

GRAVE OF THE MONTH Charles Knight (1809 – 1906) Master Butcher and Elder Almsman 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Transcription: GRAVE OF THE MONTH**

**Charles Knight (1809 – 1906)**

**Master Butcher and Elder Almsman**

His long life spanned five reigns from George III to Edward VII. He was the third son of Hannah and Stephen Knight, a coachman who drove on the famous old Bath Road from London to Bath and Bristol. He grew up in Speenhamland, amidst the bustling complex of coaching inns and stabling - a hive of activity with travellers bringing news from abroad. Later he would narrate his recollections to an eager audience.

Charles was apprenticed to a butcher in Bath and after his father's sudden death leaving his mother with a large family, he returned to Newbury. He was employed by Jonathan Farrow, a butcher who traded in Northbrook Street. Aged 17, he set up his own business in St. Mary's Hill.

He married twice, first to Eliza Kent and they had 6 sons and a daughter. Widowed in 1858 he married again in 1866 to Charlotte Taylor, a widow and a nurse. He prospered with 3 shops in Newbury, and he bought "Coombe View" in the Enborne Road. Charlotte died in 1880 and having sold his home in 1882 he was elected to a vacancy at the Raymond's Almshouses where he spent 23 years "deeply grateful for the very comfortable manner in which he was allowed to spend his last years".

During this period, two nephews became Mayors of Newbury – George Mitchell Knight (1888) and Stephen Knight (1890) – the sons of his brother William. He enjoyed a pipe, loved his garden and an enthusiastic observer of nature. He was hale and hearty, cheerful to the last and probably the "oldest inhabitant" when he died just before his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.



His grave is located by the west wall towards the north-west corner.

