

# THE ABBOT'S HOUSE. CHARMOUTH



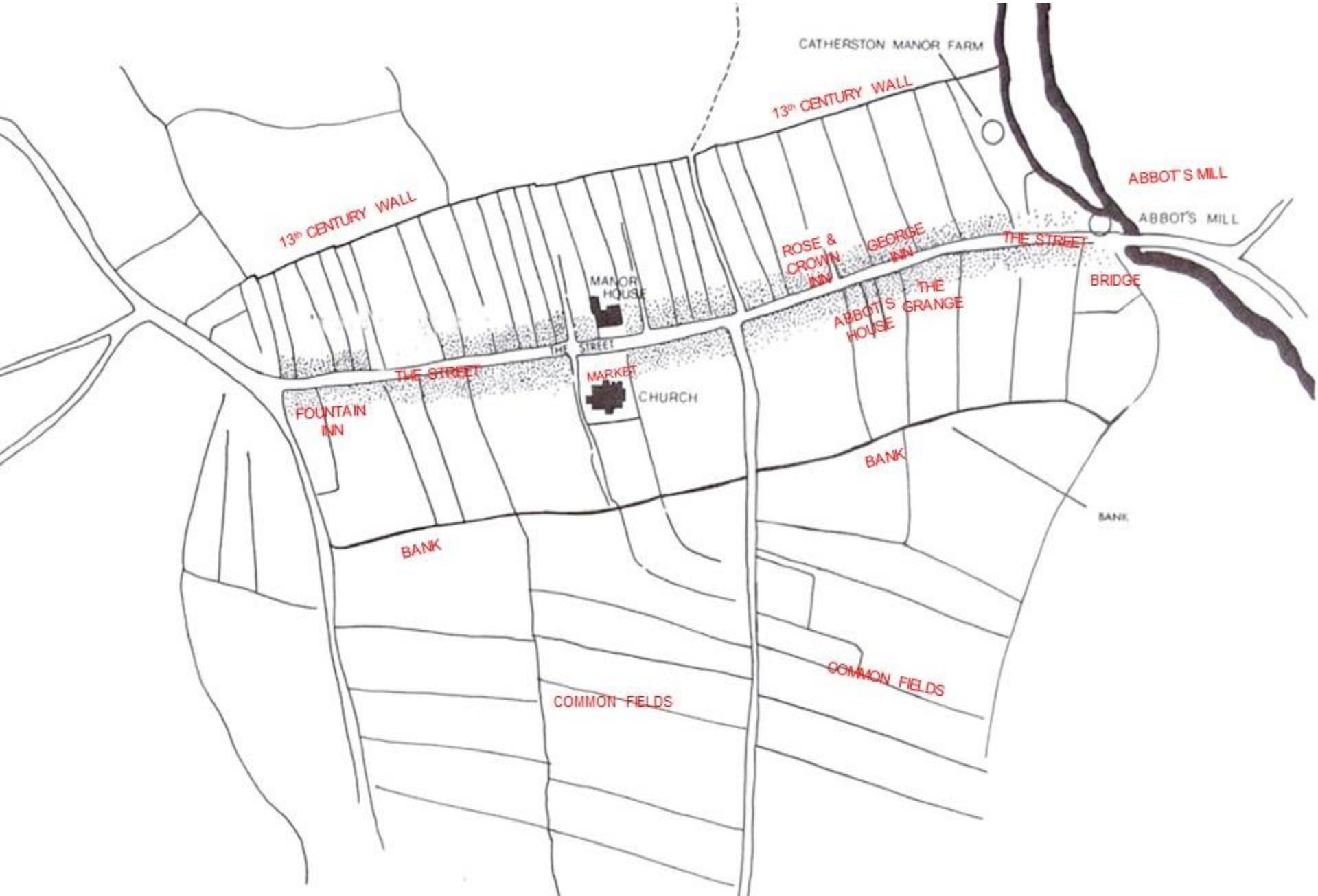
The 500 year story of Charmouth's fairest House compiled by Neil Mattingly

A Watercolour of The Queens Arms in 1827 by Thomas Carter Galpin.





Charmouth at the time of the ownership by the Abbot of Forde showing the boundary wall and bank.



# The Abbots House its association with Catherine of Aragon.



CATHERINE OF ARAGON'S CREST FOUND HIDDEN AT THE  
"QUEEN'S ARMES", CHARMOUTH, DORSET.

PHOTO BY  
NICKY, DORSET



Catherine of Aragon 1485 - 1536



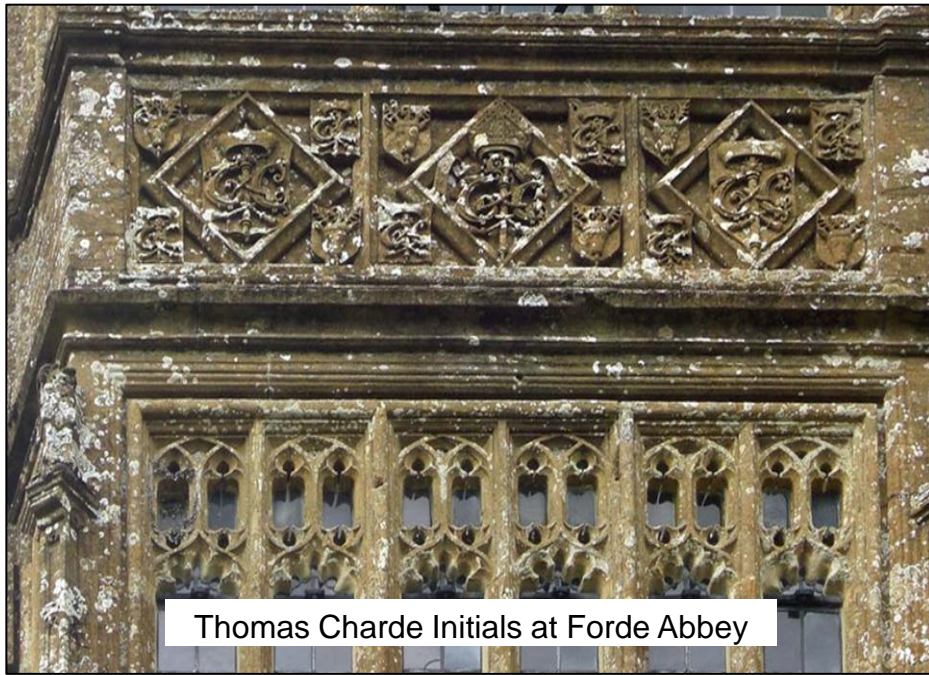
The Pomegranate and Tudor Rose



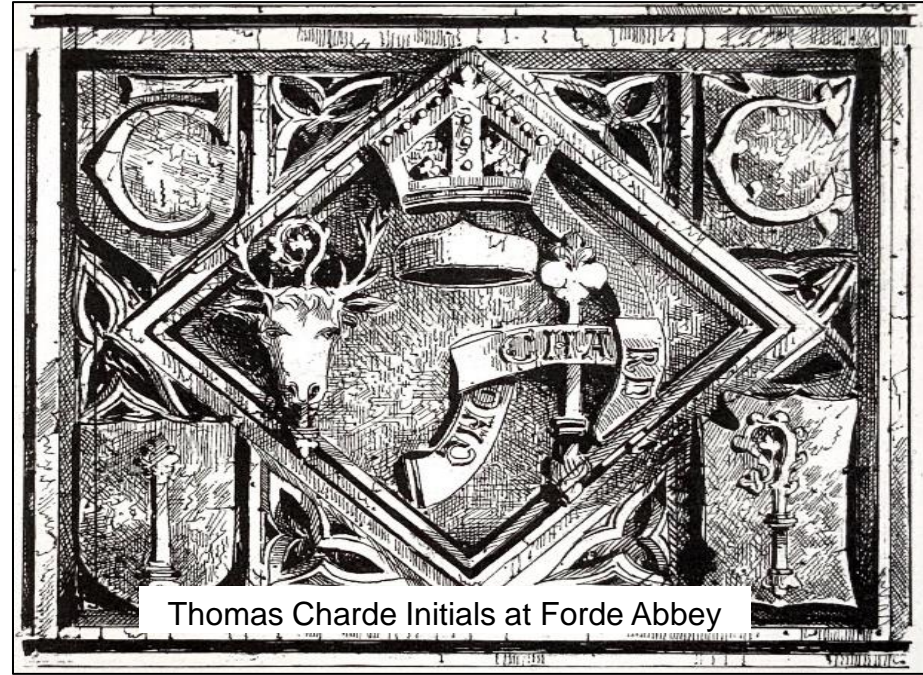
KING CHARLES II. BEDROOM, "QUEEN'S ARMES", CHARMOUTH.



The initials for Thomas Charde that can be seen on the exterior of Forde Abbey and The Abbots House.



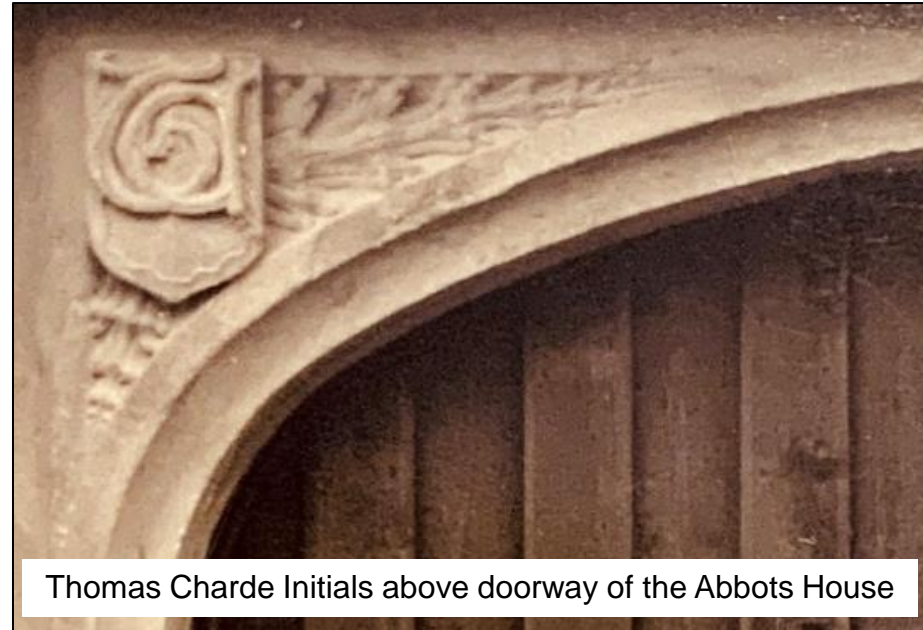
Thomas Charde Initials at Forde Abbey



Thomas Charde Initials at Forde Abbey



Thomas Chardes Gateway and Hall at Forde Abbey



Thomas Charde Initials above doorway of the Abbots House

The original entrance that was discovered by Stapleforth soon after his purchase of the Abbots House.



A Photograph of the doorway soon after it was revealed in 1930



The doorway today after recent restoration



In the name of god amen <sup>the second daye of Februarye</sup>  
 And I the said five hundred eighty eight J Roger Colwill of Charmouth in the Countie  
 of Dorset Clothier well and perfect of mynde and remembrance but sit in Godys hande be to  
 god doe make my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge first I give and  
 bequeathe my soule to almightie god my maker and redeemer And my bodye to be buried  
 Item I give and bequeathe to the Cathedral church of Bristol twelue pence Item I a  
 nd hitheunto five shillinge Item I give and bequeathe to the poore of  
 and hitheunto five shillinge Item I give and bequeathe to Nicholas my sonne and to Edith his  
 wife all that my tenement with all and singular his appurtenances sett house and berge in the  
 saide parishes and manor of Charmouth in the which William Rickett now doeth dwell for and  
 duringe the terme of four score and tenne yeeres if they or either of them shal longe doe happen  
 to live and after their decease I give and bequeathe the same tenement with all and singular  
 his saide appurtenances with all the wholl right title terme of yeeres interest and possession  
 whiche I have in the saide tenement to Roger Colwill my godson the sonne of the saide Nicholas  
 his for and duringe the wholl terme of yeeres that I have in the saide tenement Or the saide  
 Roger doe either live longer then his saide father or els doe live to the age of eightene yeeres but if the saide  
 Roger doe decease before that tyme then my will is and I give the same to the eldest issue male of the  
 saide Nicholas and in defaulte of such issue male I give the same to the eldest issue female of the  
 saide Nicholas and in defaulte of such issue female to the right heires of the saide Nicholas Item I  
 give and bequeathe all that my tenement with all and singular his appurtenances sett house and  
 berge in the parishes and manor of Charmouth aforesaide in the which Elizabeth Blackford  
 widow now doeth dwell with all the wholl right title terme of yeeres possession and interest  
 whiche I have in the same tenement to Rebecca my daughter and to the heires of her bodye  
 lawfully begotten for and duringe the wholl terme that I have in the same tenement and for a  
 defaulte of such issue to the right heires of me the saide Roger Colwill duringe the same terme Item  
 I give to every of my childrens children five shillinge eight pence a peece Item I give to Elizabeth my  
 daughter twelue shillinge Item I give to Joane Buller five shillinge Item I give to my brother in law  
 John Norris of Eype his children to every of them twelue pence a peece Item I give to my godchildren  
 to every of them five pence a peece Item the rest of my goodes nott given nor bequeathed both moveable  
 and immoveable my funerals charges paid I give and bequeathe to Delia my wife whom I make my  
 wholl executrix of this my last will and testament (Deus beuge witnesses per me Georgium  
 Estment notorem ibid John Lymbery test. By me Roger Colwill.

