

## 12 Pickwick ~ hair powder tax records

In 1791-5 the owner of both no. 12 and no 14 was referred to as 'late Edward Mitchell' as Thomas had died in 1789 and his nephew Edward had died the same year. We now have the names of tenants. The occupiers were John Bowshire and Mr. Ludlow. Bowshire is more often written Bowsher or Boucher, meaning butcher. In keeping with their name, John Bowsher and William Bowsher were butchers at Corsham in the period 1793-8.<sup>i</sup> (There are Corsham wills for Mary Bowsher widow (1790), Richard Boucher senior (1790), Charles Bowsher (1801) and Susanna Bowcher (1832).) Mr Ludlow is likely to have been living at no. 12. Dr. Daniel Ludlow M.D and his wife Catherine paid hair powder tax in 1796 and 1797.<sup>ii</sup> He is listed as a physician at Corsham in 1793-8.<sup>iii</sup>

Another medical man succeeded Mr Ludlow at no. 12, William Saintsbury, surgeon.<sup>iv</sup> He was practising in the town in 1793-8 and also paid hair powder tax in 1796 and 1797. He was occupying the house in 1800. At that date Susannah Mitchell, Edward's widow owned both 12 and 14. She too paid hair powder tax at Corsham but was presumably living elsewhere in the town. John Sweatman was the tenant of 14 which was valued at £1.14.0<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. No 12 was surprisingly valued at only 10s 5d. Sweatman was an innholder, probably holding the Methuen Arms. Innholders often had a separate family home.

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<sup>i</sup> WRS vol. 47

<sup>ii</sup> B. Hurley *The Hair Powder Tax Wiltshire 1997*

<sup>iii</sup> WRS vol. 47

<sup>iv</sup> WRS vol. 47 and