

OVERTON IN REGENCY TIMES



RICHARD WALDRAM

with illustrations by

ROSEMARY TROLLOPE

from an exhibition during the

**OVERTON REGENCY SHEEP FAIR
2008**

Published by Richard Waldram, Parsonage Farmhouse, Overton,
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I am very grateful to Rosemary Trollope for permission to use her delightful illustrations which bring the text to life. My thanks also to the Overton Regency Sheep Fair Organisers for permission to copy her watercolour from the cover of the souvenir programme. Any profits from the sale of this book will go to local charities.

I am also indebted to the staff of the Hampshire Record Office for their efficient and helpful service in my researches there and for permission to use images from their collections. I am also grateful to Jean and Martin Norgate for permission to reproduce two images from 'Old Hampshire Mapped' (www.geog.port.ac.uk)



September 2008

Readers who have grown up with decimal coinage may like to know that in those days the pound was divided into 20 shillings (abbreviated to 's' from the Latin 'solidus') and each shilling was made up of 12 pence (abbreviated to 'd' from the Latin 'denarius').

The value of money has changed a great deal since Regency times. Something costing £1 then would cost about £54 today. Something costing a shilling then would cost about £2.70 now.

Source www.measuringworth.com

What was it like to live in Overton 200 years ago in Regency times?

Where did they live? p 3

How many people were there? p 5

What happened to poor people? p 9

Did the children go to school? p 16

What work did they do? p 20

How did they travel? p 26

What if they were ill? p33

Did the men do military service? p 37

Did they go to church? p 41

Where did they do their shopping? p45

OVERTON SHEEP FAIR

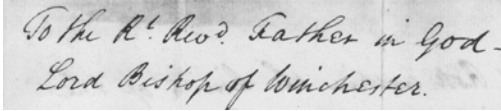
Overton is an ancient village in north east Hampshire with roots going back to the year 909 when the whole Parish was granted to the Bishops of Winchester.¹ A charter for an annual sheep fair in July dates from 1246 but it may not always have been held in medieval times.¹ However, in 1798 it was noted as 'the most capital fair for lambs in the county'² and in the mid 19th century it is reputed that tens of thousands of animals changed hands.³ The fair finally ceased³ in the early 1930's.

The July Fair was not universally popular. In 1809, the farmers and dealers petitioned the Bishop to allow the fair to be held in a field rather than in Winchester Street in a letter signed by the rector, William Harrison.⁴ The Bishop seems to have ignored the petition and in fact the fair continued to flourish. However, I am told there was general relief amongst the residents when it ceased because of the smell, the drinking and the fights associated with the fair.

The Sheep Fair was revived in July 2000 to celebrate the millennium and was such a success that it was repeated in 2004 and 2008. The theme in 2008 was 'Regency' generally held by historians to include the period 1795-1830.

**Hampshire Telegraph
&
Sussex Chronicle**
Winchester, Saturday July 16th 1816

At Overton Fair on Thursday, there was a much smaller number of sheep penned than last year. In the morning, the dealers were very unwilling to buy as the sellers were wishing to exceed last year's prices though the stock in general were not so good. Towards the afternoon the sale commenced and the greater part were sold at a reduction in the price of best Lambs of 3s to 4s and the inferior ones about 2s. Lambs from 10s to 22s, Ewes from 22s to 26s; Whethers from 24s to 37s.



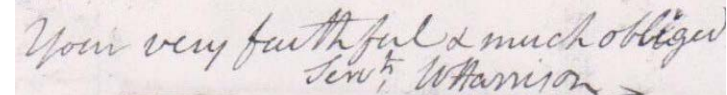
To the R^o. Rev^d. Father in God -
Lord Bishop of Winchester.

My Lord,

Agreeable to your wishes, I have endeavoured to collect the best information in my power ... for holding the Sheep Fair usually kept in the streets of Overton, but which is universally allowed would be more convenient if held in a certain field...

The inhabitants will rejoice at having so great an inconvenience removed.

Both the Farmers and Dealers have long wished to have the Fair removed...Indeed if the proposed plan is not adopted the Fair will decrease from the aversion the farmers have to penning their sheep in the streets....



Your very faithful & much obliged
Serv^t W Harrison

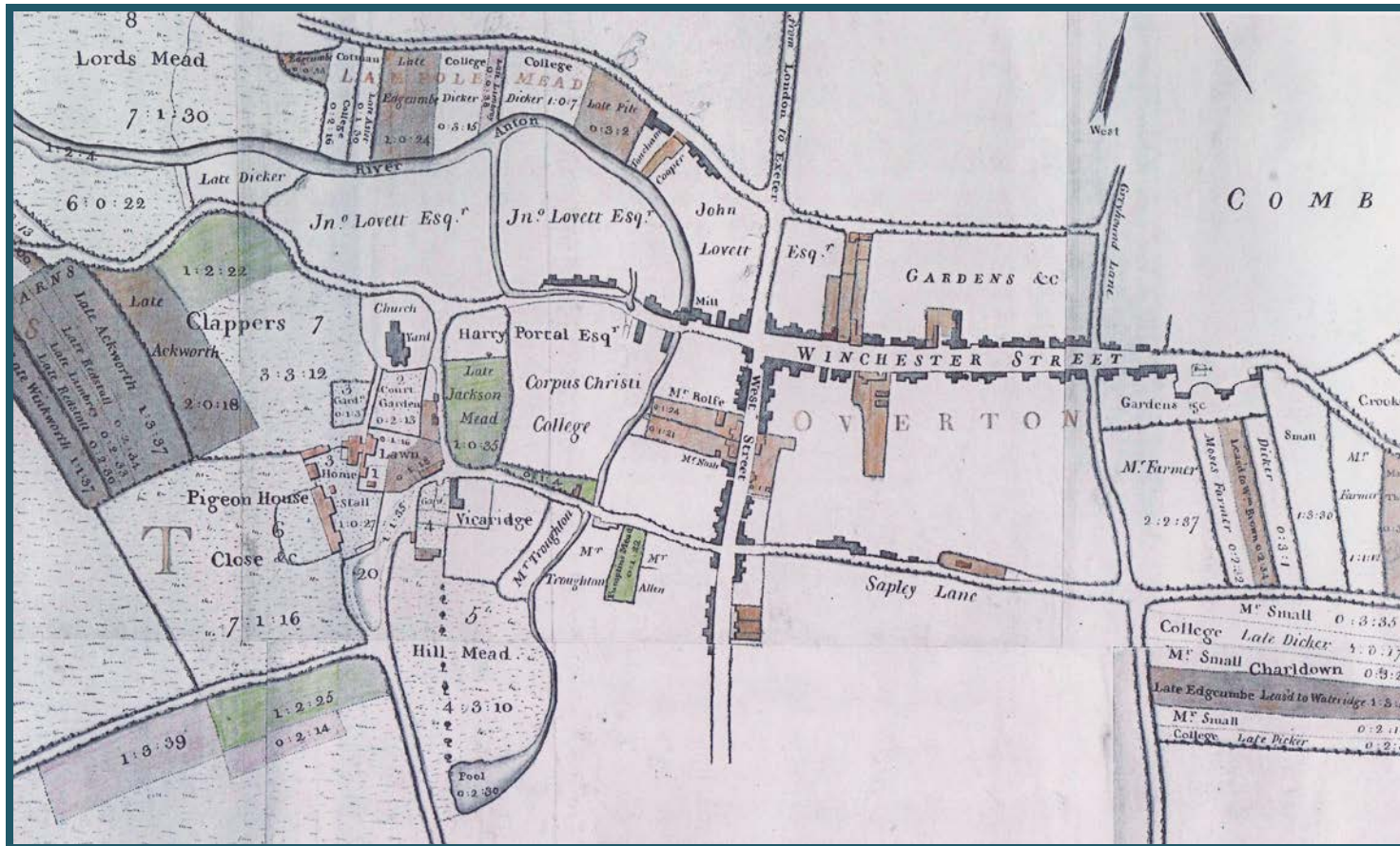
Sources

- 1 Deveson, A.M. 'Overton, Hampshire. A 1000 years of history.' 2000.
- 2 Universal British Directory, Hampshire, 1798. www.historicaldirectories.org
- 3 Oram, R. 'The Changing face of Overton' (undated).
- 4 Hampshire Record Office 11M59/BP/E/B56

O V E R T O N, H A N T S.

OVERTON is a neat little town on the western road, at the distance of fifty-
five miles from London, and as ancient a borough as any in England. It formerly sent two members to parliament, and had a market weekly; but through neglect of duty it lost its charter. The market-house is entirely taken away, and part of Sapley Farm, which is half a mile from the town, is built with some of the materials.—The church is about a quarter of a mile from the heart of the place, and stands upon a rising ground.

The soil about Overton for miles every way is extremely good for barley; and large quantities of excellent malt is made here and in the neighbouring villages and towns: particularly at Kingsclere, which sends a great deal to London every season. Here is a fine stream for trout, which rises in a marshy ground in the parish of Ashe, about a mile from Overton. It drives three corn-mills and a very large silk-mill in this place. The corn-mills have been built many years since. The silk-mill was built in the year 1769, by Thomas Streatwells and Thomas Adkins, Esqrs. but now belongs to Brian Troughton, Esq. It is a curious piece of building in the form of a long square, and employs a great number of men, women, and children. Here is also a paper-mill. There are four fairs in a year, viz. the 4th of May, Whit-Monday, the 18th of July, and the 22d of October, all principally for sheep and lambs; that on the 18th of July is the most capital fair for lambs in the county.



Source: Hampshire Record Office 10M57/P8

Part of
 ‘A Plan of the Scite of the MANOR and Borough of OVERTON in the County of Hants, surveyed by Ja^s Sherriff, 1795.’

The map is oriented with east at the top of the page. Overton was divided into three manors, Quidhampton, Southington and Overton Borough which included the village. The purpose of the map was to record who was leasing various fields and their exact acreage, particularly those around Court Farm. At that time, the river was called the ‘Anton’.



Ordnance Survey of Hampshire, First Edition 1811

In 1790 the Board of Ordnance began a national military survey starting with the south coast of England in anticipation of a French invasion or even a revolt at home. 'Ordnance' was the term they used for heavy guns hauled by teams of horses and placed on hills overlooking towns and villages. At this time the largest cannon had a maximum range of about a mile¹ so the commanders needed accurate maps. The Ordnance

Survey was the first systematic series of maps to be drawn by accurate triangulation. Contours are indicated by hills being shown in white and shading in the valleys. They were reproduced in black and white from copper plate engravings done by hand.²

Sources: www.geogport.ac.uk/webmap/hantsmap http://napoleonistyka.atspace.com/artillery_tactics.htm
² Faden, William (1749-1836) Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. OUP 2004.

CENSUS RETURNS

THE CENSUS OF 1801

The first proposal to Parliament in 1753 that a population census should be taken was violently opposed on the grounds that it would be costly and impracticable and might be used as a basis for new taxation and conscription. The idea was brought back to Parliament in 1798 with reasons that included

- 'an industrious population is the basic power and resource of any nation, and therefore its size needs to be known.'
- 'the number of men who are required for conscription to the militia in different areas should reflect the population.'
- 'the need to plan the production of corn and thus to know the number of people who have to be fed.'¹

Opposition to an official census finally withered away after 1798 when Thomas Malthus caused great concern by arguing that population growth would soon outstrip supplies of food. Unable to support itself, Britain would be hit by famine, disease and other disasters.² Faced with this alarmist view of the future, people began to see the need for a census.

'The addition of a few words will make it the most effective engine of repression ever used against an injured people!'

'I hold this bill subversive to the last remains of English liberty!'

The first census of England and Wales was on 10th March 1801. It was repeated every 10 years.

Sources

www.archive.timesonline.co.uk

¹ www.britishhistoryonline.com

² J. M. Pullen, 'Malthus, (Thomas) Robert (1766–1834)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, OUP 2004.



In 1801 there were 1130 people and 230 houses in Overton Parish.¹

Overton now has
four times more people and
eight times more houses than
there were in 1801

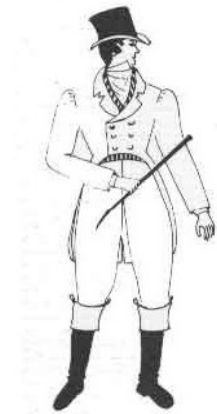
Source: www.visionofbritain.org.uk

THE CENSUS OF 1831

The social classes of men over 20 were classified as

Employers and professionals	17
Middling sorts	96
Labourers and servants	204
Others	46

"Middling sorts" combined small farmers not employing labourers with masters and skilled workers in manufacturing and handicrafts. The 'others' may have been those too old or sick to work.



