

# HOPE BOURNE'S HISTORY OF EXMOOR

**Hope L. Bourne**

Hope Bourne, doyenne of Exmoor writers, was fascinated by the history of her home, its landscape and its people. She published much on the subject, but the most substantial work was *A Little History of Exmoor*, published in 1968 and never reprinted.

Although not a professional historian, in that book Hope traced – in her customarily evocative and eminently readable prose – the key developments in Exmoor's long heritage: the Celtic and Saxon colonisation; the Norman development of the Royal Forest; the disafforestation and acquisition by the Knight family of a vast tract of the Moor in the nineteenth century; and the advent of the National Park in the twentieth century. The text was accompanied by a selection of Hope Bourne's fine drawings, which further brought to life the key themes of her story. In this entirely re-set version of the book, new generations can now experience Hope's unique interpretation of Exmoor's history, which was tempered and informed by her direct experience of living the sort of existence that would have been familiar to Exmoor dwellers many centuries before.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Hope Bourne** was born in Oxford in 1918 but brought up at Hartland in North Devon. She lived on Exmoor for some sixty years, for two decades in a caravan at Ferny Ball near Withypool.

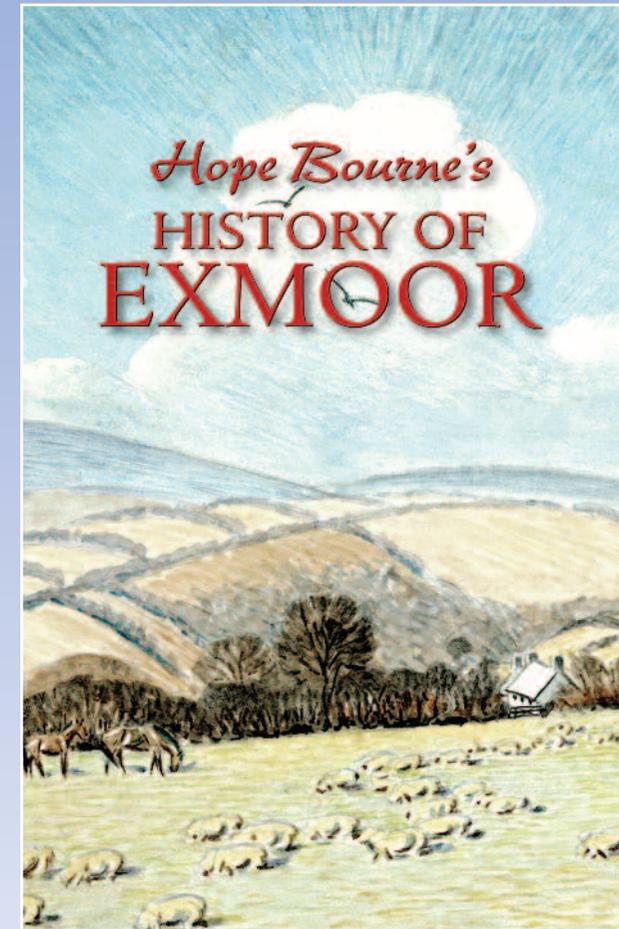
Growing or shooting her own food, she earned her living as a writer, publishing four books in her lifetime as well as pamphlets and a regular newspaper column. In later life three television documentaries brought her to the attention of an even wider public.

Hope Bourne died in August 2010 a few days short of her 92nd birthday.

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