

1871 CENSUS: RG10/1165. folio 61. page 1.
Address: 7 Brigstocke Terrace, Ryde, IW.

William Edward RATCLIFFE. Head. Mar. 50. Solicitor Landowner. Ashbourne, Derbyshire.
Elizabeth Mayhew RATCLIFFE. Wife. Mar. 46. Solicitors wife. Highbury Grove, Middx.
Julia Sarah RATCLIFFE. Dau. Unmarried. 21. Solicitors daughter. Eastbourne, Middx.
Jane DAVIS. Servant. Un. 30. Cook Housekeeper Domestic Servant. Cowes, IW.
Alice SMYTHERS. Servant. Un. 18. Housemaid Domestic Servant. Ryde, IW.

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1024. folio 78. page 13.
Address: Copsefield, Spencer-road, Ryde, IW.

William E. RATCLIFFE. Head. M. 80. Solicitor (employer). Ashbourne, Derbyshire.
Elizabeth RATCLIFFE. Wife. M. 78. Highbury, London, Middx.
Edgar R. RATCLIFFE. Son. S. 40. Solicitor (own account). Ryde, IW.
Gerald W. M. RATCLIFFE. Grandson. S. 13. Student (own account). Asheys, IW.
Rosa RATCLIFFE. Dau-in-law. M. 40. Winchester, Hants.
Eliza BYFORD. Serv. S. 40. Ladysmaid Domestic. Braintree, Essex.
Alice M. WHITE. Serv. S. 25. Housekeeper Domestic. Cerne Abbot, Dorset.
Alice M. MARSHALL. Serv. S. 25. Parlourmaid Domestic. Newport, IW.
Priscilla M. B. BEALE. Serv. S. 25. Housemaid Domestic. Binstead, Hants.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday June 25th, 1908 page 5.

DEATH OF MR. W.E. RATCLIFFE.

We regret to record the death of **MR. W.E. RATCLIFFE**, which took place at his residence, Copsefield, Spencer-road, on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased gentleman was well-known and highly respected and up to a few months ago was actively engaged in his professional duties as a solicitor. Had he lived until Saturday next he would be 88 years of age. The late Mr. RATCLIFFE took very little interest in affairs, but for a period represented one of the Ryde divisions of the County Council. He was a solicitor and formerly secretary to the Pier Company.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday June 27th 1908. page 5.

DEATH OF MR. W.E. RATCLIFFE.

Many residents of the Isle of Wight will have heard with deep regret of the death of Mr. **William Edward RATCLIFFE** which occurred in his 88th year at his residence Copsefield, Ryde on Tuesday morning Mr. RATCLIFFE was the oldest solicitor in Island, and one of the oldest practicing solicitors in the country. His death was not altogether unexpected as he had been in declining health for some little time, though he retained his faculties to a wonderful extent considering his great age. He was born on the 27th June, 1820, so that if he had lived until Saturday he would have entered his 89th year. Mr. Ratcliffe was the son of Mr. Thomas Wilkinson RATCLIFFE, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, and his mother, Miss Sarah BARKER BARNES, was the daughter of Major BARNES, and came from a well known Manchester family. The deceased gentleman was educated at St. Elizabeth College, Guernsey, which in those days enjoyed a wide reputation.

In 1841 he was admitted as a solicitor and for nine years he practiced in London. He then, in 1850, came to Ryde and entered into partnership with Mr. COLE the surviving partner of the firm of Messrs. COLE and RUSSELL, solicitors. Mr. RUSSELL had not long previously lost his life through being accidentally thrown from his trap while driving from Sandown.

