



# Post Office Directory Extract 1859

## Melksham



**MELKSHAM**, a township, market and union town, railway station, and parish in the hundred of the same name, 100 miles west-by-south from London, 30 miles north-west from Salisbury, 6 north-east of Bradford, 5½ north-east of Trowbridge, 7 west of Devizes, 9½ from Westbury, 14 from Frome, 12 east from Bath, 6¼ south from Chippenham, and 5 south-south-east from Corsham on the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth railway, diocese of Salisbury, archdeaconary of Wilts, and deanery of Potterne, contained in 1851, 2,031 inhabitants in the town, and 6,073 in the parish, including 1,062 in Seend, and 12,572 acres of land. The tithe rent-charge to the impropiator is £978 8s 10d, and to the vicar £900.

During the West Saxon era this was a place of considerable note; at the period of the Norman survey, and for several subsequent reigns, it was held in royal desmsne, and gave name to an extensive forest. The town is situated on the main road from London through Devizes to Bath, and on the banks of the Avon; it consists principally of one street, nearly a mile in length, which is well paved and lighted with gas; the houses are built of soft freestone, but irregularly placed.

Two mineral springs, one saline and the other chalybeate were discovered in the vicinity some years ago; and in 1816 a new saline spa was obtained by boring to a depth of 351½ feet. It was anticipated that Melksham would advance into note in consequence of the medicinal qualities these waters possessed, and every accommodation for visitors was provided, including a pump-room, hot & cold baths, a handsome crescent, and an agreeable promenade; but after a very great outlay, the wells did not prove attractive to visitors, and are now entirely in disuse.

The manufactures comprise superfine broadcloths, flat and round ropes, hairclothes, cocoa fibre and sacking; and there is considerable business in malting.

Petty sessions are held by the Justices of peace for Melksham division at the Town-Hall on the last Tuesday in every month, and a County court for the recovery of small debts is likewise held at the same place every fourth week.

The river Avon passes through the town, and is crossed by a handsome bridge of four arches, with light and elegant balustrades; near are one of the largest corn-mills in the county, an extensive cloth factory and dye-houses. The Wilts and Berks canal passes on the east of the town, and about 1½ southward joins the Kennet & Avon canal.

The Town-Hall and cheese market were erected in 1847 by a company of share-holders, at an expense of £3,350; they form a spacious & well-arranged edifice of white freestone, in the Italian style, and a great ornament to the town.

The market is held every Monday for butter, etc; on the first Monday in the month for cheese; and on every other Monday in the month for cattle, sheep and pigs etc. An annual fair for cattle, sheep, horses etc, is held in the Market-place on the 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The living is a vicarage, with the chapelries of Seend and Eral Stoke annexed, value £1,215 per annum, with residence, in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury; the Rev. George Hume, M.A., is the incumbent.

The church of St. Michael is a spacious structure of freestone, with a handsome embattled tower surmounted by pinnacles, and was considerably improved and enlarged in 1846, at an expense of £2,000. The district chapelry of Whitley and Shaw is attached, of which the Rev. George Nutt, M.A., is the incumbant. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the vicar of Melksham.

There are places of worship for Baptist, Independents, the Society of Friends, and Wesleyan Methodists; and National and British, and Infant schools. The Melksham Union comprises six parishes.

The Poor-house, a substantial stone building, is situated in the village of Semington, about 2 miles from the town.

Melksham is a polling-place at elections for North Wilts. Walter Long, Esq., M.P. is Lord of the Manor.

Beanacre and Blackmore are tithings; Shaw and Whitley form a chapelry, with 632 inhabitants.

## **OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, LOCAL INSTITUTIONS, &C.**

### **POST OFFICE**

Miss Araminta Bullock, postmistress, Market Place. Letters arrive by mail cart from Chippenham at 04:30, 8:30 a.m. & 12:35 p.m. & dispatched at 9:45 p.m. Box closes at 9:15 p.m., but letters can be posted till 9:40 by affixing an extra stamp. Money orders are granted and paid at this office from 9 till 6 daily, Sunday excepted.

