

John Spickernell

1901 census – Field House, Whitepit Lane, Newport

<i>John Spickernell</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>Living on own means</i>	<i>Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight</i>
Helen Spickernell	Wife	37		Herstmonceux, Sussex
Annie Watson	Servant	19	General Servant	Ryde, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press – 27 April 1907

DEATH OF MR. JOHN SPICKERNELL.

Carisbrooke loses an esteemed and notable inhabitant by the death of Mr. John Spickernell, who passed peacefully away at his residence, Field House, on Tuesday last, at the age of 85. For a long number of years the deceased gentleman took an active interest in the affairs of the historic village where the greater part of his life was spent, and his name and services, together with those of his brothers who predeceased him, Mr. William Spickernell and Mr. J. J. Spickernell, will be gratefully remembered there. The restoration of the interior of the Church in 1871 was largely due to his indefatigable exertions, the improvements then effected including reseating and the clearing away of the plaster with which much of the old masonry of the fabric had been coated. On the occasion of the reopening of the Church the sermons were preached by Dean Stanley and the Rev. F. D. Maurice, who paid a large tribute to Mr. Spickernell and those who were associated with him for the admirable manner in which the work had been carried out, the improvements then accomplished, so far from affecting the architecture of the ancient building, only serving to bring out some of the best features of the interior. The then Vicar of Carisbrooke, the Rev. E. Boucher James, also testified to the indebtedness of the parish to Mr. Spickernell for his splendid efforts at this time and declared that his name would have an honoured place on the roll-call of the Church's benefactors. In earlier years he engaged actively in Sunday-school work, and there are those now living – men occupying good positions – who will tell of the elevating influences brought to bear upon them during their membership of his Bible Class. In many other ways he rendered important service to the Church and parish, and during the long vicariate of Mr. Boucher James that estimable clergyman had no more loyal or energetic supporter than Mr. John Spickernell. His store of local lore was remarkable; he possessed an unflinching flow of humour; and on many occasions he delighted local audiences with the recountal of his reminiscences or with his readings in the Isle of Wight dialect, of which he was a master. Many years ago he was a tower of strength to the Conservative party. Gifted with the "faculty of verse," he frequently employed it during election time in good-humouredly lampooning his opponents, and it is doubtful whether there has been anything more caustic, and, from the writer's standpoint, more effective than were the poetical effusions which emanated from his facile and pungent pen in days when the political satirist was a force to be reckoned with in Parliamentary contests. Of late years he had withdrawn from active participation in party politics, and he spent the happy eventide of his life amid the quiet scenes which always appealed to him as a country gentleman. Held in warm regard by all who knew him, John Spickernell has gone tranquilly to his rest, leaving behind him a worthy record and a memory that his friends will cherish until the "one clear call" for which he was so

prepared comes for them. The funeral took place yesterday at Carisbrooke Cemetery, where his first wife and other members of the family have their last earthly resting place. The family mourners present were Mrs. Spickernell (widow) and her sister, Mr. Frank Spickernell (son), Miss K. Spickernell (daughter), and Mr. F. Spickernell (grandson), and among other friends attending were Dr. Groves, J.P., and Messrs. Frederic Stratton, H. Eldridge Stratton, W. H. Shorthose, L. Groves, W. J. Watts, J. H. Greenfield, and H. Blake. The Rev. J. W. Danford impressively officiated both in the Church and at the graveside. The breast-plate of the coffin bore the inscription: "John Spickernell, died April 23rd, 1907, aged 85 years." By the request of the deceased there were no flowers. Messrs. W. Barton and Co. were the undertakers. A number of friends were prevented from attending the funeral by the inclemency of the weather.

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