

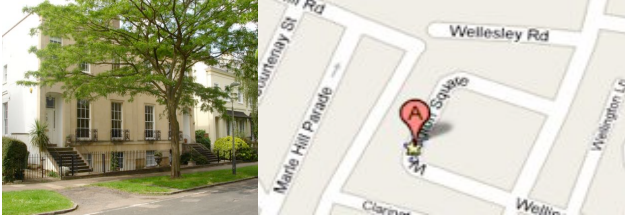


## **No 1: CHELTENHAM**



## WELLINGTON SQUARE

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Starting at **Wellington Square**, this is where Winchcombe native Richard Mace was murdered in 1853.

In April 1853, Richard Mace and his friend William Baker, a sawyer, arrived in Cheltenham from Winchcombe, and stopped at John Williams's pub in Queen Street.

They drank there until they were worse for wear, then went for a walk along the High Street to Wellington Square, where they found two women swearing and arguing.

The men asked what the matter was, and one of the women, Margaret Bell, hit him, knocking him down. Her friend, Bridget Wimble, then kicked him. Another man, Mr Hart, then rushed out from a passage and hit Mace again.

Baker then decided to walk straight back to Winchcombe, and tried to persuade Mace to come

with him. When the latter refused, Baker walked off. The three attackers then assaulted Mace again.

Bridget Wimble, who had a baby in her arms, jumped on Mace while he was lying injured on the ground and stamped on him until he lost consciousness. The attackers then left.

At 3am, a policeman found Mace, who was lying groaning in Wellington Square. He died shortly afterwards. The next day, Bridget Wimbles was seen approaching the spot where Mace died, and saying to her companion, “This is how I jumped on the \*\*\*\* last night.”

Coming out of Wellington Square, turn right onto West Drive, left onto Clarington Mews, and then right onto **Wellesley Road**. This was formerly known as Murder Lane, and was where Frederick Jones slit the throat of his 18-year-old girlfriend Emily Gardner in 1871. He was executed soon after, in the last public hanging to be held at Gloucester Prison.

## BRUNSWICK STREET

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Head straight back down Wellesley Road and turn right onto St Paul's Road, then left onto **Brunswick Street**. This was the site of Rutland Street, one of the most notorious slums in Cheltenham, where violence frequently broke out.

In 1854, an Irishwoman named Mary Killanan, who lived in one of the overcrowded courts, was charged with assault, GBH and attempted murder after attacking one of her neighbours, a fellow Irishwoman named Ellen Carey.

Carey was a widow and a mother of three, who had been lodging with her sister-in-law – Killanan- in Long's Court, Rutland Street.

Killanan was jealous of Carey, and had previously threatened to murder her. The two had quarrelled on the Thursday afternoon – 17 August - and Carey had, as a result, gone out to look for new

accommodation, away from Killanan. But when she got back, Killanan picked an argument again with her.

Carey managed to get away to her own lodgings at 11pm. Killanan went to bed in the same room – with a bill-hook placed in her bed. At 7am, whilst Carey was asleep, Killanan poured boiling water over her, before beating her with a gardening tool.

Naked, Carey escaped to a neighbour's house, but was followed by an angry Killanan, taking blows at her whilst saying she would “finish” her sister-in-law off.

The neighbour shut Killanan out, and Carey collapsed on the floor. She was so scalded that flesh was dropping from her arms, and the blanket the well-meaning neighbour had wrapped round her had quantities of flesh sticking to it. Her head and throat were swollen, and she had severed injuries to her side and back from the beating Killanan had given her.

The rough, overcrowded slum was cleared in the 1930s, and the road renamed to escape its bad connotations.

## HIGH STREET

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Carry down Brunswick Street until you get to Swindon Road; turn left, then first right down St George's Street until you get to the High Street and turn left onto it. On 4 September 1894, at **303 High Street**, the bodies of Rebecca Hartland, 57, and her youngest son, George, 13, were found at their home at 303 Lower High Street, Cheltenham.