### **BANKERS**

North Wilts Banking Company, Head Office, Bank Street (Thomas Palmer, esq. general manager); draw on Dimsdale & Co. London; hours of business, 10 till 3.

Savings Bank, Lowbourne (Arthur Gore, esq. actuary); open on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays in the month from 3 to 4.

### **INSURANCE AGENTS**

Alliance & Life	Charles Thomas Moule	Bank Street
Argus	George Plimmer	
Britannia Life	Thomas H. Flooks	Market Place
British Empire Mutual	Henry Burgess	Market Place
County Fire & Provident Life	Henry Mansfield	Bank Street
Edinburgh Life	Alexander B. Smith	Market Place
Emperor	George Collins	
Equitable Fire	Mr. Eyres	
General Life & Fire	William Porter	Bank Street
Globe	James Rawlings	Shurnhold
Imperial Fire	A.B. Smith	
Law Union Fire & Life	Alexander B. Smith & A. Beaven	Market Place
Liverpool & London	Mrs. Elizabeth Weight	Lowbourne;
	John Peter Berry	Bank Street
	Samuel Hinder	Market Place
London Assurance, Fire & Life	Robert Laine	Market Place
Medical, Invalid & General Life	William Simpson	
Manchester Fire & Life	Joseph H. Maggs	Market Place
National Provident Institution	Thomas Palmer	
Phoenix	W. Eyres	Market Place
Provident Life	Henry Mansfield	Bank Street
Railway Passengers	A.B. Smith	

Royal	W.H. Moon	High Street
Royal Farmers	William Mundy	High Street
Royal Insurance	William H. Moon	
Standard Fire & Life	Walter Mundy	High Street
Star Fire & Life	Joseph H. Maggs	
State	John Peter Berry	Bank Street
West of England Fire & Life	John Cochrane	Bank Street

## PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS

### County Court

Camille Felix Desiré Caillard, esq.	judge	
Edmund Wilcox, esq.	high bailiff	
Thomas Moule, esq.	registrar	Bank Street

### Gas Works

Near the bridge		
Benjamin Shaul	manager	

### Mutual Improvement Society & Reading Rooms

Bank Street		
John Webb	secretary	

### Reading Rooms

Town Hall

### Station House

Market Place		
Charles Merrett	inspector	

### Town Hall & Cheese Market

Market Place

## PUBLIC OFFICERS

### Clerk to Assessed & Land tax Commissioners

Charles Thomas Moule	Bank Street
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### Clerk to Board of Guardians of Melksham Union

Philip Phelps	Market Place
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### Clerk to Commissioners of Holt Turnpike Trust

Thomas Charles Moule	Bank Street
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### Actuary of Savings Bank

Arthur Gore, esq.	Bank Street
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### Clerks to Commissioners of Holt Turnpike Trust

Moule & Gore	Bank Street
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### Clerk to Commissioners of Paving & Lighting

Charles Thomas Moule	Bank Street
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### Clerk to Commissioners of Property tax for Melksham Division

Philip Phelps	Market Place
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### Registrar of County Court for Recovery of Debts

Charles Thomas Moule	Bank Street
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### Clerk to Deputy Lieutenants of Sub-Division of Melksham & Tinhead

Philip Phelps	Market Place
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### Clerk to Magistrates of Melksham Division

Philip Phelps	Market Place
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### Clerk to the Market Company

Arthur Gore, esq.	Bank Street
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### Commissioners for taking Affidavits in the Common Law Courts

Henry Goddard & Justly William Awdry	Market Place
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Alexander Blucher Smith	Market Place
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### Commissioners for taking Acknowledgements of Married Women

Charles Thomas Moule	Market Place
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Henry Goddard Awdry	Market Place
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### Commissioner for taking Oaths in Chancery

Arthur Gore, esq.	Bank Street
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### Governor of Workhouse

Edward Ingram	Semington
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### Registrar of Births & Deaths for Melksham District