Roger  
Colwill

1588

The Will for Roger Colwell  
 Clothier. I give 12 pence to the  
 Cathedral of Bristol. 5 shillings to  
 the Church of Charmouth. I give  
 to my son Nicholas and his wife  
 Edith my tenement in the Manor  
 of Charmouth in which William  
 Rickett now dwelleth for four  
 score and ten years. I give my  
 tenement in Charmouth where  
 Elizabeth Blackford, widow lives  
 to Rebecca my daughter. I give to  
 John Norris, my brother in law of  
 Eype 12 pence. I make Alice, my  
 wife my sole Executrix witnesses  
 John Lymbery

William Bowdythe holds by copy dated 22 Jul 1546, a messuage or cottage and 2 acres of land viz; a  
 curtilage and le Common close for lives of himself and brother Robert; fine 40s , rent 20s ***'this is fairest  
 house [in] the town and buylded by the last abbot of Foorde.'*** This house granted to Roger Collwill  
 and his children, Nicholas and Rebecca, by copy 28 1561; fine £6

## References to Ralph and Thomas Tibbes – Stewards of Charmouth

*Thomas Chard, the last Abbot of Ford.* 7

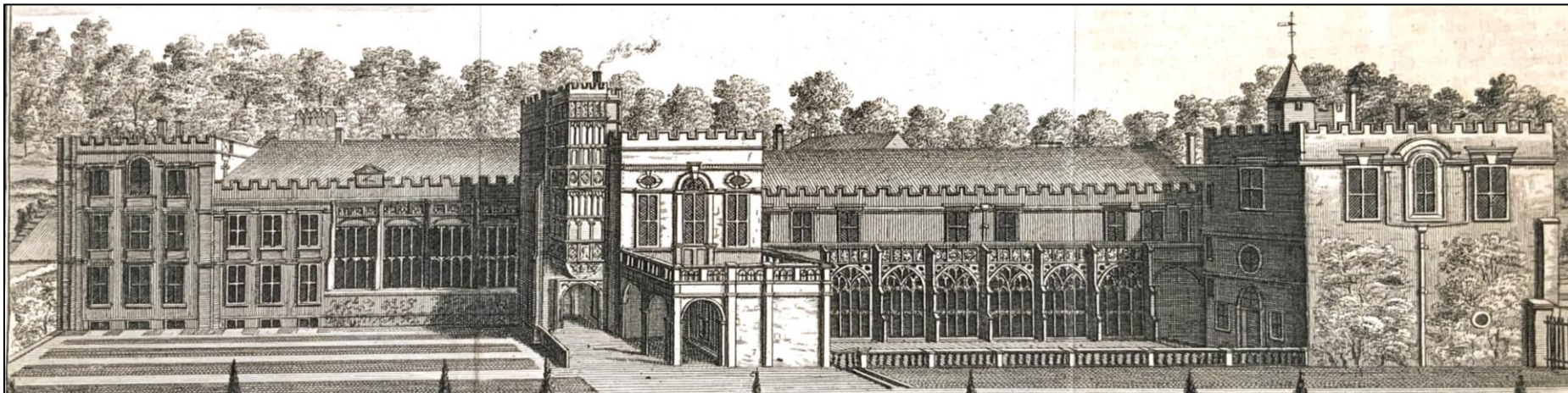
Thus the Abbot was not inattentive to the claims of his own family,<sup>13</sup> as is remarked by Dr. Oliver; and he further (27th Sept., 1535) gave a convent lease of lands in **Charmouth**, Turneworth, Toller, and Cattyscliff,<sup>14</sup> to Ralph **Tybbes** of **Charmouth**, and his son Thomas.

He appointed the same John Chidley and John Tibbes bailiffs and stewards of the convent property in Thorncombe Tale, Countisbury, and Linton; of Burstock and Little Wynsor in Dorset, and of Strete in Somerset, with annuities of £5 6s. 8d.; and he made Ralph **Tybbes** of Charmouth and his son Thomas bailiffs of the abbey manors of Charmouth, Toller, and Turneworth, with an annuity of £5. He also granted to John Tibbes and to Thomas Marker of Payhembury all the tithes and grain of Payhembury parish with the exception of the tithes of corn and grain in Thurleston and in the glebe belonging to the vicar, to hold the same for a term of forty years at the yearly rent of £30 6s. 8d.

Thomas Tybbes has at this time shown me a patent of £5 a year if the exercising of the office of Bailiff, granted it appears, by the last abbot of Ford, albeit Tybbes has not enjoyed the same as it is reported in his time. The patent was granted to the father of Tybbes & to himself jointly as may appear.

**Joan Tybbes** widow of **Ralf Tybbes**, holds during her widowhood, lands called **Nytheways**, parcels of land called **Newland** lying in 4 closes, 18 acres of land, 2 of meadow and 16 of pasture; to hold for lives of herself and **Thomas Tybbes (dead)** by copy dated 23 Apr 1525, under no fine because the rent of 16s 8d has increased in total to 26s 8d pa. Reversion alleged granted to **William Lymbery (dead)**, **Philip Lymbery (dead)** and **Henry Lymbery, sons of William**, 16 Apr 1548

The said **John Lymbery** holds by copy dated 29 Sep 1545, 24 acres of land viz;; 2 closes of pasture called **Yandover (18 a)**, and **les Cleves there (6 a)**; for the lives of himself and John his son; fine 66s rent 26s 4d.



**Sir William Petre and Sir John Petre, Lords of The Manor of Charmouth from 1564 until 1575**



Sir William Petre 1505 – 1572



Sir John Petre 1549 - 1613

# Buildings that were once owned by The Limbrys in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century



Badgers (Foxley Farmhouse)



Charmouth House (The Fountain Inn)

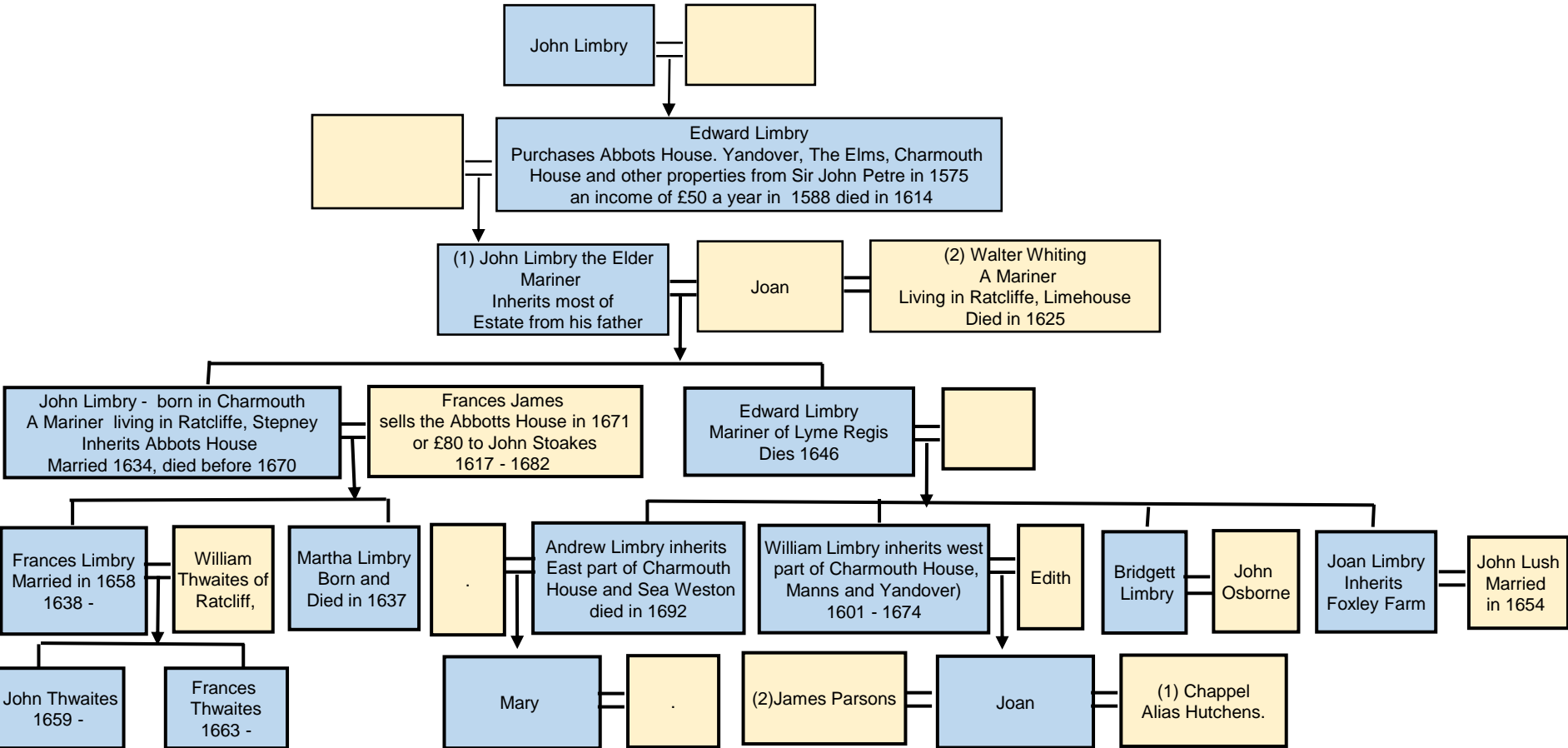


The Elms (Mann's Tenement)



Little Lodge (Yandover)

# The Limbry Family Tree



## Edward Limbry's Will of 1645

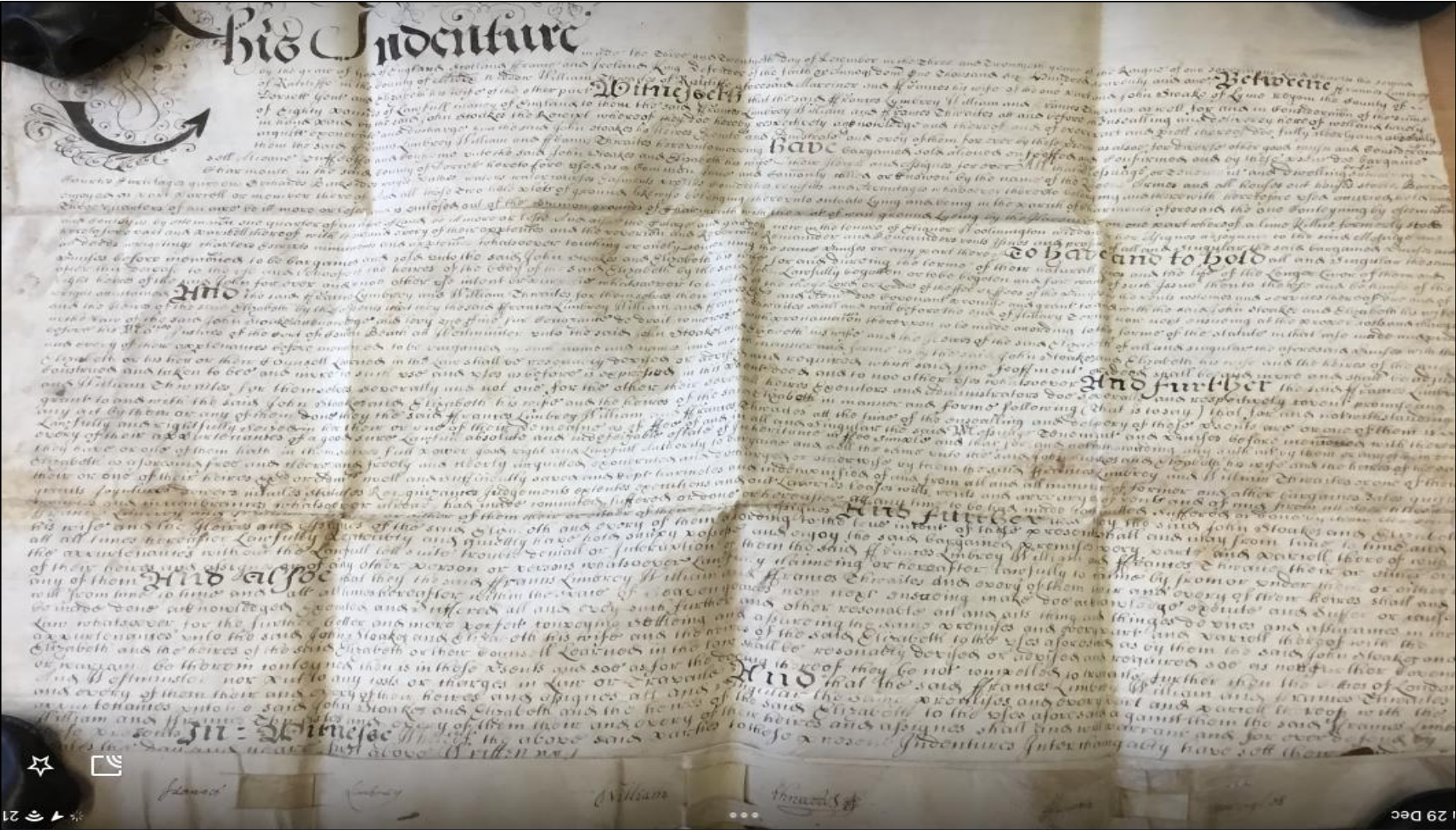
In the name of God Amen,  
 The twentieth eight day of Januarie, 1640. I Edward Limbry  
 of Charmouth in the County of Dorset, merchant being weak in  
 bodie but of perfect memory, praised be God soe make this my  
 last will & testament thus I comend my soule into the hands of  
 onlie God to be freed through the merite of Iesus Christ my  
 onlie Saviour to be freed of all my sinnes & to be made & taken  
 of life & everlasting life Mr bodie I comitt to the earth And as touching  
 my worldly goodes I doe give & bequeath as followeth First I give  
 & bequeath unto my Sonne Andrew Limbry the real moortie or a w  
 & Calfeadoale of ye mostuare in Charmouth aforesaid wether  
 now dwell and wch is situate & loma on the west part of  
 Easton part wch is situate & loma on the west part of  
 of the said town of Charmouth unto my Sonne Andrew Limbry to have & to hold  
 sayd moortie or Calfeadoale by him or his assigns forever by deed  
 of the said Andrew & his assigns made of his bodie lawfully begetten  
 & to be begetten untill the expiration of my estate therein & to  
 sayd Andrew or any of his assigns made of his bodie lawfully  
 begetten or to be begetten shall soe longe live wch full  
 of wch. Also I give & bequeath unto my sayd Sonne Andrew  
 my tenement called Manns tenement and my tenement called Yandover  
 both lying in Charmouth aforesaid To have & to enjoy the sayd  
 tenement unto the said Andrew & his assigns made of his bodie

