

FIELD-NAMES IN THE PARISH OF FINDERN, DERBYSHIRE.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE would-be interpreter of field-name meanings finds himself up against an initial difficulty which confronts the student of ordinary place-names to nothing like the same extent. There are few names of towns, villages, hamlets or manors for which a succession of old forms cannot be readily unearthed. It is very different with the more essentially local nomenclature attaching to our fields, and here the paucity of old forms available adds greatly to the labour and the uncertainty of interpretation.

That the English Place-name Society is fully aware of this difficulty is evident from a statement in Vol. II of their county publications: "It is but rarely that one has a succession of forms for an individual (field) name such as is often necessary for any satisfactory interpretation to be attempted."

It may be taken for granted that the names of fields would always be regarded as of definitely slighter importance than the names of the parishes or townships in which they lay, and such an attitude has been hardened in recent years by the custom of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ordnance Survey, which is to indicate fields by number only.

Interpretation is further complicated by another factor. Ignorance of land terms and pure carelessness

have combined to produce many spelling-blunders amongst the names contained in terriers and land transfer deeds, both fruitful sources of consultation for field-names. Moreover, as incorrectly-copied names were liable to further mutilation by later scribes, it will be understood how a name may become increasingly divorced from its original form. This kind of thing spells much trouble and perplexity when interpretation is attempted.

Where corruption of some early form is known or suspected a lead towards a true (or probable) explanation of a name may in some cases be gained by a study of the topography of the field in question, either on a large-scale O.S. sheet or on the site itself.

The Findern Enclosure Act was passed in 1780 (20 Geo: III, c. 35), and the Commissioners' Award is dated 4th April, 1781. Much of the parish, of course, lay in closes prior to this general enclosure. In our Midland parishes many old closes date back to a couple of centuries or more before the period of Parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries. Such early partial enclosing was an intermittent process; an instance of it is illustrated by a Findern deed of 1691, which makes reference to several closes that "were upon the enclosure of *part of the fields* of Findern set out and allotted unto and for . . ."

The business of collecting the field-names of Findern proved a much more arduous task than in the case of Repton (*vide* D.A.J., 1943). Findern is largely a parish of small owner-occupiers (some of recent settlement and quite ignorant of the names of their fields) or of tenants of owners living at a distance, in whose agreements only the *numbers* of the fields, as they appear on the 25 inch O.S. sheets, are shewn.

In these circumstances I was fortunate to get into touch with the two churchwardens, Messrs. John Hodgkinson and Richard Parker, local farmers with a wide knowledge of the Findern fields, and I am happy to acknowledge a

great debt to both. Other names I gathered from elderly natives who possessed funds of local field-lore. For odd groups of names I have to thank two firms of Derby lawyers. The late Mr. S. Grimwood Taylor very kindly loaned me a large number of (mostly) 18th century deeds relating to the parish which supplied much otherwise unobtainable information.

I was also privileged to inspect a parish Rate Valuation Book dated, 1840, which provided some illuminating variants of current names. Other variants I picked up from the plan attached to the Enclosure Award of 1781. Such of these as I have considered of significance are noted in the proper places.

Potlock Manor, comprising the southern part of the parish, belonged wholly to the Harpur-Crewe family until recent years. The Potlock names I have dealt with separately; they were extracted from a Terrier of 1887 kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. A. J. Hooley, the agent for the Calke Estates.

As might be expected, scores of field-names in Findern parish (as in all other parishes) are of obvious meaning and of little or no significance. I have here followed the plan of my Repton paper by selecting those names which appeared to be of most interest.

To Mr. W. E. Tate, F.R.Hist.S. I am greatly indebted for scrutinizing my field "studies" and supplying valuable suggestions.

ABBREVIATIONS USED.

- Clark Hall. "Anglo-Saxon Dictionary," J. R. Clark Hall.
 Ekwall. "Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names."
 Eilert Ekwall.
 E.P.N.S. Vols. of the English Place-name Society.
 Halliwell. "Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words," J. O. Halliwell.

- Tate. W. E. Tate, F.R.Hist.S.
 Wright. "English Dialect Dictionary," J. Wright.
 A.E. Ancient Enclosures, i.e. enclosed before 1781.
 E.A. Findern Enclosure Award, 1781.
 1840 Book. Findern Rate Valuation Book of that date.
 D.A.J. Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.

ALLIGORE MEADOW.