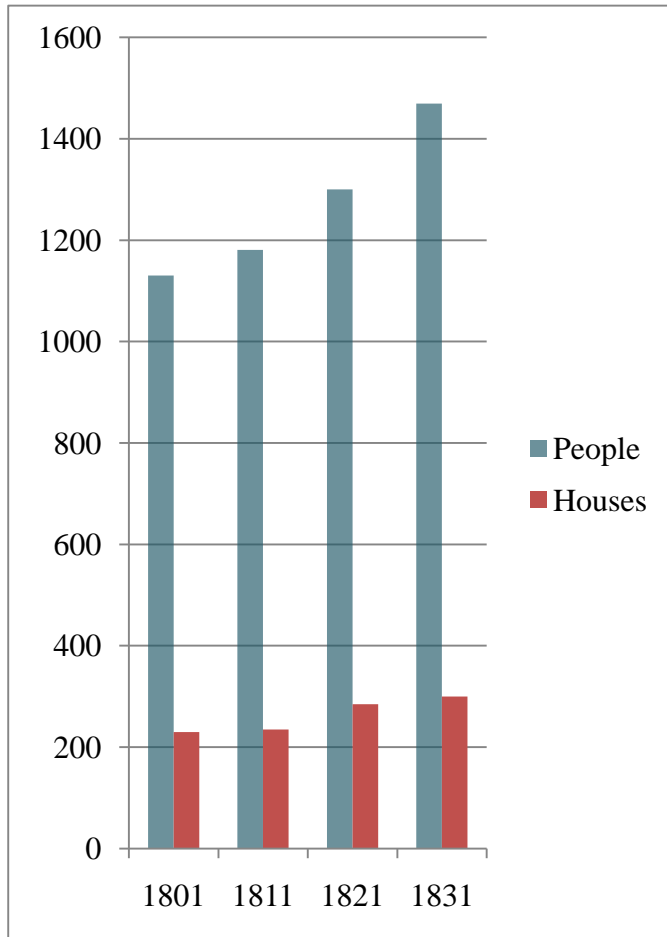
Occupations were recorded in more detail for families and men over 20 as

Persons, male	736
Persons, female	771
Total persons	1507
Families	318
Families chiefly employed in agriculture	149
Ditto, trade, manufacture, handicrafts	109
All other	60
Males over 20	363
Capitalists, bankers, professional and educated men	9
Ditto, not employing labourers	3
Labourers employed in agriculture	141
Labourers, non agricultural	59
Agriculture, occupiers employing labourers	8
Employed in retail trade/handicrafts/manufacture	93
Other males, over 20 except servants	46
Male servants	6
Female servants	35



Source: www.visionofbritain.org.uk

OVERTON PARISH



The 'capitalists' were the landowners. Many of those employed in handicrafts were carpenters, blacksmiths and wheelwrights supplying the needs of agriculture.

Social status was also loosely defined in legal documents of the time.

The 'gentry' are referred to as 'gent' or 'esquire' meaning that they held land but sublet to farmers and did none of the work themselves.

'Yeomen' were those who rented land, worked it themselves and had others working for them.

Men were otherwise referred to by occupation as 'miller', 'labourer', 'innkeeper' and so on.

No account was taken of the occupations of women except those employed as servants. Married women rarely appear in documents because their property legally belonged to their husbands.

If the early census results were at all accurate, it seems that seventy new houses were built and the population grew by a third in 30 years. There were about 5 people in each household.¹

Nationally, it is reckoned that the 1801 census under-recorded the population by 3%.¹

After 1841, the population declined and did not reach this level again until 1901¹

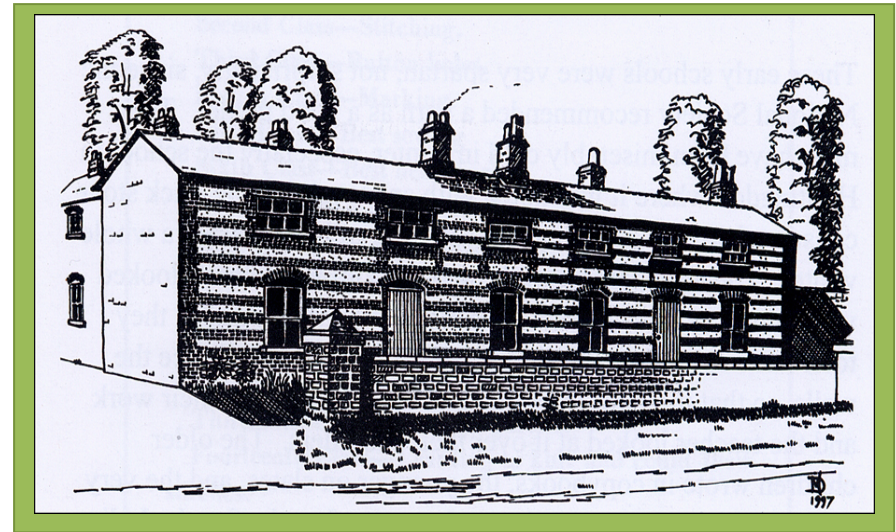
POVERTY

Rural poverty was an ever present problem and it became worse during and after the Napoleonic wars, when there was famine due to poor harvests in 1800, 1801 and 1817-19.¹

Workhouses were a way of keeping beggars off the streets and giving work to the unemployed so they did not starve. But the Workhouse was also a place for orphans, the sick, the elderly, 'lunatics' and vagrants who were capable of work but did not. There was also '**outdoor relief**' to support poor families at home. It was paid for by a **poor rate**, levied on owners of land and property.

In 1775, the money raised by the poor rate in Overton was £221 but by 1802 this had jumped to £927.²

Other sources 1 Jeremy Boulton "famine" Oxford Companion to British History, OUP, 1997.
2 Bingley, W. Unpublished History of Hampshire, 1807-1813. Hampshire Record Office 16M79



Overton Workhouse

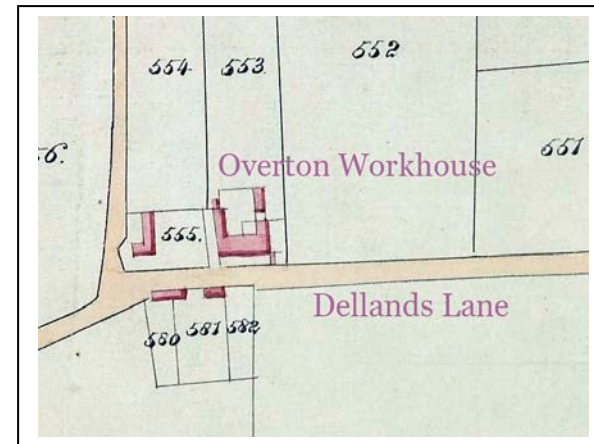
An artist's impression by Donald Moss from Alison M. Deveson, 'Overton, Hampshire. A thousand years of History,' 2000

In that year 38 people were in the workhouse and 120 were receiving outdoor relief.²
1 parishioner in 7 was 'on benefit'.

Year and Month	September 1824						
Day of Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Needy							
Vagrants							
Lodged							
Lazey							
Refused Bread							
Refused Lodging							
Sham Ill							
Really Ill							
Bread							

OVERTON WORKHOUSE

The workhouse was built sometime before 1801 on the north side of Dellands for about 50 residents and twenty day workers.



Children from the age of eight would be employed at the Silk Mill and at twelve, boys were expected to transfer to agricultural work. The aged and infirm would earn their keep in the Workhouse itself.¹

The Master of the Workhouse had specific instructions and kept a daily record of relief given to the poor. Here are his entries for the first week of September 1824 using his own classification!

Sources

Hampshire Record Office 27M80A/P03

Overton Tithe Map. Hampshire Record Office 27M80/PO8

¹ Deveson, A. M. 'Overton, Hampshire. A thousand years of history' 2000.

Directions to the Master of the
Workhouse, for the distribution of
Bread and Lodging.

Hours of admission to Lodgers from Lady Day to Michaelmas,
until nine in the Evening, from Michaelmas to Lady Day
until eight in the Evening. No person to lodge more than
one night. Medical advice to be called in immediately whenever
any Person or Persons complain of being Ill and cannot travel.
All Persons applying, to be relieved with as much as they can
eat in the presence of some person belonging to the House, but
in no case suffered to take any away.

Directions to the Master of the
Workhouse for the Distribution of
Bread and Lodging.

'All Persons applying, to be
relieved with as much as they can
eat in the presence of some
person belonging to the House,
but in no case suffered to take any
away.'



		£	s	d
	By B.O. forward	784	8	8 3/4
	Pd Dame Waldren for laying out Crans Child	2		
	Pd for Bread & Cheese	2		
	Tho: Rampton Ill	2		
	Dame Fishers Child	8		
	Gave D: for Shoes	5		
	Paid to a Paup			4
	Paid David Strong for the Hoop of a Boy from Oct. 6 up to Dec. 29	1	10	
	Pd. M: Webb for 1 Years Interest due at Easter 1804	5		
	Let John Matens Wife have	5		
Nov. 5	Wm Owens Ill	3	6	
	Pd for Warrant & Examination for Sur. Field	3		
	Pd for a Warrant for Joseph Snow	2		
9	Pd D: Painter for laying out Crans Child	1		
	Paid D: for Bread & Cheese	2		
	Paid to a Paup			6
11	for Crans Child Ill	1		
17	Pd G: Nash for 2 Graves	2		
	Pd G: Parduc for the Hall & Funerals	3		
	Wm Emences lost Time	6	8	
	Laying out Sarah Parch	2		
	Widow Butchers House Room	2		
	Widow Giddart	2		
	Pd Widow Henney at 8 Weeks at 2/6	1		
	Paid Wm Baker a Bill	5	17	2 1/2
	Paid Wm Toogood a Bill	1	16	9
	Paid Mary Kirchin a Bill	1	10	7 1/2
	Paid Wm Pyle a Bill	4	13	14 1/2
	Paid Mich: Knight a Bill	4	12	6
	Paid R: Knight for maintaining the Poor 4 Weeks	30	14	11
	John Cowdery Ill	5		
	Gave Mary Lovell for Rent	10		
	Sarah Woodhouse in distress	X	1	6
	Pd John Lovell Esq: 3 Years Interest due at Easter 1805	45		
	Pd D: for 2 Shares on the Work House	100		
		989	15	7 1/4

OUTDOOR RELIEF

The Overseer of the Poor made payments from the Poor Rate to widows and those who were sick or distressed.

He paid for children's shoes, clothes, bread and cheese, for rent, outstanding household bills and small sums to poor families who were 'passing through'.

There are many entries to Dame Waldren for the laying out of bodies, to Jonathan Nash for digging graves and for funeral expenses.

In November 1805 there were 87 payments, mostly for a few shillings at a time.

To the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish
of *Kingsclere* — in the County of Southampton,
and to the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of
the Parish of *Overton* — in the County
of Southampton aforesaid ./.

County of }
Southampton }
to wit, }
WHEREAS, Complaint hath been made unto Us, whose Names
are hereunto set, and Seals affixed, being Two of His Majesty's
Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Southampton aforesaid,
(One whereof being of the Quorum,) by the Church-wardens and
Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of *Kingsclere*

That *Joseph Rolfe, Bethany his Wife and their
three children (viz Sarah aged five years
Mary aged two years and a Boy an Infant
aged about eight weeks " " " " " "*
lately intruded and came into the said Parish of
Kingsclere and are actually become chargeable to the
same; WE the said Justices, upon due proof made thereof, as well upon
the examination of the said

Joseph Rolfe " " " " " "

upon Oath, as other Circumstances, do adjudge the same to be true,
and do also adjudge the Place of the legal Settlement of the said

Joseph Rolfe his Wife and Children

to be in the Parish of *Overton* " " " "
in the County of *Southampton* — aforesaid.
from and out of your said Parish of *Kingsclere* " "
to the said Parish of *Overton* . — and them
deliver unto the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor there, or to
some or one of them, together with this Our Order, or a true Copy
hereof, who are hereby required to receive and provide for them
according to Law.

