

Dr. William Frederic Foster

1881 census, 7 High Street, Newport

<i>William F. Foster</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>Surgeon</i>	<i>Hambledon, Hampshire</i>
Sarah Foster	Wife	42		Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Fanny Foster	Daughter	19	Daughter	Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Maude Foster	Daughter	10	Scholar	Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Frederick W. Foster	Son	8	Scholar	Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Percy Foster	Son	7	Scholar	Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Leslie Foster	Son	6	Scholar	Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Jane Cheverton	Servant	20	Servant - Cook	Yafford Shorwell, IW, Hampshire
Alice Matthews	Servant	18	Servant - Housemaid	Gatcombe, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Elizth. Orchard	Servant	16	Servant - Nurse	Arreton, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Edward Ginger	Servant	13	Servant - Surgery Boy	Watford, Hertfordshire

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 1st May 1897

Deaths:

FOSTER. – April 27, at Newport, William Frederic Foster, J.P., M.R.C.S., Eng., L.S.A., eldest surviving son of the late John Foster, of Park House, Hambledon, Hants, aged 61.

DEATH OF DR. FOSTER, J.P.

After a long and painful illness, borne with great fortitude, Dr. William Frederic Foster, J.P., died at his residence, Newport, on Tuesday night last, and the regret with which we announce the departure from amongst us of this esteemed townsman will, we are sure, be shared by all who knew the lamented deceased in private, public, and professional life. Though not a native of the Isle of Wight, the late Dr. Foster was a Hampshire man, having been born at Hambledon 61 years ago. He received his early education at Queenswood College, Stockbridge, and at the age of 16 he came to Newport where he was apprenticed to the late Dr. Horlock. He subsequently became a student at St Bartholomew's Hospital, passing the qualifying examinations in October, 1867, and in the following year he returned to Newport and commenced practice there. He was married in 1860, his bride being a member of an old Isle of Wight family. Some years since he was joined in his practice by Dr. Coombs, who afterwards became his son-in-law, and quite recently his eldest son, Dr. Stanley Foster, had also been associated with him. In addition to a large private practice, which in the years of his strength he very zealously pursued, the late Dr. Foster sustained the responsible duties of several public appointments. He was for upwards of 38 years medical officer of the Arreton district, under the Isle of Wight Board of Guardians, and when he retired from that position, only a short time since he wrote thus to the Guardians: "I can assure you it is with much regret that I sever my association with those under my care, as after so many years one has naturally established warm and friendly relations with the many I have known from their infancy even up to their married life." The resignation was accepted with as much regret as that with which it was made, a high tribute being at the same time paid to the retiring officer for the ability and devotion with which he had discharged the duties of the position for so prolonged a period. On the retirement of the late Dr. Tuttiett from the medical officership of health for the borough of Newport the appointment was conferred on Dr. Foster, and in this office he rendered the Corporation and the town very valuable service. In 1894-5 his duties in connection with this position were of an especially arduous and anxious character and there can be no doubt that the unsparing labour which he bestowed upon those duties imposed a very severe tax on his physical strength. He resigned the medical officership of health in January of the present year his last public duty in that connection being the preparation of his final annual report — a duty bravely undertaken in the face of great weakness and prostration, due to a malady which he knew to be mortal. In his letter of resignation to the Corporation Dr. Foster referred with

satisfaction to the great sanitary improvements which had been accomplished, or were in progress, and he wrote in terms of the fullest hope and confidence of the priceless blessings, in point of health, which would accrue to the town in the time to come as the result of those improvements. With "sorrow," to quote the Mayor's word, the resignation was accepted, the chairman of the Sanitary Committee (Mr. Salter) remarking that "they had always found Dr. Foster most able, energetic, affable, and kind in all their association with him, and they all deeply deplored the affliction which had laid him low and taken him from the work which he had done so well." Amongst other appointments which the deceased gentleman held was that of medical officer to the Hand-in-Hand Friendly Society, one of the oldest and most esteemed of our local benefit institutions. He was first a candidate for this position in March, 1860 with four other competitors — Drs. Beckingsale, Wilkins, Pomeroy, and Holmes — and after an exciting contest, which lasted into the small hours of the morning, four ballots being taken, Dr Holmes was appointed by a majority of eight votes over Dr. Foster. In 1861 Dr. Foster was again a candidate, when he was elected unopposed and his appointment was renewed in every subsequent year, his last election to this position being on the 4th of January, 1897 — an all convincing evidence of the hold which he maintained upon the confidence and regard of the members. The deceased was for some years a member of the Corporation of Newport and he was a Justice of the Peace for the borough. He was a director of the Newport Gas Company, and he was also on the directorate of this journal. Since his death the flags have been flying at half-mast at the Guildhall and at the head office of the *County Press*. In addition to the ability which distinguished him in his profession, the late Dr. Foster possessed business aptitudes of a very high order and he did his duty with unswerving fidelity in every position which he was called upon to occupy. Honoured in public life, he was held in warm regard by all who knew him in private life, and his death while yet in the prime of his years is a public and private loss, mourned and regretted by all classes of the community. And mindful of those upon whom that loss comes with all the sad weight of an irreparable personal bereavement, we desire, in the name of our readers, as well as for ourselves, to offer an expression of deepest sympathy with Mrs. Foster and the members of her family in the sorrow which has darkened their home.

