

The Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce and Manufacture (1790)

A S H F O R D , KENT.

THE town of Ashford is governed by a constable of its own; the rest of the parish lies in the hundred of Chart and Longbridge. It stands on the great road, upon the river Stour. It is a pretty well-built market-town, with several genteel families in it. The church is large, and was formerly collegiate: they hold pleas for any thing not exceeding twenty marks. It has a free grammar school founded by the Knatchbull family; Rev. Charles Stoddart master: also, a good English school in high repute, Mr. Alderson master. A boarding-school for young ladies kept by Miss Smith. A monthly sitting of justices held the first Saturday in each month, Mr. Anthony Ingles clerk. A stock market the first Saturday in each month, for all sorts of fat and lean stock, which is plentifully supplied: also, a market on Saturdays for buying and selling of corn. Here are three fairs in the year, on the 17th of May, 9th of September, and 23d of October, for all sorts of cattle.

The post arrives by way of Maidstone from London, every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, at noon, and returns the same day at three o'clock; Stephen Kemsley post-master. William Brown and Son's machine sets out from Ashford to the Fleece at Canterbury, every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, morning, at seven, and returns at seven o'clock the same evening, fare 3s. every Tuesday at 7 o'clock through Hythe, to the Folkestone Arms Inn, Folkestone, and returns the same evening, fare 3s. 6d. every Wednesday morning during the winter at 8 o'clock, to the Star Inn, Maidstone, where they meet the London coaches, which go to the Blossoms Inn, Lawrence-lane, Cheapside, and returns the next day at 3 o'clock; fare to Maidstone 6s. In the summer they set off at 5 o'clock, and return the same evening; every Friday morning at 5 o'clock to Ospringe, to meet the Canterbury coaches that go to London, and wait their return in the afternoon; fare to Ospringe 3s. 6d. William Mate's stage cart comes in from Romney through Hythe every Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and returns on Saturday morning at 7 the same way; carries parcels and passengers. Three common stage wagons go twice or three times a week to Feversham, to bring coals and goods that come by the hoys from London.

Ashford is remarkable for being well supplied with good fish of most kinds. The house of industry here is well worth the attention of the curious traveller; and, too much praise cannot be given to the guardians of the poor for their unwearied attention and indefatigable perseverance in improving the management of the house, and giving fruitable employment to the persons therein, according to their several abilities. A Sunday-school is well supported by subscription, under the management of the ladies. Near this town is an ancient seat of the Tufton family, called Hothfield, which is large, but situated in a low marshy soil, which renders it unhealthy; and not far from hence is Eastwell, the house and very extensive park of the earl of Winchelsea. The following are the principal inhabitants:

GENTLEMEN.

Bushell Mr. William, (F.)
Blechyden Mr. Aylmer, (F.)
Banks Mr. James, (F.)
Billington John Esq. (F.)
Baldock Mr. John, (F.)
Dobson Mr. Thomas, (F.)
Farbrace Mr. Henry, (F.)
Flint Mr. James, (F.)
Greenstreet Mr. Charles, (F.)
Jemmett Mr. William, (F.)
Mascall Mr. John, (F.)
Mascall Robert, Esq. (F.)
Norwood Mr. Francis, (F.)
Parson Joseph, Esq.
Payler William T. Esq. (F.)
Pattenson, Josias, Esq. (F.)
Rolfe Mr. Nicholas (F.)
Rutton Isaac, Esq. (F.) *Justice of the Peace*
Radley William, Esq. (F.)
Swift Mr. Solomon (F.)
Tritton Mr. John, (F.)
Whitfield Mr. Lewis, (F.)

CLERGY.

Andrews Rev. Dr. (F.)
Boad Rev. James, (F.) *Vicar*
Gortle Rev. J. A. (F.) *Teacher of French*
Hawkins Rev. Philip (F.)
Norwood Rev. Edward (F.)
Stoddart Rev. C. (F.) *Boarding-school*
Whitfield Rev. F. (F.)

PHYSIC.

Andrews John, *Druggist &c.*
Fagg Felix, (F.) *Surgeon*
Hassenden John, (F.) *Surgeon and Man-Midwife*
Norwood John, (F.) *Surgeon &c*
Thorne Bert. (F.) *Surgeon &c*

LAW.

Ingles Anthony, (F.) *Attorney*
Jemmett George, (F.) *Attorney*

TRADERS, &c.

Allen Thomas, *Taylor and Hatter*
Apsley Arthur, *Carpenter*
Austen John, (F.) *Sheriff's Bailiff*
Austen John, (F.) *Carpenter*

