

Alverdiscott

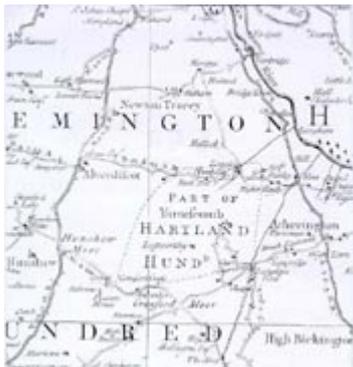
Alverdiscott is located within Torrington local authority area. Historically it formed part of Fremington Hundred. It falls within Torrington Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript *Church Notes* of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 278 in 1801 241 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 76 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Torrington Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website

Maps

The image below is of the Alverdiscott area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 20/9 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 20SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS520252
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS52NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 127
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping: sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

ALVERDISCOTT (pronounced *Alscott*). The church (All Saints) stands high, with fine views all around. It is mainly a 15th century building, heavily restored in the early 19th, when the N. arcade was rebuilt in a curious and unsatisfactory manner. There are medieval tiles of local manufacture in the S. porch, and a Norman font. In the N. aisle is a fine monument to Gilbert Hody (1686), and also an excellent altar-tomb with an alabaster effigy of a youth in Caroline costume - Thomas Welshe, son of

James Welshe (1639). Webbery was a Domesday manor. The present house was rebuilt about 1820.

Alwington

Alwington is located within Torridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Shebbear Hundred. It falls within Hartland Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript *Church Notes* of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 310 in 1801 316 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 90 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Bideford Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Alwington area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 18/12 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 18SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS408246
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS40SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 126
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 292 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Alwington church (St. Andrew) stands beside an ancient, grey barton. It is almost entirely 15th century with a handsome tapered tower; the S. aisle and porch were rebuilt in the 17th century. The nave arcade is of Lundy granite. The Portledge pew, at the E. end of the S. aisle, is made up of pieces from the Elizabethan minstrels' gallery at Portledge, and the reredos from old bench-ends taken out of Parkham

church in 1806. The pulpit is made up largely from bench-ends in Alwington church itself; one of the remaining bench-ends is dated 1580. The mural monuments of the Coffins of Portledge are worth attention, especially that to Richard Coffin (1617) and Elizabeth his wife (1651) and their fifteen children.

Portledge was the home of the Coffins from the time of Henry II until recently, though the male line has failed twice. The house is now a hotel, but the Pine-Coffins still live in the neighbourhood. It is mainly a 16th century house, much altered in the early 15th century. Yeo Vale is a 15th century mansion, of which the gatehouse survives, built into a large, square late Georgian country house. The ruined chapel beside the road up to Tucking-mill was formerly at Yeo Vale (licensed 1408), but was rebuilt here in the early 19th century.

Appledore

Appledore is located within Torridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Shebbear Hundred. It falls within Hartland Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript *Church Notes* of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

A parish history file is held in Appledore Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Appledore area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 12/10,11 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 12SW,SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS462305
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS43SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 139
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 292 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Appledore. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Appledore is a delightful unspoilt village at the meeting place of the beautiful Taw and Torridge estuaries. The delicate colouring of the estuary, of the Braunton Burrows, and of the hills beyond, is matched by the colour-wash everywhere in the village. The streets are narrow, many of the houses old; some are certainly Elizabethan. The church (St. Mary) was built in 1838 and is dull: everything else in Appledore is fascinating. There is little doubt that a village called Tawmouth existed here in the 11th century. It seems to be identical with the *Tawmutha* referred to in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle under 1068 (actually 1069) when Harold's three illegitimate sons crossed from Ireland with 64 ships, landed here and were beaten off with great losses. The scene of this battle may be *Bloody Corner*, just below Northam, where human bones and coins are said to have been found. This site is marked on the O.S. map as the scene of the battle of 878 but there is no authority for this identification.

The name Appledore first occurs in the grant of a shop or a stall (*seld*) "next the strand at Apildore" in 1335, but it seems to have decayed almost to nothing during the 15th century if Westcote's statement c. 1630 is correct. He says, speaking of Northam: "This parish is grown very populous lately, for in the memory of man, at a place called Appledore ... stood but two poor houses; and now for fair buildings and multiplicity of inhabitants, and houses, it doth equal divers market towns, and is furnished with many good and skilful mariners." On the other hand, Leland, writing about 1540, calls Appledore "a good Village" and it is plainly marked on Saxton's map of 1575. It certainly became a populous place in Elizabethan days, rising with Bideford, having the advantage of being the first place within the bar where ships could lie up.