This close, in the N.E. corner of the parish, appears as Sour Hays in the E.A. and the 1840 Book. So that, curiously enough, the current name would seem to be a revival of a much more ancient one. It is from O.E. *hālig*, holy, and O.E. *gāra*, gore, a wedge-shaped piece of land (E.P.N.S. I, pt. 2), and would appear to denote land in the hands of the Church. Cf. Halimede (1300), holy meadow (E.P.N.S. 13, 330). The English habit of dropping the aspirate has to be watched for in field-name interpretation. "Le Gores" is mentioned in an early 15th cent. Findern conveyance (Jeayes, "Derbyshire Charters," No. 1280). An A.E.

AULT'S CLOSE.

A personal name. Samuel Ault is included in the 1840 Book as an occupier of land in the parish.

ALDERSLEY.

From O.E. *alor*, aldertree, and *lēah*, clearing (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2). The clearing on which alders grew. On the E.A. plan this close is called The Leys, and in the 1840 Book Alderwasley—for which see Walker, D.A.J., 1914, p. 158.

BUCKFORD: BIG AND LITTLE.

Two closes at the E. end of Buckford Lane. In the E.A. and the 1840 Book the spelling is Buckfoot. It is hard to say which is right. Twyford Brook, a sizeable stream, runs along the end of Big Buckford, and this would seem to point to the modern form as correct—the Bucksford. Although the O.E. pers. name Bucca cannot be ignored.

BLAKEMORES, THE.

Several adjoining closes which occupy the site of a small common called Blakemoor on the E.A. plan, and which was enclosed in 1781. Halliwell gives "blake" as black or bare. "Le Blakmeyre" occurs early in the 15th century (Jeayes No. 1280). "Blackmore Peice" is named in a Findern deed of 1691. In that year Samuel Wilson Cooke left £20 for the purchase of a meadow in Findern called Blakemore, the rent to be distributed in bread among the poor. One of the Blakemore Closes is to-day known as the Bread Field.

BROWN'S MEADOW.

A personal name. Browns figure in the church registers frequently about the middle of the 18th century, and a John Brown was parish clerk in 1857.

BIG PIT CLOSE.

The names of numerous South Derbyshire closes contain the word "pit." It seems to proceed from several sources; marl-pit, gravel-pit, natural pond, cock-pit, artificial pit dug for the watering of animals. This close is on the extreme W. border of the parish and contains a pond. The name is corrupted in a 20th century deed I have seen to Big *Pig* Close. (Possibly a parish gravel pit for the waywardens. Tate.)

CARDALES, THE.

Several closes on the E. boundary of the parish. They were A.E's, although probably not long before 1781, as a deed of 1762 refers to the "Cardal Furlong." From O.Scand. *kiarr*, marsh (E.P.N.S. 17, 286), the marshy dale. Ekwall gives "by-kiarr" as the village marsh. All these closes are on the Hell Brook, and were no doubt boggy in the rainy seasons.

COCKERAMS, THE.

Several closes between the Willington Lane and the canal bear this name with qualifying affixes; Far Barn C., Half Far C., and so on. A personal name. Francis

Cockerham was a Findern farmer and innkeeper (Wheel Inn) in 1857. (White's "Derbyshire.")

COCKPIT.

Self-explanatory. It appears in the 1840 Book. Many South Derbyshire parishes have their Cockpit Close, Cockins Close, Cocking Nook, etc., a testimony to the prevalence of cock-fighting before it was made illegal about 1850.

CONEYGREES.

From M.E. *coninger*, a rabbit warren (E.P.N.S. 17, 278) It is common in field-names, and takes many forms. In a deed of 1762 it appears as Cunnigry. Two adjoining closes are called Footway C. and Football C. These look modern, but both are found in a deed dated 1806.

CORN GRAVELPITS.

Bordering Bakeacre Lane. The E.A. plan has "Gravel Pitts." In 1781 the Commissioners allotted 3 acres on Buckford Lane to the Highway Surveyor for gravel-getting. The distinguishing "Corn" may have been added to the Bakeacre Lane plot to prevent confusion with the Surveyor's allotment.

COTE CLOSES.

Several closes near the Cardales. All A.E's. Probably they contained cotes or covered shelters for animals; swine, sheep, etc.

CROSS HILLS.

