

George Noel Rogers

Isle of Wight County Press – 4 March 1950

DEATH OF Mr. G. N. ROGERS, J.P.

WELL KNOWN METHODIST LAY PREACHER.

We regret to record the death, at the Shanklin Cottage Hospital on Thursday evening, following about six weeks' illness after an operation, of Mr. George Noel Rogers, J.P., of Roseneath, Madeira Road, Seaview (formerly of Newport), at the age of 80.

Mr. Rogers had been a prominent and esteemed figure in the public, religious, and business life of the Island for over 40 years. A Wiltshire man, he received training in the timber trade in London, and came to the Island early in this century. A clever woodworker, with outstanding skill in handling all types of machinery, he was first employed by Messrs. T. And E. W. Jenkins and the late Mr. A. P. Williams at Newport, and then joined the staff of Messrs. H. W. Morey and Sons, timber merchants, and was foreman of their extensive saw mills for over 25 years before he retired in 1943. His complete knowledge of wood-working machinery, his scrupulous fairness, and his readiness to help young workers, won him high esteem and respect. During the air raid on Newport, in April, 1943, his home near the sawmills was badly damaged and he suffered injury and shock, but made a good recovery. Following the death of his first wife at about the time he retired and moved to Seaview, where, about six years ago, he married Miss D. F. Matthews, who, like himself, was a keen worker for the Methodist Church before her health failed. Much sympathy is felt with his widow and with his only surviving son, Mr. Edgar Rogers, of Fareham.

From his youth Mr. Rogers had been a Nonconformist lay preacher, first for the Wesleyan Church and in later years for the combined Methodist Church. His simple discourses, based on a profound knowledge of the Bible, were greatly appreciated at the many Island Methodist Churches at which he conducted services on Sundays. He never spared himself in this work.

He was appointed a borough magistrate at Newport in 1931 and had been most assiduous in performing his duties as a justice of the peace, seldom missing a sitting of the bench, although at times it meant an uncomfortable journey from Seaview in bad weather. He was particularly interested in the work of the juvenile court, and had been a member of the panel of magistrates officiating at these courts since their inception.

In the early days of the Labour Party in the Island he and his first wife were prominent and enthusiastic workers for it. Mr. Rogers often addressed political meetings in those days. He was one of those who, on religious grounds, strongly opposed political meetings on Sundays and, as a result of that rule being broken some years ago, he ceased to take any active interest in the party.

The funeral service will be at the Pyle Street Methodist Church, Newport, on Monday at 2 P.M., and a memorial service will be held at the same time at the Seaview Methodist Church.

Isle of Wight County Press – 11 March 1950

FUNERAL OF MR. G. N. ROGERS, J.P.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT SEAVIEW.

Fellow Justices of the Peace and representatives of Island Methodist Churches, at which he had officiated as a lay preacher, attended the funeral at the Victoria Methodist Church, Pyle Street, Newport, on Monday, of Mr. George Noel Rogers, J.P., of Roseneath, Madeira Road, Seaview, whose death at the age of 80 was reported last week.

The service was conducted by the minister (the Rev. J. L. Stafford) and the Rev. G. E. Southall (East Wight circuit superintendent), the organist was Mr. H. F. Payn, and the hymns sung were “Art thou weary” and “Jerusalem the golden.” Mr. Stafford paid tribute to Mr. Rogers’s Christian spirit, one in which he sought to serve Newport and the Island in religious, social, and political spheres. He had given long service as a Methodist local preacher, and the Island would have been a poorer place had it not been for the persistent service he gave in his various interests. The family mourners were Mr. E. C. Rogers (son), Mr. C. Rogers (grandson), Messrs. S. L. and G. H. Mathews and E. F. Allen (brothers-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Matthews (cousins). Mrs. G. N. Rogers (widow) was unable to attend owing to illness and Miss K. Matthews and Mrs. N. Matthews (sisters-in-law) were also unavoidably absent.

(only family mourners transcribed)

Memorial Service at Seaview.

At the Seaview Methodist Church a memorial service was conducted at the same hour as the funeral by the Rev. T. J. Foinette. Miss D. Isaacson (organist) accompanied the singing of “Art thou weary” and “Jerusalem the golden.” In the course of his address Mr. Foinette referred to Mr. Rogers’s devoted service to that church, his exemplary work as a magistrate, and the care with which he had nursed his wife since she became ill shortly after their marriage. The mourners were Mrs. F. and Mrs. E. Rogers (daughters-in-law), Miss Doreen Matthews (niece), Mr. A. J. Feakes, T.C., Mrs. G. Chapman, Miss E. Matthews, and Miss K. Matthews (cousins).

(only family mourners transcribed)

The interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery and the arrangements were made by Mr. W. W. Wells.--Mrs. Rogers thanks all friends for kind inquiries and messages of sympathy. Letters and flowers will be acknowledged in due course.

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