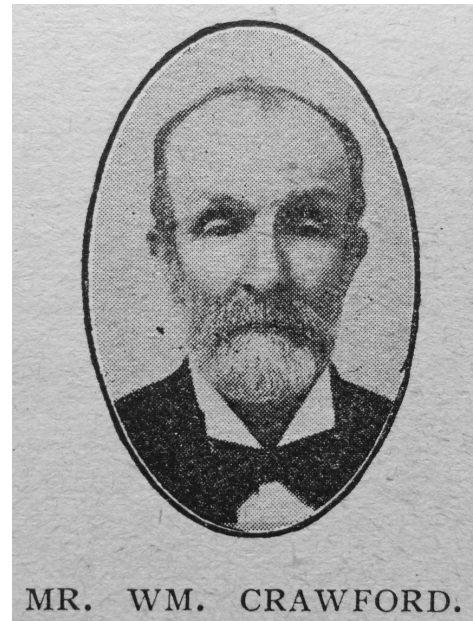


William Crawford Obituary

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by John Taws

In the death of William Crawford, Northern Methodism has lost an outstanding figure, and the Ashington Circuit a prominent official. Born at Wallsend in 1839, had he lived till New Year's Day, 1919, he would have reached his eightieth year.

In childhood he removed to Cramlington, and at the age of ten began work at the pit. He possessed a strong mind, with a distinct philosophic tendency, and in his young manhood he revealed an intense desire to promote the social and moral welfare of his fellows. With the Right Hon. Thomas Burt, whose friendship he enjoyed to the last, he took a deep interest in the newly-formed Association of the Northumberland Miners, and in that connection his strength of character would have carried him far had he so desired; he preferred, however, others to himself, and to them he gave his support.



As a Primitive Methodist he was loyal to his Church. A great lover of books, he was widely read, deeply pious, and unstintedly generous, filling for sixty years with great ability and acceptance the position of local preacher. On reaching his jubilee in that capacity, his brethren in the circuit presented him with an illuminated address. He has represented his district at Conferences, and for many years was a member of the District Committee, besides being a Trustee of many of our churches and Treasurer of the Circuit Manse Fund. Though patriarchal in age, the young life of the Church regarded him as their friend and adviser.

Bereaved of his wife eighteen years ago, his last years were spent in the home of his daughter at Linton Colliery, Ashington, and in the bosom of her family he had light at eventide.

He passed peacefully away on September 24th, 1918, after a few days' illness.

References

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