



William Lisle Bowles, Poet and Clergyman

Epitaph to John Harding

Lately Buried in the Churchyard of Bremhill

Aged 84

Lay down thy pilgrim staff upon this heap,
And till the morning of redemption, sleep,
Old wayfarer of earth! From youth to age,
Long, but not weary was thy pilgrimage;
Thy Christian pilgrimage, for faith and prayer
alone enabled thee some griefs to bear.
Lone, in old age, without a husband's aid,
Thy wife shall pray, beside thee to be laid;
For more than a kind father didst thou prove,

To fourteen children of her faithful love.

May future fathers of the village trace

The same sure path, to the same resting place,

And future sons, taught in their strength to save,

Learn that first lesson from a poor man's grave.

W L Bowles.

Bremhill Vicarage, April 1835

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