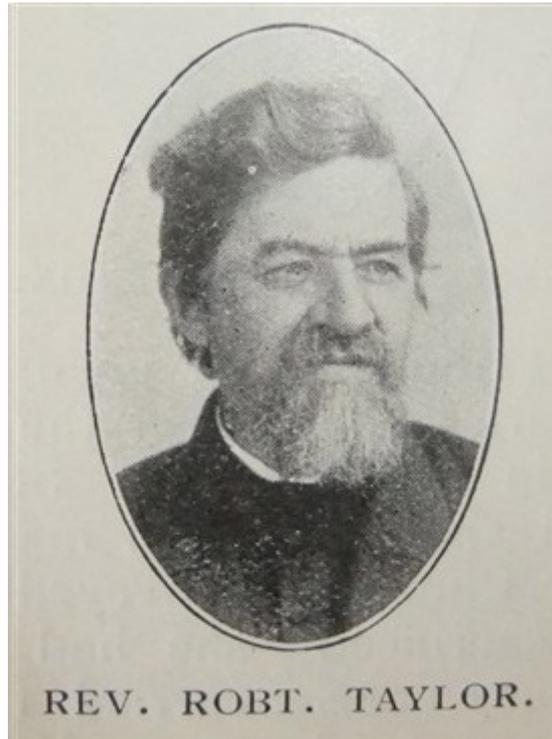


ROBERT TAYLOR

Robert was born on 28 July 1826 at Little Clacton, Essex

Robert married Mary and they had five children

Robert died on 11 September 1910 in Dover, Kent



A fuller account of his life can be found via:

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

LOWESTOFT

PRIMITIVE METHODIST

On Tuesday, a farewell tea meeting was held in the School-room adjoining the above chapel, when about seventy friends were present to take their leave of the Revs R. Taylor and Nanton, who are leaving this station for another sphere of labour.

After tea the company adjourned to the chapel, where the numbers were considerably increased, and a very interesting evening was spent under the presidency of Mr. J. Harding. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. F. Goodall (Independent) upon the necessity of co-operation between ministers and people, their responsibilities, and future triumphs. The Revs. R. Taylor and Nanton, Captain Andrews, and Mr. Foreman addressed the meeting with mingled feelings of pleasure and pain.

The ladies of the congregation presented Mrs. Taylor with a "Lady's Companion," and Mr. Taylor with a gilt Timepiece and glass shade.

Mr. Taylor, with feelings deeply touched by the kindness of the friends, returned for Mrs. Taylor and himself their expressions of gratitude.

Mr. Thirkettle closed the proceedings with earnest prayer for God's blessing to rest upon Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and family in their new appointment.

(Norfolk News Saturday 10 July 1869)

Robert was forced to “stand down” early because of failing eyesight but although practically totally blind he continued to contribute to the life and work of the Primitive Methodist church.

Teetotalism was one constant campaign to which Robert adhered. On one public occasion, in August 1892, when magistrates were taking action to curb the number of alcohol licences in Dover, Robert, in his blindness, was at the centre of a public disturbance in the Town Hall. Where people from opposing sides (some of whom had consumed a pint or two) crammed a public meeting. The extensive newspaper report includes the following:

(At eight o'clock) *“The Licensed Victuallers and brewers' men who had taken the front seats, and the ladies who had paid for the two front rows at a shilling each, according to the amount on the bills, were driven to stand against the platform, between a row of borough constables, who had been placed there by Superintendent Sanders to guard the front of the platform, The men who occupied the front seats appeared to be abnormally excited, and were singing - Ah ! John Barleycorn, Oh ! John Barleycorn, Old and young thy praise have sung ! John Barleycorn This chant was interspersed with hooting and groaning when any prominent townsman or woman known to take an interest in the the Temperance Movement put in appearance. The whole body of the hall was closely packed, and so were the galleries, but whether those behind the front phalanx were hostile or friendly to the meeting, it was impossible to say, as they made no demonstration. While this state of things existed in the Town Hall, the organisers of the meeting were standing in the Maison Dieu Hall, discussing the course of action they should adopt. It had been proposed to them by the leader of the opposition, that the meeting should proceed as announced, that the resolution should be proposed, seconded and supported by the speakers named on the bills, the leaders of the opposition using their exertions to keep their supporters quiet, and that then an amendment should be proposed, and the opinion of the meeting taken. It was understood that that course was agreed to by Mr. Robert Sawyer, the chairman.*

While these negotiations were in progress, the Rev. R. Taylor, a retired Primitive Methodist Minister, took his seat on the platform. This gentleman is very near-sighted, in fact, his vision is so defective, that he could not see the nature of the audience he was facing, therefore quietly took his seat as a supporter of the chairman and his friends who had not then arrived. Immediately on Mr. Taylor's appearance a most disgraceful howling was set up, whereupon Mr. Graham the landlord of the Ship Hotel, jumped on the platform and begged the men in front to have respect for the gentleman on the platform, and he also appealed to them not to prevent the opening of the meeting, as he believed that if the mutiny went on, it would end to their satisfaction. This sensible and conciliatory speech had very little effect, the speaker being greeted with cries of "come down" , "what have you got to do with it;" etc, after which the singing of "John Barleycorn" was resumed with vigour”.

