

## **Edmund Bayes Wray**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
4 September 1926**

### **DEATH OF COUNTY HIGHWAYS SURVEYOR**

We record with deep regret the death, which took place on Thursday night, at Dr. McKay's Nursing Home at Newport, of Mr. Edmund Bayes Wray, the capable and much-esteemed Highways Surveyor of the County Council. The news of his critical illness and death came as a great shock to his many friends and acquaintances who had so recently seen him moving about amongst them apparently in his usual health. A week ago he underwent an operation for appendicitis, which, alas, revealed complications so grave that his condition, already critical, soon became helpless, and, in spite of all that medical skill and careful nursing could do, he gradually sank and passed peacefully away.

Though the late Mr. Wray, who was only 28 years of age, had been in the Island for only three years, he had made a host of friends, both in public and private life, by the charm of the many estimable qualities of a genial-natured, kind-hearted, modest-minded personality, and the complete confidence inspired by the consciously capable professional attainments demonstrated by his public work in our midst. The second of five sons of Mr. Septimus Wray, of Ilkley, Yorks, the deceased had had valued experience of a usefully varied character in highways surveyors' work, and he was rapidly rising to the top of the tree in his profession. His appointments date from 1910, when, at the age of 21, he was serving the Skipton Council. A year later he moved on to Dewsbury, where his appointment extended to September, 1912. Then he came south to Devonshire, where he served the Paignton Council so efficiently for nearly seven years that in February, 1919, he secured advancement to the important position of chief assistant surveyor to the Devonshire County Council. His four years' county work in Glorious Devon, where he gained experience of special value, admirably fitted him for the responsible duties which he took up in the Island when in October, 1923, he was appointed highway surveyor to the I.W. Rural District Council when Mr. L. A. Cozens obtained advancement. The latter had set a very high standard of public service, but Mr. Wray proved in every respect a worthy successor to him. In a short time he evidenced a thorough grasp of his increasingly important duties and an intimate acquaintance with the conditions and needs of his district, and, whilst initiating improved methods of road construction and surfacing in meeting the demands of the ever-increasing motor traffic, he has continued the extensive widening and other improvements initiated during the tenure of Mr. Cozens. His responsibilities have increased in connection with the transfer of the highway administrative work to the County Council in April, 1926, under the new I.W. Highways Act, and he has in every way justified the confidence placed in him by the County Roads Committee and the County Council, who took him over upon the transfer. He has been ably supported by his capable assistant, Mr. A. J. A. Harris, who is carrying on the work during this emergency.

The late Mr. Wray was a Freemason, a member of the Torbay Lodge, and he was also a member of the Newport Golf Club, and the Newport Tennis Club, and at both games he was a skillful player. Keenly interested in antiquarian matters, he was prominent in noting the importance of the Roman villa remains lately discovered at Newport, and he was associated with those who have been actively working for the completion of the discovery and for the preservation of the remains in the public interest. He leaves a widow, for whom the keenest sympathy is felt in her irreparable loss. The funeral will take place this (Saturday) afternoon at 2.30 at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

