

DEATH OF ALD. JAMES JAMES

We deeply regret to record the death of one who has devoted more than 30 years to public life in the town, in the person of Ald. James JAMES, J.P. The deceased Alderman had had several serious illnesses in the last few years, and had not been able to attend the meetings of the Corporation for some months. It was hoped, however, that he was on the road to convalescence, though he did not regain strength so rapidly as he wished. On Thursday week he was able to drive over to Knighton, with the other members of the Corporation, by whom he was warmly welcomed and congratulated. He was out on Thursday, and was about to retire to rest on that night when he was suddenly siezed, and his spirit had departed in a very short time.

Ald. JAMES, who was some 72 years of age, entered the Council in 1876; He became an Alderman in 1892 and was Mayor in 1899. He had been chairman of most of the committees, and at the time of his death presided over the Cemetery Committee. He was a Justice of the Peace for the borough, and had been a County Councillor, member of the Guardians, and overseer. He was an ardent Conservative in politics and had taken a very active part in political work.

The Union Jack was yesterday flying at half mast at the Town Hall. The funeral will take place on Monday, the first part of the service being held at All Saints' Church, at 2.30 p.m.

THE LATE ALD. JAMES JAMES, J.P.

FUNERAL AT RYDE.

The obsequies of the late Ald. James JAMES, J.P. took place on Monday afternoon amidst every demonstration of respect. The opening part of the office for the burial of the dead was said at All Saints Church, Ryde, of which deceased was a sidesman. The arrangements at the church were under the charge of Messrs. J. B. PURNELL and C. J. de LAUNAY, the latter acting as churchwarden in the absence of Major ELLERY. The mourners were Mr. A. JAMES (son), Mr. PALMER (son-in-law), and Mr. D. JAMES (brother).

The body was received at the north door by the clergy (the Revs. A. G. ROBINSON and RHODES HALL), the churchwardens, and the Mayor (Ald. A. J. COOMBES), and Corporation, wearing their robes. Amongst the members and officials present were: Alderman E. GROVES, J.P., S. FOWLER, J.P., A. MILWARD, J.P., and W. LOCKE, Councillors G. BLACKALL, W. DORE, G. E. MEARS, John I. BARTON. G. STROUD, A. HOLMES, F. W. RANDALL, A. B. MARLOW, W. H. THIRKELL, and A. TEAGUE, and Messrs. C. G. VINCENT (Town Clerk), J. MORRIS (borough treasurer), C MATHEW (borough surveyor), C. H. HOLLIS (Deputy Town Clerk), J. T. HARVEY (engineer of waterworks), C. GREENSTREET (Chief Constable), J. ELDRIDGE (inspector of nuisances), and E. SOUTHCOTT (town sergeant).

There were also noticed in the church: Gen. FETHERSTONHAUGH, C.B. Mr. W. Hammond RIDDETT, J.P., Mr. H. H. POLLARD, J.P., C. A., Major C. SWEETMAN, C.C., Capt. STANNEY, Dr. and Mrs. James HARVEY, Mrs. P. COOMBES, Mrs. E. STROUD, Mrs. HOLMES, Mrs. DORE, Mrs. F. MORRATT, Miss MARVIN, Miss COOMBES, Miss B. DASHWOOD, Mr. C. WEBB (Newport) and Messrs. J. F. H. MARSH (representing Mr. John MARSH, Shanklin), J. E. BREBNER, J. G. DUFFETT, sen., GOUGH, C. LOCKE, F. WRIGHT, R. COLENU TT, W. AIRS, P. CHIVERTON, A. J. DIMMICK, T. HALSTED, E. R. OSBORNE, W. SMITH, C. LANGDON, E. C. LOADER, R. STOCKS, G. CRABB, T. S. MELLANBY, S. ATTWOOD, F. FARRAND, G. FARDELL, (representing Mr. J. FARDELL, Clerk to the Borough

Magistrates), G. Bennett WAY, A WOODS. The attendance also included a number of members of Court Astraea A. O. F., of which Court Ald. JAMES was one of the oldest brethren. These comprised Messrs. J. R. WHITNEY (treasurer), and C. H. STOCKS, J. W.

The organist played Chopin's "Marche Funebre" as the body was being carried out of the church. At the Cemetery there were also present Councillor H. SWEETMAN, J.P., the Rev. DEDAMESS, Mr. H. WAITE (chairman of the St. Helen's District Council), and Messrs. E. C. LOADER, and F. W. RANDS. At the conclusion of the office the Vicar, who is an hon. Member of the Court, read the eloquent service of the Foresters.

The flowers were from the deceased's wife, Arthur and Emily, Aggie and Bert, Christine, Jimmie and Evelyn, Ellen, "With deep regret and in memory of our esteemed and faithful co-worker in the Council," the I.W. Conservative Association, Ryde district, all at East Afton, the employes, Ald. LOCKE and family, Mrs. J. DIMMICK and family, and Mr. TREBY.- Messrs. COMBES were the undertakers.