GIVEN under our Hands and Seals, the *10th* Day of
February in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand, Eight
Hundred, and *twenty five* ./.
S. M. Darwood
A. B. Wither

REMOVAL ORDERS

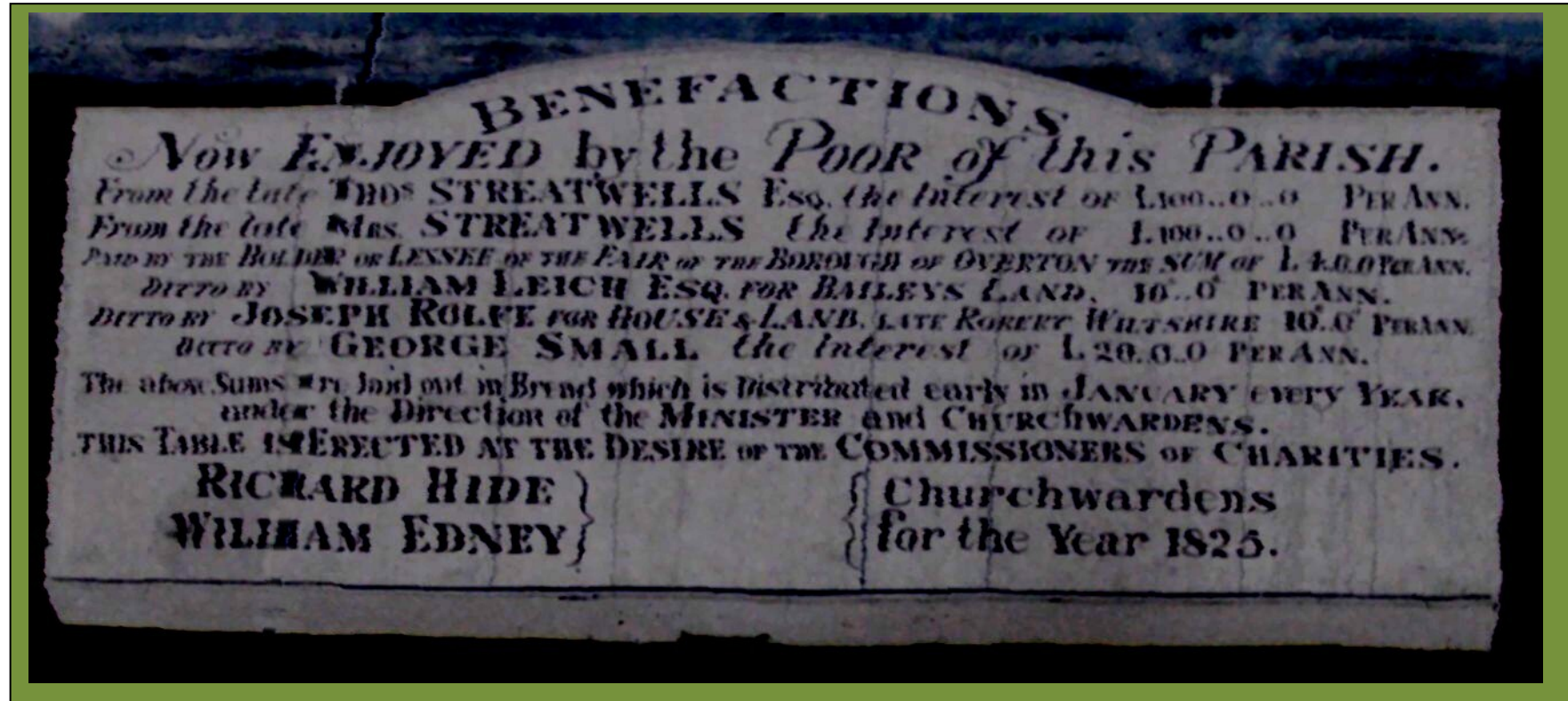
The rule was that incomers had to be sent back to their parish of origin giving rise to a huge bureaucracy and great hardship.

This is an example made by two Justices of the Peace, the Churchwardens and the Overseer of the Poor in Kingsclere.

In 1825, Joseph Rolfe of Overton was living in Kingsclere with his wife and three young children but they had evidently fallen on hard times and had become a burden on the parish.

The Overseer in Kingsclere was ordered to remove them and the Overseer in Overton ordered to provide for them at the Workhouse.

CHARITABLE GIVING



This shows a large painted board in the tower of St Mary's Church recording the names of benefactors who had donated or bequeathed money for the poor up to 1825. It was worth about £15, 'to be laid out in Bread which is Distributed early in JANUARY every year under the Direction of the MINISTER and CHURCHWARDENS'. This was the time of year when food was scarce and expensive.

SCHOOLS

SPRENT'S SCHOOL

William Sprent was running a fee-paying school in Overton and advertised it in 1794. The attendance book from 1814-1873 was found in the loft of a house on the east side of Winchester Street.¹ By this time the school was accepting boys and girls, up to 20 as boarders and about 50 as day-scholars.

There were two long terms of 22 weeks with a half term break. The 'after Christmas' term started in the second week of January and the 'after midsummer' term in July.

This was a school for the 'middling sorts' who could afford to pay. We can tell from distinctive family names that in 1814 they included a tailor, two blacksmiths, a farmer, two millers, a butcher and a bricklayer. Some of the gentry sent their children there as well, including George William Leigh and Joseph Troughton.

From records of baptisms² we know that they started at any age from five to fifteen. The full course seems to have been four to five years but there were many who only attended for a few terms. 'Mensuration' is an old word for measuring.

Sources

1 Richard Oram

2 Hampshire Record Office 81M72/PR12



June 9th 1794

OVERTON SCHOOL, HANTS

Opens again on Monday 7th July, 1794; where Young Gentlemen are genteelly boarded and carefully taught English Grammar, Penmanship, Arithmetic, Mensuration, Book-keeping by single entry; also by the Italian method, etc,

By WILLIAM SPRENT

For four Guineas per annum, and one Guinea entrance.

W. Sprent returns unfeigned acknowledgements to his numerous and respected friends and humbly solicits a continuation of their favours.



Day-Scholars after Linas 1844

<i>Col.</i>	<i>Names .</i>	<i>Weeks .</i>
253	<i>Sarah Hilde</i>	
254	<i>Richard Hilde</i>	
248	<i>Mary Hoorman</i>	
274	<i>Sarah Martin</i>	
270	<i>Mary A. Switzer</i>	
219	<i>Sarah Switzer</i>	
	<i>Harriet Switzer</i>	
	<i>Betsy Keates</i>	
264	<i>Mary A. Pain (Collins)</i>	
183	<i>Jane Redstall</i>	
257	<i>Mary A. Leadbeater</i>	
216	<i>Ely^{2nd} Leadbeater</i>	
250	<i>Sarah Sudder</i>	
249	<i>Elyth Hilde</i>	
218	<i>Mary A. Hilde</i>	
230	<i>Lewisca Switzer</i>	
215	<i>Caroline Crumble</i>	

Source: Sprent's Academy Attendance Book by kind permission of Richard Oram

In 1805, King George III declared,¹

‘It is my wish that every poor child in my dominions is taught to read the Holy Scriptures.’

In 1807, Samuel Whitbread presented a Bill to Parliament proposing an amendment to the Poor Laws² that

‘every child between the ages of seven and fourteen whose parents were unable to pay, should receive two years free education.’

Opinion was divided. The proposers argued that education would make the poor less dependent on parish relief and improve their morals.

The opposers worried about the cost and underlying their objections was the fear that education of the poor would eventually lead to revolution.²

The Bill was heavily defeated in the House of Commons. A similar Bill in 1816 suffered the same fate.³

The real problem was that unregulated child labour made universal education impossible⁴

‘What will they read? The Bible or the Sunday newspapers or perhaps political tracts? Truth would gain nothing and error a great deal!’

‘Whatever advantage, by way of morality, in teaching the poor to read, I see neither utility nor morality in teaching them writing or arithmetic!’

‘Educating the labouring poor... would raise their minds above their lot in life and by no means strengthen their attachment to laborious pursuits.’

Sources

1 Biography of Joseph Lancaster, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, OUP 2004.

2 The Times, 25th April 1807. www.archive.timesonline.co.uk

3 Biography of William Forster, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, OUP 2004.

4 <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~city19c/viccity/education>

OVERTON'S FIRST 'NATIONAL' SCHOOL

The curate, David Williams, started a free school affiliated to the 'National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the principles of the Established Church' in 1817.¹ For the first twenty years, Overton's first 'National School' operated in the Workhouse.¹

The basic aim was to improve the morals of the poor by reading the bible and the religious books published by the society. The secondary aim was "to communicate such knowledge and habits as are sufficient to guide them through life **in their proper station**".²

Schooling on weekdays was only for boys. The girls attended on Sunday but spent all afternoon learning needlework and knitting.¹

A proper school was built in Kingsclere Road in 1836. By this time, parents had to pay a contribution, so it came to be known as the 'Penny School.'¹

Compulsory, free, primary education had to wait until 1870.³

Sources

1 Deveson, A.M., 'Overton and its National School' 2000.

2 www.natsoc.org.uk/society/history

3 Allen Warren, 'Forster, William Edward', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, OUP, 2004.

Half the people getting married in Overton between 1800 and 1812 had to make a mark in the register because they could not sign their own names.



The Penny School. www.overtonpictures.com

FARMING

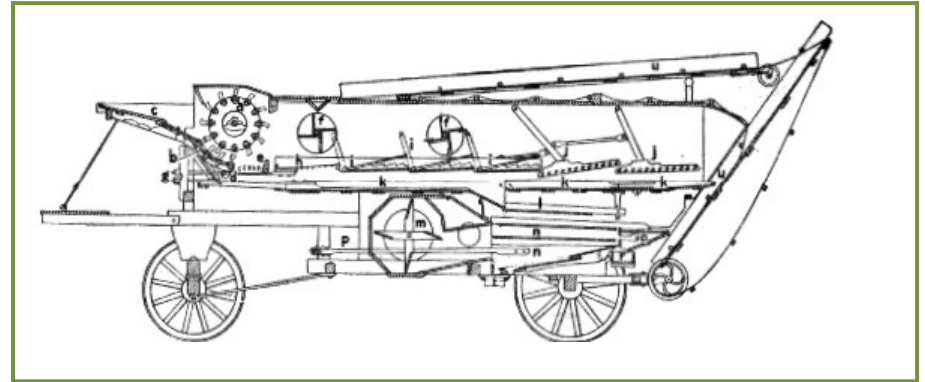
In 1798, Overton Parish was noted as a particularly good area for growing barley.¹ The other traditional crops were corn, oats and turnips. It was also noted for its sheep fair and in 1795 there were 4000 sheep in the Parish.² In 1831, half the families in the parish were directly employed in farming.³

England was then in the middle of an **agricultural revolution**, resulting from ⁴

- Better crop rotation.
- Selective breeding of plants and animals.
- Improved ploughs, seed drills and threshing machines.
- Enclosure of common lands.

Sources

- 1 Universal British Directory, Hampshire, 1798. www.historicaldirectories.org
- 2 Grant, M. 'The Small towns of North Hampshire'. Proc Hamp Field Club Archeol 62 (2007) pp 193-201.
- 3 Census, 1831. www.visionofbritain.org.uk
- 4 'Agricultural revolution' Oxford Companion to British History.1997.
- 5 'Meikle, Andrew (1719–1811)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.2004.



Andrew Meikle's horse-drawn threshing machine of about 1796⁵



©Tony Morris, www.overtonpictures.com

With mechanisation and better farming practices, fewer labourers were needed so wages stayed low. There was little work for women who had done much of the labour before.¹

Mounting hunger and discontent culminated in the ‘Swing’ riots of 1830 throughout the country. Machines were smashed because they deprived labourers of work.

