

# Myths, Murders and Mysteries

## ‘Murder Most Foul...’

‘Murder most foul, as in the best it is;  
But this most foul, strange and unnatural’

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

Squire Watts murder scene



Image: Hants & Dorset Historical Society

### The Murder of Squire Watts at Hanslope

Edward Watts, Lord of the Manor of Hanslope Park, was walking home with his wife after attending church one Sunday morning in July 1912. His head gamekeeper, William Farrow, was under notice of dismissal and had that morning drunk a jug of primrose wine as well as a glass of beer. Unable to bear his grievance further, William shot Edward Watts twice, wounding him fatally and narrowly missing Mrs. Watts. Distraught, he ran into nearby woods and killed himself.



Edward Watts

Sources: ‘Mysteries, People and Plots’ by John Houghton;  
<http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/hdhs/frametragedy.html>;

Calverton Manor Farm



Image: Calverton Research Project

### The Murder of Lady Grace Bennet at Calverton Manor Farm

Grace Bennet, widow of Sir Simon Bennet and mother of the Countess of Salisbury was murdered in Calverton Manor Farmhouse by a butcher from Stony-Stratford, Adam Barnes.

Adam Barnes was caught with four accomplices in Beachampton Grove and hanged from the Gibbet Oak at the A5 end of Gib Lane, a track running from the Church up to Watling Street at Galley Hill. His corpse is believed to have been interred in a local field. There are still incised graffiti on stones set into the rear boundary wall of Calverton Manor Farm, bearing the date 1693 with a ‘hangman’ image.



Image: Paul Woodfield