

Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke

1911 census – Oakfield, Wootton, Isle Of Wight

<i>Edgar Chatfield Clarke</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Private Means</i>	<i>Islington, London</i>
Cecil Manners Clarke	Brother	41	Private Means	Islington, London
Millany Fatzard Clarke	Brother's Wife	34		Chillerton, Isle of Wight
Jessie Louise Hain	Servant	45	Housekeeper, Cook	Paddington, London
Alice Senyard	Servant	39	Housemaid	St Pancras, London
Dora Kate Stephens	Servant	19	Parlourmaid	Rookley, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press – 18th April 1925

DEATHS.

CHATFEILD-CLARKE. – On the 16th of April, at his residence, Oakfield, Wootton, Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke, Knight Bachelor, D.L., J.P., C.C., M.P. for the Isle of Wight 1922-23, in his 63rd year. “A perfect gentle Knight.” – The funeral service will take place at 2.30 p.m. on Monday 20th inst., at the Congregational Church, St. James’s-street, Newport, by kind permission of the Minister and Deacons, owing to the smallness of the Unitarian Church. Interment at Newport Cemetery.

DEATH OF SIR E. CHATFEILD-CLARKE

RAPID RELAPSE FOLLOWING INFLUENZA.

With profound regret, which will be shared by members of all classes and parties in the Island, we record the death early on Thursday morning, of Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke, D.L., J.P., C.C., at his residence, Oakfield, Wootton-common. The sad news came with something akin to tragic suddenness, as Sir Edgar had so recently been discharging his many public duties, and very few were aware, until the announcement on Wednesday in the County Press window at Newport of his critical condition, that he was ill. It was known that he had been suffering from influenza, but he had practically recovered from this, and was well enough to enjoy a motor drive in the beautiful weather prevailing in the early part of Eastertide. Unfortunately at the beginning of the week he experienced a relapse, in which symptoms of the gravest complications rapidly declared themselves, and a medical specialist was hurriedly summoned; but in spite of all that physicians and nurses’ skill could accomplish the distinguished patient quickly lapsed into unconsciousness on Wednesday and passed peacefully away at 3.35 next morning.

Thus with startling suddenness the Island has been called upon to mourn the heavy loss of one of its eminent sons, who, with true patriotism during over a quarter of a century, had in generous measure devoted his many talents to the public service of the Island he loved so well, service which had been rendered not only in connection with the leading local administrative authorities, but as the Member for the Island in the Imperial Parliament, his election to which just over two years ago may be regarded as the crowning honour which came to him in recognition of work and worth universally esteemed. Though not of robust constitution, he never spared himself in public service, the arduous nature of which was greatly intensified by his own election campaign, and the exemplary discharge of his Parliamentary duties during 1923. The result was that his health suffered so seriously that he was forbidden to offer himself for re-election as Member for the Island. Thus the fears of many of his friends that the added weight of Parliamentary work would involve a greater strain than his health would endure proved only too well founded, though that sacrifice was bravely and cheerfully made and gained a generous measure of public gratitude and sympathy.

The late Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke was the second son of Mr. Thomas Chatfeild-Clarke, J.P., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., and of Ellen, daughter of Mr. J. S. Nettlefold, of Birmingham, and therefore cousin of the late Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P. He was a member of the fourth generation of this old and esteemed family in the Island. Sir Edgar was educated at King's College-school and at Dresden, and he settled down in permanent residence at Wootton at the beginning of the present century, after having resided there intermittently. He quickly identified himself with public and political life, becoming a member of the County Council in 1900 as representative for the Arreton Division, for which he continued to sit until almost the end. He rendered conspicuously able service on the County Council, notably in the important position of chairman on the Finance Committee, and as a member of the County Education Committee. As Chancellor of the Exchequer of the County Parliament he gained much credit for careful and vigilant direction of its financial administration. Last year he was honoured by election to the vice-chairmanship of the County Council, in succession to the late Ald. H.H. Pollard, J.P. His membership of the County Education Committee afforded him scope for much good work in the cause of education, for the advancement of which he was very zealous and he will be long and gratefully remembered for his generous interest in the elementary schools, one pleasing evidence of which was the distribution of new silver coins, which he made at the annual prize-giving to the children in the Wootton, Arreton, and Whippingham schools. Sir Edgar was also a valued member of the Standing Joint Committee. He had been a county magistrate for Hants and the Island since 1906, and was afterwards appointed a deputy lieutenant. In 1913 he was honoured by the King with a knighthood in recognition of his public service, the conferment of which gave much gratification to his many friends and admirers. He was also a member of the Advisory Committee dealing with the appointment of new county magistrates, and for some time was chairman of the Ryde and Newport Borough Advisory Committees for the same purpose.

