

Interesting Medieval Charters for Keresley

The following are some charters from "Calendar of Deeds and Documents of Queen's College Oxford" Vol. II, compiled in 1931 by N. Denholm-Young. The deeds are on deposit in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The originals are hand-written in abbreviated legal Latin - Denholm-Young read them, translated them and transcribed them.

The Benet family

This is the oldest deed. Cornley is Corley. Wallehawinge may be Wall Hill. This John Benet may be the origin of Bennetts Road. de Filungel' is Fillongley.

Keresley.

Deeds nos. 2337-2501.

2337. M 265

[c.1240-60]
4.F.70.] Agnes widow of Alexander Wodecot of Cornley grants to John Lytfot of Alesley a grove called Wallehawinge with 6 strips, in Cornley, (bounds). Rent: 4d. For this grant John gave 20s. W: John Benet, William Waldyne, John de Filungel', John de Barre, Richard de Barre, Roger Falke, Wiscard de Alesleya.

Bunsons Wood

2338. M 265

[-1294]
4.F.123.] Thomas, lord of K., grants to Roger de la Lee the land which Thomas bi yebroc once held from him in K. For this he gave marks 12s.4d. W: John de Barra of Cornle, Richard his brother, Robert lupus of Folkeshul, Richard Bonse of K., William de Northecroft, Henry son of Hugh, Simon le Sponere, Simon Bulbek, William the clerk.
Seal of Thomas in green wax.

Richard Bonse may be the origin of Bunsons Wood. Thomas is 'lord of Keresley' and probably lived at Keresley Hall. Folkeshull is Foleshill. These deeds are translated from the Latin, and Robert's surname is untranslated - elsewhere he is called Robert the Wolf.

The Gold Hoard

Goldecroft, sometimes called GoldeHorde, would have been near the current Golden Green Wood, on Tamworth Road opposite Grove House.

2346. M 265

[c.1260
-1294]
4.F.2.

Thomas of K., grants to Roger of Northcroft land called Goldecroft lying between Putcroft & Calde-wellecroft. Rent: a rose at Midsummer. For this grant he gave $2\frac{1}{2}$ marks. W: ... de Northcroft of K., Roger Bithibroc of K., Thomas le barber, Adam ..., Robert ..., Peter the clerk. Seal, obliterated.

Having the rent as a rose at Midsummer was the same idea as a 'peppercorn rent' - no money, but a reminder you did not own it.

Thompsons Lane

This deed is around 1284:

2359. M 265

4.F.135.

Roger Bythebroc son of Thomas de K. grants to Henry called the baker of Coventry & Agnes his wife 12d. rent in K. from land which he held from the the said Henry for homage & service. For this they gave 10s. W: Robert de Stokes, steward of the prior of Coventry, Walter son of the lord of K., John Bollebeck, Henry de Filongeleye, Roger de Northcroft, Symon le Sponere, Richard le Botiler of Eclessale, Thomas Schirelock of E., William de Northcroft, Thomas le Cartere of K., Roger de Pacwode, clerk.

One of the witnesses is Thomas le Cartere. The family gave the name to le Carterlane, which became Thompsons Lane. Eclessale is Exhall.

A new assart

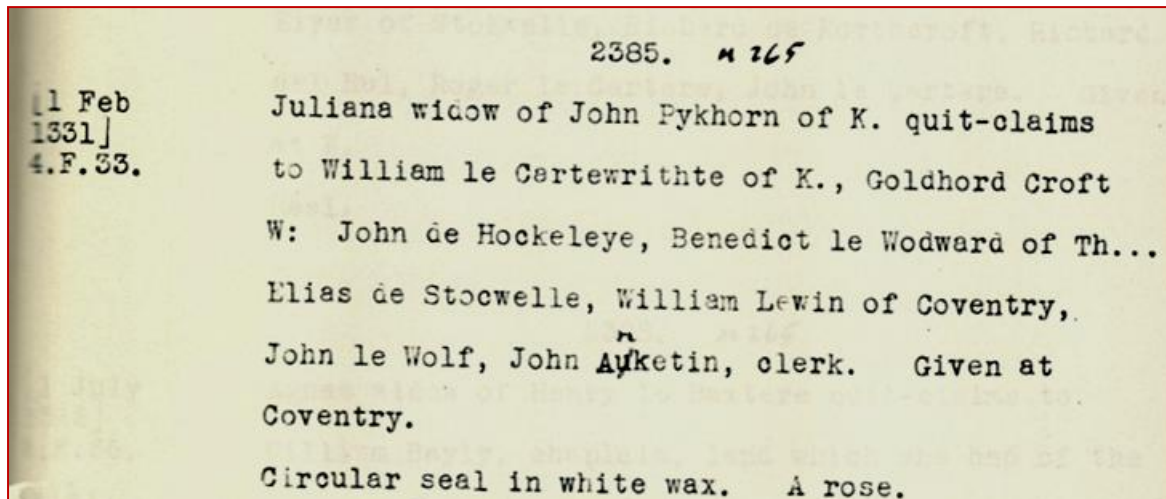
[c.1280-1294] 4.F.83.	2374. <i>M 265</i> Thomas of K. grants to Richard Bunce of K. the service of Simon Bulbek of K. Rent: a clove gillyflower at Midsummer. W: Roger by ye brok of K., William of Northcroft of K., Simon le Sponer of K., Thomas Scirloke of Eccleshale, Richard le butiler of K., Robert of Horseley of Cornley, Richard of Horseley of Cornley.
[c.1260-70] 4.F.84.	2375. <i>M 265</i> Thomas of K. quit-claims to Richard Bunce a hedge which was of Ralph de Monte (bounds). For this he gave 2s. W: William de Northcroft, Richard de Smalbroc, Simon the smith, William Waroc, Simon Welbec, Robert son of Elena, Simon le Sponere.
[1248-80] 4.F.85.	2376. <i>M 265</i> Indenture by which William, prior of Coventry, grants to Richard Bunce one acre of their new assart in K. (bounds). Rent: 12d. For this R.B. gave one mark. W: Thomas of K., Simon

