

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 11th January 1934

## DEATH OF ALDERMAN E. JAMES

### His Public and Church Life

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Alderman **Edwin JAMES**, which took place at his residence, "The Limes," Newnham Road, Binstead, at noon on Saturday. Alderman JAMES, who was 84 years of age, had been in failing health for some little time, but it was only on Boxing Day that he took to his bed. His death removes a figure prominent in public life and in the Methodist Church for more than half a century. It closes the career of one who rose from the ranks to become "the builder of modern Binstead."

His service on public bodies began with the now extinct Highway Commissioners and when they ceased to function in 1894 he was elected to the Isle of Wight Rural District Council on which he served until 1925. On his retirement he was presented with a set of silver salvers by his fellow members as a mark of appreciation of his services.

In 1904 he became the member for the Binstead division on the County Council, was made an Alderman in 1923, and still held this office at the time of his death, although his active participation in the work of the Council ceased about three years ago owing to failing eye-sight.

A member of the Board of Guardians for many years until 1925, he was particularly interested in this work and spent a good deal of his spare time in cheering the sick and aged. He was one of the first members to be elected on the Binstead Parish Council which came into existence in 1894.

By virtue of his membership of the County Council he was a member of the Local Pensions Committee and one of his last public acts was in connection with this committee. He did much good work in this connection and was always consulted by people in the district with regard to their pension rights.

Some of his most zealous work, however, was done for the ex-Wesleyan cause, not only in Binstead, but in the Island generally, and in the wider sphere of the Methodist District. Island Methodism has lost one of its most trusted and devoted leaders by the death of Alderman JAMES. His name was at the head of the list of circuit lay preachers and was upon every trust document. From 1866 in the old Chapel in Binstead and from 1889 in the present building, he had only been absent on two occasions from the anniversary celebrations, and on one of these occasions he was away at the Conference. As Sunday school superintendent, class-leader and prayer-leader he rendered remarkable service and influenced for good the lives of countless young people. He was the last of an outstanding band of laymen responsible for the erection of the circuit church in Garfield Road and had several times faithfully acted as circuit steward, proving a staunch leader and giving lavishly of his time, thought, and substance for the advance of local Methodism. He was a well-known figure at the District Synod and never missed the May meetings for over 40 years. On many occasions he was elected a delegate to the annual Conference.

Alderman JAMES has been called "the builder of modern Binstead" for the whole of the houses in King's Road, Arnold Road, and the more recent houses in other parts of the village were erected under his supervision. He started in business on his own account at 21 years of age and retired when he was 70. He built more than half a dozen public buildings in the Island, including the High Street (Ryde) Methodist Church, East Cowes Methodist Church, Binstead Methodist

Chapel, Binstead Institute, Sandown Free Library, and the Vectis Steam Laundry. Prior to the war the firm employed nearly 200 men and at one time every officer in the local chapel and most of the workers were on Alderman JAMES' staff. One employee said to a reporter: "I have worked for Alderman JAMES for over 50 years and we have never had a cross word."

His family originally coming from Havenstreet, Alderman JAMES was born at Wootton Bridge on October 10, 1849. Early in life he came to Binstead, with his father, the late Mr. William JAMES, who was connected with the stone quarry in the vicinity. He was married in 1871 to Miss Elizabeth BEVIS, of Bittern, who died in 1929.

In his younger days the late Alderman was very fond of driving a fast trotting cob, which became familiar in the village.

For some years he had been a very generous supporter of the Binstead Horticultural Society and at the time of his death was a vice-president.

The JAMES family have had a long and close connection with the FLEMING Estate and at a recent rent-audit Squire FLEMING noted with pleasure that there were three generations of the family present and thanked the late Alderman for the work which had been done in housing development in Binstead.

Alderman JAMES was always ready to relieve cases of real distress in the village, and his unostentatious generosity resulted in many being tided over difficult times. He was also a great friend to the local school, where he received his education, often giving prizes. In business dealings he had the reputation of being a straightforward and upright man. His sterling Christian character had a great influence in the district, and especially among his employees, by whom he was both liked and respected. The Methodist community in Binstead have lost a great friend and leader, whose place will be very difficult to fill. He was one of the few laymen nowadays who took a real live interest in the work of the church.

