

THE
CHOROGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OR

SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF DEVON.

BY TRISTRAM RISDON.

PRINTED FROM A GENUINE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL
MANUSCRIPT; WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.

HODIE MIHI, CRAS TIBI.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR REES AND CURRIE, PLYMOUTH.

1811.

Reprinted by Porcupines,
Pilton Street, Barnstaple. 1970.

First published 1640?

daughters, Margaret, wife of John Fortescue, Elizabeth, wife of Phillip Courtenay, of Molland, and Phillippa, wedded to Robert Ashford, a younger son of Ashford House. Unto this Robert, William Bigberry, knight, gave the common of Bigberry, by his grant dated the twenty-eighth of Edward the third, and this name is firmly planted here. (173)

RINGMORE, in some records *Redmore*, was the ancient inheritance of the Fitz-Stephens', knights, which Giles Fishacre owned in king Edward the first's time; and William Ferrers, of Churchton, held one fee there in Merwell and Fogestanton in king Edward the third's time.

Okenbury was the lands of Tovy in the conqueror's time, for which he gelded after one hide, which was afterwards the Bozuns' inheritance; and by lineal descent from Emma, the daughter of William Ferrers, matched into the name of Ashford, it remaineth the inheritance of that tribe. (174)

The next river that emptieth itself into the sea is Arme, or Erme, whereof the place is called *Armouth*, which is so shallow and full of rocks, that no ships arrive there without extremity of weather enforce them. In the reign of king Henry the seventh, Philip, king of Castile, landed there by a tempestuous storm, with the loss of two of his ships. And on the thirteenth of January, in the year 1632, a ship suffered wreck here. Lamentable is the case of poor sea-faring men who suffer wreck, which the Normans called *Vartch*; from whom came that custom not unworthy writing, that in ancient times, if a ship were cast on shore, torn with tempest, and were not repaired by such as were left alive within a certain time, then this was taken for wreck. But king Henry the first disliking the justice of that custom, ordained, that if any one thing came on land alive, then the goods

the Rev. John Julian, who, dying without issue, bequeathed the manor of Kingston, with other lands, to his brother, the Rev. Humphrey Julian, Vicar of Egg-Buckland, the present possessor. *Wentwell* continued in the Ayshford family until about twenty years ago, when it descended, by marriage to Wise, and it is now the property of Ayshford Wise, Esq.

(174) The manor of *RINGMORE* is the property of Henry Roe, Esq. of Gnaton. *Kenbury* is the joint property of Ayshford Wise, and Thomas Splatt, Esq.

(175) *Stowford*, in the parish of *HARFORD*, is now the property and residence of Henry Rivers, junior, Esq. whose father has extensive possessions in *Ivy Bridge*, and the neighbourhood. The manor of *Ivy Bridge*, belongs to Sir John Rogers, of Blatchford, Baronet.

(176) *ERMINGTON*. John Bulteel, of Fleet, Esq. is lord of the hundred and manor of *ERMINGTON*, and *Stretchleigh* is also his property; *Stroud* belongs to Mr. Sampson Croker.

(177) *MODBURY*. The population of this town and parish, in 1801 was 1813, of whom 862 were returned as being employed in trade; houses, 296. *Shivelston*, in this parish, is the property of Christopher Savery, Esq. of South Efford; *Orcharton* belongs to John Bulteel, of Fleet, Esq. *Old Port*, to lord Ashburton. *Wimpton* lately belonged to Paul Treby Treby, Esq. and was sold by him to Mr. Pretty-John, who has erected a new house on the manor. *Yarncombe* continued in the Hart family, until of late years, when it was purchased by W. Mackworth Praed, Esq. *Little Modbury* is divided into several small estates, possessed by different owners. *Edmeston* belongs to the Rev. Robert H. Froud, rector of Dartington, who has greatly improved this very fine estate.

(178) *HOLBETON*. *Membland* was purchased about the year 1757 by John Bulteel, of Fleet, Esq. and afterwards sold by him to Peter Perring, Esq. It is now the residence of his nephew Sir John Perring, Bart. *Fleet*, one of the finest estates in the county of Devon, continued in the Hele family until the year 1716.—Richard Hele, dying in 1709, was succeeded by his only son James Modyford Hele, upon whose death, in his minority, in 1716, this branch of the family became extinct. *Fleet* then became the property of James Bulteel, Esq. to whom it had been devised by will, in the event of his son's death without issue, by the last Richard Hele, and has, since that period, been the residence of the family of Bulteel.

(179) *REVELSTOKE* is a chapel annexed to the vicarage of Yealmpton, and in the gift of the church of Salisbury. Sir John Perring, Bart. is lord of the manor.

(180) *NEWTON FERRERS*. The last of the Hele family who inherited their ancient possessions in this parish, was Roger Hele, of Holwell. He married Juliana, the daughter of Thomas Prestwood, of Botterford, by whom he had two daugh-