



# Post Office Directory Extract 1875

## Alton Priors



**Alton Priors** is a small village and chapelry in the parish of Overton, Southern division of the county, hundred of Elstap and Everley, Pewsey union, Marlborough county court district, diocese of Salisbury, archdeaconry of Wilts, and a rural deanery of Avebury, situate near the Kennet and Avon canal, 7 miles east from Devizes, 4½ north-west from Pewsey, and 2 from the Woodborough railway station.

The church is an old stone building, with square tower and 3 bells. The register dates from 1651. The living is a vicarage, annexed to those of Overton and Fyfield, joint annual value £310, in the gift of the Duke of Marlborough, now vacant.

Head Pottinger Best, Esq., who is lord of the manor, and James George Simpkins, Esq., are chief landowners.

The soil is clay; subsoil, chalk. The chief crops are wheat, barley and beans.

The area is 1,630 acres; gross estimated rental, £2,062; rateable value, £1,830; and the population in 1871 was 221.

**West Stowell** is a tithing 2 miles east. On the downs, to the north, are barrows.

PARISH CLERK, John Smith.

LETTERS received from Marlborough, via Oare, by messenger. Pewsey is the nearest money order office.

### Gentry

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Simpkins	James George			Stowell house
Stratton	Joseph			

### Commercial

Beasley	George		Farm bailiff to Joseph Stratton Esq.	
Hobson	Charles		Farm bailiff to James George Simpkins, Esq.	West Stowell
Tasker	Edwin		Blacksmith	
Tasker	Thomas		Grocer & baker	