

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 19th December 1935

**DEATH OF
MR. W. H. P. F. THIRKELL**

Twice Mayor of the Borough

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Mr. **William Percy Fairclough THIRKELL**, which occurred at his residence, Hylton, Pellhurst Road, Ryde, on Monday evening. Mr. THIRKELL, who was 77 years of age, had been in active practice as a solicitor in the town for over half a century, and was also prominent in public life, having twice filled the office of Mayor of the Borough.

A native of Durham, where he was educated at Kepier Grammar School, Mr. THIRKELL came to Ryde about 1882, soon after he had qualified as a solicitor, and was for a year in partnership with the late Mr. Richard URRY. After setting up on his own he practised in local Police Courts and County Courts for many years. In 1915 he became Acting Deputy Coroner for the Island, and held that office in 1934, when he resigned after his illness.

He became a member of the Town Council in 1894, having returned unopposed in the West Ward, and in 1912 he was elected an Alderman. In 1919 he became Mayor of Ryde, and during his term of office he received the King, the Duke of York and Princess Mary when they paid a visit to the town. He again served in the office of Chief Magistrate from 1926 to 1927. He severed his connection with the Council after almost forty years of valuable and useful service in 1933, when he decided, on the dissolution of the old Town Council in consequence of the extension of the Borough, not to seek election to the new body. At the last meeting of the old Council, when his decision was made known, tribute was paid to him which testified the esteem in which his old colleagues held him.

Mr. THIRKELL was keenly interested in the work of the County Hospital, being a member of the Committee, and he was a former President of the Isle of Wight Law Society.

From 1886 to 1889 Mr. THIRKELL served as churchwarden at the Parish Church, when their duties included administration of the Poor Law. Of late years he had been a prominent supporter of St. Michael's Church. For some years he was a ringer at All Saints' Church.

Two of his greatest hobbies were music and Dickens. In former years he sang in the choir of the Ryde Philharmonic Society, and he always maintained a keen interest in the Society, being Chairman for many years. He was an ardent Dickensian, and was a member of the Dickens Society.

In his youth Mr. THIRKELL was a prominent sportsman. He headed the Ryde batting averages, and was on one occasion invited to play for the County, but business engagements forced him to decline the honour. He was also a member of the Ryde Rowing Club, and a keen cyclist in the early days of cycles.

Mr. THIRKELL was a founder-member of the Ryde Rotary Club, of which he was past-President. He was also a member of the Ryde Club.

He leaves a widow, one son and three daughters, with whom much sympathy has been expressed. A man of upright character, and unflinching courtesy, Mr. THIRKELL's passing is a real loss to the town.

The funeral will take place tomorrow (Friday) at All Saints' Church at 2 p.m.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 27th December 1935

MR. W. H. P. F. THIRKELL
The Funeral

The funeral of the late Mr. **W. P. F. THIRKELL**, whose death we reported last week took

place on Friday at the Parish Church, the service being conducted by the Vicar of Ryde, the Rev. W. Neville MARTIN, who was assisted by the Vicar of St Michael's, the Rev. A. C. DURHAM, the Vicar of Bembridge, the Rev. H. M. HUMPHERY, the Rev. C. HEALD and the Rev. E. J. FORSE.

The mourners were Mrs. THIRKELL (widow), Mr. W. Hylton THIRKELL (son), Mrs. Fred FURNESS, Miss D. E. J. THIRKELL and Miss M. F. THIRKELL (daughters), Mr. W. W. HARVEY and Mr. Alfred FARMER, Mr. Fred FURNESS (son-in-law) and Mr. Beadon GIMBLETT (brother-in-law) were prevented from attending owing to the Island being fog bound.

Among others present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Ryde (Alderman and Mr. DENNIS), Alderman A. WELLESLEY HILL, and A. F. WRIGHT, Councillors H. P. CHIVERTON, F. A. SAUNDERS, A. E. SMITH, H. V. TAYLOR and H. B. HILL, the Town Clerk (Mr. T. J. FAWDRY), Mr. B. F. HOLNESS (Borough Surveyor), and Mr. R. LUGG (Pier and Entertainments Superintendent), representing the Corporation Mr. G. FARDELL (President of the I.W. Law Society), and Mr. T. PETHICK, Mr. H. F. STRATTON (Messrs. STRATTON), Mr. J. G. FARDELL, Mr. F. W. H. COOL, Mr. E. F. WATSON, Mr. P. W. HARMAN, Mr. H. R. PALMER, Mr. R. J. ELDRIDGE, Mr. J. H. BLACK, Mr. C. MERRILL, Mr. H. JARVIS, and Mr. C. W. VINCENT (Isle of Wight Law Society), Mr. A. J. HOLMES (hon. Secretary), Mr. J. B. COOMBES and Mr. F. W. POWELL (representing Ryde Rotary Club), Mr. W. G. BOWLEY (representing Ryde Philharmonic Society), Mr. H. B. FOWLER, Mr. A. L. BROWN, Dr. J. D. DAVIS, Mr. E. P. MARVIN, Mr. G. C. ADAMS, Mr. T. W. KEMP, Mr. C. D. MUCKLOW, Mr. WARD, Mr. J. H. DOWN, Mr. R. H. TOOGOOD, Mr. F. BURTON, Mr. H. BALLARD, Mr. H. COLLYER, Mr. E. RATCLIFFE, Mr. L. C. YOUNG, Mr. and Mrs. WALLACE, Mrs. HEALD, Mrs. R. B. WATTS, Mrs. SAUNDERS, Nurse HOLMES, Miss HEASLOP and Miss HANSFORD.

The wreaths were tributes from the Mayor and Corporation of Ryde, the I.W. Law Society, and the Ryde Philharmonic Society.
