

Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke

Isle of Wight County Press 21 January 1928

DEATH OF MR. LESLIE CHATFEILD-CLARKE, M.B.E., J.P.

We record with very great regret the death on Wednesday, at his residence, Daylenford, Watergate-road, Newport, of Mr. Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke, M.B.E, J.P., who during over 20 years active and useful association with the public, philanthropic, and religious life of the Island had worthily upheld the traditions of a family deservedly honoured in the Wight for public service and estimable personal qualities. It is less than two months ago that his failing health began to arouse serious concern among his many friends. As recently as December 1st he attended with his wife, to open the bazaar at the Castlehold Baptist Church, Newport, and, though he appeared in his usual bright and cheery spirits and vigorously supported Mrs. Chatfeild-Clarke's opening speech, it was known to some that he was very unwell. His condition rapidly became more serious, though a week later he attended the meeting of the Guardians and Rural District Council following the death of Ald. George Fellows. This, his last public appearance, was really too great a strain for his weakening condition, but such was his devotion to duty and his desire to join in the public tribute to the late chairman of the Guardians that he courageously carried through to the end. Subsequently his illness took a more serious turn and heart weakness rendered his condition critical for more than three weeks before the end came peacefully on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke was the fourth son of the late Mr. Thomas Chatfeild-Clarke, of Oakfield, Wootton, and was in his 63rd year, having been born on October 15th, 1865. He was educated at the Rev. Charles Young's, Sussex-square, Brighton, and the Rev. J. Stebbing's Turnbridge Wells. After leaving school he went in 1886 on a voyage to Australia by sailing ship, and on returning, in 1887, he was apprenticed to Messrs. H. Young and Co., founders and constructional engineers, and afterwards served with a firm of railway engineers and became a member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. He retired with his wife to live in the Isle of Wight in 1905, taking up his residence at Wootton. Two years later he became identified with the public life of the Island by being elected a member of the Rural District Council and Board of Guardians for Ashe, and had since continuously served on those authorities. Of his 21 years' membership he served for 14 years as vice-chairman of the Rural District Council. He was an exemplary Guardian, and his grasp of the work of the Rural District Council was shown by his election to the Chairmanship of the General Purposes Committee and by the helpful part he took in debates, which he often brightened by witticisms and apt poetical quotations. Peacefully inclined, he was ever courteous and kindly to those who took an opposite view. The same qualities were shown in his advocacy of Liberalism, notably when he gave invaluable platform support to his late brother, Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke, in November, 1922, during the campaign in which Sir Edgar was returned as Member for the Island. Red Cross work enlisted his active and generous support. As commandant of the men's detachment at Wootton and in other ways he did excellent service for this movement, which was specially demonstrated after the outbreak of the Great War, when his administrative and other qualifications and his sympathetic nature were shown in his capable discharge of the important duties of the organisation and conduct of the Northwood House Red Cross Hospital for wounded and sick soldiers. For his highly meritorious work in this connection he was honoured by the King, in 1921, with the M.B.E. He was

appointed a County Justice in July, 1924. The deceased gentleman was president of the Arreton Horticultural Society. Throughout his residence in the Island he has been one of the chief members and supporters of the Unitarian Christian Church at Newport, of which he was the devoted and generous-hearted secretary for some 19 years, retiring only last month, when he was presented with an address of warm thanks and appreciation from the members. He was broad-minded in his religious views and was always ready to render a helping hand to the work of other churches. His bright and ever friendly personality won for him the affectionate esteem of members of all denominations and of people in every rank. The late Mr. Chatfeild-Clarke also stood well for service in the Freemasons, being Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar for Herts and Founder and P.M. of Lodge No. 2913 Junior Engineers. The deepest sympathy of the whole community goes out to the widow, son, and daughter in their heavy bereavement.

The funeral will take place at Newport on Monday, the first part of the service being at the Congregational Church, and the interment at Newport Cemetery.

At the Wootton United Methodist Church on Thursday feeling allusion was made by Mr. G. Moody, C.C., and Mr. J. Moody, C.C., to the loss that church had sustained by the death of Mr. Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke, who, together with his family, had always been ready to help it in any possible way and also the old church at Littletown. A vote of sympathy with the bereaved family was carried by the congregation standing in silence.

Isle of Wight County Press 28 January 1928

FUNERAL OF MR. LESLIE CHATFEILD-CLARKE, M.B.E., J.P.

The funeral of Mr. Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke, M.B.E., of Daylesford, Newport, vice-chairman of the Rural District Council, took place at Newport on Monday in the presence of a very large and representative gathering and amidst general signs of sympathy and respect. The flag at the Liberal Club was flying at half-mast, black shutters were displayed at numerous business premises, and every available seat was occupied in the Congregational Church where a service was held prior to the interment in the family burying-ground at Newport Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Carey Walters, of Dittisham, secretary of the South Devon Congregational Union (a family friend), assisted by the Rev. D. Hendy Davies, B.A. (the pastor of the church). The last-named read the 23rd and 103rd Psalms and the Rev. Carey Walters, in a touching tribute to the departed, said such a large gathering was indicative of the deep respect in which the late Mr. Chatfeild-Clarke was held. Although it was done without ostentation his work in the Island was varied and evidently appreciated. Whatever their late friend set his hand to he did well. He bore many burdens he need not have borne, and did much that many men would have left undone; all his activities being marked by humility, sincerity, and earnestness. His most charming characteristics were an entire absence of hardness or censoriousness in his judgment of others and his kindly and cheerful outlook on life generally. He bore life's troubles lightly because of his profound faith in Him Who was ready to share our burdens. The church choir led the singing of the hymns "God giveth quietness at last" and "O Lord of life," and gave a sympathetic rendering of Tennyson's "Crossing the bar" to Bridge's beautiful setting. Mr. J. H.

Flux, A.R.C.O. (the organist), played “O rest in the Lord,” “Angels ever bright and fair,” an elegie by Rebikov and “Cortège Funèbre” (Dubois), whilst the congregation were assembling and as the cortege left the church he played the Dead March in *Saul*. The principal mourners were Mrs. L. Chatfeild-Clarke (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Young (daughter and son-in-law), Col. Stanley Chatfeild-Clarke, D.L. (brother), Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sutton Clarke (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. Cecil Manners Clarke (brother), Miss Cicely Clarke (niece), Mr. Cyril Chatfeild-Clarke (nephew), Mrs. Lloyd Roberts (niece), Mr. and Mrs. James Moore (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr. Craig Moore (nephew), Mr. Percy Preston and Miss Preston (cousins), Mr. Arthur King, Miss Spencer (president of the Southern Unitarian Association), Nurse Adams, Nurse Higgs, the staff at Daylesford, and the staff at Oakfield, Wootton.

[only main mourners transcribed]

1928 Institution of Mechanical Engineers: Obituaries –

LESLIE CHATFEILD-CLARKE, M.B.E., was born in 1865, and after leaving school went in 1886 on a voyage to Australia by sailing ship. On his return he was apprenticed to Messrs. H. Young and Company, iron founders and Constructional engineers. He afterwards obtained an appointment with a firm of railway engineers, but he retired in 1905 and devoted the remainder of his life to public work in the Isle of Wight where he lived. He became a Graduate of the Institution in 1885 and a Member in 1889.

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