

John Sime

Isle of Wight Country Press – 14 January 1928

NEWPORT.

A NAVAL VETERAN'S DEATH. – The death took place on Friday week at the residence of his cousins, the Misses Sime, 18 Quay-street, where he had resided for about 20 years, of Mr. John Sime, aged 74, an ex-gunner of the Royal Navy, who had been a pensioner since 1902. He was a son of Mr. George Cowle Sime (whose brother, Mr. William Horlock Sime, was formerly a tailor in Quay-street), and was born at Elm-grove in October, 1853. He joined the Navy in 1866, when aged 13 years of age, and after commencing his man's service gained rapid promotion to seaman-gunner, leading seaman, 1st class P.O. and gunnery instructor, and in 1888 he received the warrant rank of gunner, which he held with distinction both afloat and at the gunnery school, H.M.S. Excellent, at Portsmouth, until his retirement. He held the medal for the Zulu War, 1878-79, and the long service and good conduct medal. In the Zulu War he was one of the Naval Brigade who were besieged in Ekowe for five weeks. Soon after obtaining his warrant rank he won commendation for gallantly leading a boarding party which effected the capture of a slave dhow in the Red Sea after the lieutenant in command had been fatally wounded by the Arab slave traders. Sime and his party took a grim revenge for their lieutenant's death, and the whole cargo of slaves were saved. The funeral takes place this (Saturday) afternoon.

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