

NOTES ON AN ANCIENT HOUSE AT STEYNING.

By W. POWELL BREACH.

BEHIND the modern cemented front of the "Norfolk Arms," the inn in Church Street, Steyning, may be found some interesting details of the interior of a good sixteenth century house. There are several nail-studded doors of excellent construction and an exceptionally beautiful staircase, of which the drawing by Miss Drake shows only the flight on the first floor.

About the middle of the seventeenth century this house was undoubtedly the residence of Richard White, gent.,¹ which is confirmed by one of the doors having upon it in nails the initials "R. W." and by the clause in the following will:—

I John Marchant of the Parish of Beeding als Seale in the County of Sussex Gent. . . .

I give more to the said Towne of Stenning Three pounds towards the paving of the Churche Streete between the shopp of . . . Peckham, Blacksmith, and the house of Richard White, Gent. to be paid by my Executors to D^r Chatfeld to be disposed of as aforesaid.²

Proved 17 Nov 1670.

In the Assessment for the Hearth Tax, A.D. 1664, is the following item:—

6^s 0^d Richard White Gent vi hearths.

The house continued to be used as a private residence until some 60 years ago, when the public-house licence was obtained. The blacksmith's business is still carried on at the old "Shopp."

¹ For further particulars relating to this Richard White, see *S.A.C.*, Vol. XXXIV., pp. 139-162.

² Information: R. Garraway Rice, F.S.A.



Norfolk Arms Inn
Stegning 1924