

Mary Turpin

The obituary of Mary Turpin, née Hyde, a labour councillor, states that she was a forceful speaker. Her most notable political work was at election times, particularly when there was a General Election.

Mary HYDE was born on 27 April 1874 and baptised on 14th June 1874 at Crompton Road Licensed School Chapel, Macclesfield (now All Saints parish church) the daughter of John, a cotton operative, and Emma née ADAMS of Park Lane.

In the 1891 census Mary HYDE was at 35 Peter Street Macclesfield, aged 16, a cotton weaver with her father John, a cotton power loom tackler, mother Emma, brothers Herbert, aged 14, a cotton weaver, Ernest, aged 12, a cotton weaver, Harry aged 8 and Walter and Clarence both aged 3 and sisters Amelia, aged 10, a cotton weaver and Annie aged 5.

On 18th June 1898 at St Michael's Temporary church (St Michael's church was restored between 1898 - 1901 at a cost of £20,000.) she married Benjamin John TURPIN, a pipe manufacturer of Bread Street.

A son Carl was born and died in 1899 and a daughter, Constance May followed in 1901 but died in 1906. In 1901 the family were living at 5 Brough Street Macclesfield. By 1905 when daughter Irene Norna Hyde was born the family was living at 193 Crompton Road Macclesfield. In 1907 a son Harcourt Hyde TURPIN was born at 247 Crompton Road Macclesfield.

Mary Turpin was involved when a small band of workers got together to found Macclesfield Labour Party, in the early twentieth. Her obituary states she was looked upon as the "mother" of the women's section of the Party.

She stood, unsuccessfully, as a labour councillor in the 1925 municipal elections and is mentioned in *The Vote* in an article entitled *Vote for Women Candidates*.

In 1927 she was appointed a magistrate and in the 1930s served as Chairman of the Magistrates.

The Staffordshire Advertiser reported, in June 1928, that the miners of Biddulph had presented Mrs B. Turpin J.P. with an inscribed brass bound writing case, in recognition of her work done during the miners' stoppage. Week by week she sent parcels of food, clothing etc. to needy cases. About 3,000 packages were distributed.

She was elected to the town council in 1938 and became the first woman alderman in Macclesfield in 1945. She retired in 1955 aged 81.

Her husband Benjamin, the last surviving clay pipe manufacturer in the area, died in 1948, and Mary died on Good Friday, 4th April 1958.

After a service in St Andrew's Church, Mary was buried in Macclesfield Cemetery.

Their gravestone reads:

'In loving memory of Constance May the beloved daughter of Benjamin John and Mary TURPIN who died 24th February 1906 aged 5 years, Benjamin John beloved husband of Mary TURPIN who died 28th October 1948 aged 74 years, also Mary beloved wife of the above who died 4th April 1958 aged 83 years.'

Recently, Turpin Close in Tytherington, was named to commemorate Mary Turpin.