

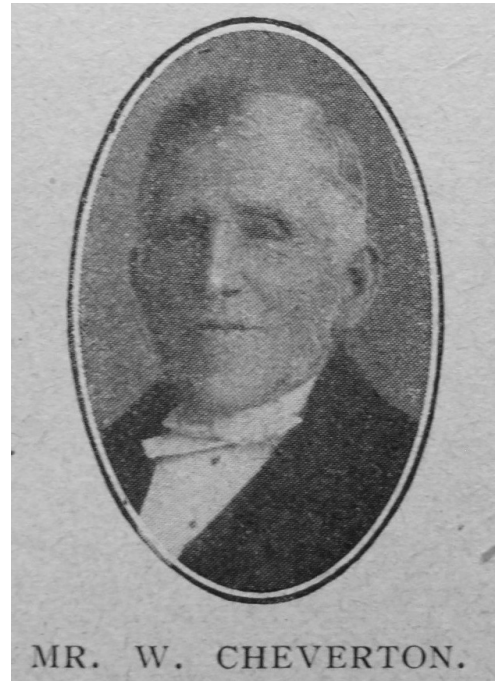
William Cheverton

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine

On Tuesday, September 26th, 1915, William Cheverton, the best known figure in Isle of Wight Methodism, fell peacefully asleep in his quiet farmstead at Arreton, Newport, at the ripe age of ninety-five years. When quite a boy he had consecrated himself to God; and in February, 1837, when fifteen years of age, received a note from the Rev. Thomas Holliday, superintendent of the Isle of Wight Branch of the Hull Circuit, authorising him "to hold meetings for prayer in the country." He was known as the boy-preacher, and for over seventy-nine years his name has appeared on the plans of the Newport Circuit.

For sixty years William Cheverton was one of the most popular lay preachers in the South of England, and was regularly billed as "Bishop." For sixty-five years he never missed an appointment, either through illness, weather conditions or distance. He had a strong, pleasing voice, and was never in difficulty for the right word. He always preached a full and present salvation, and had the joy of winning many souls. He was mighty in faith and prayer. He retained his mental vigour to the end. Only four days before his death he repeated in unison with the writer, "My heart is fixed, Eternal God," and shouted "Glory!" as words of Scripture were repeated.

The funeral service was conducted in the farm, and afterwards his body was laid to rest in the quiet Newport Cemetery in the presence of a large assembly. The memoriam service was conducted on Sunday evening; the choir rendered "Crossing the Bar," the text being Genesis xxv. 8: "Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years, and was gathered to his people." Included in the mourners was Mrs. J.T. Gooderidge, a daughter of the deceased.



References

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