

James William Dowden

Isle of Wight County Press – 2 March 1940

NEWPORT

Painted a Queen's Coaches.--An old craftsman of the Victorian age died on Saturday in the person of Mr. James William Dowden, of 17 Fairlee-road. A native of the town, he was 82 years old and had been a coach painter during some 50 years for the former firm of Messrs. R. Bird Cheverton, Ltd. He was responsible for the fine finish of many of Queen Victoria's coaches built by the firm. Two of these examples of the superb craftsmanship of Island workmen are preserved in the South Kensington Museum. Mr. Dowden retired from business some years ago. He was a lifelong member of the Unitarian Church and at the funeral service in the church on Wednesday the Rev. Gordon Cooper paid a generous tribute to his devotion and his abilities. Mr. E. J. H. Quarrier, at the organ, played Mendelssohn's "O for the wings of a dove" and Handel's "Largo," and accompanied the hymns "Thou gracious Power, Whom mercy lends," and "It shineth low in every heart." The mourners were Mr. W. J. Dowden (son), Messrs. P. Smith and R. Sherwood (brothers-in-law), and Mr. H. Miller. The large congregation included Lieut.-Col. S. Chatfeild-Clarke, V.D., D.L., and Messrs. W. Upward, A. E. Buckell, and R. A. H. Sibley. The interment was at Newport Cemetery. There was a wreath from members of the church.

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