PUBLIC TRIBUTES

At the Ryde Police-court on Monday, the Mayor, on taking his seat, said that before commencing business of the Court he wished to mention that magistrates had met and passed the following resolution: "That we, the justices of the peace for the borough of Ryde, desire to express our deep sense of the great loss the borough has sustained through the death of our esteemed colleague, Mr. Alderman James JAMES; and that the Clerk be instructed to write to Mrs. JAMES conveying our expression of sympathy with her and the family in their sorrow."- Mr. THIRKELL, on behalf of the solicitors practising at the Court, said they wished to associate themselves with the resolution, especially those of them who had the honour of practising before the late Alderman when in the chair the Mayor then occupied.- Mr. H. A. MATTHEWS also expressed concurrences, and from a good many years' knowledge of the late Alderman from a business point of view, said that the Alderman's presence on the Bench always inspired them with the confidence that justice would be done. While his natural kindness prevented him from erring on the side of severity in cases which were quite clear, his experience and shrewdness always assisted him in forming a good and reliable judgement in cases where the facts were in dispute; and his conscientiousness and rectitude were guarantees that he would do what was right without fear or favour.

Immediately after the funeral of Alderman JAMES a special meeting of the Corporation was held, the Mayor presiding and the members who were at the interment being in attendance. His worship announced an apology for absence from Col. HAMILTON, J.P., C.A. He said he felt they would wish to express their deep regret at the loss of their valued colleague whom they had just followed to the grave. He need not remind them of how much the Alderman had done during the past 20 years. He knew well how difficult it would be to fill his place. He had occupied the important office of Mayor of the town, and during his term of service upheld the dignity of the chair and gave satisfaction to the town and Council. He had also been a justice of the peace for nine years and had been connected with many local societies. With such a record of service no words of his were required to eulogise his memory now that he was taken from them. He proposed "That this Council conveys its sincerest expression of sympathy with Mrs. JAMES and the members of the family of the late Ald. JAMES in their deep bereavement, and desires to place on record its appreciation of the long and valuable services given by their late colleague in the interests of the town, especially to give expression to the loss sustained by the Council and the inhabitants of the town generally." - Ald. GROVES seconded and endorsed the kind expressions which the Mayor had made use of. He said he feared that at such times words could not bring much comfort to those bereaved. They must all hope that the widow and family of the late Ald. JAMES would obtain some consolation from happy memories of the past and hope for the future. In him the borough of Ryde had lost a faithful servant. Ald. JAMES loved Ryde and was always willing to do all that lay in his power to advance its best interests. The Council sympathised with him deeply in the illness that overtook him. They missed him very much from their meetings and hoped that he would soon be restored to them again with renewed health and strength. Unfortunately that was not to be. They

would always remember him as one who did his duty faithfully. He was also an example to them for regularity, punctuality, and close attention to business. They must all have been many times struck with the very clear insight he had of difficult questions coming before the Council. They all regretted that they would never see him amongst them any more. Their memory of Ald. JAMES would be that of one who never spared himself in the public service. – Ald. FOWLER spoke of the great shock, which their sudden bereavement had been to them who had so recently met Ald. JAMES at the waterworks. They little thought that they would so soon miss his genial smile and pleasant greeting. They had lost in Ald. JAMES a very valued colleague and a most useful and respected citizen of the town.- Mr. RANDALL expressed the hope that Ald. JAMES’s noble record as a public man would be an incentive to the younger generation to take their share in the public work of the town. That would form the best memorial their colleague could possibly have. They could all ponder with thankfulness and satisfaction on the long and useful career of Ald. JAMES (hear, hear). – Mr. SWEETMAN, who said he had spent more years as colleague in the Council of Ald. JAMES than any other member, spoke of the very great admiration he had always felt for him and of how he had raised himself from the humblest position to that of chief magistrate of the town. He was always a splendid man of business. He had never met any colleague who had a greater grasp of public work or a greater delight in carrying it out. If he were a son of Ald. JAMES he should be exceedingly proud of such a father. They had lost one whom they could not really replace, one of the old order who set an example to the younger men, who said they did not care about representing the town and had not the time to do so. He was anxious to contribute his quota of respect and esteem to the memory of a valued and honoured colleague (hear, hear). – Mr. MEARS likewise associated himself with the vote as having been associated with the late Ald. JAMES in the work of the Council for 15 years. He looked upon the late Alderman as a friend, and said he had often been struck with his grasp of municipal matters, and had felt it an inspiration to talk with him upon them. Whatever their hands found to do let them do it with their might, as the late Alderman invariably did (hear, hear). – The resolution was carried by the members all standing.

Mrs. James JAMES and family return their grateful thanks for kind inquiries and sympathy, also for flowers.- High-street, Ryde.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
Kate MacDonell