

Frederick Daniel Heal

Isle of Wight County Press 25 April 1953

VILLAGE BLACKSMITH AND METHODIST

DEATH OF MR. F. D. HEAL OF NEWPORT

The death, late on Friday week, of Mr. Frederick Daniel Heal, aged 89, of Menheniot, Barton Road, Newport, brings to a close a life spent in the service of his fellows. Mr. Heal had a family association of over 200 years with the village smithies of Calbourne and Locks Green. For 36 years, until he retired in 1933, Mr. Heal was the village blacksmith at Locks Green in succession to his father, who had been the blacksmith at Calbourne, where the smithy was in the family for four generations. Mr. Heal took over, shortly after his marriage, the smithy which had been conducted for three generations by members of the Arnold family, of which Mrs. Heal is a member. Besides being a skilful worker in metals, Mr. Heal was also widely known as a staunch Methodist, although he sang in the choir of the Calbourne Parish Church as a lad. He joined the Calbourne Methodist Church when the building was erected in the latter part of the last century, and he and his wife became active workers in the Methodist cause. He was for many years a Sunday-school teacher and Band of Hope worker, and frequently acted as delegate to meetings of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Band of Hope Union. He was also trust secretary and treasurer of the Shalfleet Wesleyan Church. He served for some 30 years on the Calbourne Parish Council, and was chairman for two terms. Mr. Heal and his wife are affectionately remembered by many who served during the 1914-18 war and who were ordered to the Newtown rifle ranges for firing practice. Anxious to provide a little comfort, Mr. and Mrs. Heal invited the men to take cups of tea at their home adjoining the ranges, and they were soon providing what amounted to a regular canteen for the troops, a service which they dispensed with generous hospitality in spite of their many other duties in the smithy and on their small dairy holding. For four years after his retirement, in 1933, Mr. Heal lived at Freshwater, but had since resided at Newport, where his son, Mr. C. Heal, has established a reputation as a gunsmith. Mr. and Mrs. Heal celebrated the golden and diamond anniversaries of their wedding at Newport, and on the latter occasion, in June 1952, Mr. Heal told our representative that he had never smoked nor tasted intoxicants, and had never shaved. He had vivid memories of notable Island events, including the great snowfall of 1881, during which he was the first person to get through from Calbourne to Newport on horseback and to bring back much-needed supplies of bread and flour. He was a keen follower of cricket and athletics, and, as a young man, a good left-handed batsman for the Westover team.

The funeral service at the Victoria Methodist Church, Newport, on Tuesday, was conducted by the Rev. C. Cardy, who paid eloquent tribute to Mr. Heal, who, he said, had been married in that church just over 60 years before, and had spent his long life in doing good. The hymns were "In heavenly love abiding" and "O, safe to the Rock." The mourners were

Mr. C. H. Heal (son), Mrs. E. Chessell (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Heal, also representing Mrs. Marshall, sister, Mr. and Mrs. E. Heal, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Heal (brothers and sisters-in-law), Mr. D. Chessell, Miss P. Chessell, and Mrs. Macdonald (grandchildren), Mr. A. Morris (nephew, also representing Mrs. N. Morris, sister), and Mr. C. Brown (nephew) and Mr. A. Saunders (nephew, also representing Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Medley, sisters). The large congregation included members of the church and Methodists from many parts of the West Wight and representatives of the Newport P.S.A. Brotherhood. The interment was at Newport Cemetery, the many wreaths including tributes from the Calbourne, Shalfleet, and Victoria Methodist churches and the P.S.A. Brotherhood.

Isle of Wight County Press 2 May 1953

NEWPORT

The Late Mr. F. D. Heal.---Additional mourners who were present at the funeral on Tuesday week of Mr. Frederick Daniel Heal, of Menheniot, Barton Road, were Mrs. T. Marsh (sister), Mr. F. Chessell (son-in-law), and Mrs. C. H. Heal (daughter-in-law). Mr. Heal was the oldest member of the local tent of Rechabites, who were represented.

Transcription by Jeremy Hallam for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2022
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>