

## **JAMES VICTOR PEMBLE : 1867 - 1926**

In his latter years, Victor Pemble was lodging with his brother-in-law in Pembroke Lodge, 1 Alpha Road, Birchington. His sister had married Mr Hedge, the Chiropodist, who had a practice at 6 Alpha Road, but lived at Pembroke Lodge. Victor was Chief Officer of the Birchington Fire Brigade for a number of years, which had its depot in the garage opposite him across the Minnis Road.

He died 28<sup>th</sup> March 1926 and was buried on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 1926 in All Saints Churchyard, Birchington. He was 59 years old. The Burial Register notes "Father's Grave" to the left of James Victor's entry (Grave A. 161).

The grave is the large one covered in ivy to the left of the path going down to Church House, standing about half way along and the third row in. It has a lovely carving of a portcullis set in a roundel at the top of the stone. His father's name is probably at the top of the set of inscriptions, but time and weather have eroded this. The first readable name is his sister Sarah Alexandra, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1884, aged 21. This is followed by his mother on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1901 aged 69.

Victor does not appear to have been married, which probably explains why he eventually lodged with his other sister at the end of his life. The report of his funeral in Keble's Gazette for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 1926 speaks of his great kindness and thoughtfulness to everyone he met. He was obviously a popular and well-loved member of the community of Birchington during his lifetime. His age at death seems rather young to us in 2005, but 59 was a good age to have reached at a time when life expectancy was often not much more than 50-55.