Rebecca's husband, 60-year-old greengrocer Job Hartland, was a drunk who had frequently threatened his wife with violence.

Their older children moved out or married as soon as they could, and by 1894, only youngest child George was left living at home.

The previous Friday, Mrs Hartland had woken during the night to find her husband standing above her, holding a hatchet over her head. Mrs Hartland refused to stay another night in the

house, sleeping at her daughter's house the next two nights.

However, on the Monday morning, 3 September, she had to return to run the grocer's shop, and so after a long day's work, slept at home on that night.

On Tuesday morning, her body was found in her bed, together with that of her son. Job Hartland had attacked his family with a coal hammer and a butcher's knife, nearly severing his wife's head and slitting his son's throat, in addition to beating them both round the head.

Job subsequently boasted of what he had done, first telling the barmaid of the Clarence Hotel, where he went for a drink, that he had just murdered two people, adding, "You look in the papers this evening". He later told the postman there was no point leaving any letters, "for they are all dead here".

The police soon found Job, drunk, in a lane behind Clarence Street. They had to wait for him to sober up before they could charge him with murder. Job Hartland was executed at Gloucester on Thursday 13 December 1894.

## CHAPEL STREET

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Turn right and go up the High Street a bit until you have New Street on your left. Go up and then turn left onto Chapel Street. **16 Chapel Street** is where shoemaker William Lynes – killed for his political beliefs in 1865 - lived.

The election for an MP for Cheltenham took place on 12 July 1865, with the candidates being Colonel Craven Berkeley for the Liberals and Charles Schreiber for the Conservatives.

Election day meant lots of men out and about wearing their party's colours – yellow for the Liberals and blue for the Conservatives, and lots of catcalling and threats of fights between opposing parties.

One local man, William Lynes, one of Colonel Berkeley's messengers, was walking down the High

Street around 9pm, and heard a band playing a song called “Hurrah for the bonnets of blue”.

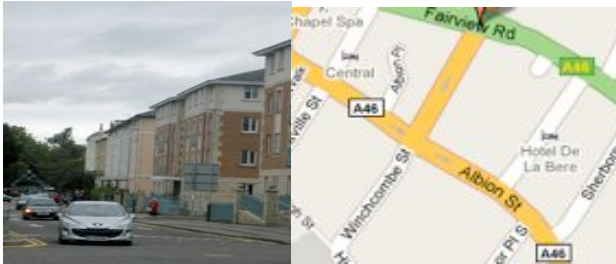
Lynes, a Liberal voter, called out, “Hurrah for the bonnets of yellow!” He was heard by a Tory voter, chemist John Glass, a man previously of 13 Regent Street but who had recently moved to Bournemouth, who responded, “I’ll give you yellow!” and shot Lynes through the mouth with his pistol.

Despite a number of witnesses being called, who could testify to Glass’s earlier threats of violence towards Liberal voters, and the fact that he had also shown off the revolver to a friend, saying that the gun would “stop any disturbance”, he was only found guilty of manslaughter, and given 15 years penal servitude.

There was one good outcome for Glass – the Conservatives won the election.

## WINCHCOMBE STREET

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Back along the High Street, and past the site of the Early Dawn pub, where murder victim Emily Gardner lived, until you turn left onto North Street. Turn right onto Albion Street, then *left* onto **Winchcombe Street**.

In December 1869, Londoners Charles and Harriet Weller came to number 98 to take over the existing greengrocer's business - a new start for them.

Three weeks after moving in, suspicion was aroused when on a Wednesday morning, errand boys arrived to find the shop still locked.

When police were called, they broke in and found Mrs Weller dead in bed, looking as though she was asleep, and Mr Weller beside her. He died 10 minutes later.

It was found that they had died as a result of leaving a saucepan of burning charcoal at the foot of the bed overnight, in an attempt to keep warm.

