

Post Office Directory of Wiltshire 1855

Rowde (extract)

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Rowde is a township, parish, and neat, compact, and healthy village, situated on the turnpike-road from Devizes to Chippenham, 2 miles north-west of Devizes, 8 miles south of Chippenham, 6 miles south-west of Calne, and 17 miles east of Bath, in the Devizes division, the Hundred of Potterne and Cannings, and the Devizes Union. The village stands on a plain, a short distance from the base of Roundway Down, which here shows itself with a bold precipitous front. The spring-head of a stream, called Rowde Ford, rises near the foot of the Down, and, as it flows onward, forms the boundary line between the parishes of Rowde and Bromham. There are 2,665 acres of land, resting principally on red sand and clay; it is well wooded, and mostly devoted to pasturage. The population, in 1851, was 1,128. The church, dedicated to St. Matthew, is a Gothic structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and a square tower at the west end of the building, turreted, and embattled, and containing 5 bells. The church was rebuilt in 1833, excepting the tower and a portion of the chancel. The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Sarum, valued at £340, in the gift of Mrs Starky, of Spye Park. The incumbent is the Rev. Edward Vincent, A.M.; the curate, Rev. John Picton, A.M.. There are charities amounting to £10 annually; National schools for boys and girls; and a chapel for the Wesleyan Methodists. Francis Alexander Sydenham Locke, Esq., is the lord of the manor, and resides at Rowdeford House.

Gentry

Barnes, Mr Daniel
Carpenter, Captain, R.N.
Fisher, Thomas, esq
Gabriel, Miss Elizabeth
Gibbs, Miss
Howell, Mrs Mary Ann
Jefferies, Mrs Mary
Neald, Henry, esq
Picton, Rev. John, A.M (curate)
Vincent, Rev. Edward, A.M.
Woodcock, Mrs Mary

Traders

Banks, James, Farmer
Barnard, Benjamin, Brick & Tile maker, Cane Hill
Barnes, William, Farmer
Beake, John, Tailor
Butler, Elizabeth, Farmer
Chivers, William, Farmer
Clarke, Isaac, Farmer
Coomey, William, Shoemaker
Deverall, John & William, Blacksmiths
Deverall, Ann, Grocer
Deverall, Richard, Carpenter
Dyke, Isaac, "George & Dragon"
Dyke, John, "Cross Keys", Baker & Butcher

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Dyke, John, Blacksmith
Franks, John, Farmer
Harris, Edwin, Land Surveyor
Horne, John, Miller, Rowde Ford Mill
Hosier, John, Farmer
Hosier, John, jun, Farmer
Keable, Abel, Farmer
Keepence, Charles, Farmer
Laws, Thomas, Farmer
Mayell, Robert, Baker, Grocer & Postmaster
Munday, Robert, Beer Retailer
Neald, Henry, Canal Contractor, Foxhangers
New, Moses, Farmer
Pearce, William, Farmer
Pickford, James, Farmer
Pike, John, Carpenter
Pocock, Edmund, Farmer
Pocock, Harry, Farmer
Pricor, Job, Shoemaker
Purnell, Edward & Thomas, Carpenters
Saunders, Henry, Brick & Tile Maker
Stiles, Henry, Farmer
Strong, Thomas, Beer Retailer & Baker
Wheeler, Jno & Flower, Jas., Bricklayers
Wheeler, John, Farmer
Wild, Henry, "Olive Branch"
Wiltshire, John, Farmer

Public Schools

National (boys), William Brown, Master
National (girls), Mrs Brown, Mistress

Spackman, from Calne, Thursday & Saturday
Hastin, from Wootton Bassett, Thursday
Newman, from Chippenham, Thursday
Wootten, from Bromham, Thursday
James, from Calne, Thursday