

James Jolliffe Spickernell

1901 census – High Street, Carisbrooke

Jas Jolliffe Spickernell **Head** **84** ***Living on own means Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight (Deaf)***

Mary Ann Humby Servant 56 Housekeeper North Stoneham, Hampshire

Isle of Wight County Press – 19 March 1904

DEATH OF MR. J. J. SPICKERNELL.

OF CARISBROOKE,

We regret to record the death, in his 88th year, of Mr. James Jolliffe Spickernell, another of the devoted band of brothers whose names for a long spell of years have been familiar as household words in Carisbrooke, for whose well-being they have worked so zealously. Writing of the venerable gentleman now deceased an esteemed correspondent, who was on terms of close friendship with him for 70 years, says: The late Mr. J. J. Spickernell was a zealous educationist in days long anterior to the School Board System. At Chillerton he built a school and teacher's house entirely at his own expense. In all matters connected with National-school work he was much in advance of his time, and years ago he was mentioned in Government Blue-books as an eminent educationist. He became a district visitor for Chillerton over 60 years ago, he was for many years the secretary of the Carisbrooke District Visitors' Society, and in that and in many other capacities he was the intimate friend and helper of the late Rev. Edward Boucher James. He was a Guardian of the Poor at the time the late Sir Henry Gordon and Mr. Abraham Clarke filled similar offices, and his work as churchwarden, which was important, was done so long ago that it is almost unknown to the present generation. It may not be known that some of the mullions of the windows are heart of oak instead of stone, this idea originating with him. He was well acquainted with all parish matters. Half a century ago he was on the Assessment Committee. He mapped out the whole district and examined every house and building and piece of land, and so conscientious was he in this matter that when a large property belonging to a relation was being re-assessed, on being asked his opinion, he said the rate ought to be doubled, and it was doubled. The parish got the benefit of his impartiality, but at the expense of considerable coolness on the part of the assessed. Before the School Board was inaugurated in the parish (1874) he made a census of the whole district, number of houses, inhabitants, children of all ages, and he arranged a voluntary rate which kept the educational machinery going satisfactorily till that date. One by one the schools fell under the Board and today the Carisbrooke infants' school only remains in the hands of foundation managers. He was for many years secretary of the S.P.C.K. [*Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*] depot for books and school materials, at Newport, through which the clergy obtained supplies of those articles at a reduced rate for their schools. Though not an ardent politician he was a Conservative of the old type and took pride in being the first man to record his vote on the morning of the election. He was generous to the poor, spared himself no trouble to do good, and he was a liberal subscriber to many charitable and religious institutions, his favourite perhaps being the C.M.S., for which he worked assiduously. Punctuality was a great point with

him. He has been known to walk out to Chillerton school by half-past 6 in the morning, to see that the day's duties were punctually begun, and he always advised young people to be "five minutes before-hand." It may be truly said of him that his motto was thoroughness. Whatever he did, he did it with his might.

We are indebted to another correspondent for a communication which embraces many of the above details. The writer dwells upon the eminent services which the deceased rendered to the cause of elementary education many years ago and to the practical sympathy which he extended to philanthropic institutions. "Time would fail to record," says the writer, "all that this excellent man accomplished in his day and generation. He was a philanthropist in the best sense of the word. In the quietude of his chamber, where his last days were spent in weariness and suffering, he still laboured to render service for others who sought his aid. As long as strength permitted, he was true to the instincts of his highest nature, serving God and man, and at last he has passed to his heavenly home in perfect peace and unfaltering faith. Happily one – the junior member – of the devoted family of "Spickernell" still remains amongst us. May he be preserved for many years to labour in the future as he has done in the past for the welfare of his native village, and continue to receive the same grateful recognition so long accorded to his venerated brothers for manifold kindly acts done for the good of the community."

The funeral took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery at noon on Thursday. The Vicar of Carisbrooke (the Rev. W. J. Stobart) impressively officiated. The chief mourners were Mr. John Spickernell (brother) and Mrs. Spickernell, Mr. Frank Spickernell (nephew), Miss Kate Spickernell (niece), Mrs. Dibble (niece) and Mr. Dibble, Miss Ellen Jolliffe (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Greenfield, Mr. A. W. Drew (solicitor), Mr. C. Webb, and Mrs. Humby (housekeeper). Amongst those also attending were Dr. Groves, J.P., Dr. Jolliffe, and Messrs. Thomas Dashwood, J.P. (Ryde), Robert Pinnock, J.P., Frederic Stratton, James Eldridge, Robert Fisk, C. J. Dashwood (manager and correspondent of the Carisbrooke Infants' school), J. Mearman, J. H. Russell (Roslin), L. C. Attrill, W. W. Gyton, W. F. Scovell, W. J. Watts, H. Blake, W. K. Ediss, W. Marshall, Brown, Mark Young, B. Young, Wallbutton, F. Attrill, and W. Urry, and many ladies, including Miss Jarrett (headmistress of the Carisbrooke infants' school) and several past and present teachers. The infants' school was closed for the occasion. The coffin was of polished oak, Mr. Barton, of Newport, being the undertaker.

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