



## 26 The Close - Resident Geraldine Symons

This house was built in 1770 as a private dwelling. Prior to that there was a much smaller house belonging to the vicars choral and occupied by lay vicars. By 1769 the house was almost a ruin, the occupier James Gardiner was moved to a new house at 74.

John Chaffey a prebendary and President of the Consistory Court rebuilt it to what you see today. After his death in 1782 it was leased to Vicar Edward Moore and then after that lay people.

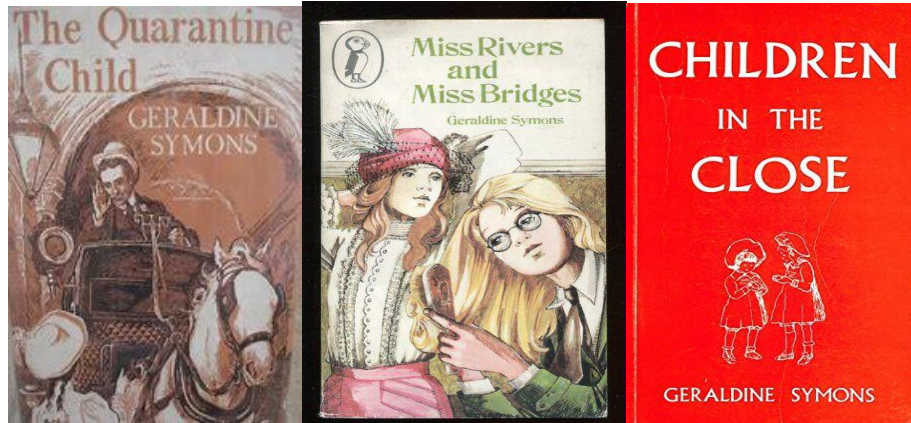
Geraldine Symons grew up here with her mother, sisters and Grandmother in an almost exclusive female household. Her grandmother being of the Bennett family who owned the Salisbury Journal.

Originally born in 1909 in Sri Lanka the youngest of four girls, she was educated at Godolphin School. During WWI her father was a Colonel in Royal Army Medical Corps and was killed in 1917 in Arras. (Original Wooden Cross is in Salisbury Cathedral - see photograph below)

She served in WWII as a Red Cross Nurse and drove ambulances for them. For 20 years she was a guide at Wilton House.

She was a prolific writer and wrote many unique books, especially the one called Miss Rivers and Miss Bridges which was child fiction but with a suffrage theme. One of her other books was about life as a child in The Close which was very informative. She also wrote under the pseudonym Georgina Groves.

She died in 1996. Here are just a few of the books she wrote:



Below is a photo of her fathers battlefield cross in the Cloisters in Salisbury Cathedral.

