

Ernest Frederick Wray

Isle of Wight County Press

21 April 1934

Death of Mr. E. F. Wray at Newport.

Widespread regret was occasioned in the town, where he was so well known and highly respected, by the rather sudden death on Thursday morning of Mr. Ernest Frederick Wray, watchmaker and jeweller, of 124 High-street, Newport.

Mr. Wray, who was 71, had been in failing health recently, but had not been medically attended. Soon after getting up on Thursday morning he complained of feeling unwell and returned to bed. At about 10 a.m. he had a heart attack, and although medical aid was summoned, the attack ended fatally about an hour later.

Very sincere sympathy is felt with his widow and the family of three daughters and a son in their tragically sudden bereavement, and their sense of loss is shared by a very wide circle of friends whom Mr. Wray had made during his almost lifelong association with the business, religious, sporting, and social life of the borough.

He was a son of the late Mr. Charles Wray, draper, and brother of the late Mr. E. J. Wray, founder of the grocery and provision merchant's business, now carried on as Wray and Sons. After his early training as a watchmaker, he was in business for a short time in Sheffield, but returned to his native town about 45 years ago, and commenced in a business in the Upper High-street, soon afterwards removing to the shop at 124 High-street, which he has occupied since.

He was an old Grammar School boy. Keenly interested in all forms of outdoor sport he frequently acted as timekeeper at the popular athletic and cycling meetings at Carisbrooke Castle in pre-War days, was a member and a former captain of the old I.W. Cycling Club, and more recently, he and his youngest daughter Miss Doris Wray, had been enthusiastic supporters of coursing, as members of the I.W. County Coursing Club. He was also a member of the Bowling Club.

He did quiet but useful work for the borough as a member of the Town Council, representing the north ward from 1923 until his retirement last year. His knowledge of sport made him an able chairman of the Recreation-ground Committee, a position he filled during nine of the 10 years he was a Councillor. He had also served on the Newport Burial Board and Charity Committee.

A devoted churchman he had served the Parish Council as either vicar's or people's warden on several occasions since 1921, and his interest in Freemasonry and Friendly Society work led to his gaining provincial honours in each. He was a past master of the Albany Lodge (Craft), a past principal of the Albany Chapter (Arch), and past member of the Albany Lodge (Mark), having gained provincial honours in each degree, while as a Forester he was a past Chief Ranger and trustee of the Newport Court and a past District Chief Ranger.

A staunch supporter of Conservative principles he and his wife and daughters have been prominent workers in connection with the local association of that party, while he was vice-president of the Conservative Club, and for 10 years the hon. treasurer of the Newport Habitation of the Primrose League. One of his last acts was to prepare the accounts for presentation at the annual meeting of the habitation on Thursday.

In all his activities his kindly, genial disposition and eagerness to give a helping hand without ostentation won him the high esteem of everyone. The funeral will take place on Monday; service at the Parish Church at 2 p.m.

Isle of Wight County Press - 28 April 1934

THE LATE MR. E. F. WRAY, OF NEWPORT.

LARGE GATHERING AT FUNERAL.

Mourning shutters were displayed at many business premises and the flag at the Conservative Club was flying at half-mast when the funeral for ex-Councillor Ernest F. Wray, of Newport, took place on Monday. The tributes, and the large attendance at the service, testified to the high esteem in which the deceased was held. Canon C. H. Thompson, whose warden the late Mr. Wray had been during the Canon's vicariate at Newport, came from Parkstone to assist the Vicar (the Rev. J. F. Seymout Glynn) at the funeral, reading the lesson and officiating at the committal. The Rev. A. F. Hill, formerly head-master of the Grammar School, and the Rev. T. V. Ruddock were also robed. A full choir led the singing of the hymn "Abide with me" and "For all the Saints." and the organist (Mr. H. W. Stubbington, F.R.C.O.) played the Dead March in "Saul" and other appropriate music.

The chief mourners were the widow (Mrs. E. F. Wray), Mr. R. Wray (son), Mesdames Wood and Guy and Miss D. Wray (daughters), Major S. H. Wood (son-in-law), Mr. W. J. Bailey (brother-in-law), Messrs. F. J. and W. Wray, W. Bailey, F. Shoebridge, and W. Gurney (nephews), Mesdames Hugo, G. Snellgrove, and Boon and Miss Bailey (nieces), Mr. G. Snellgrove, Mr. A. W. Crosby (Birmingham), Mr. F. Clark (Reading), and Miss E. Lower and Mr. G. W. Higgs (employees). A large body of the deceased's brother Masons formed a guard of honour at the church entrance and followed to the Newport Cemetery, where the Masonic oration was read by the Rev. A. F. Hill, acting for the Chaplain of Albany Lodge (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon), who was prevented from attending by having to officiate at another funeral.

{only family mourners transcribed}

Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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