I Bequeathe to my son, Andrew Limbry a Messuage in Charmouth where I now dwell and one situated in Sea Weston unto my son, **William the moiety on the east lying and being west part unto the said Andrew.** Also I give to my son, Andrew my tenement called **Manns** and my tenement called **Yandover** lying in Charmouth and the west part of **Sea Common** lying in Charmouth. Edith now wife of William Limbry. I give unto my daughter, Bridget, the wife of John Osborne one yearly sum of four pounds out of the tenement called Manns. I give unto my daughter, Joan five pounds. I make my sons William and Andrew my executors.



The Tomb for John Limbry and his daughter Margaret Stuckly who was buried in 1658.

Frances Limbry's sale of The Abbots House to John and Elizabeth Stokes for £80 in 1671



An Indenture between Frances Limbry of Ratcliff in county of Middlesex, widow, William Thwaites of Ratcliff (lime house), aforesaid Mariner and of Frances, his wife of the one part and John Stoakes of Lyme Regis in the county of Dorset, gentleman and Elizabeth, his wife of the other part for the sum of eighty pounds sell all that Messuage at Charmouth in the county of Dorset commonly called or known by the name of the Queens Armes and all houses, outhouses, stables, barns, orchards, etc. and all those two little plots of ground containing 3/4 acre out of the common land of Charmouth with the plot of waste land lying by the Havenside on one part where a lime kiln formerly stood and containing by estimation 1/4 acre 23rd December 1671".

## Records relating to John and Frances Limbry of Ratcliffe, Limehouse,

634  
 September 1634  
 Marriages  
 John Limbrey of Ratcliffe mariner & Frances James of some parish mariner & Frances James

1634 Marriage of John Limbury of Ratcliffe, Mariner and Frances James by License.

Plague  
 24  
 25 Judith daughter of John Beavan of Blue Bellard Westmouth Street  
 25 Elizabeth daughter of John Foxe of some house mariner  
 25 Martha daughter of John Limbrey of Ratcliffe mariner & Frances his wife  
 25 Young son of Walter Steor of Hospital Lane tailor Anno 1637

1637 JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> Plague Burial -Martha, daughter of John Limbrey of Ratcliffe, Mariner and Frances his wife.

Frances Limbery Widow of Ratcliff in the parish of Stepney  
 aged about Sixty five yeares dyed the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 8<sup>th</sup> month 1681 of the  
 flux as the Searchers Report and was buried at Ratcliff

1681 Frances Limbery, Widow of Ratcliff in the Parish of Stepney aged about 65.

There is also a deed in Dorset Reord Office (D-FRY/83) where in 1625 John Lymbry the Elder assigns Land in Charmouth to Walter Whiting of Limehouse, Middlesex which confirms their earlier link.

In the name of God Amen.  
 The eight daie of April one thousand six hundred Twenty Three And in the one and  
 Twenty yeere of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord James by the grace of God King  
 of England France and Ireland defender of the faith etc And in the five and fiftieth yeere of  
 Walteri Whiteinge

After his John Limbury's death, his wife Joan was to move to Ratcliff with her 4 children and marry Walter Whiting, a Mariner. This would explain why her eldest child, John never returned to Charmouth. Walter Whitting's Will is very extensive and refers to her previous marriage.

Testament Item I give and bequeath unto the four Children of my wife that she had by her

former husband to wit John Sara, Rebecca and Margaret Limbry forty shillings apiece for a remembrance

I give and bequeathe unto the four children of my wife, Joanne that she had by her former husband to wit, john, Sara, Rebecca and Margaret Limbry four shillings apiece.  
 Walter Whitinge of Limehouse's Will of 1625



# King Charles Stay for one night at the Abbots House on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1651



King Charles II escape



Plaque on outside of House



Front of House with plaque



Royal Oak Inn in Charmouth

George and Margaret Wade- Tenants of Queens Arms from 1642 until 1671





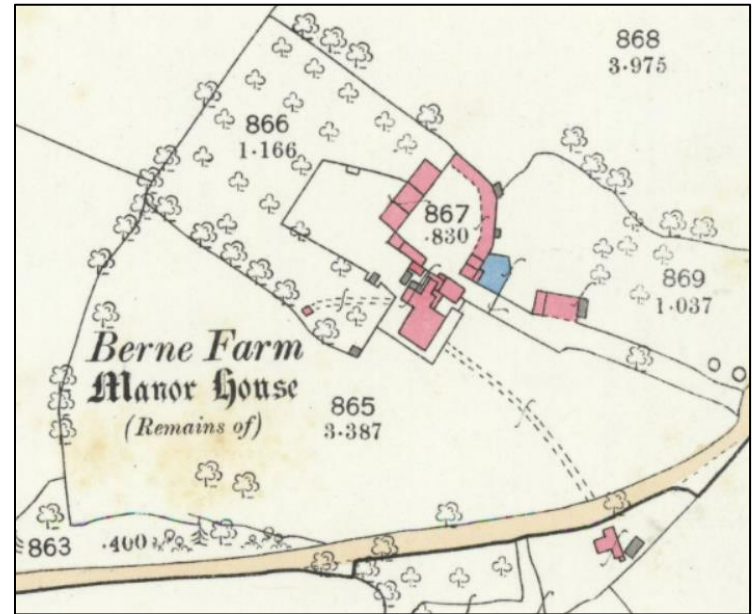
King Charles II return to Charmouth in 1671



Eleanor Floyer –Owner of The Abbots House from 1671 - 1673



Sir William Pole (1561-1635) – Lord of the Manor of Charmouth



Berne Manor, Whitchurch Canoncorum



Shute Manor House

# Eleanor Floyer's gift of The Abbot's House to her daughters in 1673

**His Indenture** made the sixteenth day of March in the six and Twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the first by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, the said Elizabeth Combes widow Sarah Bullstrode widow and Gerard Floyer single persons within the parish of St. Andrew in the County of Dorset the said Elizabeth Combes widow Sarah Bullstrode widow and Gerard Floyer single persons daughters of her the said Eleanor Floyer of the other part **whereas** the said Eleanor Floyer now dead hath by her will devised her house and garden in her demesnes as of freehold and in all that Messuages or Tenements and dwelling house situate in Charmouth in the said County of Dorset her demesnes as of freehold and commonly called or known by the name of the Queens Arms and all houses Outhouses Stables Barns Dourts Dourtilages Gardens Orchards and Barke sides wares yards water courses water courses of profit commodities benefitts and several things whatsoever to the said Elizabeth Combes or dwelling house belonging by estymation the quartels of an acre or thereabouts more or less; And also of and in all that Messuages or dwelling houses now or late in the tenures of Eleanor Floyer or her assigns **Now this Indenture** witnesseth that the said Eleanor Floyer for and better benefit and maintenance of her the said Elizabeth Combes Sarah Bullstrode and Gerard Floyer here after **Haith** devised graunted and to farme every of the aforesaid Messuages dwelling houses Outhouses Gardens Orchards Barke sides Plott of ground and premises and every part and parcel thereof to the said Elizabeth Combes Sarah Bullstrode and Gerard Floyer **to have and to hold** the same Messuages dwelling houses Outhouses Gardens Orchards Barke sides Plott of ground and premises and every part and parcel thereof unto the said Elizabeth Combes Sarah Bullstrode and Gerard Floyer their Executors Administrators and assigns from the day of marriage of the said Elizabeth Combes and Gerard Floyer here after **Wedding and paying** three years next ensuing fully to be completely and without impeachment of any on the first day of John the Baptist only if it be demanded **and the said** Eleanor Floyer doth for her self her heirs Executors Administrators and assigns on the first day of every of them Covenant grant promise and agree to and with the said Elizabeth Combes Sarah Bullstrode and Gerard Floyer their Executors Administrators and assigns and to and with every of them by these presents that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Elizabeth Combes Sarah Bullstrode and Gerard Floyer and quietly to have hold possess and enjoy all and singular the before devised premises and every part and parcel thereof with their heirs and assigns or to or to claim the same or any part thereof in law or equity by them or any of them or any other person or persons what so ever lawfully claiming singular the said premises with their heirs and assigns unto the said Elizabeth Combes Sarah Bullstrode and Gerard Floyer during the term aforesaid **and the said** Eleanor Floyer and her heirs all and in manner and form aforesaid and during the term aforesaid against her the said Eleanor Floyer and her heirs shall and lawfully warrant acquit and defend **In witness** whereof the parties first above named have to these presents Indentures entered their hands and sealed the day and year first above written Anno Domini 1673

Eleanor Floyer

dated 16 March 1673.

Eleanor Floyer  
 w.  
 — to —  
 Eliz<sup>th</sup> Combes w.  
 and others

}

Demise for 2000 years of  
 House at Charmouth formerly called  
 "The Queens Arms."

Thirty shilling Item I give to the poor of Charmouth the sum of Ten shillings Item I give and bequeath my house at Charmouth unto my three daughters Combes Bullstrode and Erace according to the tenor of our parr of Indentures made to them in that behalf bearing date the sixteenth day of March Anno Domini 1673. Item I appoint the sum of forty pounds to be expended at and about my funeral The residue of my goods and Chattels not here in given and bequeathed before after my funeral Expenses and Charges paid I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Combes whom I make and ordaine Executrix of this my last will and Testament In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written Eleanor Floyer  
 Signed sealed and published in the presence of Signed William Cox

Rev. John Brice occupied The Abbots House from 1676 until 1717







Benjamin Jeanes lived at The Abbots House from 1812 until 1838



### 1,2,3, Hillside Charmouth



## Improvements that were made to the neighbouring Chapel over the years.



An early photograph showing it before the bell tower was added.



The same view today with the plaque showing improvements.

Restorations over the centuries.



Unveiling the Plaque commemorating King Charles II Stay of The Abbots House in 1902



Rear of Abbots House in 1890 clearly showing how it was divided into two parts.



