

1871 CENSUS: RG10/1167. folio 47. page 37.
Address: St. John's Park, Ryde, IW.

Charles BRETT. Head. Widr. 64. JP for County. Clifton, Somerset.

William CROSBIE. Visitor. Mar. 62. Capt. In Army. Sussex.

Henry CROSBIE. Visitor. Unm. 18. No profession. Emsworth, Hants.

Mrs. W. CROSBIE. Visitor. Mar. 45. No profession. London.

Edward TRIM. Serv. Unm. 30. Butler. St Helens, IW.

Percy HOLLOWAY. Serv. Unm. 22. Footman. North Hyde, Middx.

Elizabeth RUSSELL. Serv. Unm. 36. Housekeeper. Standwich, Somerset.

Elizabeth BICKENER. Visitor Serv. Unm. 35. Lady's Maid. Biddenham, Bedford.

Caroline BILLINGHAM. Serv. Unm. 23. Housemaid. Shalfleet, IW.

Esther VERRALL. Serv. Unm. 32. Cook. Oakley, Surrey.

Eliza CUTHBERT. Serv. Unm. 23. Housemaid. C. Good Hope.

Eliza SALTER. Serv. Unm. 18. Kitchenmaid. Ryde, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday Jan, 3rd, 1878. page. 5.

DEATH OF MR. BRETT.

It frequently pains us when we have to include some good, well known name in our obituary; but we never had a sadder duty than we have now in recording the demise of Mr. **Charles BRETT**, of the Wood, St. John's Park, Ryde ---of whom it may be said that all who knew him deeply deplore their loss. The deceased gentleman had been ailing for some time, and of late has had somewhat frequent illnesses; in this case, few beyond those immediately around him suspected that his end was so near. Only about a fortnight before his death he was out in his carriage, but he was soon after confined to his room, and his strength gradually left him. Last Wednesday morning he remarked to his valet (who has been his faithful attendant ever since he resided in Ryde) that he was afraid his days were numbered, and the valet responded that he was afraid his hours were. Later in the day, day the valet assisted him out of bed, and had only just got him back, when the deceased drew a long breath ---and his spirit had flown ---on the 26th Dec, 1877. The end was sudden, though as we say, not entirely unexpected. Mr. BRETT, however, had exceeded the allotted span of life, being in his 72nd year. In the intervals of his illnesses, he appeared as if many years were yet before him.

**“But whom obedient nature knows his will,
A fly , a grapestone, or a hair can kill.”**

In this sad death, Ryde loses one of its oldest, and most sincerely loved gentlemen ---it is, we believe, somewhere about 50 years ago since Mr. BRETT came to the Island as a visitor, Cowes at that time mostly claiming him . He took a great interest in yachting, and only parted with his vessel quite recently. Succeeding seasons found Mr. BRETT in the Island, but the beauties of Ryde soon won him.

About fifteen years ago, we believe, he decided to settle in Ryde, mainly in the hope of the restoration of his daughter to health; in this desire, however, he was disappointed, for consumption had too firm a hold on her constitution, and death soon ended her sufferings Mr. BRETT sold his London house, and purchased “The Wood,” where he resided until his death. It is of the last 15 years of his life that we naturally know most. He was a hearty-looking man, with an ever genial face; he had a good word and a smile for everyone; but, alas! Another fine specimen of the now rare “fine old English gentleman” is taken from us. He was one of the leaders of the Island society; was always a steward of fashionable public assemblies, and few aristocratic private ones were completed without his lively inspiring presence. In the Ryde ranks he will be especially missed ---there will for many a day be a vacant chair.

Mr. BRETT was not, however, blind to the wants of those below the circle in which he moved --he "ne'er forgot the poor." He was one of the most liberal residents of whom Ryde could boast. His mind as well as his hand was liberality itself. Let a case of distress be but made known, and Mr. BRETT's was the purse to relieve it ---not because he was asked and hardly knew how to say no ---but readily, gladly.

