

WERE, Humphrey of Halberton (c1569 – 1625) and his son Colonel John (died 1658)

Humphrey Were MP, whose principal residence was located in Halberton, was a lawyer and Member of Parliament for Callington in Cornwall (1614) and Tiverton (1624). He died, probably of the plague, in London in early 1625.

In his will he particularly requested that his wife take trouble over his son John's 'religious and virtuous education', expressing the hope that that the boy would go on to study law. Humphrey Were was buried in Halberton church, where a memorial was erected to him.

During the English Civil War, Humphrey Were's son **Colonel John Were** of Court Place, Halberton, proved to be one of Devon's more active Parliamentary leaders. In 1644 he was accused of having betrayed his post during action at Lostwithiel and occasioning the defeat of the Parliamentary Army on 1st September. He was acquitted and formed part of the Exeter garrison in 1645. He was buried in Halberton Church in 1658. The inscription on his grave translates as "Here lies the body of John Were Esq (formerly) English Republican Commander who died 24 October AD 1658".

Further reading

Humphrey Were

[Humphrey Were in The History of Parliament](#)

Colonel John Were

[Battle of Lostwithiel](#)

An article concerning [Colonel John Were's military career](#) in Devon Notes and Queries (1906) The quickest way to locate this article is to follow the link above and then press Ctrl and F. Search for the word "Halberton".