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**FORMER RYDE  
HEADMISTRESS**

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**MISS KATE HOLLIS DIES,  
AGED 94**

One of the few remaining links with the pioneer educational system of the Victorian era was severed by the death, on Friday week, of Miss Kate HOLLIS, aged 94, of Glenross, High Park Road, Ryde. As a teacher whose inspired career began before the turn of the century, and who subsequently became a headmistress, she will be remembered by many Ryde residents, particularly the older citizens, with esteem and affection. With her tuitional skills, allied to sympathetic understanding; by her precept and example; and under conditions far removed from the comparatively even tenor of today's educational system, Miss HOLLIS exercised a wonderful influence on her young charges during their formative and impressionable years.

Miss HOLLIS was born in Ryde and started as a pupil teacher in 1893. It was the custom then to report before 7 a.m, to receive her training before the arrival of the main school later in the morning! In January, 1895, she commenced a more orthodox form of instruction when she entered Salisbury Diocesan Training College. She left the college in July, 1896, with the first of several glowing testimonials that were to come her way during the course of her long and loyal service.

Her first appointment was as assistant mistress at Lymington National Girls' School. In 1898 she was appointed to a similar post in her native Ryde, at St. John's Road Council School. In 1905 she became senior headmistress at the Upper Council School, Ryde.

Miss HOLLIS first became headmistress in 1913 at the National Girls' School, Green Street, Ryde. Three years later girls and boys schools were amalgamated and the establishment then became known as the National School, Ryde, and Miss HOLLIS was termed senior headmistress. In 1922 she was appointed senior mistress of the C.E. Junior School, Ryde, and the following year was promoted headmistress. She retired in 1930 – prematurely, due to ill health caused by the strain of her devoted application to a vocational task.

**86 IN A CLASS**

At one stage of her teaching career Miss HOLLIS had a class of 86. Those were the days, too, of frequent visits by H.M. inspectors to check registers and precise attendances when payments to teachers was related to the progress of the children. Miss HOLLIS used to recount an amusing anecdote concerning a neighbouring school: Before the arrival of an inspector, the pupils were instructed to put up their right hand if they knew the answer to a question – and their left hand if they did not know. Seeing a forest of hands shoot up every time the inspector was duly hoodwinked into thinking that all the class were well-versed!

A frustrating sign of the times was financial hardship; parents would keep their children away from school because they were too proud to reveal that they could not afford to clothe them adequately. To overcome this problem, Miss HOLLIS would often encourage gifts of warm clothing and shoes, and tactfully distribute them to those in need. Scholastically, she had a well-rounded experience, including a fine method of teaching domestic sciences, and her handwriting was a sheer delight. Her special interests however, were music, drama and scripture education. She was a firm believer in a Christian upbringing in school, and her warm personality radiated this aspect in a practical fashion.

Miss HOLLIS was a member of the Royal Society of Teachers. An award gained in her early days was the Archbishop's certificate, first class, in Divinity, on vellum. She was a devoted church worker and had been associated with All Saints' Church, Ryde, all her life. She was formerly in the choir, and also took part in dramatic activities. She lived for many years at Beaumaris, 10 West Street, Ryde, and moved eight years ago to Glencross, a private nursing home, where she was looked after by Mrs. D. O. DRYLAND.

As education and teaching was her whole life, she was extremely pleased when her great-nephew, Peter HOLLIS (after a period of colonial service), graduated; and she would have been particularly proud had she known of his latest appointment – only last week – as headmaster of a large secondary school in Edinburgh. Peter's father, Mr. R. C. HOLLIS, is a retired station master, living at Brading.

Miss HOLLIS's brother, retired Commander Alfred HOLLIS, was the last commanding officer of H.M.S. Victory when she was afloat in the stream, in Portsmouth, prior to going into dry dock. His grandson, Lieutenant-Commander L. R. HOLLIS, of St. Helens followed him into the Service, and after premature retirement with a sight difficulty went to college – which pleased his great-aunt very much – and he is now head of the geography department at Priory Secondary Girls' School. The tradition has extended to the fourth generation, as Commander HOLLIS's son Nigel is at Southampton University, his daughter Rosemary is going to King Alfred's College next session, and his other daughter Jacqueline, a pupil of Sandown Grammar School, also intends to be a teacher.

In a tribute to Miss HOLLIS, Mr. H. W. BARRETT (county education officer) praised her long service to the Island, and stated that her work connected them with a stage in the development of education which now seemed so incredibly remote. Commander HOLLIS was heir to an honourable tradition.

#### LARGE CONGREGATION

There was a large attendance at the funeral service at All Saints' Church on Wednesday. The Rev. J. R. SHAW (vicar of Holy Trinity, Ryde) officiated, in the absence of Canon R. H. GRANGER. The emphasis was on Eastertide and the joyous nature; and the hymns were "Jesus lives" and "Abide with me" (one of Miss HOLLIS's favourites).

The principal mourners were Mr. R. C. HOLLIS (nephew, also representing Mr. Peter HOLLIS, great nephew, who was in Scotland), Mr. and Mrs. C. MOSS (nephew and niece), Lieutenant-Commander L. R. HOLLIS (great-nephew, also representing Mrs. K. HOLLIS), Miss Rosemary HOLLIS (great-great-niece, also representing Nigel HOLLIS, great-great-nephew), Commodore G. GRANT (whose father was a headmaster contemporary of Miss HOLLIS), Mrs. G. GRANT (also representing Madie GRANT and family), Miss Ella SALTER, Mrs. D. O. DRYLAND, Mr. R. SOFTLY, and Mr. and Mrs. F. WHEELER.

There were masses of flowers; and, in addition to those given to St. Vincent's home for the elderly, the surplus was distributed among old people's almshouses in Ryde. Interment was in Ryde Cemetery, where Miss HOLLIS was buried in her mother's grave.

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