

Major Henry J Way

Isle of Wight County Press - 7 January 1939

DEATH OF MAJOR HENRY J. WAY, V.D., OF NEWPORT

FOUNDER OF WELL-KNOWN FIRM OF AUCTIONEERS.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death, which took place last night at his residence The Bays, Staplers-road, Newport, of Major Henry J. Way, V.D., founder of the well known firm of auctioneers (Messrs. Henry J. Way and Son). Major Way, who was in his 90th year, had been lying critically ill for several weeks. The Island capital has thus lost one of its most prominent and esteemed residents, one who was held in high regard by his associates in business and in the many other activities in which he had worked untiringly and very ably for the good of the community, particularly the agricultural community, with whom he was naturally very closely associated. It has lost, too, a fine manly figure who to the last retained that military bearing which made him a typical Volunteer officer in his younger days, and a charming and ever courteous personality. Sincere sympathy will be felt with his widow and the 10 surviving members of his family (five sons and five daughters) in their bereavement.

Business Activities

Major Way was a son of Alderman William Clemens Way, J.P., a former Mayor of Newport. He received his business training at Winchester, being articled to Messrs. James Harris and Son, and returned to the Island to found the firm of Henry J. Way and Son in 1877. As the business progressed he conceived the idea of bringing Island farmers and wool buyers together and founded the Island Wool Fair in the same year, an annual event which rapidly grew in popularity with flockmasters and buyers alike. When Queen Victoria resided at Osborne wool from Her Majesty's flocks was included in the sales, the pitch in those days ranging from 40,000 to 50,000 fleeces. At the jubilee of the fair in 1927 Major Way was warmly congratulated on having been able to officiate as auctioneer every year since its foundation, and the sincere wishes that he would long be spared to continue his genial and capable presidency were realised, for he occupied the rostrum for some few years longer, and was able to be present at every sale up to 1937, when at the Diamond Jubilee Wool Fair, further expressions of appreciation and congratulation were voiced. Last year, to his intense regret, his health did not permit his attending, but he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had established a wonderful record of 60 years unbroken personal association with an event which from modest beginnings had reached the status of a leading feature in the Island's agricultural calendar. In his profession he occupied the proud position of being among the oldest Fellows of the Surveyor's Institute and the Auctioneer's Institute. In 1928 he took his eldest son (Mr. Edward W. Way) into partnership, and the successful co-operation of father and son continued until the Major's retirement in 1930, when the firm was amalgamated with Messrs. Wallis, Riddett and Co.

Work for the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society

Major Way rendered invaluable services to the Island's premier industry by taking a leading part in founding the Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society in 1882. He was the first honorary secretary, with Mr. W. A. Glynn, J.P., a well known breeder of pedigree Channel Island cattle, as chairman. The society has been of incalculable benefit to the Island agriculture by improving the breed of horses, cattle, and farm stock generally. His tenure of the secretaryship continued, greatly to the society's advantage, for the long period of 23 years, and on two occasions public expression of the members' appreciation was made. The first was on the completion of 12 years' service, when Major Way received an illuminated address and a purse of £120, and the second, on the reconstitution of the society in 1905, in which year Major

Way retired from the secretaryship and received another illuminated address and the honour of life membership of the society. Although at this time he relinquished his active connection, Major Way sustained to the end his whole-hearted interest in the welfare of the society, remaining a member of the Management Committee until 1937. It afforded him special pleasure to have been honoured with its presidency in 1925 and to have been chosen in the following year, on the occasion of the visit of the Duke of Windsor (then Prince of Wales) to the show, to hand to His Royal Highness the society's souvenir gift which the Prince presented to Mr. A. A. H. Wykeham, D.L., J.P., in recognition of 21 years of able chairmanship of the society. It is interesting to recall that during Major Way's period as secretary, two reigning monarchs, Queen Victoria and King Edward VII both exhibited stock from the Osborne farm at annual shows.

A Popular Volunteer Officer

Major Way rendered notable patriotic service as a very capable officer in the Island Volunteers for a period of 21 years, for which he received the Volunteer Decoration on retirement in 1897. Of fine physique and soldierly bearing, he rose to the command of the Headquarters (Newport) Companies, and at the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Beatrice in 1885 he had the distinction of commanding the guard of honour of Island Volunteers at Osborne, with him on that memorable occasion being Lieut. (now Sir) Henry Sweetman and Lieut. Gerard Fox. Major Way served throughout Prince Henry of Battenberg's active and distinguished honorary colonelcy of the Island Volunteer Companies, and was present at the impressive funeral of Prince Henry at Whippingham. He also commanded the guards of honour on other notable Royal occasions. A keen marksman, he took great interest in rifle shooting, matches with teams from regiments stationed at Parkhurst being a pleasant feature of old-time Volunteering. In him the Volunteers had one of its most capable and popular officers, and he was probably its oldest surviving company commander.

Church Work

A staunch Churchman, the late Major Way was for half a century a most valued worker at St. Paul's, Barton, where he was a devoted vicar's warden practically throughout that period, serving in this capacity for 41 years until 1936, when he retired on account of advancing age. During this time the church was restored and beautified with a particularly pleasing style of internal decoration, carried out during the vicariate of the late Rev. W. H. Nutter, whose notable efforts, by which the fine new organ was secured for the church, were ably seconded by his warden. An enthusiastic musician and an accomplished violinist, Major Way rendered valued assistance at concerts promoted for the organ fund by his late Vicar, and in this connection it is of more than passing interest to recall that some £300 for the fund was raised by a bazaar opened by Princess Beatrice, to which Queen Victoria gave a donation of £20. Major Way was also untiring in his devotion to the welfare of the children in the parish as the superintendent for many years of the St. Paul's Sunday-school, and was ably supported in this admirable work by Mrs. Way as superintendent for many years of the girls' department. On their dual retirement they were presented with a silver salver.

