

AN INVENTORY OF AN INNKEEPER'S POSSESSIONS IN 1685

THIS inventory was taken, so far as the information goes, on the death in 1685 of the tenant, George Leader, of the George and Dragon Inn at Speldhurst, an inn traditionally known, from the date of 1212 ascribed to it, as the second oldest in Kent, the first being "The Fountain" at Canterbury. It is described by Mr. D. C. Maynard in his book, *The Old Inns of Kent*.

Inventories of household possessions have already appeared in several volumes of *Arch. Cantiana* beginning in Vol. I with that of Juliana de Leybourne, Countess of Huntingdon, who died in 1367. In Vol. XV there is an inventory of feather beds, and linen, blankets, hangings, etc., at or belonging to Leeds Castle in 1532. In Vol. XXVII Mr. Arthur Hussey prints a Faversham Household Inventory of 1609. Here we have the goods of a rich widow who intended to marry again. They included, with the eleven pieces of silver and fourteen silver spoons, many more valuable possessions than could have belonged to an innkeeper but, on the other hand, the house seems to have had only three living rooms—the hall, the parlour, and "the chamber over the hall."

For other Kentish inventories we may name two printed in Shaw's *Memorials of Eastry*. The first tabulates the possessions of William Bolelar at his death in 1600. From the many rooms in his house, and the furnishings, he was clearly a well-to-do landowner but although his goods and chattels were valued at £500-10-0 he only left £4 of "reddy money." George Leader's cash and wearing apparel it will be seen were appraised at £5-5-0. The second is far down the scale of material wealth as the property of poor widow Frances Walker of St. Peter's, Sandwich could only be valued at 4/1. Everything was old, the bed—probably

worm-eaten—was of basket work, and an old coverlet and an old wicker chair, valued respectively at 1/8 and 2d., were not brought into the total as there were notes to both items saying that “the childe had it to wrap it in,” and “the chylde had it.”

The inventory now transcribed is written on one side of two strips of parchment, 23 and 24 inches long by $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, sewn together to make one. The writing of the body of the document is in a bold hand using a thick quill. The total sum and the final affirmation is in the fine hand of Rupert Browne, who signs as registrar. Dr. Gordon Ward suggests that this means “There was exhibition of this Inventory 15 May 1685 by the oath of Peter Barret, procurator for the execution (or executors), &c, as a true full and perfect Inventory, &c, under allowance nevertheless for additions, &c, if &c.” The Inventory otherwise is almost self-explanatory.

The roll belongs to our member, C. W. Powell, Esq., D.L., who has had it transcribed, and into whose possession it came as owner of “The George and Dragon.” It is endorsed on the back “1685” in a nineteenth century hand.

W.P.D.S.

A INVENTORY of the Goods of the late deceased George Leader in the pish of Speldhurst in the County of Kent, being prised the Eleventh of May 1685 : by John Carier & John Hatridge

	Li	S	D
Iṁ pris Ready mony & wearing Apparill	5	—	5 — 0
Iṁ in the New Garrett. 2 bedsteddles, mats & cords, 4 feather beds, one flock bed, two — bouldsters 5 pillowes 6 blankettes two — Coverletts one Shute of Certens & vallence one table, 3 Chaiers att _____	10	—	10 — 0
Iṁ In the 2 other Garretts 6 Shutes of — Certens & vallence 7 Carpets, 3 Chaires, one Side bord, 2 Chests, one Close Stoole pan one Scry* att _____	7	—	7 — 06

* A sieve used for winnowed corn.—N.E.D.

	Li	S	D
Itm̄ in a nother garret Adjoyning to the same 2 bedsteddles, mats & Coards, one flock — bed 4 bouldsters, one Coverlet, one blanket one Shute of Courtens & vallence one stoole one chaire att _____	2	2	6
Itm̄ in the Chamber ouer the little paler one bedsteddle mat & Cord, one feather one bouldster, one pillow, one Sute of — Curtens & vallence, 2 Coverletts, 4 blanketts one prefs 5 Chaires, one table ; & winder Certings all Amounting to _____	5	5	0
Itm̄ : in the Great Chamber, one bedsteddle mat & Coard, one feather bed, one boldster 2 pillow one quilt, 2 blanketts. one shute of Curtens & vallence, 6 Chaires, 3 Stooles, one Side bord one table, all Amounting to _____	6	0	0
Itm̄ : in the Chamber ouer the Hall, one bed steddle matt & Cord, one ffether bed one — bouldster, 2 pillowes, 2 blanketts, one Coverlett one Shute of Curtaines & vallence one table one Side bord, 3 Chaires, one Stoole, one ffire shovell, one payer of anjrons & tongs all amounting to _____	5	2	6
Itm̄ : in the chamber ouer the bakehouse one bedsteddle, mat & Cord, 3 feather beds, three boldsters, 5 pillowes, one Shute of Curtings & vallence, one quilt, 9 blanketts, 3 coverletts 2 Tables _____	7	7	6
Itm̄ : In the New Chamber, one bedsteddle mat & Cord, one feather bed, one boldster 4 pillow 2 blanketts, one Rugg one Shute of Curtens & vallence, 2 tables, 3 Chairs one Stoole all amounting to _____	4	15	0
Itm̄ : in the Hall, 2 bedsteddles, mats & Cords one feather bed, 2 blanketts one Rugg, one Sute of Curtens & vallence one Cubbord, one Table 6 Chaires 9 <u>Cushens</u> x x (letters underlined are in another hand, space having been left for them) one paire of Anjrens, one paire of Tongs one Close Stoole pan, all amounting to _____	4	2	6

