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The History of  
the Worthies of England  
Thomas Fuller DD  
— 1662



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THE  
HISTORY  
*Francis* OF THE *Margrave.*  
WORTHIES  
OF  
ENGLAND.

Endeavoured by

Thomas Fuller, D.D.



LONDON,

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D: Loggan sculp.

*The Graver here hath well thy Face design'd.  
But no hand FULLER can expresse thy Mind  
For That a RESURRECTION giues to those  
Whom Silent Monuments did long enclose.*





tion presented in Parliament, in the reign of King *Henry* the sixth, against the wicked weed called *Hopps*. Their back-friends also affirm, the *Stope* never so epidemicall in *England*, as since the generall reception and use of *Hops* in the beginning of King *Henry* the eighth.

\* See the Statute 1. Jacobi cap. 18.

But *Hops* have since out-grown and over-topped all these accusations, being adjudged wholesome, if *Statutable* and *unmixed* with any powder, dust, dross, sand, or other soyl whatsoever, which made up two parts\* of three in forraign *Hops* formerly imported hither.

They delight most in moist grounds, no commodity starteth so soon and sinketh so suddainly in the price, whence some will have them so named from *hopping* in a little time betwixt a great distance in valuation. In a word, as Elephants, if orderly, were themselves enough alone to gain, if disorderly; to lose a victory; so great parcells of this commodity, well or ill bought in the *Crisis* of their price, are enough to raise, or ruine an estate.

#### *Puits.*

There is an Island of some two hundred Acres, near *Harwick* in the Parish of *Little-Okeley*, in the Mannour of *Matthew Gilly Esquire*, called the *Puit Island*, from *Puits* in effect the sole inhabitants thereof. Some affirm them called in Latine *Upula*, whilst others maintain, that the *Roman Language* doth not reach the Name, nor Land afford the Bird. On Saint \* *George* his day precisely they pitch on the Island, seldome laying fewer then four, or more then six Eggs.

\* So am I informed by Capt. Farmer of Newgate-Market, Copyholder of the Island.

Great their love to their Young ones. For though against foul weather they make to the main land, (a certain *Prognostick* of *Tempests*,) yet they always *Weather* it out in the Island, when hatching their young ones, seldome sleeping whilst they sit on their Eggs, (afraid it seems of *Spring-tides*) which signifieth nothing as to securing their Eggs from the *Inundation*, but is an Argument of their great Affection.

Being young they consist onely of *Bones*, *Feathers* and *Lean-flesh*, which hath a raw Gust of the Sea. But *Poulterers* take them then, and feed them with *Gravel* and *Curds*, (that is *Physick* and *Food*,) the one to scour, the other to fat them in a fortnight, and their flesh thus recruited is most delicious.

Here I say nothing of *Eringo Roots*, growing in this County, the candying of them being become a *Staple* commodity at *Colchester*. These are Sovereign to strengthen the *Nerves*, and pity it is, that any vigor acquired by them should be otherwise employed then to the *Glory of God*.

#### *Manufactures.*

\* Pro. 31. 19.

This County is charactred like the good wife described by \* *Bathshebah*. She layeth her hand to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaffe. Bays, and Says, and Serges, and severall sorts of *Stuffes*, which I neither can or doe desire to name, are made in and about *Colchester*, *Coxal*, *Dedham*, &c. I say, desire not to name, because hoping that new kinds will daily be invented, (as good reason) and by their *Inventers* intituled. I know not whether it be better to wish them good Wares to Vent, or good Vent for their Wares, but I am sure, that both together are the best. It will not be amiss to pray that the Plough may go along, and wheel around, that so being fed by the one and clothed by the other, there may be by Gods blessing, no danger of starving in our Nation.

