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Note: In two instances the husbands of Henry's first cousins are mentioned but not their wives, the actual first cousins: "Mr. Longman," and "Mr. William D. Kent." See the endnotes. I don't know if this is because they weren't there, unlikely, or just a reflection of the sexism of the writer. You can make your own judgement.

AFFPUDDLE DEATH OF MR. HENRY SPICER

The death of Mr. Henry Spicer, of Affpuddle, one of the best-known and most respected tenant farmers of the district, occurred on Saturday last, and the sad event has called forth many expressions of sorrow and regret, not only from near relatives, but from a large circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom he was so popularly known. The deceased was 65 years of age, and was the son of the late Mr. Spicer, farmer, of Hethfelton, near Wool. He had farmed at Purbeck and in Wales, but eventually returned to his native heath, where he quickly took a prominent position. He was for many years a prominent member, first of the Winfrith Farmers' Club and then of the Milborne St. Andre Farmers' Club, in which he passed the chair. He took a leading part in the debates, and as an uncompromising Liberal, advocated various legislative reforms affecting agriculture, especially in the interests of the tenant farmer. He was as keen a sportsman as there was to be found in the South Dorset country. Unfortunately, while out cub-hunting last October on Warmwell Heath he met with a nasty accident. His horse, while going at a good pace, stepped in a rabbit's hole and threw him heavily. He broke his collar-bone, and was much bruised and shaken and he never seemed quite to recover from the effects of this accident. Of late his health had become quite broken, and he had been attended by Dr. Morgan, of Puddletown. Mr. Spicer was a widower, Mrs. Spicer having died three years ago. He leaves five children – two sons and three daughters – namely, Miss Spicer, Mrs. Frederick Johnson, Mr. Henry Spicer (who, after an absence of no less than 15 years, returned from America to see his father before his death, and has just returned), Mrs. Frederick Kent, and Mr. W.J. Spicer.

THE INTERMENT

The mortal remains of the deceased were interred on Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock. The coffin, of polished oak, with brass furniture, bore the following inscription – "Henry Spicer, died August 29th, 1903, aged 65 years." It was conveyed from the house to the church on a handbier. Of the six bearers four were men who had worked for the deceased – namely, Charles Chaffey, Philip Hyde, William Sturney, and Mark Turner. The large attendance at the funeral afforded the amplest proof of the respect and regard entertained for the deceased, and the general regret felt at his departure. The funeral procession was met at the gate of the churchyard by the Vicar (the Rev. W. Shirley), who, reading the solemn opening sentences of the Church's Burial Service, preceded the body to the church.

The mourners, who followed two by two, were Miss Spicer¹ and Mr. Henry Spicer, Mrs. Fred Johnson² and Mr. Wm. J. Spicer (sons and daughters), Mr. Fred Johnson and Mr. Fred Kent³ (sons-in-law), Mr. Longman⁴. Mr. James Spicer and Miss Spicer (Bovington)⁵, Mr. Walter White⁶ and Mr. William D. Kent⁷, Mr. W. White, jun., and Mr. E. White, Dr. Morgan (the deceased's medical attendant, Messrs. W. Wilton Reed and Henry O. Lock, of Dorchester (the deceased's solicitor's), Mr. R.R. Collbeck (manager of the Capital and Counties Bank, Dorchester), and the household servants.

The South Dorset Hunt⁸, which has suffered so great a loss in Mr. Spicer's death, was worthily represented. There were present the Master (Mr. J. Ashton Radcliffe), who at the puppy show a few weeks ago, in expressing regret at Mr. Spicer's absence, uttered a warm tribute of appreciation of his services to fox-hunting, and of personal gratitude to him for the kindness received by him during his tenure of mastership. The Master was accompanied by his brother, Mr. Percy Radcliffe, of Tolpuddle, Mr. James E. Crane, honorary secretary of the Hunt, and Lieutenant-Colonel L.H. Parry, D.S.O., of Stinsford House. Mr. Harry Featherstonhaugh Frampton⁹, a past Master of the Hunt for many years, was also present. Then there was the Kane Croft, kennel huntsman and first whip, and three hunt servants, all four in the full hunting attire of the celebrated white-collar hunt, and Joe Brierley, the stud-groom at the kennels. The pink and white,

striking as they did so truly sporting a note of colour, re-appeared in the superb wreath laid upon the coffin, of exquisite exotics in the two colours of the hunt. There was a large following of sporting tenantry, men who attended in a twofold or even threefold capacity – as brother sportsmen in riding to hounds, as fellow agriculturists and personal friends, and as members of the Milbourne Farmer Club, who in Mr. Spicer lose so old and valued a colleague. Among the members of the club attending were the Chairman (Mr. Thomas R. Spiller, of Luccombe), the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Wm. Bodford, of Bere Regis), Delegate to the Central Chamber (Mr. G. Wood Homer of Bardolf Manor, Puddletown), Messrs. Edward B. Duke (Dorchester), Geo. Kent (Abbot's Court), Geo. Mitchell (Roger's Hill), W. B. Norton and J. W. Walker (Milbourned St. Andrew), Owen C. Richards (Whatcombe), Henry R. Jesty (Roke, Bere Regis), John Chilcott (Chibberd), F. Bissell (Affpuddle), T. Dudden and T. Nineham (Waddock), Henry Topp (Dewlish), Henry Fooks (Milton Abbase), and others. Mr. Yates, steward to Mr. Everard A. Hambro, of Milton Abbey (the president of the club), had written to the Chairman expressing regret at being unavoidably absent.