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	Li	S	D
Itm̄. in the great paler, 16 Chaires Two Tables, 2 Carpetts, 2 Stooles, one Sidebord one paire of Anjrens, one paire of Tongs one ffire Shovell one paire of Bellowes — & Hangings (see above) & windder (the terminal " r " altered in later hand to " w ") Curtens att —	4	5	0
Itm̄ In the little Parler, 2 bedsteddles mats, & Coards, 3 Coverlets, 2 blanketts, 2 tables one chest, 3 Chaires all Amounting to —————	1	10	0
Itm̄ in a nother house in the 2 Garretts — 2 bedsteddles mats & Cords, 2 flock beds 2 tables 2 stooles, one Chaire —————	1	5	0
Itm̄ : In the Chamber ouer the dining Roome one bedsteddle mat & Coard one feather — bed one flock bed, 3 bouldsters, 5 pillows 7 Coverletts, 11 blanketts, 10 Chaires one — table, 2 Stooles —————	8	5	0
Itm̄ : in a nother Roome Adjoyning to itt one bedsteddle mat & Cord, 2 feather beds 4 bouldsters 2 tables, 2 stooles —————	4	10	0
Itm̄ : in the Low Rooms 2 bedsteddles — mats & cords 12 pillowes 2 tables —————	3	10	0
Itm̄ : In the dining Room 3 Tables and Chaires, 3 Stooles one paire of Tongs one fire Shovell —————	1	10	0
Itm̄ : In the little Chamber ouer the wash — house, 2 bedsteddles, one feather bed, one — flock bed, 3 blanketts one Coverlet, one Chest one Chaire one Stoole —————	1	7	6
Itm̄ : In a out Roome, 4 bedsteddles mats and Cords, 2 flock beds, 2 bouldsters —————	1	5	0
Itm̄ : 20 paire of Sheets —————	22	0	0
Itm̄ : 20 paire of a ditto (see above) —————			
Itm̄ : 12 dosen of napkins —————			
Itm̄ : 16 paire of Pillowbers (i.e. pillowcases) ———			
Itm̄ : 20 Table clothes —————			
Itm̄ : 18 Towells —————			
Itm̄ : 216 pounds of Pewter at —————	7	4	0

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	Li	S	D
Itm̄ : 9 dozen of plates at _____	}	5	— 10 — 0
Itm̄ : one doz of Porengers _____			
Itm̄ : 8 fflaggens at _____			
Itm̄ : one dossen ("½" interlined in later hand) of pewter Chamber pots — _____			
Itm̄ : 3 paire of Andjrons at _____	}	4	— 7 — 6
Itm̄ : 9 paire of Brajs Candelsticks at _____			
Itm̄ : 3 Brajs Sole pans (altered to "Sose pans" in later hand) Two brajs Skimers _____			
Itm̄ : one ladle, 2 warming pans 4 brass _____			
Itm̄ : 4 (a word interlined here, ? yron) dripping pans, 5 Spits one paire of Anjrons _____			
Itm̄ : one Table, 2 Chests 2 Cubberds one — Close Stoole Pann _____	}	1	— 0 — 0
Itm̄ : one brass furnefs 3 brass pots 4 brass Kettles, 6 brass skilletts one Iron furnefs _____			
Itm̄ : 8 Iron pots one Iron Kettle ; 2 Iron — frying pans, 2 Iron Gridge Irons, 7 tubs 5 keelers 15 Milk trayes 6 pailles _____	}	4	— 4 — 0
Itm̄, 18 beare vefsellts, 2 tubs. one Jack — Three tables _____			
Itm̄ : 3 Cast Smeding* Irons, one Morter and peftle, one Clock & Jack 3 tables, 6 Joyne — stooles, 6 Chaines, one paire of Anjrons 4 pothanggers, 3 Chafendiches one fire pann & tongs, one paire of bellows _____	}	3	— 6 — 0
Itm̄ : one Horse one halser (? a heiffer) 3 hoggs —			
Itm̄ : Husbandry tackling _____	1	— 10	— 0
Itm̄ : for Goods unseene or forgott _____	0	— 7	— 6

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Suſa total̄ hujus Inveñii CLj.x^s
 — Exhibitum fuit (?) hujus Invent:ii
 Decimo quinto die menſis Maii
 Anno Domini 1685 per jurum Petrum
 Barrett Procuracionem pro Execut &c pro vero
 plene et perfecto Inventorio &c sub proteſtacione
 tamen de addendo &c ſi &c

RUPERTUS BROWNE Regiſtarius

* ? Smoothing.