A transfer name: a deed of 1691 refers to Crosshill Furlong. This close and Cross Flat are both on the E.A. plan and in the 1840 Book. "Cross" is a not infrequent component in South Derbyshire field-names, and seems to indicate that the ground so named was ploughed in strips at right angles to those of the surrounding tracts. The 1635 Survey of Laxton, Notts., shews three instances of Cross Furlongs. In each case the strips run at right angles to those in their vicinity. (*Vide* Orwin's "The Open Fields"). An alternative explanation is that the

word may on occasion indicate a boundary cross of some description. (E.P.N.S., 13, 356).

CROW'S NEST.

At the N. end of the parish. An early 15th century reference is "le Crow-nest" (Jeayes No. 1280). In 1712 John Erpe devised land in Findern called "Lesser Crow Nest." There are a number of adjoining closes bearing this name, which points to a considerable flatt or shutt so called. The name figures among the A.E's in the E.A. It doubtless refers to the one-time existence of a rookery in the vicinity.

DICK'S LITTLE DERBY INTAKE.

An Intake usually denoted a plot of land taken into cultivation from the waste. This close adjoins the hamlet of Little Derby, but who Dick was no one seems to know. The earliest reference I have traced is in a deed of 1824.

DOLES MEADOW.

At the junction of Doles Lane and Rykneld Street, and indicates the site of a tract of ancient dole-land, i.e. meadowland which was doled, or shared out, annually among the farmers. In this position the E.A. plan shews Hodman Dole, the 1840 Book has Hadman Dole; in 1729 it is Hurdmandsole and in 1762 Herdsmansdole. In 1208 the form is Hurimandole (Jeayes No. 2757). Probably the meaning is the dole-land apportioned to the communal herdsman who looked after the cattle on the common pastures.

DYCHE'S MEADOW.

A personal name. Dyche appears several times in the church registers during the second half of the 18th century. Another illustration of the tenacity with which personal names cling to fields for generations after the family may have left the spot.

EDDISH CLOSE.

Near the farmhouse now known as Thurston. According to Halliwell eddish is corn stubble, but Wright gives

alternative meanings, e.g. aftermath, grassland after the hay crop has been taken, etc. From O.E. *edisc*, pasture (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2).

ENDLANDS MEADOW.

This is the modern pronunciation and the form used in the 1840 Book. But the E.A. has Henlands, as do various 18th century deeds. Closes named after domestic animals are not infrequent. Cf. Hennemed (1305), hen meadow (E.P.N.S., 13, 330). In Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., is a modern Hen Pingle, but it dates back at least to a Survey of Barton Manor made in 1603.

FARBARROW.

This close is remote from the village on the Twyford boundary, which may explain the first element. This is written "farth" in a 1691 deed, which I take to be a form of "forth." The second element is puzzling; I have seen it written barrow, borrow and burrow. Hardly likely to indicate the site of a burial-mound, as "low" is the usual Derbyshire term (*vide* Williamson, D.A.J., 1927, p. 154). Possibly indicates rabbit-burrows; the far warren.

FISH POND.

A square close adjoining the Doles Brook, bounded on three sides by high earthen ramparts. Traditionally assumed to be the fish-pond of the Abbots of Burton, who held manorial rights here until the Dissolution. For once tradition seems to be justified; Nicholas de Wilenton (c. 1200) licensed the Abbot and Convent of Burton to strengthen their fish-ponds at Findern (Jeayes, No. 1274).

GALL MEADOW.

From M.E. *galle*, wet, unfertile land (E.P.N.S., 13, 326). Spelt Gaul in E.A. and Gual in the 1840 Book.

GORSTY LEYS.

"The clearings with gorse-bushes on them." On the E.A. plan they are A.E's. In an I.P.M. of 30 Henry VIII appears a Gorsty Close (Derby Ref. Lib. 9200, p. 105), which doubtless refers to this land.

HAT, THE.

A small three-cornered enclosure abutting on Rykneld Street, probably so named from its resemblance to the old three-cornered hat familiarised by portraits of Nelson, etc.

HAYES, THE.

From O.E. *hāse*, land with bushes and brushwood (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2). The E.A. plan labels a considerable tract of land in the N.E. of the parish as Hays Pasture, and in a deed of 1733 we read of "a common pasture called Findern Hays." Parts of this tract, Sour Hays and Hays Willows, were A.E.'s in 1781; the remainder was enclosed in that year. Modern local pronunciation, "the Eases."

Hays Slanks (1840 Book) was part of the 1781 enclosure. Slank, according to Halliwell, is a slope or declivity.

HEATH COMMON.

A small close bordering Heath Lane. A transfer-name retaining the memory of the extensive Heath Common enclosed in 1781.

