

James George

1911 census - St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight

<i>James George</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>Tanner and Carrier</i>	<i>Newport, Isle of Wight</i>
Anne Elizabeth George	Wife	64		Brierley Hill, Staffordshire
Lucy Mary Whiting	Companion	49	Companion Domestic	Coventry, Warwickshire
Sophia Pearce	Servant	35	Cook Domestic	Romsey, Hampshire
Elizabeth Annie Jeffery	Servant	15	House maid Domestic	Newport, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press - January 11th, 1913.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES GEORGE, J. P.

FUNERAL AT NEWPORT, YESTERDAY.

We regret to record the death on Monday afternoon, at his residence in St Thomas's-square, Newport, after a very protracted and extremely painful illness, of Mr. James George, J.P., at the age of 68 years. The deceased gentleman was a member of a very old and highly esteemed Newport family, the name James George having been familiar in the town for three generations and practically a household word for very many years. For more than a quarter of a century the late Mr. James George, like his father, was a most useful member of the Newport Corporation. He served the office of Mayor of the borough with distinction, and he was also for many years a prominent figure in the political and social life of Newport. He was first elected to the Town Council in 1881 and he was re-elected three years later. At the election in 1887 he was unsuccessful, but his work and worth were recognised in that year by the honour of election to the Mayoralty, in succession to the late Sir Francis Pittis at the close of the latter's brilliant and eventful Victorian Jubilee year of office. The late Mr. George proved himself a very popular and successful Mayor, splendidly supported as he was by his wife as Mayoress, and at the close of his term of office the burgesses testified their confidence and appreciation by again electing him as a member of the Council with a large majority at the head of the poll. A keen debater, independent in the expression of his opinions, and ever watchful of the interests of the borough, the late Mr. George rendered conspicuously (? *unreadable*) service on the Corporation, and thoroughly deserved his subsequent elevation to the Aldermanic Bench and his appointment to the borough magistracy. He remained an Alderman until 1904, when bad health, which had prevented him from attending to his duties for some time, compelled his retirement.

It is interesting to recall that his last vote in the Council-chamber was given for the election of Alderman - then Councillor - Cornelius Salter, J.P., on his somewhat surprising re-election as Mayor for the third year by a majority of one. In politics the deceased was an ardent and thorough-going Conservative. Until he was laid aside by ill-health he threw himself with boundless energy into the work of his party. His services in regard to organisation were simply invaluable, and he had a way of infusing a large measure of his own enthusiasm and determination into those who were associated with him. When an electoral battle was in progress he was always in the thick of the fight, working with unflagging energy until the clock sounded the signal for "cease-tiring." There were times when the fortunes of war were against him, but so far from striking his colours, he encouraged his party to keep the flag flying and make every preparation for the fight that was bound to come another day, when, if they were only resolute and ready, victory would return to their standard. The Conservative party in Newport and the Island have had no more stalwart and courageous soldier fighting in their ranks than was Mr. James George in the days of his health and strength, when Lord Alverstone, then Mr. Richard E. Webster, first fought the Island, and it was doubtless mainly owing to Mr. George's work that Sir Richard Webster was assured of a majority

in Newport. He held the presidency of the Newport Conservative Association for some time, and also did good service as secretary, and he was specially prominent in promoting the Newport Junior Conservative Association, which formerly had quarters in lower St James's-street.

Like his younger brother, the late Mr. Robert George, who was an Associate of the R.A.M. and achieved a good position in his profession, the deceased was passionately fond of music, and our older readers will remember him as a prominent and valued member of the musical societies which were amongst Newport's most popular and flourishing institutions in years gone by. A devoted member of the Church of England, he was deeply attached to St Thomas's, and on several occasions he filled the office of church warden with conspicuous ability and zeal. He was also very usefully associated with educational work in the town and was for years a valued trustee of the Newport Grammar-school and manager of the National-schools. He was also an hon. member and good friend of Friendly Societies and a member of the committee of the Newport Benevolent Society and other beneficent organisations. He was an ardent temperance advocate and formerly took a prominent part in the work of the St Thomas's branch of the Church of England Temperance Society. In his younger years he actively identified himself with various branches of sport. He took a keen interest in cricket, and as a cyclist he won local fame about four decades ago, a notable incident in his career at that time being recalled by "Stylus" in another column. In later times circumstances obliged him to withdraw from the active pursuit of the wholesome pastimes for which he had such a strong liking, but he never lost his interest in them, and he was at all times ready to support and encourage them to the full extent of his power. For some years the deceased had been laid aside by a painful illness, necessitating for a long time confinement to his room, and those who had the opportunity of seeing him there could not fail to be impressed, not only by the wonderful fortitude and patience with which he bore his cross of suffering, but also by his brightness and cheeriness, which ever rose superior to the physical pain he was called upon to endure. For every visitor there was the same old smile, the same old vivacious greeting. To the last he followed with the closest attention all that was happening in the outside world, both in regard to national matters and to the affairs of the town - his beloved native town, to whose interests he was so devoted and for whose progress and prosperity he always so earnestly longed. Through all his long illness he was nursed with heroic devotion and loving care by his wife, who may be assured of the deepest sympathy of the community in her bereavement.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon, amid general manifestations of mourning in the town, and the borough flag over the Guildhall was at half mast, as it had been all the week. The first part of the service, which was at St Thomas's Church, was choral. The Rev. Miles Atkinson read the opening sentences. The Rev. Canon Clement Smith, M.V.O. (Rural Dean of West Wight) and chaplain to the King, read the lesson, and the Vicar of Newport (Rev. H. Edmund Sharpe) said the prayers. The Rev. A. C. Stratton (Vicar of St John's) was also present. The coffin was met at the west door by the choir and clergy, with whom were Mr. W. H. Dann (churchwarden) and Capt. Hills, bearing the churchwardens' wands of office tied with crêpe, and they preceded the body up the nave. The boys of the Newport Grammar-school were drawn up on either side of the entrance, under their headmaster, Mr. C. D. Vibert, BA, and they followed the personal mourners into the church. The mourners were Mrs. J. George (widow), Miss George, Miss J. George, Rev. A. P. Ridett, Rev. C. B. Lloyd, Miss Whiting, Miss F. A. George, Mr. E. Langdon, Mr. Newman, Mrs. Veysey, Miss Hawkins, and Dr. Hutton Castle. The employees included Messrs. A. Richardson, F. Dalby, F. Richardson, Roberts, Williams, Shalders, H. Rann, and Wilson. There were also present the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Whitcher), Ald. Francis Pittis, J.P. (Chairman of the trustees of the Newport Grammar-school) and Mrs. Pittis, Mr. R. Roach Pittis, J.P., Ald. J. Thomas, J.P., Ald. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., and Mrs. Cheverton, Ald. W. J. Whittington, J.P., and Mrs. Whittington, Mr. G. B. Purkis, J.P., Mr. John W. S. Stanley, J.P., Ald. C. Salter, J.P., Mr. Edward Morris, J.P., Mr. Harry Shepard, J.P., Mr. A. E. Harvey (Deputy Mayor), Mr. J. C. Millgate (ex-Mayor), Ald. Charles Webb, Mr. James Eldridge (Clerk to the Borough Justices), Mr. W. Hammond Ridett, J.P., Mr. E.

