

Rev. Thomas Smith

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by W.C. Tonks

The Rev. T. Smith died at Wootton Bassett on December 14th, 1909, after an illness which confined him to his bed for the previous eleven weeks. He was born at Wherwell, near Andover, Hants, on April 23rd, 1826. His mother died when he was ten years old, but her good influence greatly helped her son in after life. His father was a farmer and steward of Wherwell Manor, known as a sturdy Liberal in politics. It is interesting to note that in after years the Squire's son gave to Rev. T. Smith a site of land for a chapel in his native village—the gift of the son of a Conservative, to the son of a Liberal, “in honour of a brave Liberal.”

Mr. Smith was converted in a Revival Service held by the Wesleyans in an old chalk pit. He remained a member of the Wesleyan Church until the Reform “Split,” when he joined our Church. At 28 years of age, he entered our ministry and was pledged by the Poole Circuit in 1854. Afterwards he travelled at Banbury, Faringdon, Motcombe (twice), Newbury, Marlborough, Brighton, Lancaster, Ryde and Ventnor, Sheerness, Kingston-on-Thames, Bungay, South Malton, Chinnor, Hereford, Portsmouth, Bexley, Andover.

His excellent voice made him very popular in early days, and his always devoted strenuous labours have left behind him many who remember him with pleasure in the widely scattered Circuits where he travelled.

After continuous attacks of rheumatism, this complaint became chronic, and he was obliged to superannuate in 1887. He settled at Wootton Bassett, where he ever did what lay in his power to work for God in whatever direction was possible.

He was twice married. His second wife made him an excellent companion in his declining years, and deeply feels his loss. Her tender ministries, and those of her niece, made very happy and peaceful his declining days. He also had the constant friendship of his church officials, and of others in the town, with whom he had laboured in political and religious affairs.

His last text. was “He loved me and gave Himself for me,” and the joy of this truth was always his. In unclouded trust he passed to the presence of his Lord.

References

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