

The Tragic End of Mr T. Grace

Mr Thomas Grace (aged 69), a blacksmith, of Priory Road, went upstairs on a Sunday morning to the bath room. Later Miss Winifred Grace saw water coming from under the door. The door was forced, and Mr Grace was discovered in a crouching position in the overflowing bath. Artificial respiration was conducted, but without result. At the inquest on Wednesday Dr Knowlton said that death was due to heart failure. “ a verdict was returned accordingly, and the Coroner and jury expressed sympathy with the relatives. The remains of Mr Grace, who for forty or fifty years has been a useful speaker and preacher among the Primitive methodists and the Temperance bodies of the town, were interred at the Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon. The previous religious ceremony was held at the St Denys Primitive Methodist Chapel. At the Cemetery the ministers assisting were the Revs J T Evans, J Turley (Gillingham) and G Wood. Other present, in addition to the widow and daughters, included Councillor Laughland, Mr G Parker, PLG, the Rev N T Jones Miller, Messrs J Butt, C W Bosworth, H Evans, C Moody, J G Rogers, W Tubbs, W Williams and many others. The wreaths included some from the Bevois Town, St Denys, and Freemantle Primitive Methodists, also one from the Southampton Old Temperance Society, signed by Mr G Parker and Mr Jones Miller, “In appreciation of a useful and beneficial life.” The undertakers were Messrs R Hallum and Son, of St Mary Street.

(Southampton Times 30 May 1914)

Minutes of the Southampton Primitive Methodist Circuit

3 June 1914

Full Board

6. Resolution re our late Bro Thomas Grace

That we heartily record our sense of the deep loss which this circuit has sustained during the quarter by the sudden removal by death of our Bro Thomas Grace at the age of 70 years. Our Bro had been a member and Local Preacher amongst us for more than 50 years “ he was a Trustee for several of our Chapel properties “ a class leader, and for many years he held the position of Circuit Steward. he was known and honoured throughout our District and for a long term of years was District Missionary Treasurer, and has represented the District in Conference on many occasions. he was a most active and loyal official, and did especially reliable service as a pioneer of our Church in its early history in this town and neighbourhood. He knew what it was to take long journeys and to make many and great sacrifices for the sake of the Church and the Christ he loved. He was an able Platform Speaker and rendered valuable and much appreciated service on behalf of Total Abstinence. He was a man of peace, generous in his sympathies, liberal in his gifts and devout in his life. We thank God for his life and for his various ministries in this and other Circuits where his name will be held in lasting honour.

Prepared by Vicky Green