

Edward George Barnes

Isle of Wight County Press - 13th June 1940

THE LATE MR. E. G. BARNES, OF NEWPORT.

We record with regret the death at his residence, Portland House, Newport, on Sunday, at the age of 88, of Mr. Edward George Barnes, a man held in the highest esteem as their schoolmaster and friend by many men who have gained high positions in the Island and throughout the country. He will long be remembered as headmaster of Portland House Academy, a modest but very successful educational establishment, which trained many leading citizens of the Island. The old school formerly stood at the corner of West-street and Trafalgar-road, but was demolished in May, 1936, to make way for new premises for Messrs. Moreys, Ltd. A tablet inserted in the wall of the new building, which itself suffered in a destructive fire last winter and has now been rebuilt, commemorates the fact that the school was founded by Mr. Robert Barnes (father of Mr. E. G. Barnes) in 1865. Mr. Barnes succeeded his father as head master and the school was closed on his retirement in 1928. The school numbered amongst its pupils five Mayors of Newport, and the thorough training in mathematics which was given enabled many more who left the Island to attain excellent positions in the engineering world. During the last war over 60 old boys answered their country's call, and a large number laid down their lives. Of the original 13 pupils with which the school started, the last survivor is Mr. Arthur Alabone, L.D.S., R.C.S., of The Mall, Newport, Mr. Barnes's lifelong friend.

The late Mr. Barnes retained a keen interest in his former scholars until the end of his life and was regularly in touch with many old boys, who frequently expressed their gratitude for the thorough training they had received from him. Sport was one of Mr. Barnes great interests. He was a member of the Hampshire Cricket Club and, while health permitted, a keen follower of local matches played in the Victoria Recreation Ground, where, incidentally, one of his former pupils, Mr. W. H. Croucher, gained the distinction of scoring the first century in the history of the ground. Mr. Barnes in earlier days was a keen athlete, and his services were for many years in demand as a judge at sports meetings. He will be gratefully remembered as a scholar, a sincere friend, and an exponent of a rare charming old-world courtesy.

About 40 old boys of Portland House Academy formed a guard of honour at the entrance to Carisbrooke Church, and the chief mourners included three other old boys who are ex-Mayors of Newport (Aldermen Whitcher, Millgate, and Blake) when the funeral service took place there on Thursday, followed by the interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The Vicar (the Rev. H. Ewbank) officiated and read the lesson the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes, Commencing "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth," which Mr. Barnes always read to the school at the close of each term. He said that Mr. Barnes and his father exercised a great and good influence over many young people, and for more than 60 years their school carried on a valuable and important work. The 23rd Psalm was chanted and the hymn "For all the saints" sung, and the organist (Mr. G. R. Barrett) played "O rest in the Lord." In addition to those

named above the chief mourners were Miss Barnes (housekeeper) and Messrs. W. H. Reed (Exeter), A. A. Alabone, J. H. Black, and W. D. Way Buckell (Solicitor). Others attending included Mr. and Mrs. F. Williams, Mrs. W. H. Wadham (representing her Husband) and Miss Wadham, Mr. and Mrs. W. Golden, Mrs. S. E. Leigh and Miss Leigh, the Misses Etheridge, Liddell, Brigden, Allen, Wheeler, King, Webb, and Perkins, Dr. G. L. Peskett, and Messrs. J. B. Alderslade, R. J. Eldridge, and W. E. Voaden (Newport Literary Society), W. G. Sibbick (Newport St. John's Athletic Club), W. J. Whittington, Edward W. Way, T. Ross Pratt, E. Abraham (also representing Mr. Gerald Abraham), G. W. Crews, E. Huck, W. Standage, J. W. Lockhart, W. W. Wells, E. C. Neat, W. Cass, E. Matthews, G. Norman, T. W. Alexander, and F. Wittz. The other old boys of the Academy attending were: Messrs. L. P. Mew, senior, A. E. and P. Wadham, J. H. Deacon, H. Scott, H. F. Read, H. H. Gould, A. Wood, W. L. Bright, C. Allee, F. Burton, A. P. Knight, H. W. Minns, C. Chiverton, G. and F. Cooper (also representing Mr. Fred Cooper), G. H. Lambert, H. A. Dabell, C. B. Killeen, C. J. Munday, W. J. Way, E. R. Sherwood, S. L. King, F. Newland, W. Wadham, B. Knight, H. W. Alexander, H. E. Beacon, A. H. Tanner, and H. B. J. Lower. Messrs. P. J. Croucher and A. H. Dockrill were unavoidably prevented from attending.

Isle of Wight County Press - 27th May 1944

Former Newport Schoolmaster's Bequests.

National and Island organisations benefit by the will of Mr. E. G. Barnes, formerly principal of Portland House Academy, Newport, a private school for boys, successfully carried on by him and his father for many years, who died on July 7th, 1940. As a result of the death of the life tenant of his estate, the following bequests have recently been distributed: £1300 to the Royal I.W. County Hospital, £450 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, £450 to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and £270 each to the Newport District Nursing Association, the Newport Cricket Club, the Newport Literary Society, and the Newport St. John's Athletic Club.

Transcribed by Roger O'Nions for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries
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