# History of Bereleigh from Victoria County History

*Bereleigh* (Burley xiv cent; Bereley xvi and xvii cent). The moanor of Bereleigh was a sub-manor dependent upon the manor of East Meon, and in early times was held by a family called ‘de Burlee’. In 1369 John de Burlee and Agatha his wife quit-claimed to William de Wykeham, bishop of Winchester, his heirs and assigns, the following tenements which they held of him as of his bishopric: messuage, 1 mill, 205 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, 50 acres of wood and 40*s* 6*d* rent in East Meon and Drayton, and the rents and services of Richard Tygenore, Richard Hethere, Reginald Tygall, John Southonore and John Knolerre for the tenements which they held of them. The right of the bishop to the tenements was confirmed in 1382 when Clarice, wife of William Fisher and sister of Agatha gave up all her claims to them. There seems to be no record of the history of this estate until 1569, in which year the manor ‘Burley’ with appurtenances in East Meon and Burley was settled by fine upon Sir Thomas Sackville Lord Buckhurst and Ccecilia his wife in fee=tail. In 1582 Sir Thomas sold the manor for £200 to John Baker, who died seised of it in 1606, leaving a son and heir, Sir Richard Baker, aged thirty and more. Fourteen years later Sir Richard obtained a grant of free warren in his manor or lordship of Burley *alias* Beerley, as also licence to stock it with stages, does, hares, rabbits, pheasants, and partridges, The manor passed by sale in 1631 from Sir Richard baker and Margaret his wife to William Coldham of Stedham (co Sussex). It seems impossible to discover how long the manor remained in the Coldham manor, but it was probably sold about the middle of the seventeenth century to Bartholomew Smith of Winchester, who left two sons James and Bartholomew. The former in 1685 joined a religious order, and all of the property passed to Bartholomew, who left three sons and four daughters. The three sones died unmarried in the same year of small-pox, and one of the daughters became a nun. Consequently the manor was divided among the other three daughters, Elizabeth, Anastasia who married William Sheldon of Winchester in 1728, and Frances who married Alexander Wells of Brambridge in 1733. Elizabeth and Frances both died without issue and consequently the whole manor became vested in Edward Sheldon grandson of William and Anastasia, who mortgaged it in 1775 to Nicholas Baconneau. The further history of the manor is uncertain, but it seems probably that Mr. R. Eyles of East Meon, who built the modern Bereleigh House at the beginning of the nineteenth century, bought up the whole estate, including the old manor-house, which by this time had gradually fallen into decay. The estate has been gradually added to during the last century and has changed hands several times, the present owner being Mr. H.Curtis Gallup, who has recently purchased it from Col. Hudson.