Not long after Mr. RATCLIFFE had joined the firm, Mr. COLE died, and the manner of his death created much feeling at the time. During a parliamentary election in 1851, when political feeling had run very high, he was assaulted by a mob of roughs in Brigstocke Terrace, and in the melee he was struck on the head with a brick. He managed to get to his home, but died later from shock, resulting from the injuries and the excitement he had undergone. Mr. RATCLIFFE was then left the surviving partner, and he carried on the business until the time of his death. One of his first duties in Ryde was in connection with the I.W. Ferry Act, in which he was opposed to Mr. Thomas WEBSTER, the father of Lord ALVERSTONE, the Lord Chief Justice. He was also solicitor to the Ryde Pier Company, to the Ryde Gas Company, and he has been honorary solicitor to the Queen Victoria Yacht Club since 1850.

Mr. RATCLIFFE never took any great part in public life, but in 1892 he successfully contested the north-western division of Ryde in the County Council election and he faithfully discharged his duties as a councillor for three years. He did not, we believe, serve on any other public body, though he was many times pressed to allow himself to be nominated for The Town Council. Though he did not come prominently forward in municipal matters, he had nevertheless a great deal of influence in the town, and he was universally esteemed and respected.

It was not long ago that he had the felicity of celebrating his golden wedding, but that event was followed by the death of Mrs. RATCLIFFE, and later of that of his eldest son. These bereavements affected him very deeply, and occurring as they did in advanced life, without doubt brought about the breakdown in health, which resulted in his death. Mr. RATCLIFFE was at all times the most courteous and kindly of men. Indeed he may be said to be one of that type of English gentlemen which belonged to another generation strict in the observance of those duties which devolved upon him, and honourable in all things.

He was one of those who took a considerable part in establishing Ryde Working Men's Conservative and Unionist Club. When the club was started he drew up the leases and assisted in the legal work without charge. He was also a well-known Freemason and was a P.M. of Ryde Lodge 698.

The funeral will take place to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon. The first portion of the service will be at St. Thomas' Church at 2.15.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday July 4th, 1908.

THE LATE MR. W.E. RATCLIFFE.

The funeral of the late Mr. **Wm. Edward RATCLIFFE**, of Copsfield, Ryde, who died on Tuesday, in last week, in his 88th year, took place on Saturday. The first portion of the service was at St. Thomas's Church, where the deceased gentleman was a regular attendant for many years the officiating clergy being the Ven. Archdeacon ROBINSON, the Rev. W. H. Earle WELBY, M.A., and the Rev. C. Rhodes HALL, M.A. As was to have been expected there was a large attendance at the church and at the cemetery. The remains were met at the church door by the clergy, who preceded them up the aisle. At the close of the service in the church the organist, Mr. Wm. TEAGUE, played Chopin's "Marche Funebre." The hearse bearing the coffin, which was almost concealed by the most beautiful flowers, was preceded by a number of members of the two Ryde Lodges of Freemasons wearing sprigs of acacia, and followed by a large number of local residents. The grave was lined with palm and flowers, and when the coffin had been deposited in its resting place each Freemason dropped his sprig of acacia into the grave. The Burgee of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club was placed on the coffin.

The chief mourners were: Mr. R.S. RATCLIFFE, Mr. H.C. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. E.R. RATCLIFFE (sons), Mrs. H.B. LE MOTTEE (daughter), Mrs. E.F. RATCLIFFE (daughter-in-law), Col. LE MOTTEE Capt. Arthur MITCHELL, and Mr. Gerald RATCLIFFE (grandsons), Mr. Kinear HANCOCK, Mr. W. PLAYER BRIGSTOCKE, Mr. G.H. CONQUEST, Mr. Christopher MAYHEW, Mr. Fredk. SHOTTER, Mr. Henry WEEKS, Mr. QUNNICLIFFE, Mr. F.C. ADAMS, and Mr. T. POPE.

The Ryde Masonic Lodges were represented by Dr. PRIDMORE (W.M. No. 698), Mr. F. SHOTTER (W.M.No. 175), Mr. W.H. RIDDETT, Major ELLERY, Mr. H .G. NUTT, Dr. PRESTON, Mr. F.F. FARRAND, Mr. A.E.COOMBES, Mr. Francis TURNER, Mr. H.J. OSBORNE, Mr. J. DURRANT, Mr. E.R. OSBORNE, Major C. SWEETMAN, Mr. M. WILLIS, Mr. BLACKBURN, and Mr. A.J. HARTNALL.