The South Dorset Liberal Association, of which the deceased was a member, was represented by the Organizing Secretary (Mr. A. Ranger, of Weymouth) and Mr. Geo H. Stephens (of Puddletown); and Mr. T.T.L. Scarisbrick (of Southport Lancs.), the prospective Liberal candidate for South Dorset, had sent a floral token of regard and regret.

Among others present at the funeral were Messrs. W. Jackson (Affpuddle)¹⁰, Edward W. Cave (Shapwick), Robt. Cave (Almer), Wm. Mayo (Puddlehinton), Clement C. Dunn, of the Antelope Hotel, Dorchester, the 'house at which deceased put up when visiting the market town, and Mr. W.S.N. Merrick, Br. Dunn's brother-in-law, Henry J. Christopher (Broadmayne), A.J. Scutt (Watercombe), Budden (Coombe), C.W. Billey and D. Uphill (Affpuddle), J. Hooper (Langton, Blandford), Keith Hooper (Winfrith), Alfred Connop (Moreton), Kent (Boxwell), Frank Hammette (Briantspuddle), T. Stacey (Winterbourne Kingston), &c.

The farm hands and villagers and their families were present in large numbers, and it was touching to see the signs of the attachment of the deceased employes to "master." One wreath was inscribed "To our master, from H. Gillingham and family, in token of respect," and another "Chaffey, Sturmeay, Willcox, and Besant." Mr. Alfred Connop, of Moreton, was at the organ, and played a voluntary while the body was being borne into the chancel, and while Mr. C.W. Billey, the parish churchwarden, was supervising the seating of the large congregation. Then the hymn "Peace, Perfect Peace," was sung, followed by the reading of the proper Psalm and Lesson by the Vicar. Then the coffin was carried out of church while the organist played the "Dead March" in Saul. At the graveside a second hymn was sung – "Oft in danger, oft in woe." Mr. Alfred Legg, the parish clerk, had adorned the sides of the grave with ivy and white dahlias and other flowers. The body was laid at rest side by side with that of Mrs. Henry Spicer, who was there buried just three years ago, having died on August 25th, 1900, while her husband died on August 9th. "And in death they were not divided." The tender, gracious words of the Benediction closed the service. No melodious "Gone away" from his old comrades of the hunting field resounded over the grave; but there were signs that the sense of loss, of final parting this side of the river, was keenly felt by many.

Endnotes:

¹ Maud Spicer (1865-1934).

² Kate Spicer (1866-1957).

³ Husband of Alice Spicer (1869-1948), Henry's daughter, who is not mentioned as attending the funeral.

⁴ Either Henry's sister's husband or their son. Eliza Spicer (1842-1924), Henry's sister, married Henry Longman (1837-1920) in 1865.

⁵ James Spicer (1853-1934), 1st cousin – common grandparents were Robert and Sarah Frizell Spicer. The daughter, "Miss Spicer," would have been either Margaret or Lucy Spicer. James was married to Lucy Mary Scutt in 1879, and who was likely a descendant of one of the Robert Scutts, the ancient family of Affpuddle Parish.

⁶ Walter White (1848 -), 1st cousin. Common grandparents William Pitt and Jane Hellyar Pitt. (Walter's mother was Henry's mother's sister.) Walter is on the 1881 census as a farmer of 806 acres in East Burton, Dorset. His mother and sister are with him although after that he seems to have fallen off the map except for this obituary mention. He had a bother Henry – who is on the 1891 census in West Lulworth with a 10 year old son Walter White.

⁷ William Dugdale Kent (1842-1926). Husband of Jane White Kent (1849 -1917), Henry's first cousin. Common grandparents William Pitt and Jane Hellyar Pitt. (Jane's mother was Henry's mother's sister.)

⁸ The South Dorset Hunt is still very active despite fox hunting being banned in 2004: <http://www.southdorsethunt.co.uk/index.html>

⁹ Harry Featherstonhaugh Frampton (1859-1956), scion of the Frampton estate from whom Henry leased East Farm. Grandson of James Frampton II, the "bad guy" in the Tolpuddle Martyrs story of 1834. Several Frampton owned farms in Affpuddle were farmed in 1838 by family members, including Henry Spicer's future father-in-law William Branston (East Farm) and his grandfather William Pitt (West Farm).

¹⁰ William Pitt Jackson (1841-1907) very likely. Henry's 1st cousin whose grandfather William Pitt farmed West Farm in Affpuddle from 1838 until he died in 1854 at which point his daughter's husband, William Jackson, Sr., farmed West Farm until the 1870s. This is likely his son William Pitt Jackson who, although he married appears to have no issue. In 1881 he was the farmer of Throop Farm, about a mile east of Affpuddle.