

Thomas Edgar Duke

Isle of Wight County Press - 25 September 1954

BUSINESS FOUNDER'S DEATH

MR T. E. DUKE OF NEWPORT

Sporting and business circles in Newport suffered a sad loss on Sunday by the sudden death at his home, Braeside, Cypress Road, of Mr. Thomas Edgar Duke, aged 71. Mr. Duke, who with his brother, Mr. J. V. Duke, founded the business of Duke Brothers, builders' Merchants, some 40 years ago, had spent his normal Saturday, working in the morning and attending the football match in the afternoon. During the night he died in his sleep. Mr. Duke was held in the greatest respect throughout the Island and particularly by officials and members of Newport Football Club, of which he had been a vice-president for many years. Before the call of business became too great, both he and his brother having an active interest in the affairs of the club, he did much towards establishing its present prosperity. He was a member of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons and of the County Club. He leaves a widow; son and daughter.

There was a large attendance at the funeral at St. John's Church on Wednesday, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper), when in addition to many businesses, the football club and the Albany Lodge of Freemasons were represented. The County Club, of which he had recently become a member, was represented by Mr. L. P. Mew (chairman). The Masonic funeral oration was given and the closing ode was sung. The family mourners were Mrs. T. E. Duke (widow), Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Duke (son and daughter-in-law), Miss. P. Duke (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Duke (brother and sister-in-law), Miss. A. Duke (niece), and Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hunter (cousins). There were over 40 floral tributes.

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