

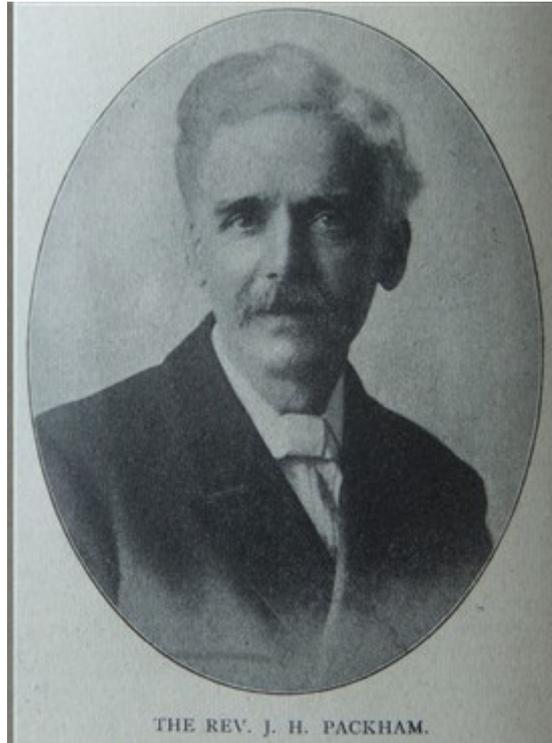
JOHN HENRY PACKHAM

John was born in 1866 at Brighton and became a Primitive Methodist minister in 1890

He married Ellen Amelia Hibberd in 1894 in Steyning, Sussex. They had seven children

Following Ellen's death in 1920 John later married Louisa Kate Dew in 1924 on the Isle of Wight.

John died aged 82 on 8 March 1948 at Street, Somerset



A few newspaper fragments relate to his life. A fuller account of his life can be found via:

http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/category/primitive_methodist_ministers

Goudhurst, Sussex

LECTURE.

At the Primitive Methodist chapel, on Monday evening, the Rev. J. H. Packham (pastor) delivered an interesting lecture on the life and work of Peter Cartwright, the Backwoods preacher of America.

The Lecturer laid before the audience a vivid description of pioneer life in the far West, with its perils from Indians, and the necessity for travellers to "rough it," and gave examples of the ignorance that prevailed there a century ago. He also described, in an animated manner, the extraordinary scenes that occurred at the monster camp meetings (then prolonged for days, and even weeks at a time), and gave interesting particulars of Cartwright's indomitable energy, and his utter fearlessness in encountering Mormonites, Atheists, and, in fact any opponent whatever with whom tenets he could not agree. Details were given of his successful Evangelistic work, whether amongst white settlers of various sorts or no sect at all, or amongst the poor, degraded, and despised slaves, who were not supposed to use the consolations of religion.

Mr. E. Kemp presided, and at the close of the lecture a collection was taken on behalf of the Circuit funds,
(Sussex Agricultural Express - Saturday 09 March 1895)

John spent a significant part of his career in the Aylesbury circuit:

The system of ministerial change observed in Methodism has resulted in the return of the Rev J. H. Packham as superintendent of the Aylesbury Primitive Methodist Circuit. It is ten years since he left the Circuit, and at that time general regret was expressed at his departure, as, in addition to the work in his particular connexion, he engaged in a wider sphere of activity as secretary of the Free Church Council. His return is, therefore, a matter of gratification to many who knew him, and who will join in hearty good wishes for a resumed successful and happy ministry in the Circuit.

(Bucks s Herald - Saturday 27 July 1912)

THE TALE OF A HEAD.

The Rev. J. H. Packham, of Aylesbury, has received a very interesting letter from his son, Private R. I. Packham, who is in Malta with the A.S.C. (Motor Transport Section). He writes:-

"We have been very busy unloading hospital ships, and transferring men from one hospital ward and camp to another. We have nearly as many as we know what to do with already on the island, and still they come thick land fast. It is an awful sight to see the wounded semi: off the boats - some armless, some with a leg off, or perhaps with no legs at all. Some are laid up with fever and other illnesses belonging to war. But I think the worst and most pitiable of the lot are those suffering from nerves. It is fearful to watch the poor fellows. There was one rather humorous incident while unloading one of the boats. A Gurkha had brought with him a Turk's head, and because they would not let him bring it ashore he kicked up an awful row and tried to get at two Turkish prisoners, who happened to be on board at the time, with the intention of getting one of theirs in its place. . . ."

(Bucks Herald 4 September 1915)

Aylesbury Primitive Methodist Circuit.

As briefly reported last week. the Rev. J. H. Packham. who is leaving the Aylesbury circuit to take up an appointment at Ramsgate preached his farewell sermon at Aylesbury on Sunday morning July 2. On the following Wednesday evening the members of the Christian Endeavour Society and other Church organisations met to bid farewell to their minister and his son, Mr. Stewart Packham.

Mr. F. W. Barker who presided, also Miss Gomm, Messrs E E Page, J Pitkin, F. Dobson, and Pt.. W. Crooks spoke highly of the good work the rev. gentleman had done in Aylesbury and the circuit. Mr. Barker also presented Mr Steart Packham with a silver-mounted umbrella subscribed for by members of the CE as a slight acknowledgement of his valuable services to the Society.

On Thursday evening, July 6 a meeting of representatives the various Churches in the Circuit was held at Whitchurch. The chair was occupied by Mr. Mark Price (North Marston), the Senior Circuit steward, who, after an opening prayer by Mr. Barker, spoke of the cordial relations which had existed between himself and Mr. Packham during the seven years he had known him. He was sorry Mr. Packham was going; they would miss him very much

Mr E E Page (Aylesbury), Circuit steward, also expressed his regret at Mr. Packham's impending departure. The Circuit was in a much better and healthier condition now than when he came there, and they were all sorry to lose him.

Mr. Hogston (Whitchurch), Mr. W. Fleet (Wingrave), Mr. G. Bignell (Aston Abbots). Mr. Hedges (Weedon), Mr. Fincher (Oving) and Mr. Page (on behalf of the Waddesden Church), each testified to the sterling qualities displayed by Mr. Packham in his office as Circuit minister. They had always found him kind and considerate, and as much a personal friend as minister. A letter from Mr. Lurby, of Waddesdon, was read expressing appreciation of Mr. Packham's services.

Mr. Bliss and Mr Barker (Aylesbury), having also referred to the value of Mr. Packham's work among them and the hearty co-operation and support he received from Mrs Packham, Mrs. Page presented Mr. Packham with a silver teapot suitably inscribed, and a purse of gold.

The Rev. J. H. Packham thanked them all for their kind gift. He had made many friends in the Circuit which he took over in troublous times. This was his second term as Minister of the Aylesbury district, and the time had passed happily. He had spent half his ministerial life in two Circuits. He asked the Circuit to help the minister besides expecting the Minister to help the Circuit. He would only say further - "Good-bye: God bless you"

(Bucks Herald 15 July 1916)