



## ***West Dart Research Papers – No 5***

# **From Ales and Alms to Inns – The Evolution of the Rural Inn in Devon Through a Case Study of Ashprington**

**Graham Hawkins**

### **Background**

Establishments specifically for the sale of alcoholic drinks have a very long history. The Code of Hammurabi, a Babylonian legal text composed during 1755–1750 BC, included a list of regulations concerning innkeeping. The ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all had inns catering for travellers as well as locals.

In England in the early medieval period, religious institutions such as monasteries, established hospices to cater to pilgrims and travellers, especially travelling scholars. They provided basic lodging, food and drink and in some cases simple medical care. In northern Europe the equivalent word to the Latin *hospitum* (hospice) was *inn* and that term came particularly to refer to roadside hostelries frequented by travellers. The word *inn* retains its meaning of a residence of for religious, and later legal, scholars in the *Inns of Court* such as Lincoln's Inn in London.

In small villages, such as Ashprington, which did not have a large religious institution nearby, premises selling beer in villages were usually called ale houses. These were sometimes the lord of the manor's brewhouse held by him or his feoffee, and sometimes just an ordinary cottage or farmhouse, serving home-brewed ale or cider in some cases for consumption on the premises, but more likely for taking away to homes and fields. Particularly popular was small beer which had a very low level of alcohol by volume. Safer than drinking water, it was consumed at mealtimes by all members of the family and in prodigious quantities by manual workers, such as farm labourers, who could drink 10 pints in a day to quench their thirst. Ale houses may also have offered primitive lodgings for travellers, providing little more than a straw pallet bed in a barn.

The word *ale* was derived from the Old English word *ealu*, which also referred to a parish celebration or festival with eating, drinking and sometimes music and dancing. Ales were often held in the nave of the church to mark events in the religious calendar or the life of the parish such as the end of the harvest, lamb-shearing or a wedding, the latter being a *bride-ale* which gives us our word *bridal*. Ales were also used for fund-raising in aid of church charities or the support of the local poor.

How and where ordinary people were permitted to celebrate changed over the centuries after the medieval period depending on the prevalent religious, social, moral and political environments. From the mid-C15 and into the C16, the use of churches for social purposes and drinking became increasingly frowned upon, and the growing practice of installing pews made festivities impossible. In the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) there was a reaction to the restoration of Catholicism under her predecessor Mary I, and also to Elizabeth's religious settlement which sought compromise but was not liberal. In the early Stuart period (1603-1642) conformity to the established church continued to be enforced. During the Civil War

and Interregnum (1642-1660) puritanism made a resurgence, driven by the religious and political objectives of Oliver Cromwell. The puritans attempted a nationwide reformation of the way in which people departed themselves and particularly with regard to their previous entertainments. Holidays, and even Christmas festivities, were suppressed and theatres were closed. Drinking alcohol, however, was not banned, though rowdy inns were shut down and drunkenness not tolerated.

The response of many parishes to having to give up the local church as a social centre was to build a church house, often adjacent to, but not owned by, the church. In most cases the church houses were used not only for celebrations but also augmented the small farm-based ale houses as places for villagers to gather, drink and make merry.<sup>1</sup> They were in many respects the forerunners of parish and village halls. In the C19 some church houses became almshouses, poor houses and schools whilst others evolved into village inns. Sadly, many fell into disrepair and were demolished. Devon had an unusually high concentration of church houses, many of which still survive in one form or another, some indeed as inns.

### **Early Evidence in Ashprington**

The history of premises in Ashprington partly or wholly established for the sale and/or the consumption of alcohol reflects the account of the background history given above, especially with regard to the building of a church house. Further, although the details are not clear, there was in some periods a relationship between such premises and the provision of shelter for the poor in poor houses or almshouses.

