



Market Lavington

They Lived Together, They Died Together, They Are Buried Together

This is an extract from the Wiltshire Gazette, November 1938

"The funeral of the late Mr Joseph Topp and his wife Mary (whose deaths occurred suddenly within 12 hours of each other) took place at St. Mary's Church Market Lavington on Monday. Much sympathy was shown to the bereaved family. The village has no remembrance of man and wife being interred in the same grave on the same day. The service was conducted by the vicar (The Revd J Sturton).

The immediate mourners included Mr E Topp (London, son), Mr and Mrs White (Calne, son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Roff (London, daughter), Miss Gladys Roff (grand-daughter who lived with and nursed her grandparents), Mr S Topp (Calne, son), Mr and Mrs Bower (London, son-in-law and daughter), Mrs H Gale (sister of Mr Topp), Miss Alice Gale (niece), Mr Dan Topp (brother), Mr Steve Topp (brother), Miss E Topp (niece), Mrs Coxhead (niece), Mr and Mrs Maton (nephew and niece), Mr Burt Coxhead (great-nephew), Mr H Spencer (nephew), Mrs Rogers (Littleton Panel), Mrs Chris Chappman (Great Cheverell).

Those also present at the church were Mrs Frank Heard, Mrs G H Pike, Miss P Welen, Mrs H Giddings, Mrs Harold Oram, Mrs A White, Miss A Merritt, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Hewitt, Mrs H Mathews, Mrs Hurkett, Mrs Saxton, Miss Mathews, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Dunford, Messrs James Carter and E Shaw.

There were many beautiful floral tributes; the coffins were polished elm with brass fittings. Mr J E Gye carried out the funeral arrangements.

Mrs Joseph Topp who had been an invalid for many years, passed away almost suddenly in her husband's arms at about seven o'clock on Thursday evening. Mr Topp, who was a devoted husband, was taken ill later the same evening. A doctor was called at 2 am, but the husband passed peacefully away at seven o'clock Friday morning about 12 hours after his wife. Much sympathy is extended to the children and relatives, particularly to the young grand-daughter, Miss Gladys Roff, who has lived with her grandparents and looked after them. Mrs Topp was aged 68 years. She was the daughter of the late Mr Jacob Spencer of Easterton, and her husband was a son of the late Daniel Topp of West Lavington and they had been married for 48 years. They leave six children and 13 grand-children." *Wiltshire Gazette November 1938*

Monumental Inscription in St. Mary's Churchyard.

"In loving memory of our dearest mum and dad, Mary Topp, died November 10th 1938, age 65 and Joseph Topp, died November 11th 1938, age 72. In death they were not divided. Peace".

If anyone has further information about the Topp family especially that of Sidney Topp listed as a son of Joseph & Mary please contact [Teresa Lewis](#)

The story is a sad but lovely one as Joseph was so dedicated to his wife it seems right that they should have passed away within hours of each other. I wonder if the death certificate of Joseph has cause of death as "died of a broken heart" perhaps I will find out one day.