

## Exploring House Histories in Dunster

The Early Dunster Project is primarily about exploring the history of the bricks and mortar – not forgetting the roof timbers, fireplaces, floor tiles etc. – that make up the historic fabric of the buildings in the village.

But alongside that we are also interested to know about who lived in the properties –

- *when* did they live there, and for how long?
- were they owners or tenants?
- what work did they do?
- who were their neighbours and relations?
- what happened to their children?
- how did they live?

This is still very much work-in-progress, and likely to continue so for some time – each time we answer one question it throws up a few new ones! So please bear in mind that some of what is presented here is provisional, subject to more investigation and review.

But we can – thus far – introduce some of the documents and other sources that we are using in our research, and a few of the families we are meeting on the way.

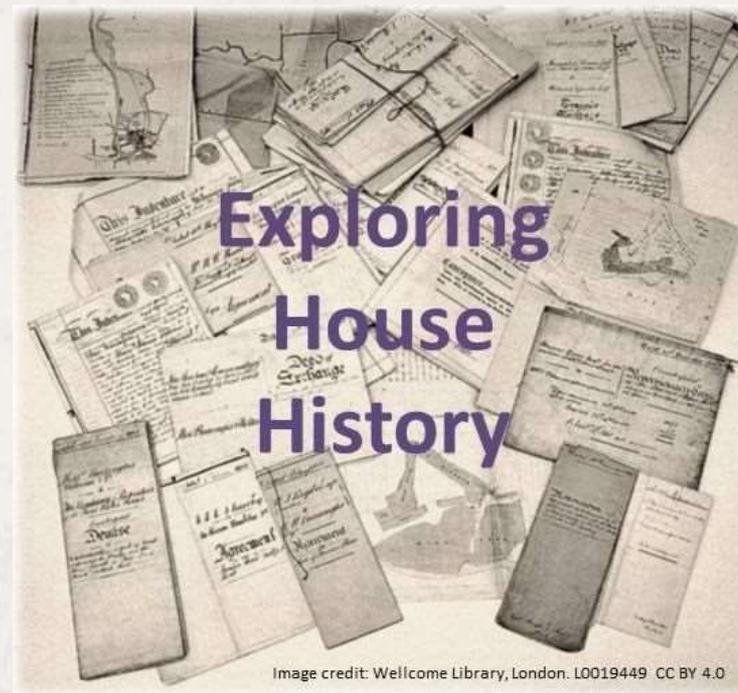


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## 1843 Tithe Survey

Our starting point for each property is the **Tithe Survey**, which happened throughout England & Wales in the early 1840s – for Dunster, it was done in 1842.

The **Tithe Apportionment** itemises, for each parish, the names of all landowners and occupiers of each plot of land, with the land acreage and its use, and the tithe rent charge. Though it's mainly about land, it includes domestic houses.

The **Tithe Map** charts the numbered plots described in the Apportionment. It is generally found to be very accurate.

We compare the boundaries and features on the **Tithe Map** with the present day map, to give us an insight into changes in the last 180 years. And the **Tithe Apportionment** information gives us a reference point for further investigation into the house history.



Dunster Tithe Map 1842 – village centre  
Reproduced here and throughout with permission of Somerset HER

## Case Study 1 – a cottage in Church Street

In this example, a detached cottage in Church Street, the outline plan of the house is pretty much the same now as it was in 1842 – at least, it's very clearly occupying the same position. The "Field number" - 74 - is just about legible to the left of the building, and we can find that in the Tithe Apportionment List:

*Tithe List:* **Field 74**

*Owner:* **Luttrell, John Fownes Esq.**

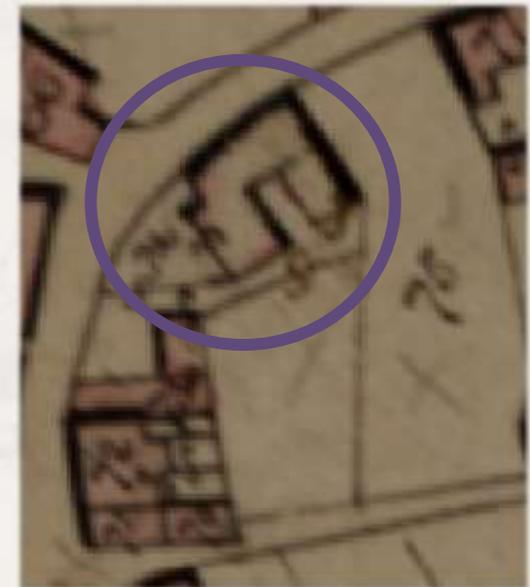
*Occupier:* **Henry Harris**

*Name:* **House and Garden**

*Acreage:* 0a 0r 34p



*It's interesting to note that where there is now an electricity substation there used to be four small dwellings, which were occupied in 1842, but not shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map.*



## Census Records

A census has been taken in England and Wales, and separately for Scotland, every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941. The enumeration lists compiled from 1841 to 1911 censuses are publicly accessible documents, available online.

The 1841 census was the first to list the names of every individual, which makes it useful for family historians, but, although it lists street names, it doesn't give street numbers (which in fact in rural areas didn't come into play until much later) so for our house history purpose, mapping it to the 1842 tithe apportionment if we can is a very useful exercise to align people and properties.

1841 England Census  
Somerset > Dunster > District 10

PLACE	Inhabited or Building	Established	of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	SEX		EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Whether Blind or deaf or dumb.	Whether Sick or Convalescent.	Whether Pauper or in Hospital or in Prison.
				Male	Female				
Church Street			John Harris 77			Surveyor of Roads			
			Rebecca Harris 35						
			Sarah Dunn 22						
			John Dunn 1						
			Mary D						
			Mary D						
			George D 6						
			Mary Harris 77						
			Rebecca D 35						
			Sarah Dunn 22						
			John D 1						
			William Wake 59						
			John Williams 32						
			John D 30						

Here on the enumeration list for Church Street, we can just about decipher **Henry Harris**, age 77, a "Surveyor of Roads". Living in the same household were **Rebecca Harris** age 35, **Sarah Dunn** age 22, and **John Dunn** aged 1.

### Census Records

From 1851 onwards the census records give more information, including each person’s place of birth, and the relationship of the household members.

We don’t find Henry in Dunster’s 1851 census, but Rebecca was still in Church Street then, in the same house, and here she is in 1861, where she describes her occupation as “Occupier of 9 acres of pasture land” - though it’s clear that she also takes in lodgers. The boarder John Dunn, now a cordwainer, is the little boy from 1841.

[or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parish of	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
				Male	Female		
Church St	1	Rebecca Harris	Head	Mar	56	Occupier of 9 Acres of Pasture Land	Dunston to H
		John Quinn	Boarder	Mar	25	Cordwainer	Dunston Dunster
		John Bushen	Do	Mar	31	Mariner	Do Bristol
		William Phillips	Do	Mar	41	Servant	Do Southampton
		Max Taylor	Head	Mar	42		Do Dunster
		Charles Hill	Boarder	Mar	14	Under Game Keeper	Do Do

With the 1841/51 census information settled we can usually trace the occupancy of each house through subsequent decades – boundary changes and sub-letting notwithstanding!

Samuel Hardwick and his family lived at 9 Church Street in 1911. He was head gardener at Dunster Castle. His second wife Mollie founded the Doll Collection now housed in Dunster Memorial Hall.

No.	Name	Relation	Age		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Still Living	Who have Died	(See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)		
			Males	Females									
1	Samuel Hardwick	Head	39		Married				11	2	2	0	Head Gardener
2	Blanche Ann Mauds Hardwick	Wife		39	Married								
3	Muriel Emily Hardwick	Daughter		10									School
4	Alice May Hardwick	Daughter		9									
5													
6	Minnie Beatrice Thomas	Boarder		36	Single								Certificated Mistress

Images of census records reproduced with kind permission of the National Archive

## Parish Registers

Parish Registers are records of baptisms, marriages, and burials made by the Church. Parishes were first ordered to keep records in 1538, but many early ones haven't survived.

The **Dunster Burial Register** records the burial of **Henry Harris** on **14 March 1842**, aged 75 years.

The year before in the census he was said to be 77 - such discrepancies are not unusual! This is the first mention of Henry or Rebecca in the Dunster registers. Rebecca said in the 1861 census that she was born in Devon.

