

V.—RESEARCHES INTO THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME OGLE.

By Sir HENRY A. OGLE, BART.

Read on the 27th of March, 1901.

I.—The rev. John Hodgson says that ‘Ogle in the earliest evidences to the pedigree of the family of that name is written Hoggel, Oggehill, Ogille, and Oghill . . . but, under all its forms, to me it never “comes in such questionable shape” that I can confidently dare to “speak” as to an intelligible name. Is it from *hog*, a sheep in its state from a lamb to its first shearing, and *hill*, from the hill where the hogs of the estate were pastured, and thus, like Lambley, Ewesley, Cowsley, Horsley, Ramshope, etc., having its name from the use it was made of.’¹

II.—A writer in *Notes and Queries* says the name Ogle appears to be a contraction or corruption of Oghwell, which is found in several place names, as East and West Oghwell in Devonshire. . . . Ogh, he says, is common to all Teutonic families in differing forms, Gothic, *Og* or *Ag*; Old High German, *eg-isso*; Old Norse, *ogn*; Anglo-Saxon, *oga*; with the meaning of fear, dread, awe, Oghwell would then be the well of fear, in other words, the haunted well; so with Oghbourne, Ogden, Ogley, indicating the supernatural element in each. The verb to ogle, to leer, to cast side glances has no connexion with the Anglo-Saxon *oga*, being derived from an entirely different root. Ogle in Northumberland is found written Oggil, but the personal name may sometimes be of Gaelic origin, Glen Ogle near Lochearnhead is said to translate ‘terrible glen,’ doubtless from Gaelic *eagalach*, from *eagal*, fear; but Ogle appears also to be an Anglo-Saxon or Danish personal name, as it occurs in composition with topographical expressions in several family names, as Ogilvie, Oglewy, Ogilby, Oglesby, the residence of Ogle, and Oglethorpe, the village of Ogle, etc.²

III.—The following notes, however, may possibly throw out a different light, and might lead, in the hands of an expert, to some-

¹ Hodgson, *Hist. of Northumberland*, part II. vol. i. p. 394.

² *Notes and Queries*, 7th series, vol. ii.

thing tangible. It seems at present scarcely possible to see the way clearly through all the discordant elements stated by various historians.

From an early period of the Roman dominion in Gaul, the coast north of Finisterre, as well as the eastern and southern shores of Britain, were infested by Saxons, by reason of which the seaboard in both countries was called 'Littus Saxonicum.'³ Upon the withdrawal of the Roman legions from Britain, the country being left unaided, the Picts, strengthened by marauders from Ireland, and the race pillaging along the British Channel, harried the British.⁴ It seems, however, that these pillaging people were not confined to the Saxons⁵ alone. Turner says that at the beginning of the fourth century the Saxons were not alone on the ocean; other states, both to the north and south, were moving in concert with them, whose nominal distinctions were lost in the Saxon name;⁶ and it is not at all unlikely that these tribes—as the Norwegians and Danes at a later date—had some connexion with Ireland, especially as the Scots by some are said to be of Scandinavian origin, and that the islands of Aran on the west coast of Scotland were one of their strongholds, for a seafaring people accustomed to pillage would build such forts as are to be found on Inishmore, and use the island as a base. One of these forts, Dun Aengus, is described as 'the most magnificent barbaric monument now extant in Europe.' The 'Legend,' however, attributes the inhabitants to a remnant of the Belgic race driven from Scotland, who fortified themselves in Mayo, Galway, Clare, and these islands; but the rev. C. H. Hartshorne attributes a later date than the first century, viz., the fifth century.⁷

The British being unable to cope with the ravages of these tribes, and of the Picts and Scots, had recourse to a league with the tribes

³ *Rotuli Norm. Scacarii.* Haigh, *Conquest of Britain by the Saxons*, p. 161.

⁴ Green, *Short History of the English People*.

⁵ The term Saxon seems to have been applied by the Romans to all tribes infesting and pillaging the coasts, and the term once in use seems apparently to have been applied to any tribe pillaging, whatever their origin. (See Mackenzie's *Hist. of Northumberland*, p. 22.)

⁶ Turner, *History of the Anglo-Saxons*, vol. i. p. 147.

