

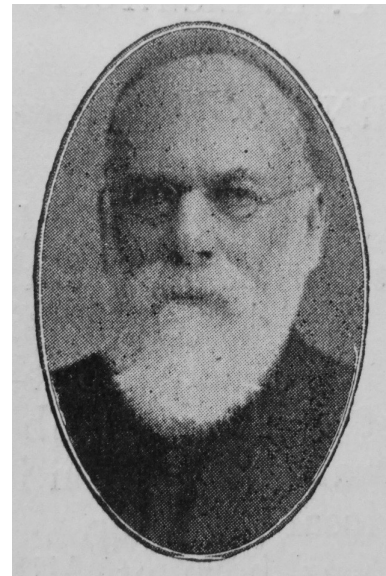
Rev George Seaman

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by William Younger

The Rev. George Seaman was born at Wiggshall, St. Mary Magdalen, in Norfolk, on September 15th, 1839. He was converted early in life, and became a member of the church. His aptitude for speech was quickly recognised, and soon after his acceptance as a local preacher he entered the ministry, of which he was an honoured and efficient toiler for forty-five years.

He filled a large place in the District life of East Anglia, and was the secretary of two important committees. Those best acquainted with his work speak in the highest terms of his secretarial ability.

His was a familiar face among the delegates of several Conferences, and in 1887 he was elected secretary of the Scarborough Conference. He was a director of the Connexional Insurance Company. His greatest piece of Connexional work was his term of five and a half years as Governor of Elmfield College.



He was exceedingly successful as a circuit minister. He rendered effective service at Sunderland and Jarrow. His best work was done in East Anglia. For quite a quarter of a century his name was a household word in Norfolk. Not the least part of his East Anglian ministry was his effort to assist the political party, which was working against powerful influences to raise the status of the agricultural labourer. More than one member of Parliament owed his return partly to the able advocacy by Mr. Seaman of the Liberal cause. He gave himself enthusiastically to the promotion of the interests of his circuits, and it is not surprising that they prospered under his stimulating guidance. It was, therefore, natural he should be in great demand for special services far beyond the confines of his own District.

His success as a circuit minister was due to a combination of fine qualities. He was convinced that no minister can hope to succeed in our church who lacks the capacity for work. Mr. Seaman's early days were spent in large circuits, involving pedestrian feats and a plentiful supply of meetings. But the joy of service made the sacrificial labour a delight. A term at King's Lynn will illustrate that he was "in labours more abundant." There he built six chapels, renovated several others, and erected a block of Sunday School property. He was, when in his prime, a great pulpit force. His theological and scholastic equipment may have been incomplete, and probably in the matter of profound thinking he had a few superiors. But in the intensity of his convictions, his passion for conversions, his glowing exposition of evangelical truth, and his power to sway audiences, none surpassed him. He avoided slipshod sermon preparation. The aptness of phrasing and sequence of treatment of his subjects evinced painstaking construction. Allied to these elements of success was that of a fine physical endowment. He probably seldom suffered from the ills that "flesh is heir to." He retained almost to his last years the fresh looking features, the erect figure, and the buoyant step, characteristic of a man in his forties.

His greatest joy was preaching as it was his only recreation. All his life centred round the church. He could not think apart from her interests. This concentration on his work explains his interest in Connexional law and procedure.

But what stands out most prominently is his Christian character. He was the soul of honour. Good natured and kindly, sincere and courteous, he became the trusted friend of ministers and laymen, and many members on his circuits were helped in their sorrow and struggle.

The Revs. R. Hind, J. Buck, G. Bell, R. Harrison, and J. Hallam have expressed their appreciation of his character and devotion to his church. Resolutions of sympathy and tributes of appreciation from institutions and circuits have been sent to his widow.

His brief days of retirement were clouded by a paralytic seizure, which affected his mind and speech. For months he was not able to converse with his dearest friends. It was evident to those who knew him that his end was approaching, and he passed peacefully away on the morning of May 6th. Mrs. Seaman and her niece, Miss Marriott, have been his constant companions. To their care and affection are due to some extent the success which he realised.

The funeral service was conducted by the writer. The Rev. R. Hind delivered an address. The Revs. G.F. Fawcett, W.R. Fallas and F. Mosley took part in the service. Among those present were the Rev. H.L. Ogle, curate of Starbeck, and the Mayor of Jarrow.

References

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