

Thomas Spooner

Isle of Wight County Press – 23 March 1946

CARISBROOKE

Nonagenarian Pensioner's Death. – How a 91-year-old Indian Army pensioner was found lying on the floor of his blazing bed-room was disclosed at the inquest conducted by Mr. R. E. A. Webster (Island Coroner) at the Guildhall, Newport, on Thursday, on Mr. Thomas Spooner, of 5 School-lane. Dr. A. A. Heathcote said that when he saw Mr. Spooner at his home at 5 a.m. on March 12th, shortly after the accident, he found his right shoulder dislocated. There was some mental confusion, and he gave treatment for shock. There was no evidence of burns. He died on Wednesday from hypostatic pneumonia, induced by the dislocated shoulder. Mr. Thomas E. H. Spooner stated that his father retired on pension from the Indian Army Ordnance Corps, in which he was a 1st Class Warrant Officer Conductor, in 1899, and had done occasional light work until 1918. He was just recovering from an attack of dropsy of the feet. During the cold spell it was the habit of witness to place an oil stove in his father's bed-room. At 4.15 a.m. on the 12th he was aroused by banging, and on entering his father's room found the stove lying on its side and flaming badly. The door, skirting boards, and some bedding were alight. As the smoke cleared he saw his father lying on the floor. He assumed that his father fell while carrying the stove from the room. He was unable to tell them anything intelligible about the accident before he died. Mrs. Lilian Grist, of 1 School-lane (daughter), said the oil stove had been placed in her father's room every night during the last six winters. The Coroner said it was a pure accident, and he expressed sympathy with the family in losing a father in such circumstances at such a splendid age. He recorded a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence. Mr. Spooner had lived in retirement here for many years, and was greatly esteemed. He was one of the oldest members of the Newport Liberal Club.

Isle of Wight County Press – 30 March 1946

CARISBROOKE

Funeral of Mr. T. Spooner. – The funeral of Mr. Thomas Spooner, of 5 School-lane, took place on Saturday, a service being held in the Chapel-on-the-Hill. The Rev. H. M. Jackson officiated.. The mourners were Messrs. T. E. H. and C. G. Spooner (sons), Mesdames L. A. Grist and A. L. Pritchett (daughters), and Messrs. H. Grist and L. Pritchett (sons-in-law), the Misses B. P., J., and B. Pritchett (grand-daughters), and Mr. P. Pritchett. Others present were Messrs. G. Norman, C.C. (also representing Capt. J. S. Brown), A. E. Harvey, R. Taylor, and A. Sibbick, Mesdames A. Langley, Woodford, V. Brown, and G. Gentle, and the Misses Sayer, and Pritchett, senior. The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery, and the arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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