

CHELMSFORD CHRONICLE 6 FEBRUARY 1931

DEATH OF JOHN RAYNER OF EAST HANNINGFIELD.

The death occurred on Saturday at Milton Lodge, Baddow Road, Chelmsford, of John Rayner, of the Limes, East Hanningfield. Mr. Rayner who was 74 years of age, underwent a severe operation about two years ago, and never really recovered. He had been practically an invalid ever since. For many years Mr. Rayner carried on business as a builder and contractor at East Hanningfield and was well known and respected over a wide area. His wife died last November. Mr. and Mrs. Rayner had resided for some years at Milton Lodge with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hicks, their son-in-law and only daughter. Mr. Rayner who continued to live there after the passing of his wife, was born at Hanningfield and lived there practically all his life. He took great interest in the parish and was for many years a churchwarden and chairman of the Parish Council. Until three years ago he was a member of the former Chelmsford Board of Guardians and Rural Council. He was a cricket enthusiast and had a wide circle of friends.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral was yesterday at All Saints' Church, East Hanningfield. Many friends were present. Canon Ost officiated. The hymns, "Rock of Ages," and "Abide with me," were sung. Mrs. Pearl was at the organ and played "O rest the Lord." In an address Canon Ost said: "I only knew the late John Rayner for eight years. Doubtless most of you have known him longer than that. During the time I have known him I had many opportunities of feeling the strength of his character and learning to respect and love the man. It seems only a few weeks ago that we were gathered here to pay respect to his life companion. We laid her to rest in the churchyard that she loved so well. We placed her under that beautiful window which is symbolic of all that is beautiful in the Christian faith. We now lay him there by the side of the wife he loved. No life is complete on this side of the bourn; our lives are only complete when we reach the place of the saints above. This life and the life that comes after are united in truth. We pass out, and we meet those who passed before us. That which we have been working for in life will only be completed when we pass yonder. John Rayner was for many years churchwarden in this church. He loved the old church and the new one. It is typical of him that, hearing that the gate of the church was in need of repair, he expressed the wish that it should be mended at his expense. It was only a little thing, but it is the little things that count in life-so few of us get the opportunity to do great ones. We can commend him in faith and assurance to the tender mercy of God." The grave was lined with flowers.

The mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hicks, daughter and son-in-law; Mrs. Stewart, sister; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rayner, brother and sister-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. W. Rayner, nephew and niece; Messrs. F. and J. Rayner, great nephews; Mrs. Smith, niece; Mr. Bert

Rayner, nephew; Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Creasy, Miss D. Creasy, Sister Roberts and Nurse Thompson; Mr. Fred Lock; Miss V. Wright, Mr. H. Samain.

Among others present were: Mr. G. Aukland (representing Messrs. Brown and Sons, Ltd.), Mr. Cecil Bocking, Mr. F. Benson, Mr. W.C. Benson, Mr. F. Cottee, Mr. W. Creasy, Mr. R. Evans, Mr. T. Gowers, Mr. J. Green, Mr. A. J. Gilling (representing Barclays Bank Ltd.), Mrs. Gilling, Mr. F. Holland, Mr. H.E. Howes, A.C.I.I.(for the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society), Mr. W. Hilliard, Mr. C.H. Howard, Mr. F. Linnett, Mr. M. Luckin, Mr. Last, Mr. W. Mawhood, Mr. G.K. Milbank, Dr. Spencer Phillips, Mr. J. Robson, Mr. F. Riches, Mr. H. Stubbings, Mr. W. Sharp, Mr. A.E. Suckling, Mr. Frank Smith, Mr. G. Thorne (representing Messrs. E.L. Hunt Ltd.), Mr. F. Ward, Mr. Hugh Western, Mr. H.F. Watts, Mr. George Wright, Mr. George Wray, Mr. W. Jackson, Mr. F. Banham, Mr. G. Hart, Mrs. Douglas Holder, Mr. F. Holland.

Floral tributes were sent by: Eva and Harvey, "In ever-loving memory"; To dear Grandpa, from Anthony; Tom and Bella; Hannah and Annie; Will and Alice; Frank, Jim and Marjorie; Lottie; Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Creasy and Family; Gypsy and Pat; The Employees; Violet; Mr. and Mrs. S.S. Harding (Epsom); Ivy and Billie (Epsom); Mrs. Joseph Hicks and Maud; Rose and Perc.; Mr. Fred Lock; Mr. F.W. Shead; Mr. Hart, Queenie and Douglas; From the Tenants of the Causeway and News Road, including Mrs. Rogers and Miss Skinner; East Hanningfield Parish Council; The Staff and Scholars, East Hanningfield School; Dr. and Mrs. Spencer Phillips; Canon and Mrs. Ost; Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Wright; Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Green; Miss Algar; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Beale; Mr. and Mrs. Eric Barclay and the Misses Barclay; Mr. and Mrs. W. Fulcher; Mr. W.H. Gardiner and Miss Gardiner; Mr. and Mrs. W. Jackson and Family.

The undertakers were Messrs. A.J. Andrews and Son, 20 Duke Street, Chelmsford.