Amongst others present were the Mayor (Ald. G.E. MEARS), General FETHERSTONHAUGH, C.B., Capt. R.M. ALEXANDER, Mr. A. TATTNALL, the Rev. W.H. RICHARDS, Capt. Hugh MEARES, Col. F.C. DASHWOOD, Mr. J. FARDELL, Mr. George FARDELL, Mr. W.H.P.F. THIRKELL, Mr .J.B. PURNELL , Mr. E. GROVES, Mr. J.H.LEAL, Mr. A. WOODS, Mr.H. SWEETMAN, Mr. J.I. BARTON, Mr. J.E. BREBNER, Mr. C.G. VINCENT, Mr. C.W. VINCENT, Mr. Sapte BLAKE, Mr. C.B. TRITTON, Mr. P.T. CHIVERTON the Rev. W.M. HANBURY, Mr. E.E. PETERS, Major WILLIAMS, Capt. BYNG, Mr.J. LOWE, Mr. H.P. CHIVERTON, Mr. H.A. COOMES, Mr. E. HOOPER, Mr. F. MORRANT, Mr. J.T. HARVEY, Mr. F.N. BRODERICK, Mr. C. LOADER, Mr. C.H. COLLIS, Mr. A. LOCKE, Mr. E. WILSON, Mr. L. TUFFNELL, Mr. J.F. LOADER, Mr. R.A.PADMORE, Mr. J. ELDRIDGE, Mr. C. STAINER, Mr. C.H. STOCKS, Mr W. LAMBERT, Mr. H.HAIR, and Mr. J. MACKMIN.

Floral tributes were sent from: Stanhope, Florry, Bertie and Edgar; Rose Bertie and Kate; Col. and Mrs. LE MOTTEE; Mabelle, Jack and Helene; Gordon Arthur and Dolly; Viola, Gerald and Kathleen; Effie John, Geoff and Hugh; Sybil, Nugent and Roy; Mrs. Henry RATCLIFFE; Miss RATCLIFFE, Kinear HANCOCK; Mrs.Thomas RATCLIFFE; Rev. and Mrs. RAINIER; Capt. And Mrs. LOVELL; the Misses GREGORY; Dr. and Mrs. ARNOLD; Dr. and Mrs. MAYHEW; Mrs. MCQUEEN; Hayward, Mabel and Amy; Tom POPE; Mr. WEEKS; Mr. and Mrs. SHOTTER and family. The Misses HUSSEY; Mrs. Lewis LEEDS; Miss Sylvia LEEDS; Mrs. and Miss WADE; Major and Mrs. GIBSON; Mr. and Mrs. SICHELL; Mr. HUTT; Mr. and Mrs.FRYER; Miss MORANT; Miss Ida LEEDS; Mr. and Mts. DOBREE; Mrs. R. and Katie PADDAY; Mrs. Arthur DANIELL; Miss CASS; Mr.and Mrs.. MORRANT; Col. and Mrs. CRADOCK; Mrs. BOGER; Mr. and Mrs. W.P. BRIGSTOCKE; Mrs. TATTNALL; Rev. and Mrs. WELBY; Mrs. MEARES; Nurse MAGEE; Mr. and Mrs. MORRIS; Mrs. RUTHERFORD; Mrs. McCLEOD and Ethel; Messrs. BARTON, CHIVERTON, HOOPER and LOWE; Employees Ryde Pier Co.; Members Ryde Conservative Club; Members Conservative and Unionist Club; Working Men's Club; Ryde Lodge, No. 698; East Medina Lodge, No. 175.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. C. LANGDON.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett, Lydia Jackson & Marilyn Newsham