

Frederic Stratton

1911 census – Mount Pleasant House, Newport, Isle of Wight

<i>Frederic Stratton</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Solicitor</i>	<i>Newport, Isle of Wight</i>
Maud Stratton	Daughter	44	Missionary	Newport, Isle of Wight
			Under The Church Missionary Society	
Constance Clara Auden Stratton	Daughter	27		Newport, Isle of Wight
Margaret Eleanor Clayton	Visitor	26		South Lambeth, London
Frances Catherine Brett	Servant	20		Arreton, Isle of Wight
Ada Ellen Viney	Servant	19		Shorwell, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press - 9 December 1916

DEATH OF MR. FREDERIC STRATTON.

CLERK OF GUARDIANS FOR 40 YEARS.

The Island, and particularly Newport, has lost one of its best known and most highly esteemed residents and public officers by the death of Mr. Frederic Stratton, of Mount-pleasant House, Newport, who passed peacefully away in his sleep during Monday night, at the age of 76. Deceased had been in indifferent health for a considerable period, though he had been out until recently. For some days his condition had given rise to anxiety amongst his relatives and intimate friends, and to them his passing occasioned no surprise, though it was not generally expected to be so near.

The late Mr. Stratton was a son of Mr. William Stratton, of Newport, where he was born on November 16, 1840, and on his birthday he married Ellen, daughter of the late Mr. James Eldridge of Newport, who survives him after having celebrated their golden wedding a year or so ago, and for whom, as well as for the many other members of his highly esteemed family - he had 11 children - the deepest sympathy is felt. He had been a solicitor for 53 years, having been admitted in 1863. He had only given up practice a year or two ago! He was the principal of the firm of Messrs. Frederic Stratton and Sons, and with probably one exception was the oldest solicitor on the Island. A year after he became a solicitor he was appointed clerk to the Board of Guardians, a position which he filled with marked ability, devotion, and sympathy for close upon 40 years, until failing health caused his retirement in 1903. He was also the clerk of the Union Assessment Committee during a period when some important rating appeals were decided, and for many years he filled the clerkship of the Rural Sanitary Authority and thus had an important part in rural sanitary administration, in which position he was succeeded by his son, Mr. H. Eldridge Stratton, under the new Local Government regime, by which highway and sanitary work in the rural area are combined in the administration of the Rural District Council. The late Mr. Stratton's chief clerk, Mr. A. G. Harrison, succeeded him in the clerkship of the Guardians. Mr. Frederic Stratton also had an important hand in educational work in the centre of the Island, having served for many years as the clerk of the Newport and Carisbrooke School Boards, most of whose schools were built during his term of office. He was also superintendent registrar for the Island.

It is interesting to recall that Mr. Stratton served under the Guardians' chairmanships of Sir H. P. Gordon, Bart., the Rev. O. Theobald, Mr. W. A. Glynn, J.P., and Mr. G. Fellows, J.P., C.A., the first three being also chairmen of the Rural Sanitary Authority, and under Col. Clayton, the late Mr. J. Ruttin Blake, and Mr. Charles Dabell, J.P., as chairmen of the Rural District Council.

He was a keen student and an ardent lover of nature's beauties, our Garden Isle's storehouse of which was indefatigably explored by him during his many extended walking tours, in which he so delighted. An expert botanist, he published interesting articles on the flora of the Island, and a very interesting and valuable work on "The Wild Flowers of the Isle of Wight." He was also a great traveller beyond the confines of the Island, spending many annual holidays in Switzerland; he was quite an authority on Alpine climbing, and delighted audiences at home with lectures on his travels. He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society and a landscape painter in water-colours and oils of great artistic merit, and was well known as an exhibitor in connection with the Isle of Wight Fine Art Society. His love of the good old-fashioned style in buildings, furniture, &c., was evidenced in the charming surroundings of his home and office life, and his memory was a rich storehouse of reminiscences of old Island associations.

As one of the most prominent Church laymen of his day in the Island, he rendered for many years particularly valuable service as a member of the Winchester Diocesan Conference and the Rural-Decanal Conferences in the Island, at both of which, he was among the best known lay speakers. His views, earnestly expressed, always commanded respect, and were most helpful. St. John's Church, Newport, has suffered a particularly severe loss by the death of an especially valued friend and worker, who was lay reader for many years and filled other official positions in connection with that church. He was a specially warm supporter of the Church Missionary Society, and members of his family have for some years been zealous workers in the foreign missions field. One of his sons, after working in the Missionary Head-quarters for some time, was vicar of St. John's, Newport, and holds now an important living at Torquay - we refer to the Rev. Arthur Carruthers Stratton, B.A.

Enjoying the warmest regard and esteem, not to say affection, of a wide circle of friends, who admired the high standard of character which he set in every department of life, and were charmed by his many excellent personal qualities, he has passed to his long rest full of years and honour, and the Island is the poorer for his loss.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon, the first part of the service being at St. John's Church, Newport, and the interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The Vicar of St. John's (Rev. W. H. Mackinnon) officiated, assisted by the Rev. Edgar W. T. Greenshield. The family mourners were Mrs. Stratton (wife), Mr. H. E. Stratton, the Rev. A. C. Stratton, and Lieut. G. F. S. Stratton (sons), Mr. and Mrs. Austin, Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Hutchinson (sons-in-law and daughters), Miss T. G. Stratton, Miss J. C. Stratton (daughters), Mr. and Mrs. Robey F. Eldridge (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr. James Eldridge (brother-in-law), Mrs. Liesching (sister-in-law), Mr. A. A. Whitfield, Mr. P. E. Whiston (office staff), Miss Ellen Taylor (family nurse), Dr. Stanley Foster, and Dr. Frederick Johnson. There were also present Mr. F. Faithfull (Clerk to the Winchester Guardians), Mr. John Roach (churchwarden), Mrs. Mackinnon, Miss Mackinnon, Rev. Miles Atkinson (vicar of St. Paul's), Messrs. George

Fellows, J.P., C.A. (Chairman of the I.W. Guardians), J. C. Millgate, J.P. (Deputy Mayor of Newport), Edward Wilson (president of the I.W. Law Society), F. A. Joyce (Deputy Coroner), A. W. Drew, T. R. Tilling, T. Cotton, C.C., A. G. Harrison (Clerk of the Guardians), C. J. Dashwood (representing the Carisbrooke Infants'-school managers, deceased having been a trustee of the school), A. H. Dockrill (also representing Ald. Francis Pittis, J.P., who was prevented from attending by indisposition), Harry Shepard, J.P., Leonard Jordan, J.P., C.C., T. Ross Pratt (Town Clerk of Newport), Edward W. Way, F. Cressall, R. P. Mew, C.C., E. Jenkins, W. H. Dann, D. S. Pring, S. C. Wadham, T.C., J. B. Alderslade, J. Dewey, G. Weeks, H. F. Scott, A. Alabone, W. E. Loe, H. Cawley Way, H. W. Horan (representing the old Poor-law officers).

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

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