

Funeral of Mrs Susan Gray Wednesday 29th May 1907

Keble's Gazette Sat. 1 June 1907
Square brackets [...] indicate modern insertions

The funeral of the late Mrs Gray of The Hall, Birchington, took place on Wednesday morning last [29th May]. The first portion of the solemn service was held in the parish church of All Saints, and was undertaken by the Vicar (Rev. H. A. Serres), assisted by the Rev. A. C. J. Pace. The mourners were Miss Peacock [her niece and companion] Mrs Letord, Rev. and Mrs [George?] Healy, Mrs Dring, Mr Burton, Dr. Harry Worthington, Mr Squires, Mr Jardine, Mr Fishwick, Capt. Higgins, Mr G. H. Pettman and Mr Bishop, (head gardener). There were also present in the church Major Powell-Cotton, Mr Robert Grant, J.P, C.C., Capt Johnson, Mr Charles Moore, Mr Val Smith, Mr Jarman and Mr Jackson, and a number of tradespeople of Birchington. Mr Butcher (the organist) gave a solemn rendering of "O rest in the Lord" and the "Dead March" in *Saul*, and a half-muffled peal was rung on the bells.

After the service the funeral *cortège* made its way to the station, from where the body was conveyed to London. The interment took place at Kensal Green Cemetery, when the last sad rites were read by the Rev. George Healy. Among those present at the graveside were Miss Peacock, Mrs Letord, Mrs Healy, Mrs Dring, Lord and Lady Decies [who owned "Thor" & "Horn", which later became the Beresford Hotel and was the third important family in Birchington at the time], Rev. H. A. Serres, Dr Harry Worthington, Dr Oscar Worthington [Miss Peacock's fiancé]**, Rev. J. P. Alcock and Rev. J. K. Fox (former vicars of Birchington), the Rev Lake (former curate of Birchington), Mr Burton, Mr Squires, Mr Jardine, Mr Fishwick, Capt. Higgins, Mr Bishop and Mr G. H. Pettman [local builder].

There were a large number of wreaths and crosses. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr Blackburn, Ramsgate.

** Dr Oscar Clayton Worthington MRCS, LRCP married Miss Louisa Peacock soon after 1907 and was shown as resident at Birchington Hall in Kelly's Directory of 1911-1912.