*Apologies must be given at this point in the proceedings. We did intend to include some actual images from the Parish Registers, but didn't appreciate the process involved to get permission to do that – in short, we left it too late. So instead there will be information from transcripts – which at least has the merit of being more legible!*

In Dunster we are very lucky to have an almost complete set from 1560 onwards, though with some gaps in the mid 17thC. The registers are now in the care of Somerset Heritage Centre.

Invaluable for family historians, these records are less useful for house history, because they rarely give any location information – but they do help piece the stories together.

We looked in the **Dunster Baptism and Marriage Registers** to find out about Sarah Dunn and young John – were they related to Henry or Rebecca? – apparently not. **John** was baptised in Dunster on **17 May 1840**, son of Benjamin and Sarah, he a plumber. And in the **marriage** register we found the marriage of **Benjamin Dunn** and **Sarah Strong** on **7 Feb 1838**.

Further investigation revealed that Benjamin was from Wiveliscombe, and Sarah was a from the Strong family of Dunster, who we'll meet again in another case study.

## Land Tax

Land Tax was introduced in 1692, and stayed in effect until 1963. Until 1833 collection of the Tax was organised at county and parish level by local administrators, and was used to determine who had the right to vote as well as raising revenue.

The annual **Dunster Land Tax Assessments** from 1780 to 1833 (with a few gaps) are public records held at Somerset Heritage Centre. They provide us with a list of owners (copy holders as well as freeholders) of property, and, in theory, the names of the occupiers – though it's clear that sometimes main tenants rather than actual occupants were listed.

This useful and systematic bridge into pre-census years is not without problems! Descriptions of properties are brief and not consistent from year to year. Properties are frequently named simply as "a house" or "Late xxx's" (where "x" is a previous occupier, though not necessarily the last one). Sometimes the only link from one year to the next is the amount of tax assessed...

Name of Occupier	of Estates or Property	Exonerated	not Exonerated
George Talbot	late Mitchells	" " " "	9 "
Mary Lettice	late Peter Nichols	" " " "	12 "
Himself	Ingrove Trill	" " " "	2 "
William Harpur	Arable Garden	" " " "	2 "
Mrs Penelope	late Proudch	" " " "	14 10
do	late Stronge	" " " "	9 6
M <sup>r</sup> Prentice	late Turners	" " " "	19 10
Th <sup>r</sup> Pitt	a Field	" " " "	5 "
Th <sup>r</sup> Cahoon	Downy Blakes	" " " "	4 6
do	"	" " " "	2 6
do	"	" " " "	5 "
do	"	" " " "	10 "
do	"	" " " "	" "
do	"	" " " "	9 "
John Sneyd	Doonpoo	" " " "	1 12 9
John Wood	late Bradleys	" " " "	1 7 9
Henry Scarr	a House	" " " "	8 6
Himself	Withine Garden	" " " "	7 6
Rob <sup>t</sup> Wrayley	late Perrins	" " " "	10 11
Rob <sup>t</sup> Harvey	Wrights Close	" " " "	6 10
Th <sup>r</sup> Hills	late Anthony	" " " "	12 8

In this extract from a page in the 1833 Land Tax Assessment, Henry Harris has to pay 8s 6d tax for "a House"

## Land Tax continued

To help us find a path through this mass of data, we have transcribed all the Dunster Land Tax records onto a big spreadsheet, so that we can piece together information by person(s) or properties. Here's what we find for Henry Harris:

Dunster Land Tax Transcription - Henry Harris								
year	FreeholderSN	FreeholderF	OccupierSN	OccupierFN	Premises	£	s	d
1827	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a House		8	6
1828	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a House		8	6
1829	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a Field		5	0
1829	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a House		8	6
1830	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a Field		5	0
1830	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a House		8	6
1831	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a Field		5	0
1831	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a House		8	6
1832	Hole	Thomas	Harris	Henery	Orchard Tenement		12	3
1832	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Mr	a House		8	6
1833	Hole	Tho.	Harris	Henery	Orchard Tenement		12	3
1833	Luttrell	J.F. Esq.	Harris	Henery	a House		8	6

We can see from this that a Mr Harris (or "Henery") occupied a house taxed at 8s 6d from 1827 to 1833. Though it's fairly likely, we can't be 100% sure that this refers to the house in Church Street that he occupied in 1841 – we still need a little bit more evidence...

*The Land Tax records also show us that Henry rented "a field" from Mr Luttrell from 1829 to 1832, and then a larger piece of land (judging by the tax payable) "Orchard Tenement" from Thomas Hole in 1832/3 – which the Tithe Assessment shows he was still renting in 1842. But that land was only just over an acre, so we're short of the 9 acres Rebecca laid proud claim to in the census in 1861.*

*The answer to that is also in the Tithe Assessment – field 587, 7½ acres of meadow in the manor of Avill (and so not in the Dunster Land Tax) let to Henry Harris by Sir Thomas Acland.*

## Case Study no 1 – the story so far

Two bits of related evidence from different sources make us fairly certain that Henry Harris did live in this house in Church Street from 1827 – first, a recommendation in 1824 by the Turnpike Trust to make alterations to the house, and second, the unexpected discovery in a House of Commons report that Henry was in fact Surveyor to that Turnpike Trust (a bit of idle googling sometimes pays dividends).

And that is as far as we can go at the moment with the history of this house. We can't yet trace it further back in the Land Tax – the tax payable probably changed when the house was altered. But maybe, as we fill in some other bits of the jigsaw, more will be revealed...

*In 1824 a 'Report on the State of the Turnpike Road from Minehead to Bampton' made several recommendations, including that Rattle Row Hill should be improved and widened and the old buildings blocking the High Street be removed.*

*Another specific recommendation was to "take down the projecting quoin against the house opposite church where the road is only 13ft wide and remove adjoining garden hedge", and we know for certain this relates to 9 Church Street, on the corner as it turns towards West Street.*

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

**TURNPIKE TRUSTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1835.** 75

**COUNTY OF SOMERSET.**

NAMES OF TRUSTS.	Names of Treasurers.	Names and Addresses of Clerks.	Names of Surveyors.
Mactock and South Petherbert	Vincent Stackey, James Daniell	John Nicholletts, South Petherbert	Nathaniel F. Thomas.
Minehead and Bampton Roads	Thomas Hawkes	R. Leigh and Warden, Barden, near Dunster	Henry Harris.
Radstock (two Districts)	Hobhouse & Co.	Thomas Miles, Stan Easton	Thomas Halliwell, John Vowles.
Shepton Mallet	Joseph Carey	Ar. C. Phipps, Shepton Mallet	W. L. Maudslayi
Taunton	James Penny	William Kinglake, Taunton	Robert N. Christmas.
Wedmore	Richard Woodland	Robert Tucker, Ashcott	William Edwards.
Wells	Henry Hope	Thomas C. Robins, Wells	George L. Miller.

## Case Study 2 – premises in the High Street

This is now **Reeves Restaurant**. The outline plan of the building now appears quite different from 1843 – it looks as though there used to be an inner courtyard. But once we take a bearing on what is now the Post Office, and what used to be a Malt House (now the Memorial Hall) opposite, it's very clear that the frontage of the premises now is the same as the former **Red Lion Inn**, occupied by Robert Withycombe in 1842 according to the Tithe list.



*Tithe Apportionment List: Field 9*

*Owner: Luttrell, John Fownes Esq.*

*Occupier: Robert Withycombe*

*Name: Red Lion Inn & Garden*

*Acreage: 0a 0r 16p*

*Field 10, adjacent to the Red Lion, is listed as a garden in 1843, and probably the site of a former dwelling. The Charity School (now Lockes tea-room) was built on this site in 1846.*



## 1841 Census

We find Robert Withycombe living in Dunster High Street in the 1841 census, but, unexpectedly, his occupation is recorded as “butcher”, and not “innkeeper” as we might expect if he’s living at the Red Lion.

Unfortunately, unlike the Tithe Apportionment, the 1841 Dunster Census doesn’t always follow up and down each side of the road in an orderly fashion, the enumerator seems to criss-cross.

So although we see many of the same names here, we can’t use them for points of reference to confirm locations. (The 1851 census is much the same – it seems completely random in some cases!)

