



DEATH OF THE OLDEST INHABITANT

Mr. Moses Moore Passes Peacefully Away

In our last issue we recorded the sudden illness of Mr. Moses Moore. At the age of 98 it could hardly be expected that one would possess sufficient vitality to recover from such an attack, and in this case it proved fatal, the end coming on Friday, after an illness of only five days. By his death Melksham loses not only its oldest inhabitant, but there passes away a familiar and almost unique personality. Usually when one who has reached an age anything near that of the late Mr. Moore, he or she has been laid aside for a considerable time, and death makes no gap except in the circle of the family and immediate relatives. In the case of Mr. Moore it was not so: notwithstanding that he was almost a centenarian he, until a few days before his death, retained a good deal of physical and mental vigour, his only infirmity being that of defective hearing. He had always taken a great interest in business and other concerns, and was almost daily seen about the town "known and read of all men." Mr. Moore who was brought up in the neighbourhood of Bowerhill, in his younger days followed the pursuit of a farmer, for many years occupying Townsend Farm at Poulshot. At the age of about 65 he retired and has since resided for some 33 years at Melksham. Being a shrewd business man, and, as stated, taking deep interest in public bodies were very useful. Long before the existence of urban and rural councils as at present constituted, Mr. Moore was one of the most active members of the old Highway Board and the Local Board at Melksham, having previously occupied similar positions at Devizes. His accurate knowledge of local areas, right-of-way, and other matters affecting the work of these bodies was much valued and appreciated. He also did good work as a Guardian, his voice in matters of relief being usually on the side of the more generous allowance for the poor, and one who was present remembers occasions when, in reply to a suggestion to cut down the weekly sum to the lowest point, Mr. Moore had, with a sort of shrug, said "Let him try to live on it for a week." It should be added that Mr. Moore's public work continued under the present system as a member of the Melksham Urban District Council.

THE LATE MR. MOSES MOORE

Born on February 6th 1817, in the good old days of George III, and not long after the battle of Waterloo, his early career seems like ancient history, as it drew one's mind back, not only to pre-telephonal and telegraphic days, but to the period of the old coaching system before the existence of railways, and many in these days wonder how people used to manage them. However, there is a marvelous capacity in human nature for adapting itself to circumstances, and in a few years of altered conditions it seems that the things that exist are the things that have been, and "there is nothing new under the sun." It is rather a notable fact that Mr. Moore lived under no less than six reigns, although one of them extended to the long period of nearly 61 years. In politics Mr. Moore was a sound Liberal, and here he showed his principle by

differing from the majority of his brother agriculturists. He did not, however, take a very prominent part in political work.

From his early days Mr. Moore was associated with the Wesleyan Church, and his religious work, which extended over many years, being continued till the infirmity of partial deafness with advancing age, made it impossible, was greatly appreciated. He at one time and another held nearly all offices open to a layman, including that of circuit steward, in which position he helped not only with his personal service, but his contributions towards the circuit funds. He was also an acceptable lay-preacher, and his consistent membership of the church, and his deep interest in its welfare, continued to the end. His regard for his brother local-preachers, particularly those in less fortunate worldly circumstances than himself was shown shortly after the introduction into these parts of the Wesleyan Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association by the gift of two cottages at Poulshot for its benefit and last year he presented another cottage for the same purpose. He also helped the cause at times by generous contributions to various funds, and was thus instrumental to a considerable extent in the erection of several chapels in Devizes circuit. While remaining true to his own denomination, his sympathies and help did not end there, as was evidenced some seven years ago, when he gave £100 towards the new school buildings for Broughton Road Baptist Church, and had the honour, which over 90 years old, of laying the first of a number of memorial stones. It may well be said of the deceased gentleman, Life's work well done, Life's race well run: Now comes good.

He leaves two daughters, Mrs. E. J. Lee and Miss Mildred Moore. The latter lady for health reasons resided in the neighbourhood of the Mendips, Somerset.

The funeral which was of a quiet and unostentatious character, took place on Tuesday afternoon, the remains being interred at the Cemetery. The first part of the service was conducted in the Wesleyan Chapel, the Rev. H. Rossalt of Devizes (superintendent minister of the Wiltshire Missions and the Rev. F. Mackenzie officiating. Two mourning coaches conveyed the mourners from Martigny House to the chapel, the coffin covered with beautiful wreaths, being borne on the hand bier. The rostrum and choir stalls at the chapel were draped in black. The hymns sung were, "Jesu, Lover of My Soul," and "Rock of Ages." From the chapel to the burying-ground all the mourners and friends walked in procession. The relatives present were, Mr. E. J. Lee (son-in-law), Mr. Goodenough, Mr. John Noad (nephews). Messrs. G. W. Slade and Edward Slade, Newbury (nephews). Amongst others present were 34 more. A. Stratton, A. G. Smith, J. E. Bush, H. H. Dixon, L. J. Bigwood, T. Arney, W. Mears, J. T. Rowlett, E. R. Bevan, H. J. Fisher, J. J. Bowles, W. J. Higgins, J. Webb, C. H. Taylor, H. J. White, Dr. W. I. Keir, Rev. A. Saddler, Rev. E. Edginton, Rev. J. Harper, Mr. C. Collett. Mr. P. H. Knee, (the latter three representing the Melksham Free Church Council), Mr. W. S. Tucker (Keevil), Mr. Jones (Poulshot), Mr. T. Slade (Rowde), Messrs. J. Adams, J. Cruse, T. Helms, C. Offer, and L. Maslen (Devizes), Mr. A. W. Perrin (Stanton St. Bernard) and others. The Rev. W. J. Farr wishes us to state that he was unable to be present through having to conduct another funeral at Lacock. Wreathes and floral tributes were sent as follows:-

With loving remembrance , from Ada.

In affectionate remembrance of a dear uncle, from Mr. and Mrs Thomas Noad, Neanden.
From Miss Wilkinson.

With deep sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. Freegard.

With kind sympathy, from members and friends of the Wesleyan Chapel, Poulshot.

In affectionate remembrance, from Mr. and Mrs. Goodenough.

In affectionate memory, from Mildred.

In affectionate remembrance, from Edwin.

In affectionate remembrance, from Mr. G. W. Slade (Berks).

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Henry White.

A memorial service will be held at the Wesleyan Church on Sunday morning.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

At the meeting of the Urban Council on Friday evening, the Chairman mentioned that the oldest townsman, Mr. M. Moore, had that day passed away, and proposed that a vote of condolence be passed and communicated to Mr. E. J. Lee respecting the death of his father-in-law. Mr.

Moore had been a worthy man, but at the age of 98 they could not expect he could continue the work which he had done in the town.

Mr. Stratton, in seconding the Chairman's motion observed that Mr. Lee was also a good worker in the town, and had been a useful member of that Council.

The resolution was carried.

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