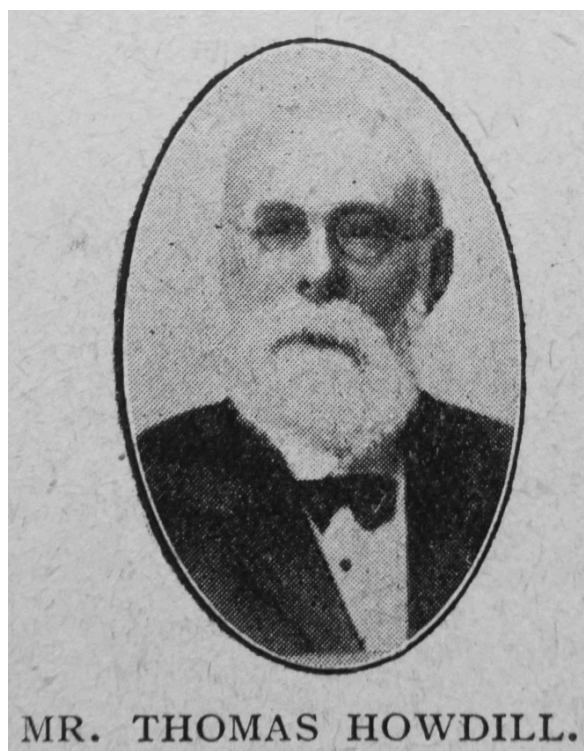


Thomas Howdill

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

Mr. Thomas Howdill, of Leeds, who passed into the eternal peace on November 2nd, 1918, was one of the many gifts from village societies to our town and city churches. He was born at the Manor House, Tadcaster, in 1840, and began life well by dedicating himself to God while yet in his youth.

In 1861 he came to Leeds, and at once joined Rehoboth, at that time the head of the influential Third Circuit—since when it has been divided into four. In Rehoboth Chapel, our friend was married, and there he worshipped until his death. He was punctual and regular in his attendance at all the services, and was present twice on the last Sunday before the short illness that terminated his earthly career; thus his oft-expressed wish “to die in harness” was fulfilled.



It was his greatest joy to labour at home, and when called away by business, he has often taken a long return railway journey purposely that he might not miss his class or the week-night service. Mr. Howdill filled with distinction almost every office in our Church, and was also called to responsible positions in the wider life of the Connexion. He served our Zion with rare devotion, and one of the many generous evidences of his loyalty and love was the gift—in association with his son, Mr. C.B. Howdill—to the Leeds Conference, of 1898, of the President’s chair, which has been occupied by the President at each Conference since. By his faithful ministry, Mr. Howdill has enriched our Church life abundantly. Rehoboth Central Mission, especially, owes to him more than can be told, and he died believing that this cause had the promise of a very successful future.

Large congregations gathered at his burial in Woodhouse Cemetery and at the memorial service, which was conducted by the Rev. J. Marcus Brown in the sanctuary where he had served his generation for the long period of fifty-seven years. He rests from his labours, and has gained the grand, “Well done.”

References

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