

## EDWARD BEAK/BEAKE

Edward Beak of Christchurch, aged 21, married Elizabeth Harris of Holdenhurst by licence at Holdenhurst church (Rev. William Dale), on 10th May 1764. Elizabeth's name is entered as Betty.

Described as living in one of the small villages on Bourne Heath. Knew Kinson and was known to the Revenue service as was William Harris, his wife's brother, who lived at Decoy Pond House in 1771.

One of Beak's smuggling companions was William Frampton and during the 1770s he was closely associated with the Longham smugglers, Thomas Hooper, Richard Wilkins and Edward Moores.

In 1777, local Customs officials acknowledged Edward Beak as a very great smuggler who had lately enjoyed great success. Such success seems to have rubbed off on Richard Wilkins who married Elizabeth King in St Andrew's church, Kinson, on 2nd June 1777.

Thomas Hooper married Sarah Neave at Hampreston on 3rd June 1780. Unlike Gulliver who lived long enough to amass a great fortune, Thomas was declared bankrupt in 1784.

The old Land tax records for the Kinson and surrounding areas are very helpful in locating where Beak was a tenant and how much he paid.

1780, Henry Bankes for Bemisters, Edward Beak paid £3.16.0d.

1780, Mr Gulliver for Waterlane, Edward Beak paid £0.13.4d.

1780, Mr Gulliver for Ansteys, Edward Beak paid £1.0.0d.

1780, Mr Gulliver for Framptons, Edward Beak paid £0.13.4d.

1780, at Hampreston, Anthony Harris (tenant), Edward Beak (Proprietor).

1781-1782, Henry Bankes still had Beak as a tenant paying £3.16.0d.

1782, James Reeks for his estate, Edward Beak paid £0.12.6d.

1782, Mr Willis for his estate, Edward Beak paid £0.6.8d.

Also in 1784, Beak described himself as a merchant in commerce and lived at Ensbury.

On the 3rd August 1785, Edward Beak was a witness at the wedding of William Monk and Mary Kearley at St Andrews church, Kinson. He was probably charm itself on the day. But at work, when guarding his waggon and casks, he was feared by the Christchurch riding officers including Jasper Bursey. Despite worthy efforts to contain him, smuggling was a very successful venture for him.

Between 1785 to 1786, Edward Beak of Ensbury is mentioned in documents regarding a large common or heath called Coombe Corner, part of the waste of Great Canford.

In November 1786, a newly built Kinson malt house, 180 ft x 24 ft, with two kilns and one acre of land was advertised. The premises could be viewed by contacting Mr John Potter of Kinson, Mr. John Lester at Poole, or Mr. Edward Beak at Ensbury.

1788-1789, Landowners still the Bankes family and Edward Beak was paying the same annual amount of £3.16.0d for Bemisters.

1789, Gullivers late Lockyers, Edward Beak paid £2.6.0d.

1789, W Austin late Reeks, Edward Beak paid £0.12.6d.

1789, Sir John Webb, Edward Beak paid £0.6.0d.

1789, For Dooks, Edward Beak paid £0.3.0d. (Probably modern day Cuckoo Woods.)

The 1790 sale of property to Sir George Rose mentions a dwelling house and 25 acres of heath and moorland, formerly a Decoy pond in Boorn Bottom, which was occupied by Edward Beak.

Betty Beak the spouse of Edward Beak died and was buried at Hampreston on 23rd April 1795.

Edward Beak died and was buried at Hampreston on 14th January 1800, aged 57. A legal document dated 25th January 1800 indicates he was a widower without a child. His estate was said to be worth £1,500.

From the site <https://moonfleetofkinson.chessck.co.uk/KinsonSmugglers>,  
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## Further info From Bournemouth Library:

There was a smuggler Edward Beak noted in the records of Poole Custom House. He was involved in a violent affray on the heath in 1770, with 19 other smugglers, when they were stopped at a spot called White Pits by 4 customs men from Christchurch, who discovered 60 tubs of spirits on Beake's wagon; customs officer Jasper Bursey of New Milton was thrown to the ground as the smugglers tried to escape, but he gave chase and shot one of their horses. Eventually some of the smugglers kept the customs officers prisoner for two hours whilst their accomplices escaped. Once freed, Bursey and his colleagues made their way to the beach and discovered Beake with 25 more casks. Beake punched the unpopular Bursey, but invited the other customs officers to share his supper. Several nights later two of the smugglers went to Bursey's home, posing as informants, offering to show him a stash of contraband, when he opened his door, they bashed his brains out.

## Map From Bournemouth Library

This is a map that was drawn up over 20 years ago based on various historical documents to get the old names of locations. The particular location we are interested is shown as Beaks Enclosure, which is of course where Slades Farm and Talbot Village are now located. Camp corner is now Ensbury Park. The track to the right of the enclosure is now Boundary Road.