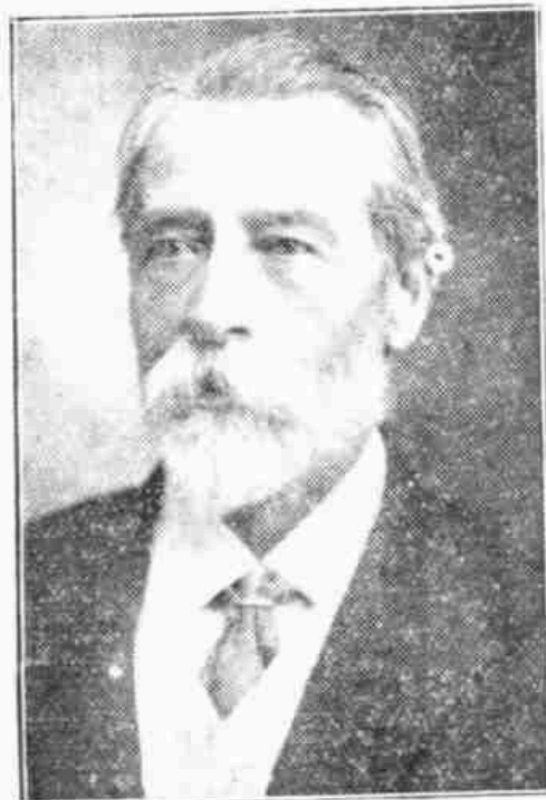


HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. William Dann, of Whittington Moor, Chesterfield
Interesting Celebrations



It was appropriate that the Church of which he has been a member for the past sixty-six years, should celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Mr. William Dann, 51, Avenue Road, Whittington Moor, Chesterfield, on Friday, by organising a birthday party at the Ebenezer Schoolroom, which was attended by members and friends.

Mr. A. L. Savage, steward, and Mrs. A. O. Wright were host and hostess. Congratulatory speeches were made by the resident minister, Rev. R. Shepherd and Mr. S. J. Dinner, Sunday School superintendent.

In responding, Mr. Dann gave a very

interesting resumé of his life. He also entertained the company with violin solos.

Born at Smalley Common, a small hamlet six miles to the north of Derby, he well remembered tramping two miles a day to the nearest school for which his parents had to pay 3d. per week. This, however, only lasted six months, for at the early age of eight he commenced work turning a twine wheel, for which he was paid threepence per day. Mr. Dann in the meantime learnt to read and write at the local Sunday School. At the age of eleven he found employment at a nearby colliery, and received what to him seemed the large wage of 1s. per day. At the age of 12 he was crushed by the pit cage which fell on him, and as at that time Hospitals were few, he was wheeled home for two miles unconscious, and without receiving medical attention was left to the care of his parents.

Coming to Chesterfield at the age of 24 years, he found employment at the Wallsend Colliery, Newbold, and subsequently at the Cobner and Monk Wood Collieries. Owing to two of his intimate friends losing their lives in the pit, he left the mining industry. At the age of 28 years he married Miss Martha Barker and took over the grocery business of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Barker, at Station Road, Whittington Moor, Chesterfield, and carried on the business successfully for 40 years until his retirement 20 years ago.

GIFT TO CHURCH

Mr. Dann gave interesting reminiscences of the early days of the Primitive Methodist Church, when it stood on the site of the present billiard saloon in Sheffield Road. Since those days he has held every office in the Church, and has always been a very generous donor. On the occasion of his golden wedding, he made a gift of £100 collected by himself, and later, in order to celebrate his services of 60 years to the church, he handed the Trustees a cheque for £182, which had been contributed by members of his family and circle of friends. His religious activities were not confined to the Whittington Moor Church, for he was a prominent representative of the Sheffield

District to the P.M. General Conferences seven times, and in 1932 he represented the District at the United Methodist Conference in London. In 1910 he was honoured by being elected a member of the Hymnal Supplement Committee and Conference at Tunstall, Staffs. Mr. Dann also represented the Sheffield District on the Sunday School Committee for 20 years, and was treasurer for the full period. He was also a member of the Sheffield and District Ministerial Association for over 20 years.

On Friday morning, Mr. Dann received numerous telegrams of congratulation, including a cablegram from his youngest son, Arnold, who is the organist at All Souls' Church, Biltmore, North Carolina, and a telegram from his son James, F.R.C.O., Hon.R.C.M., the organist at the Hollywood Presbyterian Church in Belfast.

Mr. Dann has six grandchildren, one of whom, Mr. W. J. Dann, Ph.D., is carrying on research work at the Duke University, N.C., America. Another, Mr. Leslie Dann, is an air pilot in the R.A.F., at Manton. In the course of his varied life, Mr. William Dann has crossed the Atlantic eleven times, and was a member of Sir Henry Coward's Choir which went round the world "On Wings of Song."

He was always a passionate lover of music, and can still play the violin with marked ability. For the past ten years he has been the means of swelling the funds of Dr Barnardo's Homes at Christmas-time by visiting the homes of friends and entertaining them with his musical instrument.

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