



Edward Eaton

As you turn from Mill Street into Castle Street, you may have noticed a plaque on the right, commemorating the opening of Castle Street, in 1923, by the Mayor, Alderman Edward Eaton. Edward Eaton was a remarkable man, rising from an errand boy at the age of 13, to receiving the greatest honour a town can bestow on a resident, becoming a Freeman of Macclesfield in 1939.

Edward was born on 4 June 1866. He was one of six children of Edward Eaton, a silk weaver and Elizabeth née Allen, who lived in Oxford Road. Edward, attended Crompton Road School, and, in 1871, was living at 4 Pitt Street with his father, mother and siblings, Joshua, 19 a cotton weaver, John, 17 a carpet worker, Elizabeth, 14 a silk winder, and Sarah Ann, 12 a silk winder.

Edward was apprenticed to a tailor on Chestergate when he was 14. In 1891, he was a shopman, living at 15 Clowes Street with his family. Shortly after this he started his own business at 36, Chestergate, living above the shop. (Now Leek United Building Society.)

On 5 April 1893 Edward, now a clothier, married Annie Roe, the daughter of Thomas Roe, an engine driver, at St George's Church. They had two children, Harold Edward born in 1895 and Phyllis Lilian born in 1899.

In November 1904, Edward was elected to the Town Council, representing No. 3 Ward. He became an alderman in 1917, serving in that office until 1945. He was Mayor of Macclesfield in 1922/3 and, in 1924, became a magistrate for the Borough of Macclesfield. During his time as a member of Macclesfield Town Council, Edward served on many committees, but his main interest was the Health Committee and he served as its Chairman for 21 years.

His obituary, in the Macclesfield Courier of July 1946 mentions that 'he was a man of wide experience, he had travelled widely in the United States and Europe'. His travels in the United States were probably to visit his brother John who had moved to Paterson, New Jersey in about 1886. Sadly, John died during a visit home and was buried in Macclesfield Cemetery. In 1929 Wm. E. Eaton, fire and police commissioner of Paterson travelled 3,000 miles to lay a wreath on his father's grave, staying for a month with his uncle Edward Eaton.

Edward died at Rose Knoll, Oxford Road on 14 July 1946 and was buried in Macclesfield Cemetery.

His headstone reads;

In ever loving memory of Annie beloved wife of Edward Eaton J.P. born May 9th 1866 died January 27th 1931, Edward Eaton J.P. Mayor of Macclesfield 1922 -23 and Freeman of the borough to whose welfare he gave a lifetimes service born July 4th 1866 died July 14th 1946 also Harold Edward Eaton only son of the above born June 5th 1893 died June 3rd 1972.