HUNT OFFICIALS—*continued*

Fewterers, veutrers (or attendants on greyhounds): from 1½*d.* to 2*d.* daily, *same as above.*

Limerer: . . . 2*d.* p. day. (*Close Rolls*, 4 *Henry III. Close Rolls*, 4 *Ed. III.*)

Bercelettar (yeoman of the bow or archer): 2*d.* daily. (*Pat. Rolls*, 4 *Ed. I.*)

Chacechiens (*garcons*, inferior attendants on hounds): 1½*d.* daily. (*Close Rolls*, *Ed. III.*, 1340, *Mem.* 32.)

Grooms and pages: 1½*d.* daily. (*Close Rolls*, 10 *Ed. II.*)

Foresters and Parkers: from 1*d.* to 3*d.* daily. (*Pat. Rolls*, 1423, *Henry VI.*)

It is perhaps best if we deal with the various officials seriatim, beginning with:

THE MASTER OF GAME.—The best and most detailed description of his duties and position is given in our text by the Duke of York himself. We find the Master of Game had the whole superintendence of the King's hunting establishment. He arranged with the huntsmen, foresters and other servants over night the plans for the hunting on the following day, he decided who should go with the relays and where these should be placed, who should unharbour the deer in the hunting by strength, or where the stands for the King and Queen and their suite should be, and on the placing of the stations of hounds and huntsmen and all the other manifold details, when a royal battue was to take place. He communicated the wishes of the king to his subordinates, and took the place of the king if he were absent. He superintended the division of the game at the end of the day's sport, and gave orders to the officers of the household about the suppers of the huntsmen. We find no mention of the emoluments he received from this office, nor can we decide whether there was one Master of Game appointed by the King for the whole country to whom those who held the office of Master of Game in various districts were subordinate.

In some of the earlier documents we come across the expression of "Surveyor and superior keeper of the king's game" (Pat. Rolls 8 and 9, Ed. II.), which we take to be synonymous with Master of Game, as the words Custodian and Master were interchangeable. The "keeper of the King's venison" was probably only another title for "Master of the King's Game," in the same way as keeper of the King's dogs and Master of hounds seem to have been synonymous.

Such appointments were made for different districts, and some records of a somewhat later date, but still belonging to the 15th century, mention the Office of Master of Game, for instance, when Sir Giles Dawbeney was appointed to the Mastership of the herthounds (1485, Rolls of Parl., vii. 354) he was also made Master of Game of the Forest of Kyngwode and Fullwode and of the park of Petherton, Co. Somerset.

We also find in 1478, that John, Lord Dudley, is made steward of the lordship of Walshall and Patyngham, during the minority of Edward, Duke of Clarence, and Master of Game within these Lordships "with the accustomed fees and an annuity of £20 from the lordships" (Pat. Rolls, 8, 9, Ed. IV.).

The above extracts suffice to show that the exercise of the office of Master of Game was generally limited to certain districts, but whether the office held by the Duke of York as Master of Game to the King was also limited we do not know, but it is probable that he was able to exert his authority in this capacity wherever the King chose to send him, or he elected to go to enjoy his sport. In the next reign we find Humphry, Duke of Gloucester, the King's brother, made justice of the forests south of Trent, and Master of Game (*Deductus*) of the same forests and of that King's parks (3 Henry V.) which grant was confirmed by letters patent of Henry VI. (Pat. Rolls, Dec. 20, 1422).

MASTERS OF HOUNDS. In our text two Masters of Hounds are mentioned, masters of the hart-hounds, and of the harriers, and the Duke defines a master, "as he who receives 12*d.* a day for the office" (p. 112). If we take this definition and compare it with the early records of our kings we find many hunt officials generally alluded to as keepers of the King's dogs (*Close Rolls*, 1278, *Ed. I.*; *Pat. Rolls*, 1341, *Ed. III.*), *venatores*, and sometimes merely as King's yeomen, receiving this remuneration, but as this is the highest wage we find paid for any office of venery, we may be justified in writing all such down as "Master of the Hounds," though the word Magister (Master) is but seldom used in this relation, until the commencement of the 15th century, after which we find it constantly occurring.

Hore in his History of the Buckhounds says that the evidence goes to prove that the first appointment of a "Master of Hounds" was in the beginning of Henry IV.'s reign when Sir Rustin Villenove was appointed *Magister canum Regis* (*Pat. Rolls*, 1 *Henry IV.*); but Professor Burrows in his introduction to Lord Ribblesdale's book "The Queen's Hounds," as well as in his history of the Brocas family, shows that *custos* and *magister* were interchangeable terms in the old documents belonging to the Brocas, who were hereditary masters of the buckhounds. We cannot here enter at length into the many interesting details and documents relating to this mastership which have been so ably dealt with by Burrows, but must remark how extremely difficult it is to arrange and sift evidence as to the position held in the early days (before 15th century) of the King's *venatores*, and keepers of his hounds. Whether they, like the Lovels, predecessors of the Brocas, held land by tenure of keeping hounds for the king or whether they simply were chief huntsmen, their position cannot be considered as equivalent with that held by the master of the Royal hounds which was in existence until within the last few years, nor indeed, are we able to draw any comparisons between the hunting arrangements and establishments of those days and the present. We are apt to conjure up to our minds a permanent kennel

