

# **WALTER BERKELEY WILSON**

## **1850-1882**

**Son of Alderman Edward Wilson, butcher of 85 Northbrook Street.  
[Shop premises now occupied by Vodafone]**

**Walter was a fit man of 32, played tennis and went horse riding,  
and was a sergeant in the Volunteer Fire Brigade.**

**He went to bed on Friday evening  
and simply didn't wake up on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1882.**

**A post-mortem revealed no clues so, on the Saturday evening  
at a Coroner's Inquest in the Jack Hotel (now M&S),  
the jury concluded he 'Died from the visitation of God'.**

**He was afforded 'the rare spectacle of a fireman's funeral'  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1882.**

**A 'broken-column' monument  
is universally recognised as  
alluding to a life cut short.**

**Walter was the Worshipful Master  
of the local Freemasons (The  
Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope)  
and it was they that clubbed  
together to provide this symbolic  
memorial for him.**

**After The Friends found it to be  
in disrepair and lying in the mud,  
a working party of the current  
lodge members attended and re-  
erected it in 2010.**

**It would originally have been a  
wonderful sight in gleaming  
white marble: even now it is  
impressive.**



Walter Berkeley Wilson  
Grave pillar at Newtown Road Cemetery  
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For further details see: <http://www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk/persondetails.asp?PersonID=4553>