

William John Bailey

HAMPSHIRE INDEPENDENT - 10 March 1917

WEEK'S HAPPENINGS IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT

THE LATE MR. W.J. BAILEY

As briefly reported last week, the death occurred at Newport on February 28th, of Mr. W.J. Bailey, estate-agent, clerk to the old Town Trust of Brading for many years, and for some years - though not recently - Apparitor for the Archdeaconry of the Island, and secretary to the Newport Charities' Trustees since 1884. He was also steward to the Shanklin and Willow Estates, and altogether he led a very busy life until within a few weeks of his demise. He took a great interest in the Hampshire Field Club, of which he was a member, and the working out of family pedigrees was to him something of a recreation.

Practically all his lifetime he maintained a regular correspondence with the Chief Justice of Australia, the late Sir Samuel Way, Bart., who, like himself, was a son of the Bible Christian Manse in the Isle of Wight. For several years Bailey had been concerned about the health of his wife, to whom throughout a long life he was devotedly attached, and when she passed away on the 3rd ult. he was himself seriously ill, and there was reason to believe that he was never told of her death. On the last day of February he himself responded to the "one clear call." Genial in personality, constant in friendship, his life's work well done, he has passed "to the rest that remains" at the ripe age of 84.

The funeral was on Monday afternoon at Carisbrooke Cemetery, prior to which a memorial service was held at the United Methodist Church, Quay-street, Newport, the Revs. T. Letcher and J.H. Shilson officiating. The family mourners were Messrs. W.J. and H. Bailey (sons), Mrs. W.F. Newnham and Miss A. Bailey (daughters), Mrs. W.J. Bailey (daughter-in-law), Mrs. G. Snellgrove and Miss F. Bailey (granddaughters), Mr. G. Snellgrove, Rev. E.T. Greenshield. The clerical staff was represented by Messrs. J.H. Flux (Newport), and F.J. Brading. The Rev. W.F. Newnham was prevented from attending.

The service was choral, the hymns being: "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "Nearer my God to Thee." Mr. Cooper presiding at the organ. An in memoriam address was delivered by the Rev. T. Letcher, who said their deceased friend was a son of the manse, and that a tablet had been erected in that church to the memory of his sainted father, who was one of the pioneers of the Bible Christian Church in the Island. In 1824 his father was appointed as a minister to the Island at a time when it was said that no part of the country was more destitute of the power of godliness than the Isle of Wight. The Rev. Wm. Bailey, the father of their deceased friend, once said he believed enough stones and brickbats had been hurled at him to build a chapel. At Chale Green, whilst he was engaged in prayer at one of his outdoor services, a man hurled a stone at him which cut his face, causing blood to flow freely. The preacher immediately prayed for the conversion of the man who had thrown the stone, and his prayer was answered, and Mr. Bailey said he would not mind a similar blow if it would lead to the conversion of another sinner. In the year 1831 he was again appointed to the Island, and it was during this second visit that their late friend was born. In 1846 his father again returned to the Island, when the deceased was about 13 years of age.

The deceased was a keen man of business, an honoured citizen, constant in his friendships, devoted and tender as a husband, and self-sacrificing and affectionate as a father. In a letter which the family had received from an old friend it was well said: "There was about his friendship a quality of constancy which made it very charming. He was always the same, kind, gentle and true. For a long generation he bore an honoured name amongst us, and he leaves behind us a memory that will be pleasantly and avidly cherished by all whose privilege it was to be on terms of friendship with him. Full of years, he quits the present stage of being, but we may be sure that he is living still, rejoicing in a blest and inseparable reunion with the loved ones gone before." The deceased was attached to the church of his parents, and was a trustee. Men of their friend's type were the assets of the town. He was a man of integrity, uprightness, sterling worth, and Christian fortitude. Bengal, the commentator uttered the prayer: "I am tired, O Lord, but Thou knows we are on good terms with God."

He had followed his beloved wife after an interval of about three weeks. She was a woman of quiet demeanour, gentle disposition, and amiable spirit, and beloved most by those who knew her best.

The breastplate of the polished elm coffin was inscribed:-

WILLIAM JOHN BAILEY
Died February 28th, 1917
Aged 84 years

The funeral arrangements were entrusted to Mr. Geo. Quinton.

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