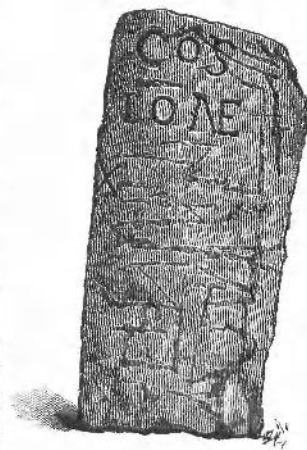




Right (proper).



Full front.



Left (proper).

Roman Mile-stone found near Buxton.

ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE ROMAN STATIONS "NAVIO"
AND "AQUAE," WITH REMARKS UPON OTHER ROMAN
STATIONS IN DERBYSHIRE.

By W. THOMPSON WATKIN, Esq.

In the chief writings of the Roman period concerning English topography, which are at present extant, the names of none of the towns or stations existing at that epoch in Derbyshire appear (as far as can be ascertained) to be included. This also is the case in a few other counties. The "Geography" of Ptolemy, the "Itinerary" of Antoninus, and the "Notitia Imperii," are all silent on the subject, and we have, therefore, solely the "Chorography" of Ravennas to depend upon for any information concerning them. The author of this work (the date of which is uncertain, but which is probably of the sixth century) names between *Deva* (Chester) and *Ratae* (Leicester) the following stations,—"*Veratino, Lutudarium, Derbentione, Salinis, Condate.*" Between *Lindum Colonia* (Lincoln) and *Mantio* (Manchester) he names the following,—"*Banovallum, Navione, Aquis, Arnemeza, Zerdotalia.*"

Of those in the first series, *Salinae* and *Condate* are certainly not in Derbyshire, but, as has been generally thought at Northwich and Kinderton respectively. *Veratinum* has generally been placed, though upon no other evidence than the etymology of Warrington, at Wilderspool, near that town, where there are undoubted remains of a Roman station. To the remaining two, a clue was obtained during the last century by the discovery of several pigs of lead near Matlock, bearing inscriptions, amongst which were the abbreviations, MET. LVT., and in one case, METAL. LVTVD. From these data subsequent antiquaries, amongst whom are the Rev. D. Lysons, Sir H. Ellis, Mr. Bateman, and Mr. Albert Way, have considered that Chesterfield (Derbyshire) was probably the *Lutudae* of Ravennas. This town is situated on the Roman Ryknield Street, and its name almost sug-

gests the certainty of a Roman post of some nature having existed, but, beyond a few coins, no remains are known to have been found there. I am inclined to think that this station was nearer to Cromford and Matlock, and more in the mining districts round Wirksworth. The name, *Lutudae*, is generally believed to mean "lead mines,"¹ and Wirksworth represents the centre of a district abounding in them. All the pigs of lead above referred to were found within five miles of Wirksworth, while Chesterfield is, as the crow flies, at least eleven miles distant, with no known traces of any Roman road between the two places. I think my opinion is further confirmed by the fact that at Hopton, about $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Wirksworth, a fragment of an inscribed Roman stone (probably part of a sepulchral monument) was found in the last century. The inscription was as follows :—

.
 GELL
 PRAE Cº III
 LV. BRIT

The stone was found covering a funereal urn in a tumulus; the urn containing burnt bones, ashes, &c. The vestiges of an intrenchment were in the immediate neighbourhood.² In connection with the last line of this inscription, it must be mentioned that two of the pigs of lead before named, bore the abbreviations LVT. BR., and BRIT. LVT. As the pigs, however, might be carried to some distance from their place of manufacture, the stone which would hardly be transferred to any distance is interesting, as showing the locality, from whence the pigs originally came. Again, the other station immediately preceding *Lutudae* in this series, *Derbentio*, seems from its etymology to have been close to the modern town of Derby (about a mile distant from it), where, at Little Chester, the remains of a considerable Roman station lie buried beneath the surface. The distance of Hopton from Little Chester is about fourteen miles, and it lies on the Roman road from the latter place to Buxton. The distance of Chesterfield from Little Chester is also about the same, and the Ryknield Street connects the two stations.