Whatever the date of construction of the church house it is clear that over the time of its existence it had several uses, some simultaneous and some sequential. If the Ashprington church house was initially used for festivities, that function would certainly have been curtailed during the Interregnum, though the drinking of beer may well have continued, so fundamental was it in the daily lives of villagers. During this period the church house may have had the role of selling beer though after 1660, and the return of Charles II, it may well have revived its function as a place for parochial celebrations and even served as an ale house.

### **Sources**

Records specifically mentioning the sale of alcohol or the holding of ales in medieval Ashprington have not been found. From the C17 onwards there are many references to an almshouse or poor house, and a church house in Ashprington. But they are ambiguous and often contradictory.

The following passages are taken from the Charity Commissioners Report of 1826-32, quoted in a book written by Charles Worthy in 1887.<sup>2</sup>

*Passage 1: The Commissioners also report upon "the Church House" and upon "Knowling's Gift." The former was once let as a public-house, and the rents were then applied to the repair of the church, but it was afterwards occupied by poor persons of the parish rent free.*

Passage 1 is a clear statement that a church house was built in Ashprington and was used as a public house and later as a refuge for the poor, but dates are lacking.

*Passage 2: The Charity Commissioners report upon an almshouse in this parish inhabited rent free by six poor persons, and which is reputed to have been formerly held under a deed of feoffment, although no such deed can now be found. The returns made to Parliament in 1786 state this house to have been given by Sir Edward Giles, Knt., by deed, in 1622; and it is also mentioned that " from the condition of the original deeds it was not possible to collect any other matter."*

Passage 2 mentions Sir Edward Giles (1566–1637)<sup>3</sup> & *appx1*, a scion of a wealthy Totnes merchant family who lived at Bowden House and also owned the Sharpham Estate which had been acquired by his father John in about 1600. It also gives the date of the donation of an alms house to Ashprington by Sir Edward. This was under the terms of the deed of feoffment, granted in 1622 (the 19th year of the reign of James I). In English law, feoffment was a transfer of land or property that gave the new holder the right to sell it as well as the right to pass it on to his heirs as an inheritance. Today it would be referred to as a freehold. What is missing in this account is whether or not Sir Edward's almshouse was a new construction or an addition to, or replacement of, the church house which *was afterwards occupied by poor persons of the parish.*

Taken together the excerpts give rise to uncertainty as to when the church house was built and whether or not it was the same building as housed the almshouse. The date of the deed of 1622 is relatively late for the establishment of a church house as many such buildings were in existence much earlier. There is no evidence of this in Ashprington though the likelihood is that it was already established, as others such as those listed below in Devon were certainly in existence long before.<sup>4</sup>

1499	Mention in Deed of 1575	Alphington
1513	Grant	Dean Prior
1513	Grant	Highweek
1516	Deed	Heavitree
1535	Grant	Bridgerule
1536	Benefice	Thurlestone

A third passage in the Charity Commissioners Report of 1826-32 elaborates on a charitable gift known as *Knowling's Gift*.

*Passage 3: With respect to "Knowling's Gift," the Parliamentary returns above referred to mention a sum of £30 as having been given by the will of Alice Knowling in 1729 for such poor families as had not relief from the parish, and as being vested in the church wardens and overseers, and it is added in a note "that when Peter Knowling paid in the principal to the parish the interest ceased." There is a tradition in the parish that after the principal of this legacy was paid by Peter Knowling, it was applied at a time, when Ashprington was visited by an infectious disorder, in the payment of bills for medical attendance to the poor not receiving parochial relief.*

Passage 3 refers to a charitable bequest of £30 in the will of Alice Knowling in 1729 for the benefit of poor families in the parish. There were similar gifts during the latter part of the C17 linked to the Pownoll family of Sharpham. The Knowlings were a long-established merchant family from Ashburton known for their philanthropy, principally in the town of Ashburton.<sup>5</sup> It

is not clear as whether *Knowing's Gift* would have benefitted the poor resident in the almshouse or was distributed on the basis of the individual needs of poor people living in the village.

