



Air Balloon at Milford

A pilotless air balloon or a Grand Aerostatic Globe fifteen feet in circumference was launched at the Punch Bowl, Milford.

Admittance was one shilling to see the infusion of flammable air. To the satisfaction of a very large number of spectators, the balloon continued visible for nearly 8 minutes and was at length lost in the clouds. Destination - Farley Woods about 8 miles from Salisbury.

Apparently then taken surreptitiously to Winchester, where a live cat was affixed to it and good market made of the credulity of the public, by showing it and the animal as having made an aerial voyage together.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, August 1784

An air balloon, 15 feet in circumference, was launched from Milford, near this city, on Monday evening, by Robert Lampard, an ingenious young man there, to the entire satisfaction of a very large number of spectators.

It continued visible nearly eight minutes, travelling almost due East, and was at length lost in the clouds..

The next morning it was found in Farley Wood, near Winchester, by Captain Ford, of the 7th Regiment, and carried to the Shakespeare's Head, St. Cross, where a live cat was affixed to it and a good market made of the credulity of the public bus hewing it and the animal as having made an aerial voyage together.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal, 23 August 1784