

**WILTSHIRE AND ITS  
WORTHIES:  
NOTES TOPOGRAPHICAL  
AND BIOGRAPHICAL**

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Wiltshire and Its Worthies: Notes Topographical and Biographical by Joseph Stratford

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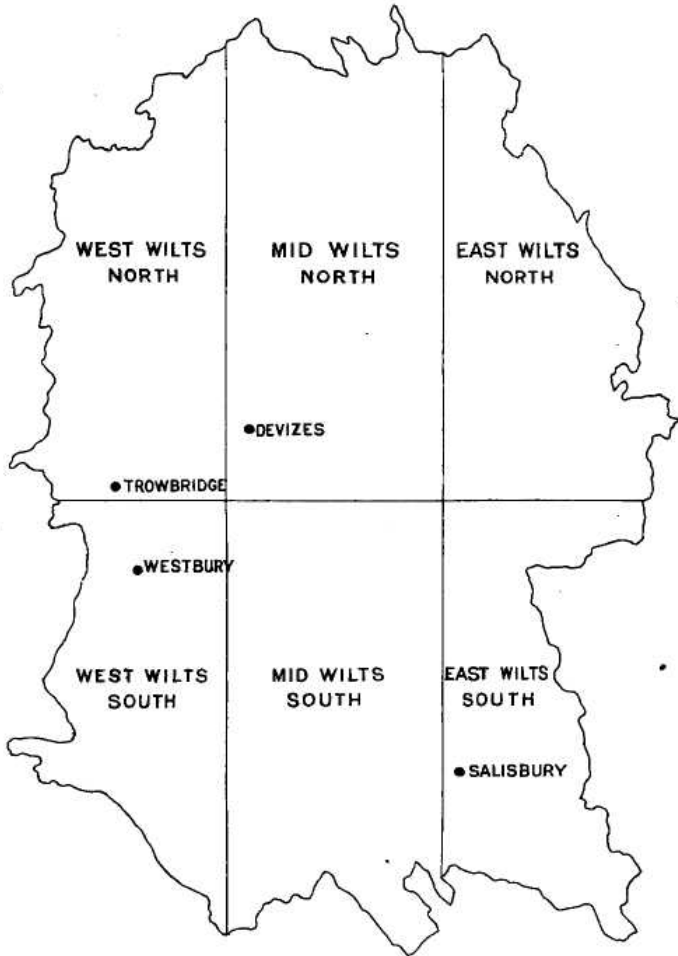
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**JOSEPH STRATFORD**

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WILTSHIRE AND ITS WORTHIES:  
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TOPOGRAPHICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL.

BY

JOSEPH STRATFORD,

AUTHOR OF "GOOD AND GREAT MEN OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE," &c. &c.

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"There is an eager desire, of which all mankind, perhaps, are sensible, to attain some tangible or visible memorial of the great men of other days; to visit the spots they frequented, to linger in the ruins of their habitations, the scenes in which their great deeds were performed, the tombs in which their ashes repose."

G. POULTEY SCROPE,

*At Inaugural Meeting of the Wiltshire Archeological and Natural  
History Society, 1853.*

Salisbury:  
BROWN AND CO.  
LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.  
1852.



*Joseph Stratford*  
*1852*

THIS VOLUME  
IS  
INSCRIBED TO THE MEMORY  
OF  
A GOOD FATHER:  
BORN AT CRICKLADE, WILTS, 1780;  
DIED AT GLOUCESTER, 1854.





## PREFACE.

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A WILTSHIRE author has pithily said that a short book should no more have a long preface than a small house a large portico. According to this rule mine ought to be brief.

The present volume had its origin in a series of sixteen papers which appeared in *The Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard*, in the spring and summer of 1881. They were introduced by the following remarks :—

“ It may seem an impertinence for one who is neither a native nor a resident of the county, to offer “*Notes on Wiltshire and its Worthies.*” Generous minds will find explanation and excuse in the following facts.