*Parish of Dunster*

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Within Bore in same County	Within Bore in other County, or Foreign Part
High Street			William Withycombe	20		Butcher		
			Ann Withycombe	45				
			Thomas Lovell	12				
			Robert Withycombe	12				
			Ann Withycombe	10				
			Elizabeth Withycombe	8				
			Thomas Lovell	6				
			Robert Withycombe	4				
			Ann Withycombe	2				
			Thomas Lovell	2				
			Edward Withycombe	12				
			Robert Withycombe	10				
			Thomas Lovell	8				
			William Withycombe	6				
			Thomas Lovell	4				
			William Withycombe	2				
			Thomas Lovell	2				
			William Withycombe	2				
			Thomas Lovell	2				

*Robert seems to be running quite a large household. With him are Ann Withycombe, aged 45, presumably his wife, four children aged between 12 and 2, an apprentice butcher, Thomas Lovell, and three living-in servants – one young man, and two young women.*

## Commercial Directories

Commercial directories were first published around the beginning of the nineteenth century, to provide information about towns and localities for travellers and other visitors. They would usually include a general description of the town or area with details on local transport, churches, etc, as well as shops and businesses.

We have collated trades data for Dunster from

- The Universal British Directory 1791
- Holden’s Directory 1811
- Pigot’s Directory 1830
- Robson’s Commercial Directory 1839

gntial sum-	Warren Catherine .....	Milliner
evon. Post	Warren Samuel.....	Carpenter
om Dunster	Warren Thomas .....	Grocer
arket-day is	Webber James.....	Cabinet Maker
nit-Monday,	Withycombe Aaron.....	Wheelwright
y in Febru-	Withycombe Robert.....	Victualler. Red Lion
ember.	Wood Euzabeth .....	Victualler. George
umbent and	Wood John.....	Beer Retailer
h, dedicated	Woolcott John .....	Tailor
y VIII., and		
cles, 90 feet		
ward of the		
; it contains		

**ALCOMBE.**

Alloway & Williams...	Milliners & Dressmakers
Criddle William .....	Blacksmith

1839 Robson’s directory

TER, William Vickary, *Post Master*.—Letters from  
are despatched every morning at half-past seven.

	Mills Robert, Dunster	Geen
	Richards John, Allcombe	Green
	<b>BUTCHERS.</b>	Hawl
ad	Alloway Nathaniel, Minehead	Herd
oton	Ebery John, Minehead	Kent
	Escott Richard, Allcombe	Letty
M. P.	Strong John, Dunster	Leys
castle	Withycombe Robert, Dunster	Mork
unster	Withycombe Wm. Carhampton	Rice
court	<b>CARPENTERS.</b>	Symo
urt	Barnes William, Minehead	Tapsc
head	Fouracres James, Minehead	Taylor
	Fouracres John (& cabinet maker)	Warr
L.S.	Minehead	Willia
unster	Hole John (& paper hanger) Dunster	Withy

1830 Pigot’s directory

These two directories extracts describe Robert Withycombe as a butcher in 1830, and a victualler at the Red Lion in 1839. The truth is, he was probably both! He may have carried out his butchering trade at the Shambles, and his wife Ann may have run the inn with the help of family and servants.

So we can assume that the Red Lion was where the family lived in 1841, even though the census doesn’t list the actual address.

## 1861 Census

We find a Robert Withycombe, butcher, living at the house in 1861, but a quick look at the man's age – 27 - tells us that this a different person. In fact, he's the son of our earlier Robert, who had moved just up the street – and up in the world no doubt – to become the landlord of the Luttrell Arms.

Another thing to note, just about decipherable, is “Butcher’s Market” in the second column. The “Red Lion” is no more...

By 1871 Robert the younger had moved to Exeter, and the head of the household here was a farmer, Thomas Widlake, who employed a couple of living-in butchers, along with other staff.

Two of Robert snr's daughters were married in Dunster in the 1850s, giving us a little insight into the social mileau.

**Jane** (b.1828) married **John Rose Harvey** in 1851. He was the son of Robert Harvey, who was the miller at Dunster. John Rose died in 1847, and Jane re-married in 1869, to William Strong, a merchant from London, although born in Dunster – his father had been another Dunster butcher.

**Elizabeth** (b.1831) married **William Lettley** in 1856. He was a clockmaker, like his father James Lettley. They ran a business in the High Street, and had several other property interests.

He was a clockmaker, like his father James Lettley. They ran a business in the High Street, and had several other property interests.

123	Butcher's Market	Robert Withycombe	House	Man	27	Butcher	Mr. Withycombe
		Harriett	Wife	Woman	24		Mr. Withycombe
		Eliza	Daughter	Woman	17	House Serv	Mr. Withycombe
		Elizabeth Wood	Serv	Woman	14	Butcher's Market	Mr. Withycombe
124		Joseph King	Serv	Man	16	Butcher	Mr. Withycombe
125		Thomas Withycombe	House	Man	64	House Serv	Mr. Withycombe
126		Thomas Withycombe	Serv	Man	16	House Serv	Mr. Withycombe
127		Thomas Withycombe	House	Man	30	Butcher	Mr. Withycombe

1861 Census – Dunster High Street- Images of census records reproduced with kind permission of the National Archive

## Land Tax

We have a bit of a picture now about what happened here from 1840's onwards. Let's see if we can go back in time. The **Red Lion** was consistently recorded in the Land Tax records from 1780 to 1833. The owner throughout was John Fownes Luttrell, so let's just take a look at a summary of the occupiers:

Dunster Land Tax Transcription - <b>The Red Lion</b> - summary of occupiers							
from	to	OccupierSN	OccupierFN	Premises	£	s	d
1781	1793	Rawle	Mary	for the Red Lyon Inn		11	8
1794	1796	Rawle	Mary	Dwelling House ye Red Lyon Inn		11	11
1797	1814	Rawle	Mary	Red Lyon		11	11
1815	1820	Morkham	Thomas	Red Lion		11	11
1821	1831	Daw	John	Red Lion		11	11
1832	1833	Withycombe	Robt.	Red Lion		11	11

Though Mary Rawle's occupation was continuous for at least 33 years, separating out the property descriptions like this shows that from 1794 to 1796 it may have not been an inn, and it's not clear when it became one again. But in the parish registers we find that Thomas Morkham was described as an "Inn-holder" when his son was baptised in 1815 – we'll meet him again in another case study....

### *Who was Mary Rawle?*

*In the **Burial Register** there is a **Mary Rawle** who died in **1807**, aged 82, and we shouldn't necessarily dismiss her, because if the place was left empty after she died (and we'll see later how that might have been the case) then her name may have been rolled forward as the "occupier". If it was her, she may have been the unmarried daughter of Henry Rawle, and born in 1723.*

*There was also a **Mary Rawle** buried in **1823**, aged 64, but if it was her then she would only have been about 20 in 1781.*

*It's probably one of things we'll never know, and may not matter anyway, but it's always satisfying to tie up loose ends!*

## Deeds, Leases and Wills etc.

To investigate house history further back than Land Tax, we mostly have to delve into individual deeds, leases, and estate management documents.

Wills can also sometimes be useful, though they may not specify actual properties.

The Somerset Heritage Centre has a veritable treasure trove of Luttrell Estate papers (and others of course!) and an excellent online searchable catalogue.

But trying to unpick the history of a particular house is not for the faint-hearted! There was no such thing as what we understand now as an “address”.

Properties were frequently identified simply by reference to who lived next door (in contrast to the Land Tax, where who lived there *before* was the norm...). And some dwellings were always directly managed by the estate, so identifying them individually may prove to be impossible.

But the **Red Lion** is identifiable in some earlier deeds and leases and so on – let’s take a look at a few...

The screenshot shows the homepage of the South West Heritage Trust Somerset Archive Catalogue. At the top left is the logo for the South West Heritage Trust. The main heading is "SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST: Somerset Archive Catalogue". Below this is an important notice regarding COVID-19 and research/copying services. A navigation menu includes Home, Search, Browse collections, Featured collections, Indexes, Research guides, and Help. The central search area is titled "SEARCH THE CATALOGUE" and features a search input field with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search field are radio button options for search criteria: "Match all words (unless other operators are present)" (selected), "Match any of the words", and "Words appear together as a phrase". There is also a link to "Or break your search further using Search With or Advanced search". Below the search area is a note: "This catalogue contains collections held at Somerset Heritage Centre and Bath Record Office". The page is divided into four sections: "BROWSE COLLECTIONS" with an image of books and a magnifying glass, "FEATURED COLLECTIONS" with an image of two men in historical attire, "INDEXES" with an image of a magnifying glass over a document, and "RESEARCH GUIDES" with an image of a book cover.