## Rear of Abbots House

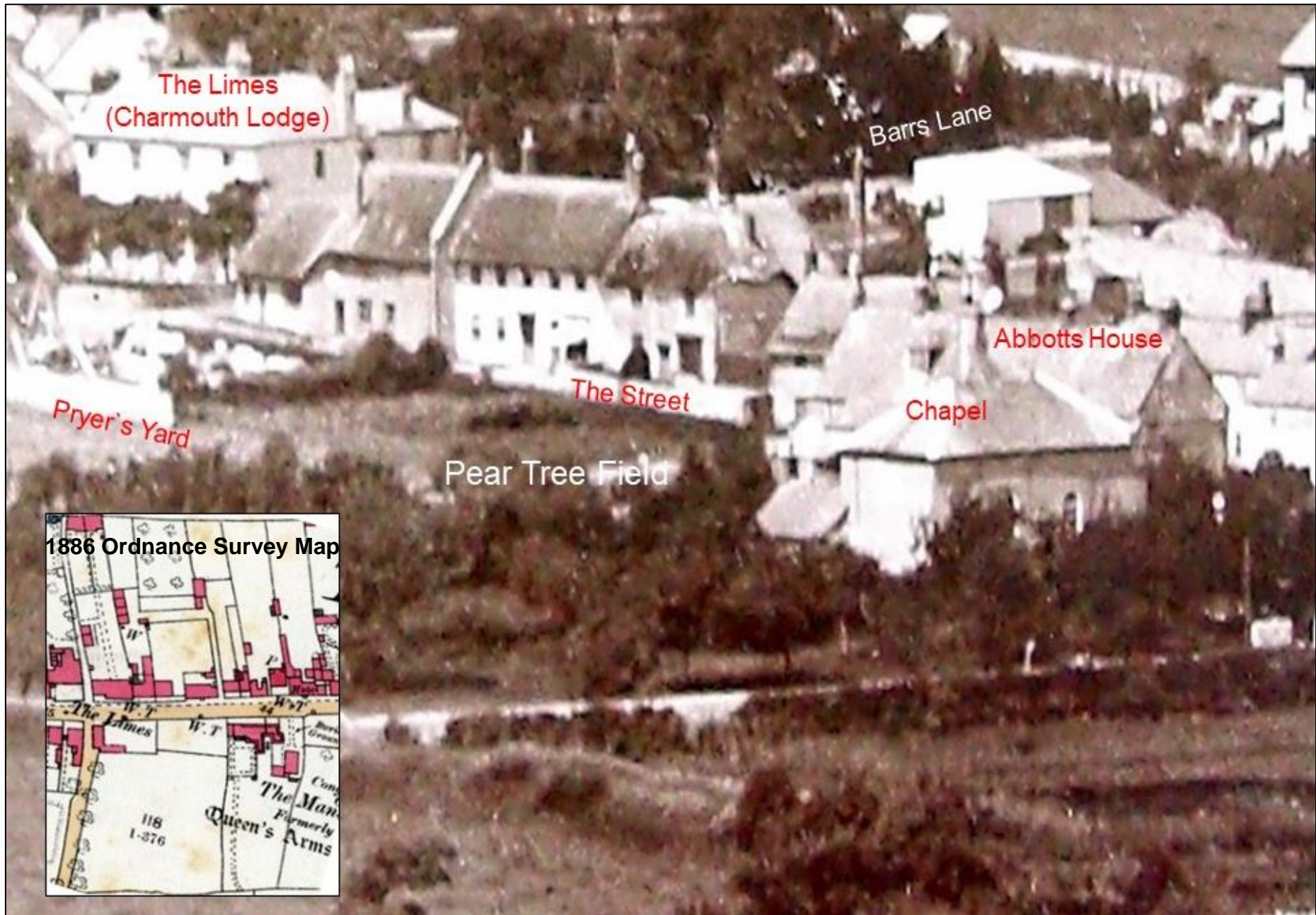


The massive chimney Stack in 1920 at the rear of the house.



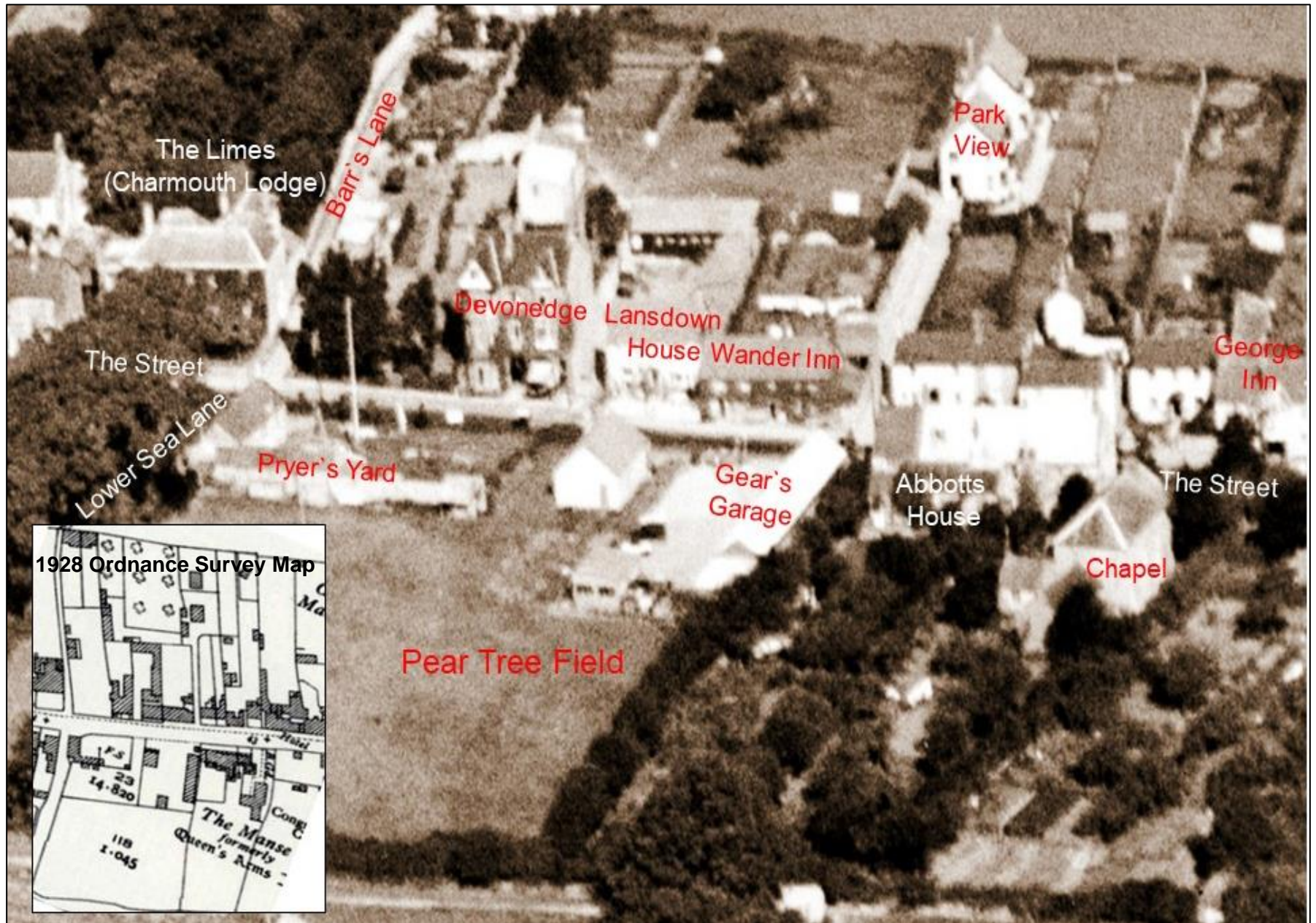
The Rev. Joseph Ogle and his wife and family in the garden at the rear of the House clearly showing the massive ancient chimney stack . He was Minister between 1904 and 1920.

A View of the Street showing the back of The Abbots House and Chapel in 1886





# A View of the Street showing the back of The Abbots House and Chapel in 1928



The Coronation Procession passing The Abbots House in 1911



The Abbot's House



# The Abbot's House



KING CHARLES 2<sup>d</sup> STAYED HERE. SEPT 22-23. 1651

CHARMOUTH

MDAR. 442

The Abbot's House

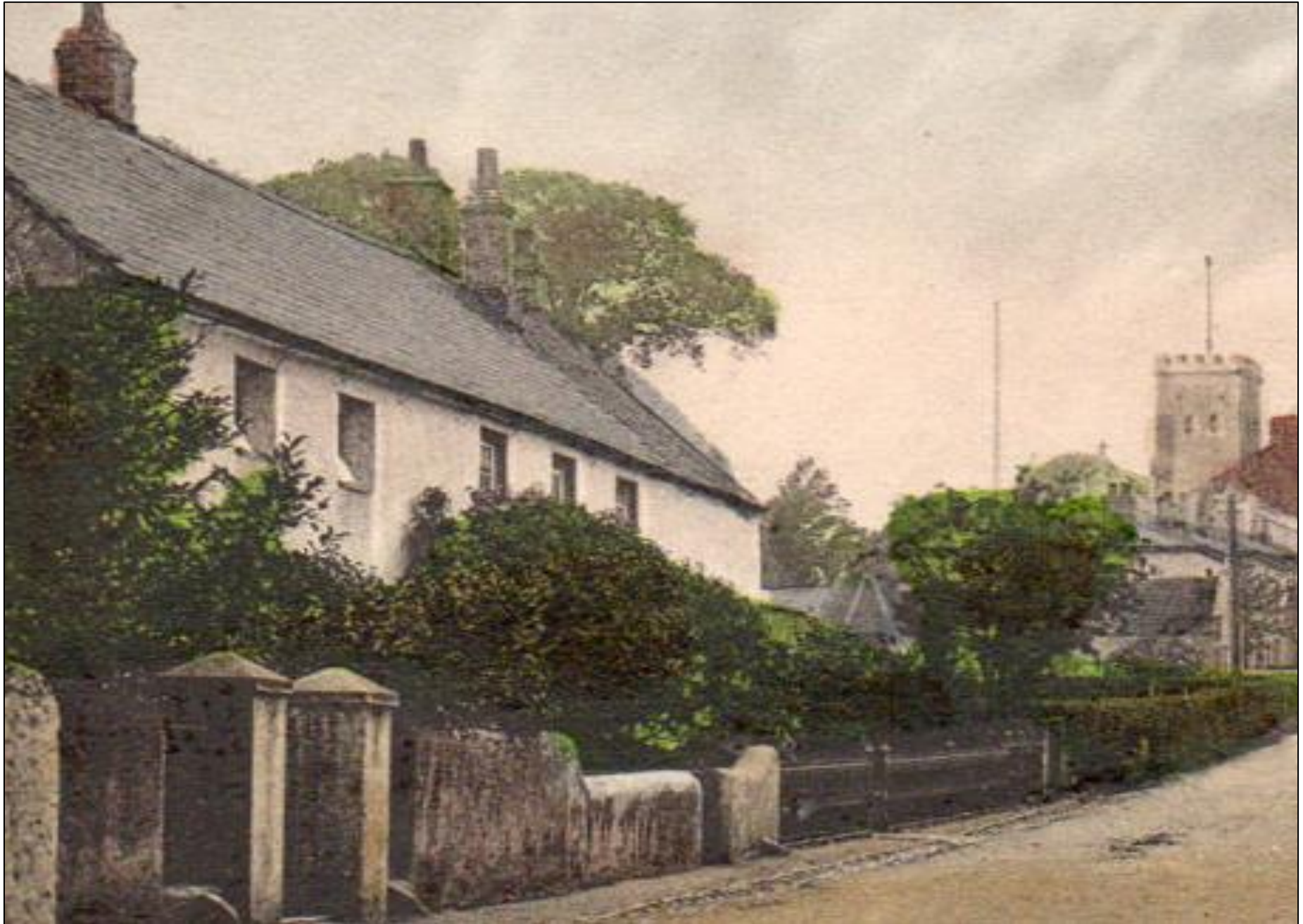


The Abbots House in 1906



*King Charles House Charmouth.*

The Abbot's House in 1906



A View of the Street showing the west side of The Abbots House and Chapel in 1900





# Census Returns for The Abbot's House

Parish or Township of <i>Charmouth</i>		Ecclesiastical District of <i>Salisbury</i>		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of <i>Charmouth</i>		
No. of House, Light, &c.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb
						Males	Females			
28	<i>Charmouth St.</i>	<i>Frederick Smith</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>50</i>		<i>Independent Minister</i>	<i>Somerset Taunton</i>		
		<i>Elizabeth Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>51</i>		<i>do Wife</i>	<i>Dorset Dorchester</i>		
		<i>Anna Symes</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>26</i>		<i>House Servant</i>	<i>Do Broadwines</i>		

1851 Census shows Frederick Smith, aged 50 living at The Manse.

27		<i>Charles Weyman</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Dorset Charmouth</i>		
		<i>George Pope</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Dorset Charmouth</i>		
		<i>Ephraim H. Perkins</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>53</i>		<i>Independent Minister</i>	<i>Dorset Dorchester</i>		
		<i>Elizabeth Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>55</i>		<i>Somerset Milbourn Park</i>	<i>Dorset Dorchester</i>		
		<i>Ellen Jackson</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>24</i>		<i>Domestic Servant</i>	<i>Dorset Lynditch</i>		

1871 Census shows Ephraim Perkins, aged 53 living at The Manse.

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		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in England, Ireland, or Foreign Parts
			<i>Richard Gill</i>		<i>45</i>		<i>M</i>	
			<i>do do</i>		<i>20</i>		<i>M</i>	
			<i>Samuel Do</i>		<i>10</i>		<i>M</i>	
			<i>Walter Do</i>		<i>25</i>	<i>P. J. +</i>	<i>M</i>	
			<i>Richard Gill</i>		<i>45</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>M</i>	
TOTAL in ?	<i>8</i>			<i>11</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>

