



Post Office Directory Extract 1855



Froxfield

FROXFIELD is a township and straggling parish in the Hundred of Kinwardstone, Hungerford Union, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles west-by-south of Hungerford, 64 from London, and 7 miles east of Marlborough, situated on the Bath road; the population, in 1851, was 571; acreage, 2,214. On an eminence west of the village is the parish church, a brick building, with low tile roof and wooden belfry erected thereon, and is dedicated to All Saints. The living is a vicarage, in the presentation of the Dean and Canons of Windsor, value £122 per annum; the incumbent is the Rev. T. G. P. Atwood, who also is the officiating minister at the hospital. Froxfield is most notable for the Almshouses, or Somerset Hospital, founded in 1686 by Sarah, Duchess Dowager of Somerset, who bequeathed landed and other property for its erection, and for the maintenance of 30 widows; 20 apartments were added to the building in 1773, and the revenues having since increased enable the trustees to afford asylum, with an allowance of £36 per annum, to 50 widows. The building is an oblong quadrangle, with a small chapel within it, erected by Thomas, the late Earl of Ailesbury, the minister of which has an annual stipend of £60; 30 widows of laymen, and 20 widows of clergymen from different parts of England, within 150 miles of London, are eligible to this munificent charity. The trustees, 12 in number, chosen from the nobility and gentry of the country, nominate the steward, chaplain, &c., of the establishment.

HUGHDITCH, Oakill and Rudge are tithings of Froxfield. Smitham is 2 miles east; Standen, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east.

POST OFFICE - Stephen Snook, receiver. Letters arrive by foot post from Hungerford at 8 a.m. & dispatched at 6 p.m. The nearest money order office is at Hungerford.

CHURCH - Rev. Thomas G. P. Atwood, M.A. vicar; Aaron Brown, clerk.

SOMERSET HOSPITAL (ALMSHOUSES).

Lay Widows - The trustees present to vacancies according to the rotation in list (A). Wilts, Berks, and Somerset, 5; London and Westminster, 5; counties at large, any place within 150 miles of London, except Wilts, Berks and Somerset, 10. The trustees present to vacancies in the rotation of the list (B). Manors of Froxfield, Huish and Shaw, Broad Town, Wootton Rivers and Thornhill, in Wilts; total lay widows ... **30**

Clergy Widows - Wilts, Berks and Somerset, 10; London and Westminster, 5; counties at large (as above), 5; total clergy widows ... **20** Total number of widows ... **50**

List (A) Lay - The Marquis of Ailesbury, Tottenham Park, Wilts; T. H. S. Sotheron, Esq., M.P., Bowden Park, near Chippenham; G. H. W. Heneage, Esq., M.P., Compton Bassett, Calne; H. N. Goddard, Esq., Manor House, Cliffe, Wootton Bassett; Earl Bruce, Savernake Forest, Marlborough, Wilts; the Right Hon. Lord Ernest Bruce, M.P., 7, St. George's Place, Hyde Park Corner; Col. Wroughton, Stowell, near Pewsey; F. Leyborne Popham, Esq., Littlecott, near Hungerford; Sir J. W. Awdry, Notton, Chippenham; Earl of Shelburne, Bowood, Calne.

List (B) Clergy & Manor - The Marquis of Ailesbury; Lord Ernest Bruce; Col. Wroughton; Sir J. W. Awdry; Earl of Shelburne; T. H. S. Sotheron, Esq.; G. H. W. Heneage, Esq.; F. Leyborne Popham, Esq.; Earl Bruce; H. N. Goddard, Esq.

The qualification required is parochial settlement, or forty days' residence within the district, before the happening of the vacancy to be supplied.

(Nominated by the 12 Trustees.)

Steward	Thomas B. Merriman
Chaplain	Rev. William Bleeck
Officiating Minister	Rev. Thomas G. P. Atwood, M.A
Surgeon	Richard Hemsted Barker

Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Atwood	Thomas G. P.	Rev.		
Redman	John	Esq.		

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Baverstock	Frederick		Farmer	Rudge
Brown	Aaron		Parish Clerk	
Brown	John		Boot & Shoe Maker	
Coombs	Richard		Saddler & Harness Maker	
Drury	Joseph		Farmer	
Francis	John		Carpenter	
Giles	Thomas		Publican	Cross Keys
Gooding	William		Carpenter	
Humphries	John		Blacksmith	
Lavington	John		Farmer	
Lewis	William		Farmer	Rudge
Martin	James		Publican	Blue Lion
Nash	Charles		Bricklayer & Shopkeeper	
Neate	Alfred		Farmer	Oak Hill
Redman	John		Farmer	
Shiers	Isaac		Farmer	Rudge
Snook	Stephen		Grocer, Draper & Postmaster	
Waller	Ralph		Publican & Boot & Shoe Maker	Pelican
Wile	Mark		Farmer	
Withers	Charles		Boot & Shoe Maker	