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FUNERAL OF MR. W. STEELE TOMKINS.—
 As was reported last week, the passing of Mr. W. Steele Tomkins, of "The Cottage," Broughton, at the ripe age of 92 years, was heard with a great deal of regret in the village, for by his death Broughton has lost a much respected gentleman whose heart and soul was in the welfare of the neighbourhood. An atmosphere of sorrow was cast over the village on Saturday, when the funeral took place. The church of St. Mary's was filled with mourners and many of the villagers paid their last tribute to the deceased gentleman at the graveside. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. Langdon, a nephew of Mr. Tomkins, who was assisted by Canon E. H. Firth, of Houghton (Rural Dean) and Rev. J. W. Wardle. Among those present in the church were Lady Lever, Admiral Sir Morgan Singer, Dr. and Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Firth, Rev. A. E. B. and Mrs. Leahy (Tytherley), Mrs. Wardle, Major Love and Mr. George Hinwood (representing the Broughton Parish Council), in addition to numerous other friends of the family. While the congregation was assembling the organist, Mr. S. Padwick, played suitable voluntaries. During the impressive service, the psalm commencing "The Lord is my Shepherd," and the hymn, "They whose course on earth is o'er," were feelingly sung. The family mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tomkins, Mr. A. Langdon, Miss Ursula Langdon and Miss Winifred Langdon (nephews and nieces). The coffin, which was of English oak, with bronze fittings, bore the simple inscription, "William Steele Tomkins." The grave was lined with ivy and snowdrops. The bearers were Messrs. A. Shears (gardener), E. Barker (late chauffeur), F. Frampton, J. Davis, W. Prewitt and A. Butcher. A host of choice floral emblems were placed upon the grave, but, as was the case when the burial of Mrs. Steele Tomkins took place, the names of the senders were, with one exception, removed from the tributes. The only wreath to retain its inscription was that from the indoor and outdoor staff at "The Cottage." During the day, the flag on the church was flown at half-mast.



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BROUGHTON'S HISTORY INTERESTINGLY PRESENTED

Those of us who have visited Winchester or Salisbury for pleasure or for business have found time, no doubt, to visit the museums in these towns. If we go to any town or city for a holiday, an interest in the history of that particular place is immediately and somewhat mysteriously evoked. It is rare, however, to be able to study the history of a village in the same way.

Most people have an interest in local history and would willingly show it, provided that a lead was given by someone else who had already done the tedious but necessary research.

Such a lead was given by the Rev. N. G. Powell, of Broughton, who conceived the idea of an exhibition of purely parish history, and carried it through with the help of the Rev. R. E. Langdon. This fascinating collection of items illustrating the local history of the parish of Broughton-cum-Bossington, was open to the public for three days over the weekend, at the Dowse Room, Broughton. Over 200 people visited it excluding a party of senior school children from the Broughton County School.

Credit must go to Mr. Powell for collecting the exhibits and for helping to raise £13/11/- (profits made from entrance and catalogue fees) for the Parish Church Restoration Fund.

Estate maps of Roake Manor (dated 1760, 1791), maps of the whole parish (dated 1790, 1830 and 1839) and a reference to an estate plan where villagers could discover the names of persons who were living on their land in the year 1760, were on view.

A copy of the Deed of Thomas Dowse, made in the 43rd year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I

for the setting up of a school at Broughton, explained why the exhibition room is called the Dowse Room. It was, in fact, the village's first school room.

"Harmony Hall"

A coloured print (dated 1880) of Queenwood College, near Stockbridge, leads the visitor on to discover that before it became a boys' college, it was called Harmony Hall, and was the home of Robert Owen, the socialist. In 1824 Owen sailed for America and there bought a village and 20,000 acres of land, which he named "New Harmony." A constitution was framed in 1826 upon communist principles for the colonists who came to live there, but difficulties arose and in 1828 Owen broke off his connection with the place and returned to England.

In the year 1840 Owen became president of the short-lived community at Queenwood, and although he was not an active member, was suspected of sedition by the first Duke of Wellington, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Hampshire. The headmaster of Queenwood College, Mr. Willmore, perished in the fire which completely destroyed the building in 1902.

Early aeronaut

Recorded in one of the old parish registers is the burial of Thomas South, inventor, who lived at Bossington House for 30