

A Grave View

All of the people who have been buried in St. Lawrence's graveyard had a story and this is one about Jane Penelope Kitchener. She died in 1939 and the inscription on the kerb around her grave reads "BORN DEC 14th 1855 JANE PENELOPE KITCHENER DIED FEB 15th 1939 FIRST HEADMISTRESS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS BURY LANCS 1884-1919" and the corner posts have shields on them. She was Lord Kitchener's (Your Country Needs You) cousin. In 1936 she went to Foxton Hall, at that time a nursing home, after living at Crispin Cottage in Stapleford since her retirement from Bury School at the age of 64. Its unclear why she came to this area, but it could be because she spent a year at Newnham College in 1881-2, gaining a First in Cambridge Highers (a special exam for women over 18). It might be to be near her cousin Annette, the wife of John Peile the Master of Trinity both of whom were involved in women's education, or to be near her niece Mary Budden who became a Fellow at Newnham in 1921. She became assistant mistress at Plymouth High School from 1876 to 1881 and then at Sheffield High School. She became the first headmistress of the newly created Bury Grammar School for Girls in 1884 and stayed there until 1919. She was awarded an Honorary MA from Manchester University in 1922 in recognition of her work. The Bishop of Ely Dr Heywood and Bishop Kempthorne both officiated at her funeral.

Research attributed to Enid Hunt BGS 1949-1960.

Miss Susan Corlett, a headmistress of Foxton School, who died in 1943 is also buried in the churchyard. She lived in Sycamore Cottage opposite West Hill Farm. (IS)