

The Old Vicarage, Edensor

The Barker Family have lived in Edensor since the 16th century as shown by entries in the Parish Record. Their main residence was the house in Jap Lane now called the Old Vicarage, certainly in the 17th century and probably from much earlier. The actual building will have been extended and perhaps rebuilt over the centuries

The first Barker was William who died in 1584. His grandson William 1611-1668 was described variously as a yeoman and as a gentleman – obviously a person of significance. His grandson another William 1683-1736 was appointed steward to the Duke of Devonshire. He like many of his descendants had a major interest in the local lead industry, going into partnership with his unrelated namesake Thomas Barker who was agent to the Duke of Rutland.

His son Alexander Barker 1709-1784 succeeded as agent. He died with no living children. In 1784 major changes were taking place in the village. Earlier as shown in Senior's map of 1617 the Barker property called Barker's Bower Close extended to south of the present Old Vicarage but the garden was reduced in size when the present Park wall was built. At some date, probably 1784 when Alexander died, the Duke acquired The Old Vicarage. At the time his eldest surviving nephew and heir Captain Emmanuel Barker 1744-1794 lived in the house next door, now Jap Cottages but originally called Naboth's Vineyard. After negotiation Emmanuel agreed to exchange houses with the Duke. He moved to Burre House in Bakewell in 1790, leaving the Duke with the Jap Lane House and ownership of all the previous Barker property in Edensor.

By the early 1800s most of the family had left the village. Some had town houses where they were closer to their businesses, others were ordained with parishes. The last burial in Edensor was in 1822. Alexander grandson of Alexander (the agent) had lived in Topley but came "home" to be buried.

Sources – Parish Records. Roland Barker, Notes on the History of the family of Barker in Edensor by, and Peter Barker, Bakewell & District Historical Soc Journal 2019.

David Dalrymple-Smith

dds@w3z.co.uk

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