

Notes and Queries.

COLDHARBOURS.

It has been remarked that much has been said about the origin of this place-name which would have been better left unsaid,¹ but as your correspondent "L.D." has stated that the common meaning of the name has been found to be erroneous² I will endeavour briefly to review what recent authorities have said on the subject and to put forward a meaning other than those given.³

In 1922, Col. J. B. P. Karslake pointed out⁴ that there is a number of place-names of an agricultural nature to be found associated with Coldharbours. There is "Summerlea" or "Summerlug," "Hundred Acres," "Inhams" or "Inholme," "Starveal" or "Starvescroft" and "Sheepsgrove," as well as the frequent occurrence of "Little London" (the origin and meaning of which seems even more obscure than that of Coldharbour), "Broadway," "Broad Oak," "Beggar's Bush," "Gibbet," "Roundabout," "Mile End," etc. Col. Karslake used these last six names as proof that the whole series were associated with the Gallic *Bannan leucae*, which was supposed to have been introduced into this country by the early Gaulish invaders who came before the Romans.

There are several examples of the name Coldharbour in Berkshire, and I have noticed some half-a-dozen with which two or more of the place-names given above are associated; there are doubtless others which have not yet come to my notice.

If the evidence of the associated place-names can be accepted, the meaning of Coldharbour is a harbour or resting place for cattle during cold weather, just as Summerlea, Summerseats,

¹ "Place Names," by O. G. S. Crawford. *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. xxviii., p. 31.

² *Berks Arch. Journal*, Vol. xxxvi., No. 2, p. 177.

³ "Place Names in Archaeology," by O. G. S. Crawford, Introductory Volume to the Place Name Society, p. 163.

⁴ "Notes on Coldharbours," by Lt.-Col. J. B. P. Karslake, F.S.A. *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. ii., 1922.

Summerscales, etc., would be the summer pasture, and Starveall a piece of land which was unsuitable for grazing. The verb "to harbour" is still used in the meaning of "to lodge or protect," especially in relation to cattle: i.e. "harbouring sheep."

Mr. A. Bonner has collected 305 instances of the name Coldharbour in England, now or formerly existing in 34 counties from Northumberland to Cornwall.⁵ Of these only 9 occur on or close to Roman Roads, and I have yet to hear of any Roman remains being actually found on the site of a "Coldharbour."

As far as present research has shewn, there is no documentary evidence of the name occurring before the year 1300 A.D., which is surprising, for if it originated earlier than this date we should surely find it or its associated place-names mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon and later mediæval Charters,⁴ for there are place-names still surviving which have come down to us from Roman times.

It has been thought that the English Feudal Manorial system developed from the French system of bounding towns by a circle or *bannan leucae* (which was of 11 furlongs radius); of which there is documentary evidence extant in early Charters granted by Frankish kings and Bishops.⁶ The inhabitants of the *banlieue* had communal possession of land and similar institutions, such as a common oven and wine press, and even communal animals.

According to the *Dialogues de Scaccario* every town in England in which the King's taxes were collected had its *leugata*⁷. It is therefore possible that, owing to the absence of earlier evidence, the Coldharbour was a usual adjunct to the English Feudal Manor, was introduced sometime after the Norman invasion, and was in fairly common use. Otherwise how could it have survived unrecorded from Roman or later times until the 14th century, and still remain all over England these two plain words—
Cold harbour? F.M.U.

⁵ Letter in "The Times Literary Supplement," 26th Jan., 1933.

⁶ "Some Observations on the Polygonal type of settlement in Britain," by Lt.-Col. J. B. P. Karslake. *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. i., 1921.

⁷ *Ibid.*

SAXON REMAINS IN BERKSHIRE.

There has recently been added to the Swindon Museum some Saxon relics from Berkshire. They consist of a spear head measuring $17\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length and 3 inches in width, and a knife $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, and $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches in width. They were ploughed up on Stockholm farm between Woolstone and Uffington. With the weapons were the remains of a skeleton.

W. H. HALLAM.

JOHN GROVE OF WHITE WALTHAM.

In the "Mirror" of November 13, 1830, a correspondent named T. Gill sent a copy of some remarkable lines which he copied from a board over the door of the house of the above-named village worthy. Grove seems to have been a jack of all trades and among his various accomplishments was that of parish clerk, vestry clerk and sexton.

