

**Edward James Wray**

**Isle of Wight County Press**

**23 November 1918**

**NEWPORT**

**DEATH OF MR. E. J. WRAY.**- We regret to record the death of Mr. E. J. Wray, principal of the firm of Messrs. Wray and Sons, grocers, provision merchants, &c., of High-street, which occurred on Tuesday, at the age of 65. The deceased had been in indifferent health for some time, but no immediate anxiety was felt as to his condition until last week, when an attack of influenza, following a chill caught whilst taking part in the armistice thanksgiving on the balcony of the Guildhall, aggravated his long standing malady and hastened the end. The late Mr. Wray was one of the best known and most successful tradesmen in the borough. He had been in business for nearly 30 years, having succeeded his father-in-law, the late Mr. King. He was a valued worker at St. John's Church, where he was for many years a sidesman, and in later years churchwarden, and was a prominent Freemason, and generally a much-esteemed townsman. At the opening of the St. John's Sale of Work the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon) voiced the feelings of great regret and sympathy which had been aroused by the death of their dear churchwarden, whom they all loved, and who loved St. John's Church and the work in connection with it above everything. His constant reference to their church and that sale showed that St. John's was very near to his heart to the very last. That would have been the 32nd consecutive sale at which their departed friend would have been present, and he was looking forward to that happy annual reunion with tremendous pleasure and interest. The stall which he and Mrs. Wray had in connection with the sale was an eloquent proof of his invaluable help. He was sure that Mr. Wray would not like his passing away to becloud that effort. Although God had called him he would wish the work for his master to go on with the same energy, and he was with them still in spirit. He need not say how deeply they sympathised with Mrs. Wray and the family in their heavy bereavement. The audience endorsed the Vicar's expressions by standing in respectful silence. Mr. James Eldridge (co-churchwarden) said they felt great sadness at the loss of one who was a loyal helper and colleague. No one could have done the work at St. John's better, and they thanked God for it. The funeral will take place on Monday, the first part of the service at St. John's Church at 2 p.m., and the interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

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**30 November 1918**

**NEWPORT**

**FUNERAL OF MR. E. J. WRAY.**- The funeral took place on Monday, with impressive Masonic ceremonial, of Mr. Edward J. Wray, the first part of the service being held at St. John's Church, of which the deceased gentleman had been a valued worker and supporter for very many years, and, in late years, an esteemed churchwarden. The Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon), who is also the chaplain of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, of which deceased was a much respected member of long standing, impressively officiated, in the presence of a large congregation, which included a large number of the officers, past-masters, and members of the Albany Lodge, and representatives of other Lodges. He was

assisted by the Rev. F. J. Pitts, who read the lesson. The family mourners were Mrs. E. J. Wray (widow), Mr. F. J. Wray, Pte. W. E. Wray, A.S.C., Motor Transport (sons), Mesdames A. L. Hugo, K. M. Wakeham, E. M. Boon, and F. K. Lea (daughters), Mr. E. F. Wray (brother), Mr. E. F. King (brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bailey (brother-in-law and sister), and Messrs. W. T. Hugo, J. M. Wakeham, Corpl. B. H. Boon, and Sergt. J. W. Lea, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, (sons-in-law). The Freemasons who followed from the Albany Lodge were Bros. W. C. Black, W.M., Fred Morgan, S.W., Stanley Wadham, J.W., and Capt. Douglas P. Hall, P.G., Std. Eng., Past Masters C. T. Alley, D. S. Pring, A. Millidge, G. A. Brannon, H. W. Horan, Capt. F. King, H. T. Read, J. C. Millgate, J.P., W. Lyon Bright, Edward J. Airs, and G. W. Welham (representing Brother Frank Burton, P.M.), and Bros. J. W. S. Stanley, J.P., W. D. Hutton, F. H. W. Yelf, F. C. Marks, E.A. Kime, A. Mearman, G. H. Arthur, C.C., T. Ross Pratt, H. E. Oliver, Harry Heal, Douglas Morris, J. G. W. Kingswell, T. P. Leach, C. H. Cowdery, H. F. Scott, and J. Webster. Members of other Lodges present included Bros. F. Shepard, P.M. (Medina), Major C. Sweetman, P.M. (East Medina), Capt. H. Linington, P.M. (Yarborough), F. Welsh, P.M. (Osborne), and H. E. Day (Medina), also Bros. R. Bird Cheverton, P.M. and Harry Shepard, J.P. Members of Albany present as family mourners were Bros. Ernest F. Wray, P.M., E. F. King, P.M., and Fred Wray. There were also present the Vicar of Newport (the Rev. C. H. Thomson), the Rev. J. Ruddle, Messrs. James Eldridge and John Roach (churchwardens of St. John's), Mrs. Mackinnon, Miss Mackinnon, Ald. W. J. Whittington, J.P.), Mrs. Whittington, Mrs. R. B. Cheverton, Ald. C. Webb, Messrs. A. E. Harvey, J. W. Scott, E. G. Barnes, P. J. Croucher, T.C., H. Scott, G. Weeks, W. Guy, D. F. Ritchie, F. Cressall, G. Morris, A. Cooke, W. H. Tiley, W. H. Croucher, J. H. Deacon, T.C., T. C. V. Shortland, W. Grigg, A. Lockhart, A. Alabone, R. O. White, G. W. Marriott, F. Spanner, Ernest Whitcomb, the Misses George, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Soul, Mr. G. W. Beale, Mr. R. Osborne, and others. Whilst the congregation assembled the Organist (Mr. A. L. Scadding) played "I know that my Redeemer liveth" and "O Rest in the Lord," and the hymns sung were "The saints of God, their conflict past" and "Jesu, lover of my soul." Before the singing of the latter hymn the Vicar read the Masonic funeral oration. Chopin's "Marche Funebre" was played on the organ as the cortege left the church. The interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery, where the hymn "Abide with me" was sung at the graveside. A wealth of floral tributes was sent by, among others, the W.M. and brethren of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, the employees of Messrs. Wray and sons, the Central Habitation of the Primrose League, and the I.W. Master Bakers Association, of which the deceased was hon. treasurer. Mr. G. F. Quinton carried out the funeral arrangements.

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