



## *Obituary of Simon Iles 1891*

An old Highworth celebrity has died during the past week at an advanced age. We refer to Simon Iles, who a few years ago was a prominent character in the town, his primary claim to notoriety being his height or want of height. He was employed for many years at Hampton Farm as a shepherd, but was more widely known as a successful imitator of the inhabitants of the farmyard. His abilities in reproducing the "cock-a-doodle-do" of the cock, the "Quack, quack" of the drake, &c., was a popular feature at the different festivals in the district, and one that transferred many a copper from admiring listeners to the dwarf's pockets. Dressed in a smock and billycock of orthodox cut and style, and with the addition of his shepherd's staff, he was no minor star at fetes and other gatherings. He was buried in the cemetery on Friday last, having died at the workhouse, of which he had been an occupant for several years. He measured four feet in height, and was 85 years of age.

(Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 14th February 1891)