



## Workhouse People

### Extracts from Local papers and other sources: -

- 1848, - Inquest, Owen Turner, 60 years of age. The deceased, who was a stranger wandering about the country, had fallen down several times, it is feared through intoxication, in the street, where he became insensible and was taken to the Union, where he received every assistance and the attention of a medical gentleman, who stated that he died from concussion of the brain produced by a fall. Verdict accidental death. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 11-05-1848.*
- 1859 -Jun 27 - SUDDEN DEATH – An inquest was held on Tuesday last on the body of John Dunn, who has been for some years an inmate of the Workhouse? For a week or so previously he had complained of being ill and had received medical treatment; but on Friday last, he thought himself better, and on Saturday evening he ate a heartier supper than he had done for some time and was very cheerful. A short time later he left his room and went into the yard, where he was found to have fallen, and a few minutes after he expired. The jury returned a verdict that he had “Died by the Visitation of God”. *Swindon Advertiser 27-06-1859.*
- 1870 Inquest – An inquest was held by Mr. Whitmarsh, coroner, on Thursday last, at the Workhouse, on the body of Edwin, Infant son of Roseanna Nash, a single woman. The facts of the case were simple but afford another instance of the regard persons have for each other after cohabiting together. The woman Nash has been living with James Archer, a chimney sweep, of Faringdon, by whom she had the child, the deceased. On Monday after a quarrel, Archer turned his partner out onto the street, and both mother and infant slept on the floor at the house of a neighbour. The next morning, she started for Highworth, and procured an order for the workhouse, where she arrived in the afternoon. At six o'clock, both mother and infant retired to rest, but on awakening about one o'clock the next morning, she found the child dead by her side. Mr. J Campbell McLean, one of the Medical officers of the Union, stated that having examined the child, there was lividity on the body indicating suffocation, when the returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'. *Wiltshire Independent 19-02-1870*
- 1903 -Edgar George WICHELL, 2y 4m son of Walter Noah WICHELL of Kingsdown was admitted to infirmary with burns on January 1<sup>st</sup> and died the same day. Amy WICHELL the wife said that her daughter Alice had lit the fire and she had taken ashes to garden when she heard screaming, the boy's nightclothes had caught fire.

She put out the flames, doctor was called and took him to the infirmary. Coroner's verdict – Accidental death. *Swindon Advertiser 09-01-1903*.

13-09-1903 Sidney Smith, 40, eldest son of late P. S. Smith of Wanborough died in hospital. *Swindon Advertiser 02-10-1903*.

1948 - 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday – Mrs Elizabeth Willowby, of Highworth, currently at St. Margaret's Hospital, celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday yesterday. Married twice, five children by first marriage and six by second, is in reasonably good health. *The Western Daily Press 15-01-1948*.

She died 12 days later. *Gloucester Citizen 27-01-1948*

- A three-year-old child died of malnutrition over a long period, only weighed 18lbs 12 ounces, about half normal weight. Mother Mrs. Dorothy Eileen Thompson of The Steps, Chisledon, was charged and remanded without bail. *The Western Daily Press 11-08-1948*.

1959 - The last of the Gentleman Jockeys is ill in St Margaret's Hospital, Stratton. Herbert Randall, 82, from Croft Road, Swindon has a chest complaint. He rode his first race as an amateur in 1901. The following year he became a professional and rode the famous three-year-old mare 'Sceptre' winning both the 2,000 and 1,000 guineas in one week. He was also keen to embrace horsepower and was one of the first Swindon people to own a motor car. *Wiltshire Gazette & Herald 21-05-1959*.