A *Survey of the Manor of Ashprington* dated 1754<sup>6</sup> lists in detail the lands within the parish including fields, houses and other buildings, owners, tenants, values, rents and acreages. In the list are separate references to the Ashprington Alms-house (sic) and the Ashprington Church-House (sic), both tenanted by the Churchwardens of Ashprington. The almshouse had a value of 4 pence per annum and the church house 1 penny per annum. (Facsimile below)

32	Churchwardens of Ashprington	Ashprington Alms-house	0 0 4
33	Ditto	Ashprington Church-House	0 0 1

Also listed in the survey are four beer houses, though no details of where they were are given. None of the family names recur in the Tithe Apportionment of 1843. (Transcription below)

Tenant	Holding	Previous Tenants	Names of Lives	Ages	Rent	Annual Value
Philip Rooke	A Beer-house,	formerly John Hilley	Philip Rooke	65	£0 2s 0d	£1
Now granted in one Lease to Sam. Perrot who sold it to Philip Rooke	A Beer-house Ditto	Late Nathaniel Ferris, Henry Hilley	Samuel Perrot, Elizabeth Perrot	40 & 46	£0 0s 0d	£1 14s 0d
Robert Green	A Beer-house		Robert Green	85	£0 1s 0d	£0 16s 0d

In a document recording the minutes of the First Meeting of the Parish Council, held at the Schoolroom on January 3rd 1895<sup>7</sup>, it is recorded:

*March 25, 1895: The Clerk read from the 'old minute book', meetings held November 1844, 1845 & 1846 in reference to the old buildings of Church House School and also the Alms Houses.*

This makes it clear as does the information in the 1754 Survey, that the *Alms Houses* were separate to *Church House School* in 1844-46. It also indicates that the church house had become a school, either exclusively or in addition to other functions, which was not an unusual occurrence in Devon.

The needs of the poor of the village, and later the provision of some schooling for young children, were certainly catered for, and places were available for communal celebrations and the consumption of beer. What is not clear is how many buildings were involved, where they were and how functionality shifted between them.

In the 1840s a national inquisition was conducted as the basis for the commutation of tithes which resulted in the 1843 tithe map and apportionment for Ashprington. To help research the location of the Ashprington alms house and church house, the tithe map is very useful. The extract below is from the Ashprington tithe map showing the centre of the village. The yellow dots show buildings that need to be considered.



The table below sets out the details of the buildings as given in the apportionment. Of interest are the properties numbered 5 -13 and 19.

Landowner	Occupier	Plot No	Estate	Plot Name
Richard Durant, Esquire	Peter Weymouth	5		Cottage and Garden
Richard Durant, Esquire	Robert Foale and Henry Foale	6	Coltons Farm	Buildings
Richard Durant, Esquire	Matthew Butland	7		Cottage
		8		Church and Burial Ground
Richard Durant, Esquire	Maria Cockrem	9	Frogmore Farm	Barn and Yard
William Soper	Peter Weymouth	10		Cottages
Richard Durant, Esquire	Robert Foale and Henry Foale	11	Coltons Farm	House Yard etc
Poor of Ashprington	Thomas Bickford	12		House
William Finch	John Reeves	13		New Inn etc
William Finch	John Reeves	19		Orchard

### The Alms House

Plot 12 was a building owned by the *Poor of Ashprington* and almost certainly it was the alms house given by Sir Edward Giles in 1622. The ownership is consistent with the concept of feoffment described above, the administration being in the hands of the church wardens with day-to-day management the responsibility of the occupier, Thomas Bickford. In the 1841 census he was shown as an *agricultural labourer* living in the *Alms House* with his wife Sarah, both then aged 70, as well as a woman called Agnes and two small children. They may have been inmates (the word used for beneficiaries at that time) as well as having to look after the building.

In 1850 the alms house was said to be much dilapidated<sup>8</sup> and was probably finally demolished sometime between 1840-65 depending on which source is consulted. C19 directories are notorious for copying information forward without thoroughly checking and often using identical text. A painting by Richard Bainbridge dated 1852 (R), shows Ashprington's main street below the church<sup>9</sup>. There is no sign of a



building where the alms house would have been. Certainly, all traces of the alms house had gone by 1886 as the 1:25,000 Ordnance survey map shows only roads and a small circular area which contained a stone cross, replaced in 1921 by the village War Memorial.