¹ Dr. McCaul, in "Brit. Rom. Inscr.," pp. 38—47, has treated most elaborately

of this subject.

² "Archaeologia," vol. xii., pp. 1 to 5.

Up to some twelve years ago, this was the only *evidence* as to the names of the Roman stations in Derbyshire, although it was strongly suspected that the *Aquae* of Ravennas (and this brings us into the second series of towns I have selected) was situated at Buxton, the latter being the only site to which the term, "the waters," would apply.

But in the year 1862, there was found, in the immediate vicinity of Buxton, and to the south-east of that town, a portion of a Roman milliary or milestone, bearing an important inscription. It was first published by Mr. Jewitt in the "Reliquary," vol. iii., p. 207, and subsequently in "Black's Guide to Buxton." Professor Hübner, in his "Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum," vol. vii., No. 1,168, also gives this inscription. The readings of these gentlemen vary, as follows :—

Mr. Jewitt.
IPBPOT COS II
EPANAIICAE . . I
M. P. X.

Dr. Hübner.
. . OT . C . .
RANNIC . .
MP. X

My friend, the late Mr. James Yates, F.R.S., who also saw the stone soon after its discovery, informed me that all he could read *with certainty* was—

OT
PANAI
M.P.X.

Mr. C. Roach Smith, in a note appended to Mr. Jewitt's paper in the "Reliquary," makes some remarks on the inscription which to me seem rather extraordinary. The first line he reads as TR. POT. COS. II., and says, "The word *Cæsar* seems to have stood at the end of the middle line, and if so we must look for two names. That of the Emperor there is no hope of recovering (unless you find the other portion of the stone) and that of the Cæsar would, of course, be in the remaining middle line. But the word *Annius*, which there seems prominent could only, so far as my memory serves me, apply to Marcus Aurelius, when as Annius Verus, he was adopted by Antoninus Pius. . . . I throw out another suggestion, the letter immediately preceding is P, we then get PANNIC or PANNIO. Now you

will, on reference to the stone itself, see if it be likely that we here get letters representing the name of the station *Pennocrucium* of the second *iter* of Antoninus. If so, the preceding letter or letters would be A or A B, most probably the former," &c.

It will be seen that Dr. Hübner and Mr. Roach Smith unaccountably overlook the fact that the second N which they give is a ligulate AV, and recognised as such by Mr. Jewitt and Mr. Yates. Had Mr. Roach Smith noticed this, he would, with the other emendation he suggested of o for c, have arrived nearer the truth, as he would then have had the letters—

PANAVIO.

My idea of the inscription when I first saw it engraved was, that we had in the second line for a certainty the words A. NAVIO, and I further felt almost sure that the letters preceding A in the same line were P.P. following COS . ., and standing as they generally do in that position for *patri patriae*. The remainder of the line after o I took to be NE, and I thus made the whole line to read—

P.P.A.NAVIONE.

In order to obtain a confirmation of my view, I endeavoured to procure access to the stone, but unfortunately its whereabouts is not known. Immediately after its discovery, it became the property of Mr. J. C. Bates, editor of the "Buxton Advertiser." This gentleman informed me, that, despairing of ever seeing a local museum formed at Buxton, he sold it to a Mr. Wright of Derby. I have reason to believe that this gentleman is dead, and a collection of antiquities which he had formed, dispersed. What became of the stone is unknown.

Fortunately, whilst the stone was in the possession of Mr. Bates, Robert Hutchison, Esq., of Carlowrie Castle, Edinburgh, had three photographs of it taken, one the full front, the others side views, and I am indebted to his courtesy in sending me these for inspection, and thereby supplying the accompanying illustrations. Mr. Hutchison had also a cast of the stone taken, which is now at Edinburgh.

The result of a minute examination of the photographs is, that the letters remaining most unmistakeably are—

IBPOTC^oS
I.P.P.ANAVIONE
M. P. X.

