



# Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

[www.foncc.org.uk](http://www.foncc.org.uk)



*Volunteers helping to care for the cemeteries and record the lives of those resting there*

[facebook.com/groups/4318199401618337](https://facebook.com/groups/4318199401618337)

## Newsletter No. 27, February 2024

Welcome to newsletter number 27 of the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries. This is being circulated to all those who have expressed an interest in the Friends and others who we think may be interested. Feel free to circulate this to others who you feel may be interested in the Cemeteries.

***These newsletters are 'on life support', contributions required to ensure future issues.***

Past newsletters can be found on the website at:

[https://www.foncc.org.uk/the\\_group/newsletters.php](https://www.foncc.org.uk/the_group/newsletters.php)



*Signs of Spring in Newport Cemetery*

### **Where are we? (Tony Barton)**

The entrance to Newport cemetery from Fairlee Road has been repaired and access has been restored.

We've managed to hold clearing sessions at both Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries – keep an eye on the website for future sessions.

Other volunteers have continued transcribing headstone inscriptions at Newport cemetery, and newspaper cutting etc.

Any help with, or suggestions for, future newsletters would be welcome; we receive comments that people appreciate receiving them so it would be a shame if we have to stop producing them.

Any ideas on how you can help and contribute to the group. Just email your comments/suggestions [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com)

## **Memorial transcriptions:**

The volunteers transcribing memorial inscriptions at Newport Cemetery continue; they have completed section H unconsecrated, and have started section C unconsecrated (one of the original sections).

There are plenty of easier to read inscriptions at Newport, Carisbrooke and St. Paul's cemeteries which need to be transcribed on fine days; so just email if you are interested [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com) .

## ***Kate MacDonell, explains some aspects of transcribing epitaphs:***

Many epitaphs are referred to as 'lines of sentiment' and are expressions of love, loss and grief, hope and despair, gratitude and admiration. Although they may not add much to the basic details about the deceased, they can suggest more about their character and beliefs, their personal interests, life and family relationships. They reflect the culture and society of their time and some provide historical references.

From the mid 19th to mid 20th century epitaphs most often contained biblical text as religion and church involvement were very much a part of people's lives in that era.

The epitaph on a memorial is often inscribed in a smaller font and may not be so deeply engraved, especially if it is lengthy. With time and weathering they have a tendency to fade and become illegible. However, some transcribers find them of interest and feel they do add to the personal information of the deceased and rise to the challenge of working out what, on first glance looks totally unreadable. It's a bit like cracking a code.

As well as biblical quotations a few lines of poetry are popular, sometimes from well known works and others composed by the deceased or their family and friends.

## **POPULAR EPITAPHS**

### **Short and simple**

*'AT REST'*

*'THY WILL BE DONE'*

*'WITH CHRIST'*

*'GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN'*

*'RE-UNITED'*

### **Biblical favourites**

*IN THY PRESENCE IS FULNESS OF JOY - Psalm 16:11*

*REST IN THE LORD AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM - Psalm 37:7*

*TO BE WITH CHRIST WHICH IS FAR BETTER - Phillippians 1:23*

*Made popular by Edward Hazen Parker (1823-1896) American Physician & Poet*

LIFE'S WORK WELL DONE  
LIFE'S RACE WELL RUN  
LIFE'S CROWN WELL WON  
NOW COMES REST

### **BLILICAL EPITAPHS**

*I SHALL BE SATISFIED WHEN I AWAKE WITH THY LIKENESS. PSALM 17:15*

*(for Morris Jackman - 1903)*

MY COURSE IS RUN I HAVE PRESERVED THE  
FAITH: IT REMAINS TO ME NOW BUT THE CROWN  
OF JUSTICE WHICH IS RESERVED FOR ME.  
2 TIM. 7-8

*(for Frances CROUCHER - 1893)*

BEHOLD I HAVE REFINED THEE BUT NOT WITH  
SILVER I HAVE CHOSEN THEE IN THE FURNACE  
OF AFFLICTION *(from Isaiah 48:10)*

*(for Louisa Ann Cotton -1985)*

### **CHALLENGING EPITAPHS**

Some epitaphs are harder to read and may need a number of attempts to decipher, often 'another pair of eyes' can help, and sometimes Google can suggest the missing parts.

for James & Mary Ann Cheverton (1884 & 1885)

*first attempt*

THESE ARE THE ... CAME OUT OF CREATION  
... .. ROSES AND ...  
... .. WHITE ... .. OF THE LAMB

*second attempt*

THESE ARE THEY THAT ... OUT OF GREAT ...  
... .. HAVE WASHED ... ROSES AND MADE  
... WHITE ... THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

