

WILLIAM GEORGE BARRETT *(a short biography)*

Born 1853 Bicester, Oxfordshire, son of William & Rebecca BARRETT (nee PANTING).

William George came to the Isle of Wight early 1858 with his parents William and Rebecca and younger brother Harry Michael, they took up residence at 1 St. James House, St. James-street, Ryde, they were still listed there on the 1861 census. By this time he had another brother, Robert James, who was born at Ryde. They later moved to a property in Quarry-road, Ryde.

The reason William snr. came to the Island was to work laying the tracks for the Isle of Wight Railway, in preparation for its opening in 1862. William continued his employment at Ryde as a coppersmith and brazier, maintaining the rolling-stock and tracks, eventually transferring to Cowes between 1881 and 1891, to work there.

It is no surprise that all three sons followed their father into working for the Railway Company, **William George** as a tinsmith & engine fitter, Harry Michael as a steam-crane driver and Robert James as an engine driver. The youngest, Robert transferred to the Newport area around the same time as his father moved to Cowes. Harry enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1876, but after 10 years service he returned to the Railway at the Newport depot.

William George BARRETT married Agnes Amelia HOLBROOK 1873.

Harry Michael BARRETT married Emily Jane SIMMONDS 1876.

Robert James BARRETT married Clara Sophia FEBEN 1881.

William George and Agnes had two children, Lily and William, but Lily died at the age of 10 months. Young William went on to join the Royal Navy, later marrying. His family settled in Ryde.

Unfortunately in 1877 **William George** was taken ill himself with Phthisis and after about 11 months illness he died in July 1878. His wife Agnes later married again, to Frank JAMES 1881.

NB Les's direct line connection is through Harry Michael BARRETT (his grandfather)

Researched by
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