



Post Office Directory of Hampshire, Wiltshire & Dorset 1875



Great Somerford

GREAT SOMERFORD is a parish and pleasant village, within the parliamentary borough of Malmesbury, in the Northern division of the county, Malmesbury union, county court district and hundred, diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, archdeaconry of Bristol, and rural deanery of Malmesbury north, 7 miles north from Chippenham, 4 south-east from Malmesbury, and 89 from London, situate on the banks of the river Avon. The church of SS. Peter and Paul is a handsome structure in the Perpendicular style; it has chancel, nave, north aisle, and square embattled tower and 4 bells: it was restored with great taste by subscription in 1867: the chancel has some wall decorations, and contains two magnificent stained windows: the east window was presented by the late Miss Mary Pike; the other, on the north side, by Mr. Stephen Maimbury, in memory of his father, formerly rector of this parish: the south side of the nave is also adorned by a beautiful window erected by W. E. Beak, esq., to the memory of his parents.

The register dates from the year 1700. The living is a rectory, value £450 per annum, including the glebe land and residence, in the patronage of Exeter College, Oxford, and held by the Rev. William Andrews, B.D. Here is a school, supported by donations. A free library and reading room was erected here in 1872, by Walter Powell, esq., M.P.. The principal landowners are William E. Beak esq., Henry Smith Pyke, esq., Mrs. Birtill, and J. P. Poole, esq. The soil is various. The land is chiefly in pasture. The area is 1,527 acres; gross estimated rental, £3,401; rateable value, £3,003; and the population in 1871 was 541.

STURTLEY, STARTLEY or STARKLEY, is a hamlet, 1 mile west; DOWNFIELD is half mile south.

Parish Clerk, Thomas Gibbs.

POST OFFICE.—Lewin Tanner, receiver. Letters through Chippenham, arrive at 4.20 a.m.; dispatched at 9.20 p.m. The nearest money order office is at Malmesbury

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Andrews	William	Rev. B.D.	rector	
Beak	William Edward			
Poole	J. P.			Dunfield farm
Pyke	Henry Smith			Brook farm
Wood		Miss		

Commercial

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Aayliffe	Mordecai		shopkeeper	
Barnes	Benjamin			<i>Volunteer</i>
Barnes	Thomas		farmer	
Beak	William E.		farmer	
Cotterell	John		farmer	

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Curtis	Henry		farmer & shopkeeper	Startley
Freeth	William		farmer & auctioneer	
Gibbs	Thomas		butcher & shopkeeper	
Higgs	Daniel		blacksmith	
Hunt	John		blacksmith	
Knapp	Edwin		farmer	Startley
Knapp	Katherine	Mrs.		<i>Masons' Arms</i>
Knapp	Mary	Mrs.	farmer	Grove farm, Startley
Lea	David		mason	Startley
Lewis	James		wheelwright & carpenter	
Parsloe	Alfred		brewer	
Parsons	William		shoe maker	
Pearse	Henry		seedsman	
Poole	John		farmer	
Poole	John P.		farmer	Downfield farm
Porter	Benj.		butcher & cattle dealer	
Pyke	Fanny	Miss	farmer	Brook farm
Reeves	Wm. & Sarah		farmers	Startley
Simmonds	Robert		farmer	Startley
Sloper	Thomas		farmer	
Tanner	Lewin		boot & shoe maker	
Tanner	Robert		corn factor	The Mount
Teagle	Arthur		farmer, cattle dealer & butcher	Startley
Turtle	Chas.		farm bailiff to Mrs. Birtill	
Williams	Jane	Miss	ladies' school	