

Mrs. Rosemary Rains, 47, wife of Claude Rains, noted movie and TV actor, died at her home in Sandwich (the former Weed estate) on Dec. 31, 1964, after a long illness. A native of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., she had resided in Sandwich for a year and a half. Members of the family, besides her husband, are three children, a brother and a sister. Following services in Lakeport, burial took place in Red Hill Cemetery, in Center Harbor.

Claude Rains, the celebrated movie, stage and TV star, who was born in London on November 10, 1889, and began his stage career as a page boy at the age of 11, died at the Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia on May 31, 1967. He had been in poor health for several years. Mr. Rains appeared on the legitimate stage in England, Australia, and America, returning to England at the outbreak of World War I to enlist in the London Scottish regiment. He was gassed in the trenches at Vimy Ridge, France, and upon recovery was transferred to the Bedford Regiment from which he was discharged as a Captain. In 1933 he made his movie debut in "The Invisible Man," and thereafter made many famous movies with such beautiful leading ladies as Ingrid

Bergman, Bette Davis, and Vivien Leigh. He gained a reputation as an actor who could not give a bad performance. In 1937 he became a United States citizen and for many years made his home in Pennsylvania, moving to Sandwich in 1963 when he purchased from Mrs. Edyth N. Weed, the lovely old Weed home at Sandwich Lower Corner. Last November, at the dedication of B. U.'s new Mugar Memorial Library, he was named a Fellow of the Boston University Libraries. Private services for Mr. Rains were held in Meredith, and burial was in Red Hill Cemetery in Center Harbor where the actor's late wife, Rosemary, is also buried. He leaves one daughter, Jennifer, by a former wife, Frances Propper of New York.

**Death notice for Mrs. Rosemary Rains and Claude Rains from the 46th and 48th Annual Excursions, published annually by the Sandwich, NH Historical Society, and obituary from the Laconia Evening Citizen newspaper.**

## Claude Rains, Film Star, Dies At Laconia Hospital

SANDWICH — Movie star Claude Rains died at the Lakes Region Hospital in Laconia on Memorial Day. He was 77 years old.

Rains had maintained a home in Sandwich for many years and used it when he was not working. He was born in London in 1889 and began his stage career when he was 11 years old.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed yesterday pending the arrival of daughters from Philadelphia and New York, but it was said rites would be private.

The body is at the Kemp-Symonds Funeral Home in Meredith.

Rains, who began his acting career as a \$2-a-week page boy in a London theater, later became the first British actor to be paid more than \$1 million for a single role.

Married six times, the last time in 1960, the white-haired actor made love on the screen to a score of beauties, including Ingrid Bergman, Bette Davis and Vivien Leigh.

Rains' initial American film, "The Invisible Man," found him playing a faceless character. He gained a reputation as an actor who could not give a bad performance.

Among his most famous movie hits were "Caesar and Cleopatra," "Mr. Skeffington," "Casablanca," "Now, Voyager," "White Banners," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," "Anthony Adverse," and "Notorious."

In 1944, Rains agreed to co-star with Vivien Leigh in Gabriel Pascal's movie of George Bernard Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra" for which he was paid \$1,280,000, the highest salary then paid to a British actor. In 1937, Rains became a U. S. citizen. For many years he made his home in Pennsylvania.

He was an actor by profession and a farmer by predilection. He once boasted that the only money he ever made outside the theater came from his army service for his native Great Britain, in World War I, and from his 400-acre farm at Bucks County, Pa.