

Kate Heal Westmore

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 27 June 1953

NEWPORT

NONAGENARIAN'S DEATH. – The death occurred at St. Mary's Hospital on Friday week of Mrs. Kate Heal Westmore, of 20 Cavendish Place, aged 92. Mrs. Westmore will be remembered with affection by many residents as a teacher for 43 years at the former National Schools. A daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Snow, of Newport, Mrs. Westmore began her teaching career as a pupil teacher in the 1870's, in the days when children's manners were considerably more formal than they are to-day. She used often to recall how, at that time, the school was visited each day by the then Vicar of Newport, and on his entrance the school mistresses and the girls used to rise to their feet and curtsy. They used the same token of respect on the many occasions when Queen Victoria visited the town, when the school girls were lined up along the Mall to curtsy as she went by. The queen would always give them a special bow in acknowledgment. On her retirement from the profession, at the age of 60, Mrs. Westmore was presented by the staff and scholars with a leather travelling case.

She was also well known in the town as an enthusiastic member of the Lady Adela Cochrane Lodge of Oddfellows, of which she was a founder member at the beginning of the century, and remained until 1929 as the first secretary. Her services were recognised by the presentation to her of an inscribed clock. She was appointed trustee of the Lodge in 1932, resigning that office only a short time before her death. She was also a Past Provincial Grand Master of the I.W. District. Her husband, Mr. Walter Westmore died about 35 years ago, and she had since lived alone. Her two sons both died in childhood, and she is survived by two sisters. Her health remained excellent until the last year of her life, and she retained full use of all her faculties, writing a clear, legible hand which would have done credit to many younger people. She was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital about six months ago.

The funeral service was held at St. Thomas's Church on Wednesday, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C.R. Farnsworth). The family mourners were Miss M.E. Shephard (sister), Mr. and Mrs. W. Wellbeloved, and Mrs. L. Austin. Mrs. A. Parker (sister) was unable to travel from Weymouth. Among the congregation were representatives of the Oddfellows and of her former school pupils. The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The many wreaths included those of the Oddfellows and of her neighbours and friends of Cavendish Place and Clifford Street.

Transcribed by Rosemary Stewart for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>