“ My father was a Wiltshire man. My paternal grandfather sleeps under the shadow of St. Sampson’s noble tower at Cricklade, a photograph of which is daily before my eyes. Other ancestors and relatives rest in the churchyards of Blunsdon, Latton, Eisey, and neighbouring parishes. Wiltshire traditions, including the two-fold version of the moonraking legend, were “household words” in my early home; and Stonehenge was a favourite family picture. Visits to Wiltshire were among the pleasures of my youth. Many of my most intimate friends of later life have been Wiltshire men. For twenty-seven years I resided near the north-western end of the shire, often visiting some of its towns and villages, and having much intercourse with its people.

“ More than a quarter of a century ago, I read to a Young Men’s Society a paper on some of the Poets whose names are inseparably associated with this county. Subsequently I began to collect notes of its Worthies in general. These I intended to weave into a popular lecture, to be given at Cricklade, and at the delivery of which I had reason to think my late

friend, the much respected Richard Mullings, Esq., of Cirencester, a native of Bishop's Cannings, and Town Clerk of Cricklade, would have presided. Circumstances prevented my carrying this design into effect, and for a time my work was stayed. 1880, the centenary of my father's birth, recalled my attention to the subject; and the results will be presented in the series of papers of which this is the first."

In compiling these papers I was often embarrassed by the abundance of materials; and my difficulty was to select and condense. Correspondence and further researches added to the stock, the possession of which suggested an extension of the work and its re-issue in a more permanent form. This course was also urged by friends in Wiltshire and elsewhere.

In making these extensions I have received kind and valuable help from W. C. Kemm, Esq., of Amesbury. This gentleman has not only forwarded me a large quantity of interesting topographical and biographical materials, but also furnished some such excellently written sketches that I have given them with as little alteration as my plan would allow. It was also in the heart of another gentleman of Amesbury, Job Edwards, Esq., to have afforded me kindly aid, had not illness unfortunately prevented his doing so.

My thanks for the use of valuable books are due to W. R. Brown, Esq., of Trowbridge, John Mullings, Esq., of Cirencester; and many others.

Some further obligations are acknowledged in the body of the work.

J. S.

GLOUCESTER,  
September, 1882.

## INDEX OF PERSONS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Addison ... ..	162	Canutus ... ..	146
Ailsbury, Marquis of ... ..	156	Centenarians ... ..	168
Aiscough ... ..	61	Chilmarke ... ..	88
Akerman ... ..	146	Chubb ... ..	106
Aldhelm ... ..	13	Clarendon, Earl of ... ..	90
Alleine ... ..	127	Colerne, William of ... ..	16
Alsop ... ..	187	Collier ... ..	110
Amesbury, Michael of ... ..	115	Collinson ... ..	134
Arundell, Lady Blanche ... ..	77	Corderoy ... ..	161
Athelstan, King ... ..	15	Coryat ... ..	102
Aubrey ... ..	23	Cottingham ... ..	72
Bailey ... ..	35	Coxe ... ..	100
Barrett ... ..	34	Crabbe ... ..	52
Bayley ... ..	133	Crisp ... ..	143
Beckford ... ..	76	Cunnington ... ..	69
Beckinsau ... ..	86	Curle ... ..	99
Benet ... ..	139	Danvers ... ..	141
Bennett ... ..	105	Darell ... ..	153
Blackmore ... ..	87	Davies ... ..	78
Bowle ... ..	164	Deane ... ..	121
Bowles ... ..	137	Delany ... ..	59
Bransdon ... ..	139	Devizes, Richard of ... ..	126
Brewer ... ..	51	Ditton ... ..	106
Bright ... ..	140	Dodson ... ..	156
Brindley ... ..	34	Dryden ... ..	12
Britton ... ..	26	Duck ... ..	125
Brodie ... ..	165	Duke ... ..	111
Browne, H. ... ..	116	Edington ... ..	60
Browne, J. H. B. ... ..	117	Edwards ... ..	63
Buckeridge ... ..	130		