

POLWHELE

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The Otter washes the parish of Buckerel or *Bokerel*, to the south. This word may be deduced from *beau* or *bo*, *pecuaria vaxccarum*, *ker*, *cervus*, and *ael*, *fupertcilium*; and may signify, *fupercilium montis justa quod pecuaria vaccarum est, vel cervorum grex*. There is a ridge of hills running through the middle of this parish, exactly resembling an eyelid. And, what, also favours this conjecture, the greatest part of the parish is peculiarly fitted for dairy; and here was in former times a noted park; of which Deer-park is supposed to have been the ancient lodge. It is to be observed, too, that the deeds of Matthew de *Buckington* were sealed with a *deer's head, as his proper arms*. Buckerel must either come from the *bucks* or deer, or else from the tenure of *bocland*; according to which two derivations, all places called *Buckland* are to be settled. A rill passes by *Godford-cross* in Buckerel called the Wolf. It rises under *Wolford-church*.

Buckerel was the ancient inheritance of the Pomeroy, of Bury. In King John's time, it was given by Sir Henry Pomeroy to Sir Geoffrey his second son; from whom it came to Beachampe of Rime, who was married to Challons; from whom it descended to Bonville; by whose daughters, married to Fulford, and Gwyn of Ford-abbey, this manor became the land of those families.⁽¹⁾ "In 1772, according to Chapple, the Fulfords had sold their moiety of the manor to Richard Cross, esq. and the other still remained with the Gwyns."⁽²⁾ Below Honiton lies Warrinston, in this parish; through which lay the Roman road from Blackbury to Hembury-ford. Warrinston may be derived from the British words *uar rhyn tun – oppidum ad nasum sluminis* – it being very remarkable, that the ridge of hills running through Buckerell parish terminates above this village in the shape of a man's nose. "Some part of both the ⁽³⁾ Weringstons lyeth in Buckerell, and in the hundred of Hemyocke – which are also called *Raplingshays*. At Werringston dwelt Sir Robert Toliro, knt. in the days of Edw. 1st. The manor of Weringston belonged to the abbey of Dunkeswell, and was granted at the dissolution to John Drake," and soon afterwards, in 1611, to Robert Henley, esq. whose descendant Henry Henley, dismembered the manor, and granted the royalty of it, with the manerial right, to Thomas Courtenay, gent. who conveyed it to Robert Gidley, gent. its present possessor.⁽⁴⁾ *Cockenhays*, in this parish, sometime the land of Prodhams, descended to Whiting, and so to his heirs general – but "now (says Sir W. Pole) Henry Ashford, esq. hath the whole from the rest of the coheirs." At Cockerhays is a well-built brick house, pleasantly situated, the seat of the late Admiral Graves – now called Hembury-ford.⁽⁵⁾ ⁽⁶⁾"*Colehays*, in Buckerell, was first granted by Pomeroy to one *Cole* his cook, and continued diverse descents in the name of *Cole*, and at length became the inheritance of Peck. John Peck sold it to Walter Yonge, esq." The ancient mansion of *Colehays* is now a farm-house. ⁽⁷⁾*Deerpark*, in this parish, was formerly a chace: and, after the conquest, Matthew de *Buckington* held lands here; the crest of whose arms was a *buck* – whence, and from the *rill* of water, the parish, probably, took the name of *Buck-a-rill* or Buckerel. *Hoke-deers* is said to have been the ancient name of Deerpark. Here was a good barton-house, before the present mansion, which was built by Nicholas Fry, esq. His grandson, Henry Fry, esq. who resided at Deerpark, devised it to his widow.⁽⁸⁾

The church of Buckerel is said to be dedicated to St. Mary.⁽⁹⁾ Buckerel, in the King's books, 10s. 2½d. – certified value 31s. prop. And patrons, Dean and Chapter of Exeter -, vicar Richard Hole.⁽¹⁰⁾

(1) " *Thomas Beauchampe de Rime concessit Tho. De Wellington & Johanne Bolworthy manerium fuum de Bokerell & Dulesombe excert. terr. & tenem. Qux Henrius Terrell tenet. Tefte Job. Flint, Job. Gray, Jo. Wadham. Dat 41 Edw. III.* Of this place, a tribe took denomination; out of which issued Andrew Bokerell, lord mayor of the city of London in 1231, and chosen seven years successively – whose arms allude to his name: and out of this family, issued Roger Bokerell, one of the twelve knights who assisted Robert Fitz-Hamon in the conquest of Glamorganshire." *Risdon*. "Bokerell, in the hundred of Hemioke, was first the land of De la Pomeray, of Biry; & in Kinge John's tyme given unto Sir Galfride De la Pomeray, a younger son, from whom it descended successively unto Henry De la Pomeray, of Buckerell, John, & John; and after it became thenheritanc of the famyly of Challons, from whence it descended by Dennys & Bonvill unto Fulford. William Frances, of Combslory, esquier, hath a little mannor in Buckerell, descended unto him from his ancestors." *Sir W. Pole*, p.200.

(2) " The *Crosses* and *Gwynes* (says a correspondent) are no longer here: nor are there any inhabitants but farmers in this parish." *Letter to the Author in 1791*.

(3) Sir W. Pole.

(4) “The Manor called *Warrinston* or *Werringston* was dismembered by Henry Henley, esq. It belonged to Dunkeswell abbey. At the dissolution, King Henry 8th granted it to John Drake, merchant, and Margaret his wife. It afterwards came to Thomas Raymond, gent. then, in 1571, to Thomas May, merchant, by purchase with the queen’s licence. In 1611, it came to Robert Henley, esq. and Henry Henley, gent. his son, by purchase with the kings’s licence. In this family it remained till about the year 1727, when the manor was dismembered by Henry Henley, esq. a descendant of the family. But Mr. Henley, (together with the fee of a tenement called Kirkham, a part of the manor) granted the royalty of the said manor, and its various appendages, to Thomas Courtenay, gent. This is now (says Chapple) the property of Robert Gidley.”

(5) “*Cockenhayes* was purchased by Vice-Admiral Graves, about 1750, and now belongs to his nephew. It lies directly under *Hembury-fort*; the road leading to which is a Roman road, and is called, as such, *Cockenhay-street*. Admiral Graves did not build the house at Cockenhay, but repaired and enlarged it.” *Letter to the Author*.

(6) Sir W. Pole.

(7) Deer (the river) probably from *Deura* Cornish – (Dwr British) *water*.

(8) “At Deerpark, the family of the Frys, is extinct. The present possessor is the last of the family; after whose death, it will probably change hands. It is a pleasant situation in the vale of the Otter.” *Letter to the Author in 1791*.

(9) Rather, perhaps, to St. Giles, as the revel is held on the first Sunday in September.

(10) Thes. Eccles.