HEP TREE CLOSE.

One of the Longland Closes (q.v.). Same meaning as the first element in Hepple (q.v.). Wright gives variant spellings, epp, hepp, hyp, etc. There is an Ipcroft in Etwall parish.

HEPPLE FLATS.

This is the E.A. spelling, but the 1840 Book has Happle; the modern local pronunciation drops the aspirate and is Apple. In a Fine of 1208 we get Heppelmead (Jeayes, No. 2757) which, with Hurimandole (*vide* Doles) is the earliest instance I have met of an ancient field-name surviving practically unaltered to the present day. The meaning is probably O.E. *hēope*, hip, wild rose (Clark Hall), and O.E. *healh*, corner, recess (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2), "the corner where the wild roses grow." (I think so, too—Tate).

HIGH FIELD.

The three main open fields of Findern were the High, Wall, and Willowsend Fields. This close bears a transfer-name from the first of them.

HUNGERHILLS.

Hungar Hill in a deed of 1691. A fairly common name, from O.E. *hungor*, hunger (Clark Hall), used of poor land hungry for manure.

LONGLANDS.

These comprise a number of long narrow closes between the Willington and Longlands Lanes. They are all A.E.'s on the E.A. plan. It is probable that in the open-field days the strips or holdings here were, for some reason or other, set out long and narrow, and when the land was enclosed the fenced closes conformed to the open-field arrangement. Longlands Furlong appears in a deed of 1691 and Longlands Shutt in one of 1724.

LOUSY BUTTS.

An A.E. in 1781. Butt is from M.E. *butte*, and refers to strips of land abutting on a boundary. This close runs up to the parish boundary along Rykneld Street. The adjective is fairly common in field-names, and if it is a term of contempt for dirty or unfertile land it would seem to explode the widely-held notion that this particular meaning of "lousy" dates from the 1914-18 War.

LOVAT'S GROUNDS.

Another personal name. Lovats (various spellings) occur throughout the 18th and early 19th century registers. In 1857 Isaac Lovett was collector of taxes in Findern. (White's "Derbyshire").

MASTER FLAT.

In the extreme N. of the parish. A flatt was one of the tracts into which the open arable fields were sub-divided. Master is probably a corruption of "masty," large (Wright). He instances its use in mastie-dog, mastiff. It appears as a close in 1691.

MILL FIELD AND M. CLOSE.

These owe their names to their proximity to the old Findern windmill, now reconstructed as a private dwelling-house.

NANCY, THE.

A small close in the angle of the Willington and Heath Lanes. It does not figure in either the E.A. or the 1840 Book. Not one of the Findernians who use, and gave me, the name could suggest any meaning for it—nor can I.

NAVIGATION CLOSE.

When James Brindley was constructing the Trent and Mersey Canal it was known as the Grand Trunk Navigation. This close abuts on the canal by the Greyhound Inn.

PADDOCK, THE.

Called the Paddock in the E.A. This large close is adjacent to the village street, and contains raised earthen formations which appear to indicate former buildings of considerable extent. Probably the site of Findern Hall or Manor-house, an assumption strengthened by the information I received from an aged native that it was here the celebrated "Findern Flowers" grew.

PEASE IN NOOK.

So named in the 1840 Book. The form used in a deed of 1762 is Peaseland. A tract of land devoted to peagrowing.

An adjacent close is called Pease in Flat (? Peasen Flat. This would be good M.E., I think, with the adjectival "en"—Tate). A Peaseland Furlong appears in a 1691 deed.

PEG MEADOW.

I at first assumed this to be a personal name, but searched the registers in vain. The close lies along the brookcourse just below the junction of the Doles and Hell Brooks. I can only suggest that at one time it was lot-meadow, and that the shares of the various occupants

were marked out by wooden pegs driven into the ground, a method of delimitation not unusual. (I have seen also Stake Meadow—Tate). Appears as an A.E. in the E.A.

PIKES FIELD.

Similar meaning to "gore" (*vide* Alligore). This close tapers to a point. Halliwell says: "Short butts which fill up the irregularity caused by hedges not running parallel." Pikes Lane runs nearby, and is mentioned in 1691.

POOL HEAD.

This close, so named also in the 1840 Book, adjoins the Fish Pond (q.v.), and is consequently self-explanatory.

PRIEST FLAT.

An A.E. in the Willowsend Field in 1781. The name doubtless indicates ecclesiastical possession at some time. A Vicar's Flat in the Willowsend Field is mentioned in deeds of 1717 and 1733, and is probably the same piece of ground.

