

**FORMER RYDE MAYOR
ALD. H. V. TAYLOR'S DEATH**

We announce with regret the death, which occurred yesterday at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, of Alderman H. V. TAYLOR, of Wyndcroft, Great Preston Road, Ryde, a senior member of Ryde Town Council, a former mayor, and for many years a leading figure in Island Methodist circles. Ald. TAYLOR underwent an operation three weeks ago and was sufficiently recovered to anticipate leaving the hospital in the next few days, but he died in his sleep from a heart attack. For the last quarter of a century he had made a quiet but valued contribution to the public life of Ryde as town, and for a short period county, councillor and subsequently as a borough alderman. He was most assiduous in his attention to his duties, from which he drew perhaps more enjoyment than any other member of the Corporation. In 1949, after 20 years service, he was rewarded with the mayoralty, an honour which gave him distinct pleasure and which had been well earned. He was the last of the old school of local business men, who as Liberals and Free Churchmen, have down the years given valued civic service in the borough and whose eclipse in later years was perhaps a matter for regret. When the fortunes of his political party waned he, like many other members, gave his support to the Conservatives. He will be remembered as a man of much kindness of heart, sincerity of purpose, and, above all, for his geniality.

Harry Victor TAYLOR was born on February 25th 1874, at Bullen, near Ryde, and was the second and only surviving of three sons of the late Mr. H. P. TAYLOR, who was in business in the borough as a furniture dealer. He attended the former Bettsworth Road School and as a young man took over the business in Green Street of the late Mr. CARTER as a funeral director and in a small way, as builder, and was still head of the firm of H. V. TAYLOR and Son. He was a past president of the I.W. Funeral Directors' Association. Outside of his business until his early fifties his main interest was Methodism. He was a leading member of the former United Methodist Church in Newport Street, where he was chapel steward and for some time circuit steward. For 60 years he had been a local preacher and had regularly conducted Sunday evening services in the East Wight circuit until a few weeks before his death. Since the union of Methodism he had been devoted to the Garfield Road Church, of which he was a trustee and church treasurer until a year or so ago. He was also a trustee of the Ryde Road Methodist Church at Seaview.

Mr. TAYLOR's entry into civic life was in November, 1929, when he was returned as a member of Ryde Town Council for the West Ward. In the Review of County Districts Election in 1933 he lost his seat only for a short period, for, with the selection of the new aldermen, he was returned a month later and had sat continuously since. During his year of office as mayor he welcomed the annual national conference of the Loyal Order of Moose to the borough, when he made a big personal impression on the delegates by a thoughtful address which he delivered. He had been an alderman since June, 1953. Ald. TAYLOR's energies on the council were devoted to public works and to housing, he having been vice-chairman of the Housing Committee. His long Chairmanship of the Cemeteries Committee was of course a position for which, by reason of his business, he was admirably fitted. He was a firm supporter of the proposal to establish an Island crematorium and was the first chairman of the conference of Island burial authorities to discuss the scheme. He served as a county councillor for one of the Ryde divisions for two years shortly after the last war.

His only sporting activity was bowling.

He married first in 1899 Miss Hetty MARCH, of Wootton Bridge, who died in 1938 and by whom he had a son and two daughters, who survive him. His second wife was formerly Mrs. Edith WHEELER, who died in October, 1953.

The funeral service will be at noon on Tuesday at Ryde Methodist Church and will be followed by cremation at Southampton. The ashes will be interred in the family grave at Ryde Cemetery on Wednesday.

Acknowledgment:-

TAYLOR---The family of the late Ald. H. V. TAYLOR, of Ryde, wish to thank Dr. F. R. B. H. KENNEDY, Dr. T. SIM, Mr. A. C. LIESCHING, the house surgeon, matron, sisters, nurses, and staff of

the Beatrice Ward at the I.W. County Hospital for their great kindness and attention to him in his last few weeks. To the Mayor of Ryde, his fellow aldermen, councillors, the town clerk, and his deputy and staff at the town offices for all their great kindness and respect shown to him at the funeral service, and for many years past. To the Rev. C. WOOD and Methodist friends and others. For all letters of sympathy and flowers. Thank you, one and all. Please accept this as the only intimation.

Researched by
Ann Barrett