During the last quarter of a century Sir Edgar had been a prominent figure in Island political life. Worthily following the traditions of his late father, he early identified himself with the principals of Liberalism, and for 23 years he was president of the I.W. Liberal Association. It is not too much to say that the success which Island Liberalism achieved during his presidency was mainly due to his constant and unswerving devotion to the cause, to the generous support which he was ever ready to give for the advancement of that cause, and to the splendid lead which he gave his part throughout his long presidency. Quite early he had the gratification of seeing the reward of his labours in the return of Sir Godfrey Baring as Member for the Island at the 1906 election. This gratification, however, was not long lived for at the next election in 1910 the Island returned to its Conservative allegiance by electing the late Sir Douglas Hall, Bart., as it's Member. The long period of 12 years elapsed before Sir Edgar and his supporters were again able to rejoice in the return of a Liberal Member. On this occasion, as already stated, Sir Edgar achieved the culminating triumph of his political career by himself securing election as the Island's representative at Westminster. He was elected by the largest Liberal majority ever recorded in the Island, namely 1582, over the official Conservative candidate. The candidates and figures at that election were:

Sir E. Chatfeild-Clarke (Lib.)	12,202
Lieut.-Colonel Perowne (Cons.)	10,620
Lieut.-Col. Veasey (Ind.Cons.)	7,061
H. C. Shearman (Lab.)	3,756

As Member Sir Edgar served the Island in Parliament with characteristic ability and devotion, and his maiden speech was a notable contribution to a debate on education for the advancement of which he worked so earnestly. He won the warmest commendation of all parties by his conspicuously able and impartial representation of all interest affecting his constituents. Unfortunately the strenuous character of his Parliamentary work, following upon the arduous campaign which resulted in his election, began seriously to affect his health, and when Parliament was dissolved towards the end of 1923 he was compelled, on his doctor's advice, to relinquish the Liberal candidature in the election then pending. This severance was naturally a bitter disappointment, but he still maintained, as far as health permitted, his active association with the Liberal cause, and he had the satisfaction of prominently assisting Major-General Seely in his successful effort to maintain the Liberal representation for another year. Coupled with the keen regret evinced throughout the ranks of Island Liberalism at Sir Edgar's retirement was the universal desire to express in tangible form the sincere appreciation

of the eminent services which he had rendered, and at a large and enthusiastic assembly of Island Liberals at Newport in October last Sir Edgar was presented with a massive silver Queen Anne tea and coffee service with a large silver tray, inscribed as follows: 'Presented to Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke, D.L., J.P., by his old friends the Liberals of the Island, in grateful recognition of his distinguished service to Liberalism, and in commemoration of his representation of the Island in Parliament, 1922-23.' Sir Godfrey Baring, who made the presentation, paid an eloquent tribute to Sir Edgar's outstanding characteristics of wisdom, courtesy, and courage, and said they remembered with gratitude the devotion with which he had represented the Island in the House of Commons. In acknowledging the presentation, Sir Edgar, speaking of his long presidency of the Liberal Association, said no public office had given him so much pleasure and satisfaction, although no office he had held was so laborious. He was specially grateful for the culminating honour they had conferred upon him by returning him as Member for the Island. Every day he regretted being out of the House of Commons, for he liked the House very much. No Member for the Island, he added, ever received more kindness, consideration, confidence, and support than he, and he might be permitted to say, without boasting or egotism, that during his Parliamentary career of one year and one day he had never received a grumble or a complaint from a single Conservative, Liberal or Labourite as to the manner in which he had represented their constituency.

An outstanding event of Island Liberalism during Sir Edgar's presidency was the visit in 1920 of the then leader of the party, the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, now Lord Oxford, who spoke at Newport, and was entertained with others of a distinguished party by Sir Edgar at his home at Wootton. Sir Edgar was president of the East Cowes Liberal Club, and a valued supporter of other Island Liberal Clubs and organisations.

Sir Edgar entertained many assemblies of his constituents with a graphic and racy lecture descriptive of his experiences in Parliament. He last gave this lecture only a few weeks ago to the convicts at Parkhurst Prison.

