



Devon Family History Society
Joint Project Publication with
Devon Record Office



NORTH TAWTON LIST OF INHABITANTS

C1800

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DFHS Book Reference - D032

Between 1793 and 1802, France was constantly at war with Britain. Early in 1798, there was a build-up of General Napoleon Bonaparte's troops in the northern French ports which led to reports of a planned French invasion of the southern English coast. The French believed that their invading army would be broadly welcomed by the majority of ordinary British people. By contrast, across the Channel the British were in great fear of an imminent French invasion.

These lists of inhabitants were one of the types of records prepared under advice from the War Office in about 1798, in case of invasion. There are eleven separate lists of differing lengths, not all in the same handwriting, so the lists were probably compiled by several men.

They record the name, age and in most cases, the status or profession of each parishioner. Entire households were listed together, as they were in later censuses. Even newly born, un-baptised children were recorded as 'infants' and their age given in days.

The same parish collection [ref: 2914A] also contains other records prepared in case of invasion, to ensure that British troops could be fed and cared for, and to ensure the support the families of militiamen. The records include lists of men with ages and professions, a list of leaders of various classes, a list of waggons and drivers appointed for the removal of the sick and infirm, lists of live and dead livestock, and orders to overseers of the poor for the support of militiamen's wives and children.