

## VI. Death

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On December 23, 1897, Carroll travelled down to Guildford to join his family for the Christmas holidays. But this was not to be a festive season. On January 5, he learned that his brother-in-law had suddenly died, and by then he had himself come down with a fever and chest cold. Today we would deal with the symptoms routinely, with antibiotics, but over eighty years ago, bronchial infections were serious, and sometimes fatal. Carroll's condition worsened, and on January 14, thirteen days before his sixty-sixth birthday, he died of pneumonia.

Carroll had requested that his funeral be "simple and inexpensive, avoiding all things which are merely done for show, and retaining only what is, in the judgement of those who arrange my Funeral, requisite for its decent and reverent performance." He also requested that "there be no expensive monument. I should prefer a small plain head-stone." His wishes were carried out. According to his friend Gertrude Thomson, who was present, "On a grey January day . . . a few mourners slowly climbed the hill in silence, while borne before them on a simple hand-bier was the coffin, half hid in flowers." He was buried where he died, in Guildford, the only home he had known away from Oxford.