

18/1/35

THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

DEATH OF MR. HENRY MATTHEWS, AT SEAVIEW.

One of the best known and most widely respected residents of Seaview passed away on Monday in the person of Mr. Henry Edwards Matthews, at Roseneath, Madeira-road, in his 87th year. Although he had been confined to his home for some months—his last time of going out having been to vote at the Election—his end came rather suddenly after four days' serious illness from bronchitis. Born on October 7th, 1849, he was the third son of the late William Edsall Matthews (who then carried on a baker's business in Seaview) and was a member of an old local family. He was apprenticed as a carpenter to the late Mr. Andrew Daish, and was engaged in building the old Puckpool Battery. In his young days he took an active part in the social activities of the village and was for a time chairman of the Regatta Committee and a member of the now defunct Cricket Club. An enthusiastic lover of sailing, with one or two village youths he sailed to France in a small boat named the Minnie nearly 70 years ago. During the war he served in the local Volunteers. He will be chiefly remembered for his keen interest in local history; he was looked upon as an authority in these matters, having gained much knowledge from his father who wrote a history of Seaview. Some 20 years since he was one of the principal witnesses when the Crown claimed the foreshore rights at Seaview in the case "Attorney-General v. Oglander and Glynn." Mr. Matthews gave evidence supporting the case for the Crown. A few years ago he published a book of local smuggling yarns entitled "Hist! the smugglers are out." He came of a family of Wesleyan Methodists who 120 years ago met in a small room at Salterns and formed the nucleus of the local Methodist Church of which several of the family are now prominent members. He was a member of the East Medina Lodge of Freemasons. Mr. Matthews married in May, 1880, Miss Emma Charlo, and they celebrated their golden wedding two years ago. His elder brother, Arthur, was a member of the St. Helens District Council; another brother, Herbert Ambrose, was a solicitor and a former Deputy-Coroner for the Island; while his brother Edgar will be remembered as a County Councillor for Ryde. His mother, Mrs. Alice Matthews, and aunt, Miss Emily Bell Matthews, were well known Seaview personalities. He is survived by his wife, three sons, one of whom (Mr. S. L. Matthews) is the local postmaster, and two daughters, another daughter having predeceased him. The sincerest sympathy is felt with the family.

The funeral took place at Ryde-road Methodist Church on Thursday the Rev. C. Finlay (chaplain of Sandown Lodge of

Freemasons) and the Rev. A. Triggs officiating. Miss L. Ribbans presided at the organ and the hymns sung were "Jerusalem, the golden," and "Give me the wings of faith." The mourners were: Miss K. and Miss D. Matthews (daughters), Mr. S. L. Matthews (son), Mr. and Mrs. E., and Mr. and Mrs. G. Matthews (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. E. Allen (son-in-law and daughter), Major E. Matthews, A.P.C., Miss Evangeline, Miss Ethel, and Mr. C. Matthews, Mrs. S. Miller, Mr. W. and Miss Frances Matthews, Sergt. S. Whitefield, R.A.F., Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Feakes (nephews and nieces), the Misses R. and E. Daish (cousins), Mr. and Mrs. J. J. L. Ryder, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wells, and Miss Edith Crees and Mr. A. Williams (staff).

The Rev. A. Triggs said he spoke in the presence of those who knew Mr. Matthews and were thankful for his life. Their hearts went out in sympathy with those from whom he had been taken. They thanked God for the memory of his servant and the blessings they had received throughout his life. He had been long connected with the work of that church and his children had received much good from its teaching. The Rev. C. Finlay recited the Masonic ode.

Among those present were Messrs. Edgar Greenham (East Medina Lodge, Freemasons), J. Greenham, W. C. Holland, G. White, and M. A. Caws (Chine Lodge, Shanklin), W. G. Bowley (head postmaster, Ryde), H. Occomore (sub-postmaster, Bembridge), H. W. O. Weekes (West-street Post Office, Ryde), and Mrs. Weekes, Mr. H. V. Taylor, T.C., the Misses B., R., and A. Moorman, Mr. and Mrs. G. Walker, Mr. E. Allen, Mrs. Lot, Mr. L. Allen, Mr. P. Nash, Mr. G. C. Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Nash, Mr. Edward I. Caws, Mr. A. Edmunds, Mr. R. Nash, Miss Carrie Greenham, Miss Wearne, Mr. H. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. E. Barton, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Bott, the Misses E. and F. Caws, Miss Renwick, Mrs. Gawn (representing Mr. W. F. Gawn, T.C.), Mrs. Bright, and Mrs. E. Kemp (Seaview P.O. staff), Miss Grimes, Miss J. Matthews, Mrs. Kelleway, Mr. W. Brimson, Miss R. Caws, Miss Ryder, Dr. and Mrs. R. N. Aston, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Newell, Mr. J. F. Russell (representing Messrs. Watson Bros.), Mr. E. J., Miss L., and Miss E. Caws, Mrs. Bound, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Edgar Greenham, Mr. J. Dimmet, Mr. D. Peel, Mr. F. Rumsey, Mrs. Saunders, and Mr. L. R. Caselton. The interment was at St. Helens Churchyard. There were over 30 floral tributes, including tokens from Seaview Methodist Church, staff at Seaview Post Office, employees of G. H. Matthews, and from the local Masonic brethren. Ald. T. F. Sheath was unavoidably prevented from attending. Mr. E. Daish was the undertaker.

Mrs. Matthews and family express their sincere thanks to Seaview residents for their kind messages of condolence and sympathy, and for the beautiful flowers.