Penton, Major Henry J. Way, and Messrs. G. A. Brannon, R. J. Eldridge, F. Creasall, T. S. Abelwhite, R. P. Mew, C. J. Dashwood, G. H. Yelf, T.C., A. G. Bird, F. Yelf, C. T. Allee, T. Lee. G. Clench. N. H. T. Mursell, E. H. F. Payn, C. A. Good, G. Gubbins (Newport Grammar-school trustees), J. Duke (Borough auditor), F. E. Carver, Arthur Wood, J. H. Heal, R. Woodward, S. J. Hinds, T.C., F. D. Shields, H. E. Stratton, S. H. Dawson, T.C., V. Shortland, C. Cowdery, A. Morris, D. Morris, J. W. Way, T. W. Cooper, H. T. Read, G. H. Duke, W. J. Rugg, T.C., George Long, J. B. Alderslade, C. Steel, T.C. (Earl Yarbrough Lodge of Oddfellows), W. Wells, W. Weeks, W. Cooke, A. Saunders (Messrs. Crouchers, Ltd.) J. W. Marshall. H. Allen, H. Cooke, B. Osborn, G. Webber, F. Spanner, and J Morgan, Mr. and Mrs H. Tullidge, Mrs Clement Smith, Mrs. W. K. Ediss, Mrs. Frank King, Mrs. S. Leigh, and others. The 90th Psalm was chanted and the hymns (Jesu, Lover of my soul," and "Piece, perfect peace," were sung. The organist, Mr. J. H. Jackson played Chopin's "Marche funebre" at the close. The service at the grave was concluded by Canon Clement Smith. The coffin was of plain oak, with brass mountings, and the funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. C. Webb. Floral tributes were sent "From your sorrowing and devoted wife"; and by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Turton Lincoln; Mrs de Winton; Rev. A. P. Riddett and family; Louis (?) and her sorrowing family; Annie, James, and Willie; the Mayor and Borough Justices, with sincere sympathy; his sorrowing sisters; the employees; Pearce and Lizzie; Mr. and Mrs. F. Templeman Mew; Francis and Catherine May Pittis; Mr. and Mrs. Webb; Mrs. Moore and family; with deepest sympathy on the death of their chairman, from the trustees of the Old Soldiers' Home and Coffee Tavern, G. B. Purkis, T. C. V. Shortland, and H. Eldridge Stratton; Vernie; with sincere regard, Miss Penton; in remembrance of a good master and devoted friend from 30 years, from an old servant and family; from the Primrose League, Newport Habitation, with sympathy and affection; Mr. and Miss Gubbins; with deepest sympathy from the Vicar and churchwardens; C. E. de Winton; with sincere sympathy, from Newport Dorcas Society; Mrs Lambourne-Cock; Mr. and Mrs. E. Carver; Mr. and Mrs. Robie Eldridge; Lucy Mary; Mrs. Atkey, Cambridge House, Cowes; S. J. Veysey; C. Brading; Dr. Castle; Emily Whiting, Cairo; Longborough Vicarage; in loving sympathy of a noble friend and true Christian gentleman, from a Newport member. The following was received from Miss E. George, who is in Switzerland: "In memory of my dear brother James, who bore untold suffering with exemplary fortitude I send, instead of a wreath, a contribution to the Newport blanket fund, which he originated." Among those unavoidably absent through indisposition and other causes were Mr. Robie, F Eldridge, J. P., Ald. F Templeman Mew, J. P., Mr. Robert Pinnock, J. P., Mr. W. J. Bailey (secretary Newport Grammar-school trustees), and ex-Supt. W. Ayres.

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