

## **Percy Gilbert Umfreville Pickering**

**1901 census – Isle of Wight Union Workhouse, Carisbrooke**

<b>Percy G U Pickering</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Eton, Buckinghamshire</b>
Harriet S Pickering	Chaplain's Wife	54		Guernsey

**Isle of Wight County Press - 8 May 1909**

### **DEATH OF THE REV. P. G. U. PICKERING.**

We record with deep regret the death, which took place unexpectedly early on Saturday morning last, of the Rev. Percy Gilbert Umfreville Pickering, the popular and much esteemed chaplain of the Isle of Wight Union. Though the rev. gentleman had been in indifferent health for some time no anxiety was felt as to his condition until a few days before the end, when pneumonia supervened upon a bad cold. The late Mr. Pickering will long be remembered for his remarkably sympathetic discharge of the duties of chaplain of the Workhouse, his enthusiastic support of all manly sports and recreation, and his genial presence and kindly disposition. The late Mr. Pickering was ordained deacon in 1867 and priest in 1869, and he afterwards held curacies, including that of Holy Trinity, Cowes, from 1878 to 1884. He subsequently ministered at Acton, Sutton (Derbyshire), Guernsey, and Dorchester. For close upon 15 years he had filled the office of Workhouse chaplain, having been appointed to that position in June 1894. He was chosen from among 23 applicants for the office, to which he was elected on the proposition of the present chairman of the Board of Guardians, Ald. G. Fellows, J.P., who, speaking from experience of the late Mr. Pickering's former ministerial work at Cowes, eulogised his solicitude for the welfare of the young and the poor and his excellence as a preacher and reader. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Graham E. Shedden and supported by, amongst others, the late Mr. William Henry Chatfield-Clarke, who spoke of Mr. Pickering as being most popular amongst the poor. How excellent in every way was the choice which the Guardians then made, and how fully the late Mr. Pickering justified that choice, all acquainted with his devoted ministrations among the inmates of the Island Workhouse will, we are sure, bear generous testimony. On returning to the Island from Dorchester in 1894, ten years after his popular ministry at Cowes, the late Mr. Pickering threw himself heart and soul into the discharge of the duties of the Workhouse chaplaincy, with the result that he speedily won the hearts of those to whom he ministered and the unstinted admiration of others who knew the merits of his work. Evidencing a specially tender care for the aged and the young at the House, the late Mr. Pickering, splendidly assisted by his wife, proved himself an ideal Workhouse chaplain, for whether officiating in the chapel, ministering at the bedside of the sick and the dying, or promoting games for the children, he always excelled and won affectionate appreciation on all sides. His work as a clergyman was not confined to the Workhouse, for he frequently made welcome appearances in the church pulpits of Newport and the district, and with an exceedingly sympathetic voice and much ability he proved a very impressive and convincing preacher. In the days of his Cowes curacy he was well-known in Island cricketing circles as a slow bowler and as an enthusiast in other departments of wholesome and manly sport. He was prominently identified with the rise and popularising of Association football in the Island at its home in Cowes, and was affectionately styled "the father of Island football." His

enthusiasm for these games continued until the end, and only a week before his death he had undertaken to present the Island Football League cup to the champions at Newport, but illness prevented him from carrying out his promise. From the formation of the I.W. Football Association the late Mr. Pickering had been one of its most valued vice-presidents, and in the early days he often presided at the meetings of the Association. He was also an hon. member and generous supporter of friendly societies, and he was a Freemason of considerable note. He was a Past Provincial Grand Chaplain for Dorsetshire and also for Hants and the Isle of Wight, and a Past Master of the Medina (Cowes) Lodge, and at the time of his death he was chaplain of the Albany (Newport) Lodge. He was also Past Z. of the Albany Chapter of Arch Masonry and P.P.G.S.N. of Hants and Isle of Wight, whilst in Mark Masonry he was P.M. of the Albany T.I. Lodge and chaplain of S.W. of the William Wickham (Sandown), and P.P.G. J. W. of Hants and the Isle of Wight. Unfailingly genial and affable in private life, the late Mr. Pickering made a host of friends, whose deepest sympathy goes out to his widow in her irreparable bereavement.

### **THE GUARDIANS' TRIBUTE**

At the meeting of the I.W. Board of Guardians on Thursday, the CHAIRMAN (Mr. George Fellows, J.P., C.A.) made feeling allusion to the great loss which the Board had sustained by the death of the chaplain, who, he said, had been unwell, but not sufficiently to lay by for any length of time. Only the previous Sunday week he was at the chapel and took part of the service, although the Church Army officer conducted it. He was sure they all very much deplored the loss of Mr. Pickering, and he proposed that a letter of sincere condolence should be sent to his esteemed wife. He (the chairman) had the pleasure of proposing Mr. Pickering for the chaplaincy, and he ventured then to say that he did not think there was a man in England more suitable for the position than Mr. Pickering was. After some 15 years' experience Mr. Pickering's work they were all agreed that that statement had been amply justified (hear, hear). He had never heard a single member offer the slightest adverse criticism of the way in which their late chaplain discharged his duties. His relationship with the Board had been of the most friendly character, and his relationship with the inmates of that establishment had been more like that of a relative than that of an officer (hear, hear)- He was held in the very highest esteem by the officers and inmates, who had always regarded him as a personal friend. No one would miss him more than the children, who had had a very great friend in their late chaplain. There was nothing that was too much trouble for the late chaplain to do in connection with his office, and one could not help being struck with the thorough way in which he had performed his duties at the House (hear, hear). Those who attended the service in connection with the funeral of the late Master and heard their late chaplain were impressed with the marked ability and thoroughness he displayed, and those qualities characterised the performance of all his duties. He was sure their sympathies went out to Mrs. Pickering in the heavy loss she had sustained, and he should like to take this opportunity of saying how splendidly she had co-operated with her husband in the work of the House. On every day, and sometimes nearly all day, Mrs. Pickering had been about the House with the old people, the sick, and the children, and he was sure he was reflecting not only the feelings of all the members, but of every one in what was practically a little parish there, by saying they sympathised deeply with the widow.- The VICE-CHAIRMAN (Mr. H. M. Williams) seconded, endorsing the Chairman's tribute to the late chaplain, who was a good Christian evangelical Churchman, with a message of hope and comfort for the aged poor, and a word of cheer and encouragement for the young people.

