

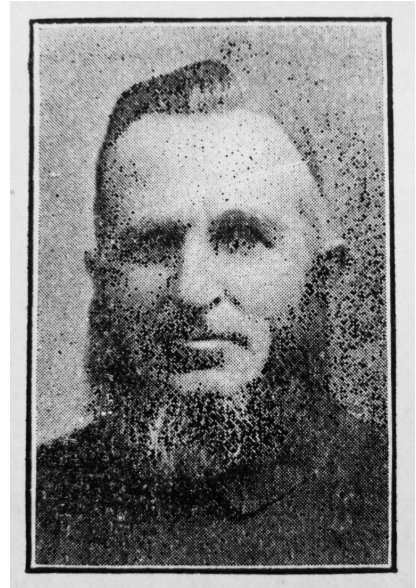
William Sheasby

Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by C. Tinn

William Sheasby was born in the village of Napton, Warwickshire, in the year 1836.

During his early years he was in the habit of attending the worship of the Established Church, in his native village, but in a service in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Napton, conducted by a local preacher of the name of John Goodwin, he was soundly converted, being at the time about twenty-two years of age.

He soon became a candidate for the preachers' plan of the Leamington Circuit, and eventually entered the ministry in 1860.



With the exception of seven years, the whole of his arduous, but patient, happy and fruitful ministry was spent among the wide agricultural circuits of the Brinkworth District. The following circuits shared the privilege of his most devoted ministerial labour and oversight:- Basingstoke, Salisbury (twice), Banbury, Newbury, Andover, Malmesbury (twice), Brinkworth, Chinnor (twice), Micheldever, Sturminster Newton, Witney, Romsey, Presteign, and Church Stretton.

His work was his joy, and in it he maintained a spirit of cheerfulness amid all discouragements. He loved the Bible and delighted to declare a full, free, and present salvation. He lived *in* his circuits and lived *for* them, spending himself quietly and ungrudgingly in promoting their interests.

He was one of those plodding, faithful, unobtrusive workers to whom the Connexion owes a deep debt of gratitude. The Rev. C.L. Tack, who enjoyed an intimate friendship with the deceased for many years, says: "I never saw him without a smile. He made no enemies. He was a dear brother, a manly man, a happy companion, a faithful minister, a wise ruler of men and a loyal and devoted servant of our beloved Connexion. He filled District Offices with satisfaction to all concerned, but never thirsted for them. He loved his circuits and rejoiced greatly in their progress." Almost recklessly indifferent to his own salary, he always saw that his colleagues were paid in full.

In the year 1864, Mr. Sheasby was united in marriage to Miss Warner, of Ladbrooke, Warwickshire, sister of Rev. George Warner, a Primitive Methodist Evangelist, who knew God and performed exploits. Mr. Sheasby owed much to his wife, who took a keen interest in all his work, and protected him as far as possible from all domestic worries and anxieties.

His home life was a model one, being full of contentment, happiness, and peace. His sweet, sunny disposition positively radiated the domestic circle. Last Conference, after an active ministry of forty-

four years, he was granted superannuation, and came to reside at New Basford, Nottingham, that he might be near his eldest son. It is now evident he was not as strong and robust as he appeared.

His long, toilsome ministry had left a mark upon him, if unseen. But he placed his services very liberally at the disposal of the circuit, especially the New Basford Church, of which he was a member. In six months he had captured the affections of a people and Church almost entirely strange to him. All respected and loved him for his unvarying cheerfulness, his friendly smile, his kindly spirit, and his unpretentious, transparent goodness. He walked amongst us as a man at peace with God and men, desiring that other men should exemplify the same beatitude. Such an example excited the highest hopes, which, alas! have been suddenly quenched by his unexpected removal.

The illness which terminated fatally, was as brief as unexpected, only lasting from the Sunday till the Tuesday evening following.

On Monday, January 16th, 1905, a very impressive service was held in our New Basford Chapel and at the grave, conducted by Rev. C. Tinn, and shared by Revs. John Snaith, John Stephenson, J.T. Gooderidge, G.G. Martindale (representative of District Committee), M. Knowlson, J. Badminton, J.T. Goodacre, and Mr. H.J. Dunnett (hired local preacher.)

On the following Sunday evening an "In memoriam" service was conducted in the aforesaid Chapel by Rev. John Stephenson.

Our departed brother leaves a widow, two sons, and two daughters, to cherish a most blessed memory, all of whom we earnestly commend to the wise and tender care of our Divine Father.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1906/742