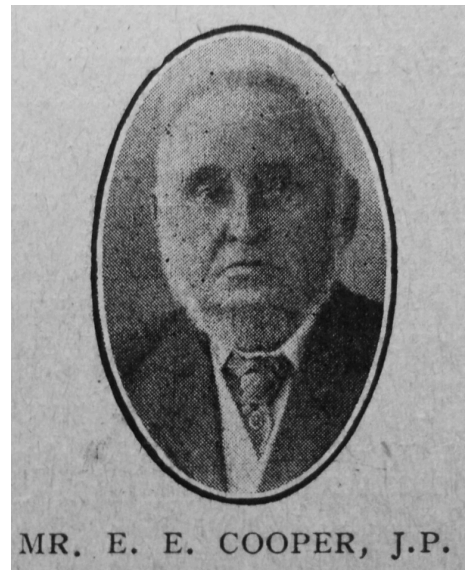


Ebenezer Elias Cooper J.P.

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by J.J. Appleby

When Ebenezer Elias Cooper was born in a little cottage in Dudley Street, Brierley Hill, on October 16th, 1830, no one could have prophesied that he would become one of the largest employers of labour in South Staffordshire, a Justice of the Peace, and a leader in all philanthropic movements. From his earliest years he was surrounded by religious influences. His father and mother were devout Methodists. His connection with Hill Street Church was long and honourable. Fifty-six years his name was on the roll of members. In his younger days he rendered good service as superintendent of the Sunday school, and in later years he was treasurer of the church. He rose from the status of an iron worker to be the part proprietor of four large ironworks, an extensive timber industry doing a large import trade, employing vessels of their own. By this means he and his partner found employment for hundreds of people, and have contributed in large measure to the wealth and prosperity of his native town.



Until he was prevented by age and infirmity he was very regular and punctual in his attendance at Hill Street Church. When the Young Men's Institute was built he contributed £200. A few years ago he placed two large stained glass windows in the church. Churches of all denominations shared in his generosity.

Our Church recognised his worth, and conferred many honours upon him. Twenty-seven years in succession he was steward of the Brierley Hill Circuit. He was frequently elected delegate to District Meeting. Three times he represented the district in Conference, and upon one occasion he occupied the chair at the Metropolitan Missionary Meeting. He lived to a good old age, and died on 20th October, 1916, full of years and full of honours. We have already missed him, and we shall continue to miss him. The substantial legacy he has left us will not compensate us for his loss. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of people. The service in the church was conducted by Rev. J. Dudley, who was assisted by Revs. W.C. Ball, L.J. Harvey, J. Keith Elliott and E..Hancox, who gave a very suitable address.

A memorial service was held on November 12th, conducted by Rev. J. Dudley, assisted by Alderman Wooldridge, J. Wright, and J.J. Appleby, who spoke of Mr. Cooper's long association with the Church, and the service he had rendered to the town, and district.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1917/216