

Beauclerc Bennett Beckingsale

**Isle of Wight County Press
12 November 1927**

DEATH OF MR. B.B. BECKINGSALE

We record with deep regret the death of a well known Island solicitor of Newport and Sandown in the person of Mr. Beauclerc Bennett Beckingsale, B.A. (Camb.), which took place at his residence, Fairlee House, Newport, on Monday in his 68th year. Though he had been ailing for several months, he had continued his business and other activities until Thursday week, when he was at his office as usual. Unfortunately next day he had an attack of hemorrhage, and his condition quickly became critical, and, in spite of all that medical skill and good nursing could do, he gradually sank and passed peacefully away just before 10 o'clock on Monday night. As he had been seen following his usual avocations so recently, the news of his lamented death came quite unexpectedly to all but his nearest friends. Mingled with the widespread regret at the loss which his death entails are feelings of sincerest sympathy for his two daughters who resided with him, and for his only surviving son, who is an officer in the British Army serving in India.

The late Mr. Beckingsale was the second son of Mr. W. J. Beckingsale, a former well known solicitor, of Fairlee House, and he started in practice at Wimbledon. Later he returned to the Island and commenced a practice at Sandown, where he resided for some years, and served as a popular officer of the old Island Volunteers, for which patriotic movement he had much enthusiasm. Twenty years ago he removed to Newport on the death of his father, who, it will be remembered, passed away at Fairlee House, in his 97th year, in the spring of 1907. Five years later he had to mourn the death of his wife, and to her memory he erected the oak lych-gate which adorns the entry to the pretty little cemetery at Fairlee, in which is situated the family burial place. The toll of the Great War added another blow in the death of his gallant elder son, an Army officer, who was killed in action.

For many years Mr. Beckingsale was one of the most familiar figures in the hunting field. A member of the committee of the Isle of Wight Hunt, he was a popular sportsman, a valued supporter of local fox-hunting, and a keen rider to hounds, and he took a prominent part in promoting the presentation to Mr. J. E. Willis Fleming on his retirement from the mastership. His genial sportsmanship and open-handed hospitality will be pleasantly recalled by the many who attended by his kindly invitation the annual meets of the Hunt on the pretty lawn of his delightfully situated old-time country house at Fairlee, where the attractive grey hunters ridden by him and his daughter were an outstanding feature. He was a valued member and supporter of the St. Paul's Church, Barton, where since the formation of the Parochial Church Council he had been its capable vice-chairman. He was particularly helpful in dealing with legal matters connected with the church and the change of vicarage, and he also served on the committee responsible for providing the beautiful marble memorial in the church to the men from the parish who fell in the Great War. He was a supporter of the British Legion and Girl Guides movement with which his daughters are prominently identified, and of other deserving movements.

The large attendance at the funeral at St. Paul's, Barton, yesterday (Friday) testified to the widespread esteem the late Mr. Beckingsale had won. The local church, the legal profession, and the many organizations with which he was connected were all well represented, particularly the I.W. Hunt. The church was full. The Vicar (the Rev. Miles Atkinson) officiated, assisted by the Vicar of Newport (Canon C. H. Thompson). The choir, with Mr. Leslie Dore at the organ, led the singing of the hymns "O God Our Help", "The saints of God", and "Abide with me", and the Nuno Dimittis, and the organist played

Chopin's Marche Funebre at the close. The interment was at the Fairlee cemetery in a grave adorned with evergreens and white chrysanthemums, the remains being laid to rest beside those of his wife. The chief mourners were the Misses Violet and Dorothy Beckingsale (daughters), Mr. M. M. Beckingsale (brother), Mr. P. Johnston and Dr. D. L. Beckingsale (cousins), Mrs Burstall, Miss I. Hargrove, Miss R. Hargrove, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian J. S. Jerome, and the staff at Fairlee House. Those also present included Mr. J. W. Beverton (chief clerk) and Messrs. S. Edmonds, D. A. Williams, and J. Watson (members of the office staff) Messrs. W. H. P. F. Thirkell (president), A. W. Drew (vice-president), and Captain J. G. Fardell (secretary) of the I.W. Law Society, Dr. J. W. Jolliffe (representing the I.W. Hunt Committee), Captain Mrs. Frost and Lieutenants the Misses Webb and Jordan and several members of the 1st Newport Company of Girl Guides in uniform, Major H. J. Way, V. D., and Mr. W. H. Dyer (churchwardens), Miss Long (commandant of the Newport V.A.D.), Mesdames J. Moorman, W. Hayles, Turner, Sheath, Lindsay, and Johnson (representing the women's section of the Newport branch of the British Legion), Miss Atkinson, Mrs. C. H. Thompson, Miss Hearn, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Way, Miss Way, Mr. J. H. Knighton, R.D.C., and Mrs. Knighton, Mr. and Mrs. E. Jelliss, Mr. and Mrs F. P. Brown, Mr. and Mrs W. H Bishop, Lieut-Col. Black-Barnes, C.B.E., and Miss Black-Barnes, Messrs. A. Chappell and F. Hunter (representing the Newport Rowing Club), the Mayor of Newport (Mr. W. Blake), Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Mumford, Dr. S. V. H. Underhill, Colonel W. T. Arnell, V.D., Major J. N. Meares, Major C. G. Brodie, M.C., Dr. J. D. Davies, Captain C. C. Horsley, R.N. (Sandown), Major C. J. Alexander, Supt. J. Salter (deputy chief constable), and Messrs. F. A. Joyce, H. Eldridge Stratton, G. F. S. Stratton, R. J. Eldridge, F. Gurnsey Champion, W. D. Way Buckell, J. H. Black, E. H. Wood, F. R. Guy (representing Messrs. Lamport, Bassitt, and Hiscock), Francis J. T. Mew, R. P. Mew, J. G. H. Young, E. E. Carver, E. c. Langton, G. R. Quinton, F. Burton, E. C. Wadham, H. Shepard, J. P., P. W. Day (Sandown), A. W. Parrott (Sandown), R. Stevens, H. Cawley-Way, C. J. Baker (Roud), J. Hooker (Calbourne), R. Urry (Smallmoor), J. H. Russell, W. G. Mitchell (Sandown), J. Cooke, W. Griffin, and many members of St. Paul's congregation. A particularly beautiful display of floral tributes included those from the I.W. Law Society; The office staff; The St. Paul's Parochial Church Council; The 1st Newport Girl Guides; The Master and committee of the I.W. Hunt; The Newport Rowing Club; The officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.s, and riflement of Princess Beatrice's I.W. Rifles; The Alverstone Garden Village Estate; and The I.W. County Coursing Club. The arrangements were efficiently made by Messrs. W. Urry and Son.

The following were unavoidably preventing from attending: Captain and Mrs. Austen, of West Malvern, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnston, of London (cousins), Captain H. G. Adams-Connor, M.V.O., Mr. James Eldridge, Mr. H. C. Knott (Cambridge), and Dr. E Parsey (King's Norton).

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