George Plimmer	Canon Square
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Registrar of Marriages for Melksham District Frederick Smith	Bank Street
Deputy Registrar of Births & Deaths for Melksham District Frederick Smith	Bank Street
Relieving Officer for Melksham Singer Stokes	Canonhold
Sub-Distributor of Stamps Frederick George Moule	Bank Street
Superintendent Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages for the Melksham Union Philip Phelps	Market Place

### PLACES OF WORSHIP

St. Michael's Church, Church Street Rev. George Hume, M.A.	vicar
Rev. Edward T.W. Thomas, B.A.	curate
Shaw Church, Shaw Rev. George Nutt, M.A.	incumbent
Baptist Chapel, Old Broughton Road Rev. Thomas Fuller	minister
Baptist Chapel, Union Street	ministers various
Baptist Chapel, Beanacre	ministers various
Baptist Chapel, Forest	ministers various
Independent Chapel, Devizes Road Rev. Leigh Mann	minister
Friends Meeting House, King Street	
Wesleyan Chapel, High Street	
Wesleyan Chapel, Whitley	ministers various

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

National, Churchyard George Collins	master
Miss Susan Hail	mistress
British, Lowbourne George Neat	master
Miss Harriett Spencer	mistress

### POSTING HOUSES

King's Arms Hotel, Market Place Henry Steward	
Bear Inn, Bank Street John A. Allwright	wheeler

### OMNIBUS

to and from the King's Arms' to meet arrival & departure of trains.

### CARRIERS TO:

Bath, Bristol & Devizes Mizen	from the George	Thursday
Bradford Mizen	from the George	Thursday, returns same day
Calne Stephen Spackman	from the George	every Monday
Chippenham, Bath, Bristol & Devizes Stockham	from the George	Thursday
Stephen Mizen	from the George & the Bear	every Thursday

Devizes

Thomas Taylor from his own house Thursday  
London & all parts (by rail)  
Great Western Railway company Bath Road

Railway Station  
Benjamin Ames Bath Road station master

## WATER CONVEYANCE

Bath & Bristol

Boats leave the wharf, Devizes Road, twice a week with goods, days uncertain.

## Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Awdry	Justly William	Esq		Market Place
Blewitt	Caroline	Mrs		Coburgh Place
Crook	Ann	Mrs		King Street
Evans	Hugh Foskett	Mr		Bath Road
Eyres	William	Esq		Market Place
Fisher	Robert	Mrs		Avon Villa
Fowler	Rachel	Miss		Bank Street
Fricker	John	Mr		Lowbourne
Fuller	Thomas	Rev		Union Street
Gaby	William	Esq		West brook
Godwin	Edward	Mr		Bowerhill Cottage
Gore	Arthur	Esq		Canonhold
Heathcot	Thomas	Mrs		Shaw Hill House
Hume	George, M.A.	Rev		Canon Square
Husband		Mrs		Whitley
Jeffreys	Samuel	Esq		Coburgh Place
Jeffreys	Mary	Mrs		Lowbourne
Jeffreys	Thomas	Esq		Next the Bridge
Kenrick	George Cranmer	Esq		The Grove
King	Jasper Rumboll	Esq		Lowbourne
Lopes	Ralph Pudlow	Esq		Sandridge Park
Mann	Leigh	Rev		Union Street
Meach	Thomas	Captain		Coburgh Place
Meech	Francis			Canon Square
Merewether	Henry Alfred	Esq		Bowden Vale
Miles		Misses		Canonhold
Moule	Charles Thomas	Esq		1 Spa
Moule	M	Miss		2 Spa
Nutt	George M.A.	Rev		Shaw
Orchard	Thomas	Mr		Lowbourne
Palmer	Thomas	Esq		Bank Street
Phelps	Phillip	Esq		Market Place
Phillips	Edward	Mrs		Avon House
Phillips	John Ledyard	Mrs		Avon Terrace
Phillips	James	Mr		Rose Cottage
Plimmer	George	Esq		Canon Square
Pritchard	John	Esq		Coburgh Place
Rawlings	James	Esq		Shurnhold
Rose	Richard George	Mr		Shurnhold

