

1891 CENSUS: RG12/892. folio 20. page 34.
Address: 36 Swanmore-road, Ryde, IW.

George A. BLACKALL. Head. M. 46. Grocer Master. Reading, Berks.

Hannah BLACKALL. Wife. M. 46. Ryde, IW.

Allen K. BLACKALL. Son. 13. Scholar. Ryde, IW.

Bessie M. BLACKALL. Dau. 11. Scholar. Ryde, IW.

Rose NIBLETT. Serv. S. 19. General Serv. Domestic. Branstone, IW.

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1025. folio 106. page 6.

Address: 36 Swanmore-road, Ryde, IW.

George A. BLACKALL. Head. M. 49. Grocery Shop Keeper. Sulhampstead, Reading, Berks.

Bessie M. BLACKALL. Dau. S. 21. Dom. Housekeeper (at home). Ryde, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday March 31st 1934. page 9.

**DEATH OF ALD. G.A. BLACKALL, J.P.
OF RYDE.**

We regret to announce the death of **Ald. George Allen BLACKALL, J.P.**, which took place at his home, 35 Swanmore-road, Ryde, on Thursday morning . The end came quite peacefully after ten days' illness at the age of 82. Ald. BLACKALL's health had lately shown signs of deteriorating, but he continued his public work until compelled to take to his bed.

The late Alderman was one of Ryde's best known townsmen, having identified himself with the civil and religious life of the community with unfailing assiduity. For over 40 years he had been associated with the work of the Town Council, being its oldest member in the length of service. That long period commenced in November 1893, when he was elected for the West Ward. In 1910 he was made an alderman, and when the whole council went out of office a year ago under the Review Order he again offered his services to the West Ward and was returned to the new Council, which honoured him by election as one of the first aldermen of the enlarged borough, a position from which he would not have retired until 1936. From 1911 to 1918 he was mayor of the borough, and during his term of office he attended a gathering of mayors at Winchester to commemorate the restoration of the Cathedral. With his wife he took part in the ceremony at the opening of the extension of the Council's waterworks at Knighton in October, 1918. For ten years he was chairman of the Finance Committee and for many years, until the amalgamation, he was chairman of the General Purposes Committee. Other committees to which he had been appointed were the Water, Sanitary and Health, Parks and Amusements, Pier, Fire Brigade, and staff. He was one of the Council's delegates to the Island conference on the supply of electricity and had represented the Council in many other negotiations. He served as a returning officer at numerous elections, and one of his last public duties was to act in that capacity at the recent County Council elections. In 1907 he was made a Justice of the Peace for the borough and was a very regular attendant at the sittings of the Bench.

No one has been more prominently identified with the Free Church life of the town than he. Besides being one of the oldest members, he was an elder of the Congregational Church and hon. secretary of the Local Preachers Association. For many years he was local secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society and had associated himself with the work of the Isle of Wight Gospel Mission and the branch of the League of Nations Union. He was one of the stalwarts of the Ryde and District United Liberal Association being a past chairman and hon. Treasurer. Extremely fond of music, he was chairman of the committee of the Isle of Wight Musical Festival Competition since its inception and was very ready and anxious to assist any movement seeking to advance that art. For many years he was vice-president of the Ryde Philharmonic Society and a regular attendant at their concerts. He was chairman of the committee of Ryde Dispensary and was

formerly a director of the old Ryde Pier Co. and of the Vectis Permanent Investment Building Society. Among his recreations was the game of bowls and he was for many years a member of the Ryde Bowling Club.

The late Alderman came to the Island about the year 1874 as an assistant in the grocer's shop of Mr. David ALLEN, in union-street. Two years later he married Miss KEET, whose father, Mr. J. KEET, was in business as a grocer in High-street, and he started on his own account in Swanmore-road, retiring about 10 years ago. Of a quiet and unassuming nature, he was held in high regard and esteem by the community at large. One of the outstanding features of his likeable character was his extreme courtesy. Although holding tenaciously to his convictions, he was never dogmatic in their advocacy and his speech was always without rancour and unprovocative. In debate he spoke with a quiet assurance, and diplomacy characterised his chairmanships. He had a great fondness for public work and a high conception of his responsibility in any office he undertook. In all his duties, both of religious and civil nature, he strove with earnest and conscientious endeavour for advancement, and those who have been associated with him in his manifold tasks will cherish the memory of a peace-loving, God-fearing man. Apart from his Council work Ald. BLACKALL's great love was the Musical Festival, which had grown so much in strength, character, and importance under his chairmanship. He gave to that work an immense amount of time and thought, and both in the preparatory stages and in the work of the festival itself he was indefatigable in his efforts to ensure its success.

