

Richard Bird Cheverton

1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census

St. James House, Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, England

Name	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Richard Bird Cheverton	Head	Single	38	Director & Coach Builder	Newport, IOW
Charles Percy Cheverton	Brother	Widower	34	Director & Coach Builder	Newport, IOW
Leonard George Cheverton	Brother	Single	30	Manager of Petrol & Oil	Newport, IOW
Frank Arthur Cheverton	Brother	Single	29	Motor Engineer & Director	Newport, IOW
Eleanor Grace Cheverton	Sister	Single	20	House keeper	Newport, IOW
Archer James Bird Cheverton	Brother	Single	19	Motor Engineer	Newport, IOW
Violet Mary Bird Cheverton	Sister	Single	11	School	Wimbledon, Surrey

Isle of Wight County Press - 10 December 1949

DEATH OF MR. R. BIRD CHEVERTON OF NEWPORT

A South African War Veteran

A much-loved figure in many spheres of Island life and a member of a family whose connections with the Island can be traced back over four centuries has been removed by the death, at his home at St. James's House, Newport, on Friday week, of Mr. Richard Bird Cheverton, aged 76.

Mr. Cheverton, who was well known as a craftsman, soldier, and sportsman, was born in Newport in 1873. A son of the late Mr. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., a former mayor, he was a lineal descendant of Sir Richard Cheverton, of Cornwall, who, after a period as lord mayor of London in 1657, came to the Island and acquired estates at Apse, Alvington, and Ashley.

Mr. Cheverton was educated at Newport and Lymington, and on leaving school joined his father's firm of coachbuilders where among other duties, he assisted in designing coaches for Queen Victoria, to whom the firm were appointed coach-builders. He owned many interesting photographs and other mementoes given by the Queen to his father. A keen sportsman, he was at that time a member of the Newport Football Club, for whom he played at centre forward. After a period of study of his craft in London, he was awarded in 1897 the 1st class honours certificate and bronze medal of the City and Guilds Technical Institute. On his returns to the Island he became a member of the I.W. Rifles 5th Volunteer Battalion (afterwards the 8th Batt. Hampshire Regt.). Later he joined the Island Troop of Yeomanry, which provided escorts for Queen Victoria on various official occasions. Mr. Cheverton was several times a member of such an escort. He served in the South African War with the 41st Co Imperial Yeomanry, under Captain J. E. R. Seely (later 1st Baron Mottistone), and was a vice-president of the South African War Veterans Association. The outbreak of the first world war in 1914 found him five years above the age limit for re-enlistment, but he "shaded his age" and rejoined, and served with the Hampshire Yeomanry in France until he joined the Tank Corps, in which branch he was commissioned. In Oct 1918 he was badly wounded and was invalided out of the service with the rank of lieutenant. During the second world war he was again in uniform as a platoon commander of No. 1 Co., Newport Home Guard, but had to retire in 1942 on account of age. He was a member of the British Legion and of the Home Guard Association.

Mr. Cheverton, who remained with Messrs. R. Bird Cheverton until the firm became a limited company in 1928, when he retired, was interested in many branches of sport. An enthusiastic lover of all forms of boating, he was a member of the general and sailing committees of the Island Sailing Club, and was well known as a race official at many of the club events. He frequently crewed with Mr. T. C. Ratsey. In his younger days he was also a keen rabbit breeder and exhibitor, and was a vice-president of the Newport and Carisbrooke Fanciers Society.

At the funeral at St. Thomas's Church, on Tuesday, the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was escorted into the church by a contingent of the South African Wars Veterans Association. The service was conducted by the vicar (the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth). The interment was a Newport cemetery, and the floral tributes included those of the Newport and Carisbrooke Fanciers' Society; the British Legion; the staff of Messrs. Frank Cheverton Ltd.; the Carisbrooke Rifle Club; the Folly Regatta Committee; the Newport Home Guard Association; the S. A. Wars Veterans Association; and flag officers and members of the Island Sailing Club. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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