

A Mendips Poem

Extract from 'Memories by William Percy Withers' published in 'The Greenwood Tree Nov 2004

All the men of Mendip seem over six feet tall,
Upright and weather beaten, like a well built stone brick wall,
But when you get to know them you would be surprised to find
That, despite their stern appearance, they were courteous too and kind.

....

But now I'm weary, and well past mans normal span;
Although my home is distant, I am still a Mendips man,
And, if there is an inquest, and they take my frame apart,
They will find the one word 'Mendip' engraved across my heart.

Note –

It's often been remarked at my height being over 6' 2" and how I tower over my father who is of a height more common to men of Dorset. Despite my Dorset blood I believe that my height comes through the Horler and Say lines of my maternal grandfather Robert Say and his ancestry from the Says and Derricks of Mendip in Somerset. Robert Say himself was probably well over 6' tall.

