

**James Cowper Blake**

**ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS  
26 March 1960**

**VETERINARY SURGEON AND SPORTSMAN**

**DEATH OF MR. J. COWPER BLAKE, M.R.C.V.S.**

The death took place at a Shanklin nursing home on Thursday, in his 85th year, of Mr. James Cowper Blake, M.R.C.V.S., of Graypit, Cypress Road, Newport, who was well-known as the doyen of Island veterinary surgeons and as a sportsman. He practised his profession for over 60 years, enjoying the confidence and esteem of the agricultural community and doing particularly able work as veterinary inspector to the Board of Agriculture and the County Council, until that service was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture. During his occupancy of that position he won commendation for his early diagnosis of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and his prompt measures to deal with them. Mr. Cowper Blake was perhaps even better known as a sportsman. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the I.W. Hunt, being joint M.F.H. for a time, and was chairman of the Hunt Committee for some years. He was a skilful rider and often acted as a judge at point-to-point meetings and for the ring events at the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society's shows. He leaves a widow, son and daughter.

Cremation will take place privately. It is requested that no flowers should be sent.

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2 April 1960**

**IMPRESSIVE LAST TRIBUTE TO FORMER M.F.H.**

Mr. James Cowper Blake, M.R.C.V.S., of Graypit, Cypress Road, Newport, the well-known Veterinary surgeon and field sportsman, whose death, in his 85th year, we announced in our last issue, expressed a wish that his ashes should be scattered in Westridge Copse, between Shorwell and Chillerton, a spot where he had spent many happy days hunting and shooting and that Mr. B. Kennett, of Chale, who was huntsman of the I.W. Foxhounds when Mr. Cowper Blake was joint M.F.H., should sound the "Find" and the "Gone away" on a hunting horn.

Cremation took place at Southampton on Tuesday morning and his wishes were carried out on Wednesday morning when the hunting horn's notes rang through the secluded valley between Westridge and Chillerton downs in a most impressive farewell, so appropriate for one who loved the countryside and all its pursuits. Mr. Kennett wore hunting pink.

The Rev. C.R. Farnsworth, formerly Vicar of Newport, conducted the services at the cremation and at the scattering of the ashes. The family mourners at the cremation were Mr. E. Cowper Blake (son), Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Haddock (son-in-law and daughter) and Mr. John Blake (brother), and, with the exception of Mr. Haddock they were also present at the scattering of the ashes, with a few of Mr. Blake's friends. Mrs. Cowper Blake (widow), Miss Blake (sister), Miss Walker (sister-in-law), Mrs. E. Cowper Blake (daughter-in-law) and Mr. J. A. C. Blake (grandson) were unable to attend.

The late Mr. Cowper Blake was the son of Mr. J. Vickers Blake, of Ryde, who was also a veterinary surgeon. In addition to his long and able record in his profession, and his close association with the I.W. Foxhounds and the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society (which we mention in our last issue), Mr. Blake was in his younger days a successful rider at point-to-point meetings and one of the best shots in the Island with a sporting gun. He was keenly interested in horticulture and made one of the most beautiful rock gardens in the Island in the grounds of his residence. His great love of horses and desire to encourage equestrianism was reflected in his helpful and generous support of the I.W. Pony Club and his general interest in field sports was further indicated by his encouragement of the activities of the I.W. Coursing Club, to whom he gave a valuable challenge trophy.

The arrangements for the cremation were made by Mr. A. E. Wyatt, of Newport.

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