Although almost blind of late years, he recognised his friends by the tone of their voices and his was the ever welcoming handshake that greeted visitors to Binstead Chapel.

He leaves two sons and two daughters, with whom much sympathy will be expressed in their irreparable loss.

### **The Funeral**

Eight ministers and clergy took part in the funeral service, which was held at the Methodist Chapel yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon, and was largely attended by members of public bodies and churches with which the deceased had been associated.

The family mourners were : Mr. and Mrs. H. JAMES (son and daughter-in-law), the Rev. W. HUNT FULLER {son-in-law), Mr. A. E. TRAVES (son-in-law), Mr. W.T. JAMES, Mr. E.H.S. JAMES, and Mr.K.E. TRAVES (grandsons), Miss E.D. M. JAMES (grand-daughter), and the Rev. and Mrs. A. TRIGGS.

Among those present were the following : Mr. Arthur ANDREWS, J.P., C.C., vice-chairman (representing Sir Godfrey BARING, Bart., chairman of the I.W.C.C.), Major A. DENNIS, C.C., Mr. L. J. SOUTER, C.C., Mr. A. J. GUTTERIDGE, C.C., Mr. W. THOMPSON, C.C., Mr. G. SNOW, J.P., C.C., Alderman E. T. MINTER, C.C., Mr. J. H. BROWN, C.C., Mr. John DUFTON, Clerk to the I.W.C.C. (representing Alderman G. W. BALL, C.C.), Mr. W.

COULDREY, J.P., C.C., Mr. G. E. MEARS, J.P., C.C., Dr. J. FAIRLEY (County M.O.H.), Mr. A. J. A. HARRIS (County Highways Surveyor), Mr. S.R. COCKS (County Surveyor), Mr. H. E. STRATTON (Clerk to the Isolation Hospital Board), Mr. Avory A. WHITFIELD (Clerk to the R.D.C.), Mr. H. V. TAYLOR, T.C., Mr. A. F. WRIGHT, T.C., Mr. E. W. POLLARD, T.C., and Mrs. POLLARD, Mr. W. E. LOWE, T.C., Mr. E. C. LOADER, T.C., Mr. T. A. CLEAVER, chairman, and Mr. A. E. FLEMING, secretary (representing the Binstead Horticultural Society), Mr. H. B. CULLEN (R.D.C. Sanitary Inspector), Mr. G. ASH and Mr. R. O. Burden (Society Stewards), Mr. W. COOPER (Trustee), Mr. H. OCCOMORE, Mr. W. OCCOMORE, and Mr. A. T. CHAMBERLAIN (Bembridge Methodist Church), Mr. D. WILLOTT (senior Circuit Steward), Mr. C. WHEELER, Mr. H. G. JOLLIFFE, Mr. H. E. WALTER, Mr. O. JAMES, Mr. G. C. ROGERS, Mr. WINDYER MORRIS, Mr. H. GRINHAM (representing Mr. H. GINHAM, senior), Mr. H. SALMON, Mr. D. SQUIBB, Mr. C. LANGDON, Mr. Wallace WHEELER (representing WHEELER, Bros.), Mr. W. BAKER, Mr. E. BARTON, Mr. G. CHIVERTON, Mr. S. F. HOLLIS, Mr. S. RUSSELL, Mr. W. H. ALDERSLADE, Mr. W. E. RANDALL, Mr. H. J. RUSSELL (Havenstreet), Mr. O. J. FEBEN, Mr. H. P. GIBSON, Mr. H. JERVIS, Mr. J. R. FARNWORTH, Mr. E. R. RATCLIFFE, Mr. C. H. BUTCHER, Mr. A. TAYLOR (Sandown), Mr. STAINER (Sandown), Mr. S. HAIR, Mr. P. HOLBROOKE, Mr. C. WHITE (British Legion), Mr. G. VIGER, Mr. H. SALMON, Mr. G. CALLAWAY, Mr. G. PIKE (Nettlestone) Mr. F. HAYLES, Mr. A. STROUD, Mr. H. BARTON, Mr. H. PLUMBLEY, Mr. F. HAYTER (Wootton), Mr. A. J. GALE, Mr. and Mrs. T. MOULAND, Mr. and Mrs. A. BLACKBURN, Mr. and Mrs. COLLIS, Mr. and Mrs. J. HARBOUR, Mrs. K. E. MERRILL and Mr. C. MERRILL, Mr. and Mrs. W.B. HERRINGTON, Mr. and Mrs. C. RUSSELL, Mr. and Mrs. BOYCE, Mr. and Mrs. WITHENSHAW, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. HEWITT, Mr. and Mrs. W. GLEDHILL, Mrs. SNELL, Mrs. H. GUY, Mrs. Ogden TAYLOR, Mrs. E. BARTON (representing Mrs. STANNARD), Mrs. A. WHEELER, Mrs. BEVIS, Mrs. WILLOTT, Mrs. LOWEN, Mrs. F. HAYLES, Mrs. ESSON, Mrs. VINE, Mrs. A. L. FUTCHER, Mrs. HILLYAR-RUSS, Mrs. G. P. TAYLOR] Mrs. OAKES, Mrs. E. WHEELER, Mrs. J. JAMES, Mrs. SOTHCOTT, Mrs. HOBBS (Ryde) Mrs. BUTCHER, Mrs. REDMAN, Mrs. SATCHELL, Mrs. MEW, Mrs. W. READ, Mrs. W. WOOD, Mrs. PEARSON, Mr. E. BROWN, Miss K. GALLOP, Miss COOMBES, Miss E. W. WHITE, the Misses C. and P. FROGBROOKE (Sandown), Miss JERRAM, (representing Mrs. JERRAM), the Misses FEAST, Miss MATTHEWS, of Seaview (Circuit Secretary), Miss C. GREENHAM.

