

## **William Ayres**

**Isle of Wight County Press**

**17 February 1945**

### **Death of Ex-Superintendent W. Ayres at Cowes**

The death took place on Wednesday of Ex-police superintendent William Ayres, at 19 Fellows-road, Cowes, aged 91. He had enjoyed life to the end, but had not left his house since Christmas. In 1871 he enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and in less than five years became colour-sergt. He was transferred to the Army Reserve and in 1877 joined the Hampshire Constabulary. After being stationed in the Southampton and New Forest Divisions he was promoted to sergeant. For seven years after promotion he served at Bournemouth. In 1886 he acted as drill instructor at the County Headquarters, Winchester, and was an important witness in an alleged child murder case from Winton, Bournemouth. His police service in the Island dated from 1888 when he was transferred to Oakfield, Ryde, and afterwards to Sandown. On the separation of the Island from Hampshire in 1890 Mr. Ayres became first detective officer and drill instructor of the I.W. County Constabulary with the rank of inspector. One of his principal cases was that of a soldier and his wife for an extensive robbery at Parkhurst Barracks. The woman, with the stolen property, was followed to New York, from which city Mr. Ayres brought her back with the stolen property. In 1892 Mr. Ayres went to Sandown as first-class inspector in charge of the district from Ventnor to Ryde, but in 1896 returned to Newport, at the wish of the authorities, in consequence of an extensive robbery from a jeweller's shop. In this case he assisted the Chief Constable (Mr. Hastings Lees) in bringing to trial a suspect from London, who, though acquitted, was rearrested and heavily sentenced on another charge. On leaving Sandown Mr. Ayres was presented with a valuable public testimonial and testimony was borne to his highly satisfactory service by the District Council. The last 10 years of Mr. Ayres' service were spent at Newport in charge of the western half of the Island. He was promoted to Chief Inspector in 1897 and to Superintendent in 1900. For his assistance in detecting a Post Office Savings Bank fraud he was commended by the Postmaster General. A murder case and two manslaughter cases were also handled by Mr. Ayres during his term at the Newport Station. Not the least important of other duties he performed were connected with making and carrying out police arrangements for Royal functions. He retired in 1905, after 28 years service. He was the first member of the Island Constabulary to obtain the St. John Ambulance Medal, and was first hon. secretary of the I.W. Constabulary Provident Association. When Mr. Ayres took farewell of the County and Newport police courts Sir Barrington Simeon, Bt., M.P., and Mr. Harry Shepard (Mayor of Newport) expressed regret at the loss of so respected and efficient an officer. Since retirement Mr. Ayres was for some years caretaker at Northwood House; he also acted as gate keeper at the Royal Yacht Squadron during Regatta week. He was a member of the Cowes Conservative Club and of the branch of the British Legion. He leaves a son and a daughter, his wife having died about 12 years ago. His elder son, Engineer Sub-Lieut. E. A. Ayres, R.N.R., was lost at sea during the last war. The funeral will take place at Newport, where his wife is buried, to-day (Saturday).

**Isle of Wight County Press**  
**24 February 1945**  
**COWES**

**The Late ex-Supt. W. Ayres.** – The funeral of ex-Police Superintendent William Ayres, of Elvetham, 19 Fellows-road, took place on Saturday, when a service in deceased's home preceded the interment in Newport Cemetery, where his wife and daughter are buried. The Rev. W. J. Crewe officiated and the principal mourners were Miss Margaret Ayres (daughter), Mr. A. Ayres (son), Leading Wren J. Ayres and Miss M. Sinclair (granddaughters). The Police were represented by Inspector Bird, Sergt. Davis, and ex-Supt. J. Salter; the branch of the British Legion by Messrs. S. F. Burchell (chairman), G. Batty (hon. secretary), H. Thomas, H. Sheath, F. Hitches, G. Beaty, and E. Richards; and the Foresters by Mr. R.D. Goddard (district secretary). Others present were Mrs. H. Croad, Messrs. T.G. Hale and D. Richardson, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Cooper. There were some 14 floral tributes, including wreaths from the branch of the British Legion; the Conservative Club; and the staff and scholars of the Northwood School, where deceased's daughter is a teacher. The arrangements were carried out by Mr. D. W. Thomas of Union-road.

Transcription by Shani Watts for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries.  
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