

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 15th August 1889

Death Notice.

**WATTS.**- On the 14th inst, at his residence, Summerville, Vernon-Square, The Rev. **J. W. WATTS**, M.A., aged 83 years.

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ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 24th August 1889

**THE LATE REV. J.W. WATTS**

We last week briefly recorded the death on the 14th inst., of the Rev. **J.W. WATTS** who has for the past eight years been resident in Ryde. During that brief period he made many friends, and gained the universal esteem of all those who had the privilege of personal intercourse with him. But it was at Bicester where the deceased gentleman was best known, and the following particulars are quoted from the *Bicester Advertiser*:

"It is with deep regret we have to record the death of The Rev. J.W. WATTS, M.A., late Vicar of Bicester, at his residence, Summerville, Ryde, Isle of Wight, on Wednesday 14th inst. The deceased was the son of Colonel Watts, and was educated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, where he graduated B.A., in 1828, and M.A., in 1838. He was ordained deacon in 1829 by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and licensed to the curacy of St. Werburgh's, Bristol. He was admitted to Priest's orders in 1831. In 1834, he was elected Minister of St. James', Gurnsey, the appointment lasting four years. At the expiration of that period, he was appointed perpetual Curate of Downside Bath. In the year 1843, he was presented to the living of Bicester by Mrs. FRERE, a sister of the late Sir Edward Page TURNER, which he held for upwards of 38 years, and resigned owing to failing health in 1881. He is affectionately remembered in Bicester as an eloquent preacher, a zealous hard working minister, and a faithful friend, who enjoyed the confidence and respect of his parishioners.- When the zealous minister felt compelled by advancing years to resign his parochial charge, the affection and esteem of his parishioners found expression in a testimonial in the form of a very handsomely chased and engraved silver salver, together with a purse of 150 guineas. Upon the salver, beneath the coat-of-arms of the Vicar was the inscription as follows: "Mihi portus coelum. This salver, with a purse of 150 guineas, was presented to the Rev. John Wilson WATTS by his parishioners in the town of Bicester as a small token of their affection and esteem, and of their appreciation of his zealous and unremitting devotion to his duties during a ministry of 38 years. The funeral took place at Ryde, on Tuesday last, at 11.30, and at the same hour a special service was held in Bicester church in honour of his revered and saintly memory."

The funeral took place on Tuesday, at the Ryde cemetery. The service was performed by the Rev. W. H. REDKNAP, M.A., and a large number of friends of the deceased were present. Amongst those following we noticed the Rev DEARSLEY, Mr G. PAYNE, Dr and Mrs JOHNSTONE, Dr and Mrs BEATON, Mr W. H. RIDDETT, Professor SIMONDS, Mr Henry PACK, Mr A. DASHWOOD, Mr J. DOWN, Mr W. JACOBS, Mr T. W. MORPHEY, Mr J. Holt SKINNER and Mrs SKINNER, Mrs and Miss HEWITT, Miss HAWKINS, Miss ELDRIDGE, &c.

The coffin, which was of English oak, with massive brass fittings, was covered with a number of choice wreaths and crosses. The funeral was conducted by Messrs. Coombes, undertakers of Cross street, Ryde.

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(This obituary was also reported in the IW Times 15/8/1889 - no further information)

*NB: We have noted a mistake in the text of the Observer newspaper, whereby the name in relation to the presenting of a salver, was given as John "Wilson" Watts. This should have been William.*

Researched & typed by  
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