

## Mark Parsons (1857-1932)

### Character in the Sherborne Pageant:

Walter Gallor & Hobby Horse, Episode 7.

### Episode 7:

The Abbot has recourse to violence. Walter Gallor, the stout but muscular butcher, is a willing champion, townsman though he be; for his custom at the Abbot's must not be endangered! So the parish font is destroyed, and the triumphant party return, only to find the Abbot's thatched roof ablaze, fired with a burning arrow sped by the parish priest!



Mark Parsons was born in Haydon near Sherborne. the son of Daniel Parsons, butcher, and Mary Ann Parsons. He was baptised on 14 April 1857 in Sherborne Abbey.

In 1887 he married Ada Bricknell of Martock but was widowed and remarried in 1897 to Ann Wareham, the daughter of a game keeper. Ann and Mark had three daughters: Mary Louisa (1900-), Annie (1901-) and Margaret Ruth (1903-).

Mark ran a butchers shop in Cheap Street.

His sister, Martha Parsons (1860-), who played a townswoman in episode 4, was living with him and his family in Cheap Street in 1901 and 1911.

According to newspaper cuttings he organised 'cinematograph entertainments' to show photographs, taken of the pageant, to local residents in aid of charity.

His effigy is carved in stone on the outside of the Church Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne.

He died at Chesterfield House, Cheap Street, Sherborne and was buried on 21 November 1932.

