

Tom Brown

Isle of Wight County Press - 5 November 1921

NEWPORT

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. TOM BROWN, - We regret to record the death on Wednesday, with sensational sadness, of an esteemed tradesman in the town of Mr. Tom Brown, aged 72, of Hope Cottage, Victoria Road. Deceased, who had latterly suffered from periodical chest pains, apparently due to heart attacks, seemed in his usual health when he left home during Wednesday forenoon to make business calls in the town, but later he told a resident upon whom he called in Upper Pyle-street that he was feeling unwell and declined an invitation to rest, saying he must get home. He had not gone far down the street when he was seen to fall, and was taken into a shop close by and medical aid arrived quickly, but life was extinct. The body was removed to the mortuary to await an inquest, which was necessary as deceased had not been medically attended for some years, and which will be held today. The deceased was for many years a well known builder, with workshop in Pyle-street. Since retiring from business he had devoted himself mostly to his garden and flowers. He was a skilled horticulturalist and chrysanthemum grower and exhibitor, and only a week ago he had won for the second year in succession the challenge cup at the East Cowes autumn show with a fine group of chrysanthemums. He was a member of the committee of the Old Newport Chrysanthemum Society, at whose show, as well as that of the I. W. Chrysanthemum Society, he was always a prominent exhibitor. He was also a member of the committee of the old Hand-in-Hand Friendly Society. For some time he took an active interest in municipal affairs, and was a very useful member of the Town Council from 1903 to 1906. This was a time when the sectarian controversy arising out of the Education Act of 1902 was prominent. Parties were pretty equally divided on the Council, as is shown by the fact that in 1905 the late Ald. Salter was re-elected mayor by the casting vote of the presiding alderman. This memorably exciting result was due to the fact that the late Mr. Brown courageously decided to give his vote for his life-long friend, Ald. Salter, instead of to the party who claimed it in support of the candidature of Mr. J. Thomas J.P. The late Mr. Brown was for some years a valued member of the St. Paul's Brotherhood and its Horticultural Society. His wife preceded him over two years ago. Much sympathy is felt for his family.

Isle of Wight County Press - 12 November 1921

NEWPORT

The Late Mr. Tom Brown – On Saturday an inquest was held at the Town-hall by the Deputy Coroner respecting the sudden death of Mr. T. Brown, aged 71, of Hope Cottage, Victoria-road, on the previous Wednesday. Deceased's daughter, Ivy Irene James, who resided with her father, said that on Wednesday he left home for the town at about 10.30, and that was the last time she saw him alive.

For some time he had complained of pains in the chest, but he had not consulted a medical man for several years. Mrs. Ann Lavinia Prouten, of 82 Pyle-street, stated that on Wednesday deceased called at her shop between 11.30 and noon. He leaned against the counter, was trembling violently, and said he had severe pains in his chest, which came on just before he entered. He declined to rest, and told her that he went to Staplers on Sunday, and could hardly get back owing to similar pains. He left, saying he felt a little better, and would go home. Henry Albert Pitcher, 67 Pyle-street, butcher, said he saw the deceased coming along the pavement towards his shop at about 10 to 12. He suddenly fell forward to the ground, clutching the wall as he did so. Witness carried him into his shop, and he appeared to die almost immediately. Dr. E. F. Westmore Buckell stated that when he arrived at Mr. Pitcher's shop deceased was quite dead having apparently passed away a few minutes previously. He had not attended the deceased, and without a post mortem he could not state the cause of death, although it might be heart disease. The Coroner: There is every probability, judging by the circumstance, Dr. Buckell said, the probability was that it was syncope. Mrs. James in reply to the coroner, said she did not wish a post mortem; she was satisfied that death was due to natural causes. The Coroner said under the circumstances he had no hesitation in returning a verdict that death was due to sudden heart failure and he expressed sympathy with the family. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, the first portion of the service at the United Methodist Church, where the Revs. P. H. Bryant and T. Letcher officiated. The interment was at Barton Cemetery, Fairlee, where the Rev. T. Letcher concluded the service. The mourners were Mr. J. E. Brown, Mrs. James, Mr. W. H. Brown, R.N., Mr. B. C. Brown and Mrs. Hayward (sons and daughters), Messrs. W. H. Brown (nephew), Frank White, A. W. Abraham, C. Morgan, J. H. Black, H. Scott, G. Snellgrove, and H. Allen and there were also present Capt. Frank King, T.D., Messrs. G. H. Arthur, C.C., F. Damp, J. L. Mitchell, D. J. Bartlett, C. H. Cave, W. E. Butcher, E. W. Tyler, F. Harding, G. Clark, J. J. Linington, P. Scott, W. Gale, P. Snellgrove, F. Barnes, B. White and F. Morris, the following representatives of the "Onward" Tent of Rechabites, Messrs. F. H. Bartlett, D. R. W. Lown, E. J. Green and W. H. Downer (secretary) and many others. Before the service Mr. W. G. Bartlett played "O trust in the Lord" and the hymn "O God our help in ages past" was sung, and the "Dead march" in Saul was played at the close of the service at the church. There was a large attendance at the Cemetery. The coffin of plain oak was covered with beautiful floral tribute from relatives and friends, including one from deceased's tenants in Victoria-road. Mr. G. F. Quinton carried out the funeral arrangements. The family of the late Mr. Brown desire to return heartfelt thanks for the many kind inquiries and expressions of sympathy with them in their bereavement, and for flowers sent.

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