Let a good cause ---anything for the public benefit ---need means, and Mr. BRETT's was the hand to further it. No genuine appeal was ever made in vain to him. Public charities, as well as private sufferers, found him a real friend. No meanness in any form could be chargeable to him. He was not like too many who have means and know not how to use that with which God has blessed them. Mr. BRETT did not restrict his means to providing for his own comfort, and entertaining select circles ---no doubts his wants were supplied, but he did not fool away the surplus; he aimed at doing good, and we believe much peace of mind in experiencing that it is far more blessed to give than to receive. He had money, and he used it like a real man ---a true gentleman ---was open-hearted and open-handed. In lists of wedding presents, the name of Mr. BRETT always figured, and no doubt under this head alone Mr. THURLOW, of Union Street, could run up a pretty total. We believe he always dealt with Mr. THURLOW, ---who had the happiness of being associated with him in liberal and other matters ---we fancy we have heard ever since 1830 ---48 years! ---As far as dealing with local tradesmen is concerned, we must say a word more, Mr. BRETT never went out of the town for a thing he could purchase within it.

He helped to support those amongst whom he lived, and the place in which he found beauty, health, and society. He believed in keeping the place together and prospering it, and was above running away for things in hope of saving sixpence in the pound. He did not purchase all large items at co-operative stores, and expect a local tradesman to send a horse and cart with a bath-brick, cake or black-lead, and so on, and to call for the money ---after waiting six months it would be a prosperous place for it! If Ryde had many such residents it would be a very prosperous place, and such residents, would not be a penny worse off. (Offer local tradesmen large cash orders, and see if they would not supply as cheaply co-op stores.) Then Mr. BRETT not only patronised by his purse, but by his presence. Many were the entertainments "patronised by Chas. BRETT. Esq.," and to which good houses were thereby drawn. Mr. BRETT's table was a hospitable one ---he kept an almost open house, but possibly Liberals were especially welcome, though he was far too liberal minded to limit himself to them. This reminds us of the politics of deceased. He was a Liberal ---a real, genuine Liberal. He was always steadfast to his principals ---advocating progress, civil and religious liberty, &c ---and took a leading part in fighting for them. Though strong for his own side, he was anything but offensive to the other, so that his politic alienated no friendships or hindered the formation of fresh ones. In 1852, he was residing at Westhill, near Titchfield, and was then induced, with Sir George STAUNTON, to become a candidate, for the representation of South Hants, but Mr. COMBE COMPTON and Lord H. CHALMONDELEY were subsequently permitted to walk over the course. He was President of the Ryde District Liberal Working Men's Association, and the members will have a difficulty in finding a successor so worthy ---we fear they will never light on his equal. Nobody will miss him more. On the first announcement of his death there was a general sense of a blank ---indeed in almost every feature of life with which Mr. BRETT was connected there is now a painful vacancy. ---As a Justice of the Peace, Mr. BRETT was all that could be desired; he was an able president ---the senior county magistrate; and, health permitting, was always at his post ---often alone. He was also one of the oldest members of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, and the battery flag floated half-mast high on Tuesday, when

THE FUNERAL

took place. It was supposed that the remains would be removed for interment in the family vault at Kensall Green, but Ryde being appropriately chosen for the place of sepulture, a vault had to be erected in the cemetery, and this work was promptly and satisfactorily performed by Mr. Councillor ELLERY. The funeral cortege left The Wood about 11 .45. The hearse was drawn by four horses, and they and it were plumed. There were four mourning coaches and pairs (with plumes), containing:-