The title apportionment lists a second building owned by the *Poor of Ashprington*, a *House and Garden* on plot 316 towards the top of Bow Hill. It is also occupied by Thomas Bickford which may have meant he was managing both poor houses or perhaps he lived there with his family as the one in Ashprington was becoming uninhabitable.

## The Church House

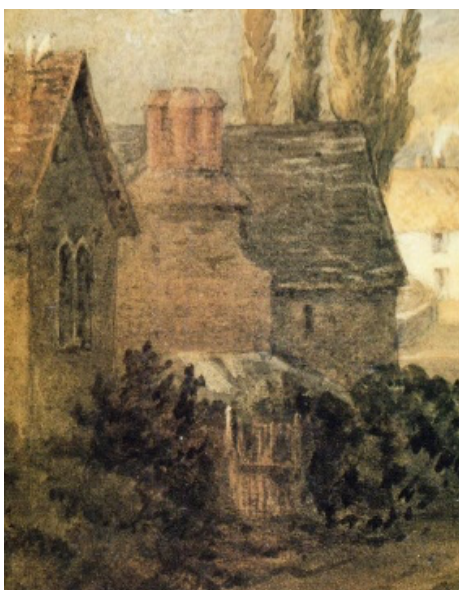
Five of the plots listed (5,6,7,9,11) were owned by Richard Durant (1791-1878), a wealthy London silk merchant who had been born in Exeter and bought the Sharpham Estate in 1841. The 1840s was a decade of great change in Ashprington much of which belonged to the Sharpham Estate and from 1842-47 Richard embarked on a massive programme of demolition, building and re-modelling that transformed the appearance of the village including the restoration of the church and the building of the village school.<sup>10</sup>

Plot 5 was a small cottage and garden (now *Askew Cottage*) and plot 6, part of *Coltons Farm*, which included a large barn on the northern edge (now divided into 3 houses and known as *Church Barn* and a small building on the SE edge adjacent to the road. The plot 5 cottage still exists and is far too small to have been a church house. Plot 6 also still exists, though much altered, and its basic design prior to conversion was not in the style of a church house.

Plot 7 was next to plot 8, Ashprington Church, and given that church houses were often built adjacent to the church, often on the edge of the graveyard<sup>11</sup>, it is a possible site for the church house, though being very small, that is unlikely.

The main site for the buildings of Colton's Farm, including the farmhouse (now *Jasmine Cottage* and *Penny Cottage*) and two barns (E & W) was plot 11. Adjoining the Colton farmyard was Plot 10, a small cottage or cottages owned by William Soper and *occupied* by Peter Weymouth (now *Corner Cottage*. *Occupied* is misleading as Weymouth *occupied* 4 cottages. Some were probably sublet or used for other purposes. Plot 10 like plots 5 and 7 was a small cottage and subsequently rebuilt by Richard Durant. The E barn on Plot 11,

being as it was on the site of the school built by Richard Durant in 1847 is a strong candidate for the church house site.



Plot 9 was part of the Frogmore Farm estate and occupied Maria Cockrem. Frogmore was a substantial farm of about 185 acres with fields in two main areas, firstly along the road to Ashprington Point and secondly SE of the principal farm buildings at Frogmore Farm S of the village. Plot 9 was a subsidiary farmyard serving the former area with no farmhouse. There were two barns (E & W). Both are missing on the 1:25,000 Ordnance survey map of 1886, the W barn replaced by 1-4 Hillside Cottages (now *Church Cottage* and *Hillside*), very much in the Durant style so it is likely that shortly after the tithe map was produced Richard Durant had bought the plot.

