

**The Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce and Manufacture for 1791  
Transcription of the entry for Dursley, Gloucestershire**

**Background**

The title page of the Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce and Manufacture for 1791 declares:

THE UNIVERSAL  
BRITISH DIRECTORY  
OF  
Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture,  
COMPREHENDING  
LISTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF LONDON, WESTMINSTER,  
AND BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK;  
AND OF ALL THE CITIES, TOWNS, AND PRINCIPAL  
VILLAGES, IN ENGLAND AND WALES;  
WITH THE  
MAILS, AND OTHER COACHES, STAGE-WAGGONS,  
HOYS, PACKETS, AND TRADING VESSELS  
TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
A Genuine Account of the DRAWBACKS and DUTIES chargeable at  
the CUSTOM-HOUSE on all GOODS and MERCHANDIZE,  
IMPORTED, EXPORTED, OR CARRIED COASTWISE.  
WITH  
A Particular of the PUBLIC OFFICES of every Denomination;  
His Majesty's COURT, and MINISTERS of STATE;  
The PEERS of the REALM, and PARLIAMENT of GREAT-  
BRITAIN;  
The COURT of LORD MAYOR, SHERIFFS, ALDERMAN,  
COMMON-COUNCIL, AND LIVERY, OF LONDON;  
TOGETHER WITH  
An Historical DETAIL of the ANTIQUITIES, CURIOSITIES, TRADE, POLITY,  
And MANUFACTURES, of each CITY, TOWN, and VILLAGE.  
THE WHOLE COMPRISING  
A most interesting and instructive HISTORY of GREAT BRITAIN.

It was a comprehensive undertaking and was published in five volumes: Volume 1 deals mainly with the London area comprising the City of London, Westminster and Southwark. Volumes 2 to 4 cover the wider country. (Note that the directory only covers England and Wales even though it is termed a "British" directory). Volume 5 comprises an appendix and a collection of supplements containing omissions, alterations, amendments, etc. received too late to be included in the main volumes but which were bound with the original work. The supplements relate to the London area. The entry for Dursley is found in Volume 2 on pages 854-856.

This transcription was carried out by Andrew Barton of Dursley in 2004. All punctuation and spelling of the original is retained, one of the only exceptions being to replace the long 's', i.e. that resembling an 'f', by the standard modern form for easier readability. In addition the basic layout of the original work has been kept, although page breaks are likely to have fallen in different places. The transcription has been checked thoroughly but no guarantees are made as to its accuracy and reference should be made to the original work if in doubt.

## Transcription

### DURSLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This town was formerly remarkable for its extensive broad-cloth manufactory; and still carries on a considerable trade in that branch of business; as also in card-making. It is a borough of very great antiquity, being one of the five boroughs returned by the sheriff of the county in the reign of Edward I, but it has long lost the privilege of sending men to parliament. It is now governed by a bailiff chosen annually. The town gives the title of Viscount to Earl Berkeley. Here is a handsome market-house, built in 1738, of freestone; market on Thursday; and fairs on the 6th of May, and 4th of December. The town consists of two narrow streets, forming something like the letter T, with a hamlet without the borough, containing more houses than either of them. On the S. side of the church-yard rises perpendicularly a copious spring, which drives a fulling-mill within a hundred yards of it. The church is large with two aisles and a tower.

Dursley, it is said, has been formerly noted for a sharp over-reaching people; whence arose a proverbial saying of a tricking man, "He is a man of Dursley." Contiguous to the town are the remains of a rock of towfe stone, remarkable for its extreme durability: the exterior wall of the noble castle of Berkeley were built with this stone; and, although upwards of six centuries have passed since their erection, they do not shew the least appearance of decay. Adjoining to the town, an excellent and extensive paper-manufactory has been recently established by Mr. Joseph Smith. At Cambridge, (on the Bristol road,) four miles from Dursley, is a very extensive manufactory of edge-tools; the proprietor of which is Mr. William Underwood. Stinchcomb Hill, near Dursley, commands prospects of as great extent and beauty as any eminence in the kingdom.

Banker - Richard Williams draws on Vere, Lucadou, Troughton, Lucadou, and Smart, No. 77, Lombard Street, London.

Postmaster, Mathew Church; post in and out daily. - Distributor of stamps, Richard Williams.

Waggons to London, Bristol, Gloucester, and Tetbury, weekly. In Dursley is but one good inn, the Old Bell. - Dursley is distant from Gloucester 15 miles; Stroud 10; Tetbury 10; Cirencester 20; Berkeley 5; Wotton 4; and from London 107.