1841 Census Richard Gill, aged 45 living at The Manse.

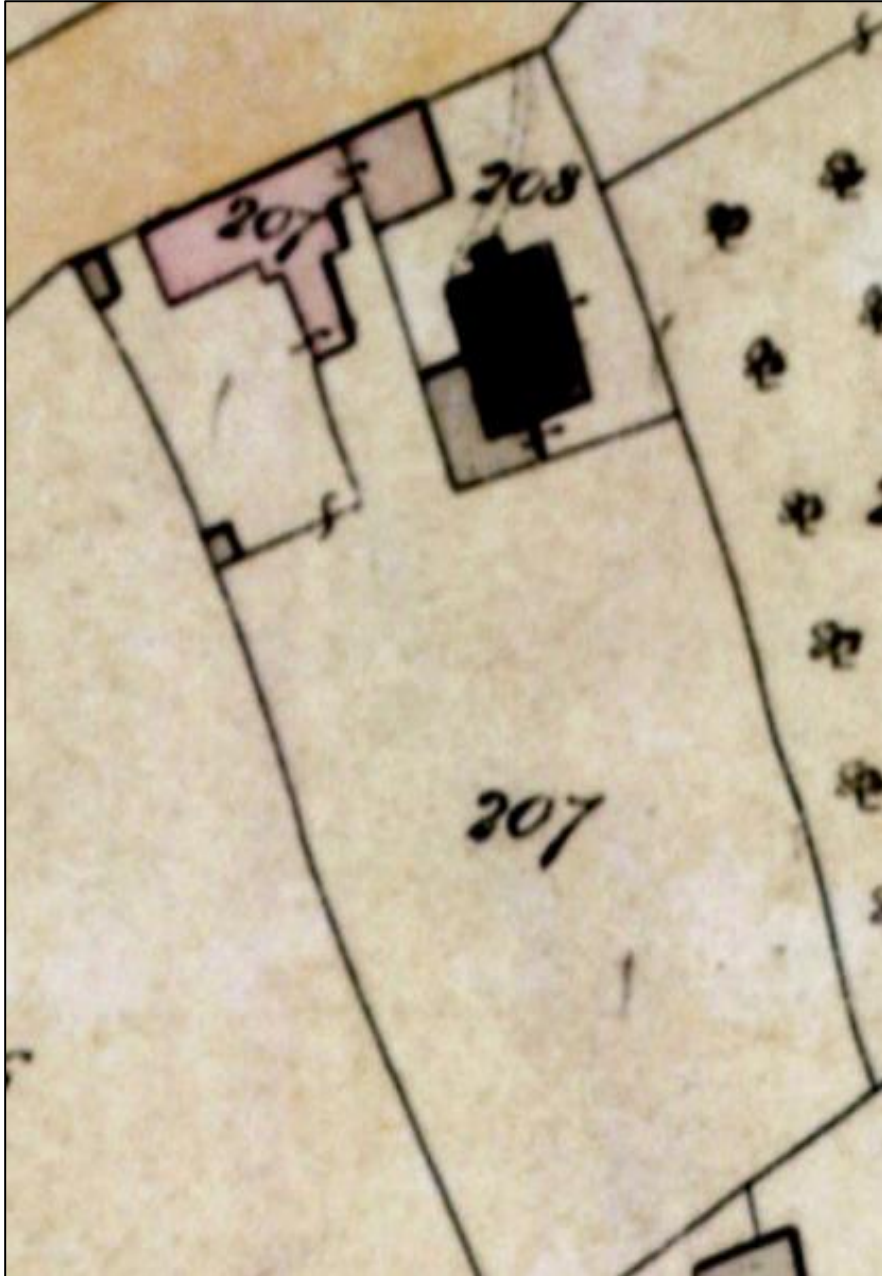
1891 England Census for Henry Gibbons									
Dorset - Charmouth - ALL - District 1									
HOUSE NO.	NAME OF HEAD OF HOUSE	AGE	SEX	RELATION TO HEAD OF FAMILY	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY	WHETHER BORN IN ENGLAND, IRELAND, OR FOREIGN PARTS	WHETHER BORN IN ENGLAND, IRELAND, OR FOREIGN PARTS
29	<i>William White</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Coal Miner from</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Charmouth</i>
32	<i>Henry J. Gibbons</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>General Labour</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Charmouth</i>
31	<i>William Badger</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Charmouth</i>
32	<i>Henry Gibbons</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Congregational Minister</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Charmouth</i>

1891 Census shows Henry Gibbons, aged 31 living there

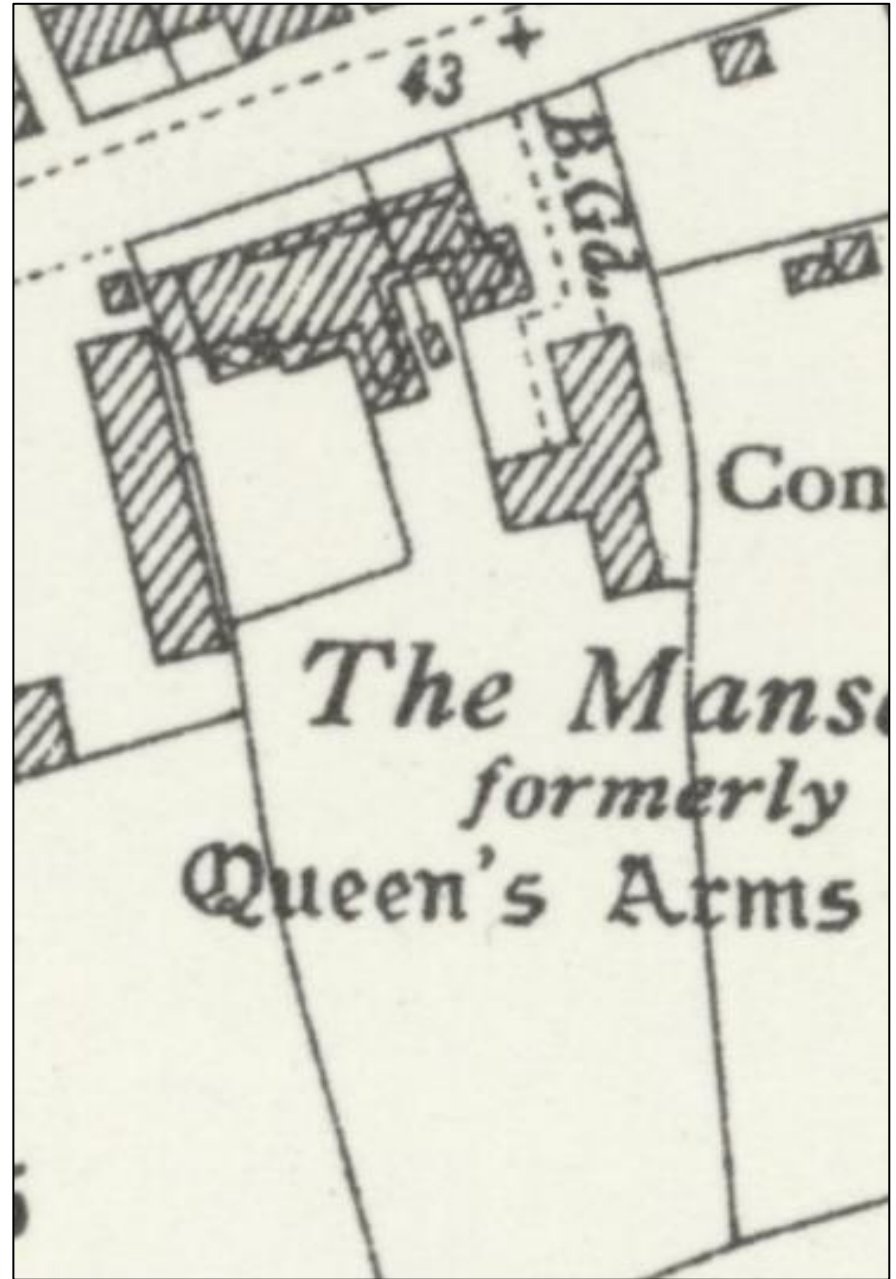
<i>Joseph Ogle</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Congregational Minister</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>
<i>Anna Ogle</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Single</i>		<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>
<i>John Ogle</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Single</i>		<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>
<i>Ann Ogle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Single</i>		<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Dorset</i>

1911 Census shows Joseph Ogle, aged 68 living there

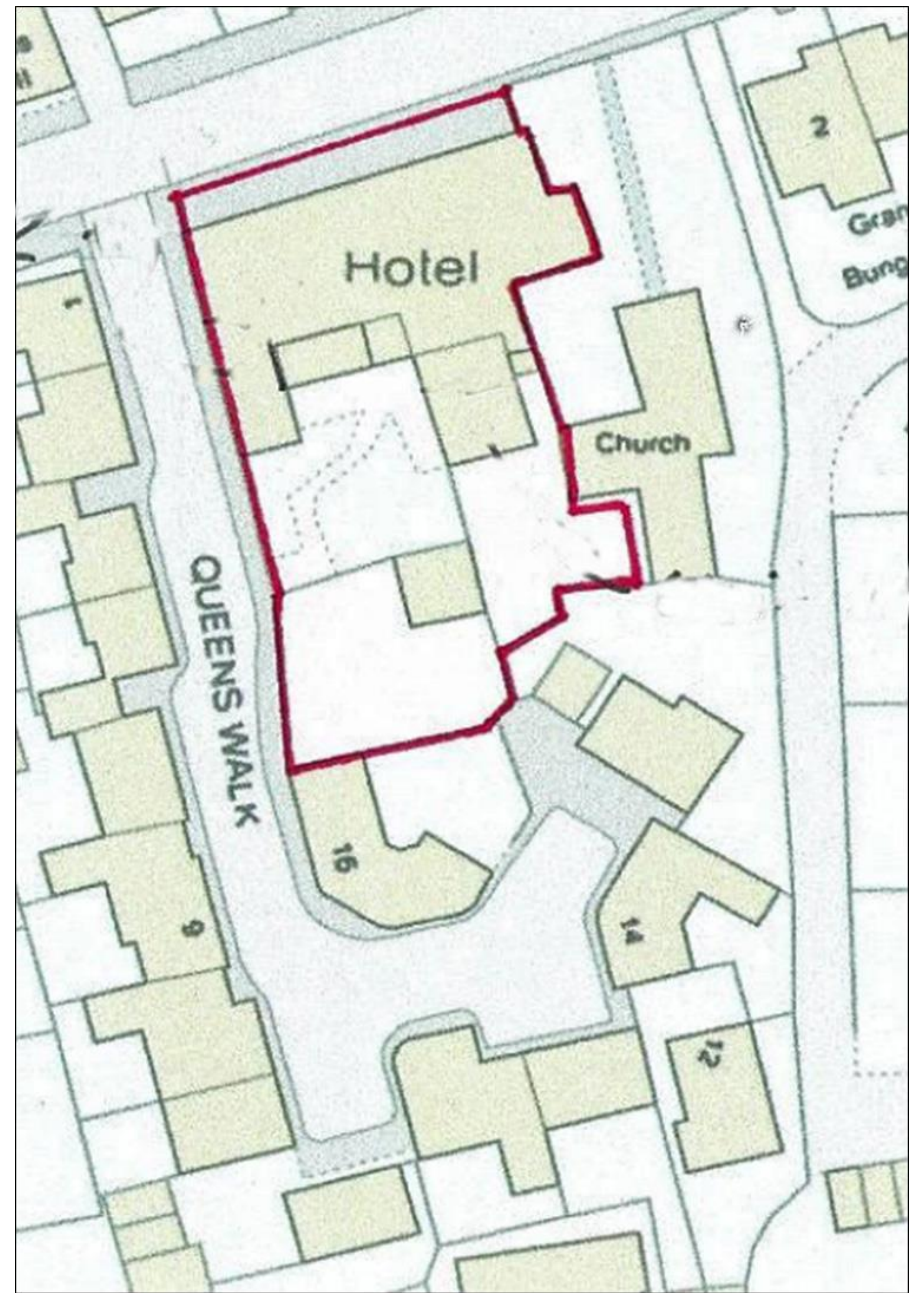
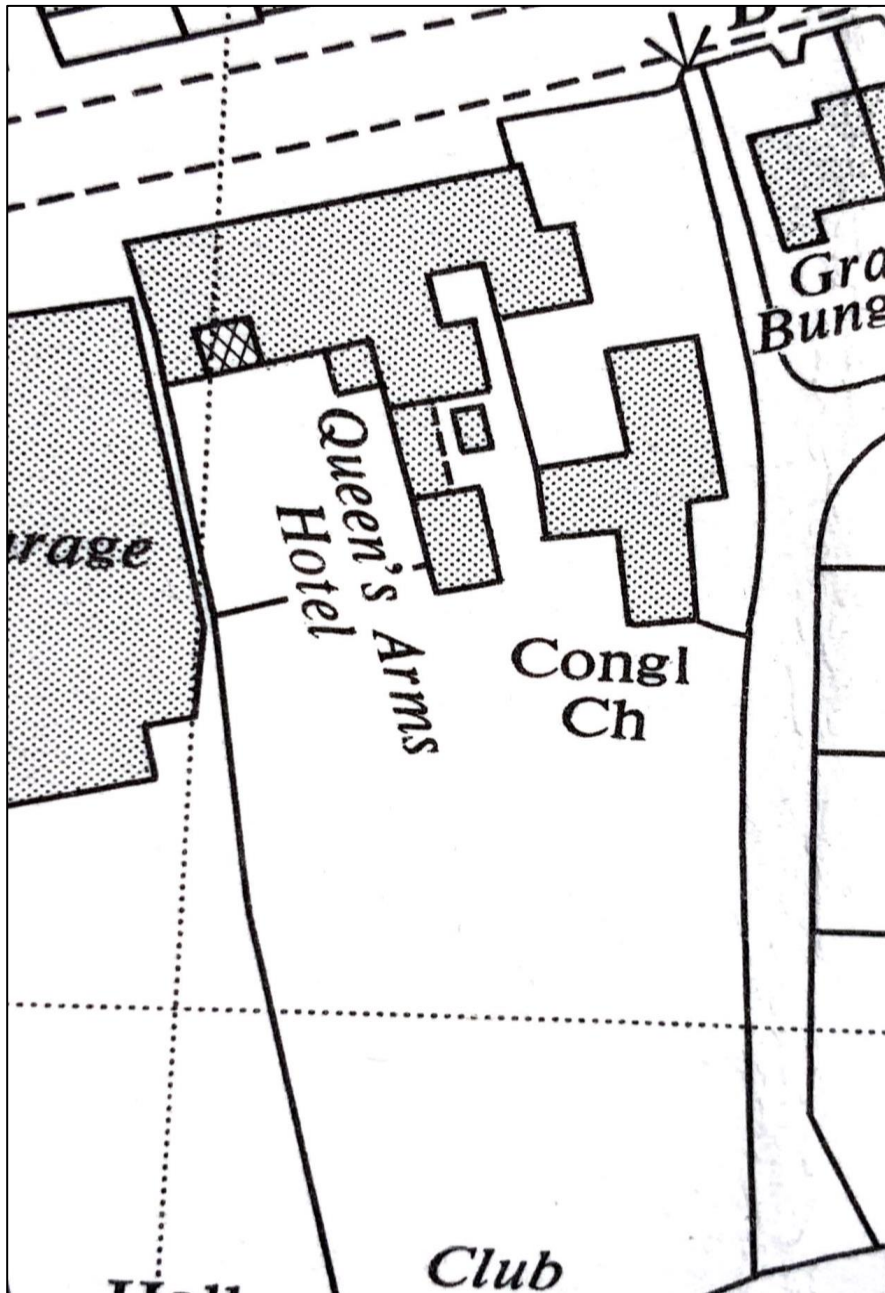
1841 Tithe Map and 1886 Ordnance Survey Map of Abbots House.



