

Mabel Frances Barton

Isle of Wight County Press - 29 August 1953

NEWPORT

Death of Miss M. F. Barton.—Miss Mabel Frances Barton, of 8 Watergate Road, died on Sunday at St Mary's Hospital, after a long illness. The funeral service was held on Thursday at St John's Church followed by cremation at Southampton. Miss Barton was born at Whippingham and lived at Gatcombe, Wroxall, and Cowes, where her brother, Mr. J. C. S. Barton was headmaster of schools. She came to live in Newport in 1933. For several years Miss Barton served the Gatcombe Women's Institute as honorary treasurer before it was disbanded, and she often visited Island institutes to lecture upon basketry and handicrafts. Her cookery also brought her many prizes. Miss Barton and her brother made an excellent collection of flint implements found on country walks, and as a member of the I.W. Natural History and Archaeological Society her name often appeared in the society's "Proceedings." Interested in the arts, Miss Barton supported the Newport Arts Association, but horticulture was her chief pleasure. Finding the inscription "Jacobus van Multer, 1701" on a panel of her home in Watergate Road in 1933, Miss Barton designed the garden in Dutch style and planted many hundreds of tulips in keeping with the Dutch name of the former occupant. A member of the I.W. Horticultural Association, Miss Barton was most successful in growing unusual plants from seed. She raised a fine Italian privet from seed brought back by her brother from Pazzuoli, Italy, when he visited Rome during Holy Year, 1933, and also a palm from seed brought from Bellagio. Taking a bud from a bunch of grapes given to her by a friend, she also grew a vine and this year there are several vines and more than 300 bunches of grapes ripening in a well-kept greenhouse. Miss Barton is survived by her brother and sisters, Mrs. H. A. Wavell and Mrs. A. Vine of Ventnor. A memorial service was held at St. John's Church on Thursday conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper). Family mourners were Mr. J. C. S. Barton (brother), Mrs. H. Wavell (sister), Mr. And Mrs. A. Poole (nephew and niece also representing Miss K. Harding and Mrs. J. Mills, nieces). Mrs A. Vine (sister), was unable to attend owing to indisposition. Cremation followed at Southampton where Mr. Cooper conducted a short service. There were 34 floral tributes and these, with the exception of the family wreaths, were in the form of bunches and were afterwards distributed at Southampton Hospital.

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