

Walter Wells

**Isle of Wight County Press
4 August 1934**

**DEATH OF MR. WALTER WELLS,
OF NEWPORT.**

Sixty-Seven Years A Local Preacher.

A familiar figure in the business life of Newport and one who had many friends over a much wider area as a result of his notable work as a lay preacher of the Wesleyan Church, had been removed by the death on Sunday in a Ryde Nursing Home, at the grand old age of 89, of Mr. Walter Wells. For nearly 60 years Mr. Wells was the proprietor of the china and glass ware business formerly carried on at God's Providence House, St. Thomas's-square. He and his family had been worshippers at the Victoria Methodist (formerly Wesleyan) Church in Pyle-street for generations, and Mr. Wells had a record as a lay preacher which can seldom have been equalled. For 70 years, Sunday by Sunday, he has officiated at the country chapels, and his messages were always full of the optimism and Christian confidence which characterised his life, and endeared him to everyone. They were remarkable, too, as evidencing the profound knowledge of the Scriptures he had gained by long and careful study. In his early days Mr. Wells must have walked thousands of miles on these Sunday preaching missions, yet, almost to the last, he retained a remarkable elasticity of step and upright carriage. He was one of the senior members of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the first part of the service being held in the Victoria Methodist Church. The Rev. L. J. Maw, of Freshwater officiated. Mr. E. J. H. Quarrier was at the organ and played Handel's Largo, "The death of Ase" (Grieg), and "O resst in the Lord". The hymns "The saints of God" and "Give me the wings of faith" were sung. In an address the Rev. L. J. Maw said that he had been told of Mr. Wells's wonderful work for the church in many parts of the circuit. He was a mirror reflecting the love of God, which he carried in his heart throughout his life. For 67 years his name had been on the lay-preachers' plan, and it had been his proud boast that he had preached in nearly every country church in the Island. To those who mourned his loss he offered the greatest sympathy. They should rejoice that he had reaped his reward.

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. W. Wells (son and daughter-in-law), Miss Wells and Mrs. Gray (daughters), the Misses Gladys and Joyce Wells and Mr. G. Wells (grandchildren), Mrs. G. Urry, Mrs. Upward, and Mrs. F. Wells, who also represented Mr. F. Wells (nieces) and Mrs. A. Wells (sister-in-law). Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. A. Elderfield, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wyatt, Mesdames E. and L. Roach (representing the Calbourne Church), Mesdames Rickard, Truscott, Daish, A. Gentle, Mearman, Williams, Carpenter, and Croton, Miss Turner, Ald. J. H. Deacon, and Messrs. S. H. Burgess and L. Morgan (representing the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows), W. J. Hitchman, F. L. Wells, E. R. Dore, C.C., G. H. Dunford, W. Warne, H. Morris (Carisbrooke), J. M. Mansbridge, S. J. Spanner, F. Morris (Carisbrooke), H. Roach (Calbourne), C. J. Cooper, J. H. Knighton, G. N. Rogers, J.P., E. H. Morris, (Chale), F. J. Morris (Stroud Green), and H. Woodford (Cowes). The interment followed at the Newport Cemetery.