

**Francis Pittis, J.P.**

**1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census**

**Holmbrooke, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, England**

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Relationship</b> | <b>Status</b>  | <b>Age</b> | <b>Occupation</b>                    | <b>Birthplace</b>             |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Francis Pittis, Jr.</i> | <i>Head</i>         | <i>Married</i> | <i>63</i>  | <i>Auctioneer &amp; estate agent</i> | <i>Newport, Isle of Wight</i> |
| Catherine M Pittis         | Wife                | Married        | 59         |                                      | Glasgow, Scotland             |
| Eliza King                 | Servant             | Single         | 46         | Domestic cook                        | Bury, St. Edmunds             |
| Jane Snow                  | Servant             | Single         | 50         | Housemaid                            | East Cowes, Isle of Wight     |
| Helena A Spriggs           | Servant             | Single         | 16         | Housemaid                            | Castlebar, Mayo, Ireland      |

**1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census**

**Blenheim, Queens Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight**

|                       |               |           |                                    |                             |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Francis Pittis</i> | <i>Head</i>   | <i>74</i> | <i>Auctioneer and Estate Agent</i> | <i>Newport, IW</i>          |
| Catherine Mary Pittis | Wife          | 69        |                                    | Glasgow                     |
| Emma Cooper (Widowed) | Trained Nurse | 38        | Trained Nurse                      | Boroborough Gardens, Middx, |

**Isle of Wight County Press  
21 January 1922**

**DEATH OF  
MR. FRANCIS PITTIS, J.P.**

We record with deep regret the death, on Saturday, at his residence, Holmbrook, Newport, after a long illness, of Mr. Francis Pittis, J.P., aged 84, one of the oldest of the public men of his native borough, of which he was thrice mayor.

Born at Newport on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1837, Mr. Francis Pittis was the worthy son of one of Newport's most eminent city fathers during the latter half of the last century, namely Sir Francis Pittis, who was seven times Mayor of the borough and was knighted by Queen Victoria in her late Majesty's first jubilee year, 1887. Mr. Francis Pittis succeeded his father as head of the well-known firm of Sir Francis Pittis and Son, auctioneers and estate agents. He was first elected to the Newport Town Council in 1886, and without a break served his fellow townspeople with marked ability and devotion for some 30 years, until failing health interrupted his period of service, and eventually led to his retirement from the Corporation in 1920. That splendid record of public work for his native town was specially noteworthy for the fact that he was one of the five civic worthies who have had the distinction of serving as mayor of the borough for three years in succession. Of others who achieved a similar record, only one survives, Ald. F. E. Whitcher, Newport's able war-time mayor. Other mayors who served for a triennium were Ald. William Baron Mew, Ald. Robert Pinnock, and Ald. Cornelius Salter. The late Mr. Pittis's mayoral duties were rendered extremely onerous and difficult by reason of the devastating typhoid epidemic, which involved special relief organizations and led to the Corporation going further afield for their present excellent water supply, and also undertaking the reconstruction of the sewerage works. He was honoured by election to the aldermanic bench in 1895, and on retiring from the mayoralty received a presentation of plate with an illuminated address in recognition of his eminent services to the town. He served for several periods as deputy-mayor, and was for many years a borough justice, being with one exception the senior magistrate. He was one of the earliest members of the old 2<sup>nd</sup> I.W. Volunteers, in which he served for 12 years, and