The following is a list of the principal inhabitants:

GENTRY, &c.  
Adey Samuel, Esq.  
Blackwell Nathaniel, Gent. (F.)  
Cooper Richard Bransby, Esq.  
Cam John, Gent. (F.)  
Compton Robert, Gent. (F.)  
Jones Mrs. Mary  
King John, Esq. (F.)  
Morse Thomas, Esq. (F.)  
Morse Mrs. A.  
Purnell Thomas Purnell, Esq. (F.)  
Purnell William, Esq. (F.)  
Phelps John de la F. Esq. (F.)  
Phelps James, Esq.

Phillimore Samuel, Esq. (F.)  
Wallington John, Esq. (F.)  
Wallington Mrs. Arabella  
Wiltshire William, Esq. (F.)

#### CLERGY.

Webster Rev. James, L. L. B. (F.)  
*Rector and Archdeacon of Gloucester*

#### PHYSIC.

Gregory Thomas, *Apothecary*  
Shrapnell William Fisher, *Surgeon*  
Williams Isaac, (F.) *Surgeon and Apothecary*

LAW.

Hill John, *Attorney*  
Holbrow William, *Attorney*  
Whithorne Conway, (F.) *Attorney and Deputy Clerk of the Peace*

TRADERS, &c

Ball John, (F.) *Card-maker*  
Bendall John, *Baker*  
Blackwell Isaac, *Millwright*  
Brown John, (F.) *Grocer & Chandler*  
Browning John, (F.) *Yeoman*  
Church Matthew, *Victualler (Old Bell)*  
Champion Samuel, *Sadler*  
Dando Stephen, *Hatter*  
Danford Rachel, *Mealwoman*  
Dawe William, (F.) *Mason*  
Dimery Daniel, *Maltster*  
Drew William, (F.) *Yeoman*  
Elliotts Samuel, *Shopkeeper*  
Gethen John, (F.) *Maltster*  
Hitchins Jonathan, (F.) *Plasterer*  
Hitchins Thomas, (F.) *Plasterer*  
Hitchins William, (F.) *Plasterer*  
Hopkins Richard, (F.) *Victualler*  
Jones Isaac, (F.) *Glazier*  
Lewton Joseph, (F.) *Sadler*  
Lewton Thomas, *Card-maker*

Lewton Ann, *Milliner*  
Longstreeth Daniel, (F.) *Shopkeeper*  
Mear Thomas, *Watch-maker*  
Moore Thomas, *Grocer and Chandler*  
Millard Edward, *Carrier*  
Neale Eliza and Co. *Milliners*  
Neale Thomas, *Victualler*  
Nicholas James, (F.) *Card-maker*  
Phelps William, *Clothier*  
Roach William, (F.) *Roper*  
Richards William, (F.) *Gloucester and Tetbury Carrier*  
Richards Thomas, *Cornfactor*  
Robbins William, *Carpenter*  
Sanegar Abraham, (F.) *Card-maker*  
Sanegar Samuel, (F.) *Card-maker*  
Smith Joseph, *Paper-maker*  
Sims Edward, *Victualler*  
Taylor William, (F.) *Baker & Maltster*  
Tippitts Thomas, *Clothier*  
Tilton John, *Brazier*  
Trottman Richard, *Baker*  
Wallington Edward, *Clothier*  
Williams Richard, (F.) *Mercer*  
Williams Rice, *Mealman*  
Williams Edmund, *Baker*

The following gentlemen have seats in the neighbourhood of Dursley: Robert Kingscote, Esq. (F.) Kingscote. – Thomas Daunt, Esq. (F.) Owlpen. – Nicholas O. S. Owen, Esq. (F.) and John Hall, Gent. (F.) North Nibley. – Daniel Weight, Esq. (F.) Clingre. – William Henry Field, Esq. Peers Court. – John Mabbett, Esq. (F.) Stinchcombe. – Richard Bigland, Esq. (F.) Frocester. – Rev. George Hayward, (F.) Frocester. – Robert Phillimore, Esq. (F.) Cam. – Rev. Richard Lockey, (F.) and Rev. John Thomas, Cam.

Adjoining parish to Dursley is the populous village of Uley, in which the clothing business is carried on to a very considerable extent.

The following are the principal inhabitants of Uley:

CLERGY.

Baker Rev. William Floyd, (F.)  
Gregory Rev. John, (F.) *Rector*

TRADERS, &c.

Blagden Richard, (F.) *Clothier*  
Cole John, (F.) *Hatter*  
Harris George & James, (F.) *Clothiers*  
Hawker Thomas, (F.) *Clothier*  
Jackson Edward, (F.) *Clothier*

Knight Thomas, (F.) *Soapboiler*  
Lloyd Nath. and Daniel, (F.) *Clothiers*  
Manning Francis, (F.) *Maltster*  
Price John, (F.) *Maltster*  
Sheppard and Hickes, *Clothiers*  
Souls Samuel, (F.) *Innkeeper*  
Went Thomas, (F.) *Clothier*  
Went Samuel, (F.) *Maltster*  
Williams Rice, *Baker*