For a man of his years he was extremely active and his familiar figure will be much missed from the streets of the town and from the councils and the many organisations he served so faithfully and so well. His wife predeceased him two years ago, having passed away on the same day of the year. His son is Dr. A. K. BLACKALL, Mus., Doc., F.R.C.O., and his daughter Mrs POLLARD, wife of Mr. E.W. POLLARD, B.Sc., T.C., and with them deep sympathy will be felt.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday afternoon, following a service in the Congregational Church.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday April 7th 1934. page 9.

**ALD. G.A. BLACKALL, J.P.,
OF RYDE.**

The funeral of Ald. **George Allen BLACKALL**, J.P., of Ryde, whose lamented death was reported last week, took place on Tuesday afternoon. The esteem and regard in which he was held were shown by the large attendance representing the religious, civic, and social life of the town in which he had been so prominent a figure for over 40 years.

The first part of the service was held in the Congregational Church of which he was an Elder. The Rev. J.E. THOMAS, B.A., B.D., until recently the pastor, came from Ross-on Wye to officiate, and was assisted by the Rev. A.C. DURHAM, M.A. (vicar of St. Michael's, Swanmore), and the Rev. D. HENDY-DAVIES, B.A. (congregational minister at Newport), all three taking part in the service. The choir, with Mr. H.J. BOUND at the organ, led the singing of the hymns "The King of love my Shepherd is," and "For all the Saints."

In the course of his address Mr. THOMAS said they were there that afternoon their hearts tender with the sense of loss and, at the same time, with a sense of thanksgiving. Just two years ago their church suffered a heavy loss by the passing of a truly-elect lady, one who was winsome and, he thought he might say, witty and brave, and now her partner in life had followed on. Loss upon loss came to a church as they saw pass away those who had throughout many years shown a true attachment and devotion to it. He should like to be able, although he recognised that the task was well-nigh impossible, to gather up some sort of impression of what their brother was and of the circle in which he moved. He thought that was no place merely for tears, grief, or tribulation, because by the very force of the life that had been lived and the faith they shared they seemed to be uplifted to an atmosphere of true thanksgiving. One of the outstanding characteristics of the late

Ald. BLACKALL was his brightness, vivacity, and buoyancy. Another outstanding feature of his life was the length of his services, and they felt that all his work characterised by amiability and dignity. He was one to whom life seemed to come naturally from day to day. Although he had not lived the whole of his life in Ryde he had spent sufficient of it there for them to think of him as a Ryde man, one who spent himself for that community. They recognised how for years he served as a councillor and alderman and held the highest office the borough could offer him, the position of Mayor. He also served on the magisterial Bench, but that, after all, only just touched the fringe of the work he contrived, somehow without stress or strain, to put into his days, especially during his years of retirement. There was the League of Nations, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Isle of Wight Gospel Mission, the Ryde Dispensary, various building societies, and different movements of that sort. For his great interest in religion generally and in that church they recognised what a great debt they owed to him. His name stood almost at the top of their church roll. In the past years he occupied many offices connected with the church. For many years he was a deacon, and for quite a number of years an Elder. He entered into the work of the church with zeal and devotion, and they did not forget the great work he did preaching in the villages and in regularly drawing up a plan of preachers for the villages. He (the speaker) had the privilege of going out with him to their village stations, especially to Langbridge, and although he had seen him in many varying conditions he did not think he ever saw him more at his best than when he was taking his part among the people to whom he had given good slices of his strength and devotion for many years. In the nearest circles they were glad to think of him as such a faithful partner in life, and such a devoted and understanding father and grandfather. One of his proudest moments was being able to take part with his son at the great musical festival, The Alderman had a great passion for music, and they recognised that for years his presidency over the annual Musical Festival was a contribution of worth to the community. Love and loyalty were very characteristic of him and he (the speaker) could not forget his own personal relationships with him. It was from his pen that he received his first letter inviting him to have anything to do with the church. He also sent him a very gracious letter before he left, and received another letter on the day of his induction to his present church, where on Good Friday, the people rose in silence as a token of their sympathy with the relatives and members of that church. He had now slipped away quietly, as he would have wished to do, and had passed on to that scene he sang about so much and as he (the speaker) veritably believed, he expected as his reward for a life of love.