On Staddon Hill, the summit W. of the village, is an earthwork, thrown up during the Civil War, which commanded the two estuaries and commands today a magnificent view towards Exmoor and Dartmoor. In Ogilby's day (1675) the main road from

Bideford to Ilfracombe passed over Staddon Hill, crossed the estuary by a ferry to St. Ann's chapel (now gone), and continued across the Braunton Burrows. A small shipbuilding industry is still carried on at Appledore, which has two dry docks. The salmon fishery in the estuary has been carried on continuously since Saxon days. In 1086 the abbot of Caen had a fishery in the manor of Northam (probably here at Appledore) worth 30 pence yearly.

Arlington

Arlington is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwill Hundred. It falls within Shirwell Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript *Church Notes* of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library. The population was 207 in 1801 217 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 404 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Barnstaple Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Arlington area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 10/1 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 10NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS614405.
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS64SW
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Arlington was until recently one of the principal seats of the ubiquitous Chichester family. They acquired the manor by marriage with a Raleigh heiress late in the 14th century Arlington Court, their residence, was handed over to the National Trust in 1947 and Chichester of Arlington is no more. There are fine grounds but the house itself, built 1820-3, is of little architectural interest. It is now open to the public. Amias Chichester (d. 1577), by Jane, daughter of Sir Roger Giffard of Brightley, had nineteen sons and four daughters. Kingsley refers to this noble sight of nineteen sons

in *Westward Ho!* The church (St. James) was rebuilt by Coult in 1846, except for the tower. A number of mural tablets from 1622 onwards commemorate the Chichesters. Twitchen was a Domesday manor.

Ashburton

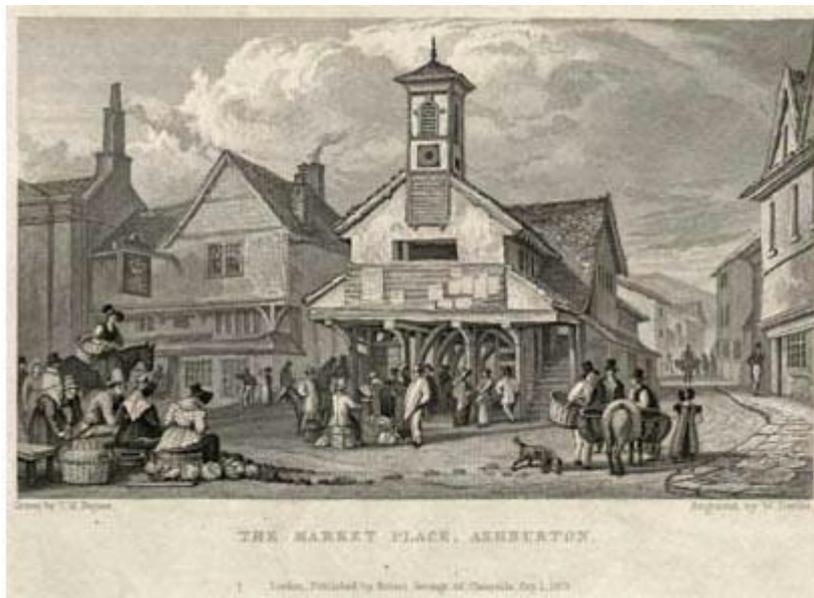
Ashburton is located within Teignbridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Teignbridge Hundred. It falls within Mortonhamstead 1 Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript *Church Notes* of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 3080 in 1801 2628 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £03/06/11. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £30/00/05. It is recorded as a borough from 12 cent.. It had parliamentary representation from 1640-1868. A turnpike was established in 1755. The community had a grammar school from 1593. A market is recorded from 14c.-1935.

