

[*Cambridge Daily News*, Saturday 10 May 1902]

Police Funeral
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At Cambridge
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THIS AFTERNOON
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The funeral of P.C. Thompson, of the Borough Police, who died on Sunday, took place this afternoon. It was of an impressive character being conducted on military lines. The comrades of the deceased constable met at the Police station at 1.30, and accompanied by the members of the Borough Fire Brigade, marched to Vicarage[?] terrace, Sturton Street, where Thompson lay. The coffin bier had been brought out of the house, the Police Band under Mr. Miller, commenced the Dead March in "Saul." The order of the procession to the Mill-road Cemetery was Acting Sergt Free, Constables Savidge, Chapman, Cox, Guest, Williamson, Walker, Franklin, Barnes, Dilley, Aworth, Hurst, Witham, and Sergt Simmonds, forming an escort. Next came the band, with Drum-Major Inspector J...¹ at the head. His staff was draped with crape. The hearse, with bearers on each side, followed. Next came the mourning coaches, the Firemen, and the remainder of the Police Force, the rear being brought up by Sergts. Wright and Gates, Acting Inspector Baker, and Chief Contable Holland.² The route to the cemetery was lined by a large number of people, and many were the manifestations of sympathy with the mourners, and in respect for the dead. The service in the chapel and at the graveside was conducted by the Revd. J. Read, curate of St. Matthew's. Following the committal, the band played, in a touching manner, "Abide with Me."

The mourners were Mrs. Thompson widow and her two children,³ Mr. B. Smith (father-in-law), Mr. B. Thompson (brother), Misses Smith (daughters-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Smith. Wreaths were sent 'From the sorrowing wife and family'; 'From father and mother and family to dear Bob'; 'Deepest sympathy from Harry and Sally'; 'From his friends and

¹ Illegible.

² Charles Edward Holland was Chief Constable at least in 1895 and 1912.

³ Alice Thompson; Benjamin Robert and Gertrude Alice.

family'; 'In deepest sympathy from his comrades—A sad farewell'; 'In deep sorrow from his fellow-bandsmen—Oh! for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of the voice that is still'.⁴

The inscription on the coffin, which bore the deceased's helmet and staff, was:

ROBERT JAMES THOMPSON

Died May 10th, 1902.⁵

Aged 30.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Ellis Merry.

⁴ Tennyson: "Break, break, break".

⁵ 10 May 1902 was a Saturday, not Sunday, as said at the start of this article—he died on 4 May, which was a Sunday.