Those who had heard his reading of the Scriptures must have been very greatly impressed. The loss of their chaplain was a great one to every inmate of the institution. he had had the privilege of knowing the deceased for a great many years, having engaged in cricket and other sports with him over a quarter of a century ago, and he always regarded him as a thoroughly good Christian sportsman (hear, hear).- The proposition was carried by the members standing.

### THE FUNERAL.

- took place at Newport on Thursday afternoon, amid many manifestations of sorrowful respect. The first part of the service was chorally rendered at St. Thomas's Church, in the presence of a considerable congregation. The personal mourners were Mrs. P. G. U. Pickering (widow), Sister Anna Frances and Mrs. Polson (sisters), Messrs. A. F. W. and W. H. P. Richards (nephews), Misses Fisher and Margaret Fisher (nieces), Mrs. E. H. U. Pickering (sister-in-law), Dr. and Mrs. Thompson, and Mr. J. Keown (master of the Workhouse). Following in the procession from the Workhouse were the relieving officers of the Island, Messrs. T. York (Godshill), C. Woodford (Calbourne), C. W. Young (Sandown), W. Abraham (Ryde), and B. Cooper (Newport), Mr. J. Moore (Guardians' clerk's office), and Workhouse officers, including Messrs. Walton Hillier (labour master), P. Munt (porter), G. Baker (baker and cook), F. Wise (carpenter), J. Bessant (engineer), C. Daish (master's clerk), and Mrs. J. Spencer (laundress). The Guardians present at the church were Mr. George Fellows, J.P., C.A. (chairman), Mr. H. M. Williams (vice-chairman), Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. G. H. Yelf, and Messrs. E. Morris, J.P., A. J. Snellgrove, J.P., E. T. Minter, J.P., G. F. Quinton, G. W. Ball, A. Cheek, P. Blowey, J. A. Sims, T. H. Morris, W. Whittington, E. Brading, C. Hannam, G. F. Cotton, J. T. Gell, W. H. Arnold, and R. Woodward, with Mr. A. G. Harrison (clerk), Dr. Underhill (medical officer at the Workhouse), and Dr. Pridmore (medical officer of the Ryde district). There were also present the Mayor of Newport (Mr. Charles Webb), Ald. Francis Pittis, J.P., Mr. James Eldridge (Clerk to the Borough Justices), Mr. C. Worsley Waterworth, the Revs. W. J. Stobart (vicar of Carisbrooke), C. W. Combs, and A. H. C. Edlin (military chaplain), Mr. C. D. Vibert, Miss Smith, Miss Feneran, Miss Bull, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Pike, Mr. T. Lee, Mr. J. Stanley, J.P., Mr. T. V. C. Shortland, Mr. G. W. Clench, Capt. Page (Church Army), Mr. H. Tullidge, Mr. D. F. Ritchie, Mr. E. Matthews, Mr. Hookey, Mr. B. Osborn, Messrs. C. Steel (permanent secretary) F. J. Martin (treasurer), and H. Prouten (one of the trustees) of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows), Messrs. C. Eldridge, C.R., E. J. Mills (trustees), and A. J. Williams (treasurer of the Court Island Foresters), Mr. A. W. Spanner (hon. secretary I.W. Football Association), Messrs. W. Blake and P. Shields (Newport Football and Rowing Clubs), representatives of other sports clubs and friendly societies, and several inmates of the I.W. Workhouse. A large number of Freemasons, representatives of all the Island Lodges, awaited the arrival of the cortege at the entrance to the church and followed in immediately after the personal mourners. The robed clergy in the procession were the Revs. Canon Clement Smith, M.V.O. (chaplain to the King and Rural Dean of West Wight), H. Edmund Sharpe (vicar of Newport), H. Waters (chaplain of Parkhurst Prison), W. H. Warrington (vicar of Arreton), and Miles Atkinson (Wootton Bridge). The Vicar read the opening sentences. As the cortege left the church the organist played Chopin's "Marche funebre." The interment was at Newport Cemetery, where the committal prayers were read by the Vicar of Newport, and the Rev. H. Waters read the concluding prayers. The Vicar of Newport, as Worshipful Master of the Albany

Lodge of Freemasons, then impressively read the Freemasons' service, during which the hymn "Abide with me" was sung, and Canon Clement Smith pronounced the blessing.

Major Henry J. Way was unavoidably prevented from attending.

Messrs. H. and F. Damp were the undertakers.

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

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