

A HISTORY OF  
THE PARISH OF  
WINKLEIGH  
IN THE COUNTY OF  
DEVON

BY  
LAWRENCE MOLLAND

Dedicated to the Nineteenth  
Century Labourers and  
Craftsmen of Hollarcombe,  
Winkleigh, Devon.

“Thus then lived this folk in much plenty and ease of life, though not delicately or desiring things out of measure. They wrought with their hands, and wearied themselves; and they rested from their toil and were merry: tomorrow was not a burden to them, nor yesterday a thing which they would fain forget: life shamed them not, nor did death make them afraid.”

*William Morris*

ROOTS OF THE MOUNTAINS.

# Introduction

In 1876 Charles Worthy wrote "The History of the Manor and Church of Winkleigh," the first and only book on Winkleigh to be published. Although this valuable little handbook contains many items of interest, not all of which fall within the range of its title, it is not a complete history and consequently fails to meet the requirements of The Devonshire Association.

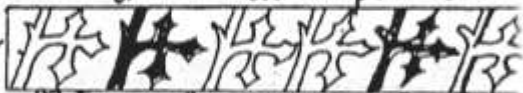
Nearly a dozen years ago a friend remarked to me that the monks of Crediton at one time used to walk to Hollacombe in order to preach at the ancient chapel of Hollacombe Barton. I was so surprised by this seemingly long trek that I made enquiries of the Devonshire Association. I was referred to the Lower Library of Crediton Church where it became obvious that Hollacombe Crediton and not Hollacombe Winkleigh was implied and quite a different proposition. Meantime the Honorary General Editor of the Parochial Section (Hugh R. Watkins Esq) suggested that I should write a history of Winkleigh. The undertaking was accepted although it was clear that my only qualification for the task was a deep regard for the associations of the parish combined with a particularly intense love for the hamlet of Hollacombe.

The result of this labour of love, produced in scanty spare

time, and spread over the intervening years should be considered with these points in view. The proof this present pudding will be measured by the ease with which the less immediately interesting parts can be assimilated by the general reader. Due care has been taken to verify all the subject matter. Some items, however, I have included unchecked because they are of interest. Wherever this has been done sufficient warning is given in the text, and the responsibility remains mine. Yet the whole work has been written with a sincere desire that it should be "History"



All the material required by the Association has been sought for, although its presentation in a more literary form may prevent easy reference. It is felt however that the aim is readability and not ease of reference and no further apologies are required on this score. The destruction of many valuable books in the City Library Exeter at the time of the German raids in 1942, however, cut short full consultation and use of their facilities. But it is doubtful whether the history could ever have been complete, even with their aid. Four main points require elucidation in my mind



1. Was the Burg, Burgh or Bborough Court of Saxon Post Conquest origin?



2. What was the origin and status of Winkleigh's own FOUR MEN?



3. There are no records concerning the foundation or dedicatio

of the Parish Church.

4. It has not been possible to record any customs of the four manors or to gain any information remotely bearing on them from the oldest inhabitants, although a centenarian was numbered among them.

Had these points been properly answered I would have felt more satisfaction in presenting this history to the Devonshire Association and to the people of Winkleigh.

In a work requiring so much accurate information I am naturally indebted to a host of friends and interested folk for their help. There is insufficient space to mention every name but to all I give my grateful thanks.

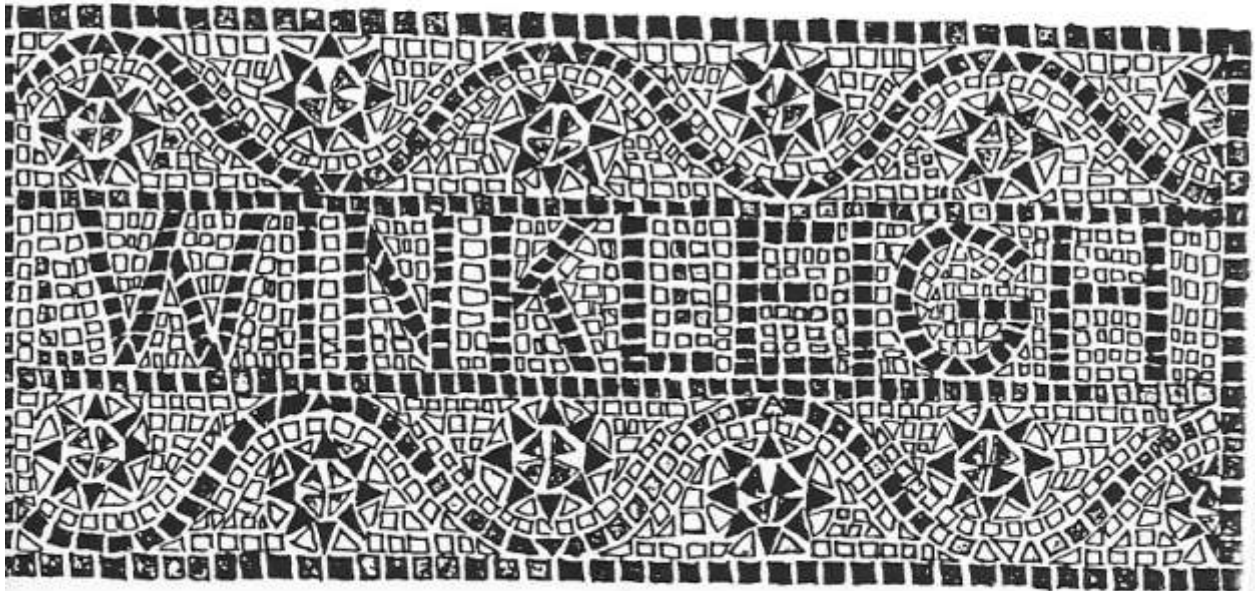
I am specially grateful to H. Tapley Lopez Esq. F.S.A., Mr Paley and the staff of the Exeter City Library for their courtesy and great help over many years; to the Revd J. Nesbitt M.A. for manuscript books on Winkleigh Church; to the Revd H.J. Hodgson M.A. for notes on the architecture of the Church; to F.M. Day Esq. M.A. for identification of some of the flora; to the Revd H.J. Riddelodell M.A. for his talks on Rubus; to Mrs F. Rose-Troup F.R. Hist. Soc, on field names; to Miss Ursula Radford, for the use of a monograph on the Revd William Davey; and to J. Benson Esq. M.A. for unflinching help on doubtful points.

My greatest debt is to my nephew, Ralph Stolland BA who

valuable time has been given unstintingly in organising the sections into readable chapters. His help with the social and agricultural aspects, has helped forward the work considerably and eased my task. So firm I owe more than I can express in this short acknowledgement.

J. G. Holland.

Exmouth  
16<sup>th</sup> February 1949.





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