

Frederick Stanley Wadham

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FORMER NEWPORT AUCTIONEER

DEATH OF MR. F.S. WADHAM

The death took place on Friday week at St Mary's Hospital of Mr. Frederick Stanley Wadham, of The Grange, Newport, aged 81, a member of a prominent local family, who was also well-known throughout the Island's agricultural community. He had enjoyed fairly good health until recently and was taken seriously ill only about a fortnight previously.

His father, Mr. Charles Henry Wadham, founded the well-known local firm of house furnishers, which celebrates its centenary this year, but as the youngest of a family of ten, of which he was also the last survivor, Mr. Wadham first engaged in farming at Pidford, near Rookley. After a short period he returned to Newport and founded a practice as an auctioneer and estate agent, which he carried on for the remainder of his business life. Originally he had premises in St. James's Street, later moving to High Street in the vicinity of the Bugle, and then to Pyle Street, whence he retired some years ago. He was known to many members of the farming community as an agent for prominent firms of seedsmen and fertiliser manufacturers. Latterly his regular companion was his golden retriever, affectionately known in the town as "Old Bob" but registered with the Kennel Club as "Prince Regent." He died in August last year at the age of 13.

Mr. Wadham contributed much to the cultural life of the town. He was a member of the Wight Strollers, the former talented amateur company who produced both pantomimes and plays in the town in the early inter-war years, and often appeared in sketches. A musician of no mean order he played the 'cello and viola and was a member of a string orchestra which frequently performed at local functions, as well as of the orchestras organised to accompany concerts by the Newport Philharmonic Society. He had also been a member of an orchestra which played before Queen Victoria in her last years at Osborne House.

A former member of the Old I.W. Yeomanry, Mr. Wadham was fond of riding in his younger days and was a keen supporter of the I.W. Hunt. He leaves a widow, formerly Miss Ellen Mew, and two sons, a daughter, Miss Joan Wadham, having predeceased him in December.

Cremation took place at Southampton on Wednesday. The service was conducted by the Vicar of St. Paul's, Barton (the Rev. L.J.D. Wheatley). The chief mourners were Mr. Alan Wadham (son), Mrs. Marjorie Wadham (daughter-in-law), and Messrs. Simpson C. Wadham and Walton Wadham (nephews). Mrs. Wadham (widow) and Mr. Ronald Wadham (son) were prevented by indisposition from attending. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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