



A Wiltshire Woman's Death At The Age of 105

On Thursday in last week, the remains of Mrs. Major, who died at the remarkable age of 105, were interred in the Parish Churchyard, Sutton Veny, in the presence of a large number of grandchildren and great grandchildren and a large concourse of the general public. Deceased, who was known as "granny", was born on the 2nd April, 1791, and was christened at the old Sutton Church on the 1st May, the same year, the entry in the register being:- "Jane, daughter of James Brown, and Mary, his wife, baptised May 1st, B. Thring, rector." Except the first year of her wedded life her whole life was spent in the parish, and this coupled, with the fact that she remained in full possession of her faculties, enjoyed the best of health up to a few hours of her death - which was due to apoplexy - and had a bright and chatty manner, rendered her the pride of the village and the centre of general interest. She was twice married, and for 43½ years kept the Bell Inn. On the Thursday preceding her death she was taken for a drive by the rector and Mrs. Everett, which she much enjoyed. She possessed a most retentive memory, and though her reminiscences, which she was very fond of recounting, were generally of a local character, there were certain national events of which she was retained a vivid recollection. She remembered well the celebration of George III's jubilee, but the event she most clearly remembered was a festal day in Warminster on the 19th April, 1814, in commemoration of the entry of the allied armies into Paris. On this occasion an ox and two sheep were roasted in the fair ground adjoining Ash Walk, and eight hogsheads of beer distributed. On another circumstance she well remembered was after the declaration of peace, the marching of French prisoners through Warminster from Bristol to Southampton for embarkation. Warminster was made a halting station, and the however, a distinct recollection of the hanging men were littered down in the stables of the Bell and Anchor Hotel, the ground being merely strewn with straw on which they had sleep. She also frequently spoke of the hanging of three men on Sutton Common for highway robbery. She had, however, a distinct recollection of the hanging of two men on , the Warminster Downs, on the 28th December, 1813, in the presence of the Yeomanry, the chairman of the quarter sessions, the vicar, and a vast multitude of spectators. These and many other events of more modern date she was ever ready to recount, as well as the great alterations that had taken place in Sutton and adjoining villages.

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