⁷ *Proc. Soc. Ant.* vol. xv.

infesting their coasts, who were probably Jutes, but spoken of generally as Saxons, these two tribes and the Angles having formerly been considered as allied to each other.⁸ It will, however, be seen that the Jutes were allied originally to the Scandinavian Goths, and afterwards may have coalesced with the Angles. Mr. Worsaae says it was the Roman authors who spoke of them as a Germanic race, but owing to the limited geographical knowledge of the period, the accounts which refer to the northern peninsula of Holland have sometimes been transferred to the peninsula of Jutland.⁹ So the terms Saxon and Saxony, not being discriminate, must be understood to have a wider significance.¹⁰ The leaders whom Vortigern called to aid were Hengist and Horsa, and there is some question whether the date of this league was 428 A.D. or 449 A.D., and whether Hengist was a Jute or a Frisian.¹¹ It is contended that the Cat Stane (Battle Stone) near Edinburgh, near Kirkliston in Lothian, on which is the inscription, 'IN (H)OC TVMVLO JACET VETTA F VICTI,'¹² represents Vetta, son of Victus, or Witta, son of Wecta, of the Kentish genealogy, and represents the grandfather of Hengist and Horsa; and it appears that the Picts, Saxons,¹⁰ Scots, and Attacots were continually ravaging the Roman provinces in Britain, from A.D. 364 to 368, and the Picts, Scots, and Saxons,¹⁰ are said to have been pursued by Theodosius as far as the Orkneys; and it is far from improbable that Wecta and Witta were leaders of these Saxons,¹⁰ and Witta fell in the conflict.¹³ Skene indicates that there were real settlements of Saxons¹⁰ on the east coast of Scotland in the year 344.¹⁴ Procopius speaks of the Frisians as having settled in this country along with the Angles,¹⁰ and in Lincolnshire occur such names as Friesthorpe and Frieston. Lappenberg conjectures that the Frisians,

⁸ Camden, 1607, pp. 102, 103.

⁹ J. A. Worsaae, *Primeval Antiquities*.

¹⁰ Some confusions of thought may arise from the words Angles, Saxons and Jutes being used indiscriminately. See note above.

¹¹ Hodgson, *Hist. of Northumberland*, part i. p. 59. Haigh, *Conquest of Britain by the Saxons*.

¹² See woodcut of this stone, *Arch. Ael.* vol. xiii., p. 370.

¹³ *Ib.* pp. 141, 145. *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. iv.

¹⁴ *Arch. Ael.*, vol. vii. p. 92.

Franks, and Longobards took part with the Angles, Jutes, and Saxons in the subjugation and colonization of Britain.¹⁵

A Frisian tradition, quoted by Suffredus, tells us that two nephews and namesakes of Hengist and Horsa, sons of Udolph, duke of Frisia, and of their sister Svana, completed the conquest of Britain which they had begun,¹⁶ and Henry of Huntingdon states that in 444¹⁷ king Hengist and Æse, his son, arrived with reinforcements, which is the first notice of a second Hengist,¹⁸ for apparently one Hengist died in 443. The leaders of the Anglo-Saxons bore names used by the Frisians: Horste, Hengist, Witte, etc., and Dr. Bosworth cites Maerlant in his chronicle as doubtful whether to call Hengist Saxon or Frisian.¹⁹ It thus seems possible that the leaders of these Jutish tribes were connected by marriage with the Frisians, and that there were two Hengists whose arrivals in Britain were separated by some sixteen years. With regard to Vortigern, king of Britain, who invited Hengist and Horsa over, and who also wished to marry the daughter of Hengist, it is related, 'And Hengist having taken counsel with his elders who had come with him from the island of Oghgul, as to what they should ask for the girl . . . and Hengist said to the king . . . I will invite my son and his cousin . . . that they may fight against the Scots and give them the countries which are to the North near the Wall, which are called Gual. The king commanded that they should be invited, and he invited them, Ochta and Abisa, with XL Keels. And when they had sailed round the country of the Picts, laid waste the Orkneys, and came and occupied several territories across the Frisian Sea, that is to say, the country which is between us and the Scots, as far as the boundaries of the Picts. And Hengist continually sent for fresh ships, a few at a time, so that the islands from which they came were left without inhabitants.' In Giles's 'Gildas and Nennius' the wording is similar,

¹⁵ Haigh, *Conquest of Britain by the Saxons*, pp. 157-160.

