

### Mortimers in the Devon Hearth Tax

In 1662, a national tax was ordered on households to make up a deficiency in the annual revenue granted to King Charles II. Returns were made during the periods of 1662-1666 and 1669-1674. The present extract is taken from the return for 1674, made on Lady Day (25 Mar). Every dwelling house was charged with an annual payment of 2 shillings for every hearth, paid at Michaelmas and Lady Day. Many were paupers and exempt on the grounds of poverty. If the household was not worth more than £1 a year and the occupier had no other land, they were exempt. The vast majority of those exempt had only 1 hearth. The 1674 return is the best Hearth Tax Return for Devon but is far from complete, with a total of 110 parishes – representing a quarter of the county, missing. The following is an extract of the Mortimer surname from the surviving Devonshire Returns, mostly from 1674 but also including entries from earlier surviving records.

Parish	Name	Hearths	Exemption	Date
Sandford	Jno Mortimer	2		25 Mar 1674
Crediton	Nic Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Crediton	Tho Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Crediton	Tho Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Crediton	Tho Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Morchard Bishop	Jane Mortimer	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Morchard Bishop	Ben Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Morchard Bishop	Tho Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Morchard Bishop	Tho Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Newton St Cyres	Robt Mortimore	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Dunsford	Edw Mortimore	1		25 Mar 1674
Dunsford	Smn Mortimer	2		25 Mar 1674
North Bovey	Wtr Mortimore	1		25 Mar 1674
North Bovey	Wtr Mortimore	2		25 Mar 1674
Tiverton	Wm Mortimer	3		25 Mar 1674
Tiverton	Hugh Mortimer	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Silverton	Gbt Mortimer	1		25 Mar 1674
Rewe	Jno Mortimore			25 Mar 1674
Nether Exe	Hugh Mortimer	1		25 Mar 1674
Cadbury	Jno Mortimer	1		25 Mar 1674
Exeter St Thomas	Gbt Mortimore	1		25 Mar 1674
Ashton	Jno Mortimore	1		25 Mar 1662
Ide	Wm Mortimer	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Ide	Wm Mortimer	1	pauper	25 Mar 1674
Kingsteignton	Jno Mortimore	2		25 Mar 1674
Berrynarbor	Wm Mortimore	3		25 Mar 1664
Great Torrington	Wm Mortimore	5		25 Mar 1674
Bishops Tawton	Geo Mortimore	2		25 Mar 1674
Parracombe?	Wm Mortimore	3		25 Mar 1674