As the cortege passed out of the church the organist played "O rest in the Lord." The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. A.K. BLACKALL (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. E.W. POLLARD (son-in-law and daughter), the Misses M. E., and H. POLLARD (grand-daughters), Mr. and Mrs. J. STANLEY, and Mr. and Mrs. C.W.H. SPRINGER. The Rev. E. BLACKALL (brother) was unable to attend owing to indisposition.

The local Congregational Church was represented by Ald. G.E. MEARS, J.P. (Elder), Messrs. T.H. SKIPWORTH-HOCKNEY, H.G. JOLLIFFE, D.J. JONES, E.F. MORRIS, R.A. SHAW, and E.W. MARGETTS (deacons), W.R. PINCHARD (church secretary), Leigh THOMAS (church treasurer), W.R. TAYLOR, J.P., and Miss BENTALL (Sunday-school superintendent), The Mayor and Corporation attended in their robes preceded by the town sergeant (Mr. F. BARRETT), bearing the draped mace, with his worship (Ald. E. HAYDEN), was the town clerk (Mr. T.J. FAWDREY), Messrs. SWEETMAN, P. THELLUSSON, E.T. MINTER, and A.E. WEEKS (representing the borough magistracy), J.G. FARDELL (magistrates clerk), Aldermen J.B. PURNELL, and E.C. GOBLE, T. LANDER, Major A. DENNIS and Capt. V.E. PHILLIMORE, C.B., D.S.O., and Councillors Lieut-Col. C.L. ELLERY, A.W. HILL, A.F. WRIGHT, W.S. RUSSELL, H.P. CHIVERTON, F.A. SAUNDERS, S.R. BIRD, A.J. WILLIAMS, H.E. INKER, H.V. TAYLOR, H.A. WOODS, W.F. GAWN, T.F. SHEATH, A.J. FEAKES, J.J. RYDER, W.E. LOWE, B.HILL, and E.C. LOADER, Miss RYAN, Mrs. RYDER, and Mrs.S.R. BIRD (co-opted members), Dr. H. CARPENTER (medical officer), Messrs. B.F. HOLNESS (borough surveyor), C. PURSEY (district surveyor), J. AITCHISON (borough treasurer), A.AINLEY (sanitary inspector), and R. LUGG (pier and amusements superintendent), Ald. A. ANDREWS, J.P., represented Sir Godfrey BARING, Bt., and the Ryde and District Liberal Association, Mr. W.H.P.F. THIRKELL (chairman) and Mr. C.B. HAIR (hon. conductor) represented the Ryde Philharmonic Society, and the I.W. Musical Competition Festival was represented by Messrs. H.W. STUBBINGTON, F.R.C.O., E.A.