¹⁶ *Ib.* p. 127.

¹⁷ The dates are those given by Mr. Haigh: to convert to the usual dates twenty-one years must be added. See also *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* vol. iv. p. 156, in which the author thinks the earlier dates probably correct.

¹⁸ *Ib.* pp. 259, 260.

¹⁹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* vol. iv.

but he has the Oghul *race* instead of *island*.²⁰ Mr. Hodgson Hinde believes the place they occupied to be Lothian, and there seems to be no doubt that the occupation was on the east coast, and Worsaae says it is quite certain, both at this time and at a later period, a number of Jutes settled on the east of England, particularly in the northern parts.²¹ Keltie says, that shortly after 446 (*i.e.* 425) the Saxons established themselves on the Tweed, and afterwards extended their settlements to the Frith of Forth.²² It also appears that this part of Scotland was once called 'Saxony,' and it is recorded in the Pictish Chronicles, 'the Picts made a raid upon Saxony.'²³ Considering the language quoted above, it seems clear that no foreign place to the east or south of England would suit, but such an island and stronghold as Inishmore on the west of Ireland (see above) suits the language used perfectly. No one wishing to sail to the Forth or Tweed would sail round the country of the Picts, and go to the Orkneys, which is quite out of the way, unless they came from the west. Not only is this so, but on the same island of Inishmore is Dun Oghill (Dun Eochla) or Fort Oghill, which is described as a finer example (of an old fortification) than Dun Aengus,²⁴ another fort which itself is described by Petrie as the 'most magnificent barbaric monument now extant in Europe.'²⁵ If then Dun Oghill was once the principal fort, the fort and the island may have had, originally, the same name,²⁶ especially as the village near the centre of the island

²⁰ Nennius, *Monumenta Historica Britannica*, pp. 65, 66. Mr. Haigh states that seventeen out of twenty-seven manuscripts collated by Mr. Petrie agree in ascribing 'The History of the Britons,' usually ascribed to Nennius, to Gildas, and he says the catalogue of Arthur's twelve battles is certainly the work of a contemporary, and that the work must have been transcribed in A.D. 675, but that Nennius may have translated it later. If this is correct we have then the authority of the year 471. (See *Conq. of Brit. by Sax.* pp. 6-10.)

²¹ Worsaae, *Danes in England*, p. 80.

²² *History of the Scottish Highlands*, etc., p. 56.

²³ Green, *Short History of the English People*, pp. 178, 179.

²⁴ *Royal Soc. Ant. Irel.* v. 1895, p. 260.

²⁵ Murray's *Ireland*, revised by John Cooke, M.A.

²⁶ *Note*.—The Aran islands, of which Inishmore is one, seem to associate the name with Arran island in Scotland, and thirty miles to the north lies Inishbofin, the island to which Colman, bishop of Lindisfarne, retired in the seventh century, which gives another association, seeing he was connected also with Iona. A professor of the Galway University also informed the writer that the people of Inishmore were a fair race, and he thought the Danes must have settled there. St. Columba was patron of Desertoghill Church, a parish in the diocese of Derry and barony of Coleraine in the county of Londonderry. *Historians of Scotland*, vol. vi. p. lix., quoting from Reeves' *Colton*, p. 80.

is still called Oaghill or Oghill, which is in the parish of Arranmore in the barony of Arran, Galway, Connaught,²⁷ and the idea is supported by the statement of Nennius that Hengist and Horsa were exiles.²⁸ And thus, if this surmise is correct, the island of Oghgul, from which Hengist came—this voyage at all events—may be looked for at or about Inishmore, rather than is generally assumed from or amongst the Danish islands. This inference is supported by a later statement by Nennius that Ohta, after the death of Hengist, crossed from the 'sinistral,' that is, the west of Britain, to the kingdom of Kent.²⁹ In some manuscripts it seems that they have it that Hengist came from the race of Ochgul or Ongle;³⁰ and Lappenberg calls the island Angul, saying some manuscripts have Oghgull.