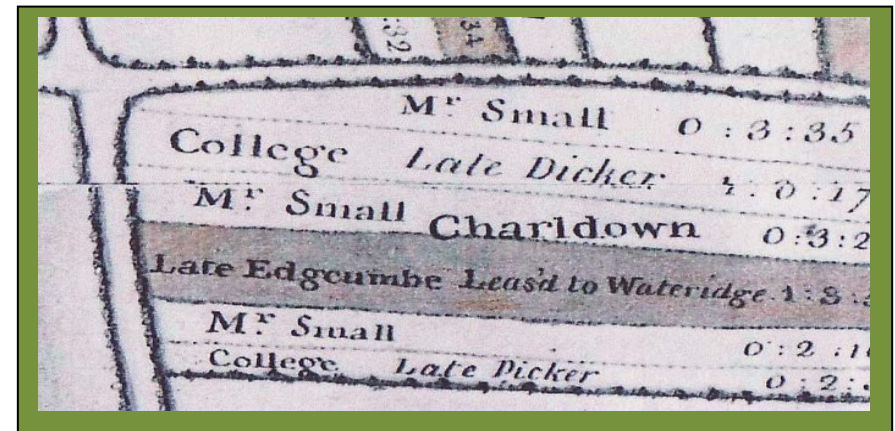
Several hundred marched through Overton on November 18th and 19th demanding money, food and higher wages. Following a ‘Special Commission’ in Winchester, three of the Hampshire ringleaders were hanged and over a hundred were transported to Australia.²



Moreton's seed drill, 1828. Science museum.

THE FARMERS

The narrow strip fields on James Sherriff's map suggest subsistence farming by many small tenants. There are 25 named tenants sharing 85 fields, but 40% of fields were in the hands of the gentry; Lord Edgcumbe, James Dicker of Court Farm, Jonathon Lovett Esq and Harry Portal.



On the tithe map of 1843, all the strip fields in Overton Borough had gone.¹ By that time all the land in the parish was leased by just 12 farmers. John Portal possessed 86% of it.²

Sources

- 1 Valenze, Deborah. 'The First Industrial Woman' New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- 2 Deveson, A.M. 'Overton, Hampshire. A thousand years of history', 2000.

Sources

- 1 Overton Tithe Map, Hampshire Record Office 21M65/F7/181/2
- 2 Overton Tithe Apportionment Book, Hampshire Record Office 3M51/397.

MALTHOUSES

With good local barley available, there were at least five maltings in Overton, one at Southington Mill,¹ one in the High Street,² two in Winchester Street^{3,4} and one at the New Inn, also called the 'Poyntz Arms'. They also had a brewhouse,¹ so they were making their own ale. At 3-13 Winchester Street the malting house was on two floors, the upper storey for storing barley and finished malt. The malting floor measured 13 x 101 feet.⁵

To make malt, the barley grain was first steeped in warm water for about 3 days, allowing it to germinate and start to turn the starch into malt sugar. It was then laid out on the malting floor and turned regularly for the process to continue. The seed was then putting out shoots and roots.

Germination was stopped by heating the green malt in a kiln for about 4 days, turning it every day. Heat was provided by wood or coal fires and flues. When the sprouted grains had been heated and dried in the kiln, the malt was rested for a month and then shipped in sacks to the brewery.⁶



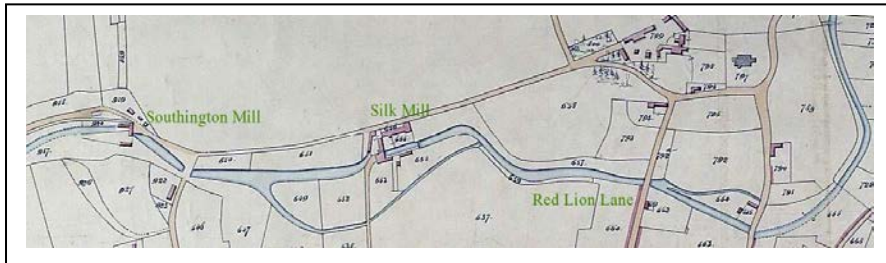
Sources

1 Hampshire Record Office 27M80/PO9 2 Hampshire Record Office 10M57T149 3 Hampshire Record Office 23M53/1 4 Hampshire Record Office 22M68/2 5 Waight Papers. Hampshire Record Office 83A02/8 6 www.bures/online.co.uk/Maltings.

INDUSTRY

CHILD LABOUR AT OVERTON SILK MILL

The silk mill was built in 1769 by Thomas Streatwells and Thomas Adkins between Southington Mill and Town Mill. It was a substantial building on the site of an older mill used for finishing woollen cloth.¹



Detail from Overton Tithe Map. Hampshire Record Office 27M80/PO8

We have an eye witness account of work at the mill. William Bingley wrote in his 'History of Hampshire' between 1807 and 1813,²

'There is, at Overton, a silk manufacturing of considerable extent and importance, as it affords constant employment for a great number of women and children. Mr Sullivan in his tour through England, Scotland and Wales thus speaks of it....'

'Adjoining to Overton we stopped to observe a silk manufacture carrying on ...by Mr Streatwell. The first process was carried on by little children of six or eight years of age and consisted simply in winding from the skain upon the bobbin; the second was putting the threads together to be twisted, by other children of a more advanced age and by women....'

The little creatures, who so innocently and yet so advantageously for themselves and their families, were the objects which chiefly whetted our attention. They amounted to about one hundred and forty; independent of which Mr Streatwell, ...constantly maintains in an adjoining building another little group of about fifty children, whom he likewise protects, from their infant state; women he appoints to take care of them; and they are fed and clothed, at his expense, until they are capable of work, when they are entered upon the loom and receive a regular stipend for their daily labours.

Delighted by this unusual, but highly praiseworthy and sensible exertion of charity, we begged the permission of the people to let us see the children. We were accordingly introduced into a room, where we observed a party of them gathered around their own mistress, decently dressed and with health and cheerfulness speaking in their countenances...

We gained the blessing of the venerable matron, 'God protects them' said she, 'and I am sure he will reward their generous benefactors with peace and happiness.'

Sources 1 Hampshire Record Office 11M59/E2/153985 2 Bingley, W. unpublished History of Hampshire, 1807-1813. Hampshire Record Office, 16M79.

To have gathered up 190 children, Mr Streatwells must have been getting them from way beyond the borders of Overton Parish. By the standards of the time he may have been looking after them quite well but others were less scrupulous.

In 1802, the first Factory Act limited the work of children in textile mills to 12 hours a day.¹

The act attempted to enforce on all employers the conditions provided by the more humane mill-owners but there were no inspectors and fines of £5 were hardly a deterrent. It was widely ignored.¹

The Factory Act of 1819 prohibited children under 9 from working in textile mills and restricted older children to a 12-hour day.²

The Factory Act of 1833 reduced the daily hours of children under 12 working in textile mills to nine. Children at these mills were obliged to have two hours schooling a day and factory inspectors were appointed to enforce the regulations.²

In 1846, Overton Silk Mill became bankrupt, the machinery was sold off and the buildings were demolished.³ It was described as 'the most calamitous event that could befall the poor of this place and neighbourhood'.³

Sources

- 1 www.historyhome.co.uk/peel/factmine/1802act
- 2 The Oxford Dictionary of Local and Family History. David Hey. Oxford University Press, 1997.
- 3 Hampshire Record Office 34M87/24/1

OTHER MILLS

Horses and water mills were the only source of power. Three corn mills were working on the river in Overton in 1795, Quidhampton Mill, Town Mill and Southington Mill.¹ In 1829, Town Mill was being used to grind acorns² probably for animal feed. The mill ponds were also excellent trout fisheries.³

Every mill needed a 'leat' or bypass to take the water when the mill was not working or the flow was too great. Surplus water could be used to irrigate gardens and fields.⁴ In times of drought, the mills had to take it in turns to build up sufficient head of water to turn the wheel.⁵



Sources

- 1 Universal British Directory, 1798 www.historicaldirectories.org
- 2 Hampshire Record Office 11M59/E2/155507
- 3 Hampshire Record Office 11M59/E2/155508
- 4 Hampshire record Office 5M52/T90
- 5 Neville Wiltshire, personal communication

PAPER MILLS

Portal's paper mills were outside Overton Parish at Laverstoke Mill and Bere Mill but Overton people were working there. William Bingley¹ wrote,

'The paper mills here are of great importance ... in manufacturing paper for the notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. ... There are two paper mills belonging to the same proprietor on this stream . These afford eight vats for the manufacture of paper. The latter require the constant attendance of about sixty men and women throughout the year.

The average earnings of the men are stated to be about 22s per week; that of the women 7d a day but when employed by the piece (and this is now usual practice) from 9d to 10d per day.

It is somewhat remarkable that the workmen at these mills keep holiday on all the red letter days and for which they are paid their ordinary day-work hire.'

At best, a woman's wages were only a quarter of what a man could earn. In today's money, it was about £55 a week for men and about £12.50 a week for women.²

Sources 1 Bingley, W. unpublished History of Hampshire, 1807-1813. Hampshire Record Office, 16M79. 2 www.measuringworth.com/

BRICKS

Overton had kilns at Brick Kiln Farm south of Dellands, and in 1798 the brick maker was Thomas Burges.¹ The farmhouse and kilns were marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1811 but were demolished long ago. There was another brickworks near Berrydown Farm.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

William Bingley² noted

'In this part of Hampshire the females are much employed in the braiding or plating of straw for hats and bonnets. This they perform with much felicity and neatness and in every respect equal to the celebrated manufacture of these articles at Dunstable !'



This was one of many cottage industries. In 1798 there were 3 carpenters, 5 blacksmiths and 2 wheelwrights mainly serving farming needs. Clothing was manufactured by 4 tailors, a collar maker, a breeches maker, no less than 7 shoemakers and 2 staymakers making women's corsets.¹ It is perhaps surprising, given that the Overton sheep fair was described as 'the most capital fair for lambs in the county'¹, that no spinners or weavers are mentioned.

Sources

1 Universal British Directory, Hampshire, 1798. www.historicaldirectories.org

2 Bingley, W., unpublished History of Hampshire 1807-1813. Hampshire Record Office, 16M79

TRAVEL

LONDON TO EXETER TURNPIKE ROAD

In Regency times the main route from London to Exeter passed through Overton. Traditionally, maintaining roads was the duty of each Parish and they were in a very poor state. Then, in the early 18th century, came the idea of setting up Turnpike Trusts by Act of Parliament. Trusts could borrow from the banks to improve roads and charge tolls to repay the interest. Part of the London to Exeter road was ‘turnpiked’ in 1754 by an Act of Parliament¹

‘for repairing the road from Basingstoke through Wortin, Overton, Whitchurch...because of the narrowness of the road in several places and also because it is very inconvenient and in many places so deep and founderous that the same cannot be passed in winter without great Difficulty and Danger.’

The trustees were required to erect mile posts and appoint collectors who lived in toll houses. ‘Turnpike’ refers to a **pikestaff** set up to block the road which was **turned** aside once the toll had been paid.

The maximum tolls were²

For each coach or wagon drawn by 4 horses.....	1s 0d
For a coach or wagon drawn by 2 or 3 horses.....	6d
For one horse, coach or wagon.....	3d
For each riding horse.....	1d
Per score of cattle or other large animals.....	10d
Per score of small beasts, sheep, calves, pigs or similar.....	5d

The Overton tolls were collected at 67 High Street named ‘Tollgate’.³



Sources

- 1 Hampshire Record Office 44M69/G1/128
- 2 From ‘Turnpikes near Andover, 1775-1887’ Andover Local Archives Committee J.E.H. Saul, 1977
- 3 www.hampshiretreasures.org.uk SU 512 496 2112 71



Before 1800, coaches averaged 7 to 8 mph in summer and about 5 mph in winter but by 1830 the roads had improved enough to allow speeds of up to 10 mph. Fresh horses were supplied every 10 to 15 miles.¹

Mail coaches replaced a horse and rider for delivering letters from 1784. They had a distinctive livery and were drawn by four horses with seating for four passengers inside. Further passengers were later allowed to sit outside with the driver. The mail was held in a box to the rear, where a post office employee stood guard with a blunderbuss and two pistols to deter highwaymen.¹

The coaches ran through the night which more than halved journey times.¹

Sources

- 1 www.homepages.ihug.co.nz/~awoodley/carriage/mail
- 2 Salisbury Coach: Hampshire Record Office, Jervoise of Herriard Collection 44M69/G1/187

