



Mr. JOHN ELLMER.

FIFTY YEARS A LOCAL PREACHER

This week Mr. John Ellmer, a well-known and respected resident of Westgate, Belton, completes his fiftieth year as a Primitive Methodist local preacher. He is the second oldest member and the oldest local preacher on the active list of the Epworth Primitive Methodist Circuit.

He was converted, as Methodists term it, in April, 51 years ago, at the Westgate Primitive Methodist Church to which he is still attached, and 17 months after that he was put on the Circuit Plan. He has walked thousands of miles in all sorts of weather to fulfil his appointments. One of his longest journeys was from Haynes Farm, Thorne Levels to Mission Springs. Once he walked from Haynes Farm to Wroot, preached to a congregation of three in the afternoon and seven at night. He has preached in 78 places of worship in the Epworth and Rotherham circuits and at services held in cellars, kitchens, mission rooms, common lodging houses and Salvation Army huts, moreover he has proclaimed his message in all the Nonconformist churches in the Isle of Axholme except the Wesleyan Churches at Crowle, Epworth and Owston Ferry.

Mr. Ellmer's grandmother entertained the first band of "Raving Ranters", as some of the early Primitive Methodists were called, when they visited Swinefleet. She was, made a first class leader there and left "in charge" of the converts. Up to her death at the age of 91 Years, she remained a staunch member of the Primitive Methodist Society.

Mr. Ellmer's grandfather was converted under the exhortations of the "Raving Ranters" at Swinefleet. For 62 years his father who died at the age of 88, was a local preacher

Interesting experiences have come the way of Mr. Ellmer during his career as a local preacher. Twice he tried to preach from "notes" but gave it up.

Mr. Ellmer has been a Sunday School superintendent, president of Band of Hope and Christian Endeavour Societies, and has held all the offices of the P.M. Society open to a layman except that of Circuit Steward. At present he is class leader at Westgate Chapel.

DAUGHTER A PREACHER TOO.

His daughter, Mrs. Myatt who lives with him has been a local preacher since May 1917, and claims to have travelled over 2000 miles to her appointments. She is president of the Pleasant Hour and junior Class Leader at Westgate. Another daughter, Mrs. Jubb also lives at Belton and is a member and worker at the same church.

Mrs. Knighton, Mr. Ellmer's eldest daughter, is a recruiting sergeant for the Salvation Army at East Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and visits hospitals and jails.



Mr. Elmer has been a widower for six years. Of a family of eight, the three daughters referred to survive. He has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. His age is 77. He started working at the age of seven and has not yet given over, employing his time in cultivating a small holding. He says he drinks plenty of water all the year round and attributes his good health to that.

Mr. Ellmer returned his native place after living 23 years at Rotherham and then ten at the Fruit Farm, Epworth.

He is the third local preacher in "The Isle" to complete his jubilee as a Primitive Methodist local preacher this year, the other two being Mr. Wm. Eyre of Crowle, and Mr. J. E. Ellis, of West Butterwick,