

John Wood

1881 Census - The Cedars, Carisbrooke

John	Wood	Widower	73	Retired Bank Manager	Ashburton, Devon
Ann	Wood	Sister	76	Govt Annuitant	Merthyr, Glamorgan, Wales
Eliza	Arnold	Widow	59	Housekeeper	Newport, Isle of Wight
Agnes E.	Way		26	Genl Servant	Swanwick, Hampshire

Isle of Wight County Press, Saturday – 19 November 1887

CARISBROOKE

DEATH OF MR. JOHN WOOD.

The removal of another familiar face from amongst us has, with sincere regret, to be recorded. On Monday last there passed away, in his 81st year, Mr. John Wood, of the Cedars, Carisbrooke. The deceased gentleman took up his residence in the Island about twenty-five years ago, and his life here was one of quiet usefulness, of unostentatious goodness and benevolence. For some years he lived at Fairlee, and he actively interested himself in all matters affecting the welfare of the inhabitants of St. Paul's, Barton. He served the office of churchwarden, the schools there had in him a warm and generous friend, and great indeed was the loss which that district sustained when, disliking the disturbance of his grounds by the Ryde and Newport Railway, which passes through the garden in front of the house, he removed from Fairlee, and took up his abode at Carisbrooke, where the remainder of his years were spent. It was here that he met with the greatest sorrow of his life – the death of his wife, of whose name and memory the church at Carisbrooke bears permanent records. The restoration of the porch of Carisbrooke Church was due to Mr. Wood's generosity, and he also erected two memorial stained-glass windows. No good cause in Carisbrooke that wanted assistance ever appealed in vain to Mr. Wood, and his memory will be treasured there as one of the kindest of neighbours and most generous of benefactors. The late Mr. Wood possessed refined and cultured tastes. He loved books, music had charms for him, and matters antiquarian never failed to kindle his enthusiasm. He often contributed to our "Notes, Quotes, and Queries" column, and an archaeological extract penned by him appears in that column this week. His partiality for antiquarian pursuits was no doubt in some measure due to his intimate acquaintance with the eminent archaeologist, the late Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A.S., F.S.A. In a letter addressed to us and now before us Mr. Wood speaks very warmly of his "early friend," Mr. Thomas Wright, adding "he and I were boys together." Some years since, at a meeting in connection with the Newport Choral Society, Mr. Wood referred to his early friendship with Mr. Wright, and caused considerable amusement by his recountal of their early musical experience and exploits. Mr. Wood, whose instruments was the violin or 'cello, seemed to have been fairly successful in his struggles with it but young Wright fared indifferently as a musician. "The truth was," said Mr. Wood, with his quiet humour, "Tom Wright had no ear for music, and could not tell the Old Hundredth from God Save the Queen."

It was a fortunate thing for the Newport Literary Society when the late Mr. Wood was led to take an interest in that institution, for what the Society is to-day is largely owing to his influence and munificence. In 1877 he presented a valuable bookcase, 150 volumes, and several handsome chromos; in 1878 he made a further addition to the library to the extent of 50 volumes; in 1879 he gave another bookcase, with more books; in 1880 he contributed £150 towards the building fund, also giving furniture and more books and pictures, besides defraying the expense of laying out the garden;

1881 and 1882 brought still more books and pictures from him; in 1883 he cleared off a mortgage loan of £300 on the buildings, and in the same year he made a further addition to the library, and contributed £30 to the Museum fund; in 1884 he made valuable gifts to the Museum and added yet more volumes to the library; in 1885 he subscribed £25 to the Museum fund; in 1886 he gave £75 towards the same object, and paid the expenses of arranging the contents of the Museum, amounting to about £20; and during the present year the Museum has been further enriched by articles of interest and value presented by him. In addition to this he has borne the cost of keeping up the garden and defrayed other expenses, the total of his pecuniary benefactions reaching the noble sum of £650. Further, he undertook a great amount of labour in connection with the Museum, of which he was senior honorary curator. For some months past he had been engaged upon the preparation of a Museum catalogue, which he had actually completed, and at a recent meeting of the general committee a tender for the printing of it was accepted. At that same meeting a resolution was passed expressing the committee's deep regret at the illness of Mr. Wood, and their earnest hope for his recovery. A copy of that resolution was forwarded to Mr. Wood by the senior hon. secretary, Mr. George Long, and it proved the farewell message of the Society to its old benefactor and friend. As soon as the intelligence of Mr. Wood's death was known the blinds at the Society's premises were drawn, and the flag-staff in front displayed the flag at half-mast. A meeting of the committee was convened by the President, Mr. Roach Pittis, who has been most closely in the confidence of Mr. Wood in all that he has undertaken and done for the Society. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the committee decided to attend the funeral, and the members of the Society are invited to accompany them. As a further token of regard the Society has sent a memorial wreath, composed of arum lilies, Roman hyacinth, Niphetos roses, camellias, azaleas, tuberose, eucharis, and chrysanthemums. The wreath, which is supplied by Mr. Edward Cave, of the Newport Nursery Grounds, is a very exquisite one, and is exactly similar to that which Mr. Cave supplied to the Prince of Wales on the occasion of the funeral of the Hon. Mrs. Cust.

In politics the late Mr. Wood was a Liberal of the old school, but he never prominently associated himself with party matters. Some time since his name was recommended to the Lord Chancellor for appointment on the Commission of the Peace for the borough of Newport, and the appointment was actually made, but Mr. Wood wrote to his lordship declining the honour, on the ground on increasing age and infirmity. At that time, however, his name had been inserted on the roll of justices, where it remains.

The funeral of the deceased will take place this (Saturday) morning. As an alteration has been made in the original arrangements we are asked to mention that the funeral cortege will leave the Cedars at a quarter to 11, proceeding to Carisbrooke church, and thence to Carisbrooke cemetery. The members of the Literary Society are requested to meet at the foot of Cedar Hill at 10.30, instead of 10.45, the time mentioned in the circular issued by the committee. To-morrow (Sunday) morning the funeral sermon will be preached at Carisbrooke church by the vicar, who can speak from close personal knowledge of the lamented deceased, who is gone to the grave full of years and of honour, and whose epitaph might well and truly be – "He went about doing good."

Isle of Wight County Press, Saturday – 26 November 1887

THE LATE MR. JOHN WOOD.

[this edition includes details of the funeral plus his bequests as follows]

MR. WOOD'S BEQUESTS.

The following are amongst the bequests made under the will of the late Mr. John Wood: £200 to the vicar and churchwardens of Carisbrooke, the income to be devoted towards the preservation and repair of the memorial window in the church, erected to the memory of Mrs. Wood, and to keeping in repair and orderly condition the grave of himself and Mrs. Wood, in Carisbrooke Cemetery, any surplus to be devoted to church purposes; £50 to the Carisbrooke Church Sunday School; £50 to the Carisbrooke District Visiting Society; £100 to the Newport Young Men's Literary Society, with any books, prints, or specimens held on loan; and £50 to the Newport Church of England Temperance Society. Mr. Woods also directed that the contents of his cabinets of geological specimens, coins, &c., should be given to any museum or institution, preference, however, being given to the Newport Museum.

Note: £100 in 1887 equates to about £12,000 in 2016 (www.officialdata.org)

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