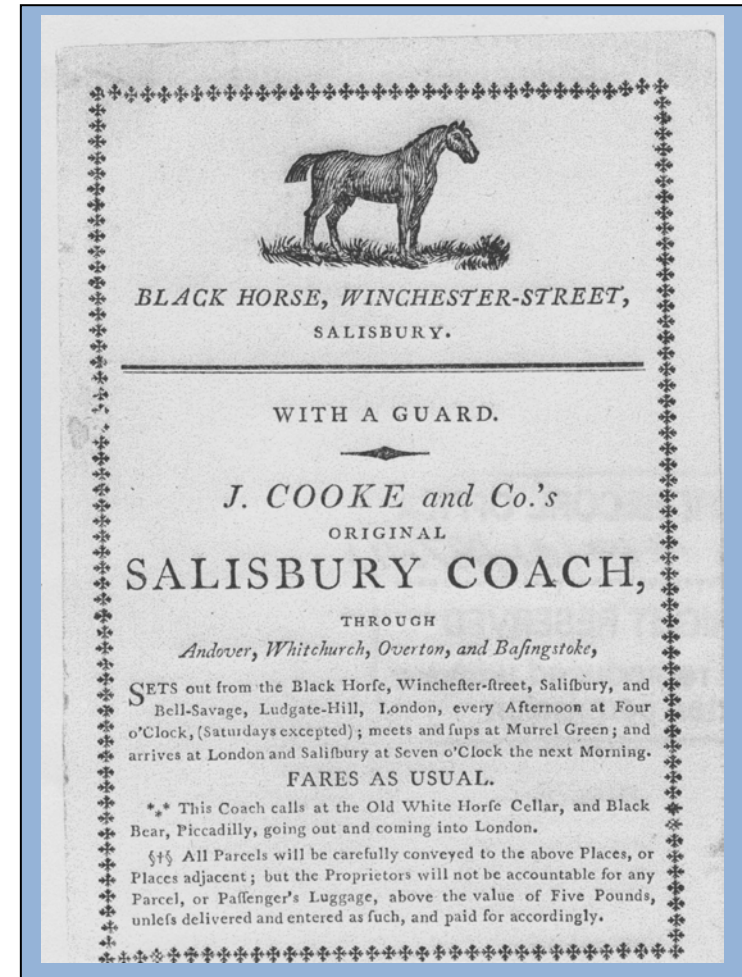


TABLE of the Prices usually paid for the hire of HORSES and CARRIAGES.

		Hire.			Duty.		Total.			
		£.	s.	d.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
A Carriage and Six Horses	By the day, from 9 to 16 miles and back	—	2	5	0	9	0	2	14	0
	By ditto, from 16 to 20 miles and back	—	2	10	0	9	0	2	19	0
	By ditto, for 20 miles or upwards and back	—	2	14	0	9	0	3	3	0
A Carriage and Four Horses	By the day, from 9 to 16 miles and back	—	1	10	0	6	0	1	16	0
	By ditto, from 16 to 20 miles and back	—	1	14	0	6	0	2	0	0
	By ditto, for 20 miles or upwards and back	—	2	2	0	6	0	2	8	0
	By the mile	—	0	1	6	0	4	0	1	10
A Post Chaise and Pair	By the day, from 9 to 16 miles and back	—	0	15	0	3	0	0	18	0
	By ditto, from 16 to 20 miles and back	—	1	1	0	3	0	1	4	0
	By ditto, for 20 miles or upwards and back	—	1	5	0	3	0	1	8	0
	By the mile	—	0	0	9	0	2	0	0	11
A Saddle Horse	By the day	—	0	5	0	1	6	0	6	6
	By the mile	—	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	4

N. B. By a Carriage is meant either Coach, Landau, Chariot, Phaeton, or Post Chaise, all of which are let at the same Rate, the Number of Horses only making any Difference in Price.

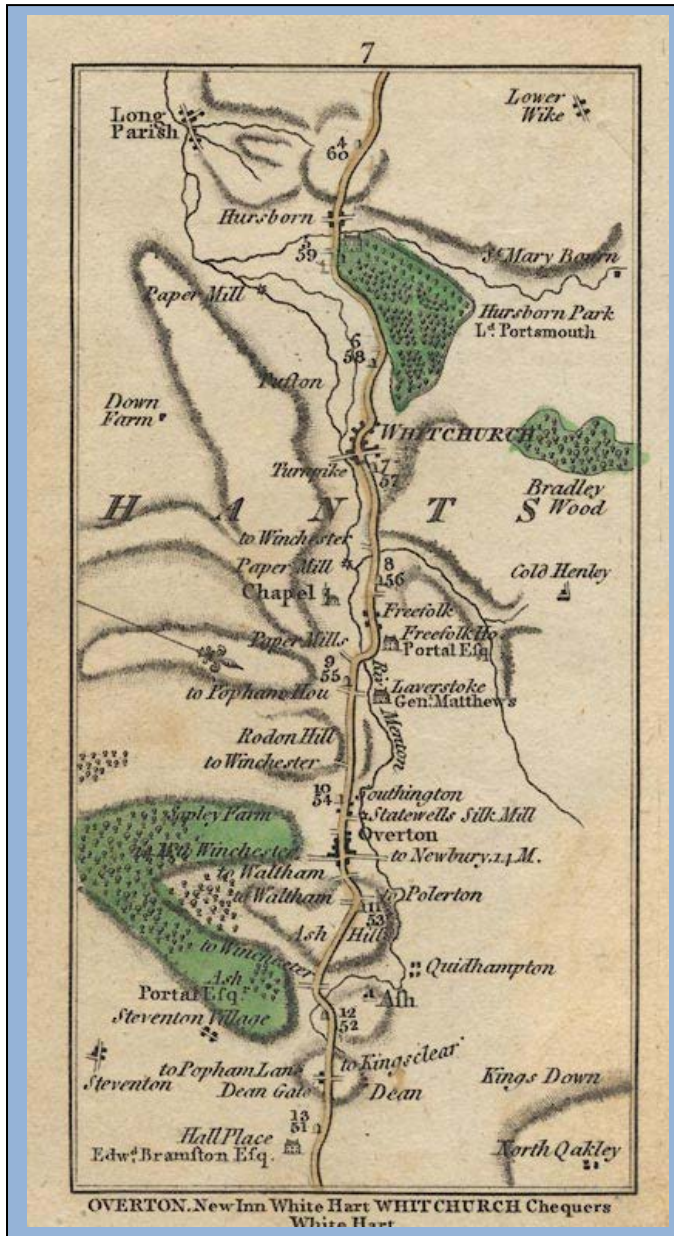
If you hire a Carriage by the Day, and your Journey exceeds 20 Miles, you are frequently charged for each Mile more at the Rate of the stated Price per Mile, instead of the general Sum specified in the Table; and if you take the Horses farther than agreed for, you are liable to stand to the Loss, in Case of any Accident happening to them. It is likewise to be observed, that travelling in your own Carriage makes no Difference in Point of Expence, the same Charge being made for Horses alone as for Horses and Carriage together.

P R E F A C E.

I R

These were the prices on the Exeter Road by Patersons in 1795. A coach and four by the mile from Overton to Basingstoke and back worked out at £1 16s 0d which in today's money would be about £90 or £22.50 a head for four people. The mail coach was somewhat cheaper but it meant travelling by night. A chaise and pair would cost you £37.50.¹

Sources: Hampshire Record Office 41M99/1. 1 www.measuringworth.com



As roads improved and traffic increased, there was a market for road maps. Overton is shown for the first time on strip maps of the Exeter road drawn by Arrowsmith in 1784¹. He calls the river 'the Menton', whereas it was traditionally called the 'Anton.' The positions of mile posts are shown as well as the 'seats' of the principal landowners. At the bottom he advises travellers of good places to stay. The 'New Inn' stood where the Community Centre is now.

Polhampton is marked as Polerton and Rotten Hill beyond Southington is named Roden Hill. 'Statenwells' Silk Mill was actually owned by Thomas Streatwell.

Overton was a busy staging post at all hours of the day and night.

There are two good inns, the New Inn and White Hart; the principal is the first, where much business is done every day. Here is also the post-office.

The mail-coach, from London to Exeter every day arrives at four in the morning, and returns from Exeter to London every night at half past ten.—The post-office opens at eight o'clock in the morning and shuts at nine at night.

The Mercury stage-coach, from the Swan-with-Two-Necks, Lad-lane, arrives every day at one o'clock, and returns at four in the morning.—The Taunton coach, from the Saracen's Head, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at one o'clock, and returns at three in the morning Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.—Cook's Salisbury coach arrives every night at nine o'clock from Salisbury, and returns from London every morning at three.—Stedman's Salisbury coach, to the Bell and Crown, Holborn, passes through every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at nine in the morning, and returns Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at half past twelve.

The Exeter waggon goes down and up five days in a week.—The Taunton twice a week.—The Frome waggon up Tuesday and down Friday.

Sources

¹ Old Hampshire Mapped. www.geog.port.ac.uk

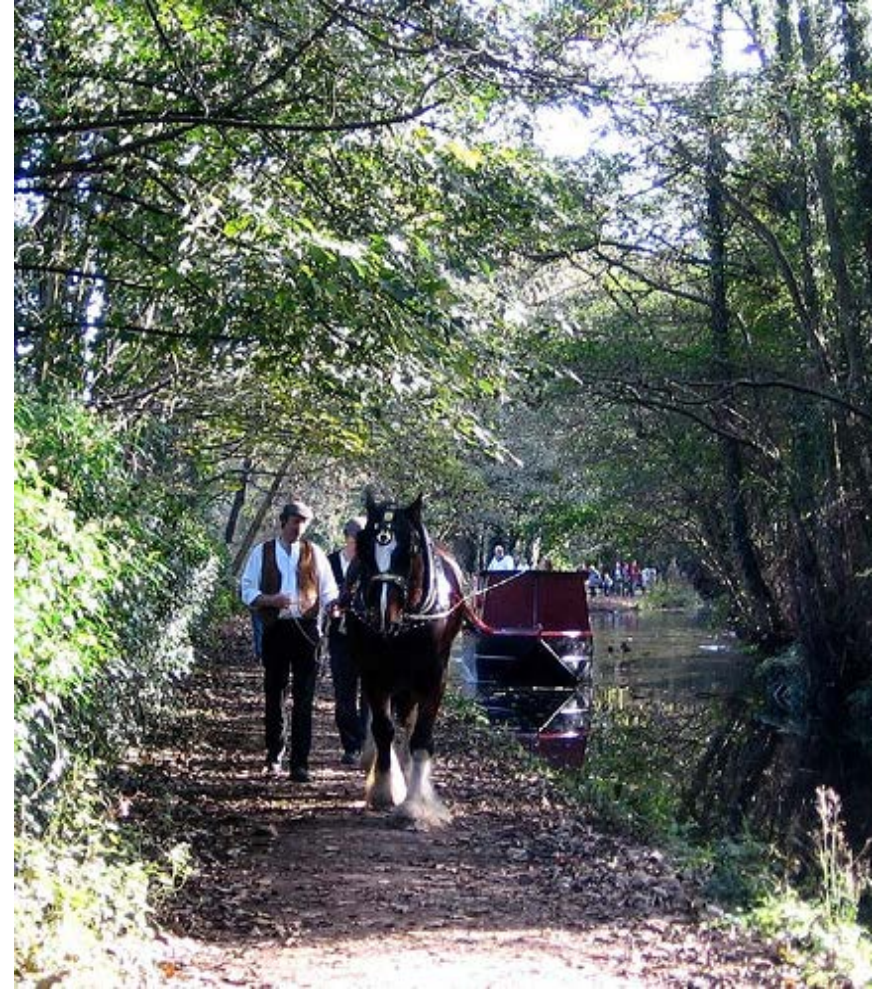
² Universal British Directory, Hampshire, 1798. www.historicaldirectories.org

THE CANAL THAT NEVER WAS

This was the golden age of canals. It is reckoned that in the 18th century, to transport bricks ten miles by road effectively doubled the price.¹ It was much cheaper to transport heavy goods by canal. The canal boats could carry 30 tons with only one horse pulling - more than ten times the amount of cargo per horse than was possible with a cart even on a good, level well-made road.¹

