



# *People News*

*Little Hinton*

**1881**

## **Mysterious Disappearance of Alfred Thorne**

Some two months since we reported a fire which occurred in this village resulting in the destruction of two cottages and their contents \*\*. The cottages belonged to a man named **Alfred Thorne**, who was unfortunately uninsured. The loss of his property appears to have preyed much on his mind, and his neighbours sympathising with him started a subscription to help him. On the 1st inst., he left his home to proceed to his land at Wanborough to work, he renting a field there in partnership with a brother.

His brother saw him leave apparently for home, by way of Mr. Prince's meadow, about seven o'clock in the evening, and from that time to this nothing has been seen or heard of him. His friends are naturally alarmed at his continued absence, fears being entertained that some sad end has befallen him.

The following is his description. Age 66 years, 5ft. 6in. high, dark complexion, chin shaved, stout build, dressed in black Jim crow hat, old grey coat with pockets at the sides, lack double breasted waistcoat and trousers, stout lace up boots, was carrying a long canvas smock frock on his arm.

**Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 18 June 1881**

\*\* **OPC Note:** see article "Fire at Cottages 1881"