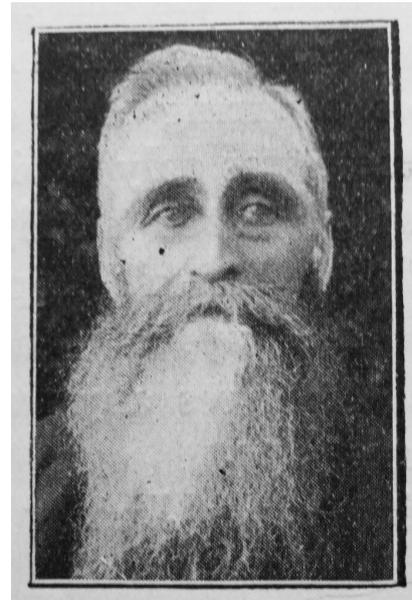


## Rev. James Herridge

### Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by A.J. Bull

The name of James Herridge was a household word throughout the old Brinkworth District. Superannuated in 1893 he settled down at Bournemouth, the station on which he was then travelling. Here for thirteen years, and to within a few months of his death, he rendered excellent service, also in many circuits within the bounds of the district, as well as for other denominations. His pulpit efforts were characterised by much of the warmth and power of his earlier days. He was, indeed, "the old man eloquent."



The last service he conducted was in our Pokesdown Church, on Sunday evening, February 25th, 1906, when he preached a funeral sermon for one whom he had known from childhood, and the service was marked by solemn impressiveness. In the beginning of March he was smitten down with influenza and bronchial catarrh, and subsequently cancer on the pancreas developed, which caused his death. His sufferings at times must have been very great, but he bore them with exemplary patience, and calmly and confidently faced the final foe. He was passionately fond of music and singing, and towards the end was much soothed and cheered by the hymn-singing and playing of his devoted daughter. He sank to rest on Saturday morning, June 2nd, in his 81st year.

Our departed friend was born at Leigh-on-Mendip, Somersetshire, July 15th, 1825. When nineteen years of age he was soundly converted in our Leigh Chapel, in the Frome Circuit, and the following Sunday morning joined the Society. A few months after his name appeared on the plan as a prayer leader. By the March quarter day, 1845, he was requested to commence work as a travelling preacher, and laboured for over two years in his native circuit in that capacity. His subsequent stations were Newbury (twice), Poole, Swindon (twice), Southampton (twice), Leamington, Oxford, Andover, Motcombe, Banbury, Witney (twice), and Bournemouth.

He was a good pastor and much appreciated in the homes of the people. He was a capable superintendent, a good manager of men, and his stations invariably prospered. He spent much time in his study, waiting upon the Lord in prayer, reading and meditating, and was careful in his preparation for the pulpit. His public prayers were oftentimes a means of grace to those who heard them. O, how he wrestled with God! With what unction did he pray till the very heavens seemed to open and the glory of the Lord filled the place! As a preacher, too, he excelled, and was as a flame of fire in his circuits, so that God's host were made strong for battle, and "many were the slain of the Lord." An ex-president of our Conference said to the writer, that Mr. Herridge impressed him more powerfully than any other man he had ever heard, by a sermon he preached on the Conference Camp Ground many years before. He spoke with marvellous effect. Twice he was requested to speak in connection with the great Annual Missionary Meeting in Spurgeon's Tabernacle, but such was his natural diffidence that he resolutely declined. But for his retiring disposition he might have come to

the front as a connexional man. He was several times elected District Meeting Chairman, and on more than one occasion represented his district in Conference.

His mortal remains were interred in the beautiful Boscombe cemetery, on Wednesday afternoon, June 6th. Eight of the Bournemouth Circuit local preachers carried him to his last resting place. The Boscombe Congregational Church (being more convenient and commodious than our own) had been kindly placed at the disposal of the relatives and friends for the former portion of the service. Those who knew and loved him gathered from far and near, including many ministers from other denominations, as well as our own from surrounding circuits. There was a large congregation and a most impressive service, the Revs. R.R. Connell (London) representing the General Committee, and G. Litten gave beautiful and touching addresses.

At the graveside the service was conducted by the Rev. A.J. Bull. The Rev. T. Phelps gave a short but tender address, and the Rev. C. Lomas offered prayer. Many striking letters of condolence were received, and Mr. L. L. Morse, M.P., says in writing to one of the sons: "There was no man for whom I had a more profound respect than your father. His life and character have made a tremendous impression on the very large number of people he has come in contact with, and they thank God for the days that brought them in contact with him, for their lives have been more blessed and useful since."

The Rev. G. Stanyer writes: His faithful ministry in preaching the word, his fairness in dealing with men, his scrupulous care in circuit administration, gave me a conception of a minister's life and work for which I thank God."

The Rev. G. Neville says: "In his departure we have lost one of the most godly, able, and trusted ministers of this old District. No man has left behind a more fragrant memory and a name more beloved. There are one or two left in this circuit who benefited under his ministry fifty years ago."

He leaves behind him a widow, four sons, and three daughters. May they be Divinely upheld, and all at last greet him again on the eternal shore.

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## References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1907/152