

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 13th June 1929

DEATH OF MR. STEVENIGHT.

Residents of Shanklin will learn with deep regret of the death on Saturday last of Mr James George STEVENIGHT, at "Homelands," Ryde.

Mr. STEVENIGHT, who was 83 years of age, was known in musical circles chiefly by reason of his long association with Shanklin Town Band but his interest and participation in matters musical extended far beyond the local organisation.

He was appointed from the famous Kneller Hall to the 2nd Batt. Leicester Regt and retired from that regiment in 1884 as bandmaster, after having served 25 years, 17 of which were abroad. Upon his retirement which took place in India, he was presented by the officers of the regiment with a solid silver biscuit box modelled in the shape of a drum, and an ivory baton, highly prized mementoes of his long association with the Leicesters.

Upon his return to England he came in 1885, to Shanklin and took over the post of Bandmaster of the Shanklin Town Band, a position he held of upwards of 17 years. He was also for many years, honorary choirmaster at St. Paul's Church, holding the position during the vicariates of the Rev. W. PETTIT, A.W. STOCKEY, and H.E. FARRELL, and honorary conductor of the Shanklin Mandoline Band. In business he was connected for many years with the Shanklin Gas Company.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the service being at St. John's Church Ryde. The deceased gentleman was buried in military uniform and the coffin was covered with the Union Jack. There were many floral tributes the one from the widow being in the shape of a musicians lyre with broken chords.

Sympathy will be felt with Mrs. H. ABELL (daughter), of Mr. H. ABELL in their bereavement.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
David Harris
Val Minns