

John James Salter

**Isle of Wight County Press
10 January 1948**

A NOTABLE POLICE CAREER.

Death of Ex-Supt. John Salter, of Wootton.

The death on Tuesday at his home, Clo-Dor, High Street, Wootton, of Mr. John James Salter, aged 76, brings to a close a long life spent in serving the public as a police officer and in many volunteer capacities. He was best known as superintendent and deputy chief constable of the I.W. Constabulary, a post he filled with marked ability from 1922 until his retirement on superannuation in March, 1932. His police career was remarkable in that he was at that time the only member of the Island force to have attained that position after passing through all the lower ranks.

A native of Haylands, he joined the Island Constabulary in 1891, a year after its separation from Hampshire, and, after serving as a constable in many parts of the Island, he was in 1904 promoted sergeant and chief clerk and transferred to police headquarters at Fairlee. Promotion to inspector followed in 1906. His chief clerkship became increasingly onerous during the 1914-18 war, when the Island was a prohibited area. Mr. Salter was in charge of the registration of aliens, and there were also frequent spy scares which needed close investigation. As superintendent and deputy chief constable he won the appreciation of all, and he had much to do with raising the standard of the constabulary, and his conduct of many serious cases won the commendation not only of the Island magistrates but also of the Assize judges.

During his long residence at police headquarters Mr. Salter became closely associated with the work of St. Paul's Church as secretary of the Church Council from its inception until 1932, as hon. treasurer and registrar of the Brotherhood for 21 years, and as hon. secretary of the Brotherhood Savings and Horticultural Associations. On leaving the parish he was presented with an inscribed grandmother clock in recognition of his valued work. He was keenly interested in horticulture, and was for 26 years treasurer of the I.W. Horticultural Association, his services being recognised on his retirement in October last by tributes from the principal officers of the association and the presentation of a wireless receiver. Throughout his life he took a keen interest in National Savings, and was a former secretary of the Newport committee.

His retirement at Wootton has been marked by still further public service. He had represented the Fairlee Ward on the Newport Town Council since the Review of County Districts brought Wootton into the borough in 1933, serving ably until November last, when he did not seek re-election on health grounds. His term of office was chiefly notable for his eight years as chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee. At Wootton he actively associated himself with the work of the Parish Church as hon. treasurer of the Church Council and in other directions, and as hon. secretary of the Horticultural Society, in which his long experience with the Island association was particularly useful.

The last world war found him in the responsible position of district warden for the considerable area of Wootton which lies within the borough boundary, and he was prominent in organising the celebrations which marked the end of hostilities, again as hon. secretary of the responsible committee. For these, and other services to the community too numerous to mention, he will be gratefully remembered, and in his many activities he displayed charming courtesy and unfailing helpfulness.

He was twice married, and leaves a widow and one daughter, another daughter having died in 1928.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon, the first part of the service being at Wootton Parish Church. The Rev. A. H. Genower (rector) officiated, assisted by the Rev. G. C. Seymour, R.D. (rector of Calbourne). Mr. W. G. James played the organ, and the choir led the singing of "There is a land of pure delight" and "Fight the good fight" and the chanting of the 23rd Psalm. Mr. Salter's churchwarden's wand was draped with crepe and his seat left vacant. The interment was at Fairlee Cemetery, Newport.

The chief mourners were Mrs. J. J. Salter (widow), Mr. T. Salter (brother), Messrs. B. Newnham and B. Leigh (brothers-in-law), Mesdames A. Morgan, E. Salter, and A. Leigh (sisters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. E. Hendy, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pardy, Mr. B. Richards, and Mr. N. Salter (nephews and nieces).

[only main mourners transcribed]

The interment followed at Newport Cemetery, when there were also present Police Inspector A. R. Bird, Sgt. F. Davis, P.C.s Newnham and Knights and ex-P.C.s A. Gamble, T. Denham, and G. Priddle. The floral tributes included those from the I.W. Division of the Hants Constabulary; the Mayor, Aldermen, and Corporation of Newport; I.W. Horticultural Association; head teacher and children of Wootton Council School; Wootton Horticultural Society; Wootton Social Club; the Rector and Wootton Parochial Church Council; Wootton Women's Institute; and the Barton Brotherhood. Miss E. Salter (daughter), Messrs. S. Leigh and W. Mew (brothers-in-law) and Mrs. G. Newnham (sister-in-law) were unable to attend through illness.

Mrs. Salter, Ella, and Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hendy thank all kind friends for letters and lovely flowers sent in their sad bereavement, and also express their gratitude to Doctors Kennedy and Kelly, and Mr. J. Gorman, for their kind attention during Mr. Salter's illness. Please accept this as the only intimation.

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