

## Death of Mr T.H. Midwood (as reported in the Ramsey Courier, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1927)

### Valuable Career of a Most Popular Citizen

On Good Friday morning (April 15, 1927) there passed away one of the most valued and beloved citizens of the town, in the person of Mr Thomas Horsfall Midwood J.P. Mr Midwood, who had reached the age of 68 years, had been ill for over a year, and last summer went to Manchester for special treatment, as a result of which he appeared to be temporarily better; but with the turn of the year he commenced to decline seriously, and lately he was only able to go about in a bath chair, attended by his devoted daughters. He was only kept to bed for two weeks, and during the whole of his illness he was patient and thoughtful of others, as indeed had been characteristic of him all through life.

On Thursday he lost consciousness, and on Good Friday morning at 10.45 he passed peacefully away, surrounded by his wife Alice and children.

Soon the news spread and as townspeople journeyed to their places of worship deep sympathy was felt for Mrs Midwood and her family, and it was recognised that the whole community has lost a true and noble character.

Mr Midwood was born in Ramsey, and was the son of the late Mr Chas. J. Midwood, who was a member of a Cheshire county family. He spent the early years of his life, after leaving school, in the cotton business in Manchester, but returned to Ramsey when about 20 years of age and commenced business as a photographer on the Promenade, in the premises he has occupied for the past 48 years. His name has been a familiar one in the North of the Island, where he was universally popular.

The name Midwood has for generations been associated with the county of Cheshire. A branch of the family came to the Island and settled at Ramsey. Mr T.H. Midwood's father resided in Mona Street and was married to a Miss Horsfall, who also lived in Ramsey and whose name the deceased gentleman bore.

During his 40 years of business life he has earned the confidence and appreciation of the Manx people in these parts, and that of the great body of visitors to the town, who were attracted by his uniform courtesy and kindness.

His photographs of the Royal group when King George and Queen Mary visited the Island in 1920 were specially commended by their Majesties, and in connection with the TT motorcycle races and other notable events his work and that of his son, Mr Charles Midwood, earned a widespread reputation.

Tom Midwood, as he was affectionately called, was one of 'nature's gentlemen'. Always courteous and pleasant of speech, he was the same in his attitude to rich and poor alike, and all found in him that gentleness of disposition and sympathy of heart which made him easily one of the most popular men in our little community.

At his studio on the Promenade in the summer, year by year, he had literally scores of friends who always came to greet him and his genial smile and good humour were infectious. He contributed in many ways to the pleasure of the visitors who regarded him as a friend.