Some *Red Lion* references in the Records Archive at Somerset Heritage Centre

**Dunster deed. 29 April 1652**

Lease between George Luttrell of Dunster and Jeremiah Spurrier of Dunster, feltmaker .... of a shop or warehouse at the south end of Shambles Row, Dunster, the **Red Lion** east and George Mitchell's shop west. Rent 40s

*SHC Ref : DD/L/P/15/47*

This is the earliest reference to **Red Lion** that we have found so far in the archives, and it's an indirect reference at that, using the Red Lion and George Mitchell's shop to locate the property Jeremiah Spurrier is leasing.

This illustrates the problem of location in these leases. In this case, we're pretty sure we know where the Red Lion was, but we don't know where George Mitchell's shop was – the east and west references crop up frequently and are really confusing! Surely they knew that the High Street runs north to south...

But we're not researching Jeremiah Spurrier at the moment, and at least here is evidence of the **Red Lion** being established somewhere near the Shambles by 1652, so this is useful.

**Justices' licence. 29 Sep 1854**

For the **Red Lion Inn**, to Robert Withycombe for one year.

*SHC Ref : DD/L/1/30/29/5*

And this seems to be the last reference to the **Red Lion** – the fact that it's a licence for one year might mean that it was the last time Robert ran this as a licenced premises, before his son took it over completely as a butchers.

**The Red Lion Inn: notice to repair premises 10/12 Sep 1814** from John Fownes Luttrell to the Exors of George Allercott dec'd.

*SHC Ref: DD/L/1/30/29/4*

But this one is curious – remember that the Land Tax said Mary Rawle was the occupant in 1814, and had been for the previous 33 years. So where does George Allercott, deceased, fit in?

## Wills and Probate Inventories

We're all familiar with wills, but probate inventories may need a word of explanation - From 1530 to 1782 every executor of a will or administrator of a grant had to provide an inventory of the deceased's goods, together with their value. The inventories were often compiled or 'appraised' by reputable neighbours, and give a fascinating insight into the life of the person. They often go into great detail, recording the furniture and personal possessions in each room in the person's house, as well as listing items in workshops, shops and farmyards. For tradesmen and farmers, this may include details of the deceased person's stock-in-trade and livestock.

Quite a number of probate inventories from Dunster have survived, and some of them – including Silvester's - are explored in one of the other presentations in our exhibition –

### Dunster Inventories

The **Will of Silvester Allercott**, who was buried in Dunster on 6 Nov. 1669 makes provision for his wife, sons, daughters and grandchildren.

To his son Silvester he gave £20 for life, and 'other things already arranged for him'. He also gets **goods and household stuff in a certayne house called the Red Lyon...**

Amongst his goods in the **Probate Inventory** (which seems to refer to four separate dwellings) are included

- In the fore chamber in the **Redd Lyon**
  - one feather bed and standing bedstead with curtains and walling
- 3 hogsheads, 3 barrells and ?trende
- one wort trough, three brewing vats,
- 7 flagons and 7 pewter dishes
- and so on....

**SHC Ref : DD/L/2/31/2**

From tracing the family in the Parish Registers we know that that **George** was **Silvester Allercott's great-grandson**

### Two more leases in the Records Archive

#### The Red Lion Inn: 29 Sep 1751

Lease between John Poyntz gent and George Allercott innholder.

*SHC Ref : DD/L/1/30/29/1*

#### The Red Lion Inn: Lease for three lives and 99 years. 29 Sep 1769

Lease between Henry Fownes Luttrell and George Allercott innholder.

*SHC Ref : DD/L/1/30/29/2*

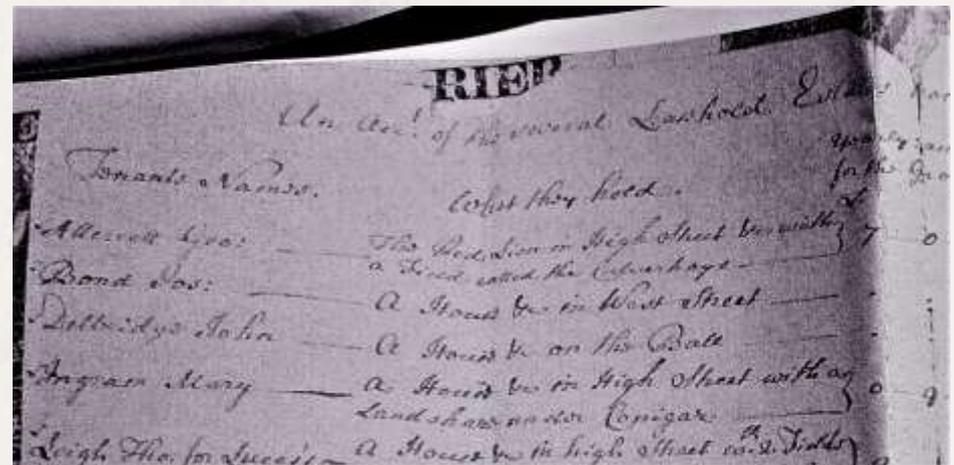
**George Allercott** was buried in Dunster in 1783, aged 60. His was an old Dunster family – the burial of Agnes Allercott, in 1566, is one of the earliest entries in the Registers.

But George was the last of them, sole surviving son of **Robert Allercott**. He married **Frances Wilkins** in 1748, but she died a year later, and there were no children. He didn't re-marry.

George's elder brother **William** died around the same time – that may explain the grant of the lease to George in 1751.

The lease granted in 1751 by John Poyntz sheds a lot of new light. The Poyntz family held the copyhold for a large number of burgage tenements in Dunster. The history of how they acquired the leases implies that the **Red Lion** is very old – but that will have to be a story for another day! They sold all their interest to Henry Fownes Luttrell in 1760.

The image below is an extract from an inventory of their properties just prior to the sale – *Allercott Geo: The Red Lion* is the first entry .



Poyntz Property Inventory 1759 SHC Ref : DD/L/1/30/29/2

## Case Study no 2 – the story so far

The evidence so far is shaping up into a fairly coherent story – an old burgage tenement leased by the Poyntz family to the Allercotts from at least the mid 17thC... Mary Rawle perhaps an old retainer who lived on in the Red Lion after George Allercott died... the property falling into disrepair while his executors sorted out his estate. And then a change in fortune in the 19thC, particularly during the Withycombe tenure, with the old inn becoming a prosperous butcher's business.

*But there are a couple of queries to resolve!*

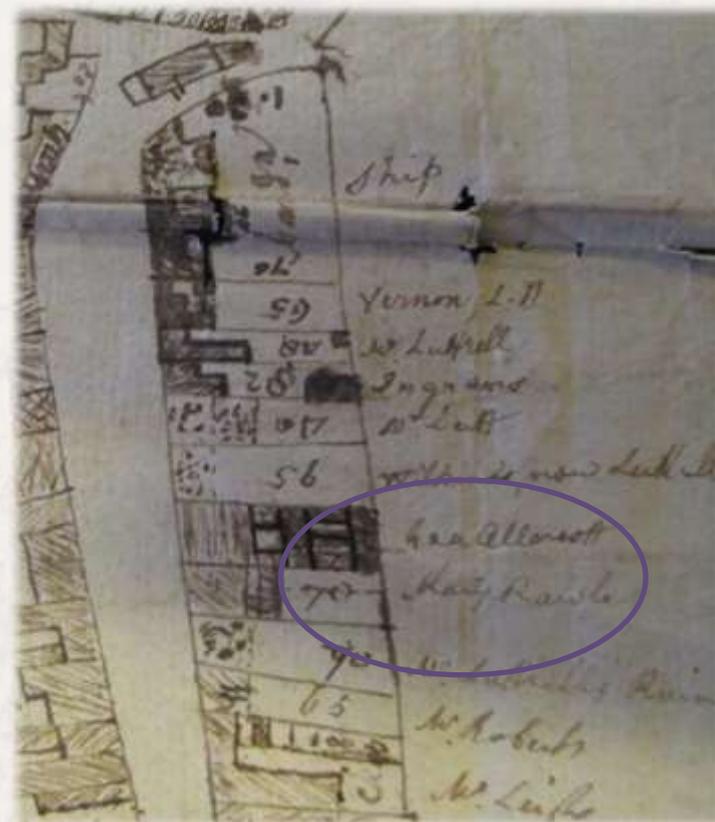
This sketch map of part of the High Street c.1775 clearly says **Mary Rawle** north of *Mr Luttrells Ruins* (site of the Charity School built in 1846). But north of Mary, by the next property (no.8 on the Tithe Map), it says **Geo. Allercott** ....

And then there's this lease, from 1618 – which doesn't fit at all with the Poyntz connection....

