

David Saunders - The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain

David Saunders was born at Littleton Pannell and baptized in West Lavington on 9 October 1726. He married Lydia Bishop on 21 July 1759 at West Lavington and died on 9 September 1796. He was the inspiration for Hannah More's book "The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain" published c. 1795.

"Last week died, at Wyke, between Bath and Bristol, in the seventieth year of his age, David Saunders of West Lavington, Wilts, whose distinguished piety and moral excellence furnished Miss H. Moore with materials for her much admired story, The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain. The dimness of his sight had obliged him to give up his occupation, which he had followed for more than half a century on the same farm, until about six months back, since which time several respectable farmers, who well knew his worth, entertained him, by rotation, at their houses; and as a mark of unfeigned respect for his memory, they had his remains conveyed from the place of his decease to his own parish, and buried with more than common, solemnity."

Obituary from a London Newspaper dated 15 September 1796

Other Papers announced the death of Mr. Saunders including the Hampshire Chronicle, 17 September 1796

OPC Note:

Grave stone in West Lavington church yard

