

Funeral of Captain Henry Ludlow Lopes (1854-1882) at St. Michael's & All Angels, Melksham.

On Friday the remains of Captain Henry Lopes, of the 2nd Battalion, 74th Highlanders, second son of Mr. R. L Lopes, who it will be remembered died at Cairo on the 10th of December, were interred at the Melksham parish churchyard (just to the right of the lychgate in main cemetery). The corpse, encased in a zinc shell, arrived at Portsmouth on Wednesday, on board the "Lusitania," and was brought by rail to Melksham on Thursday morning, for the purpose of being interred in the vault which the bereaved parents have had constructed. During the quarter of a century that Mr. Lopes has resided Sandridge House, no death has previously occurred in his family, hence the necessity of now constructing a vault. The mortal remains of the deceased officer arrived by special train at Melksham shortly before 12 o'clock at noon. A large crowd of people had assembled at the station to witness the arrival, and a body of police was also in attendance. The remains of the deceased were at once removed from the station and placed upon a bier. The coffin was covered with withered wreaths of flowers, which had evidently been placed upon it in Egypt, and these, having been carefully removed, were replaced by others from the members of the family. The two brothers of the deceased, Mr. George Lopes and Mr. Ralph Lopes, accompanied the train, the father, who was very deeply affected, and Sir Massey Lopes, awaited the arrival at the station. A procession was immediately formed, and the cortege moved slowly along the road, followed by a large crowd. The roadside en route was thronged with spectators, and most of the shops were closed, and the usual business entirely suspended. Upon arriving at the Vicarage a momentary halt took place, and the mournful procession was joined Mr. G. L. Lopes (Chippenham) and other members the family, and a few friends. Proceeding thence to the churchyard, the solemn cavalcade was met by the vicar and curate, who turned and preceded the corpse, which was borne into the church, where a most impressive service was held prior to the internment, which took place in the presence hundreds of persons, a sad gloom prevailing over the whole neighbourhood. The polished oak coffin had on it an engraved plate, bearing the simple announcement of the name and age of the deceased.



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