

APPENDIX 4. The Obituary of John William Jones recorded in North Bucks. Times Oct. 1897.

BLETCHLEY

It is with regret that we have to record the death of John Jones, Parish Clerk of St. Mary's Church, who died after a short illness, on Friday morning, October 1st. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Parish Church, the services being conducted by the Rector, the Rev. W. Bennitt, assisted by the Rev. A.C. Webber, who met the corps [sic] at the Churchyard gate. The opening services being taken by the Rector in a very impressive manner. On entering the church the choir were in their stalls awaiting the arrival to show their last token of respect to the deceased. The Rector read the Psalm 39 and the Lesson was read by the Rev. A.C. Webber, after which the choir sang hymn 280, "Days and Moments quickly flying". The cortege then proceeded to leave for the grave, headed by the Rector and Rev. Webber, the choir leading and the organist, Miss Gate, playing the Dead March in *Saul*. On their way to the grave could be heard the muffled tone of the big bell. The remaining portion of the service at the grave side being taken by the Rector after which the choir sang the hymn 199 "The King of Love my Shepherd Is". The cortege then proceeded to take the long and last farewell at the departed, while the big bell again boomed out its solemn tones. There had assembled a large number of friends to pay their last respect to the deceased. There was a large number of wreaths sent by the following:-

Wreath, "In ever loving memory of My Dear Husband from his loving and sorrowing Wife"; wreath, "In ever loving memory of Dear Dad from his loving but absent boys George and Will"; wreath, "In ever loving memory of Dear Dad from his loving girls, Lou, Sadie and Lena"; cross, "With sincere sympathy and deepest regret from his son-in-law Cyrus Wallis"; cross, "In memory of our Dear Brother, from Tom, and Jane"; wreath "In loving remembrance of my Dear Uncle, from his affectionate niece, M. A. Cook"; wreath "With love and kindest sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. J. Garner"; wreath "With Mr and Mrs Farden's deepest sympathy"; cross, "With deepest sympathy from Bletchley Rectory"; wreath "With deepest sympathy from Mr and Mrs Val. Sear"; wreath "In deepest sympathy from the members of Bletchley Choir"; cross "In kind remembrance from Mr and Mrs. Collett"; wreath "In deepest sympathy from Miss M. Jones"; wreath "With deepest sympathy from Mrs. Norman Jones"; cross "With Mrs. Farden and Mrs. Bennitt's deepest sympathy"; wreath "With Mr and Mrs. Charles Sear's deepest sympathy"; cross "With sincere sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins"; cross "Mrs. Williams"; cross, "With deepest sympathy from Mrs. Halsey"; cross, "With W. Farden, W. Bennitt, and W. Grace's deepest sympathy". Flowers were kindly sent by Mr. and Mrs. Slark, The Hatch, Bletchley; and Mrs. Snoxell, Park Street, Bletchley.

The coffin was of polished elm, the breast plate bearing the following inscription, "John Jones Died October 1st, Aged 63 years" being supplied by John James of Bletchley.

The deceased leaves a widow and five children to mourn his loss. His widow and three daughters and several other relations followed. The deceased's two sons being away, the eldest one being in India and the youngest at sea. The deepest sympathy is felt by the Parish for the widow and children in their great loss. They have lost a good husband and father; and the Parish has lost a good and faithful parishioner and his place will be hard to fill. On Sunday last the ringers rang a half muffled peel on the bells to show their respect for the deceased. The bells were got ready on the Saturday afternoon by Messrs. Val Sear and A.G. Crane. The services at the church on the Sunday following throughout were of a mournful character, suitable hymns etc. being used. Mrs. Jones wishes to thank the many friends for the respect they have so kindly shown to the deceased and also to herself and children.

A correspondent writes:- The deceased was well known round the district, and better known perhaps to many by the name of "Old John Jones". I will for the interest of your readers give a brief outline of his life as far as I am able. The deceased was a member of the village club, and also secretary from its commencement, it being in existence since April 5th 1874, which he fulfilled in a most satisfactory manner, and as far as the club itself is concerned, has lost a valuable friend and servant. He was also a ringer at the church for 21 years, although of late he has not taken any active part in it, but was always willing to give his assistance when required, and was never omitted to be asked to join the ringers at any of their special gatherings. He was also a member of the choir for 26 years, and has been of valuable assistance to it, he having a good knowledge of music, and will be very much missed; but owing to the last few months he had lost his voice and therefore was unable to take any active part. He was also clerk of the Parish for 11 years being appointed to that office in 1886. He succeeded John Clark who was Parish clerk up to that date. He was also in the army, in the Royal Field Artillery, 11 years and 100 days and got his discharge through being injured, and received a small pension up to his death, his last quarter's pension being due the day he died, the papers coming in the evening for his signature. He was also sub-postman for the district upwards of 14 years at Bletchley Post Office; and last, but not least, he was a good old violin player for over 40 years – and was well know for miles around as "Fiddler Jones", and his merry old face was always welcome wherever he went, his one aim being to add to enjoyment of others, and for his services with the violin he will be greatly missed among the young friends. For the last 12 months one could not help noticing him as he had caught a very violent cold, and thereby had almost lost his voice and could only speak like a whisper; but still for all this he kept on with his daily duties. He was an all-round man; nothing seemed to come amiss for him. He used to fill in all his spare time cleaning and mending watches and clocks etc., and in conclusion, I may say, he has also in addition to his duties as Parish clerk, fulfilled the position as grave digger and singular to say was known to remark at the last one which was the late Mrs. W. Parmeter, he wondered who would be the next, and, alas, it was his own.