

(*Cambridge Independent Press*, Friday 15 June 1934, p. 15)

“CHARLES” HOWES DEAD

Notable Cambridge Cyclist

Cambridge has lost another pioneer cyclist by the death on Thursday of Mr. Charles John Howes, who, although he had resided at other addresses in the town, died at his birth-place, 46 Regent-street, at the age of 75.

Educated at the Perse School, he afterwards entered his father's business, when the cycle industry was in its infancy. He learnt to ride on a “bone-shaker” built by the late Mr. John Howes in 1869, and he had many an exciting story to tell of his early adventures on the road.

He was captain of the old Cambs. Bicycle Club about 1879, and frequently rode a “Penny-farthing” in races with great success. With the introduction of the free wheel, he patented the roller lever brake, still the most used design on modern machines.

Mr. Howes leaves a widow, three sons and three daughters.

The funeral took place on Saturday at Mill-road Cemetery. The Rev. W. Greenwood, Vicar of St. Benedict's, officiated. The coffin bore the inscription: “Charles John Howes, died June 8th 1934, aged 75 years.”ⁱ

The immediate mourners were: Mrs. Howes (widow), Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bays (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Howes (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. S. R. Howes, Mr. E. N. Howes (sons), Mrs. P. H. C. Constable (daughter), Mr. Ralph Howes (brother). Many other relatives and friends were also present.

In addition to a wreath from Mrs. C. J. Howes, floral tributes were sent by Ethel and Walter; Clarence and Gladys; Sidney, Dorothy, Dick and Shirley; Eric and Winnie; Kathleen and Philip; Alice, Jim and Cyril; Edith, Cecil and Barbara; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Howes and family; Mrs. Warrington; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Constable (Barrington); Myrtle and Camilla; Winnie Pain; Kate Wells; Mrs. Wells and family; B. S. Few; Sidney Smith; George and Alice Bailey; Miss Adie; Mr. and Mrs. Amies; Kate Cook.

Messrs. F. J. and T. E. Prime, 26, Burleigh-street, were the undertakers.

AN APPRECIATION

We have received the following appreciation from "G.R.B.":

"I have enjoyed the friendship of Charlie Howes for a great number of years. In his day he was a very fine rider, and at the annual races of the old Cambridge Bicycle Club he was generally successful in carrying off the prizes. Races then took place on the Cambridge University Bicycle Path (a lap to the mile), off the Grange-road, adjoining Trinity Cricket Ground but no longer in existence.

"In 1878 the writer accompanied him on a ride to Ramsgate. We arrived at Rochester the first day and reached Ramsgate in the early afternoon of the day following. We had solid rubber tyres and coned bearings, ball bearings not being thought of. On another occasion we rode to Brighton and round the coast to Dover and Ramsgate, returning by Canterbury, Rochester, Gravesend, Tilbury and through Essex. These were not bad performances, considering the type of machine.

"I shall greatly miss Charlie Howes, whom I knew for considerably over half a century."

ⁱ June 8th: the inscription on the grave gives the 7th as the death date, and the burial register for St Benedict's gives the 9th as the date of burial. The first line of this report states that Charles was 'lost ... on Thursday'. That would mean either that he died on the 7th or that he was buried on the 14th.