QUEDGES CLOSE AND Q. MEADOW.

Appears as Quidges in the 1840 Book. This is a difficult name. It may be from Queaches, plots of ground left unploughed on account of queaches or thickets (Halliwell). Wright gives "queachy" as meaning wet, boggy, and quotes from Drayton's *Polyolbion*: "Comes from the boggy mears and queachy fens." Another suggestion is Quitch, couch-grass (*Triticum repens*). E.P.N.S., 13, 372, cites Quadge Meadowe as a name of onomatopoeic type denoting marshy ground. (I think either explanation is possible—Tate).

RUPLES CLOSES.

This is the form used in the E.A., but the 1840 Book has Rowpels. It may be from O.E. *rippel*, a strip of land (E.P.N.S., 17, 289), indicating the strips of the holdings in the common fields. The 1840 spelling is, however, suggestive of O.E. *rūh*, rough, for the first element, in which case the second element may be the same as that in

Hepple (q.v.). There is a Rypples Close in Kneesall parish, Notts.

SALTERWAYS CLOSES.

This name appears on the E.A. plan and in a deed of 1742. It must surely (? may possibly—Tate) be associated with the old Salters Ways by which, until the advent of the canals, salt was conveyed to all parts of the kingdom. Duignan, in his *Place Names of Staffordshire*, writes of the Saltway as an ancient road from the saltworks at Weston and Shirleywich to the east. It crossed the Tame by Salters Bridge, which is mentioned in the Alrewas parish registers under date 1601. There is a Saltersford Bridge over the Egginton Brook, which no doubt carried the saltway commemorated in these Findern loses. It very probably went through to Derby along the adjacent old track called Bakeacre Lane.

SAND SICKLES.

This is the modern form and that of the 1840 Book, but the E.A. plan has Saun Sackles. I cannot suggest an explanation. Wright gives Shackle as meaning "stubble," but Sickle, with the meaning of a harvesting tool, seems more likely. It is Sandsickles in 1691, and in 18th century deeds are such variants as Sansickles, Sansicles, Sandsicles and Saun Sickles.

SIX LANDS.

Six Lands Shut appears in 1729, and "a close called the Six Lands" in 1735. Probably six lands or ridges of common-field ground were fenced in between those dates.

STANHOPE HOLES.

This is the pronunciation given, and the spelling suggested, to me. A Sir Michael Stanhope held land in Findern c. 1600. But the 1840 Book has Staner Pool; I did not find it in the E.A. It may be from O.E. *stān*, stone (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2). The close borders the Hell Brook, and Wright gives Stanner or Staner as "small stones in the bed or by the margin of a stream:" the

stony pool close. In a deed of 1691, however, the name appears as "Stenyard (and Staynyard) Poole Close," which suggests an alternative from O.N. *steinn*, stone, rock, and O.E. *geard*, enclosure, yard. (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2). (I think possibly the last—Tate).

STONE PITS.

These two closes, at the extreme N. tip of the parish, are Stub-pits in the E.A., and also (with the variant Steppit) in several 18th century deeds. But by 1840 the name had changed to its modern form. O.E. *stubb*, stump of a tree. (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2). As Stubbings, Steppings, Stockings, etc., it is common in field-names, and denotes a piece of land cleared of (tree) stumps.

TEN ACRE MEADOW.

This A.E. is near the junction of Doles Lane and Rykneld Street. The adjoining Fields Farm, I am told, used to be known as Ten Acre Farm. This close is referred to as the "Tenne Acres" in a lease dated 16th February, 1573 from Sir Thomas Gresham to William Gilbert.

THRUSHTON CLOSES.

A series of contiguous closes on the E. boundary of the parish which are all A.E'S in the E.A. Although the Ordnance Survey form is Thurston (which would give "Thurulf's tun:"—Ekwall) the evidence seems clearly against it. The E.A. has Thrustons and the 1840 Book Thrushtons, which latter is the modern local pronunciation and gives the clue to the meaning: "the farm frequented by thrushes," from O.E. *thrysce*, thrush (Clark Hall).

TOP BARN CLOSE FLAT AND COWPEN.

A good example of the weird pranks played by careless copyists. In a 20th century deed the name appears as "Top Barn Close and Flatt Cowper," which set me searching for the personal name Cowper. The 1840 Book eventually gave me the correct form. Barn Close is self-explanatory, and Cowpen not less so. There is

another Cowpen close in the adjoining parish of Willington.