The funeral takes place this day (Saturday), the first part of the service being held at St Thomas's Church at 12 o'clock, and the interment will be at Newport Cemetery. The civic authorities and the local Masonic Lodge will attend.

We are asked by Messrs. Cornelius Salter and Henry Harvey, clerks of the Hand-in-Hand Friendly Society, to publish the following notice: "Any members of the Hand-in-Hand Friendly Society who desire to attend the funeral of the Society's late medical officer, Dr. W.F. Foster, will please meet the clerks at the Club-house at 11.45 a.m. on Saturday" (this day).

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 8 May 1897

THE LATE DR. FOSTER, J.P.

The funeral of this esteemed and lamented gentleman took place on Saturday last, amid general manifestations of respect and regret. The first part of the service was performed at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, in the presence of a large congregation, amongst whom were the following members of the Corporation, borough justices, and civic officials: The Mayor (Mr. F.T. Mew. J.P., C.C.), Mr. A. Harbottle Estcourt, J.P. (deputy governor of the Island), Ald. R.B. Cheverton, J.P. (deputy Mayor), Ald. John Lock, J.P., Ald. James George, J.P., Mr Robey F. Eldridge, J.P., C.C., Mr R. Roach Pittis, J.P., C.C., Mr. Robert Pinnock, J.P., Mr. R. Bullen, J.P., Mr. Edward J. Upward, J.P., Mr Edwin Whitcher, J.P., Ald. C.J. Dashwood, C.C., Councillors W.L. George, W.J. Whittington, C. King, G.D. Rich, W.J. Langton, E.C. Langton, G.Long, N.H.T. Mursell, G.B. Purkis, C. Salter, T.S. Buckler, E.A. Swane, C.E. Pinnock, A. Whittington, and F.E. Morey; Messrs. W. Pearce (borough treasurer), F.W.B. Waterworth (borough surveyor), W.C. Black and E.F. King (auditors), R.O. Reynolds (financial clerk), R.H. Walden (sanitary inspector), F. Williams (Quay superintendent), and W. Salter (mace bearer). Messrs. F. Pinnock, W.M., R.G. Smith, C.T. Allee, D.S. Bring, W.T. Way Buckell, J.G. Pinnock, H.W. Horan, G.Y. Groundsell, George Knight, G.H. Duke, H. Knight, H. Shepard, B. Vibert, R.P. Mew, and J.H. Cocker, with others, represented

the Albany Lodge of Freemasons. The *County Press* Company was represented by Mr. G.A. Brannon (managing director) and Mr. T. Lee (editor), and the Newport Gas Company by Messrs. Cockey (manager), F. King, (secretary), and W.H. Tiley (collector). The Hand-in-Hand Friendly Society was represented by the following members of the Standing Committee: Messrs. C Salter, S. Salter, H. Harvey, W.T. Warne, T.S. Beckler, W.F. Williams, G. Cooper, F. Cooper, and H. Scott, and the local tent of the Order of Rechabites, of which, as well as the foregoing Society, the deceased had long been medical officer by Mr. Tubb. The employés were represented by Mr. Sanders (dispenser) and Mr. Barnes, and amongst others in the congregation were the Rev. Clement Smith (rector of Whippingham), Major Way, Major Arnell, Dr. Castle, Dr. Barr, Dr. Meller, Dr. Thompson, Messrs. John Dashwood, James Eldridge, W. Gyton, T. Carver, J.D. Jolliffe, A.N. Le Messurier, A. Gill Martin, F. Stratton, H.E. Stratton, A.W. Drew, W.K. Ediss, J.H. Sharland, G. Young, George Heal, J. Mearman, Richard Mew, A.J. Read, G.H. Yelf, G. Conquest, T. Jenkins, J. Stark, S. Pring, F. Way, A. Warne, Morris Jackman, A.J. Jeatt, A. Allen, J.W. Marshall, H.I. Wilkins, W. Wells, Abraham, J. Peach, G. Grant, T. Brown, A.J. Salter, Moorman, F. Parsons, D. Parsons, &c. Mr. F. Pittis, J.P., Mr. W.H. Riddett, J.P., and Mr. W.H.C. Clarke, C.A., were unavoidably prevented from attending.

