

Frank Weeks

1911 census, 82 High Street, Newport

<i>Frank Weeks</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>Watchmaker and Jeweller</i>	<i>Newport, I.W.</i>
Sarah Weeks	Wife	68		Hastings, Sussex
Dora Constance Weeks	Daughter	27	Lady Help	Newport, I.W.

Isle of Wight County Press – 20 December 1913

NEWPORT

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. FRANK WEEKS. – We regret to record the sudden death on Thursday of Mr. Frank Weeks, watchmaker and jeweller, of High-street, in his 72nd year. The deceased, one of Newport's oldest and most respected tradesmen, was at work in his shop when he experienced the fatal seizure, believed to be due to heart trouble, and fell from his stool. He was found dead by his wife, who went into the shop a little later. Dr. Castle, who was summoned, found life extinct. As deceased had not been medically attended for some time an inquest will be held this morning. The late Mr. Weeks was for nearly 20 years vicar's warden of St. Thomas's Church, and he was held in the highest esteem by the vicars under whom he served, and it may be truly said of him that St. Thomas's never had an abler or more devoted churchwarden. Of a genial and kindly nature, he had a host of friends and he was ever ready in his active days to lend his valued assistance to any good work in the town. The deepest sympathy will be with the widow and the other members of the family in their irreparable bereavement.

Isle of Wight County Press 27 December 1913

WELL KNOWN NEWPORT

TRADESMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH

The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquiry at the Castlehold Baptist Schoolroom, Newport, on Saturday morning into the death of Mr. Frank Weeks, of 82 High-street, who died very suddenly whilst at work in his shop on the previous Thursday. Mr. George Chiverton was foreman of the jury.

The Coroner said he was sorry to be under the necessity of calling the jury together with regard to the death of their esteemed townsman, but the late Mr. Weeks had not been medically attended for a considerable time and under the circumstances he thought an inquest should be held. He had not ordered a post-mortem examination, as he thought the jury would be satisfied with the medical evidence, but if they were not such an examination could be made.

Sarah Weeks, the widow, said her husband was 71 years of age. On Thursday last he had his breakfast as usual and afterwards went into the shop to work. He came into the house several times, and at 10.30 she went into the shop as she wanted him for something. As she could not see him she thought he was outside and went to the door but could not see him. When she turned round, however, she saw him lying on the floor. He appeared to have fallen backwards whilst working at his bench. The piece of work he was doing and the tool he was using were lying on the bench. She called a young man in from the street to her assistance, and Dr. Castle was sent for and came immediately. Her husband had not been very well. He

went to Staplers on the previous Tuesday and the walk tired him very much. He had not been ill enough to call in a doctor, he only complained of coldness about the body.

Dr. Hutton Castle said it was about 10.40 when he arrived at the shop. The deceased was lying just behind the bench on the floor, half supported by one or two young men. He examined him and there was no apparent outward cause of death. His appearance and the look on his face were in accordance with the usual signs of death from heart failure. He had not attended the deceased since about six years ago, when he was suffering from a rather acute attack of rheumatism. Rheumatism often weakens the heart. Deceased undoubtedly died from heart failure.

The Coroner remarked that there was a young man who spoke to the deceased outside his shop just previously to his death, who could be called if the jury wished.

The jury intimated that they were quite satisfied and returned a verdict of death from heart failure. The Foreman expressed the deep sympathy of the jury with Mrs. Weeks and the family in their heavy bereavement, and the Coroner intimated his desire to be associated with that expression, which Mr. W. J. Weeks briefly acknowledged.

Preaching at St. Thomas's Church on Sunday morning, the Rev. H. E. Sharpe referred in very sympathetic terms to the death of Mr. F. Weeks. He spoke of his long services as vicar's warden, services marked by the greatest courtesy, and efficiency, and remarked that he had been a loyal friend to all the vicars whom he had served. From his heart he expressed the deepest sympathy with those bereaved by his sudden call from his work here to the life beyond.

The funeral took place on Monday, the first part of the service being chorally at the Parish-church, where the late Mr. Weeks was so well known and esteemed for his splendid work as churchwarden. The robed clergy present were the Revs. Canon Cement Smith, M.V.O., H. Edmund Sharpe (ex-Vicar of Newport), and J. Lowry Spratt. The principal mourners were Mr. W. J. Weeks (son), Mr. William Weeks (brother), Messrs. H. Osborne and P. Millidge (sons-in-law), Mr. W. E. Weeks (Ryde) and George Weeks (nephew), Mr. Spray (bother-in-law), of Yarmouth, Mr. J. H. Westmore (cousin), Mr. George Long, and Mr. W. Stanley, J.P. There were also in the church the Mayor (Mr. A. E. Harvey), Ald. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., Capt. Hills, Messers. Thomas Lee, W. H. Dann, S. C. Wadham, T.C., W. K. Ediss, W. L. Bright, W. Blake, J. Way, F. Spanner, F. W. Dudley, J. H. Greenfield, R. Osborn, W. D. Peachey, A. L. Scadding, H. Tullidge, and C. H. Mallard, Miss Pittis, Miss Tull, Mrs. J. George, and others. The Vicar conducted the service in the church with the exception that the Rev. J. Spratt read the opening sentences. The Hymns "Peace perfect peace" and "How bright these glorious spirits shine" were sung. The organist (Mr. J. H. Jackson) played Chopin's "Funeral march." The interment was at Newport Cemetery. The church wardens (Messrs. W. C. Black and F. Morgan) attended at the cemetery with their wands of office tied with crepe. The deceased eldest son (Mr. Percy Frank Weeks) was unavoidably prevented from being present. There were a number of floral tributes. The deceased was a much respected member of the Newport Conservative Club, the flag at which was flying at half-mast as a token of respect. Mr. J. H. Bevis carried out the funeral arrangements.

Transcription by Roger O'Nions for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries
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