

'Axminster Legacies' uses a selection of the town's buildings to tell the stories of the Georgian and Victorian families most closely associated with them. Some of those families were prominent in the life and politics of the town, others much less so.

It draws on a wide range of sources, which as well as providing the 'bricks and mortar of local history' reveal accusations (or in some cases unexpected evidence) of bigamy, 'phantom marriages', rape, illegitimacy and insanity, as well as revealing time spent in debtors' prison, trading while bankrupt and fraud.

One family went from pillars of the community to brawling in the street within three generations (and 125 years). One of Axminster's leading lawyers saw his own son sentenced to death after a trial at the Old Bailey.

David Knapman has a life-long connection to Axminster, and has taken a particular interest in local history since retiring in 2014.

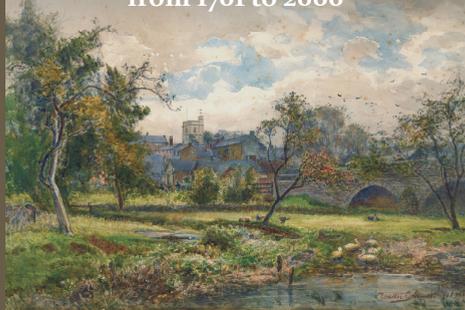
In 2021 the Devon History Society gave his previous book, *'Unsteady Progress: A History of Axminster from 1701 to 2000'*, the W G Hoskins Award for the best history by an amateur historian.

Whereas *'Unsteady Progress'* was all about the town and how it came to be the way it is today, *'Axminster Legacies'* is much more focussed on a selection of people and places.

Both books are sold to support Axminster Heritage Centre, and its remit of fostering an interest in local history.

## Unsteady Progress

A History of Axminster  
from 1701 to 2000



David Knapman

ISBN 978-1-9163766-1-8

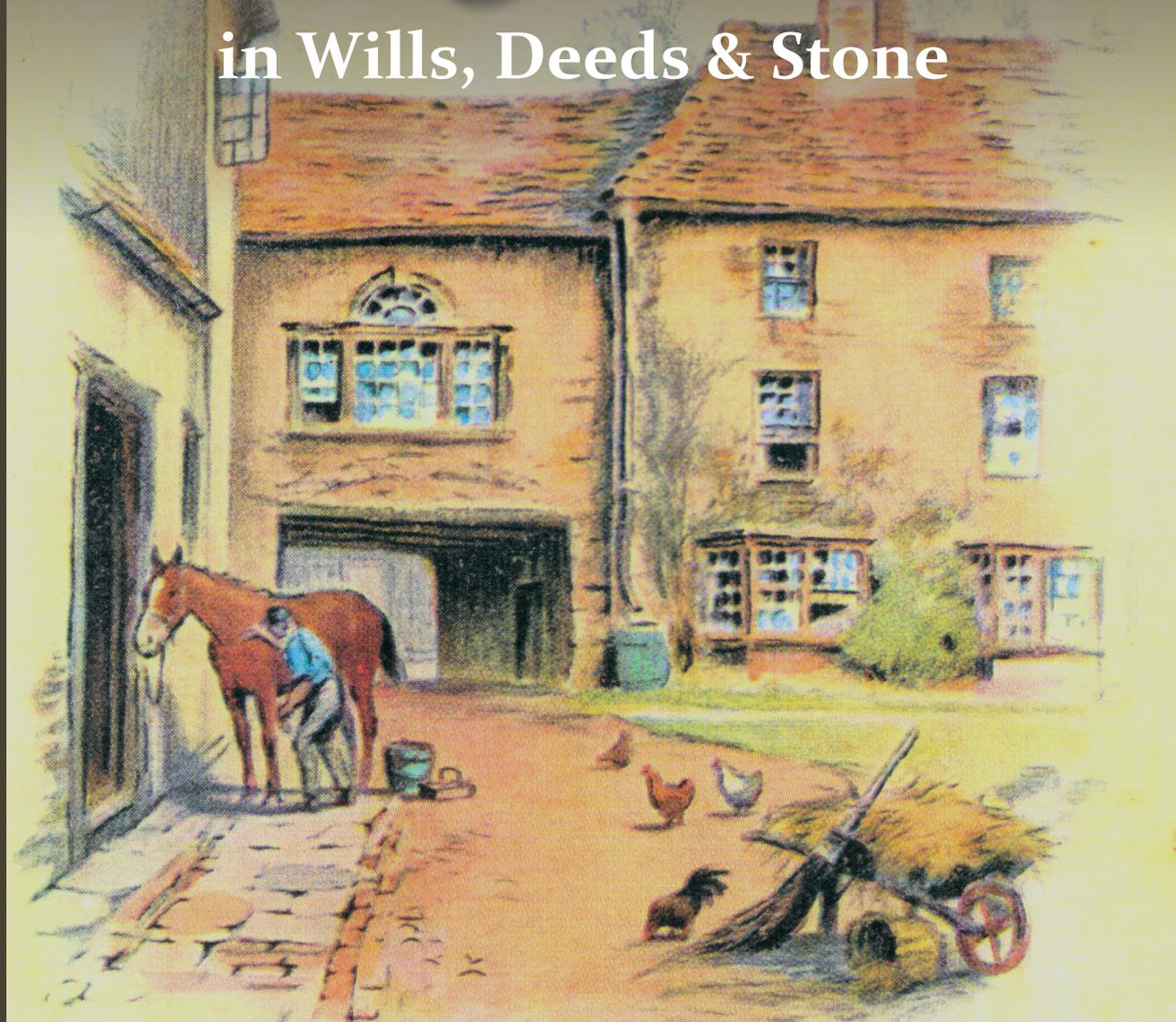


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Axminster Legacies in Wills, Deeds & Stone David Knapman

# Axminster Legacies

in Wills, Deeds & Stone



David Knapman

## **Map & Picture Credits**

### **Front cover illustration:**

Image of The George Inn, Axminster by an unknown artist, from the collection of Axminster Heritage Centre.

### **Maps (pages xi to xxii):**

See Map 1 for credits to Maps 1, 4, 7 and 10. See Map 2 for credits to Maps 2, 5, 8 and 11. See Map 3 for credits to Maps 3, 6, 9 and 12.

### **Plans (pages 112 and 129):**

Drawn by the author, based on sources as specified in the accompanying text.

### **21st century photographs:**

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### **Older photographs and postcards:**

Thirteen of the older images are from the collection of Axminster Heritage Centre. They can be found on pages 12, 68, 83, 136, 137, 249, 267, 268, 281 (both), 283, 286 and 287 (first).

The other five older images are from the 'Sands of Time' collection, and are used with their permission. These images can be found on pages 92, 192, 271, 276 and 291.