The materials for the history were no doubt taken from writings in Runic characters, and it seems probable that the words with the greater number of characters existed first as they would be transcribed letter by letter, and afterwards when the sounds became familiar be transcribed with fewer characters; in this way the word Ongle would be derived from Oghgul or Ochgul, for 'the Runic *ing* in several different systems resembled the duplication of *c* or *g*,'³¹ *ing* being equivalent to *ng*; but by the characters given by Mr. Haigh, the Gothic *inc* (or *ing*) is like a variety of two *c*'s, and the Anglo-Saxon *ing* is like a *g* over a *g*; but the presence of the *h*, and the fact that Ongle would have four characters and Oghgul or Ochgul six, make it difficult to transform the latter words into Ongul and then Ongle, but there does not seem to be the same difficulty in changing Ongle into Angle, which would be affected by a badly formed Runic *O*, and this change occurs sometimes in other personal names.

Mr. Haigh gives some inscriptions which he says appear to be in Northumbrian dialect. 'The characteristic difference between these and the later forms of the language appears to be in the frequent use of Gifu for Haegl,³² that is in *g* and *h*; in this way all the differ-

²⁷ *Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland*, 1844-5.

²⁸ Turner, *Hist. of Anglo-Saxons*, p. 253.

²⁹ See also Haigh's *Conq. of Brit. by Saxons*, p. 8:

³⁰ *Ib.* p. 219 n.

³¹ *Ib.* p. 81.

³² Haigh, *Conq. of Brit. by Saxons*, p. 44.

ences in spelling seem to be accounted for excepting perhaps Ongle ; but as Hengist is usually reckoned to be either a Jute or possibly a Frisian, and the Jutish settlements are said to lie in Kent, in the Isle of Wight,³³ and the colony in the north, it would seem that Hengist should have come from a Jutish rather than an Anglian country. On these deductions and suppositions it would appear that the word Angle was introduced later.

Oghgul is stated to be the name of an island, according to Nennius, in the Northern Kingdom, here written Ogghul,³⁴ but at the present day there is no island on the coast of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, etc., called by this name, and the only near approaches to it, having, however, the aspirant *H*, are Hogdall and Hoghalla, both being in Sweden, the former a town near the border of Norway on the sea, near to which are some islands, and the latter a point of land near the entrance to Copenhagen, and near the province of Göteborg, in which Hogdal lies. In this same province, and twenty miles inland, near Lake Wener, was Bohuslän, in which district, about the year 700-800, a family named Ogell were hereditary judges,³⁵ and the same name occurs in the Ogelstromen—the Ogel Stream or River—a river rising on the borders near Norway and flowing into the Angermann near Liden.

Worsaae shows³⁶ how Scandinavia, a century or two later, with the islands of Gothland, Öland, and Bornholme, was a centre of trade with the east, and also with England ; we may suppose this to have been a growth from much earlier periods, especially as Hörsa, on the mainland near Öland island, has the same name as Hengist's brother ; moreover, Camden says the word 'Jutes' comes from Gutae, Getae, or Goths, and thus Gothland may have been Jutish territory.

Mr. J. Worsaae says our fathers belonged to the great Gothic stock.³⁷ He says the earliest Scandinavian traditions mention that those races who had last migrated into the North lived on friendly

³³ The name of the Isle of Wight was Vecta or Wecta. See *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* vol. iv.

³⁴ *Universal Lexicon.*

³⁵ Communicated by Mr. Kittell, a Swede.

³⁶ *Danes in England*, chap. x.