#### *Gun-Powder.*

Why hereof in this, rather then in other Counties? Because more made by Mills of late erected on the river *Ley*, betwixt *Waltham* and *London*, then in all *England* besides. Though some suppose it as antient as *Archimedes* in *Europe*, (and antienter in *India*,) yet generally men behold the Frier of *Mentz* the first founder thereof, some three hundred years since. It consisteth of three essentiall ingredients:

1. *Brimstone*, whose office is to catch fire and flame of a suddain, and convey it to the other two.

2. *Char-cole*,



2. *Char-coal* pulveriz'd, which continueth the fire, and quencheth the flame; which otherwise would consume the strength thereof.
3. *Salt-petre*, which causeth a windy exhalation, and driveth forth the bullet.

This *Gun-powder* is the embleme of politicke revenge, for it *biteth* first, and *barketh* afterwards, the bullet being at the mark before the report is heard, so that it maketh a noise, not by way of warning, but triumph. As for *white-powder* which is reported to make no report at all, I never could meet with Artist who would seriously avouch it. For, though perchance the noise may be less and lower, yet no sound at all is inconsistent with the nature of *Salt-petre*, and the ventosity thereof causing the violent explosion of the bullet. It is questionable, whether the making of *Gun-powder* be more profitable or more dangerous, the Mills in my Parish having been *five* times blown up within *seven* years, but, blessed be God, without the loss of any one mans life.

### The Buildings.

This County hath no Cathedrall, and the Churches therein cannot challenge to themselves any eminent commendation. But as for private houses, *Essex* will own no Shire her superior, whereof *three* most remarkable.

1. *Audley-End*, built by *Thomas Howard*, Earl of *Suffolk* and Treasurer of *England*, as without compare the best Subjects house in this Island. Yet is the *structure* better then the *standing* thereof, as low on one side, so that it may pass for the embleme of *modest merit*, or *concealed worth*; meaner houses boasting more, and making greater show afar off in the eyes of passengers.
2. *New-Hall*, built by the *Ratcliffs*, Earls of *Sussex*, but bought from them by *George Villiers*, Duke of *Buckingham*; surpassing for the pleasant shady approach thereunto, and for the appurtenances of Parks round about it.
3. *Copt-Hall*, (in Records *Coppice-Hall*, from the Woods thereabouts,) highly seated on an hill in the mid't of a Park, built by the *Abbot of Waltham*, enlarg'd by Sir *Thomas Heneage* and others; and it is much that *multiform* fancies should all meet in so *uniform* a fabrick. Herein a Gallery, as well furnish'd as most, more proportionable then any in *England*, and on this a story doth depend.

In the year of our Lord 1639. in *November* here happened an *Hirecano* or wild wind, which entring in at the great East-window, blew that down, and carried some part thereof, with the picture of the Lord *Coventry* (singled from many more, which hung on both sides untouch'd) all the length of the Gallery (being about 56. yards) out of the West-window, which it threw down to the ground. It seems the wind, finding this room in form of a *trunk*, and coarctated therein, forced the stones of the first window, like *pellets*, clean thorough it. I mention this the rather, because pious Doctor *Fackson*, Head of *Corpus Christi Colledge* in *Oxford*, observed the like wind about the same time as ominous, and presaging our civil dissentions.

### The Wonders.

This Shire affordeth none properly so called, unless some conceive the bones reducible thereunto digged out of this \* County at the *Ness* near *Harmich*, which with their bigness and length amazed the beholders. I cannot see how such can maintain them to be the bones of men, who must confess that according to the proportion of the doors and roofs of antient building, (either as *extant* or *read of*) they must *Ingradi & incedere prout*, go in *Stooping*, not to say *Lye along*. Except the Avouchers be as Incurious of their Credit as the Travellor was, who affirming that he saw *Bees* as big as *Dogs*, and yet their *Hives* of our ordinary size; and being demanded what shift they made to get in; *Let them* (said he) *look to that*.

More probable it is, that those were bones of Elephants, store whereof were brought over into *England* by the Emperour *Claudius*. Indeed some *Sciologists* will boast

\* *Camdens Brit.*  
in *Essex*.



## THE WORTHIES OF ENGLAND.

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