*Perhaps the Allercotts owned both properties?*

*Or have we been barking up the wrong tree ...?*

*Case Study no 4 may have the answer...*



Sketch Map of Dunster c.1775 SHC Ref : DD/L/1/10/35A/8

### Grant of message on the Market Cross. 20 Mar 1618

Lease between Sir Nicholas Halswell Kt of Halswell in Goathurst and Silvester Allercott the younger of Dunster, fuller.

**SHC Ref : D/L/1/23/1b/17**

### Case Study 3 – a house in West Street

Some of the oldest properties still standing in the village are in West Street, but there have been multiple changes in boundaries and buildings over the centuries. One thing that is consistent between 1843 and now is the slightly curved boundary at the north of plot 85. Once we orientate on that



we can see that what is now 11 West St was probably two separate dwellings in 1843 – fields 133 and 135 on the Tithe Map.



*Tithe Apportionment:* **Field 135**

*Owner:* **Morkham, Thomas**

*Occupier:* **Morkham, Thomas**

*Name:* **House & Garden**

*Acreage:* 0a 0r 4p

*Nb – there was no 'field 134'!*

*Tithe Apportionment :* **Field 133**

*Owner:* **Morkham, Mary**

*Occupier:* **Morkham, Mary**

*Name:* **House & Garden**

*Acreage:* 0a 0r 22p

*Although Thomas and Mary Morkham were described as "owners", they were copyholders (a type of lease-hold), not freeholders.*

*The type of tenure they had indicates that this was originally a **burgage plot**.*

## 1841 Census...

In this extract from the 1841 census for West St., we find Thomas Morkham, a tailor, with Mary and four children, in one house, and next door, another Mary Morkham ("ditto") of independent means.

Thomas and Mary are both listed here as aged 60, but the 1841 enumerators were told to round down the ages of adults to the lower multiple of 5 (advice they didn't always follow...).

The Dunster baptism register tells us:

Thomas Morkham, son of Thomas & Ann, was baptised 7 Dec 1775

Mary Morkham, dtr of Thomas & Ann was baptised 9 Mar 1780.

*We've met **Thomas Morkham** before, in Case Study no 2 – he was inn-keeper at the **Red Lion** from 1815 to 1821. But as we'll see here, this is undoubtedly the house where was born, and where he lived from 1821.*

	Mary Morkham	50	Indep <sup>d</sup>
90	Thomas Morkham	60	Taylor
	Mary Morkham	50	
	Henry Morkham	20	Apprentice
	William Morkham	15	Shoemaker
	Jane Morkham	15	
	John Morkham	12	
90	Mary Morkham	60	Indep <sup>d</sup>
TOTAL in 2		5	15 10
Page 10			

Image of 1841 census record reproduced with kind permission of the National Archive

The will of Thomas and Mary's father sheds some light:

### Extract from Last Will & Testament of Thomas Morkham, died 1836

I do Will and Bequeath to my son Thomas Morkham all that Freehold Dwelling House and small Garden together with half of the Upper Garden wherein he now lives for his own use situate in West Street Dunster, also I will to my Daughter Mary Morkham all that Freehold House, Wash house and Stable (with usual right of Passage to them from the Street) and the other part of the Upper Garden ...for her use during her life and after her death for the use of my son Thomas Morkham and his heirs for ever...

Somerset Heritage Centre ref DD/L/2/34/9

**...and thereafter**

Thomas Morkham and his sister Mary both died in the 1840's, and there followed a period of upheaval for the family.

Mary, the wife of Thomas, was still living in West Street in 1851 and 1861, but it's not at all clear that she was still living in the same house – almost certainly not in 1861.

But wherever Mary was in 1851, she certainly had a houseful! As well as her three unmarried children still living at home, her married daughters Frances and Sarah were visiting with their families.

West St	Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation
	Mary Morkham	Wife	34	Baker
	Henry	Son	10	Sabouzer
	Margaret	Daughter	24	Saddler
	John	Son	20	Schalar
	Francis Suffer	Visitor	32	Agent
	Emma	Daughter	5	
	Charles	Son	12	
	Alfred	Son	4	
	George	Son	19	
	Sarah Taylor	Daughter	24	
	Jane	Daughter	5	

Under the **Will of Thomas Morkham** d. 1845, the property inhabited by his sister Mary was to be sold after her death, and the proceeds divided amongst his seven children. (SHC DD/L/2/34/9)

But an **Indenture** dated Nov 1850 (SHC DD/L/1/24/8/22) shows that Mary and her children sold all their interest both properties to John Fownes Luttrell for £300. Note that the Luttrell family did already own the freehold - what the Morkhams sold was their copyhold rights, their life interest and the right to pass the property on to their heirs.

*In the early 1850s four of Thomas and Mary's seven children emigrated to Australia. Her daughters Frances & Sarah stayed in England, as did son Henry, who never married, and worked in Dunster as a farm labourer. Mary died in Broadhembury, Devon, in 1868, where her daughter Sarah was then living, but she was brought back to Dunster to be buried.*

## Searching further into the past

There are three generations of Thomas Morkhams to get to grips with here, so we did a bit of work on the family tree to make sense of it - the chart on the right shows the main events. It's of passing interest that none of these men married local women!

The **Land Tax** for one of the properties is straightforward - owned and occupied throughout from 1781 to 1833 by **Thomas Morkham** – “his dwelling house in West Street” - though from 1817, the designation was **Tho. Morkham Snr.**, i.e. Thomas(2). The tax payable for that house was 4s 5d.

The other property was let to tenants for part of the time, and it's only in 1821, after leaving the Red Lion, that **Thos. Morkham Jnr** is listed as the occupier. The tax payable for that one was 4s 9d.

What's not yet clear is which of these properties is which in relation to 'fields' 133 & 135 on the Tithe Map.

The '4/9d' property is described on some of the Land Tax records as “*part of Halls*” i.e. the former Hall's tenement, which was a Poyntz family burgage - a current line of enquiry!

Some MORKHAM records in Dunster Parish Registers & elsewhere		
1711?	Baptism	Thomas(1) – this is unclear, could be 1700
1739	Marriage	Thomas Morkham(1) & Ann Cossin married in Bristol
1744	Baptism	Thomas(2) son of Thomas(1)
1767	Marriage	Thomas Morkham(2) & Ann Byrne m. in Westminster
1773	Burial	Thomas (1)
1775	Baptism	Thomas(3) son of Thomas(2) & Ann
1780	Baptism	Mary dtr of Thomas(2) & Ann
1796	Burial	Ann probably wife of Thomas (1)
1814	Burial	Ann aged 59, wife of Thomas(2)
1814	Marriage	Thomas(3) & Mary Ford in London
1815 to 1829 - baptism of Thomas(3) & Mary's seven children		
1836	Burial	Thomas(2) aged 91
1844	Burial	Mary aged 65 - unmarried dtr
1845	Burial	Thomas(3) age 69
1869	Burial	Mary aged 78 - wife of Thomas (2)

### Dunster Land Tax Transcription - part of Halls owned by Thomas Morkham

from	to	Occupier
1781	1782	Thos. Morkham
1783	1800	Susanna Bryant
1801	1805	Veysey/Prideaux
1806	1814	Thos. Morkham
1815	1821	several tenants
1821	1833	<b>Thos. Morkham Jnr.</b>

## Occupations

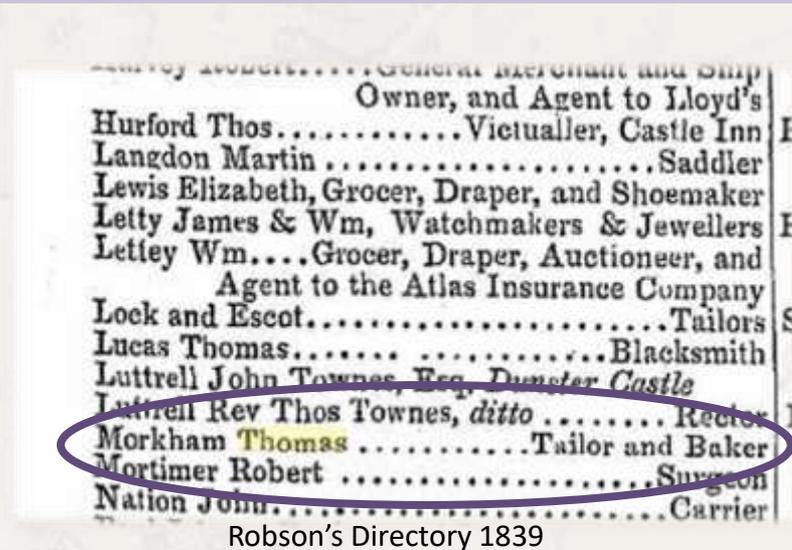
The Morkham family feature in some Dunster Commercial Directory entries:

Some Dunster Commercial Directory entries			
Universal	1791	Thomas Morcombe	Taylor
Holden's	1811	Thomas Markham	Tailor
Pigot's	1830	Thomas Morkham	Shopkeeper & stamp distributor
Pigot's	1830	Thomas Morkham Jnr	Tailor
Robson's	1839	Thomas Morkham	Tailor & Baker

## Apprentices and Masters

From 1710 to 1811 Masters paid a stamp duty when they took on an Apprentice. Details were recorded in **Apprenticeship Books**, which are now held at the National Archive – including some from Dunster – and from this we learn that the elder Thomas Markham, the one who died in 1773, unlike his son and grandson, was in fact a cordwainer.

