



## *Victoria Cross Recipient George Strong*

George Strong was born in Odcombe, near Yeovil, Somerset to Job and Mary Strong, and he was baptized there in the church of St. Peter and St. Paul on 7th April 1833.

In 1861 he was living in the "Five Ales Inn", Chippenham, Wiltshire, as a Corporal in the Coldstream Guards and, on 4th April 1863, he married Eliza Dickinson in Sherston Magna, Wiltshire. By 1881, they had four children - all born in Sherston Magna.

He served in the Coldstream Guards in the Crimean War and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery at Sebastopol.

His citation reads;

*War Office, 24th February, 1857.*

*THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the Decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Men of Her Majesty's Navy and Marines, and Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Men of Her Majesty's Army, who have been recommended to Her Majesty for that Decoration, in accordance with the rules laid down in Her Majesty's Warrant of the 29th of January, 1856 on account of acts of bravery performed by them before the Enemy during the late War, as recorded against their several names, viz. :—*

*Coldstream Guards No. 4787 Private George Strong*

*For having, when on duty in the trenches in the month of September 1855, removed a live shell from the place where it had fallen.*

The medal was presented by Queen Victoria at Hyde Park on the 26th June 1857.

He died in Sherston Magna on 25th August 1888 aged 52, and is buried in the Churchyard of Holy Cross Church, though his exact gravesite is unknown. A memorial was erected next to his son, Thomas' gravestone, in 1986. This original gravestone also carried George's name. A display panel in the church itself was provided by The Coldstream Guards Association in August 2015.