Allen William, (F.) *Fellmonger*
Adder William, *Bricklayer*
Alderson James, *Schoolmaster*
Barritt Rich. (F.) *Taylor and Salesman*
Blundell Jos. (F.) *Cyder Merchant*
Back William, *Baker*
Bayly Sam. *Chandler and Soap-boiler*
Bennitt Stephen, *Painter*
Brown Wm. & Son, (F.) *Coach-masters*
Brook John, *Linen-draper*
Bourne Lifford, (F.) *Cordwainer*
Bayly John, (F.) *Bookseller and Stationer*
Baker Benjamin, (F.) *Glazier*
Baker Charles, (F.) *Carpenter*
Barker Thomas, (F.) *Wool-buyer*
Crouch William, *Victualler*
Cornford William, *Brewer*
Coo Thomas, *Carrier*
Costiken Elizabeth, *Milliner*
Clinch Stephen, *Cordwainer*
Carrick William, *Bricklayer*
Creed Henry, (F.) *Woollen Draper and Silk Mercer*
Child Michael, (F.) *Miller*
Cromwell Thomas. *Baptist Teacher*
Corbyn Keer, *Taylor*
Dunn John, *Shoe-maker*
Buckworth J. B. (F.) *Wine Merchant*
Dawson Joshua, (F.) *Baker*
Dawson and Evans, (F.) *Tinmen and Braziers*
Eves Thomas, (F.) *Carpenter*
Elliott William, *Victualler*
Evans Richard, (F.) *Carpenter*
Flint William, (F.) *Watch-maker*
Flint Samuel, (F.) *Farmer and Grazier*
Fellows Thomas, *Victualler*
Fairbrass Daniel, *Cooper*
Flint Thomas, *Ironmonger and Corn-Chandler*
Filmer Comfort, *Farmer*
Filmer Thomas, *Farmer*
Godfrey John, *Huckster*
Greenhill Richard, (F.) *Tanner*
Garrett Adnett, (F.) *Farmer*
Honiss Edward, (F.) *Architect Mason*
Hill Philip, *Millwright*

Hadlow Thomas, (F.) *Gardener*
Hills Anthony, *Butcher*
Hills Stephen, *Butcher*
Hills John sen. *Farmer*
Hills John, *Carrier*
Hayward William, *Butcher*
Hunt and Rogers, *Drapers*
Hope John, (F.) *Carpenter*
Huckstep Charles, *Hair-dresser*
Hopkins Henry, *Cordwainer*
Horton John (F.) *Maltster*
Head James, (F.) *Farmer*
Hammond Richard, *Cabinet-maker*
Joy Thomas, (F.) *Bricklayer*
Jennings James, (F.) *Hair-dresser*
Jacob James, (F.) *Taylor*
Johnson John, *Basket-maker*
Johnson Thomas, *Butcher*
Knott George, *Blacksmith & Farrier*
Lampard John, *Breeches-maker*
Lishly Thomas, *Blacksmith*
Lake Thomas, *Glazier and Painter*
Lewis Thomas, *Cordwainer*
Miller Henry, *Cordwainer*
Matson William, (F.) *Miller & Baker*
Maplesden Richard, *Wheeler*
Mascall John, (F.) *Land Surveyor*
Meers Nicholas, *Gardener*
Mate William, *Sadler, &c,*
Marsh John, *Baker*
Mace Joseph, (F.) *Grazier*
Norley John, (F.) *Victualler*
Nickalls Dan. (F.) *Draper & Salesman*
Oxley Walter, *Farmer*
Peverett Sim. *Victualler*
Parham Thomas, *Breeches-maker*
Pettit Anne, *Milliner*
Phillips William, *Cordwainer*
Part John, *Shoe-maker*
Pope William, *Blacksmith*
Pope John, (F.) *Baker*
Powsey Thomas, (F.) *Sadler and
Harness-maker*
Paige Francis, *Woolcomber*
Pike Edward, (F.) *Stationer*
Parks Thomas, *Butcher*

Payne and Walter, (F.) *Grocers, Tea
Dealers, and Cheesemongers*
Quihampton John (F.) *Farmer and
Grazier*
Roots Richard, *Huckster*
Rabsan William, *Stay-maker*
Rabsan Richard, *Hardware-man*
Rabsan Richard, *Hatter*
Ratcliff Thomas, *Victualler*
Robinson H. (F.) *Grocer & Tea Dealer*
Robinson George, (F.) *Victualler*
Reeve Ambrose, (F.) *Turner*
Reader John, (F.) *Cordwainer*
Rack John, (F.) *Butcher*
Stroud Henry, *Cordwainer*
Scott John, *Tallow Chandler & Grocer*
Scott John, *Linen Draper*
Smiths Miss, *Boarding School for young
Ladies*
Stuart John, *Farmer*
Sparrow Joseph, *Gardener*
Sutton Thomas, (F.) *Maltster*
Sampson John, (F.) *Leatherseller*
Sampson Thomas, *Upholsterer*
Sweetlove William, *Farmer*
Tournays J. and S. (F.) *Grocers, &c.*
Trice Henry, *Huckster*
Tritton Robert, (F.) *Maltster*
Tunbridge Sarah, *Victualler*
Tomset Henry, *Farmer*
Virrill John, (F.) *Corn Chandler*
Webb William, *Hatter*
Wanstall Mark, *Cordwainer*
Wanstall Thomas, (F.) *Cooper*
Wanstall John, *Shoe-maker*
Whoolley Thomas. *Farmer*
Warner Wm. *Taylor & Stay-maker*
Wilkes Thomas, *Grazier*
Waterman William, (F.) *Maltster*
Wall William, (F.) *Grazier*
Whitfield Francis, *Grazier*
Walter George, (F.) *Chandler, &c.*
Weller John, *Peruke-maker*
Waters John, *Farmer*
Weston Thomas, (F.) *Farmer*
Wright John, *Farmer*

Transcribed by Mervyn King
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All spellings, punctuation and style have been preserved as far as possible. The major concession to the modern reader has been the replacement of the 'long s' or 'ſ' which closely resembles an 'f' and was used for the lower case 's' when it occurred anywhere in a word aside from the final letter. I believe the (F.) in the list of inhabitants indicates a Freeman or Freeholder.