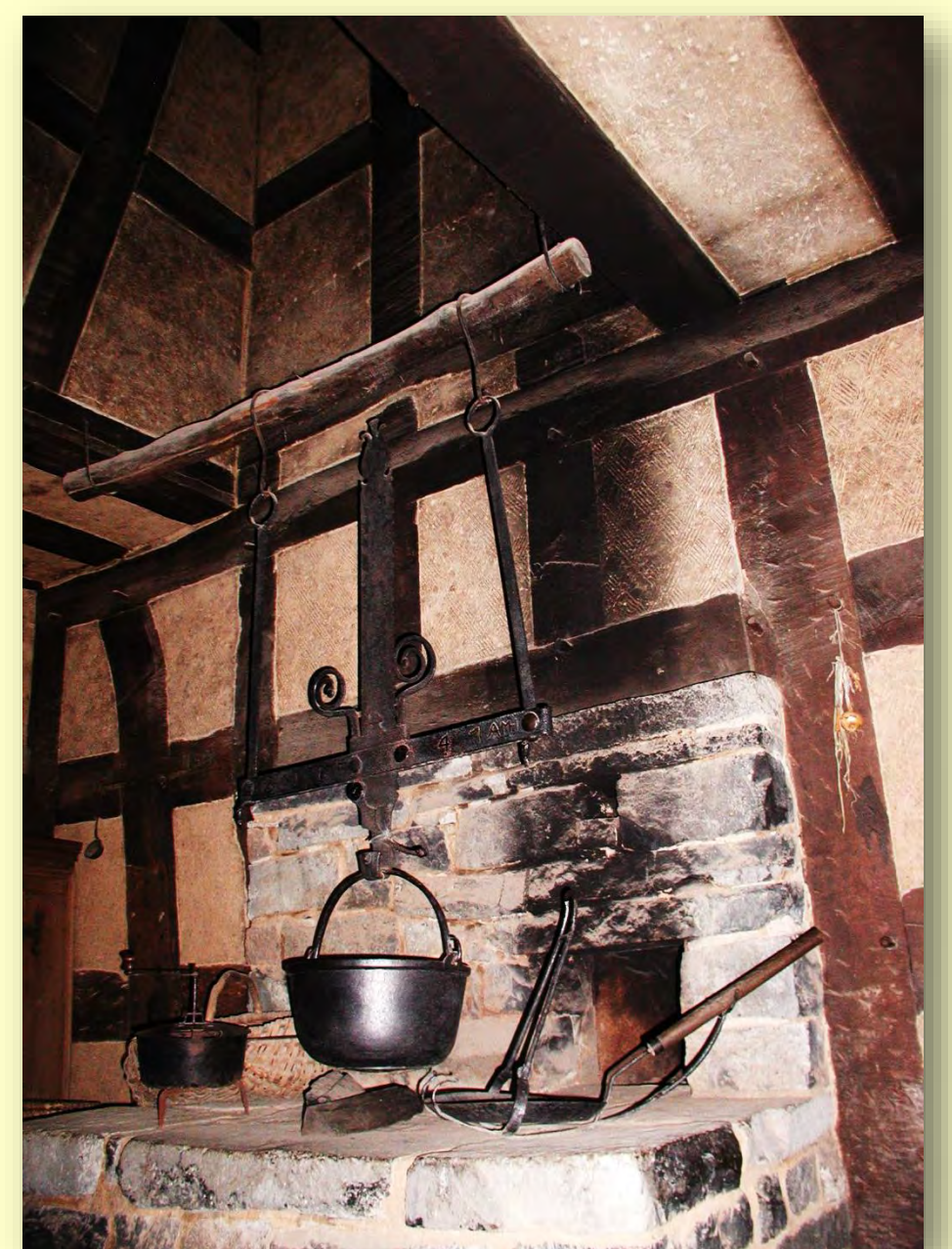As today, some people owned houses in Dover while others rented from one of the town's religious houses or from private landlords. Thomas Bocher (1496) had at least five messuages (house and outbuildings) and Robert Barbour, Thomas Rymour and Andrew Browne rented one each. Some had a (stone) cellar, shop, workshop (forge, brewhouse), a detached kitchen with a spit(s) and well in the 'backside'.

Being timber-framed houses, the late medieval innovation was the chimney, meaning open halls could be floored to create a first-floor room and the open hearth became a fireplace. Having more rooms, houses had beds and other furniture in several rooms. Joan Dransfeld (1492) had her four-poster bed in her parlour, with at least two other beds elsewhere in the house, while Joan Plesynton's (1495) similar best bed was in her 'inferior parlour'.

Chests, cupboards and coffers offered storage. Considered heirlooms, Geoffrey Elham (1496) had a square chest owned by his first wife and a chest that had belonged to his father. Such items were often described, Joan Dransfeld had an iron-bound chest, Alice Palmer's (1494) were made of spruce, while Walter Florunce (1525) had a great chest of wainscot of Flanders making. This furniture could be used for display – pewter vessels or silver spoons placed on cupboard cloths or carpets.

Other furniture in Dover halls, parlours, and chambers included chairs, forms and tables, but it was not until late Tudor times that these became more numerous. Candles and candlesticks extended daylight hours for work and leisure, while cushions provided greater comfort, John Pocok (1503) had six.

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