

From the "Southend Standard" – July, 1909.

## **DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. LIONEL GEORGE RANKIN**

Much sympathy is felt with Mr and Mrs Hugh Rankin and family, of South Street, Rochford, in the death of their son, Mr. Lionel George Rankin, which occurred so soon after the marriage of his sister, on Friday, after a lingering illness. Deceased, who was in his thirtieth year, had been suffering for considerable time, and he was attended by Drs Lewis and Watson. The end was not altogether unexpected, although it came suddenly.

The interment, which took place in Stambridge Church yard, was marked by a deep sense of sympathy throughout the town; blinds being drawn, and in some cases businesses suspended for a time. The funeral cortege was met at the entrance to the churchyard by the Revs. F.R.Burnside, A.W.Davies and G.Padfield and before the service in the church commenced, the tenor bell peeled forth its mournful note from the turret.

The body was encased in an elm shell and a coffin of polished elm with massive brass furniture. The whole, including the inscription "Lionel George Rankin; died on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1909, aged 29 years" was hidden by a mass of wreaths and floral tributes. The top of the hearse was likewise covered. The chief mourners were: Mr and Mrs Hugh Rankin, Miss Phyllis Rankin and Miss Daisy Pain; Dr and Mrs E.T.Watson; Miss Jackson and Mr Harold Rankin; Mrs Reynolds; Mrs Nixon; the Nurse; Mr Ernest Rankin; Mr H.N.Pain; Mr F. Gregson; Mr W.Nixon; Dr. Lewis; and Mr Edward Jackson. At the service the hymns "Christ will gather in His Own" and "On the Resurrection morning" were sung, and the Rev. A.W.Davies read a portion of St.Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians. The grave was lined with roses and variegated maple leaves, and as the body was laid in its last resting place the Rev.F.R.Burnside read the committal sentences.

A large number of persons were assembled around the grave, including the employees from the Stambridge Mills, Messrs J. Tabor, A.Steel, A.Stallibrass, H.Meeson, F.Meeson, A.Harrington (Southend), F.W.Gwinn and S.Wood; H.W.Whittingham, C.B.J.Wood (representing Rochford Cricket Club), A.H.Stillwell, and H.W.Smith, etc. The school children drew up in lines in the playground during the service. Wreaths and floral emblems were sent by: Father, Mother, Phyllis and Norman; Edward and Joan; George and Dorothy; G.B.Davis; Dr and Mrs G.R.Watson; employees of Stambridge Mills; Rochford Cricket Club; his nieces, the Misses Rankin; Mr and Mrs Henry Meeson; Mr and Mrs Walter Gwinn, Tom, Bertha, Daisy and Alice; maids and William at 47, Mount Pleasant; Dr. A.C.Lewis; Mr and Mrs E.A.Wedd and family; Edward and Rachel; Mr and Mrs Whittaker Marsden; Herbert, Connie, Gladys and Gertrude; Claude J. Keeping; the Rev. Benjamin Cotton; the Farm employees; "From Dear Nancy"; H and M. Cleveland Smith; Mr and Mrs A.F.Stillwell and family; Miss Cooper; Mr and Mrs James Tabor; Ida; Nurse and Daisy.

The arrangements for the funeral were creditably carried out by Messrs S. And W.Allen, Rochford.