*finally with a bit of help from Google*

THESE ARE THEY WHICH CAME OUT OF GREAT TRIBU  
LATION AND HAVE WASHED THEIR ROBES AND MADE  
THEM WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB  
*(Revelations 7:14)*

for Minnie Rugg (1895)

*on first looking –*

*6 lines of illegible text*

*second look -*

*I AM HOME ... ..  
... SO HAPPY ...  
next 4 lines illegible*

*Finally search Google to find - it's a popular funeral poem, well documented and after careful study all could be clearly matched*

*I AM HOME IN HEAVEN DEAR ONES  
OH SO HAPPY AND SO BRIGHT  
THERE'S PERFECT JOY AND BEAUTY  
IN THIS EVERLASTING LIGHT  
DID YOU WONDER SO CALMLY  
TROD THE VALLEY OF THE SHADE*

Sometimes, no matter how hard we look, the full inscription escapes us:

for Emma Stay (1891)

*SHE IS NOT DEAD BUT ONLY SLEEPING  
IN THE ... .. BLEST  
FAR AWAY FROM PAIN AND WEEPING  
SHE IS NOT DEAD ONLY TAKING REST*

*(despite all effort we were unable to complete line 2 of this one)*

for Amy Gwynelia Spanner (1893)

*first attempt*

*THERE IS ... FOR ME A CROWN ... .. RIGHTEOUS ...  
... THE LORD ... .. JUDGE ...  
GIVE ME ... NOT TO ME ONLY ...  
ALL THE ... .. APPEAR ...*

*asked Google for help & the first incomplete line brought it forth immediately*

*THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS  
WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE SHALL  
GIVE ME AT THAT DAY AND NOT TO ME ONLY BUT UNTO  
ALL THEM ALSO THAT LOVE HIS APPEARING  
(2 Timothy 4:8)*

### **And about epitaphs in Carisbrooke Cemetery (Tony Barton):**

The inscriptions, epitaphs, and problems with reading them, are largely similar to those at Newport Cemetery, however, at Carisbrooke there are sections dedicated for Roman

Catholic burials. A number of these mid-19<sup>th</sup> century memorials have quite different wording replacing the often used 'In Memory of' or 'Sacred to the Memory of' at the start of the inscription, the wording is along the lines of:

*Have pity upon me, have pity  
upon me. O ye my friends.  
FOR THE LOVE OF JESUS AND MARY  
PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF  
BESSIE  
.....*

(for Elizabeth Harding, died 11 December 1868)

#### Old newspapers:

##### ***Isle of Wight County Press 31 December 1898***

##### ***EX-PAUPER'S REVENGEFUL ACT AT NEWPORT***

*Yesterday morning William Macartney\*, a young labourer of Newport, of the ne'er-do-well fraternity, was summoned for wilful damage to a green-house at the side entrance to the residence of the Newport district relieving officer. Defendant had formerly been an inmate of the Island Workhouse, but is one of the able-bodied class who the Guardians have determined not to encourage in a worthless career. Consequently the relieving officer had refused defendant's application on Wednesday for re-admission to the Workhouse, and the refusal provoked a threat from the defendant. On Thursday evening the relieving officer's family were alarmed by a crash of glass in the green-house, and a huge flint from a flower-bed border close by was found to have been pitched through the glass roof. P.C. Stone subsequently went in search of the defendant, who admitted committing the offence because his application for an order had been refused. The defendant was fined 10s. and 6s. 6d. costs, with 2s. damage; in default 14 days' hard labour.*

The only "William Macartney", born in Newport I've managed to find appears to have actually been born 'William John Hammond Buckingham' to Annie Buckingham in 1875 and adopted the surname 'Macartney' after she married Thomas Rowland Harley Macartney, in 1876. 1891 shows Annie Macartney as a widow living in Scarrotts Lane. However, William John Hammond Macartney seems to have enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1895, aged 19, so possibly not the person in the article

#### Buried here (by Tony Barton):

#### **Tilleys, drapers – 129 High street, Newport (2024, the Central Convenience Store)**

Benjamin Tilley was born in Gloucestershire and learnt the Draper trade at Bath (1861 census). In 1871 Benjamin was a Drapers' Assistant in Frederick Beach's Drapers shop at 139 High Street, Newport while Fanny Self (the only child of Mr. Thomas Self, of the 'Self Pie

Shop') was with her parents at 143 High Street. Benjamin married Fanny in April 1876 and by 1881 he had established his own draper's shop at 125 High Street, Newport (later moving to 129) employing 3 assistants and one boy; and also with two domestic servants.