The bearers were Messrs. W. H. JOLLIFFE, E. WHEELER, and R. TRAVES (Methodist Chapel), and Messrs. W. MACKETT, F. BUCKETT and W. BOURNE (employees). Mr. A. HAYDEN (one of the oldest employees) led the funeral procession, and the other members of the staff present were Messrs. C. SQUIBB, F. FAIRALL, J. C. STAY F. WICKETT and P. HOLBROOKE.

The officiating ministers and clergy were the Revs. G. A. HILLYAR-RUSS (Superintendent Minister), F. J. BREWER (District Synod), J. S. CORLETT (Sandown), J. Evelyn THOMAS, H. G. DRAKE, C. SUMNER STOOKS (Vicar of Binstead), F. J. SMITH, and H. PARSONS (Ventnor).

Mr. Walter JOLLIFFE at the organ played as the congregation were assembling Handel's "Largo," "I know that my Redeemer liveth" and "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn). The hymns were "Rock of Ages" and "Abide with Me" (two of deceased's favourites). Psalm 23 was chanted. As the cortege left the church "For all the Saints" was played.

In the course of an eloquent address, the Rev. G. A. HILLYAR-RUSS said that Alderman JAMES was a good and faithful public servant and had served the cause of Methodism with a simple hearted devotion. He was an example of a high faith and certain spiritual strength. The name of Alderman JAMES would go down to posterity carrying with it associations of combined

reverence, admiration, and love. Mr. HILLYAR-RUSS then quoted from a letter which he had received from the chairman of the District (the Rev. A. J. CONIBEAR). It read : " Our esteemed and faithful old friend will be greatly missed. Such loyal and high-minded personalities are all too few in church life to-day but we thank God for men like Alderman JAMES and trust Him to raise up for us an ever-increasing number of successors to such worthy fathers in His Israel. I bow my head and pay my respects to the dear and beloved veteran, Alderman JAMES, of Binstead."

The interment was in an evergreen lined grave next to the deceased's wife's in the Binstead Cemetery. At the close of the ceremony. those present sang " When He comes, our Glorious King," with which the late Alderman; invariably closed his prayer meetings.

There were nearly 50 wreaths, including tributes from the following: the Binstead Clubs, Lower Green Methodist Church, St. Helens, Methodist Church, Binstead, Bembridge Methodist Church, Seaview Methodist Church, Trustees of Binstead Church, Trustees of the Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Sunday School Teachers and Scholars of the Methodist Sunday school, Binstead, Binstead Horticultural Society, employees, employees at the Farm, and Ted (chauffeur).

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Researched & typed by  
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