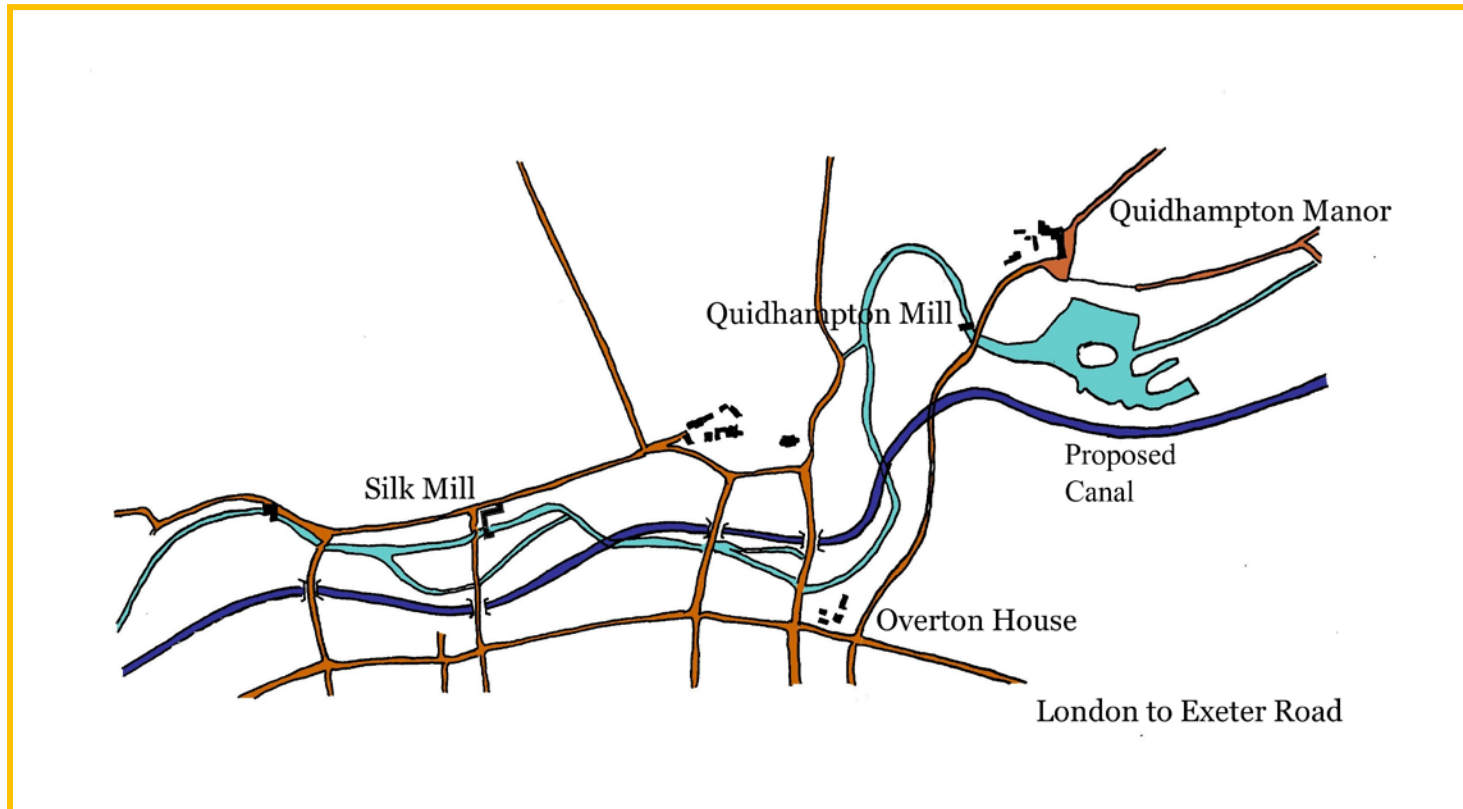
The Basingstoke Canal to the River Wey opened up a 70 mile route to London for agricultural produce and timber in 1794. Coal was carried on the return journey.² A canal from Andover to Southampton Water was also opened in the same year.³

Such was the enthusiasm amongst speculators that it was planned to extend the Basingstoke canal to Andover through Overton to link London with Southampton.³



Sources

- 1 www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brick
- 2 www.basingstoke-canal.org
- 3 Hampshire Record Office 5M52/TR3



John Rennie, the foremost engineer of the day, made a survey in 1795.¹ Sadly, it seems that his original drawings have not survived, but in the description it is clear that his main concern in deciding the route was to avoid the houses and 'pleasure gardens' of big landowners. Coming from Basingstoke, if he went north of the river, the canal would pass through the land of Mr St John at Quidhampton

Manor. If he went south of the river, it would pass through the gardens of Mr Lovett at Overton House and Town Mill would have to be destroyed. His solution was an aqueduct over the river beyond Quidhampton Mill and another aqueduct to bring the canal south of the river again to avoid the high ground behind the Silk Mill.

Source: 1 Hampshire Record Office COPY/582/1

CANAL.

AT a Meeting of the Owners of Lands and Mills, situated on the Line herein mentioned, held by Public Advertize-ment, at the *New Inn*, in *Overton*, on *Friday*, the *28th* Day of *September*, 1810; for the Purpose of taking into Con- sideration a Project (lately circulated by MR. RALPH DODD, Engineer,) for the cutting of a NAVIGABLE CANAL, from *Basingstoke*, by *Overton* and *Whitchurch*, to join the *Andover Canal*, at *Kitcomb Bridge*.

LOVELACE BIGG WITHER, Esq. in the Chair.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

I.
THAT the cutting of a NAVIGABLE CANAL, in the Line before-mentioned, (if practicable,) would be Injurious and Destructive to the Rights and Interests of Private Property, beyond the Possibility of Recompence.

II.
THAT this Meeting will exert their utmost Endeavours to defeat any attempt to obtain the Sanction of the Legislature, to a Project which, without affording any solid Ground of Public Advantage, would in its Consequences prove an intolerable Nuisance to the Country, and an irreparable Grievance to Individuals. And in Order to prevent fruitless Expences and Speculations, the LAND-OWNERS feel it incumbent on them, in the first Instance, to declare and make known their Determination relative thereto.

III.
THAT a Committee, with a permanent Chairman, be forthwith appointed, with full Powers for them, or five of them, to call general Meetings of the Land-owners whenever they shall see Occasion; and to adopt such other Measures as they, from Time to Time, may deem expedient, for the Purpose of securing the Object of these Resolutions:

And that the Committee do consist of the following Gentlemen, viz.

<i>L. B. Wither, Esq.</i>	<i>John Portal, Esq.</i>
<i>Wither Bramstone, Esq.</i>	<i>John Lovett, Esq.</i>
<i>David Cunyngame, Esq.</i>	<i>Thomas Streetwells, Esq.</i>
<i>Rev. Charles Blackstone.</i>	<i>Rev. William Harrison.</i>
<i>John Harwood, Esq.</i>	<i>Bryan Troughton, Esq.</i>
<i>Rev. John Harwood.</i>	<i>William Leigh, Esq.</i>
<i>Rev. John Smith.</i>	<i>Mr. James Crimble.</i>
<i>William Portal, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. George Small.</i>
<i>Rev. George Lefroy.</i>	<i>William Bridges, Esq.</i>
<i>Rev. Henry St. John.</i>	<i>And Mr. John Twynam.</i>

IV.
THAT the Chairman be requested to sign the Proceedings of this Meeting, and to cause the same to be published in the *Salisbury Journal*, the *Reading Mercury* and the *Hampshire Chronicle*, and also in some of the London Newspapers.

Signed

L. B. WITHER, Chairman.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to *L. B. Wither, Esq.* for his able Conduct in the Chair; and also to *William Portal, Esq.* for consenting to take upon himself, the Office of permanent Chairman to the Committee.

The plan was put on hold until it was known whether the two other canals were actually profitable.

The Andover Canal was never successful enough to pay a dividend¹ and the Basingstoke Canal was not a commercial success either.²

In the end the idea was killed off by fierce opposition from local land and mill-owners, including Mr St John and Mr Lovett, on the grounds that the canal

‘..without affording any solid Ground of Public Advantage, would in its Consequences prove an intolerable Nuisance to the Country and an irreparable Grievance to Individuals.’

The proposal to cut a canal through Overton was finally abandoned in 1810.

Sources

Hampshire record Office 5M52/TR3/26

1 Russell, Ronald, ‘Lost Canals and Waterways of Britain’ 1982.

2 www.basingstoke-canal.org

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

APOTHECARY

The Overton Apothecary in 1798 was Robert Brookman¹ who lived at 65-67 Winchester Street.² In those days, apothecaries did a lot more than dispense medicines. They attended the sick, did minor surgery, pulled teeth and set broken bones. Some also attended women in labour.

They were in effect general practitioners to the 'middling sorts' who could not afford the high fees charged by qualified doctors. Nevertheless, Mr Brookman charged 10s 6d for a house call³ and this would not have been affordable by the poor. The Parish Overseer sometimes paid for it.³

Until 1815, apothecaries were not required to have any formal training.⁴

Sources 1 Universal British Directory, Hampshire, 1798 2 Hampshire Record Office 83A02/8
3 Hampshire Record Office 27M80A/PO3 4 www.nature.com/bdj/journal/v193/n11/full/4801645



NURSING

The Overseer of the Poor frequently paid for free home nursing for the sick by Mary Lane and others.¹ It is not clear from the records who the midwife was: it may have been Dame Waldren who was paid for laying out dead bodies.¹ At that time the two functions were usually carried out by the same person.² Anyone could be a midwife: it was not until 1902 that midwives had to be trained and registered.²

HOSPITALS

Overton people were accepted at the Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester which was a charitable institution and chronically short of money. In 1795 they announced³

'The Infirmary is threatened with the necessity of contracting the extent of its reliefs and comfort. It is earnestly hoped, for the benefit of the sick and indigent, that the Affluent and Liberal will become subscribers.'

In general, however, hospitals were 'shunned even by the poor' because of the high rates of fatal cross infection thought to be due to 'hospital miasmas'.⁴ However, if you were suspected of having smallpox, TB or typhoid, you would be put in enforced quarantine at the Pest House in Whitchurch, originally built to house victims of the plague.⁵