1901 Tithe Map and 1928 Ordnance Survey Map of Abbots House.



1960 Tithe Map and 2022 Ordnance Survey Map of Abbots House.



# Clifford John Stapleforth 1930 – 1936

NAME AND RESIDENCE	DATE OF BIRTH	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY OR OCCUPATION	REMARKS
Clifford John Stapleforth	1910	Son			
Sarah Stapleforth	1870	Mother			
Stanley John Stapleforth	1915	Son			
Donald John Stapleforth	1918	Son			

1911 Census aged 20 living at Black Dog Inn, Uplyme with his mother, Sarah Stapleforth.

**SHORT SERVICE.** (For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve)

**ATTESTATION OF**  
 No. 1177 (Name Clifford Stapleforth Corps)

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment:

1. What is your Name? Clifford Stapleforth
2. What is your full Address? Charmouth Dorset
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes
4. What is your Age? 25 Years
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Proprietor King's Salubrious Garage
6. Are you Married? Yes
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Army, Navy or Air Force, or in the Royal Air Force, or in the Royal Naval Air Force, or in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or in the Royal Canadian Air Force, or in the Royal Canadian Navy, or in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or in the Royal Canadian Air Force, or in the Royal Canadian Navy?
8. Are you willing to be recruited or re-recruited?
9. Are you willing to be called for General Service?
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and will you give it to you?
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions, provided His Majesty should so long require your services?

1916 War record, aged 25 married living at Charmouth.

NAME AND RESIDENCE	DATE OF BIRTH	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY OR OCCUPATION	REMARKS
Clifford John Stapleforth	1910	Son			
Elsie Stapleforth	1890	Wife			
Stanley John Stapleforth	1915	Son			
Donald John Stapleforth	1918	Son			

1921 Census aged 31 living at no. 2 Firlands, The Street, Charmouth married to Elsie with two children, Stanley aged 5 and Donald, aged 3

**ESTATE OF MR. H. W. PRYER, DECEASED.**  
**CHARMOUTH, DORSET.**  
**IMPORTANT FREEHOLD PROPERTIES,** mainly situate in the centre of this much-favoured Seaside and Residential Resort, including "STANLEY HOUSE," a well-placed PRIVATE RESIDENCE, Five COTTAGES with Gardens, and Valuable Areas of CHOICE BUILDING LAND with extensive Street frontage, the major lots affording Vacant Possession, which, by order of the TRUSTEES, MESSRS. W. PALMER & Co., and **M. R. & C. SNELL, LTD.,** will SELL by AUCTION, at Charmouth, on TUESDAY, MAY 10th, 1932.  
 Particulars may be had from MESSRS. WM. FORWARD & SONS, Solicitors; or from the AUCTIONEERS, both of Axminster, £38650

Harry Pryers Auction of land in Charmouth

**-FREEHOLDS AT CHARMOUTH.**  
 Considerable local interest was shown in the auction sale of the late Mr. Harry W. Pryer's freehold estate, conducted at the Church Hall, Charmouth, last week, by Messrs. W. Palmer & Co. and R. & C. Snell, Ltd., of Axminster. A piece of garden land, with stabling, &c., known as "Street's Tenement," having frontage of about 65 feet to the main street, was acquired by Mr. C. J. Stapleforth, of Charmouth, at £270. A building site, with the workshops at the corner of Lower Sea-lane and the main street, realised £270 to Mr. James [Bragg] of Lyme Regis. The adjacent site, with frontage of about 58 feet, went to Mr. C. E. Lillie, of Charmouth, at £240, and at £400 Mr. C. J. Stapleforth purchased "Pear Close," about an acre of pasture land, with frontage to Lower Sea-lane. "Stanley House," with its small lawn, was sold to Mr. H. G. Newbery

**CHARMOUTH**  
**QUEEN'S ARMES**  
**PRIVATE HOTEL & CAFE**

Bed & Breakfast. Luncheons & Teas.  
 Large and Small Parties Catered for.  
 Hot and Cold Water in Bedrooms.  
 :: Electric Light Throughout. ::



This charming old house, which sheltered King Charles II in 1651, is now run as an unlicensed Hotel by the present owner, who has done much to restore the building to its 14th century state. Whilst the old-world atmosphere has been restored, modern amenities have been carefully introduced.  
 There is a charming Tea Garden (at rear of house).  
 Hard Tennis Court for Hire.  
 A.A. Garage. C.T.C. (Hotel List)  
 Proprietors :: :: C. J. & R. STAPLEFORTH.

Clifford Stapleforth's Advert in Charmouth Official Guide in 1934

# Clifford John Stapleforth 1930 – 1936

**C. J. STAPLEFORTH**

Motor Engineer and Repairer  
Telegrams Stapleforth, Charmouth Telephone No. 7

**The GARAGE, CHARMOUTH.**

DUNLOP  
TYRES



To.

Mr. Wyatt

Dear Sir

May

1925.

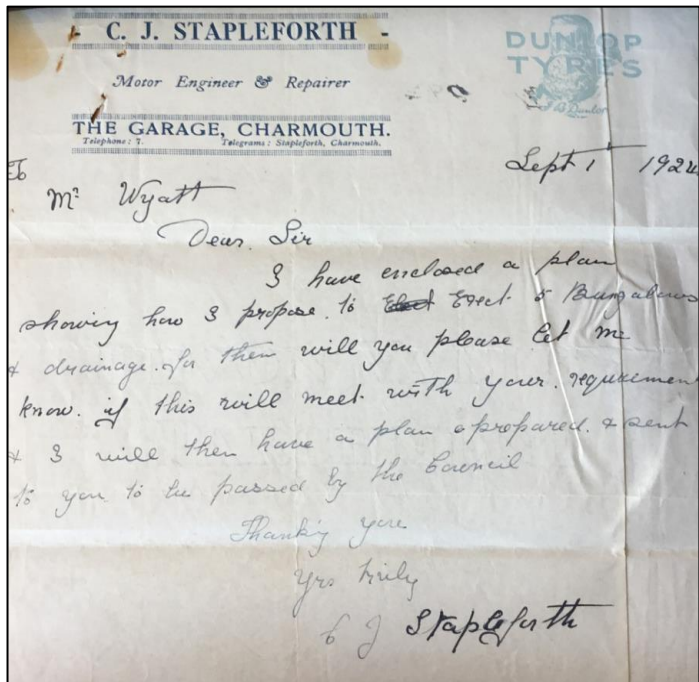
Please find Plans enclosed.

In case, I have made a slight alteration to improve  
the Bedrooms, which gives me more Laundry room  
& the Bedrooms larger, & a small Box room.  
I hope this will meet with your  
requirements

Yours Respectfully  
C. J. Stapleforth



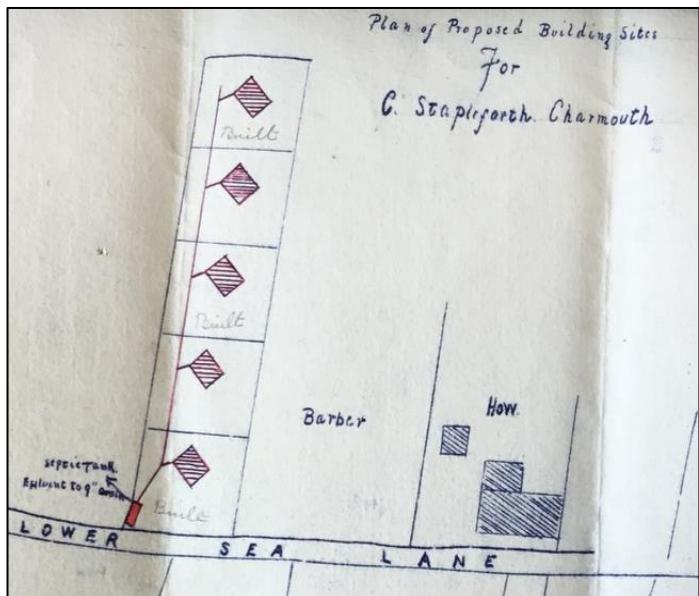
# Clifford John Stapleforth 1930 – 1936



Letter from Stapleforth in 1924



Broadlands, Bracoden, The Bower House, Pembroke and Orchard End



Plan of houses.



Drawing for one of the houses.

The Abbots House in 1930





Clifford Stapleforth - Owner of The Abbot's House from 1930 - 1936.



The Abbots House in 1936



The Queen's Armes (Private) Hotel

recommended  
A.A.  
R.A.C.

Catherine of Aragon  
stayed here 1501

King Charles II  
stayed here 1651

*The Queen's Armes Hotel, Charmouth.*

CMH.9.

FRITH'S

Entrance Hall



## Dining Room



DINING ROOM, "QUEENS ARMES", CHARMOUTH.