Benjamin and Fanny had five children, Olive (1877), Thomas (1878), Arthur (1881), Hubert Derrett (1884), Evelyn (1886). Fanny his widow lived on to 1931.

In 1901, Hubert Derrett was a pupil at Northgate School, Winchester. Then in 1905 Hubert, (accompanied by Arthur Roach, son of James Roach, of East Medina Mill) emigrated to Canada; they were described as 'young farmers, bound for St. John's, en route for Winnipeg.' They departed Liverpool 16 Mar 1905 onboard the SS Parisian. They nearly didn't make it to Canadian soil as, while standing off Halifax to take on a pilot, the SS Parisian with 900 passengers was rammed by the German liner Albano. The SS Parisian made it to her harbour berth where she later sank – all passengers and crew escaping unhurt.



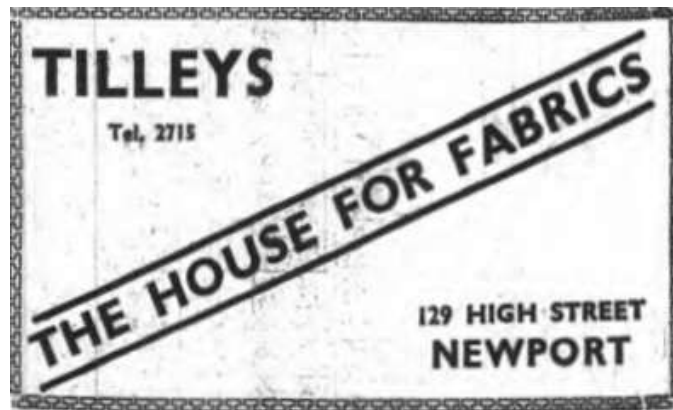
Hubert didn't have much luck, as in 1909, while farming in the Saskatchewan province, he was travelling by train at night and alighting at the wrong station he was knocked down by a light engine, sustaining serious injuries which necessitated the amputation of his right leg below the knee.

1911 saw Hubert, described as a clerk, back in Newport, living with his parents.

Benjamin Tilley, died in July 1911 and Hubert took over the business. He married Jessie Florence Mackessack at Little Missenden, Buckingham in March 1913.

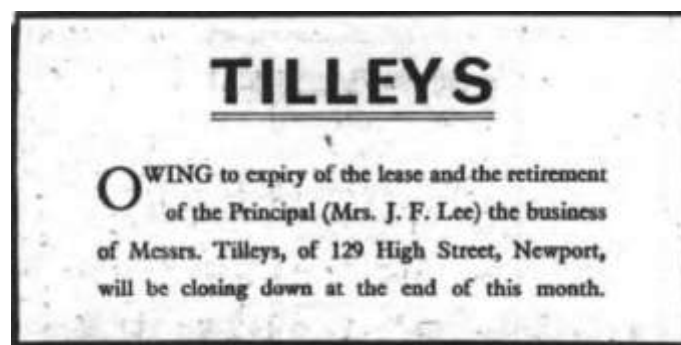
Shortly after an operation for appendicitis in September 1914, Hubert died and was buried alongside his father in Newport Cemetery. His widow, Jessie, took over the business.

In 1924, Hubert's widow Jessie married Harry Hugh Lee.



IWCP - 1 August 1941

Mrs. J. F. Lee carried on the drapers business until January 1958 when it closed on expiry of the lease and her retirement.



IWCP – 25 January 1958

Benjamin, Fanny and Hubert are buried in Newport Cemetery as pictured below; the right-hand memorial is to Hubert, the left-hand memorial, to his parents.



#### Other family members:

Olive Tilley married Leonard Jordan, a partner in Jordan and Stanley, a wholesale and retail grocery business based in Newport. She died in 1956 and was buried in the Jordan family plot in Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Thomas Tilley died in 1898 in Germany and was buried at Falkenstein, near Frankfurt.

Arthur Tilley served in the South African War, and afterwards obtained an appointment in a tea plantation in Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka). He served in WW1 on the Western Front, rising to a captaincy in the Rifle Brigade, and after the Armistice he returned to his work in Ceylon where he died in 1924, leaving a widow and two children.

Thomas and Arthur are remembered by a memorial on the grave of their grandparents, Thomas and Fanny Self, in Newport cemetery.

**Future events:**

Subject to weather, clearing sessions in the cemeteries will continue as possible with the regular volunteers and new volunteers would be welcome to join us – check out the website or our Facebook group for details.

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