

Henry Richard Hooper

Isle of Wight County Press 23 July 1906

DEATH OF MR. H. R. HOOPER, B.A, OF NEWPORT.

We regret to record the death, which took place unexpectedly on Thursday morning, at his residence at Newport, of Mr. Henry Richard Hooper, B.A., one of the senior members of the legal profession in the Island, having been admitted as a solicitor close upon 50 years ago, and until recently Town Clerk of Newport. For some time the deceased gentleman, who was in his 78th year, had been in ill health, having been a martyr to an affection of the facial nerves, which racked him with frequent paroxysms of pain. In spite of this distressing affliction, he persevered with almost stoical courage and resignation in the discharge of his public duties and his practice as a solicitor practically to the end, which came peacefully, after an attack of his old complaint. The deceased was the only son of the late Mr. Richard Henry Hooper, M.D., of Downton, Wilts. He graduated B.A. at Oxford University, and his classical scholarship was not unworthy of the reputation of that home of learning. Nothing came amiss to him. He was equally at home in Thucydides or Aristophanes, with Homer or Demosthenes, while his range of reading in the Latin authors was most extensive. His taste was unerring. He literally revelled in the wit and the beauty of the author he was reading, and was often very happy in rendering into his mother tongue the sparkle of the one and the eloquence of the other. He had, too, the solicitor's appreciation of the success of his fellows and generous willingness to aid others, however limping their gait, to climb to the heights to which he had attained with ease, thanks to his splendid natural gifts. The late Mr. Hooper at first studied for the Church, but subsequently showed a preference for a commercial and professional career, being associated with a brewery business at Shirley and Newport, before finally devoting his exceptional gifts to the law. He was an able lawyer and a clever and popular advocate in the Island Courts, often witty and humorous, and always fair and chivalrous. In 1895 he was appointed to the Town Clerkship of Newport, in succession to the late Mr. Arthur S. Estcourt, and so long as his health permitted he applied himself with devotion to the efficient and faithful discharge of the onerous duties, which were particularly responsible in connection with the Cowes Harbour and other important questions which were settled during his term of office, and he was at all times most anxious to safeguard the rights and privileges of the borough in which he held so important an official position. Owing to failing health he retired from the Town Clerkship a few months ago, but he was retained as consulting solicitor to the Corporation, and thus his connection with the municipality was maintained to the last. He was an enthusiastic supporter of all manly pastimes, and in his younger years he was an able exponent of many kinds of sport--- a splendid athlete, a crack shot, a fine horseman, and a brilliant cricketer. In his early cricketing days he played for a time for Hampshire and took part in a match with an All England eleven at Newport in the old days.

The funeral will take place this (Saturday) afternoon at Newport Cemetery, the service at St. Thomas's Church being fixed for 2.30. The Mayor and Corporation will attend.

Isle of Wight County Press 30 July 1906

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. H. R. HOOPER, B.A.

The funeral of the late Mr. H. R. Hooper, B.A., consulting solicitor to the Newport Corporation, and till recently Town Clerk of that borough, took place on Saturday afternoon, and was attended by the Mayor (Mr. Harry Shepard) and members and officials of the Corporation, representatives of the legal profession in the Island, and others. The borough flag was flying at half-mast at the Guildhall, and there were other signs of mourning in the town. The personal mourners were deceased's two daughters, Mrs. Shaw and Miss Hooper, Dr. Harold Shaw, and Mr. F. D. Shields. Then came the civic procession, headed by the police under Inspector T. Cass, and Town-Sergt. Osborn and Mr. E. Matthews bearing the borough maces draped with crepe. With the Mayor, who wore his chain of office tied with crepe, walked the Deputy Mayor (Mr. H. W. Morey, T.C.), and those also present included Ald. Francis Pittis, J.P., Ald. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., Mr. R. Roach Pittis, J.P., Mr. C. Salter, J.P., T.C., Ald. W. J. Whittington, J.P., Mr. Francis T. Mew, J.P., T.C., Mr. W. J. Rugg, T.C., Mr. T. Brown, T.C., Mr. T. H. Midlane, T.C., Mr. A. Morgan, T.C., Mr. A. J. Snellgrove, T.C., Mr. Leonard Jordan, T.C., Mr. E. Morris, T.C., Mr. C. Webb, T.C., Mr. J. H. Linington, T.C., Mr. A. W. Abraham, T.C., Mr. T. Ross Pratt (Town Clerk), Mr. J. Eldridge (Deputy Clerk to the borough Justices), Mr. C. Colling (borough treasurer), Mr. E. F. King and Mr. W. C. Black (borough auditors), Mr. R. H. Walden (borough surveyor), Mr. C. Steel (financial clerk), Mr. N. H. T. Mursell (captain of the Volunteer Fire Brigade), Mr. C. T. Allee (borough rate collector), Mr. J. W. Way (superintendent of the waterworks), Mr. F. Williams (Quay superintendent), and Mr. H. Chappell (collector of wharfage tolls). Amongst others present were Mr. F. A. Joyce (Deputy Coroner of the Island) and Miss Joyce, Messrs. Robert Urry, G. A. Brannon, A. W. Drew, H. E. Stratton, T. Lee, C. A. Good, and A. Wood, Bros. G. Henley, N.G., F. King, V.G. (Earl Yarborough Lodge of Odd-fellows, of which the late Mr. Hooper was the oldest hon. member), Messrs. E. O. White, A. L. Scadding, J. W. Marshall, A. D. Allen, C. Ratcliffe, W. Saunders, P.S. Leal, and W. Salter, and the churchwardens (Messrs. Percy Shepard and H. Tullidge) and others. The first portion of the service was chorally rendered at the Parish-church, the Rev. Miles Atkinson officiating both here and at the grave. "Angels ever bright and fair" was expressively played by the organist (Mr. Harry Cushing, A.R.C.O) before the arrival of the cortege). The hymn used was "Now the labourer's task is o'er," and Chopin's "Marche Funebre" was very impressively rendered on the organ as the body was borne from the church. The interment took place at Newport Cemetery. The polished elm coffin bore on the breast-plate the following inscription : "Henry Richard Hooper, died June 21st,

1906, aged 77 years." Prominent among the beautiful floral tributes were two exquisite wreaths thus inscribed : "With deepest sympathy from the Mayor and Corporation of the borough of Newport, Isle of Wight," and "With deepest sympathy from the officials of the Corporation of Newport, Isle of Wight." Others sending wreaths included Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Mew, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Shields and family, Percy Shields, and Miss Feary. At the head of the coffin a mass of white bloom was strewn, and just below was a wreath inscribed "With fondest love from Nellie and Elsie to our darling dad." The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. C. Webb.

Mr. R. F. Eldridge, J.P., and Ald. W. W. Clark, Mr. W. H. Wooldridge (clerk to the borough Justices) were unavoidably prevented from attending.

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