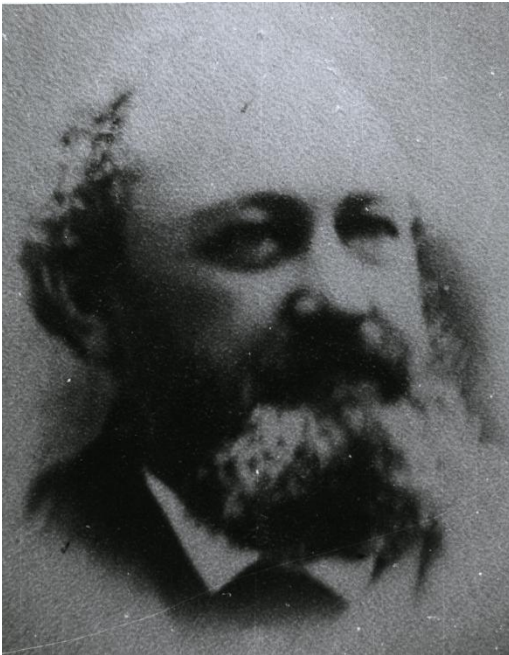




Daniel Day (1814-1893)

Daniel Day was the son of Stephen Day, the stone mason who built Cove Cottage in 1828, located on what is now Belgrave Road and, a few years later, Steephill Castle, where, tragically, Stephen was accidentally killed on 5th July 1832 when a building stone of 7 lbs in weight fell from the scaffolding on to his head. Daniel had by then been working alongside his father, learning the trade, for some four or five years. At the age of just 18, therefore, he found himself the inheritor of the family business. Eventually known always as Daniel Day & Sons, it turned into one of the leading builders in and around the Undercliff. The *Ventnor Red Book* of 1892 described them as: *building contractors, stone and monumental masons, plumbers, painters, undertakers, house and estate agents and valuers*. They also undertook general repairs, were agents for the *Royal Insurance Company* and ran a market garden in Upper Bonchurch where flowers and vegetables were grown for sale. Two years later, in 1894, the national publication *Industrial Great Britain* remarked upon the firm's high reputation, always abreast of modern developments in sanitary science and decorative art, and enjoying the steady support of a wide circle of influential customers. The two pictures below show Daniel himself in later years, together with the entrance to the firm's spacious yards on Shepherd's Lane in Bonchurch (now Bonchurch Village Road). The thatched cottages seen on the left were pulled down in 1910.



Daniel Day married Sarah Canning of Rickling in Essex in April 1840 and they were soon a growing family. However, tragedy never seemed far away. Their first-born son, Francis Thomas, died in 1843, aged just 11 months. Then they lost three daughters (Catherine, Ellen Jane and Alice Ann) to scarlet fever in 1857 while Stephen, their second son, died aged 19 in 1865. Over the years, Daniel acquired land in Bonchurch on which he built houses, several of which became homes for family members. Upon his death in 1893, son Daniel (b. 1875) succeeded to the business.

Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre, Bonchurch image courtesy of Sharon Champion



Ventnor & District Local History Society is a registered charity, working to preserve and record the history of our area and make it available to the public in the Ventnor Heritage Centre.

The Society and Heritage Centre are run and managed by volunteers.

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