

Alfred Henry Vine

Alfred Henry Vine was born in Radford, near Nottingham, son of John Vine a Methodist Minister in May 1845.

He was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, and King's College, Oxford. and entered the Wesleyan ministry in 1867.

Shortly after his ordination he came to Maidenhead for two years in September 1868, and it is extremely possible that one of his duties was to inter or to assist at the interment of Richard Portrey the young son of his Superintendent minister.

In September 1878 he married Ellen Louisa Morgan in Abergevenny and together they were to have three daughters, Sibyl, Alice and Marjorie.

Both he and his wife were invited back to Hackney to share in Anniversary celebrations

ANNIVERSARY OF CASSLAND-ROAD SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Anniversary services in connection with the Cassland-road Sunday School were prefaced by an "At Home," held in the schoolroom on Saturday evening, to welcome the Rev. Alfred H. Vine and Mrs Vine, on their visit from Manchester for the anniversary occasion. The room was prettily draped with curtains, and decorated with some beautiful plants, kindly lent by Mr. Bayst, of Gascoyne-road. A full hour was given for conversation and social intercourse, the whole of the Sunday School workers of the Hackney circuit having been invited to the gathering.

The proceedings were further enlivened with songs by Miss Vandeeper and Mr. Robinson, and a selection by the Sunday School Choir under the direction of Mr. W. T. Whalen. The Rev. Simpson Johnson took the chair at an informal meeting, when Clr J. W. Thomas (secretary) read a very encouraging report of the work in connection with the school, and Mr. John Shepherd (treasurer) gave an account of the financial position. Mr. E. Atkins: and Mr. J. K. Brown (circuit stewards) took part in the proceedings, and there was a very hearty and unanimous expression of regard for the high character and lasting work of the guest of the evening, and his estimable lady.

Mr. Vine briefly and appropriately responded to the kindly expression of the meeting, and the proceedings closed with a general feeling that the success of the anniversary was assured, especially, as a liberal collection, was taken, and a special donation of two guineas was generously given by Mr. Chas. Gloare, of King Edward-road.

On Sunday morning the service was conducted by the Rev. A. H. Vine. In the afternoon there was a great gathering of children and young people, the Church-road Sunday school joining in the service. The Rev. Joseph Nettleton gave a very interesting address, and presented the Star Register prizes to 36 scholars for regular and punctual attendance.

The Rev. A. H. Vine took the service again in the evening, and preached a forceful and eloquent sermon to a full congregation. The special hymns and anthems were a most enjoyable feature at all the services, and the singing of the scholars reflected much credit upon the choirmaster, Mr. E. H. Luce, for his careful instruction. Miss Robinson ably presided at the organ. The congregations responded liberally, and a sum of upwards of £20 was contributed to the school funds.

(Hackney Express Saturday 18th May 1895)

Alfred Vine wrote many poetic works which include:

The Doom of Saul (Fragments of an epic and other poems) (1895),

Songs of Living Things, (1897) (For Boys and Girls)

Wesley's Home (1903)

Songs of the Heart (1905).

The dedication in his book "The Doom of Saul" reads rather touchingly:

"To MY Love AND Greatest Friend, MY WIFE, I dedicate this Book"

Of his hymns the following are best known:

O Breath of God, breathe on us now (from *The Doom of Saul*).

O Great Lord Christ, my Saviour (From *The Doom of Saul*).

Saviour, Thy clear eyes behold (From Wesleyan Young People's Hymnal 1896)

There is record of him giving public addresses on the following topics:-

Conway Castle - A Lunar Rainbow

Fate, Law and Christ

The Greeley Expedition

He was elected to the "Legal Hundred" at the Wesleyan methodist Conference in July 1909

DEATH OF THE REV A H VINE

The death is recorded of the Rev Alfred H Vine, author of the well-known hymn "O breath of God, breathe on us now".

Mr Vine, who had just passed his 72nd birthday, was in the 50th year of his ministry. He laboured in many important Wesleyan circuits, including Cleckheaton, Middlesbrough, Bradford (Eastbrook), Chester, Leeds (Headingley), Manchester (Gravel-lane), and London (Kentish Town).

He was born at Nottingham, and was a poet of no mean order, as evidenced in his three volumes of verse, "The Doom of Saul", "Songs of Living Things", and "Songs of the Heart". Mr Vine studied science in many branches and was a connoisseur in art.

(Hull Daily Mail 28 April 1917)

Alfred Henry Vine died in West Ham on 27th April 1917

His wife Ellen Louisa Vine died in Bridge, Kent, in December 1931