

Alfred Shepard

1891 census – Petlis, Carisbrooke Road, Newport

<i>Alfred Shepard</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Newport, Isle of Wight</i>
Helena A Shepard	Wife	65		Newport, Isle of Wight
Harry Shepard	Son	33	Carrier	Newport, Isle of Wight
Daisy Shepard	Daughter	24		Newport, Isle of Wight
Edith Shepard	Daughter	21		Newport, Isle of Wight
Elizabeth Jeffery	Servant	21	Domestic	Parkhurst, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press – 19 March 1898

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED SHEPARD OF NEWPORT.

A well-known and highly respected citizen of Newport passed away at an early hour on Sunday morning last in the person of Mr. Alfred Shepard, who had reached the age of 74. He was a native of the town, to which he was strongly attached, and he lived there all his life. His father, Mr. William Shephard, owning one or two vessels, laid the foundations of the business which in later years has been carried on under the style of Shepard Brothers, and it was mainly through the energy and enterprise of the late Mr. Alfred Shepard that the business was developed until it has become one of the most important carrying concerns in the South of England, its transactions practically extending to all parts of the world. Some eight years ago the business was transferred to the deceased gentleman's sons, Messrs. Arnold Frank, Harry, William, and Joseph Percy Shepard, but the father continued to watch over the management until failing health compelled him to retire altogether from business life. His mind was a perfect store-house of information upon matters which had engaged his attention during his active career, and his reminiscences of "carrying" work and "carrying" difficulties in days when railway facilities were not what they are now were deeply interesting. His knowledge of river matters was unequalled, and in past years he was frequently consulted by the Corporation upon questions relating to the Medina and the Harbour. In politics he was a Liberal of the old school, but he never took a prominent part in political or public life. For some time, many years ago, he held one public office which is not now in existence. It was that of "assessor," and it is interesting to recall the fact that the late Mr. Alfred Shepard and the late Mr. Alfred Millidge were the last holders of that office in Newport. Though, as we have said, the deceased had been for some considerable time in declining health, he was in his wonted place in his home on the Friday preceding his death. He kept to his bed on the Saturday, and at a quarter to 1 on Sunday morning he passed away, the end being of the most peaceful and tranquil character. Dr. Groves was his medical attendant, but in consequence of that gentleman's illness, the deceased was attended at the last by Dr. Coombs.

The funeral took place at Newport Cemetery on Wednesday morning. The flags at the Quay were flying at half-mast, having been lowered on the day of the death, and there were many evidences of mourning in the town. The first part of the service was performed at St. Thomas's Church. The chief mourners were Messrs. Arnold Frank, Harry, William, and Joseph Percy Shepard (sons), Mr. Henry Shepard (brother), Mr. Ernest Wetherick and Mr. T. E. Forsaith (sons-in-law), and Mr. Ernest Page, amongst others present being Messrs. R. Roach Pittis, J.P., T. Jenkins, G. Knight (Shide), H. Chappell, T. Self, C. M. Chiverton, G. A. Brannon, C. King T.C., John Roach, and others. The cortege was met at the west door by the Rector of Whippingham (Rev. Clement Smith), the Vicar of Newport (Rev. H. Edmund Sharpe), and the Revs. A. F. ?? and E. Dennett, the first named officiating, assisted by the Vicar. As the body was borne from the church the "funeral march" in Saul was played on the organ by Mr. Alex Scadding, who before the arrival of the cortege rendered "Angels, ever bright and fair," and "O, rest in the Lord." The concluding portion of the service at the grave was performed by the Rector of Whippingham. The deceased's last resting place is in the same grave with his late wife, who predeceased him some six years ago. A pathetic incident in connection with the burial of the deceased was the interment in an adjoining grave of his youngest grandchild, Joan Forsaith, who died in London on Saturday, the deceased infant being the late Mr. Shepard's

thirteenth grandchild. The graves were lined with evergreens. There was a request that there should be no flowers, but three very beautiful wreaths were sent, one being from Mr. John W. Fisk (Brighstone), one from an anonymous friend, and the third from the members of the St. Thomas's Club, of which Mr. Harry Shepard has been a very generous friend and supporter. The polished elm coffin, with brass furniture, bore the following inscription on the breast-plate: "Alfred Shepard, born Dec. 6. 1823, died March 13. 1898." Mr. S. Salter carried out the funeral arrangements.

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