

**Harry Shilham** died 15.07.1945 aged 86

**Stroud News 20.07.1945** (front page)

The death on Sunday following a fall in his garden. some weeks ago, of Mr Harry Shilham aged 86 and a retired gardener, at 14 Spillmans Rd, Rodborough was investigated by Mr Herbert H? (divisional coroner) on Monday at Stroud Police station.

The widow, Mrs Emma Shilham told the coroner that on May 29<sup>th</sup> last her husband was walking in his garden when he fell down. She went to his assistance and with the help of a neighbour got him on his feet. He did not say what had caused him to fall, but she thought he must have stumbled over a stone. Her husband managed to get indoors alright and he continued to walk about. He made no complaints. On the following day, his neck was rather stiff and she also thought he had bruised his leg. He was not able to get about as well as previously.

**Complained of giddiness**

Dr Royal saw him on June 1<sup>st</sup> and told her that her husband had broken his left femur. Since that day and up to the time of his death on Saturday, he had remained in bed. He had enjoyed good health and was able to get about unaided before the accident. He was inclined to be a little clumsy in the garden and on different times had fallen. Dr Royal said he first saw Mr Shilham in 1939 When he complained of giddiness. He attended him on June 4<sup>th</sup> when he concluded that he had fractured the neck of his left femur and he (Dr Royal) gave a gloomy prognosis. Mr Shilham had made a fair recovery and when he last saw him alive on July 10<sup>th</sup>, he appeared to be progressing fairly well. His general state of health, apart from giddiness, was pretty good. In his opinion, the cause of death was myocardial degeneration due to old age and accelerated by a fractured femur.

In recording a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, the coroner said the fall might have followed an attack of giddiness or Mr Shilham might possibly have stumbled over a stone. He expressed sympathy with the widow.

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### **The Funeral**

The funeral took place at Rodborough Church on Wednesday, the service being conducted by the Rev R Robinson of John Street Baptist Church, Stroud, of which deceased was a member.

The principal mourners were Mrs Shilham, widow, Mr & Mrs Stockbridge (son-in-law and daughter) Mr Collins (son-in-law), Mrs Holford (sister), Mrs Cresswell and Miss Mary Collins (grand-daughters), Mr B Davies and Mr F Wall (nephews) and Mrs A wall, niece.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs B Davis and Mrs Dow (nieces) and Mr A. Wall (nephew).

John Street Baptist Church was represented by Mr & Mrs R.G. Redman and deceased fellow workers by Messrs. S.E. White and Mr J.S. Wright.

Neighbours and friends present included Messrs. ? and G. Lusty, Mrs E. Chandler, Mrs Cook, Mr A.H. Blandford, Pte. N. Blandford, Mrs Turner, Mrs Evans, Mrs Niblet, , Mrs R Lusty, Mrs H. Chandler, Mrs Rodway, Mrs Eaton, Mr A.G. Pritchard, Mrs M. Cook, Mrs E. Avery, Mrs Evans (also representing Mrs Willmott), Mr & Mrs Webb and Mrs Ray.

Beautiful floral tributes were sent from the following: Mother, Dora, Jack and Paul: Nell and Frank; Ernie, Audrey and Mary; Stella, Peter and John; Dorothy, Ray and Angela; Pat, Judy and Peter; Lily, John and Kelvin; Gertie and Bernard; Winnie and Fred; Doll, Phyllis and Dick; Winnie and Bert; Florrie and all at Lydney; Friends and Neighbours; Mrs Restall and Miss Rames; Bridget and Lionel?; Ted and John; Mr and Mrs Pritchard; Sarah and Edie.

Mrs Shilham and daughter would like to thank all friends for sympathy and letters of condolence in their sudden and heavy bereavement and for the beautiful flowers. They would also like to thank the doctor and nurse for their services.