

BURIED WITH FAMILY AFTER OVER 100 YEARS

The remains of the Rev. **Thomas Saunders GUYER**, Ryde's first resident minister of any denomination, were removed from the former George Street Congregational Church, Ryde, and re-buried recently in the churchyard of Brading United Reformed Church in the grave of his widow and daughters.

Mr. GUYER, who founded five Congregational chapels in the East Wight, died on March 5th, 1846, having spent the whole of his 29 years as a minister at Ryde.

It was his wish to be buried at Binstead beside two of his children who had died in infancy, but the rector refused interment in consecrated ground to a dissenting minister.

When the funeral took place on March 13th, 1846, all the shops in the centre of the town were closed and people lined the pavements.

In sharp contrast was the simple graveside service at Brading last week, conducted by the Rev. R. C. LAMBOURNE, United Reformed Church minister for Brading, Sandown and Shanklin, assisted by the Rev. B. R. H. SPAULL, Ryde United Reformed Church minister, and attended by Miss E. F. SAUNDERS, secretary, and Mr. E. W. JOLLIFFE, elder, representing the Ryde church.

Mr. SPAULL said that Mr. GUYER had exercised a great influence in Ryde during his ministry. That influence continued through the churches he had founded, several of which still survived, and was still felt today.

Messrs. H. V. TAYLOR and Son carried out the task of recovering the remains, which had to be removed from the George Street church following its sale by the United Reformed Church authorities.

A new church is to be opened at Beechgrove, Haylands, towards the end of the summer.
