

William Tucker Stratton

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DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM TUCKER

STRATTON

A very notable and much-esteemed Islander has been removed from our midst by the death on Monday last of Mr. William Tucker Stratton, who for so many years had resided at Carisbrooke. The deceased gentleman, who was the senior partner of the firm of Messrs Stratton and Millgate, architects, engineers, and surveyors, of Newport, had been in indifferent health for some time, but the end came with painful suddenness. He appeared in his usual health on Monday morning, but after getting up he experienced the recurrence of a seizure to which he had been subject, and failing to rally after the administration of restoratives, kept at hand by his wife, he passed away shortly after. The late Mr. Stratton, who was the oldest surviving member of a much respected Island family, occupied for many years a leading position in his profession, and there exist in the Island and out of it many examples of his skill and ability as an architect and engineer, both in a public and private connection. About half a century ago he was engaged in important surveying and engineering work in connection with the construction of some of the large railway lines on the mainland, and it will be remembered that he prepared a scheme, which was very influentially advocated, for a railway line from Newport to Sandown by the Pan and Burnt House-lane valley, with a short tunnel under Arreton Down, as a shorter route than that ultimately adopted. Eminent as an historian, a man of wide reading, and high intellectual attainments, the late Mr. Stratton attained great distinction as an archaeologist and antiquarian, as is proved by his publication of a history of the churches of the Isle of Wight, in two volumes, and other literary productions. He was a valued contributor to our columns from time to time, and in the first issue of the *County Press* he commenced the publication of "Notes for a History of the Isle of Wight," and till the last his great desire was to publish such a history; but, unfortunately for the Island, he died before realizing his ambition. The deceased gentleman was an antiquarian of rare acumen, accomplished in the reading of Norman-French and Latin, and deciphering the characters in ancient records, which he eagerly sought, and from which he gained a priceless store of information as to the history of the Island, much of which it is feared will now remain a sealed book. Up to the time of his death he was engaged in copying ancient MSS. [manuscript] of the Island. Of a modest nature, the late Mr Stratton was a charming conversationalist, and was always ready to give his friends the benefit of his store of information. Until late years Mr. Stratton was blessed with a strong constitution, and his remarkable feats of pedestrianism in the Island accounted in no small measure for his intimate acquaintance with its interesting features and history. His death is indeed a loss to the Island, and the deep sympathy of his many friends are with the widow in her sorrow.

The funeral of the deceased took place yesterday (Friday) at Carisbrooke Cemetery, the Rev. S. Scott officiating. The chief mourners were the widow, Mrs. R. Shepherd (formerly of Calbourne Newbarn), Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Stratton and Miss. E. Stratton, Messrs. J. C. Millgate, G. H. Young, and R. Mew; and others present included Messrs. R. Roach Pittits, J. P., George Knight (Shide), J. Mearman, Richard Way, Frank Way, A. Burt, and A. G. Watts (manager of the Freshwater waterworks), and others. In accordance with the wish of deceased it was desired that no flower should be sent, but one floral cross was sent "with heartfelt sympathy" by Mr. And Mrs. Dillon.

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