88. Mr. Spanner was well known and respected throughout the Island for his record of long and loyal service to the local Court of Foresters (No. 1821), of which he had been a member since 1875, and to Island Forestry in generally. After filling minor offices he became Chief Ranger of Court 1821 in 1879, and in 1894 was appointed District Chief Ranger, an office which he held for two half-yearly periods. From 1888 until 1907 he was a District Trustee and for some years he acted as Treasurer of the local Court. He relinquished the last-named post on his appointment as Secretary to the Court in 1906, a post which he filled with conspicuous ability until his death, a record of just over 30 years of unbroken service in one office. He had also been a trustee of the Court Lady Simeon (female) Foresters since its inception, and it was for his services in connection with the formation of this and two other female Courts in the Island that he was decorated by the Order with a suitably inscribed jewel. His great age gave him the right to claim to be the oldest Forester in the Island,, although it is not possible to ascertain at the moment if that was actually the case.

For some years formerly the late Mr. Spanner was a partner with his brother, the late Mr. Albion Spanner, in the well known Newport drapery business of that name, but he retired from business many years ago and had since devoted all his energies to his society and to the service of the Newport Wesleyan (now Victoria Methodist) Church, where he regularly attended and was the oldest member. He formerly worked in the Sunday-school and had for some years been a Trustee. At the time of his death he was the senior holder of this office. Retaining all his faculties to the end and meticulously careful in all that he undertook, the passing of Mr. Spanner has occasioned deep and widespread regret amongst all with whom his work had brought him into contact.

The Funeral

The funeral took place on Wednesday amid many signs of respect and esteem, the service at the Victoria Methodist Church, Newport, being largely attended by brother and sister Foresters, who lined the entrance to the church wearing the green neck ribbons of the Order with black mourning rosettes. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. Matthewman, and the hymns sung with the deceased's favourites, "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "Abide with me". The minister paid feeling tribute to their late brother's life and Christian witness, and his devotion to his work for the society. They thanked God that he had been spared to live so long and so useful a life. Mr. E. J. H. Quarrier, at the organ, played suitable music, including "O rest in the Lord" as the cortege left the church. The mourners were Messrs. W. and R. Spanner (sons), Mrs. W. Spanner (daughter-in-law), Mr. R. D. Goddard (son-in-law), Mr. L. Spanner (grandson), and Mrs. A. Matthews, Mr. K. Spanner, Mr. and Mrs. A. Spanner, and Mr. F. Fry (nephews and nieces). Mr. C. H. Spanner of North Wales (son) was unable to be present. Those also present included Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Kington, Mr. W. S. North, Mr. F. L. Wells, Mr. A. H. Dockrill, Mrs. Pullinger, Mr. and Mrs. Spanner, Mrs. J. Gentle, Mr. E. Morris, Mr. C. J. Cooper, Ald. J. H. Deacon,

Mrs. G. N. Rogers, Mr. J. B. Alderslade, Mr. G. Snellgrove, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Cantelo, Mr. C. Wyatt, Mr. A. H. Spencer, Mr. J. H. Brown, J.P., C.C., Mr. H. M. Ablitt (chairman of the I.W. Insurance Committee), Mr. A. P. Williams, and Mr. W. F. Negus. The following representatives of the Island District of Foresters and of the deceased's Court attended: Bros. A. W. Keeping (District Secretary), A. J. Williams (District Treasurer), and B. J. Newnham, P.D.C.R., J. C. Williams, P.D.C.R., and H. King, P.D.C.R. (District Trustees); Court 1821 (Newport): Bros. H. Phillips, C.R., C. Eldridge, P.C.R., and P. Scott (Court Trustees), B. P. R. Smith, P.C.R., W. Fuller, P.C.R., F. Coleman, —. Chamberlain, G. F. Tomlinson, P.C.R., A. Drudge, P.C.R., W. French, R. T. Lawn, P.D.C.R., H. Williams (juvenile Secretary), H. Bennett, P.C.R., and H. Way, P.D.C.R. Other Courts were represented as follows: Bros. G. White (Secretary, Court Astraea, Ryde), R. J. Shirley (Secretary), F. Ridett (Court Loyal Gordon, Shorwell), A. Hills of Freshwater (Court Yar), C. Cassell, P.C.D.R. (Court Harmony, Shanklin), A. V. Howell (Trustee), and C. A. Wightman (Court Providence, Ventnor). The representatives of female Courts present were: Court Lady Simeon (Newport)—Mrs. Bennett (Trustee), Miss Young, P.C.R., Mrs. Gawn, Mrs. Clarke (representing Mr. J. Clarke, Secretary of the Court), Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Buckler, Mrs. Matthews, and Mrs. C. Eldridge; Court Lady Tennyson (Freshwater)—Mrs. Hurdle, P.D.C.R.; Court Harmony, Shanklin, Mrs. D. Spencer (Juvenile Secretary). Bro. J. H. Parsons, D.C.R., of Ventnor, E. Willstead (District Trustee), of Cowes, Mr. J. Denham, of Cowes, and Mr. E. J. Wray, of Newport, were unavoidable prevented from attending.

The interment was at the Carisbrooke Cemetery, the grave, which was next to that of the deceased's wife, being lined with laurel and yew. The funeral oration of the Order was read by the Chief Ranger for the deceased's Court (Bro. H. Phillips) in the presence of a large number of members, who walked in the procession from the church to the cemetery.

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