Rose	Richard Nottingham	Mr		Shurnhold
Simpson		Miss		Spa Road
Simpson	William	Esq		Watson's Barton
Smith	Alexander Blucher	Esq		Market Place
Smith	John Francis	Esq		
Smith	Opie	Esq		Belmont House
Slyvester	Samuel	Esq		Bowerhill Lodge
Thomas	Edward Thomas Watson B.A.	Rev		Grove Cottage
Webb	Hannah	Mrs		King Street
Williams	David	Esq		Ark House
Winerbourne	W.	Rev		Canonhold
Woodman	Jane	Mrs		Bank Street

## Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Adams	William		Livery Stables	Bank Street
Allwood	Gideon		Boot & Shoe Maker	Bath Road
Angel	William		Boot & Shoe Maker & Postmaster	Shaw
Arthur	Charles		Painter & Paper Hanger	Bank Street
Austin	Robert			Fleece, Folly Lane
Awdry	Henry Goddard & Justly William		Solicitors &c.	Market Place
Ball	John		Pattern & Clog Manufacturer & General Dealer	Lowbourne
Bartlett	John		Cloth dresser	High Street
Barton	Benjamin		Baker & Corn Dresser	Market Place
Bates	Hugh		Miller & Corn Factor	Broughton Road
Bath	Moses		Draper	High Street
Beavan	Christopher		Farmer	Queenfield Farm
Beavan	James		Farmer	Bowerhill
Berry	John Peter		Plumber, Glazier etc.	Bank Street
Bigwood	Williams		Smith & Shopkeeper	King Street
Blake	Henry		Plumber & Glazier	King Street
Bodman	Benjamin		Farmer	Beanacre
Boswell	Mary		Straw Bonnet Maker	King Street
Bradley	William		Teacher of Music	Canonhold
Brooks	William		& Coal Merchant	New Crown
Bruges	Thomas		Maltster	
Buckland	Abraham		Shoemaker	Canonhold
Buckland	Jemima	Miss	Medical Botanist	Canonhold
Buckland	John		Saddle & Harness Maker	Bank Street
Buckland	Richard			Old Crown, Market Place
Buckland	Stephen		Farmer	Beanacre
Bulgin	Richard		Carpenter & Builder	Lowbourne Cottage
Bullock	Araminta	Miss	Jeweller & Silvermith & Post Mistress	Market Place
Burgess	Henry		Confectioner etc.	Lowbourne
Butler	Jane	Mrs	Farmer	Beanacre
Canning	Thomas		Brewer	Shaw Brewery
Carpenter	William		Carpenter	Semington Lane
Cochrane	John		Printer, Bookseller, Stationer &c.	Bank Street
Collett	William		Butcher	City