TOWNSEND, THE.

This name occurs on the outskirts of many villages: "the close at the end of the tun." The Findern example borders Longlands Lane, and gives its name to the adjoining farm. In 1691 it is written "Townes-end Close."

TURNPIKE CLOSE.

Near to Rykneld Street, and no doubt derives its present name from that fact. But from its situation I suspect it is the Turnip Close of several early 19th century deeds. If so, another case of corruption.

WALL FIELDS.

These closes, W. of Wallfield House Farm, perpetuate the memory of one of the open fields of Findern. The name may possibly be from O.E. *wald*, which was used of forest-land (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2), and might denote the conditions when the first human settlement was established at Findern. Bulmer's "Derbyshire" states that several fields in the parish bear the name War Fields, where it is supposed some unrecorded battle was fought, and I have heard this tradition in the village. The probability is that War is just a corruption of Wall, and that the battle is mythical.

WHITMORE MEADOW.

A personal name. It occurs in the church registers from the late 18th century onwards. William Whitmore was a baker in Findern in 1857 (White's "Derbyshire.")

WIDE IRONS.

This form is that locally in use to-day, and it appears also in the E.A. and the 1840 Book. But the present owner of the close, Mrs. Cox of Twyford, informs me that she and her mother and grandmother, also owners in their time, always knew it as *Wild* Irons, and I am content to take this. It is tempting to connect the name with

wilddēorness, abode of wild beasts (Clark Hall). Wright gives wildern, a crab-tree, and Halliwell has wilderne, wilderness. The general sense seems to be a wild remote spot where crab-trees would be found. The close is at the N. end of the parish, right away from the village.

WILLOSEND FIELDS.

These closes border the E. side of Bakeacre Lane, and in them the memory of Willowsend open-field survives. Almost the whole of this common field was enclosed prior to 1781. The name appears occasionally in deeds as Willowsden.

WRAGG'S OLD FIELD.

Called the Old Field Close in the E.A. The personal name Wragg appears in the census of Findern's inhabitants, dated 29th May, 1811, which is written out in one of the parish registers.

WREN PARK.

This is usually assumed to be a jocular (or contemptuous) appellation for a small field (E.P.N.S., 17, 306). It is not uncommon.

POTLOCK MANOR. (FINDERN PARISH).

BRIDGE FOOT CLOSE.

Appears in the 1840 Book. The close is at the "foot" of the bridge over the Trent and Mersey Canal (completed 1777), and the name no doubt dates from that time.

CHAPEL CLOSE.

It abuts on the Trent, and is named from the old Potlock chapel of St. Leonard. This was doubtless the private chapel of the Finderne family, but all trace of it has long since disappeared. Potlock House Farm, probably occupying the site of the mansion-house of the Findernes, adjoins the close on the N. It is referred to as "Chappell Close" in an I.P.M. of 30 Henry VIII (Derby Ref. Lib. 9200, p. 105).

CLOVER SLADE.

From O.E. *slaed*, shallow valley (E.P.N.S., 17, 290).
COMMON, NEAR, etc.

The closes formed part of the old Heath Common. They were included in the allotment made under the E.A. to Sir Henry Harpur in satisfaction of "his Right of Common for the Potlocks" and "all his other Rights."

FENHAM MEADOW.

This meadow abuts on the Trent, and extends into Twyford parish, in a Terrier of which it appears as Fenholme. O.E. *hamm*, a flat low-lying pasture, land near a river (E.P.N.S., I, pt. 2). The form "holme" is from O.N. *holmr*, islet, but there is often much confusion between the two, as "holme" can also refer to low-lying ground by a stream. The first element is from O.E. *fennig*, fenny, marshy (Clark Hall), and the general sense would be swampy pasture.

PEMMERSTONES.

Two closes which appear as "Pemmertons" in the 1840 Book. In Dr. Cox's "Churches of Derbyshire," Vol. IV, we read that about 1526 a twenty-nine years lease of the Rectory of Barrow was granted to Ralph Pemberton, yeoman, of Barrow. Doubtless these closes were at one time his property, and still carry his name 400 years later, as Mr. L. C. Cox of Twyford informs me they are known to-day as Big and Little Pemberton.

STEPPING CLOSE.

From O.E. *stybbing*, a place cleared of stubbs, or tree stumps (Williamson, D.A.J., 1942, 23). M.E. *stubbing*, place where trees have been stubbed (E.P.N.S., 17, 291).