



# Return of Owners of Land Extract 1873



## Melksham

In September 1872 the Local Government Board (*created by an Act of 1871, replacing the Poor Law Board*), a supervisory body overseeing local administration in England and Wales were ordered by Act of Parliament to compile a list of owners of land from ratings records held by nearly 15,000 parishes.

One Return was prepared for England and Wales with separate ones undertaken for Scotland in 1874 and Ireland in 1876. **'The Return of Owners of Land 1873'** was published for England and Wales in 1875. It excluded the Metropolis.

All statements contained in the 'Return', with exception to the addresses of the owners, were derived from the rating valuation lists which were used for making assessments under the Poor Law; making wealthy landowners liable to pay tax toward the upkeep of the poor.

The 'Return' records the holdings, in acres, roods and poles (*see note below*), and the estimated yearly rental of all holdings over 1 acre. It is listed by county and landowner together with the principle residence of each owner. The location of the land owned is not given.

Name of Owner			Address of Owner	Extent of Land			Yearly Gross Estimated Rental	
Surname	Given Name	Other		Acres	Roods	Poles	Pounds	Shillings
		Board of Guardians	Melksham Union	4	0	0	100	0
		Society of Friends	Melksham	18	0	35	54	0
Andrews	Richard		Melksham	1	3	37	58	0
Barnwell	E. L.	Reverend	Melksham	16	1	36	132	0
Beaven	Christopher		Melksham	81	0	4	216	8
Bodman	Benjamin		Melksham	14	1	32	67	0
Bown	Henry John		Melksham	21	2	1	76	0
Buckland	William		Melksham	6	2	16	32	10
Burbidge	Andrew		Melksham	1	0	26	24	0
Canning	Thomas		Melksham	8	1	4	203	10
Cilbourne	Nelson		Melksham	1	3	20	31	10
Cottle	William		Melksham	13	0	13	40	0
Courtis		Miss	Melksham	40	1	13	121	10
Crook	William		Melksham	83	1	8	253	10
Curtis		Miss	Melksham	32	0	27	67	0
Dancey	Ann		Melksham	3	1	14	22	10
Darle	Stephen		Melksham	5	3	19	58	0
Flocks	Ed. G.		Melksham	14	0	14	76	1
Flower	Ben		Melksham	4	0	33	57	16
Fowler	Rachael		Melksham	1	0	0	34	0
Fox	Elizabeth S.		Melksham	74	2	3	218	18
Gale	William		Melksham	2	1	38	15	10
Gingell	George		Melksham	1	0	31	10	0
Gore	Arthur		Melksham	2	3	36	84	0
Gregory	John		Melksham	13	0	0	26	0
Gregory	Thomas		Melksham	2	3	7	17	0
Haine		Trustees of	Melksham	2	2	13	39	10

Hall	James		Melksham	4	1	8	44	0
Hand	Sidney		Melksham	4	3	0	26	0
Harris	Henry		Melksham	1	2	23	23	0
Heathcote	Thomas J.		Melksham	309	2	1	837	0
Hitchings	Jane		Melksham	1	2	19	9	0
Hutton	Thomas		Melksham	5	3	33	55	0

## Notes

### ***Definition of extent of land;***

640 Acres = 1 square mile.

1 Rood (*a ploughing strip*) = 220 yards long (*1 furlong*) x 5.5 yards wide (*1 rod, pole or perch*).

4 Roods = 1 Acre.

1 Pole = 30¼ square yards.

40 square poles = 1 rood.

### ***The County of Wiltshire;***

At the time the return was made in 1873 the county of Wiltshire comprised of a population of 257,177 with 54,874 inhabited houses, contained within 343 parishes (*information as published in the return*).