retired as captain, and he attended a levee as senior veteran Volunteer officer in May, 1911. Both in public and private business associations, throughout his career, he was closely identified with the agricultural interests of the Island, and until failing health prevented it he was actively associated with the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society. He was for many years chairman of the trustees administering the ancient Grammar-school, and he succeeded the late Mr. R. Roach Pittis, J.P., as a popular and generous president of the Newport Literary Society. He was a valued supporter of all manly sports, and of various benevolent and other organizations. As an enthusiastic rosarian, he was one of the prominent supporters of the I.W. Rose Society. For many years he was president of the Newport Fanciers' Association. He was ably supported in his public work, particularly during his mayoralty, by his late wife, whose tragically sudden death some eight years ago was a blow from the effects of which he never fully recovered. In early life he met with a serious carriage accident, which involved a severe operation and a permanent disability, but he courageously refused to allow this to be a serious handicap to him in his public and business activities. He was a staunch Conservative and a valued supporter of the party. The deceased gentleman was one of the earliest and most valued directors of the *County Press* Company, and he retained his association with the directorate till the end. His geniality, both in public and private life, kindness of heart, and sympathetic nature, and other estimable qualities endeared him to a wide circle of friends, who feel much sympathy with his sisters and the other relatives in their loss.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, amid general manifestations of sorrow and respect, the first part of the service being at St. Thomas's Church and the interment in the family grave at Newport Cemetery. The personal mourners were Miss Pittis (sister), Miss Waterworth (niece), Mrs. Charles Aitken (sister-in-law), also representing Miss M. C. Aitken, of Castlefield (Largs), Mr. James Eldridge, Mr. Charles Aitkin, of Totland (brother-in-law), also representing Col. Aitken (brother-in-law), and Major Seymour Aitken (nephew), of Lansdowne-park, Helensburgh, Mrs. Hood (niece), Major K. E. Aitken (nephew), Mr. R. J. Eldridge, Dr. Foster, Mr. Seymour Pittis, Mr. A. H. Dockrill, Mr. H. E. Stratton, Messrs. A. D. Dockrill, Spanner, Woods, Minchin, C. Barnes, and Leal (office staff), Mrs. Taylor, Miss Pink, Miss Linnington, and Mr. E. Barnes (household servants). The Mayor, magistrates, members and officials of the Corporation and Fire Brigade attended in state at the church, headed by the borough maces, draped in crepe, and preceded by the police, under Inspector Sibbeck. Those present in addition to the Mayor (Mr. Munden) were Mr. R. Pinnock, J.P., Mr. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., Mr. J. Thomas, J.P., Ald. W. J. Whittington, J.P., Ald. J. C. Millgate, J.P., Mrs. Kemp, J.P., Mrs. C. H. Thompson, J.P., Mr. H. Sheppard, J.P., Mr. L. Jordan, J.P., Ald. C. Webb, Councillors J. H. Deacon, F. Morgan, Mrs. Chandler, W. Blake, A. Peck, C.C., E. F. Wray, A. E. Harvey, and W. Merrett, and Messrs. T. Ross Pratt (town clerk), F. E. S. Jackson (borough treasurer), E. A. Slater (borough supervisor), A. F. Hart (sanitary inspector), C. A. Good, M.R.C.V.S., J. Way, W. H. Wadham (assistant overseer), H. W. Lincoln (rate collector), and Mr. N. H. T. Mursell (capt.), and members of the Borough Fire Brigade, which was formed during the mayoralty of the late Mr. Pittis. Those also present included the Rev. A. F. Hill, M.A. (headmaster of the Newport Grammar School), Rev. W. H. Mackinnon (vicar of St. John's), Col. W. T. Arnell, J.P., Major Henry J. Way, V. D., Major Hills, Major Raymond, and Capt. Spencer Smith (adjutant I.W. Rifles), Capt. F. King, Mr. W. L. Bright (vice-presidents) Messrs. W. H. Tiley and J. Way (committee) of the Newport Literary Society; Mr. E. W. Way (director), Mr. G. Long (secretary), Mr. W. H. Dann, B.A. (editor) of the *County Press*; Mr. G. Gubbins (Newport Charity Trustees), Mr. C. Steel, P.P.G.M. (permanent secretary), Mr. T. P. Whiston, P.G. (insurance secretary), Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows; Messrs. R. P. Mew, H. Cawley-Way, A. W. Drew, G. F. S. Stratton, J. H. Knighton, D. S. Pring, J. H. Black, E. G. Barnes, P. Hollis, F. H. Yelf, F. Cressall, T. C. V. Shortland, James Lock, A. Alabone, G. H. Brown, F. Damp, H. Richards, H. J. Osborne, F. Spanner (secretary Foresters), C. W. Griffin, A. Truscott, A. Snow, A. Cooke, C. H. Cave, Mr. P. Guy (Shanklin office), G. James, J. Parsons, J. W. Marshall, H. Allen. H. Dove, Gray, and G. H. Hale, Mrs. Robey F. Eldridge, Mrs. Frederic Stratton, Mrs. J. George, Mrs. W. H. Nutter, Mrs. Frank Kind, the Misses George, Miss Atkinson, and Miss Lavender. Before the arrival of the cortege the organist (Mr. H. C. M. Chritchley, M. A.) played Spohr's "Blest are the departed", Chopin's "Marche Funebre", and "Life thine eyes". The cortege was met at the west door by the Vicar

(the Rev. C. H. Thompson), and the Rev. Miles Atkinson (vicar of St. Paul's Barton), and the choir. The Vicar read the service, and the Rev. M. Atkinson the lesson. Psalm xc (Domine refugium) was sung to a chant by Battishill, and the hymns were "O God, our help in ages past" and "Let saints on earth in concert sing". As the body was removed from the church the organist played "O rest in the Lord". The brick grave in which the interment took place was lined with evergreens. There were many beautiful floral tributes, including those from the partners, Messrs. E. G. H. Wetherick and A. H. Dockrill, the clerical staff at Newport and Ventnor, the Newport Borough Magistrates, the directors of the County Press, and from the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and riflemen of his old battalion, Princess Beatrice's Rifles. Mr. James Moorman carried out the funeral arrangements.

Among those prevented from attending by ill-health, absence from home, or other causes were Mr. Robey F. Eldridge, J.P. (cousin), Mr. Ernest G. H. Wetherick (illness), Rev. Dr. Coleman (rector of Wooton), Ald. F. Templeman Mew, J.P. (chairman), Mr. George A. Brannon (managing director), and Capt. C. W. Brannon, M.C., of the County Press; Mr. F. A. Joyce (deputy coroner), Mr. W. J. Bailey (secretary Newport Charity Trustees), Mrs. Liesching, Dr. Underhill, Capt. Adams-Connor, M.V.O., D.L., Mr. E. Wilson, Col. R. H. Aitkin (Helensburgh), Miss Aitken (Largs), Mrs. James Eldridge, Mr. Adrian, J. S. Jerome, Mr. A. G. Harrison, Mr. Richard Woodward, Ald. F. E. Whitcher, Ald. W. J. Rugg, and Mr. S. C. Wadham, T.C. (ex-mayor).

At a special meeting of the committee of the Newport Literary Society on Wednesday the following resolution was passed: "That the committee desire to place on record their deep sense of the loss the Society has sustained by the death of its esteemed president, Mr. Francis Pittis, J. P. who had filled that office for upwards of eight years, and who, while health permitted, took an active interest in the Society's affairs. They desire to tender to Miss Pittis and the other members of the family sincere sympathy in their bereavement".

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