

Henry Sheppard

Isle of Wight County Press 18 April 1903

DEATH OF MR. HENRY SHEPPARD, OF NEWPORT.

Newport has lost an old and universally respected citizen by the death of Mr. Henry Sheppard, which took place on Easter Monday, at the age of 73. In his young years the deceased came to Newport to take up an appointment in the then "Nunn" lace factory, and the skill he exhibited and the conscientious work he performed in connection therewith gained for him the high esteem of his employers and materially aided in the development of that once-important Island industry, whose manufactures won name and fame far beyond the limits of the Wight. An interesting article bearing upon the undertaking with which he was so closely associated in his early years was recently contributed to this journal by Mr. Sheppard. On leaving the lace factory he started in business in Newport, and the china and earthenware establishment which he carried on in Pyle-street, first by himself and afterwards in partnership with his sons, the elder of whom, Mr. F. H. Sheppard, is now an esteemed inhabitant of Ventnor, achieved a prominent place amongst local commercial concerns and became well known to people in all parts of the Isle of Wight. Here he was actively engaged for some 50 years, retiring a short time since and carrying with him into private life the sincere respect of all who had come into contact with him during his long and honourable business career. Though not coming prominently to the front in connection with local-governing bodies, the deceased took a very deep interest in all matters affecting the well-being of Newport. The rights and privileges of the ancient borough were very dear to him, and every measure lending to the advancement of the town of his adoption was certain to command his earnest support. In politics he was a stanch Liberal of the old school, but his partisanship was of the "live and let live" order, for while holding his own opinions very firmly, he was always ready to concede that differing views might be just as consistently and conscientiously held by those who professed them. A member of the Congregational Church, the deceased had done much zealous work and filled the responsible positions in connection therewith. For many years he very devotedly conducted the Young Men's Bible Class associated with the St. James's-street Sunday-school, and his interest in young men was further evidenced by the part he took in the formation of the institution which, from humble beginnings, has grown into the influential and flourishing Literary Society of which Mr. Roach Pittis, J.P., has been for a long period the honoured president. He was also a leading member of the old Newport Debating Society, and those of our readers who belonged to that Society will call to remembrance the animated part taken by the late Mr. Sheppard in the discussions which won a high reputation for that once-famous local institution. During his retirement he had employed a portion of his leisure in committing to writing his recollections of Newport half a century ago. Some of these notes are in our possession and we hope on a future occasion to place them on record in our columns, for which they were compiled. Active and alert to the last, the deceased was seen amongst us up to within a few days of his departure, and the end came very peacefully. For the devoted partner of his long life, who survives him, and for all the other members of the bereaved family the deepest sympathy is felt. The funeral took place on Thursday last, the interment being at Newport Cemetery. The first part of the service was held at the Congregational Church, where the hymns "There is a land of pure delight" and "Light after darkness" were sung, and the pastor (Rev. G. Avery) delivered a short address, in which he referred to the services rendered by the

deceased as a trustee and Sunday-school teacher, saying his name would long be a fragrant memory in that church and in the town. The personal mourners were Messrs. F. H. Sheppard (only surviving son), G. H. Sheppard, H. Sheppard, and S. Sheppard (grandsons), G. Silverlock (Southampton), W. Cheverton (Dorton), F. E. Whitcher, T.C., and E. Jenkins, and others present included Messrs. J. Thomas, J.P., C.A., G. M. Brown (secretary of the Congregational Church), H. Harvey, J. Bevis, C. Wheeler, A. G. Harrison (trustees and deacons of the Congregational Church), Leonard Jordan (representing Mr. S. Jordan, J.P.), Fred Morgan, T.C., W. H. Denham, C.C. (Ryde), F. Trueman, H. Wallder, G. F. Read (Ventnor), E. F. Wray, and G. A. Brannon. Mr. J. Bevis carried out the funeral arrangements.

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