gic End to Cannop Outing

TAL FALL FROM TRAIN

BODY FOUND ON RAILWAY LINE NEAR CREWE

R. JOHN THOMAS DAVIES

Cannop Colliery Outing to Blackpool on Saturday was marred by death of Mr. John Thomas Davies, aged 74, of the Swan Inn, who fell from a train when returning home and was found dead e.

tragedy occurred at Whitmore, between Crewe and Newcastle. ne. Mr. Davies and seven other men missed the excursion train the main party returned and caught a later train. It appears that ken his coat off to rest comfortably, and that, waking from a doze, e outer door of the com- staking it for the inner door r, and walked out unthink- ate.

Scott, of Belle Vue Road, o was in the same compart- rom a sleep to feel a draught, looked to see where it came that the door was open and ssing. Mr. Scott dashed off matter to the guard, who im- ped the train. Mr. Davies's d about six miles back.

of the members of the main arly on Sunday morning to ies that her husband had un and was coming on later, ho were with him had the k of returning with the coat discarded, and in the pockets presents he was bringing lackpool.

QUEST OPENED

was formally opened on Mon- oot Anchor Hotel, Whitmore. ntification was given by Mr. Ruardean, son of deceased. as adjourned until Monday

on the return journey de- ed that it was now Sunday morning, and proposed that any singing they indulged in should be of a suitable nature. Mr. R. Loyshon, one of the party present, led the singing of "Abide with me," and Mr. Davies followed this by singing "It is well with my Soul." This was not long before they gradually yielded to the fatigue of a long day of travel and pleasure, and one by one fell asleep, to be aroused in so tragic a manner a little later.

DECEASED'S CAREER

Mr. Davies was a native of Walford, Herefordshire, where he was born in October, 1857. His parents came to live at Ruardean when he was a small child, and he commenced working in the Forest collieries before he was ten years old. His principal colliery work was done in the steam coal pits. He was for many years at the East Slade Colliery, Ruardean Woodside; later he worked at Messrs. Thomas's "New Pit" on The Pludds, and in 1911 he went to work at Waterloo Colliery. He was a capable workman, widely experienced in the working of the Coleford High Delf seam, and it was on account of his ability that he was appointed an examiner in the colliery. He later became an overman, and was senior overman in point of years of service when he retired in January, 1931. Of a cheery, helpful disposition, he was popular among his fellow workmen and respected and esteemed by his employers.

Mr. Davies was married three times. His first wife, who died in 1918, was Miss Prew, a native of Cheltenham. His second wife, Mrs. Rhoda Cloudley a widow, was a native of Ruardean. She died in 1927, and about three years ago he married Mrs. Smart, hostess of the Swan Inn, Brierley. Three children of the first marriage survive, a son and two daughters. The son, Mr. Frank Davies, is an overman at Waterloo Colliery; the eldest daughter is Mrs. Harold Marfell and the youngest daughter is Mrs. Alfred Dunkley.

Mr. Davies had a long association with Ruardean Congregational Church. He taught in the Sunday School for many years and was for a long time superintendent of the school. He was for long a member of the church diaconate. He was associated with every public activity of the village life, and was for some years a member of the Ruardean Parish Council. He was active in promoting the annual flower show, was for some years chairman of the Demonstration Committee, and was a patron of the village brass band. For several years he was chairman of the village first-aid classes. He was a member of Ruardean "Clayton" Lodge of the R.A.O.B.

His kindly, generous, sunny nature endeared him to everyone who knew him, and Tom Davies had a wide circle of friends. When in the village recently he expressed his intention to return at an early date to end his days in the village where most of his life was spent, and which he loved. The news of his tragic death has caused general sorrow throughout the district.

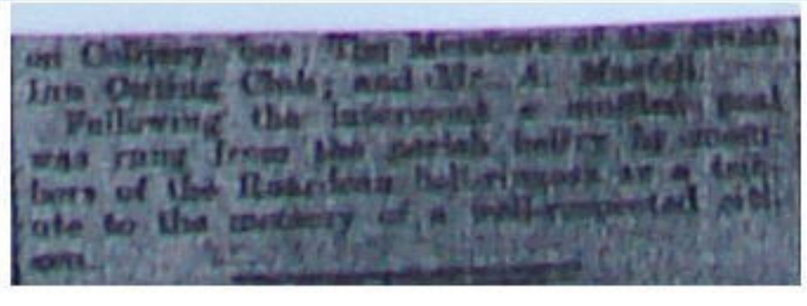
LARGELY ATTENDED FUNERAL

The funeral of Mr. Davies took place on Tuesday afternoon at Ruardean Parish Church. Despite a heavy downpour of rain there was a large gathering of relatives and friends at deceased's home at Brierley, whither the remains had been brought from the scene of the accident on the previous evening. The route followed to Ruardean was by way of Ruardean Woodside and Turner's Tump, and along the way groups of residents waited in the rain to join the cortege, which must have numbered 200 persons as the church was approached. Within the church a considerable congregation had assembled, and there were few vacant seats in the church during the funeral service. The Rector (the Rev. E. E. De Lacy Mann) officiated.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. Davies (widow), Mr. Frank Davies (son), Mrs. H. Marfell and Mrs. A. Dunkley (daughters), Mr. Leslie Davies (grandson), Miss Daphne Marfell (grand-daughter), Mr. Harold Marfell and Mr. A. Dunkley (sons-in-law), Mr. E. Smart (step-son), Mrs. S. Jones, Miss Eva Smith and Miss Ella Smith (nieces), Mr. J. Smith (nephew), Messrs. J. Marfell, H. Marfell, A. Marfell and F. Symonds (nephews), and Mr. O. Blanch (brother-in-law). Amongst the general public present were officials and workmen from Waterloo Colliery, members of the Swan Inn Outing Club, representatives of Ruardean Congregational Church, and many others.

The bearers included three of deceased's former fellow officials of Waterloo Colliery: Messrs. W. Morgan, W. Bradley and W. Gardiner, an official of Cannop Colliery, Mr. Alfred Ellis, and two old friends of deceased, Messrs. A. Prytherch and O. Marfell.

A large number of wreaths was laid on the grave, including:—From loving Wife; Frank and Ada; Emily, Harold and Daphne; Evelyn and Alfred; Leslie and Beryl; Teddy and Dorothy; Jack, George and Stanley Smith; Alice, Olive and Harold; Eva and Ella; Johnnie and Jack; Harvey and Norah; Oliver and Sarah Ann; Fred, Lizzie and family, Broadwell; All at Yew Tree Inn, Lydbrook; Jack and Gerald; Mr. and Mrs. T. Wilks; Mr. and Mrs. E. Symonds; Mrs. Dunkley and Olive; Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Knight; Mr. and Mrs. T. Herbert; Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, Brierley; Mr. and Mrs. F. White, Ruardean Woodside; C. Wood and family; "To a dear old Pal," from Ruardean; Jack and Charlie Wood; Mr. A. E. Beam, Mitcheldean; The Officials of Arthur and Edward Colliery, Lydbrook; The Brethren of Clayton Lodge, R.A.O.B., Ruardean; Ruardean Brass Band; Ruardean



1932 Newspaper Clipping
Sent to us by Robert Davies
Great-Grandson of John Thomas Davies

Forest of Dean Family History
http://www.forest-of-dean.net/