

A TESTIMONIAL ON BEHALF OF JOHN LEREGO THE ELDER,
INNKEEPER AT MOPSON'S CROSS

To the right worshipfull the Kinges ma^{ties} Justyces
of the Quorum & Peace w^{thin} this County
of Wigorn:

May it please your good worshippes to be advertized that at the instance & Requeste of John Lerego the elder beinge an aged man; w^{thin} our paryshe of Rock and a man of good conversacyon and honeste behavoiur; amongst us his neighbours & parishenours of the said paryshe of Rock, at all tymes for the space of this fyfty yeares & more paste / We therefore whose names are under written; doe testifye the truth of our knowledges unto your worshippes; (not only of the honest behavoiur of the said John Lerego; but alsoe of the fitnessse & conveyency of the place where he dwelleth: * for the keeping of vituallage & ale sellinge; And hath used the said vitualling & ale sellinge in that place in that place for this eighte & forty yeares paste or more: the said place of his habitacyon adioyninge unto an highe way greatly frequented & used dayly; and especially at such tymes as his ma^{ties} counsell doth lye at Beaudley: And for travellers at all tymes passinge to & fro on the the Country: Thus much we hold fytt in duty to signify unto your worshippes; in Regard of his honest behavoiur & conveyency of the place; he beinge a man soe fyttinge for soe good & necessary a purpose; to whose due consideracyons in your wisdomes we Leave him; and you to god: humbly takinge our Leaves: Restinge at your further commaunde-
mente. Rock: this eighte of January 1609: **

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Humphrey Inet *** |) church wardens | Geo. Benson, sancte P (agine) |
| Richard Hubball **** |) | Doctor Rector ecclesie ***** |
| William Tayler + | | Thomas Harte ++ William W--- |
| Edward Brasier +++ | | William Boraston +++++ |
| Thomas Brasier +++ | | Roger Bynt +++++ |
| Henerie Newnam | | Thomas Touchstone |
| | | Thomas Binte +++++ |
| | | Frauncis Michaell |
| | | George Southall |
| | | Lewes Dally |

Notes

- * The inn in question was probably the one we know as The Royal Forester at Mopson's Cross. See p.10 note *
- ** In our reckoning 1610.
- *** Inet was churchwarden again in 1613.
- **** Richard Hubball was the father of Richard who migrated to America, see pp. 13 and 88.
- ***** Dr. Benson later went to Lindridge.
- + Tayler had been churchwarden in 1600.
- ++ Thomas Harte was probably the schoolmaster, a graduate of Christchurch, Oxford.
- +++ Edward Brasier was churchwarden in 1608 and Thomas in 1600, 1612 and 1614. They were connected with Blakemoor.
- ++++ William Boraston was churchwarden in 1605, and was probably the father of the Revd. J. Boraston. See p.90 *****
- +++++ The Bints lived at Moorgreen, Stildon and The Snead.

A TESTIMONIAL ON BEHALF OF JOHN LEREGO THE ELDER,
INNKEEPER AT MOPSON'S CROSS, 1610

Such testimonials were necessary because innkeepers had to be licensed by the Justices. It was signed by Dr. George Benson, Rector of Rock, the two churchwardens, the schoolmaster and twelve parishioners.

The innkeeper was called John Lerego the elder to distinguish him from John Lerego the younger, who was probably his nephew. The younger Lerego was a parish clerk, and he made a fair copy of the first part of the Parish Register. Against the record of his baptism in 1578, he wrote, "Scriptor huius libri" - "The writer of this book", and whenever the name "Lerego" appears he gave it an extra flourish.

The right worshipfull the Kinges ma^{ties} Justyces of the Quorum & Peace w^{thin} this County of Wigorn:

*May it please your good worshippes to be advertized that at the instance & Requeste of John Lerego the elder beinge an aged man; w^{thin} our paryshe of Rock and a man of good conversacyon and honeste behavoiur; amongst us his neighbours & parishenours of the said paryshe of Rock, at all tymes for the space of this fyfty yeares & more paste / We therefore whose names are under written; doe testifye the truth of our knowledges unto your worshippes; (not only of the honest behavoiur of the said John Lerego; but alsoe of the fitnessse & conveyency of the place where he dwelleth: * for the keeping of vituallage & ale sellinge; And hath used the said vitualling & ale sellinge in that place in that place for this eighte & forty yeares paste or more: the said place of his habitacyon adioyninge unto an highe way greatly frequented & used dayly; and especially at such tymes as his ma^{ties} counsell doth lye at Beaudley: And for travellers at all tymes passinge to & fro on the the Country: Thus much we hold fytt in duty to signify unto your worshippes; in Regard of his honest behavoiur & conveyency of the place; he beinge a man soe fyttinge for soe good & necessary a purpose; to whose due consideracyons in your wisdomes we Leave him; and you to god: humbly takinge our Leaves: Restinge at your further commaunde-
mente. Rock: this eighte of January 1609: ***

To the right worshipfull the Kinges ma^{ties} Justyces of the Quorum & Peace w^{thin} this County of Wigorn:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Humphrey Inet |) church wardens | Geo. Benson, sancte P (agine) |
| Richard Hubball |) | Doctor Rector ecclesie ***** |
| William Tayler | | Thomas Harte ++ William W--- |
| Edward Brasier | | William Boraston +++++ |
| Thomas Brasier | | Roger Bynt +++++ |
| Henerie Newnam | | Thomas Touchstone |
| | | Thomas Binte +++++ |
| | | Frauncis Michaell |
| | | George Southall |
| | | Lewes Dally |