A parish history file is held in Ashburton Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Illustrations

The image below is of Ashburton (SC0007) as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Maps

The image below is of the Ashburton area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on
 - 25 inch (1:2,500) sheet 108/15,114/3
 - Six inch (1:10560) sheet 108SE,114NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX756700
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheets SX76NE & SX77SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 28
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 338 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Ashburton The history of the quiet little town of Ashburton, (by-passed by main roads and railways) is that of a score of Devonshire market-towns. It reached its maximum population in 1831, and then declined continuously for the next four generations. The census of 1951 shows the first increase of population (to 2,704) for 120 years, arising largely from the growing popularity of the Dart Valley among retired persons.

Ashburton took its name from the stream on which it stands, the Ashburn, now called by the commonplace name of Yeo. It became part of the vast estate of the bishops of Exeter some time before the Norman Conquest) and remained episcopal property until the time of James I, when it was alienated to the Crown, and subsequently sold to lay-men.

The town owed much to the bishops of Exeter, as well as to its natural situation in the midst of rewarding farmland and at the margin of the rich mineral wealth of Dartmoor. A market had already grown up before the end of the 12th century and a borough had been created by one of the bishops before 1238.

The Dartmoor tin trade developed spectacularly during the latter part of the 12th century, and Ashburton became the natural collecting centre for the south-eastern side of the Moor. In 1305 it became one of the four official stannary towns. The tin

trade remained important at Ashburton until the early 17th century) and was carried on in a small way until well into the 19th.

Simultaneously with the rise of the tin trade, the cloth industry was established along the banks of the Ashburn, which supplied the power for a number of fulling mills. Ashburton became a considerable market for cloth, tin, corn and cattle, and had two great annual fairs. It declined after the Black Death and not until about the 1580s did it experience a renewal of its old prosperity, arising from the development of the "new draperies." Many of its attractive old houses, some of them slate-hung in the South Devon manner, date from these years of prosperity up to 1640.

The great growth of road traffic after 1660 brought more inns and subsidiary trades, for the town lay on the main road between Exeter and Plymouth) about half-way between the two places. For some time iron-mining also was carried on near the town. An iron mill is marked on an Ashburton map of 1605, about two-thirds of a mile above Holne Bridge, on the E. bank of the Dart. The ruins of one furnace still exist, and the old shafts are to be found in the hillside immediately above. (D.A. 56 (1924), 53-4, 94-6.)

We catch a brief and unflattering glimpse of Ashburton in the pages of Celia Fiennes (1698): "this Ashburton is a poor little town - bad was the best inn." Probably Ashburton's greatest days were in the 18th century, before the cloth industry fell upon evil days and while the road traffic still clattered and thundered through its narrow streets.

The ending of the East India Company's monopoly of the China trade in 1833 brought disaster to Ashburton's trade, and the population fell as unemployed woollen workers drifted elsewhere. Then the opening of the South Devon Railway in 1846, by-passing the town by several miles, killed the greater part of its coach and wagon traffic, except purely local trade, and so the decline went on. The arrival in 1872 of a branch railway from Totnes - one of the most picturesque little railways in England - did nothing to revive the dying town; and it mouldered gently on into the 20th century, losing its young people to places like Torquay and Newton Abbot, and attracting only the elderly, looking for peace and quiet and reasonably cheap living.

Apart from the slate-hung houses and one or two picturesque parts like Kingsbridge Lane, the only notable thing to see in Ashburton is the parish church (St. Andrew). Its granite tower is one of the handsomest in Devon. Ashburton is essentially a 15th century church, with unusual granite arcades and good bossed roofs. There are some traces of earlier work, the chancel being mostly 14th century in date, but the church has been much altered and "restored." The fine rood-screen was chopped up for firewood. The present screen, designed by G. E. Street, who restored the church in 1881-3, is out of keeping with a Devon church, being more of the East Anglian type. Behind the organ is a memorial to John Dunning) 1st Lord Ashburton, who was born at Gulwell, in the adjacent parish of Staverton, and educated at Ashburton Grammar School. Among others educated at the grammar school, which was founded in 1314 by Bishop Stapeldon, were William Gifford (1756-1826), the son of a glazier at

Ashburton, who became the first editor of the Quarterly Review', John Ireland (1761-1842), son of an Ashburton butcher, who became Dean of Westminster; and possibly John Ford the dramatist, who was born at Bagtor in Ilsington, not far away. The grammar school is built on the site of the chapel of St. Lawrence, the tower of which may still be seen.