

Edward James Shepard

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NEWPORT

DEATH OF MR. E. J. SHEPARD.---The borough lost one of its oldest business men, one who was particularly well known and esteemed in local shipping circles, by the death on Sunday in his 81st year, of Mr. Edward James Shepard, of 97 Upper St. James's-street. Up to about 20 years ago, when he forsook his life's work as a barge owner to take over the old-established bakery and confectionery business of E. Westmore, which he and his family have carried on since, Mr. Shepard had for some half a century been a prominent figure in quay and river circles. His parents were the landlords of the Ship and Launch and Blackhouse Inns by the riverside, and at the age of 13 he commenced his seafaring life as one of the crew of the famous old ketch The Bee, belonging to Shepard Bros., Ltd., which went out of commission a few years ago, after over a century's service. A few years later he launched out on his own account as owner of the barge Ellen, and he ran this vessel for some 40 years between Newport and Southampton and other mainland ports with cargoes chiefly of goods for millers and corn merchants. He could remember when the Quay consisted only of the two or three berths above where the railway bridge now is. Neither the railway nor swing-bridge were there then and the river bank to the northward was a mud flat. Mr. Shepard was both a capable master mariner and keen business man. Though he was rather reserved he had many of the fine qualities of the good sailor-man, and he won a high reputation for reliability and straight dealing. In his early years he gained a local reputation as a billiard player. He was one of the oldest members of the Newport Court of Foresters and of the Ancient Order of Shepherds. Mr. Shepard had been in ill-health since Christmas. He had been married 60 years, and his wife survives him with a family of 11, six sons and five daughters. The funeral took place on Wednesday, a service being held at the Castlehold Baptist Church, with which the family have been connected for many years, and the interment at Newport Cemetery. The Rev. H. R. Didcock officiated and Mrs. W. R. Pilcher (organist) accompanied the hymns "When the day of toil is done" and "Lord, Thou hast all my frailty made," and played "O rest in the Lord," "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and Mendelssohn's Funeral March. The chief mourners were Messrs. E. J., H. E., P. E., R. E., and E. E. Shepard (sons), Mesdames S. F. Holmes, Herbert Morris, F. Freeth, and Harold Morris (daughters), Mr. H. Shepard, of Carisbrooke (brother), Mr. and Mrs. J. Orman (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs. W. Barton (sister), Mesdames E. J., H. E., and R. E. Shepard (daughters-in-law), Messrs. S. F. Holmes, Harold Morris, and F. Freeth (sons-in-law), Mesdames E. F. Weeks and S. Scott and Mr. Cecil Shepard (grandchildren), and Mr. E. F. Weeks. Others attending included the Misses Harley, Heal, Croucher, and Attrill (staff at E. Westmore's), Mrs. C. Shepard, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Holmes, senior, Miss Cooke, Miss Urry, Mrs. Edward Morris, and Messrs. H. Shepard, J.P., A. F. Shepard, H. M. Williams, J.P., J. H. Black, W. H. Croucher, A. Scott, G. R. Barrett, W. R. Pilcher, F. H. J. Damp, A. D. Callaway, and R. Guy. There were no flowers by request. Messrs. Moorman and Sons made the arrangements.

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