

# SOMERSET SHOCKING, SURPRISING AND STRANGE

## Jack Sweet

"For scenes of loveliness, Somerset may challenge any county in England." And yet, for all its beauty, there lurks in the dark corners of Somerset's history much that is disturbing and dangerous if not simply downright odd.

Jack Sweet has collected together fifty tales of murder, mayhem and mishap, ranging from Mary Adlam killing her drunken husband in Regency Bath, a test flight crash at Yeovil and mine disasters in the Somerset coalfields, to the missing ballot papers of Langport in the parish council elections of 1894 and the Reckleford School Riot of 1921. Along the way we meet highwaymen and hangmen, poachers and gamekeepers, misfits and war heroes.

Together these stories present a vivid – sometimes tragic but often quirky – picture of Somerset at its most shocking, surprising and strange.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A proud Somerset man, Jack Sweet was born in Yeovil in 1937 and following service in the RAF in 1958 became a local government administrator for 34 years, working for Yeovil Borough Council and from 1974 for its successor South Somerset District Council.

His first book, *Shocking Somerset Murders of the Nineteenth Century* was published by Halsgrove in 1997 and was followed by thirteen more with a Somerset or Yeovil theme (three co-authored with Robin Ansell).

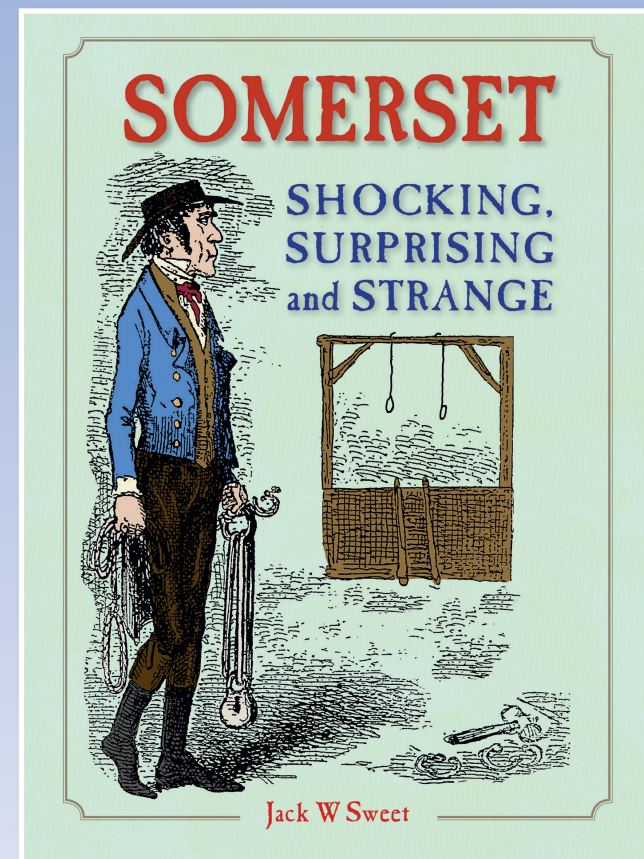
Jack's interests include local, family and military history. He has visited former battlefields around the world as well as many visits to Europe.

Jack is a widower with three daughters, two grandsons and a granddaughter. He still lives in Yeovil.

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Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796  
[www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com) e-mail: [sales@halsgrove.com](mailto:sales@halsgrove.com)