

## **Sydney Burnett Dore**

**Isle of Wight County Press 31 May 1958**

### **DEATH OF MR. S. B. DORE, OF NEWPORT**

#### **LOSS TO ISLAND BLIND**

The death at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on Saturday, of Mr. Sydney Burnett Dore, aged 62, of Sunnymead, Staplers Road, Newport, will be mourned by all Island residents afflicted with blindness and near-blindness who knew him not only in his official capacity as secretary of the I.W. Society for the Blind, but also as a valued friend and confidant. In spite of his health, which was never robust, Mr. Dore had done great work for the cause to which he devoted much of his life, and was among the small band of visionaries who, from the early days of the society, had worked and schemed for the achievement of their ideal, the Island Home for the Blind, now in being at Newport.

A son of the late Mr. Charles Burnett Dore, well known about half a century ago as a Newport grocer, Mr. Dore received his early training as a clerk with the former I.W. Central Railway Company, being in their employ for about 15 years until his health deteriorated to such an extent that he had to resign. For a while afterwards he did part-time clerical work for a local firm of solicitors, and later he was appointed full-time secretary of the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, which he treated not only as his work but as his vocation. He was assiduous in visiting those in the care of the society in all parts of the Island, and was implicitly trusted by them. The work greatly expanded in recent years, under the provisions of the 1944 Health Act, and it was largely the latitude given by these provisions which enabled the County Council to give undertakings which set the crown of success on the Island home scheme. In all the Society raised £22,000 for the home, which was built on a site given by the County Council in the grounds of their old people's guest home at Polars, Newport, and opened in 1955. It is now administered and staffed by the council.

Throughout the long efforts which led up to this achievement Mr. Dore worked unobtrusively in the background, but never allowed the time he devoted to this project to encroach on his main duty of caring for and advising the Island blind in their homes or wherever they were to be found. In addition he was personally responsible for raising many hundreds of pounds for the cause through the medium of an annual all-Island effort which required a great deal of organisation. His work left little time for hobbies, but he was very fond of good music and also of his garden, although his health did not permit him to take a very active part in its cultivation. Mr. Dore leaves a widow, herself an invalid, and a married daughter.

#### **THE FUNERAL**

Many representatives of the organisations closely connected with the Home for the Blind attended the funeral service at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, on Thursday, to pay their last tribute. They included Mr. L. H. Baines (clerk of the County Council), Mrs. M. C. Barton, C.A. (chairman of the County Health Committee), Dr. J. F. Skone (medical officer of health),

Mrs. E. E. Wall, C.C. (chairman of the I.W. Society for the Blind), Mr. F. E. Knowles (vice-president), and committee members, including those of the Ventnor, West Wight, and Niton branches of the Society, Mrs A. Hone (matron of Polars Guest House and the Home for the Blind) and Mrs. Redfern (teacher at the home), Mr. G. H. A. Cantopher, C.A. (treasurer of the appeal to build the home), Mr. F. W. Booth (hon. architect), Mr. F. C. Short (county treasurer, in whose office Mr. Dore was formerly employed), and members of the I.W. Meat Traders Association, the I.W. Grocers' Association, the "Steak and Butter" Football Match Committee, and the Welfare Department of the County Council.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. P. Lumley), and Mr. F. Chiverton (lay reader) read the lesson. The hymns "I heard the voice of Jesus say," and "The King of Love my Shepherd is" were accompanied by Miss Kathleen Lower (organist), who played Handel's "Largo" as a voluntary at the request of the family. In a tribute Mr. Lumley said he was a stranger to most persons present and it was not his privilege to know Mr. Dore. He had, however, already learned something of Mr. Dore's work, particularly among those less fortunate who had been deprived of their sight. To them he was a friend, advisor, counsellor and guide. They offered deep thanksgiving for all that Mr. Dore had done.

The mourners were Mr. R. Taylor (son-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Dore (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. G. E. Tomlinson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Smith, and Mesdames C. Whitewood, H. Woodhouse, and Booth (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr. H. Brickell (nephew), Mrs. D. G. Dore, and Messrs. G. W. and E. R. Dore (cousins).

The interment was at Newport Cemetery, and the floral tributes included those from the I.W. Society for the Blind, the I.W. Butchers' and Grocers' football committee, and the residents home teacher and staff of the Island Home for the Blind. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
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