



Bowood Estate Lake a favourite poaching venue of Anne Sims

Anne Sims 1663 – 1775

When poaching shall have died out of the land, and antiquity thrown a classic halo round the profession – when a niche in history, instead of a niche in the county gaol, shall be the lot of game law sinners, we may chance someday to find the almost forgotten name of Anne Simms of Bremhill revived in certain “stories for children”; and figuring like Robin Hood's spouse, if not with bow and quiver, yet with the more unpretending stock in trade of a notorious fish stealer, or it may be, only with the friendly staff which supported her tottering steps to the patriarchal age of 112.

This remarkable woman was born in the year of 1663, in the reign of Charles II and died at Studley Green, in the parish of Bremhill near Bowood, in 1775, so that no doubt there are individuals still living in that locality who remember her.

She had been, and continued, till upwards of 100 years old, the most noted poacher in this part of the country, and frequently boasted of having sold to gentlemen fish taken out of their own ponds.

Her coffin and shroud she had purchased and kept in her apartment more than twenty years; yet withal showed so little symptom of immediate decay, that within a few months of her death she was able to walk to and from the seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne, nearly three miles from Studley

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