The W barn on plot 9, however shows some interesting features. It is L-shaped with the S part significantly wider than the N and projecting into the road. The alignment of the building is due N-S whereas Hillside Cottages are

aligned 10° towards W and in line with Richard Durant's inn of 1847. The building on the left of the 1852 Richard Bainbridge painting referred to above is not part of Hillside Cottages. If the date of the painting is correct, they must have been built after 1852 and the featured building was still standing after the construction of Richard Durant's inn. The gable has double arched windows which may indicate an ecclesiastical stylistic influence and perhaps this was the church house.

## The Inn

There is one further plot that must be considered, Plot 13, as it was listed as *The New Inn etc* owned by William Finch and occupied by John Reeves. The *etc* is interesting as it implies a function or functions other than that of an inn, most probably farming, for in the census of 1841 John Reeves is listed as a farmer with his wife, Agness, three sons and four daughters.

The earliest direct reference found so far, to an inn likely to have been on this site, is a sale notice for timber published in *The Exeter Flying Post* or *Trewman's Plymouth and Cornish Advertiser* for 22 May 1828 (R). This mentions a *Survey to be held at Ashprington Arms Inn kept by Mr J Reeve*, almost certainly John Reeves.

**PRIME OAK, &c. TIMBER TREES.**

**T**O be SOLD, at Public Auction,  
by Wm. WILLING, 416 Prime OAK,  
20 ASH, 10 ELM, & 6 CHERRY TREES,  
in LOTS, now laying in *Sharpham Wood*, ad-  
joining the Navigable River *Dart*, about 7  
miles from *Dartmouth*, and 3 from *Totnes*.—For which pur-  
pose a Survey will be held at the *Ashprington Arms Inn*, kept  
by Mr. J. Reeve, on Monday the 2d day of June, 1828, at  
two o'clock in the afternoon.

For viewing the above, apply to Wm. Finch, in *Ashprington*,  
four days previous to the Sale.

*A great number of the Trees are of large dimensions, and well  
calculated for the Navy, &c.*

Yealminton, 6th May, 1828. [742

*Public House, Cottages, Orchard, & Rich Land for Sale,*  
IN ASHPRINGTON,—DEVON.

TO be SOLD in Lots, by Public Auction, at the NEW INN, in Ashprington, on THURSDAY, the 18th day of JULY next, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, the Fee Simple of the following

*DESIRABLE PROPERTY, viz. :—*

A well-frequented PUBLIC-HOUSE, called the NEW INN, or CHURCH HOUSE, with Barn, Linhays, Outhouses, Orchard, and Garden adjoining, containing about one acre and a quarter, and two good COTTAGES, with Herb Gardens, situate near the New Inn. Five Rich Pasture and Arable FIELDS, called LOWER LANGHAM, WOOD, SKEAT HILLS, or SCRATCH HILLS, TONGUE PARK, and FROGMORE PARK, containing about nine acres.

The Property is occupied by Mr. JOHN REEVES, or his under-tenants, and is situate in or immediately adjoining the Village of Ashprington, on the Banks of the Navigable River Dart, and distant two miles from Totnes, and eight miles from Dartmouth.

For viewing the Premises apply to the Tenant, and further particulars may be obtained of Mr. TIPPETT, Auctioneer, Totnes, Mr. T. HUXHAM, Waye, near Ashburton, or of

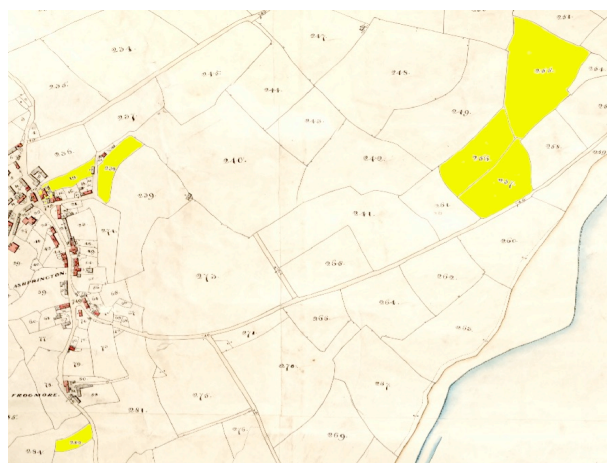
Mr. TUCKER, Solicitor, Ashburton.