The A and v and the N and E of the second line being ligulate thus—*AV* and *NE*. The last named, it will be noticed, was read by Mr. Jewitt as *AE*. It is doubtful whether another numeral has existed after the X, but certainly there has not been more than one.

We thus arrive at the conclusion that at ten or eleven miles distance, from where the milestone was originally placed, there existed the Roman station named *Navio*. The question then arises, Was the stone, in its original position, or nearly so, when found?

Mr. Jewitt in his account of the stone in the "Reliquary," says at p. 207, that it was found "in a lane at Buxton," and at p. 208, he says that it was found "at Higher Buxton, on the line of the Roman road leading from Manchester by way of Stockport, Buxton, &c., to Little Chester, and at about a quarter of a mile from the earthworks at Stadon Moor." After describing this road from Buxton to Little Chester, and the several other roads issuing from the former station, Mr. Jewitt says, at p. 209, "The milestone recently found may doubtless refer to some station on one of these roads, but which, it is impossible to say."

A writer in the "Buxton Advertiser," June 14th, 1862, says, "it was found in a garden occupied by Mr. Matthew Lees in Higher Buxton," in turning up the soil, and he then asks if any Roman road "passed the site of the garden (near the Silverlands)."

Mr. Hutchison, during my correspondence with him as to the stone, informed me that "it was dug up, in an old man's garden in Higher Buxton, within a few yards of the public road, and I feel certain was *in situ*."

To this evidence must be added the fact, according to Mr. Jewitt, that the stone is composed "of the flinty gritstone of the neighbourhood, being similar to the rock at the summit of Corbar," so that it was not brought from any distance for building purposes, which, in fact, from the abundance of stone would be useless.

Although found *nearest* to the line of Roman road leading to Little Chester, the stone was certainly not found *on* its line. (This road in the neighbourhood of Buxton now forms the road to Ashborne.) But another road of Roman construction, leads E.N.E. from Buxton, and proceeds to the Roman station at Brough, in the parish of Hope, which is about eleven miles distant, and in the angle between these roads, the stone was apparently found, and on one or other of these roads we must certainly look for the station *Navio*. The name of the station at Brough has hitherto been unknown: Can it have borne this name? Inscribed fragments, statues, coins, foundations, pavements, &c., have been found there, and its distance from Buxton agrees with the miles marked on the stone. But, on the other hand, should the stone have been originally placed on the line of road to Little Chester, where are we to find *Navio*? Probably at Middleton (by Youlgreave), where a fine Roman altar, coins, paterae, mortaria, fibulae, &c., have been found at different times.³ Parwich, which is further on the line of the same road (and where are vestiges of a camp, though doubtful whether Roman), seems too far off, but I leave to other and more able hands the task of fixing with precision the exact site.

In any event, the fact seems established that the *Aquae* of Ravennas which he names next to *Navio* was at Buxton (the Roman remains of baths, &c., which have from time to time been found there, I need not describe), and that *Navio* was either at Brough, or on the line of Roman road, between Buxton and Little Chester, and consequently within the county of Derby; thus raising to four in number, the stations in that county whose names are known.

Of the other stations named in this second series *Banovallum* has generally been placed at Horncastle in Lincolnshire, from the fact of the latter, which is an undoubted Roman station, being situated on the river "Bane;" but I think this place is too far to the eastward, and that the site of *Banovallum* should be looked for between Buxton and Lincoln. As to *Arnemeza* and *Zerdotalia*, I think it probable that one of them is the station at Melandra Castle; but until further

³ Bateman's "Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire," p. 160. A fine

bronze Roman candlestick was also found there.

discoveries are made the name of this station must remain in abeyance. The noble owner of the site (Lord Howard of Glossop,) recently informed me that he was thinking of excavating the station. Should he do so, I feel sure that he would be rewarded by interesting discoveries. I may state that on visiting the spot in April, 1874, with my friend Mr. J. P. Earwaker, F.S.A., we found the measurements of the station, as given by Mr. Watson in the "Archaeologia," vol. iii., p. 236, entirely correct.