

DEATH OF MRS GRIMES AT BINSTEAD.

We much regret to announce the death of Mrs. Helen Louisa Russell GRIMES, widow of Capt. Hugh E. GRIMES, the South Lancashire Regiment, at her residence Quarrthorpe, Binstead, on Friday week, in her 82nd year. Her passing removes another member of a rapidly declining number of influential Island families, and Binstead has lost a greatly respected resident, who took a kindly interest in village affairs during her over 60 years' residence. Sincerest sympathy is felt with her only daughter, her devoted companion. Born in 1860, at Wellington, New Zealand, she was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert RUSSELL, and grand-daughter of the late Capt. MEIN-SMITH, Surveyor-General to the British Government in New Zealand, one of the first Britishers sent out to the Antopodes. Her mother, who is buried in the family grave at Binstead, was the first British subject to be born in New Zealand. the family returned to this country when Mrs. GRIMES was 12 years old, and made the journey in a sailing ship round Cape Horn, being without sight of land for three months. They came to live at Quarrthorpe. She was married in 1893 at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court, by permission of Queen Victoria. Capt. GRIMES, who died in France in 1933, was a member of the GRIMES family of Coton House, near Rugby. His grandfather, Henry GRIMES, lived for some time at East Dene, Bonchurch, and his infant son is buried in Bonchurch Old Churchyard. A lady of varied interests, Mrs. GRIMES had visited practically every country in Europe. She spoke French, Spanish, Italian, and German fluently. It was her custom to winter abroad until war came. For a considerable period the family had a villa in the south of France. When the Italians declared war on France she was with her daughter in Monte Carlo, but they made their way to St. Jean de Luz and thence to Bayonne. The day before the collapse of France they left for this country in a Dutch steamer with 3000 refugees. The deceased lady and her daughter lost all their personal belongings in France and arrived at Plymouth in June, 1940, since when she has been living at Binstead. In May 1935, when with members of the GRIMES family she attended St. Peter's, Rome, for the canonisation of the English Martyrs Blessed Thomas MORE and John FISHER, her daughter was attending as the 14th direct descendant of Sir Thomas MORE. After the canonisation the family were received in audience by PIUS XI. Among Mrs. GRIMES's friends was the late Lord DUFFERIN and Ava, who was British Ambassador in Rome. Her many interests included sketching and floriculture. She had traversed the Holy Land. She was for some years the president of Binstead Horticultural Society and a member of the Conservative Association. She retained her youthful spirit and her gracious charm to the last. She leaves a daughter, Miss Helen GRIMES.

On Monday, the coffin, on which rested a choice wreath of dahlias from her garden, was taken to Binstead Church, where a private service was conducted by the Rev. C. HEALD, who was the celebrant at a Requiem on Tuesday. The funeral service was of a simple character. The mourners were Miss GRIMES (daughter), Mr. Fed BOGER, Mr. W. TAYLOR (her gardener for 42 years), Mrs. TAYLOR, and Miss STALLARD (housekeeper). Sir Henry and Lady PURVIS-RUSSELL-MONTGOMERY, of Loch Leven, and Col. and Mrs. Grey RUSSELL (cousins) were unavoidably prevented from attending. Among others present were Major C. W. VINCENT, Major J. C. BASSETT, D.S.O., Miss PURCELL, Mrs. C. HEALD, Mrs. Alec MELLOR, Mrs. PERROTT, J.P., Miss PERROTT, Miss MOODY, Capt. J. M. CAMPBELL, the Misses DORRIEN-SMITH and Dr. and Mrs. E. PLAYFAIR. The internment was in the family grave, which was handsomely lined. Many beautiful floral tributes were received.

Mr. E. VENUS was the undertaker.

NB: For further information of the wider family, go to the outside link, to the website created by Lynly Lessels Yates New Zealand