

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1024. folio 80. page 18. Address: Windsor House, St. Thomas-street, Ryde, IW.

Edward SWEETMAN. Head. M. 74. Brewer (employer). Ryde, IW. Elizabeth SWEETMAN. Wife. M. 77. Kingston Blandford, Dorset. Charles SWEETMAN. Son. S. 40. Brewers Assistant. Ryde, IW. Walter SWEETMAN. Son. S. 35. Brewers Assistant. Ryde, IW. Rosetta K. DIMMER. Serv. S. 28. Cook Domestic. Ryde, IW. Lucy E. CURREY. Serv. 56. Trained Nurse. Marylebone, Middx. Bessie F. BRETT. Serv. S. 26. Parlourmaid Domestic. Yaverland, IW.

(Advertisement from the IW Observer Dec 1901)

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday Oct, 17th 1903.page 8.

Death Announcement -

SWEETMAN .. Oct 15th, at Windsor House, Ryde, Edward SWEETMAN aged 76 --- No flowers.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday Oct, 17th 1903.

DEATH OF MR. E. SWEETMAN, Senr

We regret to announce the death, on Thursday, of Mr.Edward SWEETMAN, sen., at his residence, Windsor House, Ryde. Deceased had been ailing for some time, but the end came somewhat suddenly at last. Deceased was one of the oldest, best known, and most successful of the business men of the town. He was a man of sterling integrity, whose word was his bond. For a time he was a member of the Town Council, and he also served as a Guardian of the Poor for some years, but had not taken any active part in public affairs lately.

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ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 17th Oct 1903

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD SWEETMAN

It is with much regret that we record the death of an old and well-known inhabitant, Mr. SWEETMAN of Windsor House, at the age of 76. Mr. SWEETMAN was last out on Saturday week. It was his custom to pay a morning to the Brewery in George Street, and he did so on that day and met several of his old friends on the way, with whom he chatted in a manner that seemed to suggest that he had recovered to a great extent from the attack of jaundice he had some time back. In fact he seemed to be in exceptionally good spirits. On his return home at lunchtime he seemed to have lost his appetite. Subsequently Dr. BUCK was called in and expressed the opinion that Mr. SWEETMAN ought to keep to his bed, and a nurse was engaged for him. As time went on he became rather comatose, but an immediately fatal termination of his illness was not anticipated by his family, and his son, Major. C. SWEETMAN, after visiting his father and chatting with him a short time on Thursday evening, left him for a stroll on the Pier. He dropped into the Pavilion, and was listening to the band, when a messenger told him that a serious change had taken place in the condition of his father. Mr. SWEETMAN passed away painlessly and peacefully, in the presence of one member of his sorrowing family, very suddenly and unexpectedly.

In many respects the late Mr. SWEETMAN was a remarkable man. A native of the town, he had few early advantages but he possessed shrewd business instincts, and indomitable perseverance. Rather more than half a century ago he bought a small brewery in George Street. His beer obtained an excellent reputation, and his business continued to increase. At that time there were a number of

small breweries in the town and a large concern, called The Eagle Brewery, which was under the control of Messrs LAKE. When the last member of that firm passed, away, their business was offered for sale, and was acquired by the late Mr. SWEETMAN, who thus attained to a commanding position in the town, and made his brewery second only to one in the Isle of Wight. Mr. SWEETMAN had been such a strenuous worker in his younger days that it was comparatively late in his life before he could spare time for public service. He, however, was, for some time, a member of the Ryde Town Council, and when the Hants County Council was formed he represented the borough upon it. When the movement for separation commenced, and the Island became a separate administrative county, he retired in favour of his son. He was also a member of the Board of Guardians for some years, and took a great interest in that work.

He was not altogether suited to public life, and as he happened to be elected to the Borough Council at the time when feeling ran rather high, the meetings used to unduly excite him. He could not throw off the feelings endangered by heated debate so readily as some of our local legislators appear able to do. He was more sensitive than many people credited him with being. The onslaught upon the licensed houses of the borough, and the selection, of his properties as those licenses to be extinguished, greatly upset him, not so much because of the value of the property assailed, as because it came as a revelation of what some people would do. He had the kindliest feelings towards those with whom he had lived all his life, and he had thought they had felt the same towards him. As he said, he had never knowingly wronged any man, and had worked as hard in his business as anyone, and had gained his position by half a century of legitimate hard work, and to take away licences from properties he had built for the purpose, and which were fit for nothing else, seemed to him not merely unkind but dishonest, and if there was one thing on which Mr.SWEETMAN prided himself, and we believe with justice, it was upon his uprightness and integrity. His illness, we understand, really dated from the anxious time referred to.

We understand that the funeral will be on Monday next, and the first part of the service will take place in St. Thomas' Church, when no doubt many inhabitants will like to show respect to such an old inhabitant, and sympathy with a family who have undoubtedly lost a good and affectionate father.

Researched and typed by-Ann Barrett, Diana Riach and Marilyn Newsham.