

George Wyatt

1891 census, 14 Union Street, Carisbrooke

George Wyatt Head (Widr) 75 Retired picture cleaner All Saints, Oxfordshire
Martha Moorman Housekeeper 35 Cook Carisbrooke, I.W.

Isle of Wight County Press – 15 October 1892

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WYATT OF NEWPORT.

The serious illness of Mr. George Wyatt, the treasurer of the Isle of Wight branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, was mentioned in our last issue, and we now regret to have to record that the fears of a fatal termination of the illness were only too soon realised and that he passed quietly away on Saturday morning. The late Mr. Wyatt was a native of Oxford, where his family had long and honourably conducted a business which brought them into close contact with the leading and rising artists of the day, many of whom, Millais among the number, were personal friends. He took up his residence in Newport in 1847, and shortly afterwards married the only daughter [*Fanny Hannah*] of Mr. William Moorman, a native of that town. The lady survived the marriage scarcely a year [*she died 10 June 1849, buried St. Mary's churchyard, Carisbrooke*] and her husband remained faithful to her memory, never marrying again. While occupying an independent position, the deceased gentleman was endowed with an untiring energy and aptitude for work which throughout his connection with the Island he devoted unsparingly to the promotion of the aims of leading religious, philanthropic, and national institutions, and the practice of private benevolence. He was an intimate friend of the late Dean Connor, with whom, while vicar of Newport, he was actively associated in the successful effort that were set on foot for the re-building of the parish church and later on in securing the erection of the Vicarage, and besides personally contributing he took a leading part in raising the necessary subscriptions and in the promotion of the very successful bazaars at Carisbrooke Castle and other means by which the funds for those objects were raised. He took a warm interest in and was a liberal supporter on the Newport National Schools, on one occasion alone contributing about £100 in liquidation of a debt with which they had long been encumbered. In 1852 Mr. Wyatt joined the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, of which body he was already a member, and soon attained the position of Master of the Lodge and subsequently that of Senior Warden of the province of the Isle of Wight. He was for many years secretary of the Lodge, and its survival over a critical period is greatly due to his exertions. He was not only a munificent contributor to the great charities of the Order, but expended a vast amount of personal labour in the cause, and many were the annuitants and beneficiaries who owed the aid they received to his efforts on their behalf and to the skill with which he conducted elections and brought to bear on their behalf the influence he possessed in the craft. Naturally adverse to any change which he considered unnecessary and ever unflinching in the maintenance of the views he considered right, he stoutly opposed to the last the merging of the Island Masonic province in that of Hampshire, but when this was definitely decided on, in 1869, he accepted the result with a ready acquiescence which was one of the finest traits in his character, a quality frequently emphasised on other occasions by a liberal subscription when a proposition which he had unsuccessfully opposed involved an outlay of money. He took an active part in raising the Newport corps of Volunteers, was one of the first members enrolled, and for a short time subsequently held a commission. It was however in connection with the beneficent work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution that some of the deceased's most active and willing services were rendered, and in association with the late Rev. E. McAll he was mainly instrumental in establishing the Island branch, of which he was from the first the honorary treasurer. His books and reports were models of neatness and examples of devotion to detail which with characteristic thoroughness he never allowed himself to shirk. He invariably, when illness did not prevent, attended the periodical practices of the lifeboats at Brighstone Grange and Brooke, which were attached to the branch, and on those occasions, if one of our representatives was not present, he never failed to contribute a personally written account of the proceedings to our column with the view of maintaining the interest of the subscribers and the

public in the noble objects of the Institution. In spite of growing indisposition he attended the last annual meeting of the branch, held in Newport in February, and in reply to a warm vote of thanks for his services on his re-election as treasurer he spoke of the satisfaction he felt at being elected for the 32nd time. At the previous meeting, in the same connection, he feelingly remarked that so long as God blessed him with health and strength he would continue to do all in his power for that grand society, and when he was called away, he trusted that some one would come forward with the same love for the lifeboat cause and would carry on the work which he had endeavoured to do.

The funeral took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Wednesday and was attended by a number of representatives of the various institutions with which the deceased had been connected, and by many friends. The first part of the service was conducted at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, where he had been for so many years a devoted worshipper, the officiating clergy being the Vicar (the Rev. Clement Smith) and the Rev. E. W. Watts. As the procession entered the church the solemn strains of the organ under the skillful touch of Mr. Scadding were heard, and as it retired he impressively rendered a portion of the Dead March in *Soul*. The surplice choir were present and sung the 90th Psalm and hymn "Day of wrath ! O day of mourning!" Heading the procession from the church was the carriage of Dr. Coombe, medical attendant, and following the open hearse came the carriages containing the principle mourners, Mr. James Wyatt and Joseph H. Standen, nephews, also Mr. F. Pittis, J.P., and Mr. C. T. Allee (co-executors with Mr. Standen), Mr. R. F. Eldridge (solicitor), and Mr. W. J. Moorman. Leading the procession on foot were members of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, churchwardens Brooke Lifeboat Committee ... Brighstone Committee Isle of Wight Lifeboat Branch. Conspicuous in the mournful procession were the crews of the Brighstone and Brooke lifeboats. Amongst others in the church and at the grave were the Mayor of Newport (Ald. J. Lock, J.P.), Messrs. H. Mortimer, J.P., J. Spickernell, R. Mew, P. Mew, H. M. Morris, A. Harvey, and others. The coffin, which was of polished oak with brass furniture, bore the following inscription on the breastplate:- "George Wyatt, born June 6th, 1815, died October 8th, 1892." The coffin was covered with numerous floral tributes from relatives and sympathizing friends,

Preaching at St. Thomas's Church last Sunday, the Vicar made feeling reference to Mr. Wyatt's death. That life of quiet, unostentatious goodness, said the preacher, closed peacefully the previous morning. With a sterling character, whatever George Wyatt undertook to do, he did it with simplicity and thoroughness. He was a benefactor to the parish, and to the lifeboat cause in the Island, and to their National Schools, while the relief of widows and orphans and numerous other charities were the recipients of his tender consideration and thoughtful care. They all might profit by the example of such a quiet Christian life; and as they thought of all these things and of old friends passing away, let it be their endeavour so to live that when their call come, their work might be in some sense completed in humble dependence upon God, and they might then be able to say with the aged Simeon "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace."

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