Coombe	Joseph		Tinplate Worker & &c.	Market Place
Colbourne	Henry		Bacon & Cheese Factor	High Streer
Colbourne	Henry		Plasterer & Slater	Union Street
Colbourne	Nelson		Plasterer & Slater	Union Street
Cottle	James		Farmer	Forest Farm
Cottle	William		Farmer	Semington Lane
Cox	Alfred			Unicorn, Bath Road
Crook	Thomas Redman		Sadler & Harnessmaker	Market Place
Crook	William		Farmer	Beanacre
Curnick	John		Farmer	Shurnhold
Curnick	Thomas		Farmer	Beanacre
Dancey	Thomas		Farmer	Westland Farm
Davis	Abraham		Boot & Shoemaker	Bath Buildings
Davis	Thomas		Commission Agent	Shortwood
De Lanois	M.		Professor of French	Bank Street
Eskins	Elizabeth	Mrs	Baker	Canonhold
Field	John		Shopkeeper	Bath Road
Flay	John Sturgess		China, Glass & Earthenware Dealer	Market Place
Flower	John		Farmer	New Town
Flower	Mary	Miss	Seminary	Church Street
Fox	Elizabeth	Miss	Farmer	Forest
Frankling	John		Shopkeeper	King Street
Freeman	Ellen	Miss	China & Earthenware Dealer	High Street
Fry	John		Framer	Queenfield
Gaby	William		Farmer	Westbrook
Gale	William		Farmer	Whitby
Gerrish	Isaac		Tailor	Canonhold
Ghey	Henry		Farmer	Bowerhill
Gilchrist	Alfred		Boarding & Day School	Spa Villa
Gore	Arthur		Actuary to the Savings Bank	Bank Street
Gregory	John		Farmer	Hack Street
Gunston	John		Stonemason	Union Street
Haines	Charles		Baker	Church Street
Haines	Edward		Plumber, Glazier &c.	Union Street
Haines	George		Butcher	Bath Buildings
Haines	Mary		Saddle & Harness Maker	Market Place
Hand	Sidney		Farmer	Folly Lane
Harris	Alfred		Butcher	High Street
Harris	Henry		Farmer	Bowerhill
Harris	Jeremiah		Farmer	Stratton's Farm
Harris	Joseph		Plumber & Glazier &c.	Canonhold
Harris	Thomas		Butcher	Church Street
Haskins	Elizabeth	Mrs	Baker	Canonhold
Hawkins	William		Farmer	Ludlow's Farm
Hayward & Flocks			Grocers & Drapers & Spirit Merchants	
Hinder	Samuel		Auctioner & Appraiser	Market Place
Honywill	Ann	Miss	Day School	King Street
Hooper	Henry		Farmer	Shaw
Hughes	Elizabeth	Mrs	Shopkeeper	Broughton Road
Hunt	Henry	Mrs	Farmer	Rhotteridge
Hunt	John		Tailor & Draper	High Street
Hutton	Thomas		General Dealer	King Street
James	John		Farmer	Forest
Jarris	Charles		Shoemaker	Lowbourne
Jarvis	John		Shopkeeper	King Street
Jeffreys	Thomas		Corn Merchant & Miller	Mills, nr. The Bridge
Jennings	John		Linen & Woollen Draper	Bath Road
Jones	Job		Shopkeeper	Bath Road

Jones	Joseph		Draper	King Street
Jones	William		Shopkeeper	King Street
Jordan	Jones		Blacksmith	City
Keen	George		Shopkeeper	Broughton Road
Keen	John		Shuttle Maker	Shurnhold
Kenrick	George Camner		Surgeon	The Grove
King	Jasper Rumbull		Surgeon	Lowbourne
Knapp	James		Carpenter	Bath Road
Knee & Hurn			Wheelwrights	Avon Bridge
Knee	John		Boot & Shoemaker	Church Street
Knott	John		Farmer	Woodrow Farm
Laine	Robert		Chemist & Druggist	Market Place
Lewington	John		Shopkeeper	King Street
Lewington	William		Tailor	High Street
Little	Abraham		Teadealer & Shoemaker	Broughton Road
Little	James		Maltster & Farmer	Shaw
Maggs	Joseph Herbert		Manufacturer of flat & round rope, twine, sacking, cocoanut fibre, matting, marquees, tents, waterproof covers &c. & Coalmerchant	Devizes Road
Manning	Robert		Farmer	Woodrow
Mansfield	Henry		Corn Dealer & agent to County Fire & Provident Life Offices	Bank Street
Marchant	John		Shopkeeper	City
Marks	Thomas		Working Cutler	Church Street
Marks	Thomas		Baker	City
Martin	George		Beer Retailer	Beanacre
Matthews	John		Tailor	Union Street
May	Isaiah		Seedsman	Market Place
Meech	Francis Weston		Solicitor	Canon Square
Merrett	Charles		Inspector of Police	Market Place
Mitchell	Richard		Shopkeeper	City
Moon	William Harding		Grocer & Draper	High Street
Moule & Gore			Solicitors & Clerks &c.	Bank Street
Moule	Charles Thomas		Solicitor, Clerk to Commissioners &c.	Bank Street
Mundy	Walter		Chemist & Druggist &c.	Bank Street
Neal	Charles		Chimney Sweeper	King Street
Neat	George		Master of the British School	Lowbourne
Newman	James, Jnr		Butcher	Bank Street
Newman	Thomas		Farmer	Cray's Marsh
Newton	Henry		Cabinet Maker	Coburg Square
Nichols	Henry		Farmer	Coburg Square
Oatley	John		Smith & Farrier	King Street
Palmer	Thomas	Manager	North Wilts Banking Co.	Bank Street
Phelps	Philip		Land Agent, clerk to magistrates &c.	Market Place
Philips	Edward Weston		Wholesale teadealer	Bath Road
Pickett	Ellen		Straw hat maker	Spa Road
Pickett	Samuel		Brush Manufacturer	Spa Road
Plimmer	George		Surgeon	Canon Square
Pocock	James		Farmer	Beanacre
Pocock	Lucy	Mrs	Farmer	Whitley
Pocock	William		Poulterer	Whitley
Poulson	James			Bell
Porter	William		Wine & Spirit & provision merchant &c.	Bank Street
Pritchard	George		Farmer	Semington Lane
Pulling	George		Hairdresser	Market Place