The Luttrell Estate Accounts include receipts for both shoes and clothing made by the Morkhams for the Luttrell servants in the 18th and early 19th centuries. (SHC refs DD/L/2/47/16 & DD/L/1/4/13)



*Tailor & Baker seem an unlikely combination of trades, but there was a big bread oven in one of the outbuildings, and the widowed Mary Morkham gave her occupation as baker in the 1851 census.*

	Master	Trade	Apprentice
1744	Thos Morkham	Cordwainer	Will Plaisway
1748	Thos Markham	Cordwainer	Thos Healman
1748	Thos Markham	Cordwainer	Frans Wilkins
1754	Thos Markham	Cordwainer	Jos Reed
1758	Thomas Morkham	Cordwainer	John Vicary
1775	Tho Morkham	Tailor	Francis Spurrier

Some Dunster Masters and Apprentices  
National Archives, Board of Stamps: Apprenticeship Books

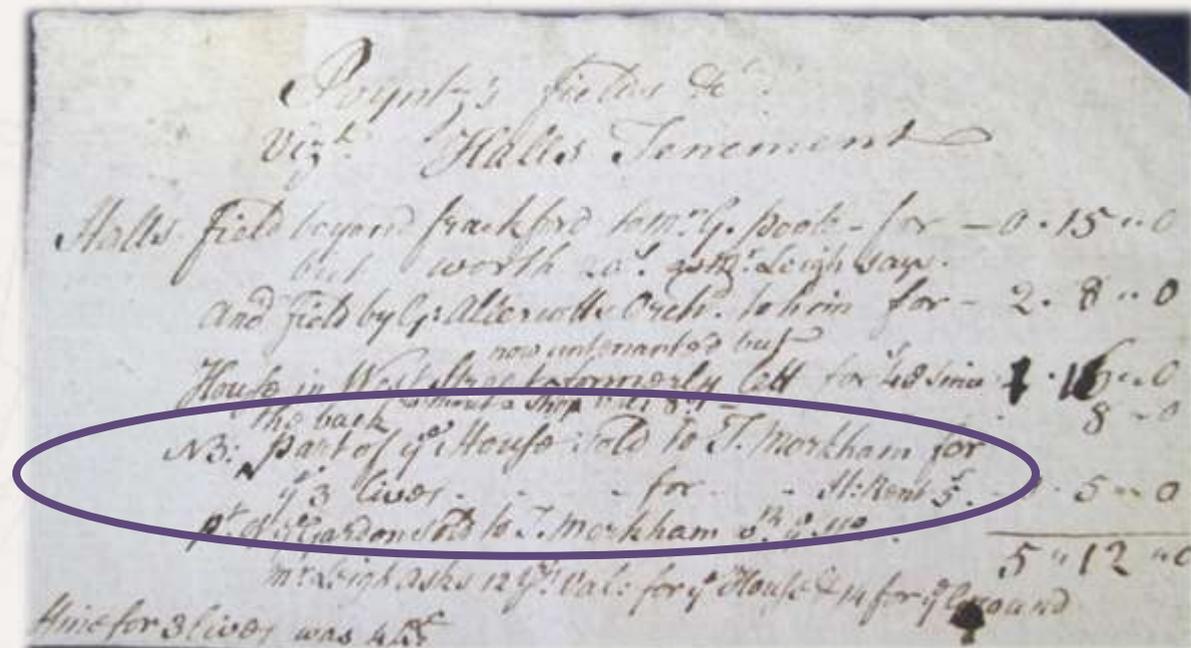
## Case History 3

### – the story so far

We have made good progress with getting to know the Morkham family, who lived in the property from at least 1760, and possibly well before that.

But there is still work to be done to understand more about 'Halls Tenement', and the way the Morkhams acquired the property

This little scrap of a document from the Poyntz records (SHC Ref: DD/L/1/28/23/1) tells us that “back part” of Halls Tenement was sold for 3 lives to Thomas Morkham in 1760, but we don't know what is meant by “back part”, how it relates to the division of the property in the Tithe Map, and how or when they acquired the other part - but a couple of documents that we haven't looked at yet should be useful. Time to book another visit to the Records Office!



#### Deed of Feoffment of messuage in West Street. 23 Jan 1759

Between Ilett Kent of Porlock widow & Thomas Markham of Dunster cordwainer.

SHC Ref : DD/L/1/24/6/5

#### Lease for one year of Hall's House in West Street [*formerly Poyntz, rooms specified*], 24 Mar 1763

Between Henry Fownes Luttrell and Thomas Markham of Dunster cordwainer

SHC Ref : DD/L/1/24/6/16

## Case Study 4 – two houses in Marsh Street

It comes as a surprise to learn that these two attached houses were once one dwelling. The Early Dunster Project Survey has shown that an internal wall is common to both, and would originally have been the back wall of a large 16<sup>th</sup>C hall house. In 1843 it was occupied by a single family. The stone part was rebuilt in 1858, as a separate dwelling.

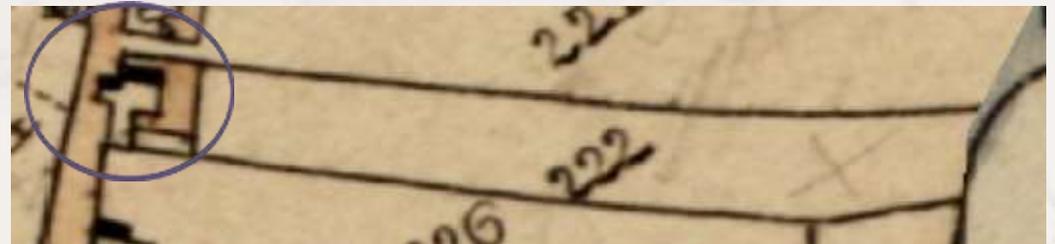
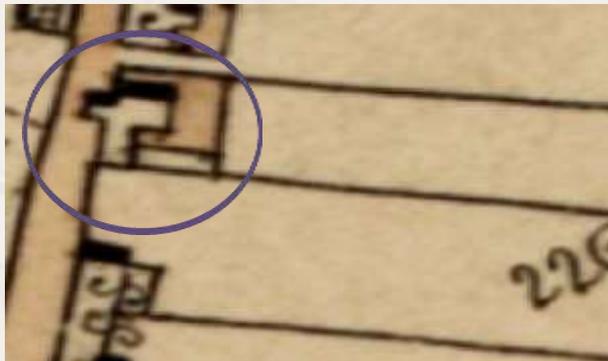


*Tithe Apportionment List: Field 222*  
 Owner: **Luttrell, John Fownes Esq.**  
 Occupier: **William Harrison**  
 Name: **House, Garden etc**  
 Acreage: 0a 3r 17p



Carpenter's mark on the roof timbers of the newer house

*In 1843 the garden of the property was about 250m long, extending as far as the River Avill. It was possibly an orchard – there were many in this part of the village. There are now 12 houses on that land, built in the 1920s.*



## Census & Parish Records

William Harrison is listed in the 1841 census for Marsh Street, with Ann Harrison and three young children. The census also shows a Robert Passmore living in the house, either as a sub-tenant or lodger.

Williams' occupation isn't very legible on the census record, but the baptism records of his children confirm that he was a cooper.

The neighbours – the Lovells next door and the Pullens opposite - are also listed on the Tithe Apportionment. Their dwellings were demolished, and there are modern houses now on those sites.

Ann Harrison was clearly William's wife, but so far we haven't been able to trace a marriage record for them. In subsequent census records she says she was born in Minehead c. 1805, so she might have been Ann Chapman, and might have married William in Bristol in 1833.

