

NOTES.

[*Under this heading the Editor will be pleased to insert notes and short articles relative to discoveries and other matters of interest to the history and archæology of the County. All communications intended for this section should be addressed to the Castle Arch, Guildford.*]

I.

THE PLACE-NAME GUILDFORD.

The obvious explanations of this name as the Ford of the Guild or the Geld are, in spite of various warnings, so often repeated, that it seems desirable to point out the objections and to try to find another solution.

My own doubts were first raised many years ago by the fact that, in the account of the slaughter of Prince Alfred and his Normans, they are said to have been seized on Gildown.

Now a ford might conceivably be connected with a Guild or a Geld, but a Down hardly. Moreover the constant occurrence of the prefix Guil or Gil through England is fatal to the suggested origin. In Northamptonshire there is a town Guilsborough and a Hundred of the same name, and it is hardly possible that a Hundred should be named after a Guild or after Geld. A place must have had a name previous to its having a Guild, and there is no record of the change nor reason to suspect it; indeed we know the name goes back to the time of King Alfred.

The two great sources of place-names are the names of persons and of rivers, and in the case of a town which has an important situation on a river, it is to the latter source that we naturally look for the origin of the name.

In looking over Asser's Deeds of Alfred¹ my eye caught the mention of the River Guilou; this at once suggested itself as the prefix we wanted for all these Guil names.

¹ Asserius *De rebus gestis Ælfredi*, anno 871, mentions a battle in "monte qui dicitur Wiltun qui est in meridiana ripa fluminis Guilou de quo flumine tota illa paga nominata."

This river is now the Wiley, which flows by Wilton to Salisbury, and gives its name to Wiltshire, as mentioned by Asser. Asser's account is copied verbatim by Florence of Worcester.

Further search in Petrie's *Monumenta Hist. Brit.* gave me two notes from the *Annales Cambriae* and the *Brut y Tywysogion*, referring to the same event, the defeat in A.D. 1030 of Reyn the Scot at the mouth of the Guili, in the latter called Aber Gwyli.

Reference to the 1-inch Ordnance map shows that Aberguilly is a town on the junction of the River Gwili with the Towy, a little above Caermarthen; the Bishop of St. David's has a palace there. Lewis' *Topo. Diet.* also mentions a Porth Gwylan in Carnarvonshire, and the name Guilsfield in Montgomeryshire is doubtless from the same source.

Baxter, in his *Glos. Antiqu. Brit.*,¹ mentions Caer Guilon, and acutely points out that the name, Carvilius, of the British king mentioned by Caesar as one of the Kings of Kent who attacked his camp, is probably connected with Caer Guilon as the name would be pronounced Carwilius. His location of the King at Wilton is, however, unlikely.

There is a tithing called Guilton at Ash, near Sandwich, and a Guildford near Rye on the Sussex border; one of these would fit King Carvilius according as the Deal or Appledore site is favoured for Caesar's landing. The stream at the latter forms the county boundary, and there is a Guildford on each side.

There is also a Guilthwaite south-east of Rotherham in Yorkshire; and a Guilsborough in the North Riding, near which is a Wilton.

Wiley is a river name on the Continent, and Wilge is the name of a river constantly mentioned in the Boer war. This war has been of great interest to students of place-names, since we have had brought prominently before us, in our morning papers, numerous synonyms of our own place-names in a dialect that is practically two centuries old. If the Place-name Committee suggested by the Congress of Archaeological Societies is formed, it should certainly compile a list of the place-names of South Africa. These are also of quite extraordinary value, as they are examples of the method in which names are given to places by a primitive people of the same stock as our Anglians.

Having found a possible origin, as a river name, for the prefix in Guildford, the next step was to find some justification for the application. Reference to maps at once showed me Willey House (now Park) and Mill on the upper part of the river above Farnham. This is an old name, as it appears on Bowen's map of 1749. I note also Wilsham Farm near Alton, and there is a Willey Green at Normandy on another branch of the river. There is a hamlet of Willey at Chaldon, but unconnected with this river. There is also Guileshill Farm on the branch of the Wey adjoining Ockham Park.

I may mention also, as an illustration of the name of Guildown, that on the south side of the River Wiley is Wiley Down, which is doubtless the "mons" spoken of by Asser as in that position.

The occurrence of these names in connection with the river seems to

¹ Page 70.

me to establish a strong presumption in favour of the original name of the river being Guilou, from whence the name of the town was derived.