Other Associations

It is remarkable that a man with so many activities could find the time to engage in the pursuit of music, but, as mentioned above, he was a skilful performer on the violin and a leading figure in the musical life of Newport. He became the leader of the Newport Orchestral Society and president for some time of the Newport Philharmonic Society, and in addition, was a frequent performer both as instrumentalist and vocalist at local concerts. He was throughout his life a keen horticulturalist, delighting especially in the cultivation of roses and his beautiful garden at The Bays was frequently placed at the disposal of organisers of charitable functions. He was seldom seen without a choice bloom

from his garden in his buttonhole, generally a rose. In connection with Freemasonry he was Worshipful Master of this mother Lodge (Economy, Winchester, No. 76) in 1875, and on returning to the Island he joined Albany Lodge No. 151 and was one of its oldest members.

The funeral will take place on Wednesday; service at St. Paul's Church, Newport, at 2.30 p.m.

Isle of Wight County Press - 14 January 1939

FUNERAL OF MAJOR HENRY J. WAY, V.D., AT NEWPORT

LARGE GATHERING PAYS LAST TRIBUTE TO POPULAR MAN

A large gathering of mourners, far exceeding the seating capacity of the church, about 70 floral tributes, and a general display of mourning shutters in Newport were among the many evidences of sympathy and respect marking the funeral at St. Paul's Church, Newport, on Wednesday, of Major Henry James Way, V.D., founder of the firm of Messrs. Henry J. Way and Son, auctioneers of Newport. Those attending included members of the agricultural community from all parts of the Island. The service in the church which the late Major had faithfully served for over half a century as churchwarden and in other offices was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. G. Kelsey, assisted by the Rev. F. S. Golden, vicar of Maney, near Birmingham (Mrs. Way's brother), and the Rev. W. M. B. Hogg (vicar of Newport). The Rev. W. H. Mackinnon, vicar of St. John's, Newport, chaplain of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, was prevented from taking part in the service owing to indisposition. The full choir led the singing and Mr. L. E. Dore (organist) played the accompaniments and the following voluntaries, several of which were favorites of the deceased: "Blest are the departed" (Spohr), "But the Lord is mindful", and "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn), "The Heavenly vision" (Raff) and Handel's "Largo", and Mendelssohn's "Funeral March" as the cortege left the church. The processional hymn was "Love Divine, all loves excelling", the sentences were read by the Vicar of Newport, Psalm 23 was chanted, the Rev. F. S. Golden read the lesson from Revelation vii, the hymn "Abide with me" was sung, the Vicar of St. Paul's offered the concluding prayers, and the Nuno Dimittis was sung as the recessional.

The Vicar of St. Paul's, in an address prior to the prayers, expressed the sincere sympathy of all present and the many friends of the late Major who were unable to attend, with the family in their grief. In that service they would also desire to sound the note of thanksgiving for the life of Major Henry James Way because in it there had been much for which they could truly thank God. When a former Prime Minister broadcast a message to the nation on the occasion of the death of King George V he quoted the words from the Acts of the Apostles "After he had served his own generation by the Will of God, he was laid unto his fathers." They would all agree that those words could in all sincerity be applied to the life of their late brother for he had indeed served his own day and generation. Those who read the obituary notice in the "County Press" could not fail to be impressed with the manifold activities of the late Major Way, but it was only natural that he should refer particularly to what he had done for that church and parish. He might long ago have claimed the privilege of retiring from action participation in the work of the church owing to his age, but it was not so many years since he was superintendent of the Sunday-school and churchwarden and regularly read the lessons. One thing which he greatly admired in the late Major's character was his sympathy with any progressive ideal. The Bishop of London's paraphrase of a well known saying "Those whom the gods love are young in spirit when they die" were particularly applicable to him. He had often been impressed by the way in which he grasped new ideas and showed kindness and sympathy. They had lost one who had been a pillar of strength in that church, one who had

set a glowing example of real service over a very wide field. His life was a challenge to them all to reconsecrate their lives to the service of God and their fellow men. Real remembrance did not stop at the sending of a floral tribute or at expressing thanksgiving for the life of a departed one, but extended to a resolve to follow the example set.

The interment followed in the family burying place in the churchyard, the committal sentences being pronounced by the Rev. F. S. Golden.

The family mourners were the widow (Mrs. Way), Messrs. Edward, Lionel, Herman, and Norman Way (sons), the Misses Ethel, Dorothy, Flora, and Joan Way, and Mrs. W. H. Golden (daughters), Mesdames E. W., L. H., and H. M. Way (daughters-in-law), Mr. F. Sumner-Wilson (representing Mrs. F. Sumner-Wilson, grand-daughter), Miss Muriel Way (grand-daughter), Messrs. N. H. and L. G. Way (grandsons), the former also representing Major G. R. Way, R.A., the deceased's youngest son in Hong Kong, and the latter Mr. R. D. Way, another grandson in Johore, Malay States, Mr. H. C. Golden (brother-in-law), and Miss A. Bull, Mr. B. King, and Mrs. Sheaf (staff at the Bays). The following past and present members of the staff of Messrs. Henry J. Way and Sons attended: Messrs. A. E. Chard, G. H. Lambert, O. H. Smith, A. W. Drew, H. R. Cawley-Way, R. P. Marvin, I. O. Hawkins, E. W. Dennes, J. A. F. Robinson, S. Leggett, C. Cant, and Miss I. A. Parsons.....

[Only family mourners transcribed]

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