I shall be grateful if any reader can inform me when John Grove was clerk of White Waltham; if he is buried there; and if there is any memorial to him in the churchyard. I am compiling a list of Berkshire parish clerks with biographical details where possible.

John Grove, grocer, and dealer in coffee and tea
Sells the finest of Congo's and best of Bohea;
A dealer in coppice, a meas'rer of land,
Sells the finest of snuffs, and the finest white sand.
A singer of psalms, and a scrivener of money,
Collects the land-tax, and sells fine virgin honey,
A ragman, a currier, a baker of bread
And a clerk to the living, as well as the dead.
Vestry clerk, petty constable, sells scissors and knives,
Best Virginia and buckles, collects the small tithes,
Is a treas'rer to clubs, and maker of wills;
He surveys men's estates, and vends Anderson's pills.
Woollen Draper and hosier, sells all sorts of shoes,
With the best earthenware, also takes in the news,
Deals in hurdles and eggs, sells the best of small beer,
The finest sea coals, and's elected o'erseer.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF IOANE ALDSWORTH THE DAUGHTER
OF THOMAS ALDSWTH OF REDDING IN BARKE^S FIRST MARRIED
VNTO JOHN DUNSCOMBE OF LONDON MERCHANT TAYLOR
AND THE 24 OF AUGYST 1605 TO JOHN AVSTINE OF
THIS PARISH AND WAS BURYED THE 24TH OF AUGYST 1614
BEINGE ABOVE THE AGE OF 70 YEARES

Humilis hic iacet que uita humilis fuit,
Vicinisq; gaudens hospitalitateq; erat.

The 'Aldsworth' Brass.

Deputy surveyor, sells fine writing paper,
Has a vote for the county—and linen draper
A dealer in cheese and the best Hampshire bacon,
Plays the fiddle divinely, if I'm not mistaken.

L. H. CHAMBERS.

A WANDERING MEMORIAL BRASS.

Some years ago, after giving a lecture on "Monumental Brasses," a member of my audience informed me that he had seen in a house at Hove, Sussex, a brass plate with letters engraved upon it which he thought might be a memorial brass. I wrote for particulars and eventually purchased the plate. I was surprised to find that it referred to "IOANE ALDSWORTH, THE DAUGHTER OF THOMAS ALDSWORTH OF REDDING IN BARKS^R." The illustration, made from a rubbing, tells us she first married John Dunscombe of London, "Marchantaylor," and on the 24th August, 1605, was married to John Austine of "this Parish." It is possible that some reader may be able to identify "this Parish," and if so the matrix from which the plate was taken could be discovered and the plate could then be restored. Identification should not be difficult as there are eight rivet holes and in one of them a rivet still remains. The size of the brass is 22½ in. by 8½ in.

According to Burke's Landed Gentry this lady's first husband, John Dunscombe, came from Devon, and lived in All Hallows, London. He was buried there on the 7th July, 1586, and there is a record that his widow was living in that parish in 1601-02 when her "servant and kynswoman" Alys Aldsworth (probably of Reading) was married to one John Masoun.

For many years I have been making a collection of rubbings of monumental brasses and I possess about 3000 out of the 5000 which are all that remain of the 70,000 once existing in Great Britain. One is glad to find that much greater care of these memorials is now being taken than was the case some years ago; but even to-day I have noticed that some brasses are loose and quite a number lying about in odd places. I found an effigy

brass (not far from Reading) in the cellar of a church among the wood and coal, and it will no doubt be lost eventually if not replaced.¹ In my "Monumental Brasses of Berkshire" I give on pages 253 to 256 a list of 175 "lost" brasses in Berkshire alone. The Church of St. Laurence, Reading, has four brasses but twenty others are known to have existed. Windsor has nine, but here again twenty-two are missing. There is a record of eight brasses at Englefield; but not one is remaining. There are frequent entries in Churchwardens' Accounts showing the sale of brasses: such an entry for St. Mary's, Reading, reads: "1564-65: Item for brasse of the Church vis ixd."

H. T. MORLEY, F.R.Hist.S.

THE PIPARDS AND THE ORMOND DEEDS.

