

Kelly's Directory 1880

SEMLEY is a parish and station on the Salisbury and Yeovil branch of the South Western railway, in the Southern division of the county, Chalke hundred, Tisbury union, Shaftesbury county court district, Hindon petty Sessional division, diocese and archdeaconry of Salisbury and rural deanery of Chalke second portion, 20 miles south west from Salisbury, 4 south from Hindon, 3 north from Shaftesbury and 101 from London, running nearly east and west, and lying in a beautiful valley: there is richly wooded country in the background on the north and the Dorsetshire hills are seen in the distance stretching along its front in the south.

The old church of St. Leonard, an ancient cruciform structure, was pulled down in January 1874 and a new one built in 1875 at the expense of the Dowager Marchioness of Westminster; it is of Bath, Ham Hill and local stone in the Early Decorated style and consists of chancel, nave and south aisle and south chancel aisle; there are two entrances viz north and west, with a square lofty embattled tower with 6 bells.

There is a stained window in the chancel to the memory of the Rev. Henry Hall M.A. who built the chancel; one to Arthur and Lucy Fane, by their son, Vere Fane Benett-Stanford esq., M.P.; one to the memory of John Edward Benett of Pyt House and one given by Mrs Benett-Stanford.

The register dates from the year 1657.

The living is a rectory, yearly value £605, with residence, in the gift of Christ Church Oxford and held by the Rev Louis Kercheval Hilton M.A. of Christ Church and Magdalen College Oxford.

Here is a Baptist Chapel.

Parham's charity of £2.2s yearly is for clothes.

Lord Arundell of Wardour is lord of the manor.

The principal landowners are Vere Fane Benett-Stanford esq., M.P., and Sir Michael Robert Shaw-Stewart, bart.

The soil is clay, subsoil gravel. The land is principally pasturage, all the arable growing wheat, oats and barley. The area is 2,945 acres, rateable value £5,942. The population in 1871 was 728.

Parish Clerk - Henry Thomas Merchant

Post Office - John Rogers, Receiver

Letters arrive from Shaftesbury at 8.30am, dispatched at 4pm, 10am on Sundays.

The nearest money order office is at Shaftesbury.

Wall letter box at Station, cleared at 4.30pm, Sundays at 10.30am

Railway Station - Edwin Wright, Station Clerk

The telegraph office is at the Railway Station.

Schools

National - Miss Sarah Whale, Mistress

Infant - Miss Eliza Ann Ranger, Mistress

Gentry/Private Residents/Traders

Surname	Given Names	Industry/Occupation
Bracher	Thomas Moore	Broad Oak
Hilton, Rev	Louis Kercheval	Rector
King, Rev	Thomas	Baptist Minister
Lush, Mrs		New Cottage
Scammell	John	The Cottage
Targett	John	
Alford	John	Farmer, Church Green Farm
Arnold	George	Farmer, West Wood
Baker	Robert	Farmer, Marsh Farm
Baker	Thomas	Farmer, Chalcott's Farm
Bouren	Robert	Blacksmith

Brown	John	Farmer & Dairyman, Harthill Farm
Burden	Rice	Carpenter & Shopkeeper
Burt	Frederick	Farmer, Hook Farm
Burton	James	Farmer, Conduit Farm
Burton	William	Farmer, Malthouse Farm
Clark, Mrs	Mary	Farmer, Share & Savage's Farms
Dowers	William	Railway Hotel, Semley Station
James	George	Farmer, Oysters & East End Farms
James	William	Butcher
Kirby	Thomas	Dairyman
Lane	Reuben	Farmer, Hatt's Farm
Lawes	Edwin	Singer's Farm
Merchant	Henry Thomas	Benett Arms, Wheelwright & Parish Clerk
Pike	Frederick	Knipe's Farm
Pike	Frederick	Muster's Farm
Pike	John	Farmer & Dairyman, Curtain Farm
Pike	William	Farmer, Whitebridge Farm
Ranger, Miss	Eliza Ann	Infant Schoolmistress
Rogers	Ebenezer	Grocer & Baker
Rogers	Eli	Shopkeeper
Rogers	John	Receiver, Post Office
Shipman	John	Blacksmith
Whale, Miss	Sarah	National Schoolmistress
Worthy	James	Farmer, Bowmarsh Farm
Wright	Edwin	Semley Railway Station Clerk