³⁷ Worsaae, *Primeval Ant. of Denmark*, p. 68.

terms with a people named the Alfs, who at an earlier period lived at Alfheim in the south of Norway and in the north of Jutland.³⁸ Also the oldest Runic inscriptions in Denmark are as pure Scandinavian as any other in the north,³⁹ and in some of the oldest Icelandic Sagas and Chronicles of the North it is said that Denmark in the earliest time was called Eygotland (the island of the Goths) and Reiogotland (the continent of the Goths), or, by one name, Gotland. In the fifth century the Goths (Jütes) went over to England from Jutland which country was still, in the ninth century, called by the Anglo-Saxons Gotland. . . . There can be very little doubt that the inhabitants of Denmark in the bronze period were a *Gothic* tribe. . . . It has been said that they were a Gotho-Germanic and not a Gotho-Scandinavian race . . . but against this we have not only, as already shown, the testimony of the monuments, but also the testimony of the history of Scandinavia.⁴⁰

About the year 400 or 500 Scandinavia was thus peopled by Norwegians, Swedes, and Goths, who were divided into Göths in Götaland and Goths in Denmark. The dialect by no means shows that the Goths spoke a German language.⁴¹

The name Oggel is said to have been at one time common in Scandinavia, and it occurs at Kampen in Holland.⁴² The modern word 'ogle' is also of Dutch origin.⁴³ It will be found that most of the geographical places in Great Britain, approaching to the same sound of the name under consideration, exist in or near the district situated between the Firth of Forth and the Tweed and up to the Roman Wall, viz., the Ogle burn in the parish of Innerwick, Ogle in Northumberland, and also Ogleburgh⁴⁴ near Chatton, also the barony or regality of Ogleface in Linlithgow, shown under Torpichen. Robert III. granted the canons of Holyrood a regal jurisdiction over their barony of Ogleface⁴⁵ on the 10th July, 1424, John Murrefe (Murray) of Ogilface is mentioned⁴⁶; and, presuming the aspirant *H* coming from

³⁸ Worsaae, *Primeval Ant. of Denmark*, p. 136. ³⁹ *Ib.* p. 143. ⁴⁰ *Ib.* p. 144.

⁴¹ *Ib.* p. 146.

⁴² See a work by P. J. Oggell printed at Kampen. Brit. Mus.

⁴³ Skeat's *Etymological Dict.*

⁴⁴ Carlisle, *Topographical Dict. England.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Laing Charters.*

bad pronunciation does not interfere with phonetic requirements,⁴⁷ Hoghill fort, a prehistoric fort of extraordinary size and of great interest.⁴⁸ It is on the river Lyne about three miles from the Tweed, upon which the Saxons are stated to have settled. There is also a fort near Hoghill in the Lammermuir hills; but it is to be noted that there is an occurrence of Hoga, Hog, Hoeg, Hoga, Hogan, Hogaland—Hogh means, it seems, high place, the Dutch Hoog, meaning high. These names are usually found in connexion with remains of so-called ‘Pictish forts,’⁴⁹ but that Hoghill may be allowable, see above.⁵⁰ Somewhat farther off there is Glen Ogle between Loch Earn and Killin, Coilantogle near Callander. In the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, in 1552, mention is made of land in Erslintone called Ogle Land, Berwick, also in 1665 a James Fentoun of Ogill and William Johnastown of Ogill occur. This name Ogil or Ogill seems to have occurred in Perthshire or Forfarshire, and is probably the same as Ochill, the Ochil hills lying north of Edinburgh, from which word the town Ochiltree is presumably deduced as a compound, but Ochiltree seems to have been written formerly Oghiltree, as there was a Stewart baron Oghiltree,⁵¹ and the same name occurs in the Record Office at Dublin, as Mungo Oghilltree in 1735, Michael Oghelltree in 1746, which names later take the modern form, as Matthew Ocheltree in 1813 and Mary Ochiltree in 1856, all these being wills of those dates in the diocese of Armagh; thus we may conclude that Ochil and Oghill are the same and modifications of Ogle. In Runic characters the C or K and G are sometimes found under the same character.⁵²

The spelling of the word since the Norman Conquest occurs as Hoggel or Hoggal, Ogla (probably misspelling for Ogle), Hoghill, Oghell, Hoggill, Oghill, D'Oggill, D'Ogle, de Oggle, de Ogle, Oghil,

⁴⁷ A distinction has to be made between words copied from writings and those written down from word of mouth, for instance, Hexham anciently was written Hextoldesham and Extoldesham, etc. (Surtees Soc. publ. p. ix. app. ii.)

⁴⁸ *Pro. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxi.

⁴⁹ T. S. Muir, *Ecclesiological Notes*.