Rawlings	James		Solicitor	Shurnhold
Redman	John		Grocer & teadealer	Bank Street
Reynolds	William & Stephen		Curriers & leather cutters	King Street & Devizes
Ricketts	Thomas		Beer retailer & baker	City
Rixon	Peter		Turner	Semington
Rowland & Andrews			Engineers, millwrights &c.	Bank Street
Salter	Susan	Mrs	Sextoness to the church	Church Street
Saxty	Albert		Hairdresser	Church Street
Selman	William		Tailor	Canon Square
Shaul	Benjamin		Confectioner & baker	Market Place
Shepherd	Joseph		Shopkeeper	King Street
Simpson	Robert		Ironmonger	High Street
Smith	Alexander Blucher		Solicitor & Commissioner in Chancery & Law Courts	Market Place
Smith	Frederick		Clothier & Draper	Bank Street
Smith	Henry		Furniture Broker	Broughton Road
Smith	John Francis & Co.		Woollen Manufacturers	
Smith	Richard		Boarding School	Shaw House
Spackman	Roger		Farmer	
Steward	Henry			King's Arms Commercial & Posting House
Stokes	Singer		Parish Clerk & Relieving Officer	Bank Street
Stow	Charlotte		Grocer & Bacon Factor	Bath Road
Stratton	James		Grocer & Teadealer	High Street
Sumner	George		Boot & Shoe Maker	Church Street
Sumner	Thomas		Boot & Shoe Maker	Bank Street
Taylor	James		Farmer & Bailiff of the Hundred & Manor of Melksham	Out Marsh Farm
Taylor	Sarah	Miss	Farmer	
Taylor	Thomas		Carrier	Canon Square
Theobald	John		Coal & Timber Merchant	Semington Row
Thomas	John		Farmer	Semington Lane
Till	Williams		Shopkeeper	Market Place
Townsend	William			White Hart, King Street
Usher	James		Coach Builder	Spa Road
Watson	Jane	Mrs	Baker	Market Place
Webb	Dennis		Beer Retailer	Semington Row
Webb	Timothy		Farmer	Sandridge
Webb	Williams		Carpenter	King Street
Weight	Elizabeth	Mrs	Printer, Bookbinder & Paperhanger	Lowbourne
Whale	William			Royal Oak, Market Place
Wheeler	John A.			Bear, Bank Street
White	William		Farmer & Maltster	Whitley
Whittaker	William		Teacher of Music	Forest
Wilshire	Abraham		Plaisterer	King Street
Wilts	Thomas		Shopkeeper & Beer Retailer	City
Young	Jane	Mrs	Baker & Shopkeeper	High Street