The newspaper account of the disturbance, was followed by the following letter !!

LETTER FROM A PUB TO A CLUB.

Dear Friend - times is gittin bad for us we was reglar disht last monday nite some of our side was got together an then sent np to the town all an in sum of our pubs our chaps got pints and 1/2 pints of bare to wet ther wissels to elp em chere the mare he's a jolly good fellee well we elped the reds we put ther bills in oar winders an now ther elpin us but as i sed we was disht twas setteld as them teetotlers was to muve ther resilushun an then our spowers frum london or sumweres was to mere a sumthin a menmeut sumthin of that sort well sum of our chaps thort thead nothin to do but to oller the water chaps cudent speke cos of the row an so onr chaps cudunt speke properly old whatsisname must manige better nex time or he ull ere of it twas a grate shame that so many respectable citizens our kustummers too an all of em gents who likes a drop an go a lot less than wunce a day into a pub lawks ow offun sum comes for a drink twas a shaim i say them showtin fellers didnt let us git our oppinyun properly xpressed the majistraits wood ave to kave in then gust think of ther shutin us up.

yours trooly
the tipplers own

Robert and Mary died in Dover within a few years of one another:

DOVER EX-MINISTER'S DEATH

The death occurred on Sunday, at the advanced age of 81 years, of the Rev. Robert Taylor, formerly Primitive Methodist minister at Dover.

Mr. Taylor came to Dover in 1883, and succeeded the Rev. J. H. Daish in the charge of the old Primitive Methodist Chapel in Peter Street, which position he occupied until 1885, when he was superannuated owing to the terrible misfortune of approaching blindness incapacitating him after an active career as a minister for 31 years. He was succeeded at Dover by the Rev. W. Bryant.

Mr. Taylor, after his retirement, took up business as a grocer in High Street, but retired after a few years, and at the time of his death was residing at 55, Buckland Avenue. During his residence in private life in Dover, Mr. Taylor has always been closely identified with, and has assisted in the work of, the church in which he was formerly a minister.

The remains of the late Rev. Robert Taylor were interred in the Nonconformist portion of St. James' Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon. The first portion of the funeral service was held in the London Road Primitive Methodist Chapel, being conducted in the presence of many members of the congregation by the Rev. T. Meakin, Primitive Methodist Superintendent. He was assisted by the Rev. T. E. Currah, of Folkestone, representing the Connexional Committee, the Rev. E. J. Cooke, Primitive Methodist, and the Rev. W. Holyoak, Salem Baptist.

The service commenced with the singing of the hymn, "Say why should friendship grieve for those," after which the Rev. T. E. Currah read Psalm 90 and the lesson, and the Rev. G. J. Cooke offered prayer.

The Rev. T. Meakin then delivered an address, in the course of which he paid a high tribute to the character and disposition of the late Mr. Taylor. He announced that a memorial service would probably be held on Sunday next at that Church.

The hymn "Rest from thy labour, rest." was afterwards sung, and the service concluded with prayer offered by the Rev. W. Holyoak.

As the coffin was reverently borne out of the Church the organist (Mr. W. S. Lewis) played Mendelsohn's Funeral March.

(Dover Express - Friday 16 September 1910)

PRIMITIVE METHODIST MINISTER'S WIDOW'S DEATH.

The funeral took place at St. James' Cemetery, on Saturday afternoon, of Mrs. Mary Taylor, who died on March 9th, at the age of 93 years, after a brief illness.

She was the widow of the Rev. R. Taylor, who was very much esteemed as a Primitive Methodist Minister in the Dover Circuit, about 32 years ago, and who was superannuated owing to failing eyesight after about three years work here. Though blind he for many years continued to work in connection with the ministry in various ways and died about seven years ago.

The interment of Mrs. Taylor took place in the same grave as her husband, the Rev. W. W. Goldstraw officiating. The mourners present were Miss Taylor (daughter), Mrs. West (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Ellis (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taylor (grandson and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lewis, Mr. F. Baker, Mrs. Woodward (Ramsgate), and Mrs. Goldstraw (friends).

(Dover Express - Friday 19 March 1915)