

REVIEW.

Historic Thorn Trees in the British Isles. By Vaughan Cornish, D.Sc. Pp. 94, 4 illustrations. London, Country Life Limited. N.d.

The author's interest in the subject arose from his inheritance of the Salcombe Regis thorn. This led to an investigation of the origin and significance of historic thorn trees throughout the country, and this interesting little brochure is the outcome.

Twelve hundreds bear "thorn" names of which Surrey possesses one—Copthorne Hundred. But the site of the copped or pollarded thorn which marked its meeting-place is lost, though the name survives as that of two fields in Ashted and Banstead parishes.

The concluding chapter shows how late and unhistorical are the legends attaching to the Glastonbury thorn. The latest and now most popular of these, the story that the thorn tree grew from the staff which St. Joseph of Arimathea after landing stuck into Wearyall Hill, appears to rest on a tale told by a local innkeeper in 1714 and first published in Hearne's *History and Antiquities of Glastonbury*, Oxford, 1722.

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