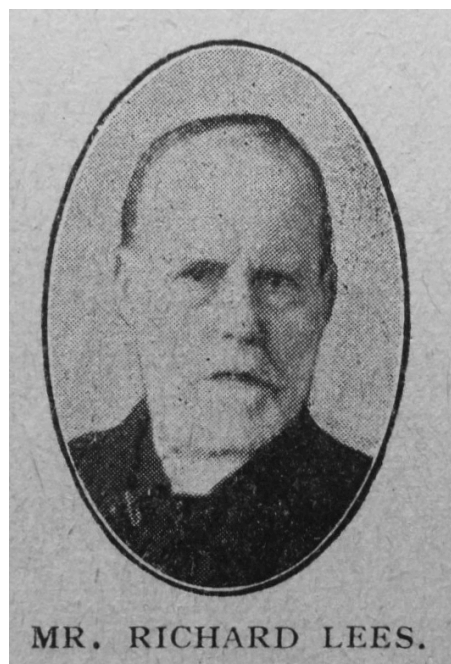


Richard Lees

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by A. Taylor

There has been removed from our midst by death Mr. R. Lees, who for nearly sixty years has been connected with the Primitive Methodist Church in Darlaston, and for nearly fifty-seven years has been a local preacher in the Darlaston Circuit.

His death has created a distinct loss, both in the Church and in the circuit, and his presence and help will be greatly missed for some time to come. His regular attendance at the means of grace, and his loyalty and devotion were very pronounced. "It is my duty to be here," he would say sometimes. His ability as well as his devotion fitted him for useful service. In the Church and the Sunday school, at different times, he occupied nearly all the offices that could be given. He retained to the last the honorary positions of class-leader and school superintendent. In business meetings and quarterly meetings he has been known to "save many a situation." For fourteen years he was circuit steward. He was re-elected as one of the circuit's representatives on the District Committee for many years in succession; and several times represented the circuit at the District Synod.



He had the gift of fluent speech, and it was well used in the pulpit, on the platform, and in open-air missions. He retained his interest in the young life of the Church right to the last. This was manifested by his frequent attendance at the Sunday school and at the Christian Endeavour; by his earnest prayers for them, and his earnest appeals to them. He was also well known in the neighbourhood as a sick visitor; and in this sphere he was a comfort and blessing to many.

His ability was also recognised outside the Church. For many years he was School Attendance Officer; and was a member of the Walsall Board of Guardians at the time of his death, which occurred on February 28th, 1919, aged seventy-eight years. As a token of esteem, the Town Hall flag was flying at half-mast while the funeral service was held in the Slater Street Church, Darlaston. There were present in the large congregation, representatives of the Darlaston Town Council, and representatives of the Walsall Board of Guardians. The service was conducted by the circuit minister. The remains of our departed brother rest in James Bridge Cemetery, but his name and influence will live long in the Church, the Sunday school, and the circuit where he laboured so long and served so well.

References

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