# Drawing Room

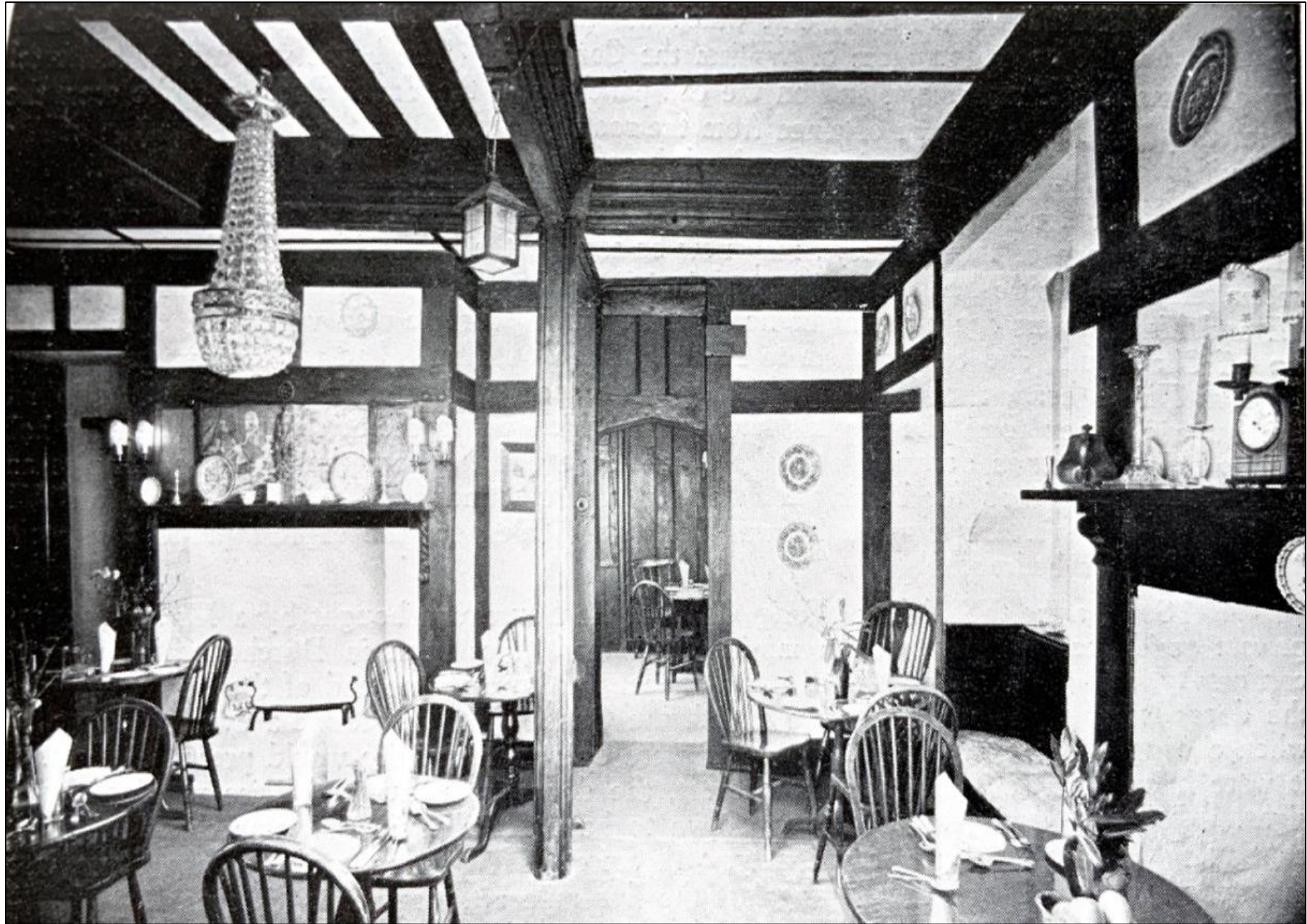


DRAWING ROOM, "QUEENS ARMES", CHARMOUTH.

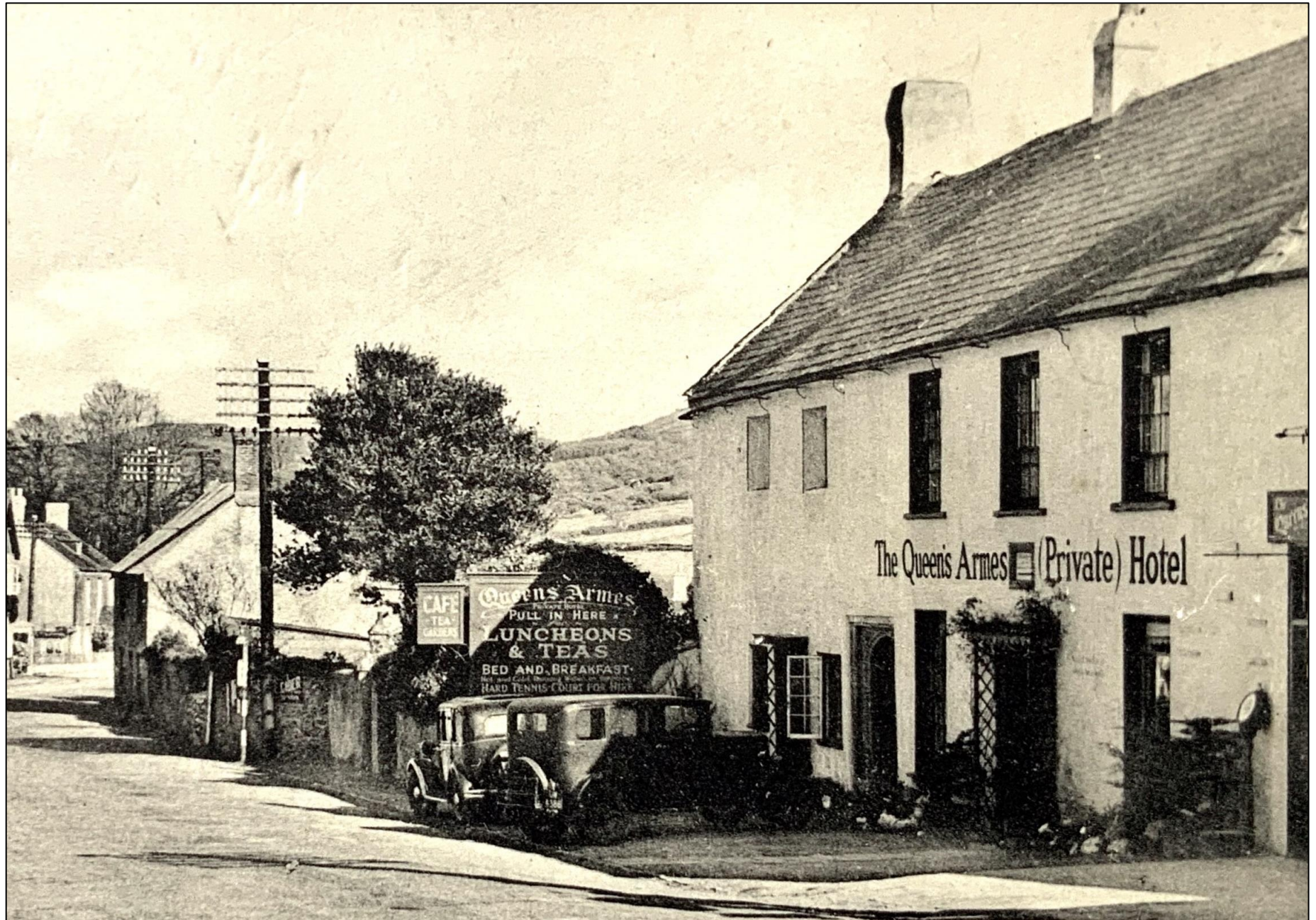
## Residents Lounge



The Dining Room

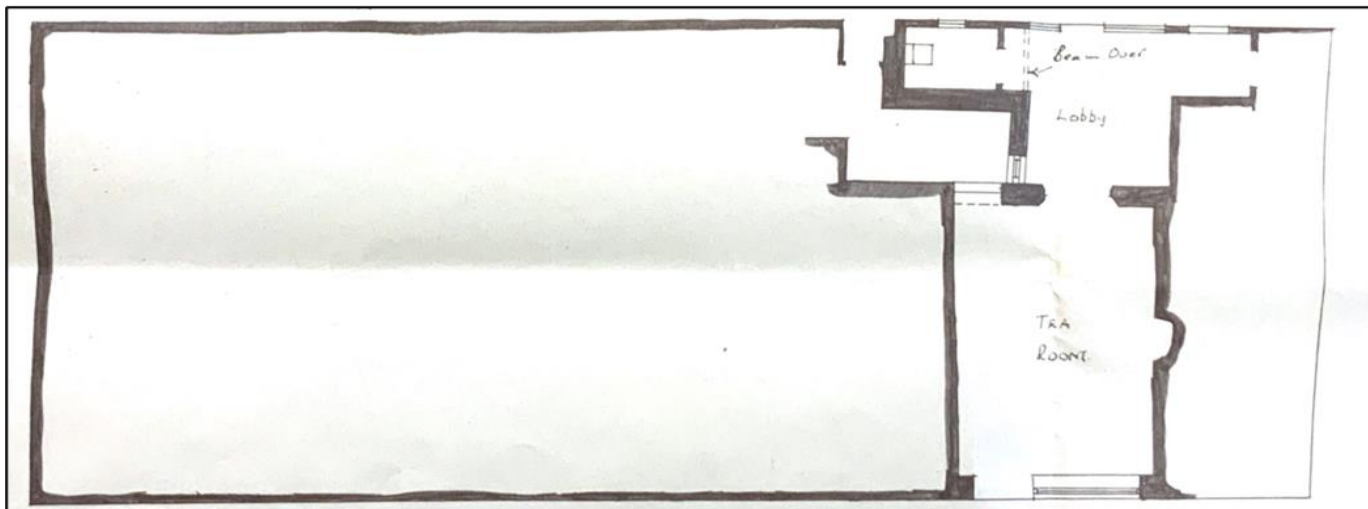
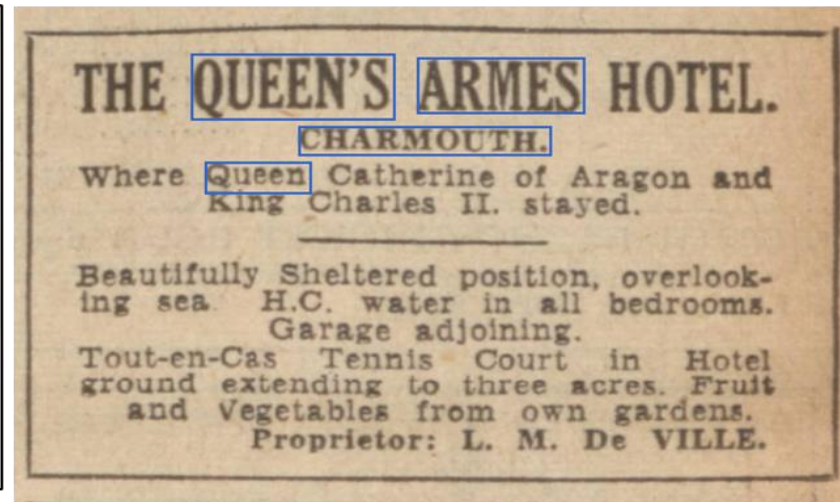
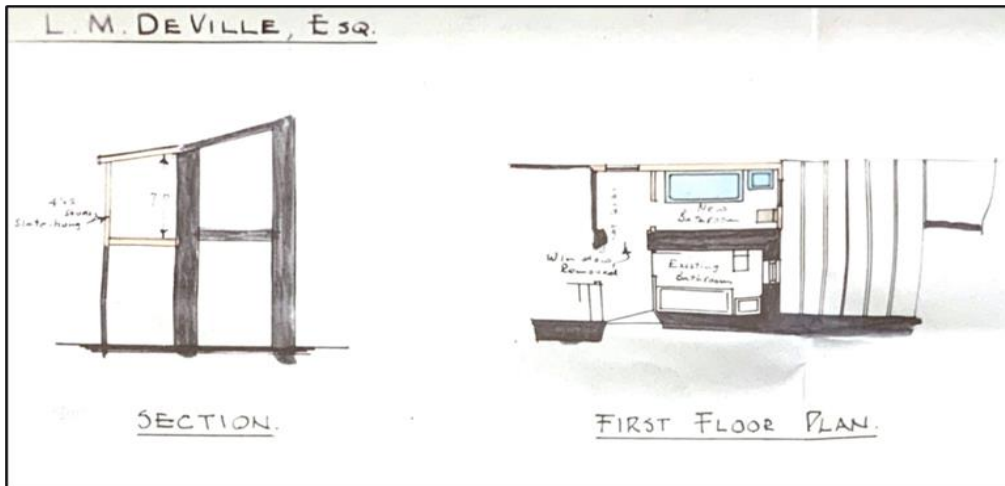


The Abbot's House





# Louis and Doris De Ville owners of Queen's Armes Hotel 1936 -1944



Reference No. of Plan 1939/38

Submitted by C. G. PERCY-HARDMAN

On behalf of L. M. DEVILLE ESQ

FOR  
EXTENSIONS to QUEEN'S ARMES  
MOTEL, CHARMOUTH.

