



Homington's Oldest Resident?!

"Upon a black marble slab in the chancel of the church of Homington, near Salisbury, inscription to the memory of George Stanley, Gent, who died in the in the year 1719, in the 151st year of his age."

The Scots Magazine 1 July 1778

"In Homington Church, near this city, there lies interred, in the chancel, a gentleman named Stanley, who died at the beginning of the last century at the extraordinary age of one hundred and fifty- one years!"

Salisbury and Winchester Journal 3 January 1820

A correspondent has handed to us the following contradiction to a statement in our last :

"The account that appeared in the last Journal, respecting the Homington tomb-stone, contains an error that ought to be pointed out, and corrected : **Mr. Stanley** was only 51 years old at the period of his decease; the unit being very artfully and neatly cut, many years ago, by some free masons, who took the

liberty of imposing upon the credulity of others. An attentive observer will perceive that the figures 51 are equi-distant, as they ought to be from the preceding and subsequent letters, thus (in ye: 51st year), and that the introduction of the unit, in the third place, destroys this principle invariably attended to by stone-cutters and others. - A gentleman, allured by this false tomb-stone, (what is more lying than a tomb-stone !) seriously contemplated the erection of a house at Homington, though he had a genteel one in the neighbourhood, with a view of inhaling Homington air, and rivaling, in years at least, a Nestor, a Parr, or a Stanley. Ought not this village to be spelt thus, - Hum-ington ?"

Salisbury and Winchester Journal January 10th, 1820