HUNT OFFICIALS—*continued*

of Royal buckhounds under a practically independent master, hunting within a limited radius in the vicinity of the kennel, in so far that the hounds returned to their quarters every night during the hunting season. Wherever the kennels of the Royal packs were situated in the 14th and 15th centuries, whether at Windsor, or with the Lovels at Benham (*Plac. Coronæ*, 12 *Edw. I.*) and Little Weldon (*Close Rolls*, 14 *Ed. III.*), it was of little consequence, for as soon as the hunting season began the kennels would be empty, the keepers of the hounds and their assistant berners, fewterers, and the hounds would be sent by Royal command to hunt in all the different Royal forests of the realm, not to provide sport for the neighbouring gentry, but to supply the larder of the royal household with fat venison. In our note on venery we have summarised some of these hunting orders issued to show how far the hounds travelled and in what businesslike manner the whole of these hunting expeditions were managed.

There seem always to have been herthounds and buckhounds, but the same hounds appear sometimes to have been used for both red and fallow deer, so that we have the further difficulty of deciding which packs we can write down hert-, and which buck-hounds, when we try and trace the successive masters and histories of these packs. For instance, in the first years of the 14th century, when John Lovel, the last of four (or five) generations who held land in Benham, Bucks, and Little Weldon, Northampton, by serjeantry of keeping buckhounds for the king, we find that he is sent with his 24 running hounds, his 9 greyhounds, 2 berners and 2 veuterers to various forests to hunt buck and hart far from his kennels and property, and that on the same day orders are issued to Robert Lesquier and David Fraunton to proceed with exactly the same number of hounds, greyhounds, and attendants to other forests, also to hunt buck and hart, both receiving the master's wages of 12*d.* a day.

William de Balliolo is another huntsman (at 12*d.* daily) who, we find, was actually sent with twenty-four running hounds, greyhounds, &c., in the "fat venison" season to hunt for both buck and hart in the very forests of Northampton, Whitlewode and Rockingham, which by all laws of modern hunting usage would have been directly in the hunting country of the Lovels of Weldon, their property being on the outskirts of the latter forest (*Close Rolls*, 4 *and* 7 *Ed. II.*). Nevertheless we find the Lovels more often mentioned as hunting buck than hart, and their hounds alluded to as *daimericii*, but as we can see from contemporary records they were by no means the only keepers of buckhounds, nor was theirs the only royal pack. Their particular establishment of hounds survived the others, and was perpetuated down to comparatively modern days from being attached to a property (in Little Weldon, Co. Northampton) which passed down from one generation to another in the same family, and was inherited through the females when direct heirs male were lacking. It is thus that through marriage with Margaret, daughter of John Lovel, Sir Thomas de Borhunte became master of buckhounds (and died, not in 1340, as Burrows (p. 255) has it, but between March 14th and Dec. 18th, 1339). Sir John de Borhunte received a salary as Master on October 4th, 1340, he dying in 1359. William Danvers, second husband of Margaret, filled the post until his death in 1361. (Burrows, p. 460; *Close Rolls*, 13 *and* 14 *Ed. III.*)

Mary de Roche, widow of Sir John, marrying Sir Bernard Brocas brought the mastership into this well known family (1363). Not that side branches of the famous old sporting family of Lovels were wanting, for we find them as masters of falcons, huntsmen and keepers of the King's dogs and chases, &c., after the Manor of Little Weldon knew their name no more (*Pat. Rolls*, 10 *Ed. II.*; 1 *Richard II.*).

We quote from Burrows, who published many interesting Brocas papers relating to this office, the account from which it appears from an entry dated August 15, 1316, that "the escheator reported that Lovel had held one messuage and one caracute of land in Weldon Parva of the King *in capite* by service of keeping and feeding at his own charges fifteen of the King's '*canes currentes*' for the forty days of Lent in each year," and to a later document wherein it is recited that:

"Thomas Borhunte holds of the King *in capite* a chain of land in Little Weldon of the inheritance of Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of John Lovel, by the service of being '*Venour le Roy des deymers*' (Master of the King's Buckhounds); that he has charge of twenty-four hounds and six greyhounds of the King's, receiving for the keep of each an obol or ½*d.* a day, and also of two under-huntsmen whose wages are 1½*d.* a day, with a cloth coat or a mark of money (13*s.* 4*d.*) by the year and boots; that he also has charge of a 'veutrer' or huntsman at 2*d.* a day who is also to have a coat, or a mark of money and 4*s.* 8*d.* for boots by the year; that the Master is to keep *at his own cost* for the forty days of Lent, fifteen buckhounds and one 'berner' or keeper of the hounds, while the second 'berner' the 'veutrer,' and the rest of the hounds are to be kept at the King's cost for the whole year; that the Master's salary is to be 7½*d.* a day when at Court and 12*d.* a day when absent on the King's business with two robes a year or 40*s.*; that the *seigne en malades* is to have for daily livery 1*d.* worth of bread, a gallon of beer, a mess of 'groos,' and a mess of roast from the kitchen, and that the livery of the huntsmen is to be at the King's will." The power of transmission through females, a power which in the next century was abolished by restricting the succession to males, was revived again under the Tudors in such a manner as to defeat the original object of the Mastership, and to end in its being bought and sold in the 17th century as private property, with the final result of the formation