## PROMENADE

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Retrace your steps back to North Street, and turn left. North Street turns into Clarence Street; keep going until you turn right onto the **Promenade**.

In April 1862, the body of a three-month-old baby girl was found on the premises of Mr WT Smith, at the rear of Brunswick House on Promenade.

Some workmen had been based there one Friday, and one, a Mr Jones, had been in the scullery when he heard a bell ring, but couldn't see where the noise was coming from. He saw a hole in the wall under the stairs, about seven foot from the ground, and found the bell – but also a bundle, covered in a coloured pocket handkerchief.

The police were sent for, and found in the bundle a partly decomposed body. It was then discovered that the housemaid of Brunswick House, Elizabeth Hale, aged 26, was known to have given birth to a

girl at the house of Mrs Hest in Lower Park Street the previous November, but had taken the child away from there a few weeks ago, without reason.

When asked what had happened to the baby by her employer's wife, Hale said that the baby had died from an inflammation to the chest, on 21 January, and that her mother had helped bury it. She later said that she had hidden it in the house until she would be able to bury it in her home in the Forest of Dean in the summer.

She was charged with murder; the baby had been found with a handkerchief tied around its mouth, and the prosecution at her trial argued that she had suffocated the child to death with it.

But then it was admitted that the chest inflammation could explain other signs on the child, and Hale said she had tied the handkerchief round the baby's jaw after it died.

Despite the evidence, and her hiding of the body, Hale was found not guilty of murder.

## ORMOND TERRACE

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The Promenade turns back into a continuation of the High Street. Continue along it and then turn right into Regent Street. On the left, just opposite the Cavendish House department store, is **Ormond Terrace**.

In 1864, another child's remains were found under a staircase that led to a basement kitchen at number 1.

A woman, Eliza Perrin, described in the press as “very respectable looking” and “prepossessing”, was charged with the murder of the two-year-old girl – Lizzie Perrin.

Eliza was a single woman, a servant based at Westbourne Park in London, which is where she was arrested. She had had the baby whilst working in service to music professor Samuel Cox at Ormond Terrace, and put it out to nurse.

However, being short of money, she failed to pay the nurse on one occasion, and was ordered to take Lizzie away immediately. She had nowhere to go with the baby, and no money, and admitted burying the child at her then employer's house in September 1863.

At her trial at Gloucester Assizes in December 1864, her looks, demeanour and work references were all used in her favour.

The judge said, when concluding, that the jury should take into account "the circumstances of the woman, her affection for the child, and her desperate condition".

The jury listened to the judge, and after deliberating for only ten minutes, found Eliza not guilty of murder.

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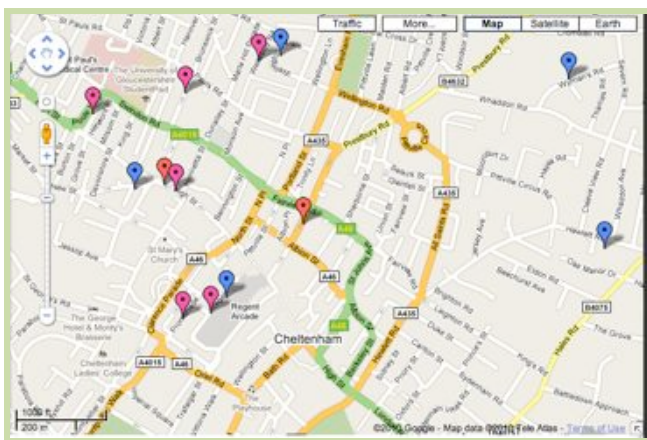
## REGENT STREET

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Further down the same road, at **13 Regent Street**, is the former home of John Glass, the chemist who shot Liberal voter William Lynes dead in 1865.



See the full Cheltenham Murder Walk map at  
<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?ll=51.901733,-2.070408&spn=0.012895,0.031199&z=15>