Mr. A.S. Scadding presided at the organ, and during the assembling of the congregation he played "O rest in the Lord" and other appropriate selections. The body was received at the west entrance by the Vicar of Newport (the Rev. H. Edmund Sharpe) and the Vicar of St. Paul's, Barton (the Rev. W.H. Nutter), with whom were the churchwardens (Mr. Frank Weeks and Dr. Allan Waterworth) and the surpliced choir. The chief mourners were Dr. Stanley and Messrs. Frederick W., Percy, and Leslie Foster (sons), Dr. M.L.B. Coombs (son-in-law), Mr. J. Smith Eastes and Mr. Fred Groves (brothers-in-law), Mr. Harry Bull (nephew), Mr. T.F. Isaacson, Mr. H.G. Jolliffe, Dr. Groves, J.P., and Dr. Jolliffe.

The opening sentences of the Burial Office were read by the Vicar of Newport, after which the hymn "Jesus, lover of my soul" was sung. The Vicar then read the lesson, and this was followed by the hymn "Abide with me," both hymns being favourites with the deceased. The organist gave an impressive rendering of Chopin's "Funeral march" as the body was borne from the church. The service at the grave was performed by the Vicar of St Paul's, Barton.

Mr. Joseph Bevis and Mr. C Webb were the undertakers.

There were a large number of beautiful wreaths and other floral mementos. Of these two remained on the coffin in the grave, that from the widow and a bunch of lilies of the valley inscribed "To dear Gro-gro, from little Joe". Among the others, all bearing some words of sympathy and affection, were the following: "A token of love in memory of my dear father from his eldest daughter"; "To dear father, in ever loving and affectionate remembrance from Maude and Milbourne"; "In loving memory of a devoted and kind father from the boys, Stanley, Fred, Percy, Leslie"; "In loving memory from his sister Min"; "Florence and Bernard"; "From Ethel, Mabel, Alice, and Frank"; "From George and Frillie" (Gosport); "From Grace and Frank"; "Harry and Ada Bull"; "From a grateful niece"; "Dear Uncle from Lizzie" (Miss Ratsey); "From Fred, Alice, and the children"; "With very kind remembrance from all at Caerbrook, Brixton Hill"; "In token of fraternal esteem and regard for one of their eldest brethren from the members of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons"; "From the Nurses' Co-operation, Newport"; "A small token of loving remembrance from Readers and Barnes and fellow servants of their much respected and good master"; "Our dear doctor from Rita, Stuart, and Nesta Lockhart, Carisbrooke"; "From Longdown"; Mr. R.P. Mew, Mr. and Mrs. G.B. Purkis, Mr. and Mrs. W. Clarkson, Yafford House, George Knight and family, Mr. and Mrs. George Eastes, Mr. James Smith Eastes (Ashford) Mr. and Mrs. Fredc. Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. Young (Wootton), Mr. and Mrs. Adams and family, Mr. Charles Ratsey and Miss M.P. Ratsey, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. C. Meiklejohn, Mrs. Edwin Way and Katie, Mr. and Mrs. J. Forman Bull (Teddington), Mr. and Mrs. Friety and family, Tom and Lucy Ratsey, Mr. and Mrs. J. Leonard Moore and Annie, Mr. and Mrs James D. Jolliffe and Miss Jolliffe, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Atkey and family, Rev. and Mrs. W.H. Nutter, Mrs. R. Mearman and family, Mrs. Tuttiett and Miss Tuttiett (Richmond), "Jane D. Bull, Dottie, Lucy, and Mildred," R.A.L. Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Loud (Ashford), Dr. and Mrs. Barr, Nellie L. Watson, Rev. C.W. and Mrs. Heald, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dashwood and family, Mrs. Harvey and Mr. and Mrs. Barton (Marvel), Mr. and Mrs. John Hills and family, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Sharland and Vecta, Miss A. Elverson Smith, E. Rose Sharpe, Nurse Butcher, W.W. and C.R. Dore.

In the course of his sermon at St. Thomas's Church on Sunday morning the Vicar referred to the death of Dr. Foster, making mention of the baptism of suffering which he was called upon to bear and which he faced with heroic grace as a true soldier of the Cross. Speaking of the deceased's public work, the Vicar said as medical officer of health for the borough he occupied a position of immense responsibility and he discharged his duties with unceasing care and with loyal devotion to the interests of the community.

MRS FOSTER and family beg to tender their heart-felt thanks for the great sympathy shown them by so many friends in their sad bereavement, and also during the long illness preceding it.

Transcribed by Rosemary Stewart, additional research by Tony Barton, for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2018
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