



Kelly's Directory Extract 1915



Garsdon

Garsdon is a scattered village and parish, 5.5 miles west from Minety station on the Swindon and Gloucester branch of the Great Western railway, and 2.5 miles north east of Malmesbury terminal station on the Malmesbury branch of the North Western division of the county, Malmesbury hundred, petty sessional division, union and county court district, and in Malmesbury rural deanery, North Wilts arch-deaconry and Bristol diocese. The church of All Saints, pleasantly situate on an eminence, is an edifice consisting of a chancel, nave with south porch, rebuilt in 1856, and an embattled western tower of the 15th century, containing a peal of Harvington's tubular bells: on the north wall of the chancel is a mural to Sir Lawrence Washington, knt, who was buried here in 1643: this monument was restored in 1906 by the Bishop of New York and other Americans: the communion plate, consisting of a flagon, two chalices and one paten of massive silver, bears the date 1684, and was the gift of Lady Purgiter, formerly wife of Lawrence Washington esq: there are 180 sittings. The register dates from the year 1681. The living is a rectory with the vicarage of Lea annexed, joint net yearly value £271, including 61 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of Mrs Hay, and held since 1892, by the Rev Reynell Wreford Hay MA of Christ's College, Cambridge. There is also a Primitive Methodist chapel. Sir Lawrence Washington purchased the manor of Garsdon from the Moody family in 1641, and in the parish is an old mansion, formerly the residence of Sir Lawrence Washington, and afterwards Sir Robert Shirley, Bart, first Earl Parzers (died 1717) who married as his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence Washington of Garsdon, and granddaughter of Sir Lawrence Washington; within the church are the graves of five members of the Washington family, from the Northampton branch, of which the descent of George Washington, first President of the United States, is traced: the American stars and stripes are said to have originated from the arms of this family. The Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire is lord of the manor and the principal landowner. The soil is loamy, sub-soil stones and clay. The land is chiefly pasture. The area is 1128 acres: rateable value £1386; the population in 1911 was 159 in the civil parish and 567 in the ecclesiastical parish.

Letters through Malmesbury, which is the nearest money and telegraph office, arrive at 8am. Wall letterbox cleared at 7.20pm, weekdays only.

The children of this parish attend the school at Lea.

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Hay	Reynell Wreford	MA	Reverend	Rectory
Cove	Charles		Farmer	Park Farm
Hayes	Walter		Farmer	Heather Farm
Hayes	William Orchard		Farmer	Church Farm
Hughes	Walter		Farmer	
Simpkins	Frank		Cowkeeper	
Sisum	Charles		Farmer	Manor Farm
Stratton		& Sons	Millers (Steam & Water)	
Young	George		Farmer	