

Marlborough

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN

From the Swindon Advertiser of 10 August 1863

A woman named Jane Elizabeth **Ginstock** died on Wednesday last, in the Marlborough workhouse at the extraordinary age of 106 years. Her career has been somewhat remarkable. She was born in America, though in what state does not transpire, her husband fought in the battle of Bunkers Hill, at which time she had two children, neither of whom are now living. The deceased was a wiry, weather beaten woman, with very prominent nose and chin and has for some years had a wandering life, sleeping in cowsheds and barns in the neighbourhood, chiefly in this locality. She evinced a decided aversion to the workhouse, which she however, several times entered, and on the last occasion, a few months since was only persuaded to do so from increasing infirmity. She was a resolute person and maintained that character to within about two months of her decease when a change was observed and she became more yielding. She had all her faculties to the last and gradually sank away from sheer decay of nature.

There seems to be no other records available for this lady in the United Kingdom, therefore it leaves you to wonder why she was in Wiltshire seemingly alone.

Jane would have been born about 1757 presumably in the Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire or Rhode Island States of America since her husband fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill which was fought by militia units from these states against the British in 1775. She would have been about 18 years old at the time of the battle and having had two children would possibly have married at age 16. We know she outlived her children from her obituary above, however we do not know whether her husband was one of the 115 colonial troops who were killed or possibly one of the 30 prisoners taken by the British 20 of whom died whilst captured.

It is uncertain as to when Jane came to England and to Wiltshire in particular. Could it be that her husband did not return from the battle and she came here believing he was still being held by the British on foreign shores.

If anyone can shed light or fill in gaps on Jane's life then please get in touch with the website [administrator](#)