

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 2nd Dec 1937

GOLDEN WEDDING
RYDE CUSTOMS VETERAN

Fifty years of happy married life together was celebrated on Monday by **Mr. and Mrs. Thomas SANDALLS**, of St. Wilfred, St. John's-avenue, Ryde. A quiet family gathering marked the occasion, and the two principals were the recipients of numerous congratulations from relatives and friends.

Mr. SANDALLS, a native of Croydon, is 75 years of age and his wife, formerly Miss Lucy Emma PRAGNELL of Godshill, is 76. They were married in 1887 at Christ Church, Sandown, by the Rev. W. STORRS.

Mr. SANDALLS is the last of the Ryde Preventative men who until 1923 were stationed at Ryde Pier Head in the employ of H.M. Customs Service. He served on board the ships of the Union Castle, West India, P. and O, and Cunard Lines. He was in the Batavia when she acted as a troopship after the Egyptian War and later joined Mr. PLATT's s.y. Norseman. His ship was instrumental in saving 120 of the passengers and crew of the ill-fated P. and O. liner Tasmania when wrecked on the Monachi Rocks off the Island of Corsica in 1887. For three years he served on the late Mr. Albert BRASSEY's yacht Czarina and in 1891 he joined H.M.S. Edgar on the quarantine station off the Mother Bank. In 1906, when the quarantine vessels were dispensed with and the duties which they discharged were transferred to H.M. Customs, he was appointed assistant preventative officer at Ryde Pierhead, where he remained. On his retirement he was the last of the original customs officers serving, and he was presented with an eight-day striking clock from his fellow officers. Since then he has spent much of his time in his garden, to which he is devoted. Mr. SANDALLS is one of six surviving members of a family of 11.

Mr. and Mrs. SANDALLS have a son and daughter and two grandsons. Both enjoy remarkably good health, and the best wishes of the community go out to them for many more years of happy companionship.
