

## William Richard Yelf

### 1891 census – 15 Holyrood Street, Newport

<b>William R Yelf</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Printer</b>	<b>Newport, Isle of Wight</b>
Grace O. Yelf	Daughter	22	Housekeeper	Newport, Isle of Wight
Bessie W. Kilner	Daughter	29		Newport, Isle of Wight
Frederick W. Kilner	Grandson	3		Finsbury Park, London
Herbert B. Kilner	Grandson	2		Finsbury Park, London
Annie E. Crottall	Servant	18	General Servant	Newport, Isle of Wight
Arthur G. Midlane	Boarder	18	Printer's Apprentice	Newport, Isle of Wight

### Isle of Wight County Press - 3 October 1896

#### DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. W. R. YELF.

After a prolonged and at times very painful illness, Mr. W. R. Yelf passed away at his residence in Holyrood-street, Newport, on Monday last, in his 71<sup>st</sup> year. The deceased was a native of Newport and was born in the very house in which he died. In his younger years he was a famous cricketer; he was also an enthusiastic disciple of Isaac Walton; but it was in connection with music that he was best known, and here he undoubtedly made his mark. He was a born musician. It is recorded of him that at 12 years of age he played the organ at the Wesleyan Chapel. He was organist of St. John's, Carisbrooke at a time when that church possessed one of the best choirs in the Island. He subsequently occupied a similar position at St. Thomas's, Newport, and after holding that appointment for many years he returned to the Wesleyan Chapel to preside at the new organ which had been erected there mainly through his instrumentality. There he remained until physical infirmity compelled his retirement. In connection with his tenure of the position of organist at St. Thomas's Church, it may be mentioned that he was at the organ on the occasion of the first choral festival held in that church, and the taste and ability he displayed called forth a very high tribute from the then Vicar (the late Dean Connor). He will also be remembered as the conductor of the Newport Choral Society during a very flourishing period, when Major Henry J. Way was hon. secretary. The last great work performed under Mr. Yelf's skilled baton was *St. Paul*, which received a memorable rendering. His vocal attainments were also of a very high order, and altogether his record in connection with music in Newport is one which deserves to be held in honoured and grateful remembrance. When ill-health necessitated his retirement from active life and work he became a great reader, and the quantity of literature he consumed was enormous, amounting to considerably more than a thousand volumes. His illness, extending over some 14 years, was borne throughout with exemplary patience and fortitude, and he faced the end with an ever happy faith. The funeral took place on Thursday last, the first part of the service being performed at the Wesleyan Chapel, with the Rev. W. H. Milward as the officiating minister. The chief mourners were Messrs. Harry H., George Henry, and Francis H. W. Yelf (sons); Messrs. E. H. Y. Payn, F. Kilner, and J. C. Millgate (sons-in-law); and Messrs. Thomas Yelf, of Norwich, and Arthur Cooper, of Shanklin (nephews). The employees followed, and amongst others present at the service were Dr. Groves, J.P., Mr. Richard Mew, Mr. T. Lee, Mr. G. A. Brannon, Mr. W. Wells, Mr. North, Mr. Spencer, and Mr. E. W. Way, representing his father (Major Henry J. Way). ..

The ceremony at the grave was also performed by the Rev. W. H. Milward. The coffin, which was of polished oak, was covered with lovely floral wreaths, tokens of love and remembrance... The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. John Way, representing Mr. W. C. Way.

Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,

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