Sources

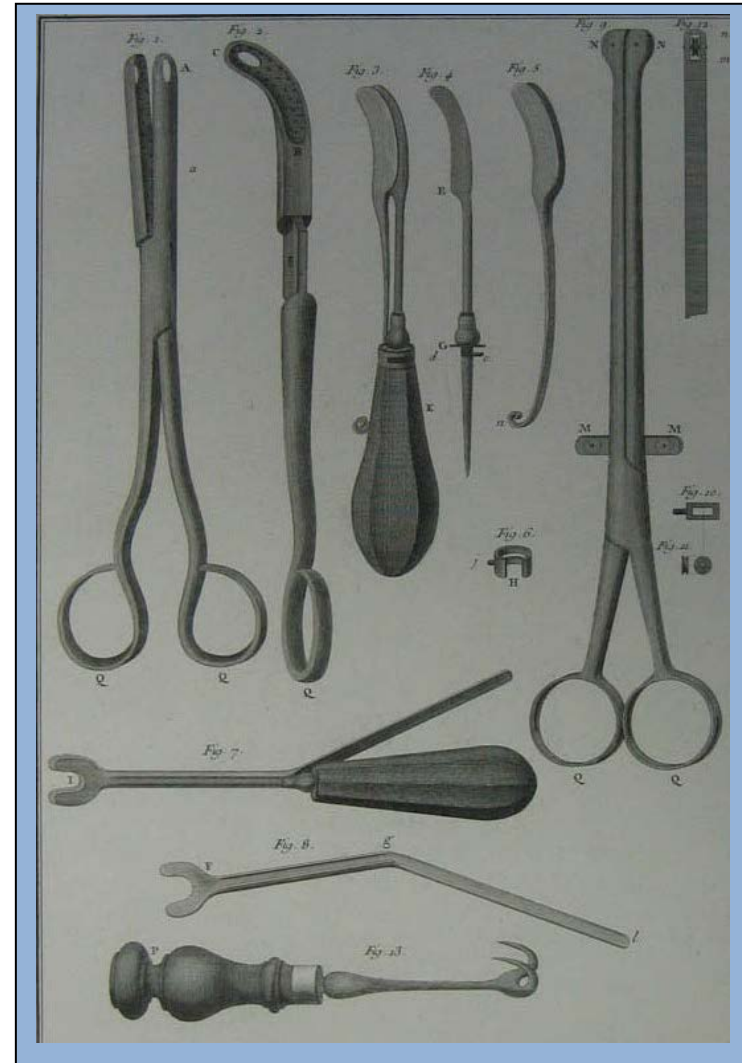
1 Hampshire Record Office 27M80A/PO3

2 Nicky Leap "midwifery" The Oxford Companion to Medicine. OUP 2001.

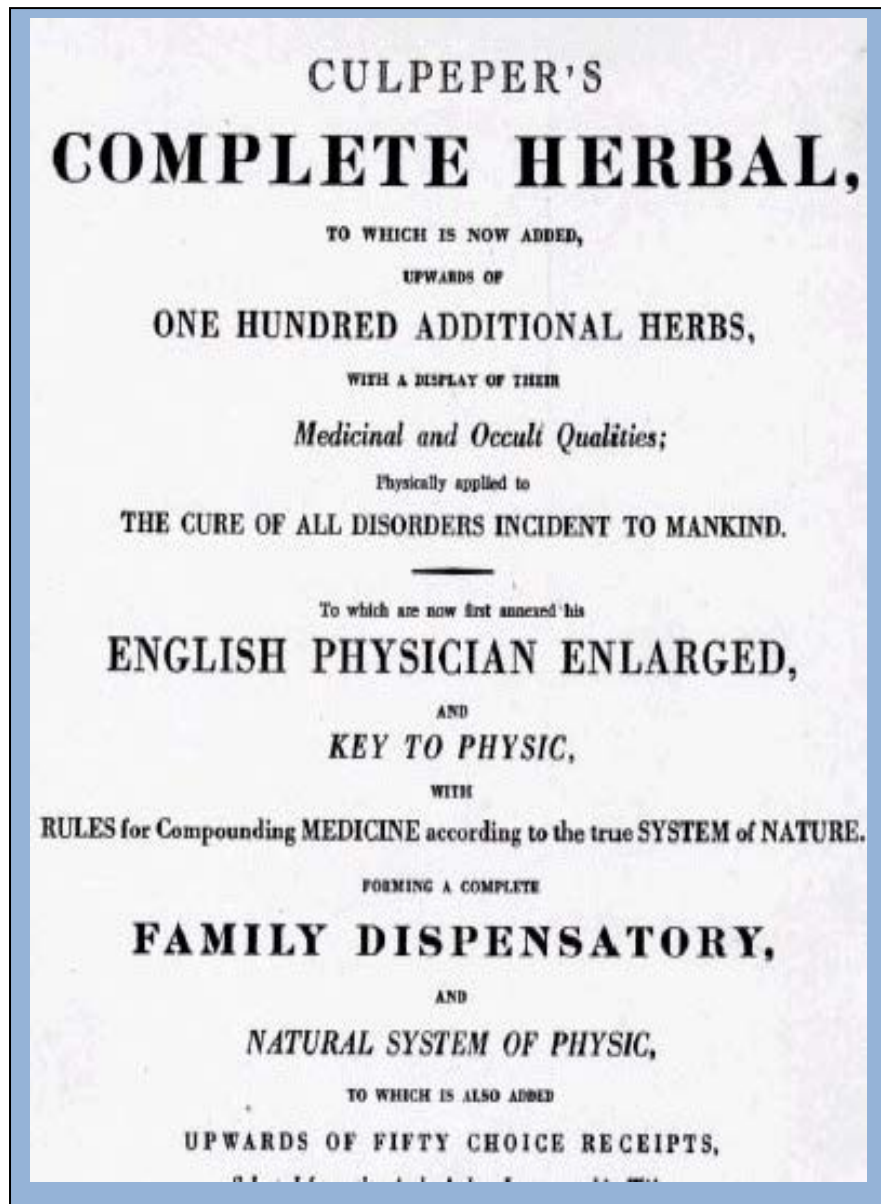
3 Hampshire Chronicle, October 24th, 1795

4 G. B. Risse 'Hospitals' The Oxford Companion to Medicine. OUP 2001.

5 Hampshire Record Office 46M78/E49



A set of surgical instruments, 1830.
There were no anaesthetics.



Mr Brookman would have had a 'herbal' like this one which was a best-seller published in 1814.

Unfortunately, medicine had scarcely advanced since medieval times. So little was known about the causes of disease that most remedies were ineffective.

However, digitalis was being used for heart failure and opium dissolved in alcohol, called laudanum, was freely available as a cheap and effective painkiller. The link between bacteria and disease was unknown and no effective antiseptics were in use. Bleeding, purging, 'cupping' and applying leeches were common practices believed to rid the body of 'evil humours'.

Medicines were advertised without any form of regulation.

Dr Jame's **ANALEPTIC PILLS**. These celebrated pills are ...a certain remedy for all disorders of the stomach, for indigestion, loss of appetite, giddiness, rheumatism, sick headaches, and all those disorders brought on by free living, as well as those brought on by a sedentary life; they remove all female obstructions and irregularities and are most effectual in those complaints which occur to females at a certain time of life.

The Times, Jan 3rd, 1820

The Overton burial register for 1800-1812 shows that a fifth of all deaths were in children under five and half of all deaths happened under the age of 45.¹

At this time, one in six babies died before they were a year old and one in a hundred pregnancies resulted in the death of the mother.²

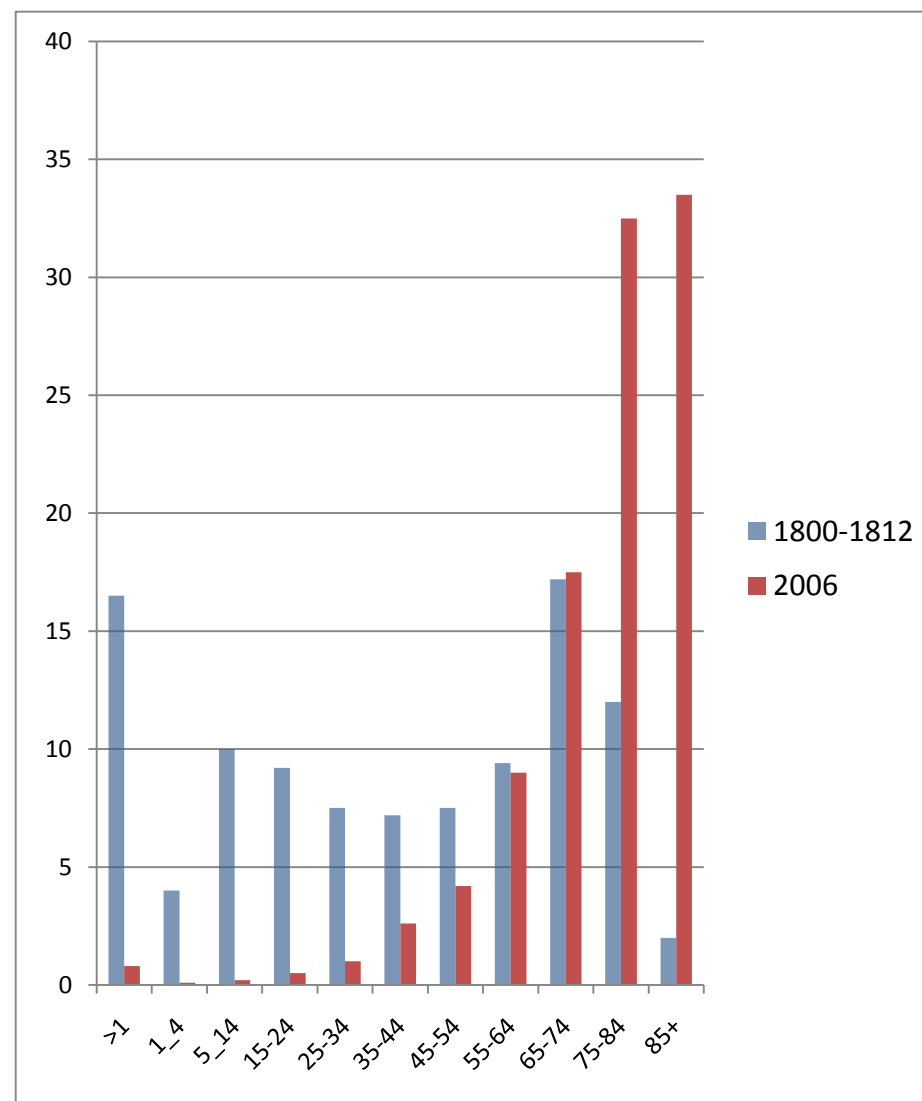
Some major causes of death were typhoid fever, tuberculosis, cholera, diphtheria and smallpox.

Accidents were also common. In December 1804, Anne Lefroy, a great friend of Jane Austen, rode to Overton with a servant to do some shopping. The horse bolted on the way home and the servant couldn't catch it. In trying to get off, Anne fell and hit her head on the road. She died some hours later.³

Sources.

- 1 Hampshire Record Office 81M72/PR12
- 2 Loudon, I. 'Death in Childbirth, 1800-1950.' OUP, 1992.
- 3 www.jasa.net.au/japeople/annelefroy.htm
www.statistics.gov.uk

Overton Parish. Age at death, percent.



NORTH HANTS MILITIA



In 1803, the threat of invasion was very real. Napoleon began to prepare an invasion, gathering nearly 2,000 ships between Brest and Antwerp and concentrating his Grand Army in a camp at Boulogne.

The obligation to serve in the militia in England dates back to Anglo-Saxon times and was a training reserve for the army.¹ The Overseer

of each Parish kept a list of able-bodied men between 15 and 60. If there were not enough volunteers, lots were drawn to fill the numbers. Balloted men got a bounty of £2. They could opt out if they could find a substitute, but this often involved paying a bribe. As well as an Oath of Loyalty, they took an oath as follows,²

'I do swear, That I have no Rupture, nor am I subject to Fits, nor am I disabled by Lameness or otherwise, but have the perfect Use of my Limbs.'

Between 1799 and 1805, the North Hampshire Militia served at Lymington and Hurst Castle guarding the Solent, at Brixham, Barnstaple and Plymouth, where they were used to put down food riots, and at Lewes in Sussex.³

Overton Hundred, which included Laverstoke, Ashe, Deane and Waltham, was expected to provide 3 sergeants, 67 'rank and file', 28 wagons, 38 carts and 119 horses for the war effort.³

Sources

1 Stephen Badsey "militia" The Oxford Companion to British History. OUP, 1997.
2 Hampshire Record Office 44M69/G6/2/1/7 3 Hampshire Record Office 8M62/28



Hampshire.

*The PAY, PRIVILEGES, and DUTY
of a MILITIA-MAN.*

To a private Man for each day he is employed in the militia, One Shilling, and One Shilling extraordinary for his March on the *Monday and Saturday in Whitsun Week*, to and from the place of general Exercise.

Cannot be compelled to march out of the Kingdom. Nor obliged to go more than six miles from home to perform exercise in companies.

To be dieted and billeted at Publick Houses, paying for Diet and Small Beer 4d each day.

If ordered out, leaving a Family not of Ability to support themselves, the Parish Officers where such family resides, to relieve them by a weekly allowance until his Return and be reimbursed out of the County Stock. If ordered out into actual service, to receive a Guinea the Day he is ordered out.

In case of Invasion, imminent danger thereof, or a Rebellion, may be drawn out for Actual Service.

Source: Hampshire Record Office 44M69/G6/3/1/31

North Hants and South Hants Regiments of Militia

Lists of Defaulters, Deserters, and Absentees, certified to me on the 25th inst, His Majesty's proclamation of pardon having expired on the 14th of the same instant,

North Hants Defaulters Subdivision of Kingsclere Parish of Overton William Hawkins, labourer

N.B The said Act requires all persons to apprehend and detain such Deserters, Defaulters and Absentees for the purpose of delivering them to any military headquarters or into gaol. All such being Substitutes or Volunteers in the Militia, if fit for service, are liable to be sent into His Majesty's Regular Forces abroad. A reward of **TWENTY SHILLINGS** for apprehending each such defaulters will be paid over and above the **TWENTY SHILLINGS** given by the Mutiny Act.

Basingstoke, July 23rd 1803, William Bishop, Clerk to the Lieutenancy of the said County.

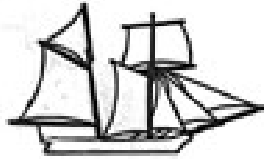
Source: Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle, August 1st 1803.

Jackson's Oxford Journal June 2nd 1804

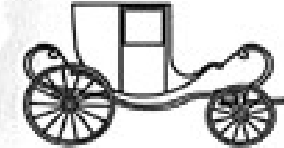
Thomas Heath, a private in the North Hants Militia, who deserted from Lewes about a month since, surrendered himself at Salisbury. He was tried by a court martial and sentenced to 500 lashes, 200 of which were inflicted, so impressively that to avoid the remainder of his punishment, he, like a silly fellow, deserted from the hospital a second time; but being missed almost immediately, he was followed so closely that to escape his pursuers he leapt into the river....