It has been said that an antiquary cannot read too widely. Confirmation of this axiom, so far as the County of Berks is concerned, comes from among the latest publications of the Stationery Office, Dublin. As "The Times," in a notice of the Ormond Deeds, has appropriately said, it is pleasant to have tidings from Ireland that have nothing to do with politics.

"Mediæval scholars and those whose interest is in problems of topography and genealogy can unreservedly welcome the first instalment of the Calendar of Ormond Deeds, edited by Professor Curtis, of Trinity College, Dublin, and of the Red Book of Ormond, edited by Mr. Newport White, which have just been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission. Since it began work three or four years ago the Commission has issued a number of interesting volumes, such as collections of Gaelic genealogies, a portion of the mid-seventeenth-century Civil Survey of Irish counties, an index by the French scholar, Professor Goblet, to Petty's maps, a first instalment of Rinuccini's commentary on the Cromwellian Wars, and a collotype reproduction of the famous Senchas Már, or Ancient Laws of Ireland. Scholars,

¹ [It is to be hoped that by the intervention of our energetic Hon. Sec. the brass in question no longer remains among the wood and the coal. In passing it should be noted that a Joan Aldworth was buried in St. Laurence's Church, Reading, in 1551-52 (Kerry, p. 191). She may have been a relative of the Joan who married Dunscombe and Austine.—ED.]

indeed, have no cause to complain of the riches lavished upon them from the new Ireland. Now comes the first volume of the Ormond Deeds, together with the famous fourteenth-century rental, 'the Red Book of Ormond,' which at one stage of its life had a narrow escape from fire, from the effects of which it was rescued by the Rev. James Graves and Sir Frederic Madden.

"The Ormond deeds and papers are the greatest collection of their kind now existing in Ireland; few English muniment rooms indeed can rival the riches of Kilkenny Castle. The deeds here calendared go back to the beginnings of Anglo-Irish history, almost to the landing of Strongbow's predecessors, Robert FitzStephen and Maurice FitzGerald, in 1169. For, though Theobald Butler (or Walter, as the name then was) did not go to Ireland till 1185, the Ormond muniments contain some deeds of Strongbow himself, the earliest of which can be dated about 1172. Theobald Walter, the founder of the mighty house of Ormond, came to Ireland in Prince John's train, owing his inclusion in it probably to his distinguished kinsman Ranulf de Glanville, the Justiciar. He was the elder brother of the famous Hubert Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, and among the deeds calendared here is an *inspeximus* of King John's grant to Hubert Walter of the town of Lusk in County Dublin. As the adventurers came from England as well as Wales, these deeds concern several prominent English families, and, of absorbing interest as they are to Irish scholars, they are not to be neglected by the English historian. Several families that almost vanish from the English records during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are to be traced in Irish documents. Such, for instance, were the Pipards, owners of various manors in the Chiltern neighbourhood (among them Rotherfield Peppard), who became great nobles in Ireland as Barons of Ardee. Their history and pedigree can only be satisfactorily established from Irish evidences and to that history and pedigree the present collection adds an indispensable link. Again, we find here a grant of a Somerset manor to a brother of Geoffrey de Marisco, the well-known Irish Justiciar, and later we see his descendant exchanging with James Earl of Ormond the island of Lundy for Irish lands; a

strange chapter in the history of that pirate-infested spot. Oseney Abbey, too, we find being endowed with Irish churches, granted by great Oxfordshire families who were taking part in the carving up of the sister island.

"Professor Curtis hopes eventually to bring this Calendar to the time of Queen Elizabeth, when the great series of Ormond papers, published by the English Historical Manuscripts Commission, begins. Meanwhile he has given earnest of his claim that from these volumes "an enormous addition can be made to our existing knowledge of medieval Irish history, of English government as directed from Westminster and Dublin, of municipal history, of the workings of manorial and feudal systems [in Ireland], of the Church and monastic system, of the relations of the Crown with the Anglo-Irish barons, and of these with Irish chiefs." He, Mr. Newport White, and the Irish Commission, no less than the noble owner of Kilkenny Castle, whose liberality has thrown open this mediæval treasure house, are to be congratulated upon the result."