More mentions of Richard Bunce. In the first, the rent is a clove gillyflower - a wallflower. The witness 'Richard by ye brok' is the same as Richard Bythebroc in the previous one, and is the son of Thomas Lord of Keresley. This is feudal England, and the service of Simon Bulbek is being rented out to Bunce.

In the second, a 'quit-claim' assures Richard Bunce that the previous holder, Thomas, will have no future claim of rights over a hedge.

In the third, the Prior is renting to Bunce an acre of 'new assart'. This was newly cleared woodland, which he would now be able to farm. Throughout the Middle Ages the woodland which was the ancient Forest of Arden was being cleared for cultivation.

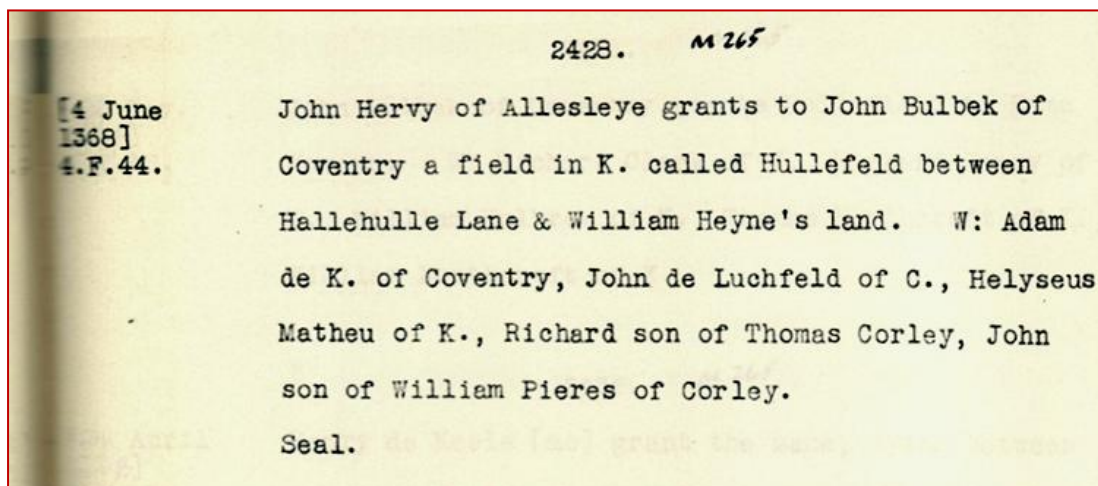
Pikehorn Wood



Here we have John Pykhorn, who gave his name to PikeHorne Wood, the tantalising Goldhord Croft, and the fearsome John the Wolf from Foleshill.

Hen Lane

The footpath from Bennets Road near Grove Lane to Hall Yard Wood, which marks the Coventry boundary, was called Le HeyneLane. This was after William Heyne, who was around in 1368: Hallehulle Lane was the top of Fivefield Road joining Tamworth Road. Hallehulle was the Hall Hill, since Keresley Hall was (probably) at the first bend on Fivefield. W: is witnessed by. Adam de K. is Adam of Keresley, 'Lord'.



Baldrik lived in Keresley in 1348!

2390. M 265
[18 Sept. Thomas, s. & h. of John Pykehorn of K., grants to
1348] Guy of Meryntone 8d. rent in K. from a croft
4.F.130. which Alexander Chatel holds between the land of
Simon of Wissendene & that of Richard Baldrik. W:
William Gamme, John att Halle, Henry de Northcroft,
Thomas le Sponere, John de Hardeshulle. Given at