1	William Harrison	55		
	Ann Harrison	55		
	James Harrison	20		
	George Harrison	10		
1	Thomas Lovell	50		
	Ann Lovell	50		
	John Lovell	50		
	William Lovell	50		
	Thomas Lovell	9		
	Maria Lovell	5		
1	William Harrison	55		
	Ann Harrison	55		
	Thomas Harrison	5		
	John Harrison	5		
	George Harrison	1		
	Robert Harrison	50		
1	Ann Harrison	50		
	John Harrison	50		
	John Harrison	50		

### Some HARRISON records in Dunster Parish Registers

1787	Marriage	William Harrison & Joan Brewer, he labourer
1802	Baptism	<b>William</b> son of Wm & Joan (their 7th child)
1831	Burial	William aged 68
1834	Baptism	Jane dtr of William & Ann - died in 1836
1836	Baptism	Thomas son of William & Ann, he cooper
1838	Baptism	Eliza dtr of William & Ann
1840	Baptism	George son of William & Ann
1841	Burial	Joan aged 79
1843	Baptism	William son of Wm & Ann, died aged 11 wks
1844	Baptism	Charles son of William & Ann, he cooper

### Census & Parish Records cont.

William Harrison died in 1845, aged 42. The cause of death on his death certificate was “wagon accident”.

Ann and her four children continued to live in the house. In 1861, with just Charles still at home she described herself as an “almswoman, former wife of cooper”. By then though she only occupied half of the property. The right-hand side had been rebuilt, the Tudball family living in the new part – but with Thomas Lovell the thatcher still next door. Ann died in 1883, aged 78.

*William & Ann’s children all moved away from Dunster when they were young adults:*

**Eliza** married Samuel Burgess, a tallow chandler from Minehead. They moved to Bristol, and had four sons.

**Charles** also moved to Bristol. He married Lucy Williams from Glocs., and worked as a warehouseman. They had three daughters.

**George** moved to London, married Emma Guy from Hampshire, and worked as a railway guard. They had ten children, five still living with their parents in 1911.

**Thomas**, the eldest, was apprentice to John Langdon, saddler in Dunster High Street. He married Mary Cullyford from Fitzhead, and they emigrated to the United States c.1870. They had one son. The 1910 US Census finds Thomas living in Independence, Kansas, working as a harness-maker. He died there in 1919.

Household	Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Notes
Hyber March 1	Robert Tudball	Head	45	Wagon	
	Sarah	Wife	40		
	James	Son	14	Schooler	
	Edward	Son	7		
	John	Son	4		
" 1	Ann Harrison	Head	45	Alms woman for 5 weeks of Cooper	
	Charles	Son	16	Wagon	
	Elizabeth Gould	Daughter	11	Alms woman for 4 weeks of Cooper	
" 1	Thomas Lovell	Head	46	Thatcher	
	Ann	Wife	45		

Image of 1861 census record reproduced with kind permission of the National Archive

## Searching further into the past

Although we can trace William Harrison's ancestors back for several generations in the Dunster Parish Records, they don't figure at all in other earlier records such as Land Tax and leases – William's father was a labourer, and the Harrisons were probably poor people who lived as sub-tenants or in tied farm cottages.

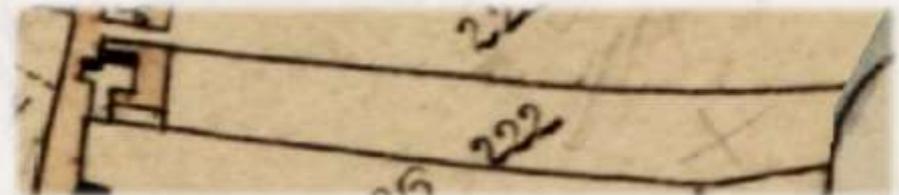
There's certainly no record to connect them with the house in Marsh Street before the 1841 census.

So we could have hit a brick wall – but this map from 1768 opened a door...

We've already met "Mr Allercott" in Case Study 2 – **George Allercott**, leaseholder of the Red Lion from 1751, sole surviving son of **Robert Allercott** and his wife **Elizabeth Strong**, and great-grandson of **Silvester Allercott**, who features in the **Dunster Inventories** presentation. We know that the family had business interests in the High Street. Can we connect them with this house in Marsh Street as well?



*This is an extract from a larger map of the Marsh area of Dunster, possibly produced when Lady Stawell inherited the Stewkley properties. Of interest to us here is the blue strip in the middle, "Mr Allercott's Land", which matches Field 222 on the Tithe Map.*

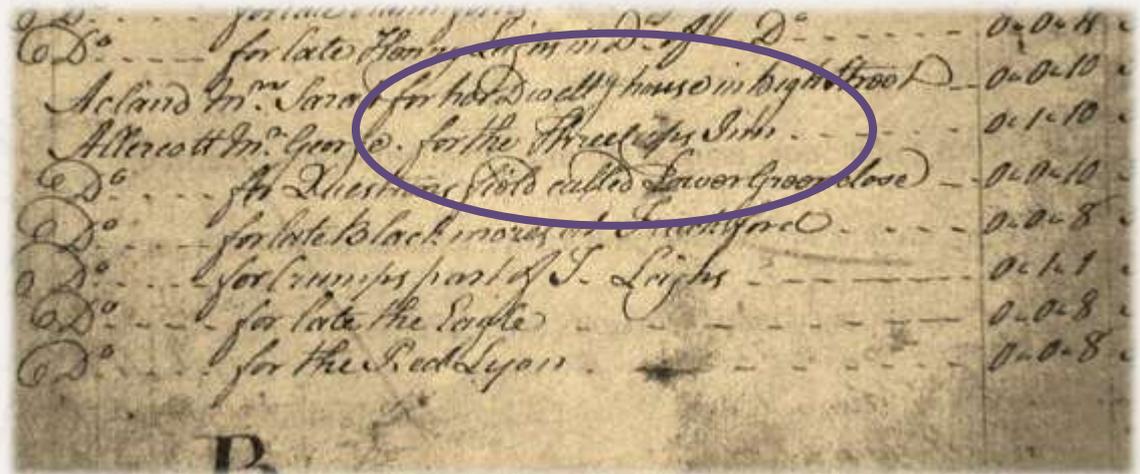


## Church Tax

George Allercott died in 1783, and we find him in the surviving Land Tax records – but it's this 1780 Church Tax record which gives the most comprehensive and legible account of his property.

The **church rate** was a tax levied parishes in England and Ireland for the benefit of the parish church. It was payable by occupiers of land and houses, the rate set by the churchwardens. It was abolished in 1868.

Intermittent records for 1714 - 1807 in Dunster are held at the Heritage Centre, and haven't yet been fully explored for their house history potential.



Extract from 1780 Dunster Church Tax. Reproduced with permission of Somerset Heritage Centre ref DD/L/1/33/47.

Starting from the bottom of the list, we already know about the **Red Lyon**. "Late the Eagle" was the **Spread Eagle Inn** in the High Street by the Yarn Market, which other records show the Allercotts leased from Lord Stawell. The three entries above that – Questions, Crumps and Blackmores – were all plots of land. It's the first entry, the "**Three Cups Inn**", that interests us here

George Allercott is listed in the early 1780s Land Tax records as both owner and occupier of the **Three Cups Inn, Orchard & house etc at ye Marsh**. The fact that he owned the property, i.e. as a copyholder, suggests that it may have been a former burgage plot. After his death, the ownership reverted to the Luttrell family.

## Land Tax

The owners and occupiers of the **Three Cups** are easily traced in Land Tax records 1781 to 1833.

**William Strong**, the occupier from 1785, was **George Allercott's** nephew and also his executor – he was son of George's half-sister Joan. He had no closer surviving family. And **Mary Hossom** was Mary Strong before her marriage – she may have

been William Strong's daughter, or his niece.

What does seem certain is that by 1794 at the latest the **Three Cups** was no longer an inn. **John Hucklebridge** also had premises in Church Street, and we know that he was a plumber/ glazier by trade.

**John Hossom** (who died in 1824) is listed in 1811 Holden's directory as a glazier, and, a bit surprisingly, Mary herself had an entry in Pigot's 1830 Directory in the '*Painters, Plumbers and Glaziers*' section – one of her daughters married Worthington Prideaux in 1829, and he was also a plumber & glazier. (Incidentally, Worthington Prideaux was born in the smaller of Thomas Morkham's houses...)