It should be noted that it was not only in the Chilterns that the Pipards were lords of English acres. They are to be found in a manor called Hinton Pipard, which eventually became Stanlake, in the parish of Hurst, near Reading. A Simon Pypard, of Henton, [Hinton] two leagues from Shottesbrok, gave evidence in the year 1296-7 in an *Inquisitione de probatione ætatis* as to the age of Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John de Shottesbrok, a tenant *in capite*, the daughter being a ward of the King. It is clear therefore that any future historian of this parish will need at least to scan the Ormond papers for details that will not be readily accessible elsewhere.

E.W.D.

A MUNIMENT ROOM FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

It is interesting to note that the neighbouring county of Buckingham is taking the question of the custody of her ancient documents in a spirit which it would be well if all Societies could emulate. At a recent special meeting of the Buckinghamshire Archæological Society, held at Eton College, the Society's proposals for building a muniment room to house county records

and other important documents were explained and debated. The Provost of Eton College, Dr. M. R. James, said England had not undergone the sacking and devastation to which other countries had been subject, and so there was an immense amount of material scattered over the whole country. This was very imperfectly known, and was in danger of being dispersed. Large cargoes of family manuscripts had been parted with to America. They were now trying to prevent this, and one way to preserve them was to organise good repositories to which people could entrust, either upon loan or as gifts, records which they possessed. Buckinghamshire was beginning to deal with the matter through the Society by organising the collection and investigation of records in a worthy repository. It would be well to organise the proposed Aylesbury repository on such lines that it would enable future students and residents to appreciate them.

Sir Frank Mackinnon said the Master of the Rolls had authorised a certain number of muniment rooms for the keeping of documents, and for Buckinghamshire had authorised the museum of the Archæological Society at Aylesbury. Major Coningsby Disraeli said they required more than £2,000 and he hoped that the appeal to the public of the county would be successful.

Is it too much to hope that ere long the County of Berkshire will follow Buckingham's lead ?

E.W.D.

EARLY IRON AGE SETTLEMENT AT SOUTHCOTE, READING.

The inspection of a gravel pit on the western side of the town has led to the discovery of a number of artificial pits and trenches. These are being excavated by the staff of the Reading Museum. The workmen, in cutting back the face of the pit, noticed V-shaped trenches filled with earth and " rubbish " and recently came upon small ovoid pits filled with black earth, clay and pottery fragments. In some cases almost whole pots had been found, but had been broken up and thrown away as " being of no value."

With the permission of the owner of the pit and the co-operation of the gravel diggers, members of the museum staff

have been carefully examining, sifting and clearing away the earth fillings from the nine or ten holes exposed in the gravel face. Quantities of pot sherds, lumps of fired clay, rubbing stones and parts of querns, pieces of carbonised wood, bones of large mammals, and numbers of fire-reddened pebbles, calcined flints, etc., have come to light. The pits or holes vary considerably in size and shape, several being obviously too small for permanent habitation. Some may have been used for storage purposes, others for cooking or as rubbish dumps. One pit, however, the major portion of which had disappeared before examination, is said to have been 10-12 feet long. Across the base it was 5 feet wide and 6 feet at the top. As this contained "occupation" levels and pottery it might well have been a pit dwelling.

The pottery is certainly of interest. Some of the fragments are decorated with incised groove ornamentation. The rims are for the most part beaded or only slightly out-turned. Nearly all the pottery is black or red gritted ware, burnished on the outer surface, which suggests that it is of La Tène type with a few examples of Belgic bead-rim ware common in this district. No fragment yet found can definitely be said to belong to the Roman period and the probability is that this site was occupied from somewhere between the fourth and third century B.C. down to the beginning of the Christian era.

It might be well to mention that the site known as the Theale "Ballast Hole," the remains from which are preserved in the Reading Museum, produced pottery of a character similar to that from Southcote; but at Theale there was a sequence of types dating from the Hallstatt period, circa 600 or 500 B.C., to Saxon times, 600 or 700 A.D. Another Iron Age site much closer at hand is that discovered some years ago at the clay pit west of Prospect Park. Although no full report has been made of the finds here, most of the pottery seems to indicate occupation in the Belgic and early Roman period. This settlement may well succeed that in the gravel pit half-a-mile away at Southcote. The Museum hopes at a later stage to publish a more detailed report of this interesting discovery with plans and photographs of the pits and pottery.

W.A.S.