(1) Mr. G. BRETT (son), Major HOARE, Major ANDERSON, and Mr. SHADWELL; (2) Col CRASTER, Mr. POWELL, and the Rev. T. ANDERSON; (3) Mr. ROBINS (solicitor), Mr. P. WILKINSON (architect), Dr. DAVEY, and Mr. Augustus LE MARCHANT; (4) Mr. E. TRIM (deceased's valet), Mr. P. HOLLOWAY (Mr. G BRETT's valet), and Mrs. FUSSELL (housekeeper). Next came the deceased's own carriage drawn by the splendid greys. This, to most sensitive minds, was the most affecting part of the procession. There were the carriage, the horses, the coachmen, and the footman, as usual ---yet not as usual, for the hatbands and the closed windows forcibly reminded one of the occupant who thousands of times had given from the window a cheery, sociable bow, and of the sad reality that he would never again be seen within. ---Following were the closed carriages of the following ten ladies and gentlemen:-

Mrs. DICKSON, Sir Collingwood DICKSON, Bart, Sir Wm. HUTT, Sir John LEES, Bart, Mr. LE MARCHANT, Mr. B. BARROW (Mayor), Mr. George YOUNG, Mr. Edgar RATCLIFFE, Dr. DAVEY, and Mr. RIDLEY. ---The route was down the Park, along the Strand, and Monkton-Street, up Melville-Street, Cross and Lind Streets, and up West Street to the soil which is to hide for ever the mortal remains. Numbers of persons had congregated all along the way, and incessant were the expressions of deep regret at the loss of so loved and in every way liberal-minded a man.

Most of the tradesmen in the town partially closed their establishments, as a mark of respect for the memory of the dead. At the cemetery gates the coffin was placed on the bier and carried to the chapel, preceded by the vicar (the Rev. A. POOLE) reciting part of the service. Behind the mourners came a number of gentlemen and tradesmen who had assembled there. Amongst them were noticed the following; the Mayor of Ryde (Ald. BARROW), Admiral KATON, J. COAPE, H.D. BROWNE, T. DASHWOOD, and G. RENDALL, Esqs ---county and borough magistrates; Sir Collingwood DICKSON, Col. ATHERLEY, Adml. Sir Wm. CLIFFORD, Bart, Sir John LEES, Bart, Col. LEES, Col. TATTNALL, Capt. TATTNALL, R.N., Col. WALLACE, Col. HILL, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Rev. A.J. WADE, Mr. H. GRAY, Mr. H. STONE, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. TUCKER; Alderman COLENUTT, Councillor SWEETMAN; Mr. HOPGOOD (Town Clerk); Mr. NEWMAN (Borough Surveyor); Mr. FLUX (Borough Auditor, &c) Messrs. E. THURLOW, R. COLENUTT, C. RORERTS, W. RIDDETT, M. HOOPER, GURNELL, H. PACK, G. PACK, LOWE, MILLS, MORGAN, REDMAN, DURRANT; also Mr. LAMBERT, of Freshwater.

There were many others whom we did not know, or whose names we had not time to record. After the portion of the service in the chapel, the coffin was removed to the entrance of the vault, where the vicar concluded the service amid the crowd of bared heads. The coffin was beautifully polished oak with elaborate brass mountings, inside was a leaden shell. The breastplate bore the following inscription: " Charles BRETT, J.P., born 3rd March, 1806; died 26th Dec., 1877." The pall was of black velvet, with white silk and black fringe edgings, and on it were two splendid wreaths of white camellies, white hyacinths, lilies of the valley and violets &c. After the coffin had been lowered into the vault, Mrs. FUSSELL, (the deceased's housekeeper for many years) and Mr. E. TRIM, his valet, descended and placed the wreaths on the coffin. This was evidently to them, and to all around, an affecting scene ---the last sad office that could be performed for a good master and real friend. Then came "The last look," and with hundreds of old friends around, on a beautiful first of January morning, with to the fore a charming landscape, the ground closed over "Charles BRETT" ---amid the copious flows of tears from the eyes of not a few ---The funeral arrangements were most satisfactorily carried out by Mr. SIMMONDS, of Cross Street.

Researched and typed by
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