Dunster Land Tax Transcription - The Three Cups				
from	to	Owner	Occupier	Description
1781	1784	Mr Geo. Allercott		Three Cupps Inn, Orchard & house etc at ye Marsh
1785	1787	Executors of Geo.Allercott	William Strong	Three Cupps Inn etc
1788	(gap)	J.F. Luttrell	(none)	Late 3 Cupps Inn
1794	1797	J.F. Luttrell	John Hucklebridge	Late William Strong's Old 3 cups
1798	1800	J.F. Luttrell	(none)	Three Cupps
1801	1825	J.F. Luttrell	John Hossom	Three Cups
1825	1833	J.F. Luttrell	Mrs Mary Hossom	Three Cups

### Directory.

#### PAINTERS, PLUMBERS AND GLAZIERS.

Hossom Mary, Dunster  
Northcombe James, Minehead  
Rawle John & Son, Minehead  
Rawle Richard, Dunster

#### SADDLERS.

Langdon Martin, Dunster  
Withycombe William, jun. Dunster

#### SURGEONS.

Abraham Thomas, Dunster  
Gave William, Minehead

Extract from Pigot's 1830 Directory

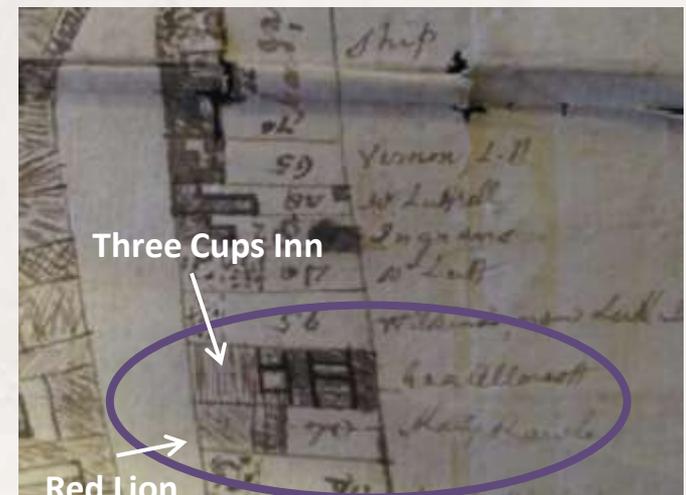
## More Church Tax, and a Deed...

So for a time we did think that this property in Marsh Street used to be the Three Cups Inn – but when the Heritage Centre re-opened, giving us access to more of the Church Tax records, we had to re-think. One entry, from 1772, implied that the Three Cups was, in fact, in the High Street.

from Dunster Parish Rate 1772		
Occupier	Description	rate
...	...	...
Acland, Sarah	for her Dwelling House <i>in High St</i>	10d
Allercott, Geo	for the Three Cups Inn etc <i>in ditto</i>	1s 10d
...	...	...

And this was confirmed when we looked at the Indenture for the sale of George Allercott's property in 1796 to the Luttrells - fairly conclusively solving the mystery from Case Study 2, with "Geo. Allercott" on the 1775 sketch map. We can locate the **Three Cups** next door to the **Red Lion** in the High Street. But the deed also refers to a Dwelling House, Orchard etc in *Foremarsh*, and it appears that, in the 18thC at least, the **Three Cups and the House etc at Marsh** were considered to be part of the same hereditament.

Extract from Indenture 1 Aug 1796 – release of property ...the said Joan Strong and William Strong do and each of them doth Bargain and sell unto the said John Fownes Luttrell....All that messuage or dwelling house lately and for many years past an Inn with the appurtenances commonly called or known by the name of the *Three Cups Inn* situate and being in High Street in Dunster aforesaid in or near the Market Place there **And Also all that messuage or Dwelling House Barn Orchard and Garden with the appurtenances situate lying and being at Foremarsh** within the parish of Dunster aforesaid containing in the whole by estimation three quarters of an acre... (SHC Ref: L/1/27/19/37)



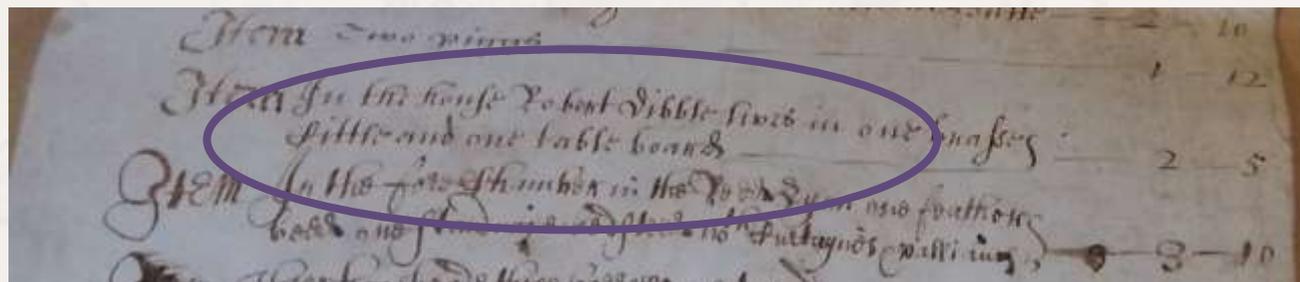
## Case study 4 – the story so far

This Case Study has been a bit like the metaphorical London bus – you wait ages pondering and then a whole army of unexpected insights come trundling towards you!

The probate inventory of Silvester Allercott who died in 1669, George Allercott's great-grandfather, is discussed in detail in the **DUNSTER INVENTORIES** presentation – if you haven't read that yet you might like to do so now. With the Red Lion, the Spread Eagle, and the Three Cups to provide for, we can see why Sylvester appeared to be brewing on "an industrial scale"!

It seems likely that the unnamed main dwelling, the one with the 30 pewter dishes etc, was probably the **Three Cups** in the High Street, and that the **dwelling in Marsh Street** might have been, at that time, the "house that Robert Dibble lives in" where Sylvester just had "one kittle and one table board".

As ever, much more to find out about, not least, what became of Silvester Allercott's bees...



With all this land etc in Marsh St, it's clear now why the Land Tax for the **Three Cups** was higher than other properties

### Land Tax 1830

Three Cups	£1/9s/8d
Red Lion	11s/11d
Henry Harris	8s/6d
Tho. Morkham Snr	4s/9d
Tho. Morkham Jnr	4s/5d

Robert Dibble's daughter Joan married Silvester Allercott's grandson – she was Robert Allercott's first wife, mother of the Joan Strong who was George Allercott's half-sister and his executrix.

## In conclusion ...

We hope that you have enjoyed these four Case Studies, and understand more about the types of records we are using to trace the House Histories - how incredibly frustrating it is at times, but not without its Eureka moments!

We also hope you enjoyed meeting the people we've encountered on the journey. They were ordinary folk who left no lasting legacies or monuments, and – as far as we know! – had no famous descendants. But their stories are still fascinating, bringing real life to the bricks and mortar, and giving us all a glimpse into what life might have been like for many of our ancestors.



John Rose Harvey  
d.1857



Robert Lettley Withycombe  
d.1858



William Harrison  
d. 1845



Thomas Morkham d.1845, buried  
with his sister Frances d.1881, and  
his wife Mary d. 1868

*“..for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.”*

George Elliot,  
Middlemarch, 1871

## Acknowledgements

This section of the exhibition was compiled by Barbara Hoffbauer in good faith, and any mistakes, copyright transgressions or whatever, and other bloomers, are her errors entirely.

Grateful thanks are due to the following:

**The owners of the properties** in the Case Studies for agreeing that their houses could be featured

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**Jill Strobridge** for indefatigable transcriptions

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## Postscript

### Extract from the will of Silvester Allercott of Dunster died 1557

... to be buried in the churchyarde of Dunster

unto the churche of Dunster xij – Wells iiijd poore iijs iiijd –

... unto Elinor my daughter ten poundes – unto Silfester my sonne vli – unto my sonne John  
vli – unto Hughe my sonne vli

– unto my daughter Elinor all my part of bees that is with Richharde Welshe of Carhampton

– unto Silfester my sonne all my part of bees that is with Robart Giles at Selworthie

– unto Hughe my sonne all my parte of bees that is with Henry Stronge at Persley

& (Residue) unto Friswey my wief – Executrix

John Holberte and John Gills overseers

(Witnesses) Willyam Welshe Richard Stronge Bartholemew Atwoode and James Peirs clarke

SHC Ref: D/SAS RF 3/3/3