Date 29th March 1938

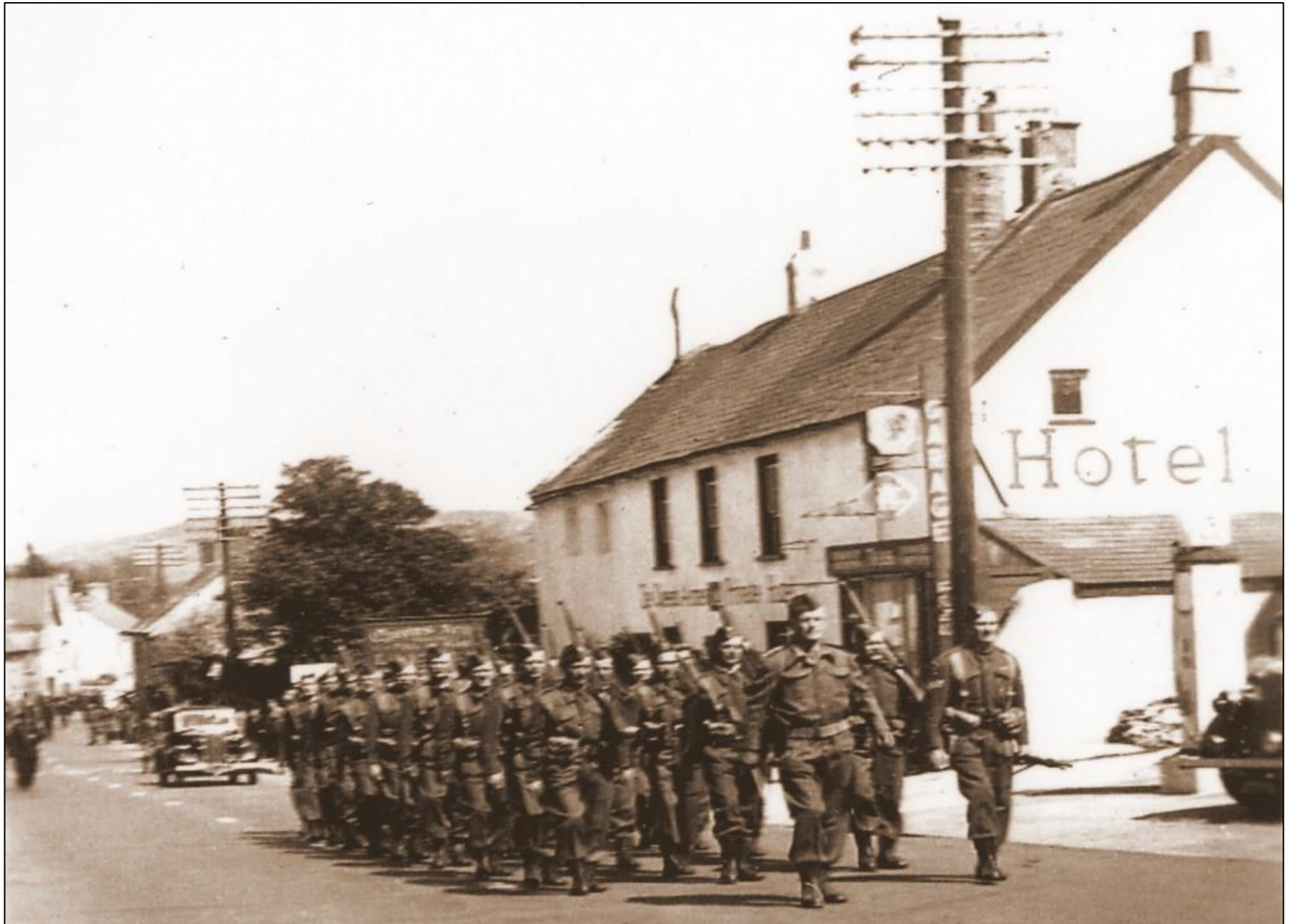
• 060411

E.D. Letter Code WLON Borough, U.D. or R.D. Beaconsfield Registration District and Sub-district 267/1

ADDRESS	SCHEDULE		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES	Q. V. No. of I.	M. or F.	Pence		S. N. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION
	No.	Sub No.				Day	Year		
<u>Queen's Armes</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Deville Louis M.</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>Hotel Proprietor</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Deville Doris M.</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>Hotel Proprietor</u>

The original plans shown above are of the extension they had built which extended the hotel to the west. The 1939 Census shows them aged 30 and 36 respectively.

The Home Guard marching past the Queens Armes in 1942



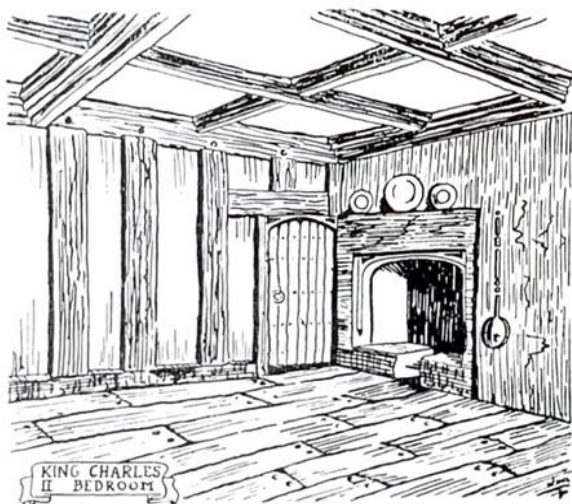
# The Queen's Armes Hotel & RESTAURANT

## CHARMOUTH

THE Hotel is beautifully situated nestling between the hills, sheltered from all cold winds, overlooking sea and surrounding country, on the level, a few minutes walk from the beach and close to Golf Links H. and C. in all Bedrooms Garage adjoining

Recommended  
A.A. R.A.C.

Queen Catherine  
of Aragon  
and  
King Charles II.  
stayed here



THERE are grounds extending to three acres  
The whole of the catering is either British or Dominion,  
only the best being good enough . . . Fruit and  
Vegetables from own gardens

Proprietor : L. B. A. TEAGUE

Tel.: 39

Advert by L.B.A. Teague in 1946

ON THE PREMISES ON TUESDAY NEXT.  
DORSET.  
Delightfully placed in an historic coastal  
village, close to the borders of Devon.  
The Main Road, Detached FREEHOLD  
13th CENTURY GUEST HOUSE and  
RESTAURANT, THE **QUEEN'S ARMES,**  
**CHARMOUTH.** Eleven Bedrooms (nine n.  
and c.), Two Bathrooms, Two Cloak-rooms,  
Three Lounges, Office, Restaurant, 27ft. by  
18ft., Kitchen, Scullery, Pantry, &c., Shop,  
Numerous Outbuildings. Grounds almost  
1½ Acres. To be offered as a complete  
going concern, including the Excellent  
Furnishings and Equipment. Main Elec-  
tricity, Gas, and Water. Septic Tank  
Drainage (main available).  
**RUMSEY & RUMSEY,** in conjunction  
with  
**MACCALLUM, FRENCH & GIBSON** are  
instructed to SELL the above by  
AUCTION (unless previously sold), upon  
the Premises, on TUESDAY, AUGUST 17th,  
1948, at 3 p.m.  
Particulars from the Solicitors: Messrs.  
Hutchings & Hutchings, Carlton Chambers,  
Vaughan Parade, Torquay, Devon. Joint

The Main Road, Detached FREEHOLD 13th CENTURY  
GUEST HOUSE and RESTAURANT. THE **QUEEN'S  
ARMES,CHARMOUTH.** Eleven Bedrooms (nine n. and c.).  
Two Bathrooms, Two Cloak-rooms Three Lounges, Office.  
Restaurant, 27"- oy . 18ft **13 August 1948-** Western Gazette .

Advert for sale of Queen's Armes by L.B.A. Teague in  
1948

## Adverts for The Queen's Armes

AA\*\*

RAC\*\*

# The Queens Armes Hotel



**CHARMOUTH DORSET**

**Telephone: Charmouth 60339**

The Queens Armes was a Manor House for the Abbot of Forde. Catherine of Aragon stopped there in 1501. In 1651 the Hotel figured largely in the Famous Flight of King Charles to France after the ill-fated Battle of Worcester. King Edward VII when Prince of Wales visited the Hotel

Large Tranquil Gardens, situated five minutes level walk to beaches. Private Car Park. The Cuisine is excellent offering a variety of traditional Cordon Bleu and Modern Dishes. Complemented by excellent choice of Wines from the well-stocked cellar.

Brochure on Request.

Brochure on Request.



*"Here in this house was lodged King Charles  
Come in Sirs you may venture  
For here is entertainment good  
For Churchman or dissenter."*

### **THE GOOD FOOD GUIDE REPORTS: 1967-68**

This small medieval building, in the steep village street, must be near one's ideal of a simple country inn. The food has improved enormously since Mr. and Mrs. Besley took over ownership in 1963, and is matched by their friendly and personal service, commented on by many members. Meals are table d'hôte only, with slight choice but with skilful variations from day to day, and prepared by a chef of undoubted imagination: recommended dishes range from Devon Broth to Beefsteak Creole, by way of Wiltshire Ham baked in Cider, Shishkebabs, Pineapple Fritters, and most curiously a first course of fig and lychee cocktail. The wines are not remarkable, and are sold by the half bottle only, starting with White Bordeaux at 8/3.

The Abbot's House in 1959



The Abbot's House in 1959



The Abbot's House in 1959



The Abbot's House in 1964





The Abbot`s House in 1966

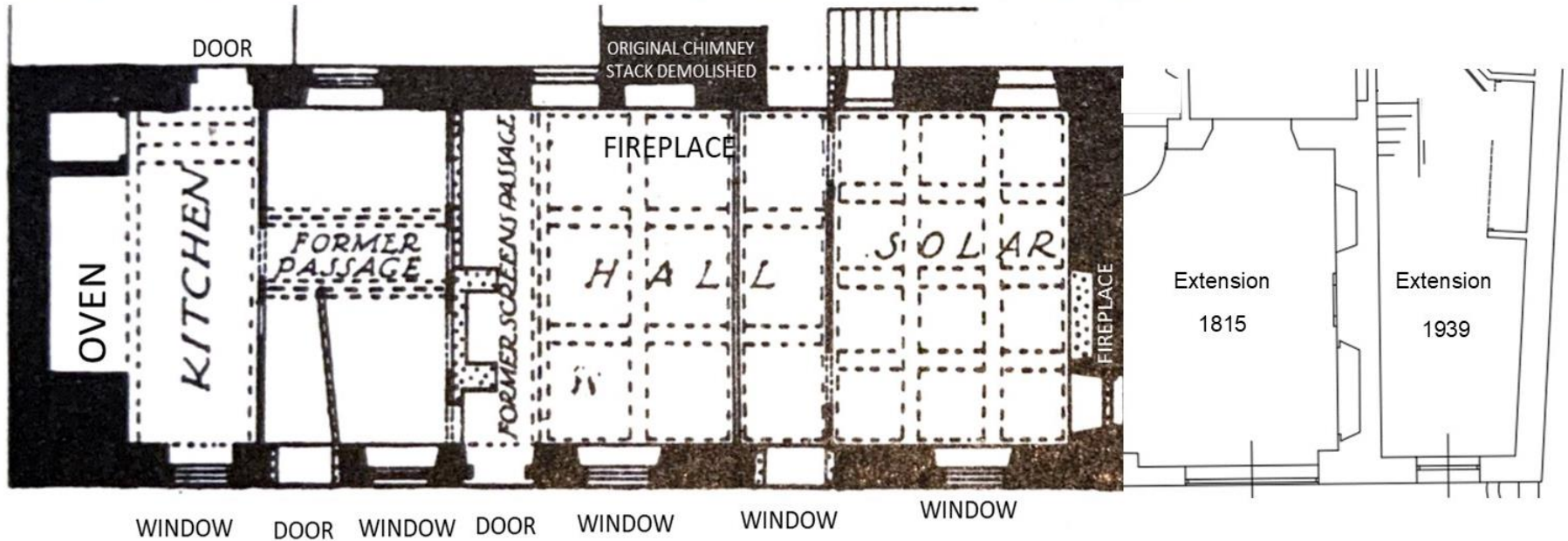


# Comparison of original layout of Abbots House with that of today's.

ORIGINAL 16TH CENTURY BUILDING

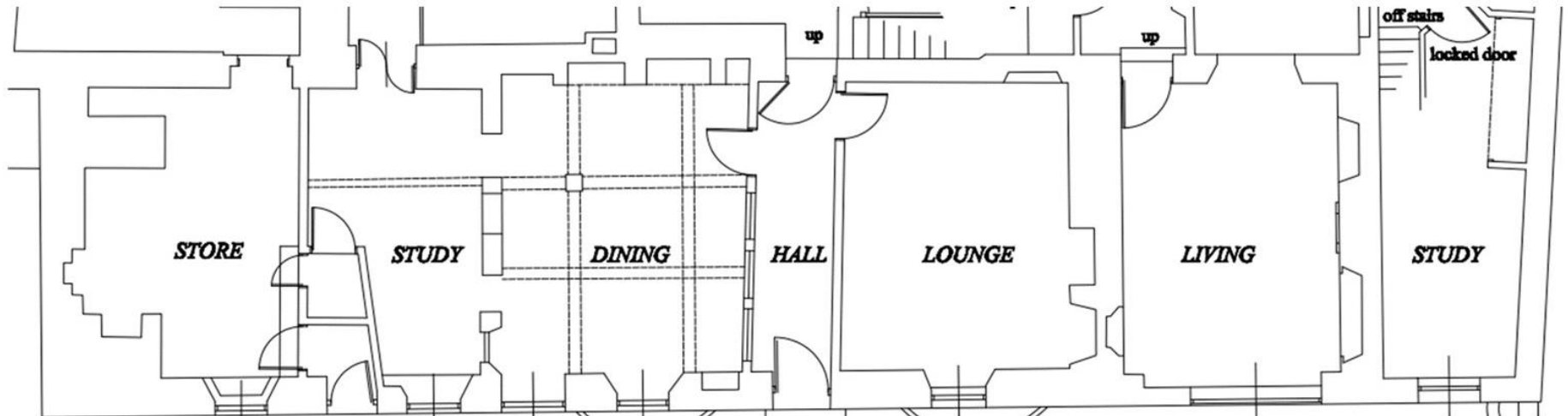
1815  
EXTENSION

1939  
EXTENSION



# Comparison of original layout of Abbots House with that of today's.

## ORIGINAL 16TH CENTURY BUILDING



Layout of Abbots House today

Abbots House Hotel in 2024



Rear of Abbots House