N.B.—One half of the purchase money may, if required, remain on security of the Premises.

Ashburton, June 19th. 1839.

In 1839, four years before the Tithe Apportionment was compiled, an advertisement appeared in the *Western Times* on 6 July (L) offering for sale a *public house, called the New Inn or Church House* as well as a *barn, linhays, outhouses, orchard and garden adjoining adding to about one acre and a quarter* as well as two cottages, a herb garden and five fields containing about nine acres all occupied by John Reeves.

As William Finch owned the inn and orchard (plots 13 and 19) in 1843 it may be deduced that he bought them in 1839 or bought them subsequently from the purchaser before 1843. John Reeves remained the occupier of both inn and orchard. He was also the occupier of the five fields shown on the map (R) and listed in the table (below) though apart from Langhams Wood, not the same five as were offered for sale. William Finch is described in the 1841 census as a *steward* (manager of a landed estate) which may have been Sharpham where his son James was working in the 1850s. He died in 1846 and that may have been the year when Richard Durant bought plots 13, 19 and 238 which gave him ownership of the New Inn, the adjacent orchard and Token Park beyond that.



Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Plot Name
William Finch	John Reeves	238	Token Park
Reverend George Perry Carwithen	John Reeves	256	Higher Lime House
Reverend George Perry Carwithen	John Reeves	257	Lime House
Reverend George Perry Carwithen	John Reeves	258	Langhams Wood
Reverend George Perry Carwithen	John Reeves	282	Little Plot

William Bastard, beer-retailer, of Ashprington, applied for a license to open his house as an inn, to be called the Ashprington Inn. The house was formerly an inn, but the license had been refused last year, on account of some informality, and the house had since been re-built. There was no opposition, and it was granted.

On 9 September 1848 a notice appeared in the *Devon and Exeter Gazette* (L) with some phrases crucial to the understanding of when

the public house in the centre of Ashprington became a fully-fledged inn. It describes an application by William Bastard for a *licence to open his house as an inn, to be called the Ashprington Inn*. It refers to his house as *formerly an inn for which a licence had been refused in 1847 and that it had since been rebuilt*.

From this it may be deduced that by 1848 John Reeves had departed and indeed he appears in the 1851 census farming 70 acres at Leusdon on Dartmoor. Richard Durant demolished the existing *New Inn* building and built a new one in 1847-48 of which William Bastard became the occupier. <sup>Appx 2</sup>

William Bastard did not remain associated with the Ashprington Inn for very long for in White's History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Devonshire 1850 the landlord is named as William Cox<sup>12</sup> and other sources show him as such until 1855.

## Conclusions

The evidence of newspapers and the tithe documents makes it clear that premises on the site of tithe map plot 13 were being used as an inn from at least 1828, and on into the 1840s, with John Reeves, the occupier, a farmer carrying on the long tradition of selling ale and cider from a farm. He was probably making the cider from apples from his orchard.

ASHPRINGTON.  
**ABNER HACKWELL**, begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he sells HOPS and SPIRITS, wholesale and retail, of the very best quality, and at the lowest price.

He was certainly one of several people selling alcohol in Ashprington in the C19 such as Abner Hackwell who advertised his wares in The Exeter Flying Post or Trewman's Plymouth and Cornish Advertiser on 3 May 1810.