**Isle of Wight County Press  
11 September 1926**

**THE LATE MR. E. B. WRAY**

**COUNTY HIGHWAYS SURVEYOR'S FUNERAL**

The funeral of Mr. Edmund B. Wray, chief highways surveyor to the County Council, whose regretted death following an operation for appendicitis we recorded last week, took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Saturday. The large attendance and beautiful display of floral tributes were a striking testimony to the personal esteem and professional appreciation which the deceased had won in the three years he held the position of highways surveyor. Numerous fellow local government officials from all parts of the Island, members of the County Council, a representative of the Ministry of Transport, and a large body of fellow Freemasons followed. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. S. Kirkham (superintendent minister of the Newport and Cowes Wesleyan Methodist Circuit). At the graveside the Masonic burial service was read by the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon, P.P.G.Chap., and the Masonic brethren sang their closing ode. The chief mourners were Mr. Septimus Wray (father), Messrs. F. G., A. W., and N. Wray (brothers), Mr. G. E. Barker (a friend), Mr. A. J. A. Harris (assistant county highways surveyor), and Mr. A. T. Brown. The County Council was represented by Ald. G. W. Ball, J.P. (chairman of the Roads Committee), Ald. Charles Dabell, J.P. (chairman of the Rural District Council), and Messrs. G. H. Arthur, B. Sanders, A. Peck, O. A. Hayles, and J. Moody, Mr. J. Dufton (clerk), and the following members of the administrative staff: Messrs. T. E. Edwards, R. G. Peachey, E. Hunt, J. Hargreaves, H. L. Gray, G. E. Bishop, G. B. Rayment, W. J. Rickard, and A. C. Webster, Mr. A. H. Hughes (county accountant) was unavoidably prevented from attending. The Masonic brethren from the Albany Lodge, Newport, following were Worshipful Brothers G. A. Brannon, H. W. Horan, H. G. Groundsell, W. L. Bright, E. F. Wray, F. Burton, F. Morgan, E. A. Kime, and J. McKeown, and Bros. T. Nobbs, T. Ross Pratt (town clerk of Newport), D. Morris, C. Morris Dabell, P. G. Few, A. A. Whitfield, (clerk to the R.D.C.), J. H. Linington, R. H. George, W. M. Alderslade, H. H. Gould, A. J. Hitching, W. H. Margham, M. J. Attrill, and Dr. J. B. McKay, and from other lodges Bro. Harding (Medina Lodge), Wor. Bros. H. Nelson Payne and F. C. Corbett (Chine Lodge), and Bros. E. S. Welham, E. A. Slater (borough surveyor, Newport), and A. F. Hart (sanitary inspector, Newport). The general company following included Mesdames Dufton, Ross Pratt, Whitfield, and Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Purkis, Mr. J. Brierley (engineering inspector, representing the Ministry of Transport), Mr. Andrew Warren (county surveyor of Devon), Dr. Wallace, M.O.H., the Rev. W. R. Clark-Lewis, Messrs. S. R. Cocks (county surveyor), R. J. Eldridge, A. G. Bird, and S. H. Burgess (representing the Newport Golf Club), H. E. Stratton, R. Y. Morgan, L. F. Phillips (clerk St. Helens District Council, also representing the local branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers), H. B. Cullen and F. W. Buxton (R.D.C. sanitary inspectors), B. F. Holness (borough surveyor, Ryde), C. Pursey (surveyor St. Helens U.D.C.), C. Martin (county horticultural inspector), J. H. Black, S. Cooper, R. Wells, H. Reynolds, W. C. Smith, R. I. Hayles, H. E. Warder, R. Hill (Vectis Stone Co.), A. A. Westmore, J. F. Launder, G. H. Woodall (sanitary inspector — representing Mr. T. Josey, surveyor to the Sandown U.D.C.), E. C. James and W. Jacobs (surveyor and foreman respectively to the Shanklin U.D.C.), Capt. C. S. Brown (Carisbrooke), Miss Morey and Mr. G. A. Sherwin (representing the Newport Roman Villa Committee), Supt. J. Salter (Deputy Chief Constable) and Insp. O. Sibbeck. The following members of the highways staff of the County Council acted as bearers: Foreman J. Rendell, W. J. Hendy, and D. Dyer, and Messrs. G. Dunstan, C. Sheen, P. Brett, and A. E. Barnes; and other members of the staff present were Messrs. I. Taylor, F. Chiverton, J. A. and H. Earley, S. Mearing, C. Callaway, W. Woodmore, W. Terry, E. Johnston, T. Ridett, H. Hobbs, H. Bridges, J. Taylor, H. Osbourn, A. Oxford, F. Griffin, F. Downer, H. and F. Lewis, A. Russell, and F. Chiverton.

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