It is right, however, to point out that there is another set of names that have the "d"; thus, Bartholomew's *Gazetteer* gives Guilden Down, a hamlet four miles south of Bishop's Castle in Shropshire; this is on high ground remote from a village, and apparently unconnected with water. Guilden Morden is a parish in Cambridgeshire six miles north-west of Royston, and Guilden Sutton, a parish three miles north-east of Chester, on the River Gowy. There is also a Guildford in the Isle of Wight.

The present pronunciation of the name Wey has always been a difficulty, since one would expect it to be pronounced Wye, which is a well-known river name. Saxon charters spell the prefix as Wai for both Weymouth¹ and Weybridge.¹ I notice both Salmon, in some places, in 1736, and Bishop Gibson, in his *Additions* to Camden in 1695, spell the name as Wye, as do the notes on Bowen's map of 1749 copied from Aubrey. It is therefore possible that it was so pronounced, and that the present is a modern fashion, or again it is possible that the present pronunciation is a dialectal variation of the other. There is a Weybourne near Sheringham, and Weybridge a hamlet near Acle, in Norfolk; and a Weybread in Suffolk close to the River Waveney; there is a Weydale near Thurso in Caithness; it would be useful to get at the proper pronunciation of these. Weymouth and Upwey are on the River Wey. Wayford near Crewkerne may take its name from being on a way, as does Weycroft on a branch of the Icknield Way near Axminster, and the Waypool at Burford Bridge, mentioned by Manning.² There is a possibility that some confusion may have arisen in Saxon times, from the fact of the application of the name "Way"³ to the ancient and well-known road that passed here, and that was later known as the Pilgrims' Way. I should not hazard such a suggestion but that "Wey" certainly seems to have been so derived in the case of Weyhill near Andover, where the great sheep and cattle fair is held. This is situated away from the main road, but on the ancient Harrow Way, which continues the Pilgrims' Way to Amesbury, Stonehenge, and the West of England; as to this I am writing a further note.

I should perhaps allude to the fact that Manning derives the name Wey from Væg, which he states is a Saxon word meaning "water," and Bosworth gives Wæg meaning "wave," and states that Wye and Wey are probably derived from it. I see no great connection between our River Wey and waves, and Anglo-Saxon dictionaries have not received the criticism of centuries that has been given to Latin and Greek.

¹ Birch, *Cart. Sax.*, 738, and 33, 34.

² Vol. I, iii.

³ Weg in Saxon, equivalent to Wey.

I do not think we have any river names of Anglo-Saxon origin with the exception of such obvious examples as Blackwater ; certainly it is in the highest degree unlikely that such a river as the Wye should bear an Anglo-Saxon name ; the name is probably centuries older than the coming of the Saxons to England, and they did not arrive in Monmouthshire for some seven centuries after, and then only as followers of the Norman.

The publication of the Victoria History of the County induces me to send these notes, which I have had by me for some years, although there are various points which might be further worked out. Perhaps others with this clue may be able to carry the case further.

I have not here attempted to examine the "Gil" nor the "Wil" names to any great extent.

I think it right to acknowledge the sound views expressed in the excellent *Handbook for Guildford* in the "Homeland Series."

RALPH NEVILL, F.S.A.

II.

THE PILGRIMS' WAY.

Looking over the paper which I read on St. Catherine's to the Society in 1893, I see I made a suggestion that is, I think, worth preserving.

Geoffrey of Monmouth tells us that Belinus, son of King Molmutius, made the four great roads of Britain, two up the island and two across it ; he placed them under the protection of the gods, so that no one travelling on them should be molested.

Geoffrey has been discredited, owing to his endeavour to localize the exploits attributed to King Arthur by mediæval songsters, but there is no doubt he preserves many ancient traditions.

The Watling, Ermine, and Icknield Streets are almost certainly three of the roads, but I do not think there is any positive identification of the fourth. The Foss Road is probably of later formation, as its name implies, and is mainly Roman.

We should look for one of the roads as going across the South of England from west to east.

Now the Pilgrims' Way, with its continuations, was undoubtedly the great highway from west to east down to historical times, and as it followed the ridges of the chalk downs most of the way it was the natural road. Down to recent times droves of sheep, cattle, and ponies have been brought this way, partly to avoid turnpikes, and partly from ancient habit, and there is no doubt that the origin of the great Fair at Weyhill was the fact that though it lay off the main road, it lay on the ancient trackway across the Salisbury Downs from the West of England.

