

Timothy Coop (1817-1886)



Timothy Coop born 28 May 1817 in Westhoughton, Lancashire and died 15 May 1887 in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, USA.

His father was a devout Wesleyan and was very anxious that his children should be under religious influences and obtain a good education. Timothy attended school between the ages of 6-12. In 1831 he was apprenticed to Mr John Ackroyd a cloth dealer in Wigan where he spent seven years of his apprenticeship.

He became involved in the Wesleyan church from an early age although had periods of doubt. He was married three times, unusually on the second marriage he refused the usual wedding breakfast and gave what he called a scriptural feast for the poor and lame. In 1858 he became one of the elders of the church at Rodney Street shortly after it was built.

He was made a Justice of the Peace in 1880, also renowned for being a land and property owner and linen manufacturer, his factory in Dorning Street is still standing today.

In 1880 Mr Coop travelled around the world including New Zealand and Australia. Shortly after his return he was welcomed back by over 700 of his employees to sit down to tea. When he presented them with an illuminated address.

In August 1886 he left for Wichita, Kansas in the USA, however in May 1886 he started with malarial fever and passed away shortly after with his wife Mrs Coop, Mr James Marsden JP, his son in law and Miss Marsden at his side.

Jan Bannister Thomas on behalf of HAZ project with WLHHS

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