ENGLISH, Mus, Bac., C.G. CRAWLEY (Shanklin), G.E. ABRAHAM, M.L. WHITWORTH (Newport), and E. SEARLE, Miss D.WELBY-PRYER, L.R.A.M., Mrs. G.C. BRODIE, J.P., Mrs. KENNY (Ventnor), Miss E. MARRIOTT (Shanklin), Mrs. G.W. COLENUTT, Mrs. SPRINGER, and Mr. G.J. SPRINGER (hon. Secretary). Among others present were Lieut.-Col. S. CHATFIELD-CLARKE (representing the I.W. Liberal Association), the Revs. J.GILLSON GILL (vicar of St. John's), T.MARLOW (Newport-street Methodist), H.G. DRAKE (Baptist), E. NICHOLAS (Congregational Sandown), A.TRIGGS and L. WOODLAND, miss FIRTH (hon secretary), Mrs. DAUBUZ, and Mrs. PERROTT (representing the Ryde District Nursing Association), with Miss HOLMES (superintendent) and Nurses BOLTON, HAYDEN, and GOULDSMITH, Mr. J.T. GRACE (British and Foreign Bible Society), Mr. J.B. COOMBES (Vectis permanent Building Society), Mr. D. WILLCOTT, B.Sc., (representing the Rev. G.A. HILLYARRUSS), Mr. W. RICHARDS (Langbridge Congregational Chapel), Mr. W. WHEELER (Elmfield Congregational Church), Mr. M.A. CAWS (Beulah Sunday-school Seaview), Mrs. E. BARTON (Beulah Chapel, Seaview), Mr. and Mrs. CORBETT (Brading Congregational Church), Mr. E.L. S. HORSBURGH (I.W. branch of the League of Nations Union and the I.W. County Bowling Association), Miss HENRY (hon. Secretary of the Ryde and District Liberal Association), Miss CHRISTIE (Ryde Dispensary), Dr.s K.W.I. MACKENZIE and ROBERSON DAY, Mr. A. DALLIMORE (Baptist church), Messrs. W.G. CUTMORE (Messrs. UPWARD and RICH), A.J. KENT, Shanklin (I.W. Grocers' Association), W.G. BOWLEY (post-master), A.L.BROWNE (National provincial bank), H.J. EVANS (N.S.P.C.C.), R. LOFTS, A. BEVIS, O. JAMES, C.J. JACOBS, J.R. DIXON, D. PALMER, S. DARK, G.H. FRENCH, A. BLACKBURN, G.R. BARRETT, Newport (I.W. Organists; Association), G.W. COLENUTT, F.G.S., R.F. GRINSTEAD, G. ROWE, F. WOODFORD, A.E. WILLIAMSON, R.H. TOOGOOD (borough organist), F.V. GREEN, G. BALLANTYNE, C.C., C.A. LOCKE, A.J. NORMAN (hon secretary of Ryde Bowling Club), C. LANGDON, A.P. JAMES, J.H. DOWN, F.C. CHEESEWRIGHT, A.J. HOLMES, S. DORE, W.J. LANKASTER, F. JONES, A. GIBSON, C. WARNE, E. CRABBE, W. SHACKLETON, A.J. BURDEN, H. SAVILL, and W. RAYNER (Ryde pier staff), W.J. JENNINGS, H.M. EAMES, E.W. JENKINS, F. TAYLOR (Ryde Municipal Orchestra); H. CARPENTER, J. GALLOWAY, F.T. ROBINSON, and D. McVINISH, Mrs and Mrs.SOTHCOTT, Newport (representing Mr. E. SOTHCOTT, the former town sergeant), Mr and Mrs. C. LIFE, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. HEWITT, Mr. and Mrs. H. COOK, Mrs. STROUD, Mrs. EARWICKER (representing Mrs. LEWIS), Miss BURFORD, Miss CHESSELL, Mrs. E.C. LOADER, Mrs. A. ANDREWS, Mrs. H.E. INKER, Mrs. A.F. WRIGHT, Mrs. A. ROGERS (representing Mr. G.H.V. BONNER), Mrs and Miss MATTHEWS, Mrs. BEE, Mrs. F. BARTON, Madame Maud SANTLEY, Mrs. F. HOLT, Mrs. G.E. MEARS, Mrs. DE LAUNAY, Mrs MARGETTS, Mr and Mrs. L.C. YOUNG, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. WHITE, Mrs. FRANKLIN, Mrs. CONNER, Mrs. And Miss WRIGHT, Miss RICHARDS (Weeks Congregational Church), Mrs W.M. PATON, Mrs. HAPGOOD, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. RHODES, Mr. and Mrs. F.C. GUY, Mr. and Mrs. STANLEY, Miss J. MATTHEWS, Miss MORRIS, Mrs. A.W. HILL, Mrs. B. HILL, Mrs A. WHEELER, Miss COMDEN, Mr. and Mrs S.J. HOSKING, Mrs. BOYCE, Miss M. FEBEN, L.R.A.M., with Inspector H. ROGERS and P.S. PALMER (Ryde section of the Island Constabulary).

The interment was at the Cemetery, the grave being lined with evergreens. The large collection of choice flowers included tributes from the Mayor and Corporation; the deacons and members of the Ryde Congregational Church; the trustees and members of Beulah chapel, Seaview; the Langbridge Congregational Chapel; the Ryde Philharmonic Society; Green-lane Congregational Chapel; Brading Congregational Church; the I.W. Musical Festival; the Ryde Bowling Club; the Ryde Liberal Association; the I.W. County Bowling Association; the Ryde Rowing Club; the Ryde district Nursing Association; and the directors of the Vectis Building Society. Messrs. PURNELL and PURNELL were the undertakers.