Taunton Courier Nov 26th 1809

The case of the soldier of the North Hampshire Militia who *was flogged for getting married* is particularly deserving of attention. This poor fellow actually received *one hundred lashes*...Everyone whose heart is not absolutely dead to the ordinary feelings of humanity cannot but shudder at the recital of an event so grossly marked with malignant despotism and cold blooded cruelty....



THE TRAFALGAR WAY



OVERTON - 16TH POST-HORSE CHANGE

On Monday 21st October 1805 the Royal Navy decisively defeated a combined French and Spanish fleet off Cape Trafalgar on the south west coast of Spain. This victory permanently removed the threat of invasion of England by the armies of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The first official dispatches with the momentous news of the victory, and the death in action of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson, were carried to England on board H. M. Schooner PICKLE by her captain, Lieutenant John Richards Lapenotiere.

Lapenotiere landed at Falmouth on Monday 4th November 1805 and set out "express by post-chaise" for London, following what is now The Trafalgar Way. He took some 37 hours to cover the 271 mile journey, changing horses 21 times. The 16th such change was made at Overton in the early evening of 5th November at a cost of one pound thirteen shillings.

© Tony Morris. www.overtonpictures.com

The Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 effectively put an end to the threat. The courier bringing news of the victory from Falmouth changed horses in Overton, an event recorded by a plaque at the Community Centre. Going as fast as he could, he averaged 7.3 mph. The news reached London 16 days after the event.

CHURCHES

St Mary's Overton had always been a sinecure rectory. The Bishops needed educated men who could read and write in Latin and English to administer the business of the diocese and the vast estates of land belonging to the church.¹

The arrangement was that the Rector was not paid a salary but instead was given the lease of the Rectory and its farmland called the Glebe. The Rector would lease the property to a farmer and take the tithes for himself.¹

The 'Rectory and Parsonage of Overton' is now known as Parsonage Farmhouse in Southington dating from about 1435. What is now called the 'Old Rectory' close by the church is clearly marked on James Sherriff's map of 1795 as 'the Vicaridge'. It was the vicar who did all the work of the parish - services, baptisms, marriages and burials.

The rector from 1796-1846 was William Harrison. Since he probably lived in Winchester, he would need to visit from time to time to ensure that the Rectory lands were generating profits.

It was not reasonable to travel from Winchester and back in a day, so he would need to spend the night. The lease of the Rectory House in 1810² includes the following.

'...as often as the said William Harrison and his successors shall come to Overton to preach, shall provide meat, drink and lodging for the said William Harrison and for one or two of his servants and also necessary and convenient stable room, hay, provender and litter for their horses and geldings.. but not above eight times in a year.'



The Rectory and Parsonage of Overton

Sources

- 1 Roberts, E., 'Hampshire Houses, their dating and development' 2003.
- 2 Hampshire Record Office 81M72

In those days, nearly everyone in Overton went to church, but not always to the parish church of St Mary's

Many people saw such arrangements as corrupt and there was increasing resentment about paying tithes. Some were turning to the non-conformist churches.

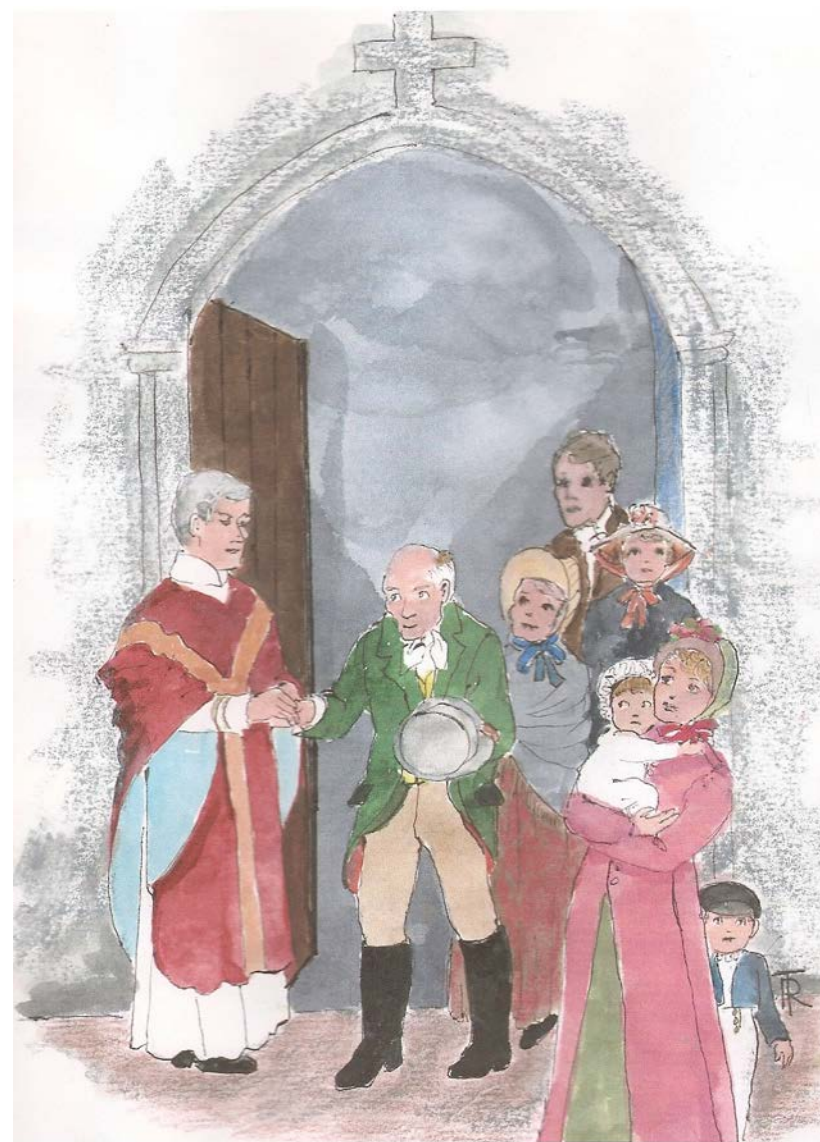
Though freedom of worship was well established, the government regarded 'dissenters' with suspicion and dissenters' meeting houses had to be licensed. However, until 1836, the parish church remained the only place where people could legally be married.¹

From 1817, the sinecure arrangement was abandoned. William Harrison became both 'Rector and Vicar'² and had to live at the vicarage which was later enlarged and became 'The Rectory.'



Sources

- 1 Jeremy Boulton "Marriage Act" The Oxford Companion to British History. OUP ,1997.
- 2 From a board in the north aisle, St Mary's Church, Overton.





St Mary's Church and Court Farm, Overton by Inigo Millard of Kingsclere, 1785

Source: www.overton/pictures.com

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Winchester
and to his Registrar.

I, Robt Garner of High Street
Winchester

do hereby certify, that

A certain Messuage or Tenement now
in the occupation of Joseph Frazier Labourer
situate in the Tything of Southington and Parish
of Overton, County of Southampton and Diocese of Winchester
is intended forthwith to be used as a place of religious worship by an

Assembly or Congregation of Protestants; and I do hereby require you
to register and record the same according to the provisions of an Act passed
in the 52d year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third,
intituled "An Act to repeal certain Acts, and amend other Acts, relating
to religious Worship, and Assemblies, and Persons teaching or preaching
therein;" and hereby require a certificate thereof. Witness my hand this

the fifth day of July 1817

Robt Garner

At this time, the non-conformists did not have churches of their own and held their services in private houses requiring a licence from the bishop. This certificate, signed by the bishop's agent, allowed the

'tenement now in the occupation of Joseph Frazier, Labourer, situate in the tything of Southington in the Parish of Overton, in the county of Southampton and Diocese of Winchester...to be used as a place of religious worship by an Assembly or Congregation of Protestants.'

5th July 1817.

Although freedom of worship was enshrined in law, the Acts of Parliament did not permit the issue of meeting house certificates to Catholics.²

Sources.

1 Hampshire Record Office 21M65/F2/3/423

2 'Religious toleration' Oxford companion to British History, OUP 1997.

SHOPPING

In 1798, Overton boasted 5 grocers, a fishmonger, a butcher, a mercer selling textiles, a glazier and a clockmaker. You could also buy suits, corsets, collars, breeches and shoes all made in the parish.¹

While in the village you could get a hair-cut from George Lambole and then if you were thirsty there were four inns to choose from, the White Hart, the New Inn, the Red Lion and the Greyhound.

A 'warrener' was a gamekeeper. A 'fellmonger' prepared animal hides for tanning.

'F' means a freeman - a male with sufficient freehold property to be entitled to vote in parliamentary elections. Leaseholders and copyholders did not qualify till the Reform Act of 1832.²

Source

¹ Universal British Directory, Hampshire, 1798 www.historicaldirectories.org

² 'Reform Acts' The Oxford Companion to British History. OUP, 1997.

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OVERTON, HANTS.

Webb Thomas, Gent. (F.) PHYSIC.	Martin George, <i>Taylor</i>
Brookman Robert, (F.) <i>Apothecary</i>	Morrel Edmund, <i>Shoemaker</i>
TRADERS, &c.	Nash William, (F.) <i>Schoolmaster</i>
Alfin John, (F.)	Nash William, <i>Parish-clerk</i>
Baker William, (F.) <i>Grocer</i>	Osman James, <i>Warrener</i>
Bartelotte John, <i>Victualler, (Greyhound)</i>	Paice William, (F.) <i>Victualler, (Red Lion)</i>
Beale Joseph, (F.) <i>Maltster</i>	Pain Thomas, (F.) <i>Blacksmith</i>
Beazley John, <i>New Inn</i>	Palmer Thomas, <i>Taylor</i>
Blackburn John, (F.) <i>Carpenter</i>	Paskell William, (F.)
Brown Robert, <i>Grocer</i>	Penton Joseph, <i>Staymaker</i>
Brown William, <i>Farmer</i>	Pike Thomas, <i>Fishmonger</i>
Burges Thomas, <i>Brickmaker</i>	Pink John, <i>Breeches-maker</i>
Chamberlin William, (F.) <i>Taylor</i>	Pithouse Thomas, (F.) <i>Blacksmith</i>
Cook George, <i>Farmer</i>	Purdue Robert, <i>Bricklayer</i>
Cooper Thomas, <i>Taylor</i>	Purdue John, <i>Bricklayer</i>
Corps James, <i>Fellmonger</i>	Pyle William, <i>Grocer</i>
Corps John, <i>Carpenter</i>	Pyle William, <i>Butcher</i>
Craft John, <i>Breeches-maker</i>	Pyle Thomas, (F.) <i>Gardener</i>
Crimble James, (F.) <i>Miller</i>	Rawlins John, <i>Farmer</i>
Crockford James, <i>Grocer</i>	Redfdall William, <i>Blacksmith</i>
Cuffley Peter, (F.) <i>Blacksmith</i>	Sawkins William, (F.) <i>Carpenter</i>
Dicker John, <i>Maltster</i>	Small George, <i>Farmer</i>
Farley William, <i>Collar-maker</i>	Small Thomas, (F.) <i>Miller</i>
Farmer Moses, (F.) <i>Farmer</i>	Small Thomas, <i>Maltster</i>
Flower Francis, (F.) <i>Farmer</i>	Smith Thomas, <i>Glazier</i>
Gauntlet Gabriel, <i>Shoemaker</i>	Spier Edward, <i>Shoemaker</i>
Hammerton David, <i>Blacksmith</i>	Sprent William, <i>Schoolmaster</i>
Hankin William, <i>White Hart Inn</i>	Stephens John, <i>Shoemaker</i>
Hunt John, <i>Clockmaker</i>	Thomas Elias, <i>Shoemaker</i>
Hutchins George, <i>Butcher</i>	Toogood William, <i>Grocer</i>
Husband George, <i>Staymaker</i>	Toogood John, (F.)
Irving John, <i>Mercer</i>	Tyler Thomas, (F.) <i>Wheeler</i>
Kercher Anthony, <i>Shoemaker</i>	Venn Thomas, <i>Wheeler</i>
Lamb George, (F.) <i>Oil and Colour Man</i>	Ward John, <i>Farmer</i>
Lambole George, <i>Hair-dresser</i>	Webb John, <i>Miller</i>
Lyhood Gabriel, (F.)	Wiltshire Stephen, <i>Shoemaker</i>

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