

Arthur Stanley Harley

**Isle of Wight County Press
4 July 1942**

**Former Island School-teacher's Sad Death.
FATAL FALL FROM TREE.**

Mr. Arthur Stanley Harley, aged 29, a member of a Newport family, who was a teacher at the Freshwater Council School until a few years ago and held an appointment as a member of the staff of the National Children's Home School, at Farnborough, Hants, died on Sunday as the result of an unusual accident which happened on the previous Tuesday. It appears that Mr. Harley was taking a class at physical training in the grounds of the school when he jumped up to a branch which he was using as a substitute for a horizontal bar. Unfortunately the branch snapped off as he was swinging upon it and he fell to the ground, receiving internal injuries from which he died in the Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford. He had been a master at the school for about five years and was greatly esteemed by the boys.

At the inquest held by the Guildford Borough Coroner yesterday (Friday) afternoon the widow stated that her husband had enjoyed good health.- Keith Robinson, one of the boys at the school, stated that on June 23rd he and other boys were climbing trees in the playing field when Mr. Harley came along and said he would show them a trick. He got onto a branch of a tree and swung on it and then, when he had doubled himself up, the branch snapped and he fell about 10ft. to the ground.- Mr. George Frederick Bush, head master of the school, said the tree was marked with a white ring, which indicated that it was considered fit for climbing. He had examined the broken branch and it was rotten. - The medical evidence was that Harley had a diseased kidney, which had been ruptured by the fall. An operation was performed, but Harley developed pneumonia, which was the cause of death.- A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Mr. Harley, who married a young lady from Kent three years ago, was an old scholar of the Newport Barton Boys' and Newport Secondary Schools and received his training as a teacher at the Southampton University College. He was keenly interested in physical training, in which he had specialised, and while he resided in the Island he proved himself a fine athlete. As a member of the Newport Trojans and St. Paul's Athletic Clubs he had many track successes, and about 10 years ago won the 3-mile championship of Hampshire. While at college he was the only member of the college team to win a place at the inter-collegiate sports in the White City. He was also a member of the Newport Rowing Club. His untimely death is much regretted by his many local friends.

The funeral took place at Newport Cemetery on Thursday, following a service at the Quay-street Methodist Church. The Rev. W. E. Perry officiated and the mourners were Mrs. P. Day (sister), and Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Harley and Mrs. F. N. King (uncle and aunts). The widow was unable to be present on account of the inquest on the following day. By request, there were no floral tributes. Friends were asked to send donations to the Royal Surrey County Hospital instead. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the local arrangements.

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