As I have pointed out elsewhere, this track is named the Harrow

Way. Harrow means in Saxon "sacred place," and one naturally connects it with Stonehenge, near which it passes. If, however, as I surmise, this was one of the four ways of King Belinus, the fact that it was specially placed under the protection of the gods may have caused the application of the name.

The occurrence on the road of such sites as St. Martha's and St. Catherine's (Drake Hill), which are undoubtedly older than Christianity, tend to confirm the sacred character of the road.

As I have said, this is the natural road, as it follows the ridges, and branches could be taken from it to the various sea-ports; it must have been of the utmost importance in British times before London was created.

The rise of London under the Romans, and their skill in road-making, destroyed the value of the Way, and it is matter of record that it was not, in the time of the Saxons, one of the four great roads of England that were the subject of special laws.

RALPH NEVILL, F.S.A.

III.

FEMALE HEAD-DRESSES EXEMPLIFIED BY SURREY BRASSES.

(See Vol. XVI, pp. 35-54.)

In the late Mr. André's paper are a few small errors which the learned writer would no doubt have himself corrected, had not death intervened before his paper reached the proof stage.

Page 36, line 1. The head-dress of Lady Elizabeth Cobham, 1374, was restored by Messrs. Waller about the year 1865, when the whole of the Cobham brasses and monuments were repaired.

Page 39. The date appended to the illustration should be *circa* 1450.

Page 42. The figure of Elizabeth Scott, 1532 (*see* illustration), has been replaced in the church.

Page 43, line 19. The Roleston memorial at Swarkeston, Derbyshire, is an incised alabaster slab, not a brass.

Page 44, line 3. For "Warlingham" read "Worlingham."

Page 46, line 1, and illustration. The figure of Elizabeth Heron, 1544, either perished in the fire which destroyed the church in 1867, or was stolen from the ruins.

Page 46, line 19, and illustration, p. 47. The figure of Seuce Draper, 1577, has been replaced in Camberwell Church.

Page 50. Illustration. The brass of Jane Adderley is at Peper Harrow.

Page 50, footnote. For "brass" read "monument."

Page 53. The date appended to the Leigh illustration should be *circa* 1450.

Page 54, line 28. The brass at West Moulsey is unfortunately lost.

MILL STEPHENSON, B.A., F.S.A.

IV.

PALIMPSEST BRASSES IN SURREY.

(See Vol. XV, p. 28.)

The palimpsest shield found in the churchyard of Betchworth is now in the British Museum.

MILL STEPHENSON, B.A., F.S.A.

V.

PREHISTORIC CHAMBERS DISCOVERED AT WADDON, NEAR CROYDON.

During certain recent excavations in the grounds of Waddon House, near Croydon, three curious underground chambers of hemispherical form were cut into in digging a sewer-trench. The chambers were about 7 feet in height, and from 11 feet to 12 feet in diameter on the floor level, which was from 15 feet to 16 feet below the surface of the ground.

A careful examination extending over several days was made by some of the members of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, as well as by the writer, and the contents of the three chambers and of the filled-up lateral avenue by which one had originally been entered (marked A on the plan) yielded fragments of Romano-British pottery, mainly if not entirely of Upchurch manufacture, and mammalian bones, including those of the ox (probably *Bos longifrons*), sheep, pig, and dog or wolf. On the actual floors of the chambers were found neolithic cores, chips, and flakes of flint of a kind only found at a lower level than that of the floors of the

chambers; and the natural inference is that the flints were brought here in the neolithic age and chipped into the shapes required. It does not necessarily follow, however, that these chambers were

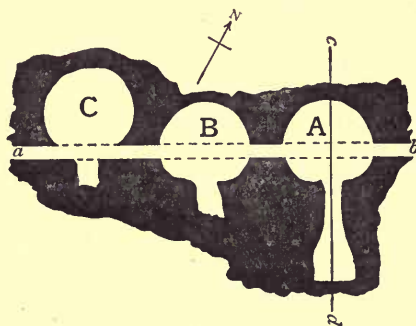


FIG. 1.—PLAN OF THE THREE CHAMBERS.
a-b = Line of modern Sewer-Trench.

designed as permanent or regular places of residence. They would have been too dark, too damp, and too inaccessible for such a purpose; but judging from certain underground chambers in Portugal¹ which are practically identical in plan, shape, and size, it seems probable that

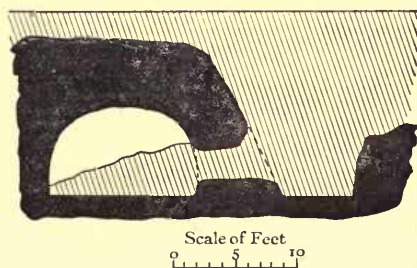


FIG. 2.—TRANSVERSE SECTION OF CHAMBER A. (To larger Scale.)
Section c-d.

