

Arthur Howard Wight Dockrill

**Isle of Wight County Press
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DEATH OF MR. A. H. W. DOCKRILL OF NEWPORT

The death on Sunday of Mr. Arthur Howard Wight Dockrill of Broadlands, Staplers, Newport, aged 86, has severed a family connection with the control of one of the oldest-established firms of Island auctioneers and valuers and estate agents, which had lasted for half a century. Son of a prison officer at Parkhurst, Mr. Dockrill entered the employment of Sir Francis Pittis and Son, then controlled by the late Ald. Francis Pittis, J.P., 70 years ago as a lad from school. He proved to be as valuable and able employee that he was later taken into the partnership, and eventually became the senior partner of the firm. Some years ago he was succeeded by his only son, the late Lt.-Col. A. D. Dockrill, in the control of the business, but in spite of advancing years and the handicap of arthritis which made movement difficult and painful, he had continued his active association with the firm in the capacity of consultant. The death in August last year, of his son, with whom he had been in partnership for many years prior to relinquishing control, was a severe blow, but he had steadfastly carried on his work, and was at his desk as recently as last week.

STRONG PERSONALITY

A shrewd and able man of business, Mr. Dockrill was at his best on the rostrum, where his powerful personality, his deep bass voice, his sense of humour and the gift of repartee ensured that he remained in firm control at all times. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of matters agricultural, and knew intimately the characteristics and geography of almost every farm in the Island. Always ready to help a deserving cause, and a man of great integrity and charm, he will be remembered with affection, particularly by older members of the agricultural community.

KEEN CRICKETER

Mr. Dockrill's interests, apart from his businesses, were largely in freemasonry and cricket. He was a highly respected member of Albany Lodge of Freemasons, of which he was Worshipful Master in 1922 and he was also a Past Provincial Grand Lodge officer and a member of the Albany Royal Arch Chapter. In his youth a keen and useful cricketer, he played for many years for Newport C.C., of which he was later president for some 30 years, and at his death he held the distinction of being the oldest member. A senior member of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Odd Fellows, Mr. Dockrill joined in 1893, and was No. 13 on the books. During the 1914-18 war he served as an inspector in the Special Constabulary. In his earlier years, also, he was a popular singer at local entertainments as well as a member of the choir of St. Paul's, Barton, Church, in which both he and his wife took the closest interest. Mrs. Dockrill died in 1952. He leaves a daughter.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place on Wednesday at St. Paul's Church, Barton, with Masonic ceremony, the brethren forming a guard of honour at the churchyard gate. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. D. Wheatley), who, as chaplain, also read the Masonic funeral oration. The service included the 121st Psalm, and the hymns "Abide with me" and "The king of love," accompanied at the organ by Miss J. Cooper, who also played "O rest in the Lord" after the Freemasons had sung their closing ode.

In a tribute, the Vicar described Mr. Dockrill as a man of exceptional gifts, who, until his illness, had great vitality. He had achieved much for the Island and its people. A man of ability and integrity, he found time, however hard he worked, to make friends and to enjoy those friendships to the full on his many social activities. Always cheerful in all circumstances, he knew of no-one who had more friends. He would be greatly missed as a true Mason, both in mind and spirit.

The family mourners were Mrs. F. A. Dockrill (daughter-in-law), Mrs. H. R. Minchin (granddaughter), Mr. H. R. Minchin, Mr. P. Brown, Mr. L. P. Mew, Mr. F. P. J. Dockrill (nephew), Miss K. Dockrill (niece), and Miss D. Norris.

Representatives of Sir Francis Pittis and Son attending included Mr. G. B. Robinson (senior partner), Messrs. W. M. Spanner and C. W. Barnes, Mr. D. Bull (representing branch offices), and Mr. K. Barber and Miss A. Brown. Mr. S. S. Ross (partner) was unable to be present owing to absence from the Island. The large Masonic gathering included members of Albany Lodge with the Worshipful Master (Mr. H. Morris) and representatives of the Albany Arch Chapter and the Ryde Lodge and the Grand Lodge. The Mayor (Ald. G. C. Russell, J.P.) represented the Newport Corporation, and organisations and firms also represented included the Newport Cricket Club, the County Agricultural Executive Committee, the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society, the I.W. Grocers' Association, the Nunwell Estate, the "County Press," W. B. Mew, Langton and Co., James Eldridge and Son, Richardson and Co., Way, Riddett and Co., Upward and Rich, C. Chiverton, H. W. Morey and Sons, Ltd., Buckell and Drew, A. E. and S. C. Wadham, Harry Steadman and Co., the National Provincial Bank, Fowlers Ltd., the Royal Insurance Co., Red Trim, Ltd., J. W. C. Gill, R. C. Gray, and W. Blake and Son.

Interment took place at Newport Cemetery in the same grave as his wife. The many floral tributes included those from the partners in the firm of Sir Francis Pittis and Son and their wives: the staff at head office and branches of Sir Francis Pittis and Son: the Worshipful Master, officers and brethren of Albany Lodge; the Albany Royal Arch Chapter: the partners Way, Riddett and Co: partners and staff of Harry Steadman and Co.: members of the Newport Cricket Club: and friends of the Globe and Royal Insurance companies. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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

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