Sir Edgar, who was 63 years of age, was one of the most prominent figures in the public and political life of the Island, where his splendid record of eminent public service, coupled with many estimable personal qualities of head and heart, and the county manners of the old-time English gentleman won him sincere and general esteem, appreciation, and popularity among all who knew him. Whilst maintaining strongly his own political views and his convictions on general questions, he always displayed on the platform and in public discussions the kindest tolerance and courtesy towards those holding different opinions, and his speeches were often characterised by the flashes of pleasant humour. His pleasing platform manner was emphasised by the fact that like his illustrious cousin, he favoured the use of the monocle. He was a generous supporter of all deserving objects, and no appeal for charitable or commendable purposes was made to him in vain. Though a confirmed bachelor, to which playful reference was occasionally made by his friends, he was very chivalrous in all his associations, and was from the first an ardent advocate of the woman's cause in regard to the suffrage and other reforms. In religious life he was true to the family traditions as a consistent and liberal supporter of the Unitarian Christian Church, and he was for long a worshipper of the Island church of that denomination at Newport. He was a supporter of manly sport and found occasional pleasant respite from his public work in yachting and continental travel. Coupled with the keen sense of a great loss to the public life of the Island involved in the lamentable death of Sir Edgar will be a feeling of deep and universal sympathy with the members of the family in their sudden bereavement.

CAPT. MACDONALD'S TRIBUTE.

At a social evening arranged by the Carisbrooke Branch of the Conservative Association, on Thursday, Capt. P. D. Macdonald, M.P., prefaced a short address with a sympathetic reference to the passing of Sir Edgar. He said he had known him only a short time, but long enough to recognise his many sterling qualities as a public man, especially his splendid devotion to the interests of the Island and the deserved esteem he enjoyed from men of all parties. His sudden death came as a shock to every one, and was indeed a great loss to the Island. Many of them differed from Sir Edgar in political opinion, but he was confident that every one in the Island realised that he was always whole-heartedly working for the welfare of his country and his fellow-man, and they admired his long and honourable record of public service.

Isle of Wight County Press – 25th April 1925

THE LATE SIR E. CHATFEILD-CLARKE.

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL AT NEWPORT

STRIKING PUBLIC TRIBUTES.

The funeral of Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke, D.L., J.P., formerly member of Parliament for the Island, and vice-chairman of the County Council, took place at Newport on Monday, when a large assemblage of all classes, creeds, and parties joined in paying a strikingly impressive tribute to the memory of one who was universally esteemed for his long and distinguished record of public service for the Wight, and for his inestimable personal qualities. Very rarely has such a demonstration of widespread and sincere sorrow and sympathy been witnessed in the Island Capital. Signs of mourning were evident on every hand as the imposing funeral cortege arrived from Sir Edgar's house at Oakfield, Wootton, headed by a motor-hearse, bearing the coffin covered with choice floral tributes. The first part of the service took place at the Congregational Church, which was placed at the disposal of the family, as the Unitarian Church, at which Sir Edgar worshipped, was quite inadequate to accommodate those who desired to pay their last tribute of respect to his memory. Even the commodious Congregational Church, with its large galleries, was by no means large enough to hold all who assembled, as when all the space available was fully occupied there was still a large concourse outside. The principal mourners were Col. Stanley Chatfeild-Clarke, Mr. Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke, M.B.E., J.P., Mr. Robert Sutton Clarke, and Mr. C. Manners Clarke (brothers), Mrs. Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke (sister-in-law), Miss Cicely Chatfield-Clarke, (niece), Master Derek Clarke, Master Ronald Clarke, Mr. Cyril Chatfeild-Clarke, Dr. John Scott (nephews), Dr. and Mrs. Preston, Mr. Westbury Preston, Mr. Arthur Chatfeild-Clarke, Mrs. Opley and Mr. Frederick Nettlefold (cousins), Mr. J. G. H. Young, R.D.C., Mr. W. C. Mew, and members of the staff at Oakfield.

{ only family members mourners transcribed

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details of the service and tributes not transcribed (they fill a full page of the newspaper)}

National Probate Calendar, 1925

CHATFEILD-CLARKE Sir Edgar of 102 Bishopsgate London and of Wootton Isle of Wight (knight) died 16 April 1925 at Wootton Probate London 12 June to Stanley Chatfeild-Clarke retired lieutenant-colonel H.M. Army Leslie Chatfeild-Clarke M.B.E. J.P. and Robert Sutton Clarke esquire. Effects £35263 1s. 10d. [equates to about £2.1M 2019]

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