Black = Undisturbed Sand.

Shaded part = Disturbed Sand.

the Waddon chambers, like those in Portugal, were intended for sepulture and not for permanent houses for the living, although both may have been used as occasional refuges from the extremes of heat and cold weather, or possibly hiding-places from enemies.

¹ *Matériaux pour l'histoire primitive et naturelle de l'homme*. 3^{me} Sér., t. II (1885), pp. 1—18.

It is doubtful if any similar subterranean chambers have been found in the British Islands, and, since prehistoric tombs were usually copies of the houses of the living, the Waddon examples may be considered to be of peculiar value on account of the information they afford as to the form of the neolithic hut. In plan and size they agree precisely with the neolithic hut-floors of Croham Hurst, Shirley, Hayes, and West Wickham.

Unfortunately it has been found necessary to fill up the three chambers at Waddon for building purposes ; but it is satisfactory to be able to say that the various antiquities found in and around them have been placed on exhibition in the museum-case at the Croydon Town Hall.

GEORGE CLINCH, F.G.S.

VI.

ETYMOLOGY OF WALWORTH.

The question whether South London was ever in-walled will, I am afraid, always remain an archæological conundrum ; yet it is hard to believe that the Romans would have left it unprotected. If they had done so, I think it would have been the only town which they constructed that was never surrounded by a wall.

Ptolemy, the geographer, speaks of London as a city of the Kentish people, and that it was situated south of the Thames. If a South London Wall ever existed, it must have been completely destroyed by the Saxons and Danes, who came here after the Romans left. Assuming there was such a wall, we find that in 1690 a head of Janus in marble was dug up near St. Thomas à-Watering in the Old Kent Road ; this must have fallen from the entrance gateway in the said wall. East of this wall stood the village of Hatcham, which probably took its name as being the hamlet by the said gateway or hatch.

Carrying our supposition a little further, and assuming the wall ran along somewhere near the New Kent Road, and continuing along the London Road and Westminster Bridge Road, it would end at the old Stangate, or the old stone gate. If this conjecture be correct, it would have given South London a much larger area than in-walled London north of the river, and this would probably account for Ptolemy describing London as being situated south of the Thames.

South of this wall which I have sketched out stands the ancient village of Walworth, spelt Walewrth, Wallwrth, Wallewurd, or Walewrth, in the *Surrey Pedes Finium*. May we not conjecture this to mean the Village by the Wall, as Walbrook means the Brook by the Wall ?

W. F. POTTER.

VII.

DISCOVERIES IN WANDSWORTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 1902.

By the kind courtesy of Mr. G. F. Lawrence, F.Anth.Inst., I am enabled to report the following "finds" in this district during this year (Sept., 1902).

BATTERSEA, THAMES.—Bronze axe—two ingots of copper (now in the Guildhall Museum).

PUTNEY.—Ovate drift implement.

Polished flint axe.

Edward I Waterford farthing.

Elizabeth shilling, sixpence.

Brown glazed pot, xvii cent.

WANDSWORTH.—A water-main from Hampton to Whitechapel has been laid through the town by the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company ; in the trench thus made the following articles have been discovered :—

Wooden water-pipes—Early spurs—Domestic shears, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, with spiral and fluted stems—Horse shoes—Iron flesh hook, c. xiv cent.—2 keys, Stuart—1 key, Tudor—Knives and blades, Stuart—Steel punch, early.

WANDSWORTH, THAMES.—Chipped neolithic celt—Roman horseshoe.

WANDSWORTH COMMON.—Bronze buckle, with Tudor rose on shank—Partly polished flint axe.

WANDSWORTH, WEST HILL.—Drift flakes—Chipped flint axe—Edward I penny.

WANDSWORTH.—Dutch brass "pan" for dyeing, *see* Aubrey.

CECIL T. DAVIS,

Hon. Local Sec. for Wandsworth.