



# Robsons Directory Extract 1839



## Aldbourne

The village of **Ramsbury** gives it name to the hundred in which it stands, on the banks of the Kennet, 72 miles west from London. 17 north-east from Devizes, and 25 north from Salisbury. This was in the beginning of the 12th century an episcopal See, removed before the conquest of Sarum. The church of the Holy Cross is a vicarage of £219, annual value, a peculiar of the Dean of Salisbury, and is considered the mother church to the cathedral. The population is 2,395, and the assessed property amounts to £9,540. A brewery is its only source of trade, a great quantity of the beer being sent to London. There are fairs on the 14th of May and 10th of October. The operation of the new poor law has placed both Ramsbury and Aldbourne in the union of Hungerford, county of Berks. The Kennet flows in a broad expanse of water, bearing an island on its bosom, through the park of Ramsbury manor, the seat of Sir Francis Burdett, Bart.; and the grounds, bordered with woods, decline in easy slopes to its banks. The finely wooded park of Littlecote in which a large and very beautiful piece of tessellated pavement was discovered some years since, is partly in this parish. Littlecote House was the scene of a mysterious and dreadful tale, related by Sir Walter Scott, in the notes to his poem of Rokeby. Crow Wood, Marriage Hill House, Chilton House, and Chilton Lodge are contiguous seats.

The village of **Aldbourn**, 6 miles north-east from Marlborough, in the hundred of Lakely, takes its name from the small river on which it is seated, one of the branches of the Kennet. It was formerly a market town of considerable traffic, and its large manufacture of fustians has only recently declined, but its trade never recovered the interruption it suffered from a dreadful fire, which in 1760 destroyed 72 houses, and property, to the amount of £20,000. The church of St. Michael is a vicarage, valued at £367 a year, in the bishops gift; the population 1,418: assessed property value, £6,576. Upon the ancient chase, now under cultivation, Charles I, gained a victory in person over the parliament army led by Essex. The Roman road, from Great Bedwin to Cirencester, passed this place.

**Coaches to London**, Post Coach, from Swindon, through Hungerford, Newbury, Reading, Maidenhead, &c. calls at the 'Bell', every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, morning at half past 9.

**Coaches to Swindon**, Post Coach, from London, call at the Bell, every Tuesday & Saturday afternoon at 3.

**Carrier to Marlborough**, Sam Fowler, every Wednesday & Saturday; Silvester Butler, from his house, every Saturday.

**Carrier to Newbury**, Silvester Butler, from his House, every Tuesday & Thursday

**Post Office** - Henry Iles, Post Master. Letters from all parts arrive from Hungerford, morning half past 7, and are dispatched afternoon half past 5.

### Residents & Traders

| Surname  | Given Names | Title | Trade/Occupation | Abode     |
|----------|-------------|-------|------------------|-----------|
| Barrett  | William     |       | Parish Clerk     |           |
| Bridgman | James       |       | Bell Founder     |           |
| Butler   | Silvester   |       | Carrier          |           |
| Cooke    | John        |       | Grocer           |           |
| Fowler   | Sam         |       | Carrier          |           |
| Gould    | Charles     |       | Maltster         |           |
| Iles     | Henry       |       | Postmaster       |           |
| Lansdown |             |       | Publican         | The Bell  |
| Lawrence | James       |       | Shopkeeper       |           |
| Palmer   | Martin      |       | Baker            |           |
| Pearce   | Sarah       |       | Publican         | Blue Boar |
| Smith    | John        |       | Baker            |           |
| Taylor   | Stephen     |       | Tailor           |           |
| Tomlins  | Thomas      |       | Publican         | The Crown |