⁵⁰ Hodgson, *Hist. of Northumberland*, part ii. vol. i. p. 394.

⁵¹ Quoted Harl. MS. No. 245, f. 273.

⁵² Worsaae, *Primeval Ant. of Denmark*, p. 115. Haigh, *Conq. of Brit. by Saxons*, pp. 48, 49.

Oggehill, Oggille, Oggill, Oggell, Oggil, Oggel, Oggle, Ogyll, Ogill, Ogell, Ogele, Ogel, showing a great variety of form and a free use of the aspirant, and representing both place and surnames.

In Scottish records the name Ogyll and Ogill, the names Ogilwy, Ogilvy, Ogilby occur, the latter being taken as equivalent names.⁵³

In the registers of Felton, Northumberland, the name Phillip Ogleby occurs in 1678. A John Ogilby, a writer, was a branch of the ancient family of Ogilby or Ogilvie.⁵⁴ There were Oglethorpes of Oglethorpe from 5 Edward IV. The parish of Oglethorpe is often shown under that of Bramham, Yorkshire.⁵⁵ The name Oglestrop occurs as one of the freemen of York in 1579.⁵⁶

The fact that such names exist as Ogelby, Oglesby, Oglethorpe, Ogellthorpe shows that in Danish times—these Danes being the descendants of the Jutes—*circa* 800 to 1050, there were persons living called Ogle or its equivalent, for the terminations—by and thorpe—are Danish, and the compound names mean, respectively, the residence of Ogle and the village of Ogle.⁵⁷ Oglethorpe still retains its name in Yorkshire.

It is thus probable that the name Ogle or its equivalent or near equivalent in sound was Gotho-Scandinavian, this race, as has been seen, extending into Jutland. It is possible that the Jutes named Inishmore after this name, but there is not sufficient proof of this, only two or three inferences supporting this idea; but the fact remains that the places in ancient Northumbria which appear to have had, in the fourth and fifth centuries, more in common with the Jutes than any other foreign race, until the coming of the Angles, seem to point to a Jutish origin. And the fact that in Sweden in the year *circa* 700 an equivalent personal or descendible name or appendage is found, and that later it appears to have been also a Danish personal name, and as such gave the name to certain places in England, lends strength to the idea that it may have been a Jutish personal name in the fifth century, and taken to England then. If it had been an Anglian or Saxon

⁵³ *Laing Charters, Historians of Scotland, Chronicle of Scotland*, vol. ii. pp. 467-8.

⁵⁴ Atkin's *Biography*. ⁵⁵ Harl. MS. No. 1394, f. 228. ⁵⁶ Surt. Soc. publ., 99.

⁵⁷ See above, *Notes and Queries*, 7th series, vol. ii. p. 211, quoting Lower's *Patronymica Britannica*.

name we should have expected to have found it in the places settled in by those tribes, rather than in the Jutish settlements which, according to Mr. Haigh,⁵⁸ had a great deal to say to Northumbria before the sixth century, Northumbria being taken to include its ancient boundaries between the Humber and the Forth. To set against this there is a possibility of some of the place-names in Scotland given above having a Gaelic origin;⁵⁹ however, some authors have stated that the Scotch are of Scandinavian origin, in which case this would be additional proof, seeing that Og and Hog are common to both languages.

P.S.—With regard to the family of Ogell, who it has been stated were hereditary judges in Bohuslän in the eighth century, the writer endeavoured to obtain further information through Dr. Landstedt, who being at the time unable to do so referred to Mr. W. Berg at Gothenburg, a specialist in the history of Bohuslän, but he knew nothing of the family of Ogell nor of the river of that name, which, however, still exists but not in Bohuslän. He suggested instead the name 'Uggla,' which is very like a compound between Ogla and Ulgel, forms of the name, for a Humphrey de Ulgel was a witness to a grant of Walter fitz William, baron of Whalton.

Dr. Landstedt is making further enquiries.

⁵⁸ Mr. Haigh, following certain manuscripts, often uses the term Angle, but he says that the race which occupied Kent was probably the Jutes. *Cong. of Britain by the Saxons*, p. 52.

⁵⁹ See *Notes and Queries*, 7th series, vol. ii. p. 211.