By 1850, in addition to the *Ashprington* Inn of William Cox, there were at least three other inns, as opposed to the earlier beer houses, in the parish:<sup>15</sup>

*Commercial Inn*, Hugh Topping  
*Malsters' Arms*, John Dennis  
*Waterman's Arms*, Robert Ashwick

With a fourth mentioned in the 1841 Census for Ashprington:

*Foss Lanes*, Stephen Downing (almost certainly Cross Lanes, now Cross Lanes Cottage on Bow Hill)

From 1847 it is certain that the *New Inn/Ashprington Arms* was an important inn in the village though there is no evidence of accommodation being offered. Its continuing function as an inn, combined with that as a farm, is borne out by subsequent directory references to the landlords' other duties:

1858 Ashprington Inn, John Loder, blacksmith (Billing's Directory)  
1878 Ashprington Inn, Samuel Short, dairyman and victualler (White's Directory)  
1889 Ashprington Inn, William Brown, cowkeeper, (Kelly's Directory)  
1893 Ashprington Inn, Samuel Dart, farmer, (Kelly's Directory)  
1902 Ashprington Inn, Samuel Dart, farmer, (Kelly's Directory)

A difficult issue to address is the founding date of the inn in Ashprington. There are many examples of precise dates given for the founding of some inns in Devon stretching back even to the C11. In the case of the Durant Arms, it is claimed to be 1725. No record has been found of any inn foundation in Ashprington during this year. It is quite possible that beer and/or cider was made and sold at this location long before 1725, certainly back to early medieval times and long before there was a church house or inn. But the first verifiable

reference to an inn is 1828 and the first reference to the present building is 1847. The part played by a church house is uncertain but what is known is that there was one in Ashprington which acted as a gathering place where alcohol was consumed. The beer and cider was perhaps produced at the nearby farm and gradually there was a transition of the function of providing a place for consuming it from the church house to the inn which we now enjoy, an inn on a site with a very long history whatever the date when beer or cider was first served.

Though there is nothing conclusive about the church house being on plot 13, it is possible that it was. What is certain is that the inn, despite acquiring the name of the *Ashprington Arms Inn* by 1828 and the *New Inn* by 1839 was also being referred to as the *Church House*, a name that could have referred to a building on the site or have been transferred in common parlance from a nearby site possible plot 9 immediately adjacent to the inn.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1**

Sir Edward Giles' (1566–1637) great-grandfather was John Giles, a Totnes merchant who acquired Bowden House, Ashprington and Dean Court, Dean Prior and founded a dynasty of Devon Gentry. Edward's father, also John Giles, was an MP for Totnes and acquired the Sharpham Estate in about 1660. Edward was also an MP for Totnes 1597-8, Sheriff of Devon 1612-13, MP for Devon 1614, MP for Totnes 1621-22, 1624-25, and 1628-29, and was knighted by King James I in 1603.<sup>5</sup>

An orthodox protestant he was noted for his piety and generosity. In politics his views were socially liberal in the sense that he supported free trade, and opposed patents and monopolies and excessive central government control. As an MP he opposed vigorously Sir Giles Mompesson who had in 1616 used his influence to persuade George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and in turn the King, that there should be a commissioner of inns to enforce a licensing patent. Justices of the Peace were generally accepted as the licencing authority for taverns and inns, but Mompesson got his way in 1617 with powers over licensing, fees, and fining inn-keepers for non-compliance. He pursued his rôle with aggression and avarice, prosecuting over 3320 inn-keepers. But during the 1621 Parliament, pressure brought by Giles and others led to Mompesson's investigation and conviction for extortion. In 1623 the Statute of Monopolies prevented the enactment of future patents.<sup>16</sup>

### **Appendix 2**

The Bastard family was widespread in Devon and in 1783, Edmund Bastard, a member of the Kitley branch, married Jane, the daughter and only child of Captain Philemon Pownoll who owned the Sharpham Estate from 1765-1780 and built the Sharpham House we see today. Jane was a very wealthy heiress and through her marriage to Edmund, the branch of the Bastards was founded which became the owners of Sharpham. When her grandson John squandered his fortune on gambling, Sharpham was bought in 1841 by Richard (i) Durant.<sup>8</sup> It is not clear if there was any direct relationship between the Sharpham Bastards and William Bastard but it would be a great coincidence if there were not.

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