

## **Paulson Family links to Edwinstowe and the Primitive Methodist Church**

Charles Paulson was born in Swinderby, Lincolnshire in 1849. He served his time as an apprentice wheelwright in Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire. He moved to Edwinstowe, together with his wife and young daughter c1872.



*Charles at work*

Annie Hodson Paulson was Charles Paulson's wife. Her brother, William H. Kitchen, was together with his wife and family resident in Edwinstowe. He was employed as an agricultural labourer on the Earl of Manvers Estate.

Charles's great passion in life was his commitment to the Primitive Methodist Church in Edwinstowe.

He was employed on the Earl Manvers Estate as a wheelwright until c1897. His other children, three boys and a girl were all born in Edwinstowe.

Jane Ursula Haywood, Charles Paulson's sister was married to Joseph Haywood. They lived at Budby. He was a blacksmith, also employed on the Earl Manvers Estate. Although widowed in 1925, she continued to live in Budby until her death in 1940 aged 89 years.



*Charles Paulson and family outside the family home at Clyde Villa, Worksop*



The Primitive Methodists were established in Edwinstowe around 1816-7 and their chapel was opened in 1848 on the corner of Friend Lane near the railway station opposite the Dukeries Hotel on Rufford Road. It was 'a small, but clean and comfortable structure, with rising pews. Behind the tiny communion rail stood a high tub-shaped pulpit, fitted with two imposing paraffin lamps.

Charles and Annie's two sons, Charles Henry and William Hodson, both served their time as wheelwrights with their father. William Hodson later became a Primitive Methodist Minister.



(85) WILLIAM H. PAULSON: born at Edwinstowe in 1877, where his parents were devoted members of the village cause. When quite a youth he began to preach, and entered the Primitive Methodist Ministry in 1902. Natural qualities and other gifts and graces made him an ideal minister, and his circuits prospered under his charge. He was kindly, generous, sympathetic, and had a sense of humour. Cheerfulness radiated from him at all times. In the pulpit he was a personality and a force, and his bright, homely, practical discourses were greatly appreciated; whilst his sincerity and evangelistic fervour produced lasting fruits in many lives. He was a special favourite with the young, for he himself remained young, buoyant, and hopeful. He was a wise administrator, a diligent pastor, a loyal friend. He faced difficulty with courage. He delighted in social intercourse, and manifested the Christian spirit of helpfulness in all his relations. His memory will be cherished by many people throughout our Church. He passed away suddenly on May 10, 1935, in the fifty-eighth year of his age and the thirty-third of his ministry.

Rev. W H Paulson Obituary Minutes- Methodist Conference 1936

William Hodson & Mabel Bessie Paulson 1910



Stone Laying of new Sunday School in 1906

Charles was also a member of the team that looked after the Major Oak and it reported in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph July 1876, "During the last two years it has been the custom of the Primitive Methodists of the Eakring district to hold gathering at the Major Oak."

He was an enthusiastic gardener and was a regular exhibitor of cut flowers and vegetables at the Annual Edwinstowe Flower Show. In August 1884, he displayed Phloxes, Woodhead Pansies and African Marigolds at the District Show.

Sport was valued and important part of Methodist life.



*Methodist Chapel Football Team c1930's*

Rev. Paulson and his brother were enthusiastic sportsmen as you can see by the report below.

## DISTRICT CRICKET.

The return match between Ashby Methodists and Northorpe was played at Ashby on Saturday. The visitors batted first, the veteran Cottingham and Stutting opening the batting, Parker and Sparks being the bowlers. Parker bowled Stutting in his opening over; Cottingham, jun., joined the elder, and made some lusty hits in his 12, before Parker found his stumps; two for 20. Marper came next and adopted stonewalling tactics, but soon lost the company of the elder Cottingham, caught off Sparks for 8; 3 for 22. The next three wickets fell for an addition of seven runs to the score, making six wickets down for 29. Marper, who was showing dogged, if not pretty, defence, was joined by Drury, and the youngster began to hit 2's with clockwork regularity before being caught by Paulson off Sparks for 16, which contained six 2's; seven for 58. The next three wickets fell for four runs, bringing the total to 62, Marper carrying out his bat for a patient 19. Paulson took four wickets for 12 runs, Sparks three for 15, Parker three for 22, and Brown one for 10. Paulson and Sparks were the first defenders for the home team, Stutting and Marper being the bowlers. Sparks soon departed; one for 4. Rev W. H. Paulson joined his brother, and a useful stand was made before Mr Paulson was bowled after scoring 8 in nice style. Armitage came next, and a profitable partnership took place, causing a change in the bowling, Cottingham, junior, for Marper, which soon took effect, the Rev Paulson being bowled for a well played 10; three for 31. Fred Brown came next, but after scoring one was given out lbw, a decision he evidently did not agree with—4 for 32. Parker scored 8, Armitage hitting out when occasion warranted, causing another change, Lobley, slow bowler, in place of Stutting, and this proved the Methodists' undoing, Armitage being caught for 13, and the end arrived with the total 61, or a defeat by one run.





Sunday School Anniversary n.d.

The funeral took place at the New Cemetery on Wednesday when the first part of the service was taken in the Primitive Methodist Church, the Superintendent Minister, the Rev. R. Heppenstall officiating. There was a large congregation and Miss Hayton, at the organ, played Chopin's Marche Funebre. "I know that my Redeemer layeth" and at the conclusion "O Rest in the Lord," the hymn "There is a land of pure delight" and "O God, our help in ages past," being sung. The Rev. G. Sprittles (Workson Trinity) took part by invitation in the service at the graveside.

In a moving tribute to the life of the deceased, the Rev. R. Heppenstall said the words of sacrifice that came to his mind in the solemn and sacred service were those spoken of David: "He served by day and generation by the will of God and fell on sleep." Their beloved, honored and kindly-hearted brother, whom God had called unto Himself in the fullness of his years also "fell on sleep." No lingering illness, no pain, no dimness of sight, no dark forebodings of the future. Like a child asleep in his mother's arms, so he slept in the arms of God, a beautiful end to a beautiful life.

"On Sunday morning last he worshipped with us here in this sanctuary as his custom was; and ere the shadows of evening fell his spirit returned to God, and he joined the Redeemed host, that worship before the throne in heaven. He had a long connection with our Church—only on Thursday last in the School-room he told us of his being a member of the Primitive Methodist Church for over 50 years; and he added, "I hope to die one." His wish has been granted. His long years of service in our Church began at Edwinstowe, where he lived for many years, and where his name is still fragrant. Then at Chireocks, he led his class of members week by week, trudging in all weathers, from Thorpe Salvin, and secretly missing the Sunday or Week Day services. For over 27 years he has worshipped with us at John Street, becoming a Trustee of nearly all our Churches, and on more than one occasion representing his Circuit at the District Synod, and on one occasion being honoured by his brethren and elected a member of the Conference.

In his business life he was the soul of honour. He never played false. His word was as good as his bond. His maxim ever was: "As

The officiating Minister at Charles's funeral service at Worksop in 1926, paid tribute to his committed and saintly life; noting his contribution to the Primitive Methodist Society during his years in Edwinstowe.

In 1951, the Primitive Methodists merged with the Wesleyan Methodists. After the final service in the Friend Lane chapel, the congregation paraded through the village to the Methodist Church where another service was held followed by a tea for the combined congregations. Official posts were divided between the two churches. Mr. S.L. Winfield who tenanted the farm next to the former Primitive Methodist Chapel used it to store his farm equipment. It gradually fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1986.