

## Ada Maria Pittis

Isle of Wight County Press - 18 May 1946

### NEWPORT

**Death of Miss Ada Pittis.**—The borough lost one of its oldest residents, and a lady highly esteemed for her generosity and many good works, by the death at the Home Hospital, Ryde, on Sunday, of Miss Ada Maria Pittis, of Winterdyne, Carisbrooke-road, at the great age of 91. Miss Pittis was the daughter of the late Mr. Richard Pittis, junior, and his wife Amelia, who formerly resided at Wenvoe (now Westhorpe), Carisbrooke-road, and a member of one of Newport's oldest families. Throughout the greater part of her long life she was a devoted worshipper at St. John's Church. In her earlier days she was the leader of the women's Bible class held at her home, and she was a generous supporter of and worker for the annual bazaars.

Her other chief interest was in the widows' cottages in East-street, which were endowed by her family many years ago to provide homes free of cost to deserving widows. The income from the endowment has for some years been far from sufficient to keep the cottages in repair, but Miss Pittis always kept them in good condition and she was a frequent visitor and generous friend to the occupants.

Miss Pittis was an accomplished French linguist and, as a great lover of children and nature, she won a reputation as a writer of charming tales for little folk. Two of them "Jerry's little Nell" and "Little bright eyes", published some years ago, gained considerable popularity, the first running to several editions.

When a flying bomb fell near her home at the end of June, 1944, badly damaging it, Miss Pittis had a miraculous escape. The ceiling fell on her while she was in bed but she was not injured. The experience, however, was a great shock, from which she never fully recovered, and since that time she had been cared for at the Home Hospital, Ryde.

The funeral took place on Thursday, the service at St. John's Church being conducted by the Rev. H. G. Kelsey (vicar of St. Paul's Barton). Miss D. Welby-Pryer, L.R.A.M., was at the organ and accompanied the singing of the hymns "Jesu, Lover of my soul", and "Rock of ages", and the chanting of Psalm 23. The mourners were Mr. Edward W. Way (nephew) and Mrs. Way, Miss Ethel Way (niece), Mrs. Seymour Pittis (sister-in-law), Mrs. F. E. Harvey and Mrs. J. Roach (cousins), Mrs. W. R. Pittis, and the Misses Bull and M. Cole.

Those also attending include Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cutmore and Miss P. Cutmore, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cave and Miss P. Cave, Mr. and Mrs. A. Sibbeck, Mr. and Mrs. W. Upward, Lieut.-Col. J. Eldridge, O.B.E. (representing Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Eldridge), Messrs. P. W. Harman (also representing Mr. H. R. Palmer), W. Guy, and J. H. Black, Mesdames Curtis (representing Mr. W. J. Whittington, J.P.), Webb, Sheaf, and Wearn, and the Miss Atkinson, L. E. Moody, A. Etheridge (also representing Miss K. Etheridge), Pring, Wray, L. and I. Welby-Pryer, Johnson, Urry, and Chambers (also representing the widows' homes and Miss Dyer).

The interment was at Newport Cemetery and the floral tributes included a wreath from the vicar, churchwardens, and members of St. John's Church Council. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements. Mr. and Mrs. James Eldridge and Mr. F. H. J. Damp were unavoidably prevented from attending.

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