

Belfast News Letter
17.7.87

Obituary

Mr. J. A. Barr

Mr. James Ainsworth Barr, of Dundrum, has died.

Mr. Barr, 84, was educated at Tonbridge school, and in 1922 joined his father in the Belfast firm of stockbrokers Wm. F. Coates. He was elected a member of the Stock Exchange in 1928, and remained for 53 years until 1981. He was chairman of the Belfast Stock Exchange in 1962.

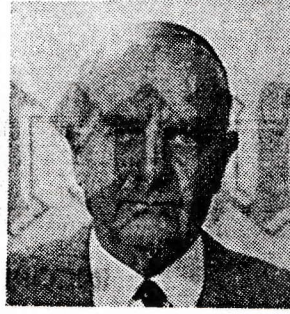
Mr. Barr's chief recreation was golf — he had been a very good, and low-handicap, player. He was a past-captain of the Royal Co. Down Golf Club, of which he had been a member since 1920.

He was a member of the Church of Ireland and served for many years on both the Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod and on the General Synod.

He married in 1955, Phyl, widow of Mr. Kenneth Burrell. She died in 1978, and he is survived by his stepson John.

Member of Stock Exchange: sportsman: churchman

MR. J. A. BARR



himself was a keen sportsman: he played cricket for Irish Schoolboys, and shot at Bisley, but his chief recreation was golf. He was a member of Royal County Down continuously from 1920, played in several Amateur Championships, and captained the Club in 1962.

He was a dedicated member of the Church of Ireland both locally and nationally, serving both on the Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod and on the General Synod.

In 1955 he made a wonderfully happy marriage to Phyl, widow of Kenneth Burrell. On her death in 1978 he moved to Robin Hill, Dundrum, where he led an active retirement: he was a keen supporter of the National Trust and of the Murlough Nature Reserve, where he walked frequently, and donated a hide for bird-watching, which bears his name.

His funeral took place on Friday at St John's Church, Newcastle, where he had read the lesson regularly for many years. It was conducted by the Rev Noel Warren, and attended by a large number of friends, colleagues, and family: it was followed by private cremation at Roselawn, and the ashes will be interred in the cemetery at St Colman's. He is survived by his stepson John and family, and by three nephews, sons of the late Bruce Ainsworth Barr, who also spent much of his life in Newcastle.

Mr James Ainsworth Barr, who died at his Dundrum home on Wednesday, July 14, made a varied contribution to the life of the region over many decades.

He was born in Belfast in 1903. After education in England, at Tonbridge School, he joined his father in the Belfast firm of stockbrokers William F Coates and Co, becoming a member of the Stock Exchange in 1928. For most of his long working life he spent summers and weekends in Newcastle, at his house on the corner of the Tullybrannigan Road — a spot that, when he first knew it, was on the boundary of the town, with no buildings between it and the mountains.

His father, Ainsworth Barr, played at half-back for Ireland, and went on to be President of the IRFU and for many years a selector. His mother, Venie, was active in voluntary organisations, receiving the CBE for her work in the province in World War 1. Jim

Mourne Observer

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