

William Weeks

**Isle of Wight County Press
2 December 1916**

NEWPORT

Death of Mr. William Weeks. – With the demise of Mr. William Weeks, which we regretfully chronicle to-day, there passes one who, for a long generation, was a familiar and ever-friendly figure in our midst and was held in universal esteem. About two years since he suffered a severe loss by the death of the devoted partner of his life for over six decades, and shortly after that bereavement he removed to Clitheroe, where his daughter and his eldest son, Mr. W. Self Weeks, are living and where, on Monday last, at the age of 88, his long life's journey, so far as the present stage is concerned, came to a tranquil close. As confidential clerk, first to the late Mr. James Eldridge and afterwards to Messrs. James Eldridge and Sons, the deceased could show a record of faithful service extending over more than half a century, while his full period of service in the office of that esteemed legal firm covered 60 years. For 50 years he held the appointment of clerk to the Newport Burial Board. While not prominently identifying himself with public life, he was ever ready to lend a helping hand to all good causes affecting the welfare of the general community. In connection with St. Thomas's Church and Sunday-school he was one of the most zealous of workers, and it may be mentioned here that he rendered especially valuable aid to the late Mr. James Eldridge in the discharge of the onerous hon. secretarial duties devolving upon that gentleman at the time of the rebuilding of the Parish-church. In the days in what were called "Penny Readings" were a popular form of entertainment in Newport, Mr. Weeks, who was an excellent reader, often contributed to the programmes, and he was also a valued member of the Newport Choral Society in the years when it compassed many musical triumphs under the baton of the Rev. W. H. Nutter. No memorial reference to the late Mr. Weeks would be complete which did not make mention of his connection with the old Newport Debating Society. In the palmiest of days of that once well-known local institution he stood out prominently, whether at ordinary debates or on "open nights," when the fame which the Society had achieved was sufficiently potent to draw crowded audiences to the largest assembly-rooms in the town. In readiness of speech, cogency of reasoning, and quickness of retort, ever good-natured, Mr. Weeks had few equals, and the side which was fortunate enough to include him amongst its advocates was always a force to be respected and reckoned with. As one of the few survivors of the "old brigade," the writer of these lines knows all about that! Full of years, William Weeks is now gone to his rest, leaving behind him the best of all bequests – the record of a well-spent life and a memory which his friends will affectionately cherish until they rejoin him. To the members of the bereaved family we offer our deepest sympathy. The funeral takes place today (Saturday), the first part of the service being held at St. Thomas's Church at 12.15, the interment following at Newport Cemetery.

**Isle of Wight County Press
9 December 1916**

NEWPORT

The Late Mr. William Weeks. – The funeral took place on Saturday of Mr. William Weeks, formerly of Crocker-house, whose death, after a painful illness, took place at the residence of his son, Mr. William Self Weeks, Town Clerk of Clitheroe. The first part of the service was

held at St. Thomas's Church, in which the coffin had rested from the previous evening, and the interment was at Newport Cemetery, by the side of his wife. The Rev. J. L. Spratt officiated. The mourners were Mr. William Self Weeks and Mr. Harry Weeks (sons), Mrs. B. W. Tilley, Mr. George Weeks and Mr. W E. Weeks (Ryde), Capt. Self (Shanklin), Mr. Leonard Jordan, J. P., C.C., Mr. George Long, Mr. Robey F. Eldridge, J. P., and Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. R. J. Eldridge, (Mr. James Eldridge was prevented from being present by indisposition), Mr. J. B. Alderslade (clerk of the Newport Burial Board), Mr. H. D. Collyer, and Mr. W. J. Way, from Messrs. J. Eldridge and Son's offices. There were also present the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Witcher, T.C.), Ald. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P. (chairman) and members of the Newport Burial Board, of which the deceased was clerk for 50 years, including Mr. G. D. Rich, J.P., Ald. C. Webb, and Mr. C. H. Cave. Others attending were the Rev. M. Atkinson (vicar of St. Paul's), Messrs. Harry Shepard, J.P., J. W. Stanley, J.P., E. Huxham, T. Lee, W. K. Ediss, E. F. King, W. H. Tiley, G. Gubbins, H. Tullidge, E. H. Matthews (clerk of the I.W. Insurance Committee, formerly at Messrs. Eldridge's office), T. P. Whiston (Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows), W Blake, and C. H. Mallard, Mrs. J. George, Miss Pittis, Miss Feneran, Miss Gubbins, Miss Atkinson, and Mrs. W. Westmore. Mr. J. Bevis carried out the funeral arrangements. Capt. Frank King was unable to attend.

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