

ART. VI. *The Place-name Drumburgh.* By F. HAVERFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.

THE name of the hamlet where the Excavation Committee was chiefly engaged in 1899 is Drumburgh, pronounced Drumbruff. It is an interesting name, for it is in origin Celtic, and Celtic names of inhabited sites have always an interest for Englishmen. The survival of Celtic river-names implies little more than that the river existed in the Celtic period, of which we need no proof. The survival of Celtic names for inhabited sites proves something, though it may not be much, with respect to the population and its distribution before the English came.

The first half of Drumburgh is Drum, the Celtic for a ridge, and is familiar as the first part of many Scotch and Irish names. South of the Border in England it is rarer, and is, indeed, almost unknown, so far as I can learn. Curiously enough, however, there is an example just four and a half miles south of Drumburgh—Drumleaning. This, like Drumburgh, is an old name, occurring as Drumlynane in the *Inquisitiones Post Mortem* for 1425 (3 Henry VI).

The second half of Drumburgh appears at first sight to be genuine Saxon-English, but this is not the truth. The list of spellings, which I append to this article, shew clearly that the original second syllable contained no *r*. The earliest spelling is Drumboc; common early varieties are Drumbou, Drumbogh, Drumbugh. This is genuine Celtic, and, as Prof. Rhys tells me, may be compared with the second element in Dunbuck near Dumbarton, and Dinbych the Welsh name of Denbigh and Tenby. The meaning of this element does not seem to be certain

certain; the identification with a Celtic word meaning "little," which has been put forward by some writers, seems very dubious. It is, however, interesting to observe that there is a Drumboe, spelt *Druim-bó* in the *Chronicon Scotorum*, in County Down in Ireland.

The Celtic element was early corrupted. Drumbugh was in the Manor of Burgh-on-Sands, and not far from the village of Burgh; it was not difficult to alter the last half of its name to resemble this neighbour. The first instance of this occurs as soon as 1300, the second in 1468, and from the sixteenth century onwards we can watch the assimilated form gradually driving out the original.\* John Hodgson is practically the last writer who uses the latter, and it is now seemingly forgotten. The same change, in short, has produced Drumburgh, which has produced the English-looking Dunwich out of the Celtic *Domnoc* in East Anglia, or which for a while substituted Beaucastle (the beautiful castle) for the genuine Bewcastle.

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#### CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SPELLINGS.

[I have to acknowledge assistance from Chancellor Ferguson and Mr. H. S. Cowper in compiling this list.]

1217—1240.—Drumboc. *The Register of the Priory of Wetherhal*, edited by J. E. Prescott, charter 105, p. 194.

1299—1300.—Drumbou, *seventeen times*; Drumbogh, *seven times*; Drumbo, Drombou, Drombogh, Drumburgh *once each*. *Liber Quotidianus Contrarotulatoris Garderobæ*, anno regni regis Edwardi primi xxviii<sup>o</sup>, anno mcccxcix, mccc (Londini 1787) pp. 126, 165, 172-6, 191-216. This volume has no index, and I cannot profess to have searched its multitude of names so minutely as to have missed nothing, but I hope I have not missed much. I have had the original MS. re-examined for the one occurrence of Drumburgh, and find that that spelling is correctly printed from the MS.

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\*The reverse process never occurs: Burgh-on-Sands is always spelt with *r*.

- 1307.—Drombogh. Licence to crenellate Richard le Brun's house, mentioned by Lysons' *Cumberland*, p. 30; Whellan's *Cumberland*, p. 149, &c. Their source, which they do not give, is the *Calendar of Patent Rolls* of Edward II, for 1307 (p. 11 in ed. 1894).
- 1313.—Drombegh. *Inquisitiones Post Mortem* (ed. 1806) i, p. 249.
- 1342.—Drunbough, *Carlisle Episcopal Registers* (transcript in the Jackson Library at Tullie House, Carlisle, ii, 507).
- 1354.—Drombogh. *Carlisle Episcopal Registers*, iii, 16.
- 1381.—Drumbugh. *Carlisle Episcopal Registers*, iv, 380.
- 1397.—Drombough. *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, iii, 230 (22 Ric. II).
- 1418.—Drunbough. *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, iv, 27 (5 Henry v).
- 1425.—Drumbough. *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, iv, 84 (3 Henry VI).
- 1468.—Drumburgh. *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, iv, 341 (7 Ed. IV).
- 1486.—Drumburgh. *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, Henry VII, i, p. 70 (ed. 1898).
- circa 1540.—Drumbuygh, *three times*. Leland ed. Hearne, vii, 47.
- 1553.—Drumburgh. *Articles devised at Newcastle, September 12, 6 Ed. VI*; William Nicolson's *Border Laws* p. 222 (ed. 1705)=(ed. 1747), p. 152, quoted by Hodgson iii (2), 302.
- 1589.—Dromboughe, Drombough, Drumbrough, Drumbough, Drombughe, Drumbughe, Dromborough. *Surveys of the Manor of Burgh-on-Sands, &c*, made on the attainder of Leonard Dacre. Printed, with other papers, for a trial in the Exchequer of Pleas between the City of Carlisle and Messrs. Graham and Orman, in reference to a fishery dispute, in 1868; pp. 67, 68, 69, 129, 178, 180.
- 1607.—Drumbough. Camden's *Britannia*, p. 638. The map, by Wm. Saxton, has 'Drambugh,' which is obviously a mere misprint.
- 1610.—Drumbugh. *Speed's Map of Cumberland*.
- circa 1610.—Drumbugh, Drumbogh. John Denton's *History of Cumberland*.
- 1685.—Drumburgh, alias Drumbrough, alias Drumbugh. *Lease of the Barony of Burgh*, printed with the papers named under 1589, p. 299.

- 1691.—Drumbugh, *three times*. *Court Roll of the Barony of Burgh*, printed with the foregoing, p. 316.
- 1708.—Drumbugh, Drumburgh, each one in twelve lines. W. Pearson, in Stukeley's *Correspondence*, ii, 63, 64.
- 1720.—Drumbugh. Morden's Map in Cox *Magna Britannia*
- 1720.—Drumbugh, *four times*. Cox's *Magna Britannia* (Cumberland); i., 378, 409.
- 1732.—Drumburgh *usually*, but Drumbugh *once*. Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, pp. 109, 157, 188, 494. In 1729, in Stukeley's *Correspondence*, iii, 103, 258, Horsley spells Drumburgh.
- 1749—1765.—Drumbugh, Drumbeugh, Drumburgh. *Estate Maps of Lord Lonsdale*.
- 1753.—Drumburgh, Drumburgh. Warburton's *Vallum Romanum* passim, mostly copied from Horsley.
- 1777.—Drumbugh. Burn & Nicolson's *Cumberland*, ii, 214.
- 1802.—Drumburgh. Hutton's *Roman Wall*, p. 303.
- 1816.—Drumburgh *or* Drumbugh. Lysons' *Cumberland*, pp. cxi, 30.
- 1840.—Drumbogh. Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*, iii (2), 302.
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