

MARRIAGE: June ¼ 1907 (General Registrars ref: Kensington Reg dist. vol 1a. page 307)  
Henry Arthur PAXTON & **Sophia Anna M. SANDERSON**.

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1910 KELLY's DIRECTORY of the Isle of Wight - pages 290 & 307  
**PAXTON** Henry Arthur, Oxford Lo, 85 West-street, Ryde, IW.

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1920 KELLY's DIRECTORY of Hampshire & Isle of Wight - page 716  
**PAXTON** Henry, 83 West-street, Ryde, IW.

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1933 REGISTER OF ELECTORS  
**PAXTON Sophia Anne**, 80 West-street, Ryde, IW.

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ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> 1938.

### **MRS. S.A.M.F. PAXTON**

One of the most outstanding personalities in Ryde has departed with the death on Saturday of Mrs. **Sophia Anne Mackenzie Fowler PAXTON**, of 80 West Street, at the age of 89.

During the 30 years of her residence in the town Mrs. PAXTON was the means of helping hundreds of local people in their times of trouble. The extent of her charitable work is known to few. She preferred to remain behind the scenes, and would not associate herself with any public body. One of her endeavours necessarily came to light is the Paxton Club for men and boys, which she founded in memory of her husband, the late Henry Arthur PAXTON, and which is a flourishing institution at Swanmore. She was always interested in those people whose work attracts little public interest. Many a shop assistant remembers Mrs PAXTON for the help she gave. Another of her interests centred in the railwaymen on the Pier. She often re-furnished the small hut they use at the Pier Head, and provided many a strawberry tea for them.

For 15 years she personally mended every blanket used at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, and saved that institution many pounds. She was a hard working member of the Hospital Sewing Circle, and during the World War she formed a similar circle of about 20 women and girls who met once a week to make clothing for the soldiers at the front.

She spent the greater part of her life in India, and continued in many ways, the funds of the Travan\*ore Mission. daughter of the late Henry FOWLER, of Radderay, Black Isle, Ross-shire, Scotland, she was proud of her Highland ancestry. Her first husband was an Anglo-Indian civil engineer, and after his death she returned to England. Shortly after her marriage to Mr. PAXTON she came to Ryde, and among her first interests was the County Hospital, of which Mr. PAXTON was on the committee. A Presbyterian, by upbringing she became a staunch member of St. Thomas' Church. The late Mr. PAXTON worshipped at St. Michael's Church, Swanmore. A friend to everyone in need, she always preferred to carry out her missions of mercy alone. The good she has done in Ryde will never be public knowledge and the only monument she would have wished is in the hearts of the many she benefited, and by whom she will always be remembered.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the service at the house being conducted by the Rev. H.B. WORTHINGTON incumbent of St. Thomas' Church. Many members of the Paxton Boys Club were present, and they laid a wreath by the graveside in Ryde Cemetery.

The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Charles BERKLEY LOWE (nephew and niece), from Godalming, Surrey, Mrs. PAXTON and Miss PAXTON (Havant), Mr. and Mrs. Colin LEWIS, Mr. BLAGG (solicitor), Mr. Charles PAXTON, Miss M, Williamson (formerly matron at

the County Hospital and a close personal friend), Mr. VICK, for many years a loyal and devoted servant, Mr. and Mrs. E. KIRKE, and Miss P. KIRKE, and Mrs. MELLISH, of Ryde.

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Researched by  
Ann & Les Barrett