

1881 CENSUS: RG11/1179. folio 84. page 22.
Address: Pearl Cottage, Simeon-street, Ryde, IW.

Henry SOUTHCOTT. Head. Mar. 61. Mariner. Ryde, IW.
Mary Ann SOUTHCOTT. Wife. Mar. 59. Ryde, IW.
Ernest SOUTHCOTT. Son. Unm. 24. Mariner. Ryde, IW.
Fanny SOUTHCOTT. Dau. Unm. 21. Ryde, IW.
Thomas SOUTHCOTT. Son. Unm. 19. Coach Painter. Ryde, IW.

note the cottage was the same name as their boat "Pearl"

MARRIAGE: 1882 at the Wesleyan Chapel, Nelson-street, Ryde, IW.
Ernest SOTHCOTT & Mary Ann BOYCE

1891 CENSUS: RG12/891. folio 84. page 7.
Address: Market-street, Ryde, IW.

Ernest SOUTHCOTT. Head. M. 34. Hall Keeper & Town Sergt. Ryde, IW.
Mary A. SOUTHCOTT. Wife. M. 32. Haven-street, IW.
Ada SOUTHCOTT. Dau. 8. Scholar. Ryde, IW.

note discrepancy with spelling of surname on the 1881 and 1891 census.

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1024. folio 82. page 22.
Address: Town Hall Buildings (Rooms), Market-street, Ryde, IW.

Ernest SOTHCOTT. Head. M. 44. Town Sergt & Hall Keeper. Ryde, IW.
Mary A. SOTHCOTT. Wife. M. 42. Haven-street, IW
Ada SOTHCOTT. Dau. S. 18. Ryde, IW.

*In 1911 **Ernest** was still living at the same address with his wife and daughter, his occupation was given as Hall Keeper.*

1920 KELLY's DIRECTORY of Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Page 712 Hall Keeper & Town Sergeant, **Ernest SOTHCOTT**, Town hall.
Page 722 **SOTHCOTT Ernest**, keeper of Town hall & Town sergeant, Town hall, Lind-st., Ryde

1927 KELLY's DIRECTORY of Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Page 728 Town hall, Lind-street, **Ernest SOTHCOTT**, hall keeper & town sergeant.
Page 737 **SOTHCOTT Ernest**, keeper of Town hall & Town sergeant, Town hall, Lind-st., Ryde

1933 REGISTER OF ELECTORS - Elma Cottage, College-road, Newport, IW.
SOTHCOTT Ernest
SOTHCOTT Mary Ann

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thurs 8th Aug 1935

OBITUARY - MR. ERNEST SOTHCOTT

The townspeople of Ryde will learn with regret of the death of Mr. **Ernest SOTHCOTT**, who was for 42 years the hall-keeper and town sergeant of Ryde. Mr. SOTHCOTT was born in Simeon-street in 1856 and in his boyhood and early days was a longshoreman with his father and brothers, taking part in many of the smuggling adventures which were prevalent in those days. The family boat was the "Pearl" which was successful for many years in succession in the Ryde Regatta. His father was the coxswain of the lifeboat Selina and he served in the crew. His narrowest escape was when he was nearly drowned in the great storm of 1884, and was miraculously saved from the Pier.

Later he joined the corporation as a Pier official in the days of the old horse trams. He was appointed Town Sergeant in 1889, when Mr. Isaac BARTON (junior) was in office as Mayor, and during his 13 years service held the position under more than twenty different Mayors of Ryde. He was also in the old volunteer Fire Brigade. During his long term of office he presented Queen Victoria with the Mace on the occasion of the Queen's visit to Ryde in her Diamond Jubilee year. He was also present at the opening of the new Cathedral at Portsmouth and the opening of the new wing of the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital.

He retired in 1931 and went to Newport to live at Elma Cottage, College-road. He and Mrs. SOTHCOTT celebrated their Golden Wedding the following year. The deceased had been in failing health ever since he left Ryde, and his ailing culminated in his death on Sunday.

He leaves a widow and one daughter.

The funeral will take place at the George-street Congregational church at 2.45 p.m. today (Thursday) and the interment will follow at the Cemetery at 3.15.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
Janet McNeal