

George Arnold

Isle of Wight County Press 16 November 1935

Queen Victoria`s Blacksmith.

NEWPORT NONAGENARIAN`S INTERESTING LIFE STORY.

Mr. George Arnold, of 34 Barton-road, Newport, who celebrated his 91st birthday on Sunday, has a very interesting life story. He was born in 1844 in the house adjoining the Porchfield Congregational Church. He learnt the trade of general and agricultural smith at the old smithy at Stone Steps, Calbourne, and at the age of 22 went to the Locks Green smithy, which was in the Arnold family for some 200 years. After working there for four years he took the Blacksmith`s Arms, better known as "Ye Olde Betty`s Aunt," Carisbrooke, where he did the agricultural work of the district for 17 years in addition to being the licensee. From there he went to East Cowes. Here he often shod ponies from the Royal stables at Osborne, and roughed the shoes of the horses if they found the ascent to Osborne too slippery. At the time of the Queen`s death he erected a stand on his property from which a large number viewed the Royal funeral procession. After spending 18 years at South Fairlee Farm Mr. Arnold concluded his working life in the employ of Messrs. Smith and Whitehead, of Newport, retiring some 15 years ago at the age of 76. Twice married, the first time by the Rev. Thomas Mann at the Sun-hill Congregational Church, Cowes, Mr. Arnold had 10 children of his first marriage, six of whom still survive. The eldest is 69 and the youngest 52. Mr. Arnold tells an interesting story of an old farmer named Cross whose lease of Alverstone Farm was bought by the Prince Consort, who pensioned him off. The old man, who lived at Pound, near Calbourne, employed Mr. Arnold as a lad in the garden, and he can remember two occasions when Mr. Cross spread out a bag full of Spade guineas in front of him telling him that some of them would be his one day. Mr. Cross and his wife and daughter when they retired to bed pulled up the ladder giving access to the upper rooms and kept a loaded blunderbuss trained on the door through a hole in the ceiling. When Mr. and Mrs. Cross died the guineas passed to their only daughter, but when she died a few years later no trace could be found of the hoard of gold, and Mr. Arnold never received his share.

Isle of Wight County Press 18 September 1937

Death of Queen Victoria's Blacksmith.

A NEWPORT NONAGENARIAN.

The death occurred at his home, 34 Barton-road, Newport, on Saturday last of Mr. George Arnold, at the great age of 92. Mr. Arnold had been confined to his room for the last five years, but only took to his bed two days before his death.

Born in the house adjoining the Porchfield Congregational Church, he learnt the trade of general and agricultural smith at the old smithy at Stone Steps, Calbourne, and at the age of 22 went to the Locks Green smithy, which was in the Arnold family for some 200 years. After working there for four years he took the Blacksmith's Arms, better known as "Ye Olde Betty's Aunt," Carisbrooke, where he did the agricultural work of the district for 17 years, in addition to being the licensee. From there he went to East Cowes. Here he often shod ponies from the Royal stables at Osborne, and roughed the shoes of the horses if they found the ascent to Osborne too slippery. His shop was on the land where the East Cowes Post-office now stands, and among others for whom he executed jobs were Trinity House, the Steam-packet Company, and the local Council. After spending 18 years at South Fairlee Farm in the employ of the late Mr. Thomas Knighton, Mr. Arnold concluded his working life in the employ of Messrs. Smith and Whitehead, of Newport, retiring some 15 years ago at the age of 76. Twice married, Mr. Arnold had nine children of his first marriage, and ten by his second wife, formerly Miss Derham, of East Cowes, and six of each family survive.

The funeral took place at the Congregational Chapel on Wednesday, conducted by the Baptist minister (the Rev. E. G. Keed). The personal mourners were the widow, Messrs. H. and N. Arnold (sons), Mesdames Thompson, Brain, Plumbley, Holder, Henderson, Portsmouth, and Cark, Tidmouth (daughters), Mrs. A. Arnold (daughter-in-law), Messrs. D. Holder and F. Henderson (sons-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heal, Freshwater (nephew and niece), Mr. H. Plumbley (grandson), and Mrs. Rann and Miss V. Plumbley (grand-daughters). The interment was in St. Paul's Cemetery. Among the 23 beautiful wreaths was a token from neighbours and friends in Barton-road.-----Mrs. Arnold and family wish to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind inquiries, and for the beautiful flowers sent.

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