

MERSEYSIDE FUNERALS – Widnes Weekly News – Thursday 3 April 1924

MR B J KEOGH, WIDNES

The funeral took place at the Borough Cemetery on Saturday of Mr Bernard Joseph Keogh of Grenfell Street Widnes, who died on Wednesday of last week (26th March 1924). The deceased who was 71 years of age, had been employed for 30 years as a process man by the United Alkali Company and was working until a fortnight (2 weeks) before his death. The Reverend Mathew Westhead officiated at the funeral. The mourners were Messrs. John, James and Martin Keogh, (sons), Mrs B Keogh and Mrs C Keogh, (daughters-in-law), Bernard and Thomas Keogh, (grandsons), E and H Keogh, (granddaughters), T McCormack and R McCormack, (nephews).

Among the general mourners were, Mrs Clarke (Warrington), Councillor P Hanley, Messrs W Murphy, E Byron, J Brennan, A Brennan, M Nolan, J O'Connor, J Kelly, D Dwyer, J Maher, T Tague, J Dwyer, T Kelly, T Boyle, T Gilmore, J Woodier, A Hartles, J Malone, A Brown, P Cain, J Kelly, J Murphy, T Walsh, P Corcoran, H Whitfield, T Gregory, E Deakin, Mrs Deakin, Messrs J Heyes, J Mulein, T Jolly, D Jolly, H Poole, C Poole, A Platt, J Mulroy, J Heywood, J Locke, M Farrel , J Cannon, J Cain, F Murray, J Yates, T McHugh, A Mc Hugh and Mrs J Cain.

The Bearers were: Messrs T Caine, P Rafferty, A Caine, J Grinnon, P Wynne, J Murphy, J Davenport and T Poole.

Wreaths were sent by the following: John and Bid and children; Marty, Kitty and Jim; Nellie, Bernie, Kitty, Tommy, Mary and Eddie, (grandchildren), Neighbours; Old neighbours; Annie and Tom; Mrs and Mrs E E Deakin; Women workers, Muspratt Works**; Workmen and staff, Muspratt Works; Staff and Foremen, Muspratt Works; and Mrs and Mrs Preston and son.

***Muspratt Works was one of the many chemical plants in Widnes and Runcorn, part of the United Alkali Company which became Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), probably the largest chemical company in the world at the time. I have recently been delving into the history of the company where I worked for 45 years (Croda-Bowmans Chemicals) in Moss Bank, Widnes, and back in the early days of the company the factory site was purchased from the United Alkali Company!! So great-grandfather Bernard and I have some life experiences in common.*

Isn't life strange at times.....and very hard when you think that he was still working at 71 years old in probably one of the most hazardous occupations at the time?