

## Mary Anne Sweetingham

### 1871 census: Millers Lane, Carisbrooke

Joseph Sweetingham	Head	70	Receiving parish relief	b Hove, Brighton, Sussex
Mary Ann Sweetingham	Wife	54	Needlewoman	b St Georges East, Middlesex

### 1911 census: Castle Street, Carisbrooke

Mary Ann Sweetingham	Head	96	Widowed	b. Kings Street, London
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Isle of Wight County Press – 15 April 1911.

### CARISBROOKE

NOTABLE NONAGENARIAN'S DEATH. – The death took place on Saturday of Mrs. Mary Ann Sweetingham, the oldest inhabitant of the parish and one of the oldest persons on the Island, of No. 2 Castle-street, who was in her 97<sup>th</sup> year. Mrs. Sweetingham was born a few months before the Battle of Waterloo and five years before King George the Third died. She was married during the accession year of the late Queen Victoria (1837). She had one child, a boy, who died in infancy in 1839. Her husband died in 1874, and for the greater part of the time since then the deceased had lived in Carisbrooke, occupying her time largely in needlework, of which she did a great deal for leading families and residents in the district. This she continued to do until 1834, when her sight began to fail, and she became totally blind in 1890. Even after this affliction of blindness she continued to do needlework, and her skill and aptitude in this direction were demonstrated by the fact that she was awarded prizes at local exhibitions for examples of her handiwork. In 1898, through the late Vicar (the Rev. A.W. Milroy), her case of blindness was brought under notice of the late Queen Victoria, who graciously sent Mrs. Sweetingham a present of £5\* and had the case recommended to the Royal Blind Pension Society, who since that time paid Mrs. Sweetingham a pension of £1 5s.\* per month. For many years Mrs Sweetingham had been by far the oldest pensioner of the Society. Deceased was possessed of a strong will and great determination of character, and she was gifted with a wonderful memory, which enabled her to discuss in most entertaining style and relate accounts which she had heard in her youth about Waterloo and of the scenes she witnessed when King George III. died and King George IV. was crowned. She had lived in the reigns of six Sovereigns, and Queen Victoria's accession seemed to her but a thing of yesterday. Of local happenings Mrs. Sweetingham told interesting stories, and she often referred to the consternation caused when the potato blight made its first appearance in the Island in the early 1840's. The deceased had throughout life enjoyed the best of health, her only ailment being rheumatism, and until the day of her death her intellect, voice, and memory were practically unimpaired. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Carisbrooke Cemetery, the remains being interred in the same grave as her husband, and at the wish of the deceased the service was taken by the Rev. I.D. Rees. The relatives and friends attending were Mr. Sweetingham, Mr. W. Humby, the Misses Humby, Mrs. Rees, and Mr. C.J. Dashwood. There were some beautiful floral tributes. Messrs. H. and F. Damp carried out the funeral arrangements.

Note:

£5 in 1898 equates to about £630 in 2018

£1 5s. in 1898 equates to about £156 in 2018

*Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2018*

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