

# 'Renegado' John Were

truly a Hero

by

Douglas Rice

Few Parliamentary officers set pen to paper during the British Civil War, but Colonel John Were of Halberton found it necessary. At the beginning of the conflict in 1642 he had rejected his royalist background and raised a regiment of Mid-Devon men. With them he fought several major engagements before sharing command of the astonishing defence of Lyme Regis. But in 1644 he found himself about to be tried for deserting his post at Lostwithiel.

In the first part of the book, Colonel Were's writings are set into a clear and concise account of the Civil War in the West of England, illustrated with maps; in the second, four Appendices present in full his words as they appear in the source documents. These include Were's attempts to justify his actions in Cornwall and the apparent apostasy that followed. Here, and in his records of earlier service in Devon and Dorset, he emerges as a brave, sincere, committed and engaging contributor to an arduous campaign which profoundly affected Britain's future--truly a local hero.

Douglas Rice was formerly Head of English at Blundell's School, Tiverton. He is the author of *The Life and Achievements of Sir John Popham, 1531-1607* (Farrleigh Dickinson University Press) and editor of *Tiverton Castle, a Play by H T Heathcote* (Tiverton Castle).

John Were lived at Court Place (Halberton Court Farm), served as Churchwarden at St. Andrew's and is buried there.

Lower Hazel Books £7.50

*The launch will be held at  
St. Andrew's Church, Halberton, EX16 7AR  
on Sunday 9 June 2019  
from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm*

*Refreshments*

'Renegado' John Were will be on sale at Tiverton Museum Of Mid Devon Life and at Liznojan Books, Gold Street, Tiverton.