



A Typical Raging Barn Fire

Fires in the Parish 1800-1849

1827

About nine o'clock in the evening of Sunday se'nnight, a lone barn at Avon, in the parish of Bremhill in the county of Wilts, the property of the Marquis of Lansdowne, in the occupation of Mr John Morris, was wilfully set on fire, and the same, together with a stable and cart house, totally consumed. A reward of one hundred pounds has been offered for the discovery of the offender or offenders.

Morning Post Tuesday 9 January 1827

A reward of £100 is offered from the Secretary of State's office, for the discovery of the offender or offenders who set fire to a barn at Avon, in the parish of Bremhill, Wilts, the property of the Marquis of Lansdowne; and his Majesty's pardon to an accomplice, provided he did not actually commit the offence. **Hampshire Chronicle Monday 15 January 1827**

1840

A serious fire occurred last week on Monday evening at Charlcot Hill near Bremhill, where three cottages were totally destroyed, but fortunately no lives lost. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal Monday 2 November 1840**

1842

Between 11 and 12 o'clock on Thursday May 5, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr Thomas Gale of Mount Pleasant Farm, Bremhill, which in a short time destroyed the dwelling house; and had it not been for the early attendance of two fire engines, and the great exertions of those neighbours who so kindly rendered their assistance, the stable, barn and other buildings would have become a prey to the devouring element.

A circumstance greatly added to the distress of the family, there was a corpse in the house at the time of the fire and the mother had the painful task to perform of carrying out the coffin, containing the remains of her departed child, to a place of safety. Thomas Simkins was seriously hurt by the engine passing over him descending the hill. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 19 May 1842**

