

**William Jefferies Beckingsale**

**1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census**  
**Fairlee House, Whippingham, Isle of Wight, Hampshire**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>
<i>William Beckingsale</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>Solicitor</i>	<i>Salisbury, Wilts</i>
Kate E Mathews	Serv	Single	21	Cook Dom	Arreton, Isle of Wight
Kate M Scovell	Serv	Single	21	Housemaid	Newport, Isle of Wight
Herbert Jones	Serv	Single	21	Groom	Niton, Isle of Wight
George Dibbens	Serv	Single	18	Coyboy Aglab	Ryde, Isle of Wight

**Isle of Wight County Press**  
**30 March 1907**

**DEATH OF Mr. W. J. Beckingsale.**

We regret to record the death of Mr. William Jefferies Beckingsale, which took place at his residence, Fairlee House, near Newport, yesterday (Friday) morning. The deceased gentleman, who had reached the great age of 95, was the *doyen* of the legal profession in the Isle of Wight and was probably the oldest practising solicitor in England, his admission dating back to 1835. The funeral takes place at St. Paul's Church, Barton, on Wednesday next, at 11.30 a.m.

**Isle of Wight County Press**  
**6 April 1907**

**The Late Mr. W. J. Beckingsale.**

The funeral of Mr. William Jefferies Beckingsale, whose death at his residence, Fairlee House, near Newport, in his 96<sup>th</sup> year, was recorded in our last week's issue, took place at St. Paul's, Barton, on Wednesday, the service in the church and at the grave being impressively performed by the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Nutter. The chief mourners were Mr. M. M. Beckingsale, LL.M., and Mr. B. B. Beckingsale, B.A. (sons), Mrs. M. M. Beckingsale, Mrs. B. B. Beckingsale, Mr. Leigh Beckingsale (grandson), Mr. N. T. Beckingsale, Mr. J. E. Johnston, Mr. Percy Johnston, and Mr. George Hudson (nephews), and General C. D. Cooper, C.B. Amongst other attending were Mr. Godfrey Baring, M.P., the Mayor of Newport, Ald. W. J. Whittington, J.P., Ald. Francis Pittis, J.P., Dr. W. Hoffmeister, M.V.O., and Mrs Hoffmeister, Dr. Underhill, Major Henry J. Way, Mr. Edward Wilson (hon. Secretary of the Isle of Wight Law Society), Mr. George Howard, Mr. Francis A. Joyce, Mr. James Eldridge, Mr. A. W. Drew, Mr. H. Eldridge Stratton, Mr. George Long (representing Mr. Roach Pittis, J.P. who is absent from the Island), Mr. T.R. Tilling (representing Mr. F.T. Mew, J.P. who was also away from home), Mr. C. Coiling, Mr. T. Lee, Mr. W. G. Young, Mr. J.W. Beverton (the late Mr. Beckingsale's confidential clerk), Mr. Thomas (also of the clerical staff), Mr. C.J. Baker (Churchilla), Mr. W.J. Baker (Shalcombe), Mr. J. Hale (Fairlee), Mr. Vemus, Mr. F. Feltham, Mr. Alex Mearman, and others. The coffin was of oak and the breast plate bore the following inscription:

William Jefferies Beckingsale,  
Born 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1811; \*  
Died 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1907.

By the wish of the deceased gentleman, there were no flowers, and the obsequies were of the quietest possible character. Mr. W. Urry was the undertaker. Mr. Robey F. Eldridge, J.P., was unavoidably prevented from attending the funeral.

The late Mr. Beckingsale was a native of Salisbury, his father being a doctor in practice in that city. He studied for the law and was admitted a solicitor in 1835. Shortly after his admission he came to Newport, and here he spent the greater part of his long and active professional life. He was twice married, his first wife, to whom he was wedded in 1839, being a daughter of Mr. Osmond Johnson, of Wroxall, and his second wife, whom he married in 1853, was a daughter of the Rev Woolley Leigh-Bennett, rector of Water-Stratford, Bucks. A Liberal of the old school, the later Mr. Beckingsale took an active part in county and Newport borough Parliamentary elections years ago, acting as agent for Mr. Wykeham-Martin, Sir John Simeon, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Charles Cavendish Clifford, and other Liberal champions of the bygone time. He was a splendid worker and organizer, and contributed largely to many a Liberal success in the old days. A keen sportsman, he was in his prime a well-known follower of the Isle of Wight Fox-hounds, and had the reputation of being one of the finest and straightest riders in the Island. He kept up his interest in the chase to the last. Within two months of his death he might be seen driving to the meets of the Island Hunt. He was a man of refined and cultured tastes, and it was impossible to be long in his company without realising how wide was the range of his reading. He continued the practice of his profession up to within a short time of his death, and he bore the weight of his more than 90 years with surprising vigour, never losing his interest in life or his grasp of the business which came before him. His death removes from the scenes a notable figure, and he will be pleasantly remembered by those who had the privilege of his friendship. As has been already noted, he was the senior member of his profession in the Island, and was probably the oldest practising solicitor in England.

*\* Baptism record at the Parish of Fisherton Anger, Wilts 18 August 1813 shows born 4th December 1811*

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2019*  
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