

# Kelly's Directory of Dorset 1898

MILTON ABBAS is a parish and pretty village, formerly a market town, within a deep valley sheltered on the north and south by very steep and chalky hills and surrounded by scenery of the most picturesque description, 7 miles south-west from Blandford station on the Midland and South Western Junction railway, And 11 north-east from Dorchester, in the Northern division of the county, White way hundred, Cerne sub-division, Blandford petty sessional division, union and county court district, Whitchurch rural deanery (Milton portion), Dorset archdeaconry and Salisbury diocese. The present appellation of this place is a contraction of its Ancient name of Middleton, the adjunct being given from its ancient lords the abbots: the earliest mention of it is in the reign of King Athelstan, who founded a monastery here: the whole village was removed to its present site by the first Earl of Dorchester in 1787, when Milton Abbas Grammar school was removed to Blandford; the old town of Milton lay around the Abbey church. The parish, church of St. James, standing in the centre of (the village, was built in 1786 at the sole expense of the first Earl of Dorchester, and is an edifice of stone in the Transitional style, consisting of chancel, nave, south aisle, vestry and an embattled western tower containing a clock and 2 bells: the font, of Purbeck marble, was removed from the Abbey; during the year 1889 the church was thoroughly restored and the chancel lengthened 14 feet, at a total cost of £2,000: there are sittings for 300 persons. The earliest register dates from 1650. The living is a vicarage, net yearly value £152, with residence, in the gift of Henry Charles Thomas Hambro esq. And held since 1891 by the Rev. Edward Henry Bousfield M.A. of New College, Oxford. The vicarage house was formerly the dairy-house of Luccombe farm, and was converted to its present purpose in 1771. Here are two Wesleyan chapels, built respectively in 1865 and 1895. A reading-room is open during winter months, and there is a lending library containing over 200 volumes. An almshouse for six poor widows was founded and endowed by John Tregonwell esq. as appears by his will, bearing date 1674; the inmates now receive an allowance of 2s. 6d. weekly and fuel, in addition to two dresses, underclothing and boots at Easter, and 10s. 6d. annually on St. Thomas' Day: the almshouse, originally in Newport street, was removed in 1779 to its present site opposite the church. The late Mr. John Ham, glazier and brewer, who died in this parish in 1848, left the sum of £333 6s. 8d. In the £3 per Cents, (now £2 3/4 ), the proceeds to be given for the maintenance of a boys' Sunday school, and the purchase of bread and fuel for the poor of this parish for ever. A Benedictine monastery, dedicated to St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Sampson and St. Branwalader, was founded here in 937 or 938, by King Athelstan, the revenue of which, at the Dissolution, was about £720: it was originally a minster and a religious house occupied by secular canons; in King Edgar's time (964) it became an abbey, with 40 monks. The existing Abbey church is a magnificent

structure, in the Decorated and Later English styles, erected in place of the former church, struck by lightning and burned to the ground on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1309, and not rebuilt till 1392-1417, when Walter Archer was abbot; a parish church, dedicated to St. James, was built at the south-east angle: the first lay owner was Sir John Tregonwell, king's proctor, to whom the place was surrendered by Abbot Bradley on the 11th March, 1539; there were then 14 monks and revenues valued at £578 : Sir John died in 1565 and was buried in the abbey: the church was restored in 1805 under the superintendence of the late Sir G. O. Scott R.A. and a new oak pulpit and reading desk and an organ added, and divine service is held here every Sunday evening during the summer months. The Cottage Hospital, built and endowed with £140 by the late Baron Hambro, was opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1873, and is supported by the endowment and voluntary subscription. Here is also a brewery, carried on by Messrs. Fookes Brothers. Milton Abbey, built by the first Earl of Dorchester about 1771, on the site of the old Abbey house, is beautifully situated in a valley, and approached through an avenue of fine trees ; the park and woods of this estate extend over an area of 5,000 acres; George III. visited here in 1804 and 1805 ; it is the property of Henry Charles Thomas Hambro esq. who is lord of the manor and sole landowner, but is at present (1898) unoccupied. The soil is chalk; subsoil, chalk. The area is 4,880 acres; rateable value, £3,284; the population in 1891 was 728.

By a Local Government Board Order, dated March 25, 1882, a detached part of this parish, known as Lypscombe, was amalgamated with Chesilborne, and at the same date another detached part, known as Holworth, was added to Overmoigne in the Weymouth union, and by the Divided Parishes Act a detached part of Winterborne Whitchurch was added to Milton Abbas.

Parish Clerk, Henry Fookes.

Post, M. O. & T. O., T. M. O., S. B., Express Delivery, Parcel Post & Annuity & Insurance Office.—Absalom Vatcher, sub-postmaster. Letters are received through Blandford at 6.45 a.m. & 2.45 p.m. ; & are dispatched at 12.45 & 6.30 p.m. ; Sundays, 11.30 a.m

Parish School (mixed), with master's residence attached, built in 1840, for 150 children; average attendance, 88; Alfred C. Clark, master; Mrs. Annie Clark, mist

Carriers to:

Blandford—Thomas Fiander, mon. & thurs. & Harry Guy, wed. & sat

Dorchester—Thomas Fiander, wed. & sat.; & Harry Guy, tues. & fri

(Marked thus \* receive their letters via Milborne St. Andrew.)

#### **PRIVATE RESIDENTS.**

Bousfield Rev. Edwd. Hy. M.A. Vicarage

Fielding Thomas M.D

Fookes Henry

Hambro Henry Charles Thomas J.P

Hambro Mrs. Percival, Hill house; & 21 Eaton square, London S W

## COMMERCIAL.

Alner Joseph, farmer, Long Ash farm  
Ancient Order of Foresters (W. Guy, secretary)  
Bussell Wm. shoe maker & dairyman  
Clark Alfred C. schoolmaster  
Cottage Hospital (Thos. Fielding M.D. medical officer; Rev. Edward Henry Bousfield M.A. sec.; Miss Margaret Hay ward, matron)  
Fiander Thomas, carrier  
Fielding Thos.M.D. surgeon,& medical officer & public vaccinator, 3rd district, Blandford union & 3rd district, Cerne union  
Findlay William, agent to Henry Chas. Hambro esq  
Fookes Bros, (old established), wholesale & family brewers, maltsters & wine & spirit merchants  
Foot Jane (Mrs.), shopkeeper  
Foster Jsph. farmer, East Luccombe  
Guy Albert, blacksmith  
Jeans Thomas, Milton Arms P.H  
Jeffery Joseph, baker  
Keynes Thos. farmer, Chescombe farm  
Long James G. farmer, Delcombe  
Lovell Frank, carpenter  
Marlow Elizabeth(Mrs.),grocer & draper  
Milton Abbas Cricket Club (William Fookes, hon. sec. & capt)  
Milton Abbas Football Club (Rev. E. H. Bousfield M.A. see)  
Osborne —, dairyman, Delcombe  
Parsons Henry, grocer & baker  
Reading Room & Library (Rev. E. H. Bousfield M.A. sec)  
Rogers William John, shoe maker & dairyman, Dale cottage  
Snook William, farmer, Barnes hill  
Spiller Elizabeth (Mrs.) & Son, farmers, Luccombe farm  
Spiller Thos. farmer, see Spiller & Sons  
•Standfield Herbert, farmer, Huish & Bagber farms  
Tett Richard S. miller, Milton mill  
Vatcher Absalom, grocer, Post office-  
White Stephen, shopkeeper  
Willis Henry Fookes, farm bailiff to Henry C. T. Hambro esq. Delcombe-  
Wrixon Jsph. Keitch, frmr. Long close-