

# On the Significance of some East Anglian Field-Names.

COMMUNICATED BY

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THE following brief commentary on the nomenclature of our homesteads, fields, and ways, is, I am well aware, very incomplete. Indeed, I fear that to experienced students, working on the same lines, my glossary and observations will seem of such meagre interest, that their appearance here, in their present condition, will call for some explanation; and this, therefore, I will give in as few words as possible.

For the last two or three years I have been in the habit of jotting down, from time to time, rough notes of such words and phrases, in descriptions of landed property, as have seemed to me either interesting in themselves, or obscure in association, meaning, or derivation. It was at first my intention to attempt something like a complete index of the field-names of my own county; but I soon found that such a list was capable of indefinite extension, and that the undertaking, if not quite impracticable, would certainly yield no result at all adequate to the labour involved. Being unwilling, however, to abandon the

venture altogether, and foreseeing that, with little spare time to devote to the work, the growth of my notes would soon render their arrangement a matter of difficulty, I thought it best to compromise the matter, and to deal at once, in the best way I could, with the materials I had already gathered.

In compiling these pages there is one source, from which I have drawn largely, of which I should like to make particular mention. Very recently, partly in connection with this effort and partly in pursuit of another object, I have had occasion to go through the voluminous *Reports of the Charity Commissioners*, published in 1836, on the condition and administration of all the Parochial Charities of Norfolk and Suffolk. These volumes, crowded as they are with extracts from wills and title deeds, are mines of wealth for all interested in local history; and in them I have worked with much ardour, if with little effect, in my search for field-names. With reference to the frequent illustrations I have taken from manorial records, I will also make one observation. In many cases it is now and has for long been impossible to define the actual bounds of copyhold properties; and, therefore, to preserve the continuity of title, old descriptions, applicable centuries ago, but now almost useless for purposes of allocation, are kept on foot, and thus many genuine old words and phrases are handed down to us.

It will be at once understood, on reference to my list, that I have not attempted to make it comprehensive. I have selected only a few names which seemed to me characteristic, or to possess some force or colour, and which most of them occur frequently in many parts of the two counties. A host of others I have passed over; some of these latter are merely corrupted patronymics, others are descriptive of some very obvious feature of the field or indicative of position; and many others, again, though

carrying a wholesome flavour of Arcadian life and toil, are not of such interest that anyone would thank me for deliberately chronicling them. At the risk of breaking the symmetry of my plan, I have introduced a few words, of more or less doubtful meaning or history—such as *moll*, *ware*, and others—which, though not themselves entering into the composition of field-names, occur commonly in descriptions of property, and seem to need further elucidation.<sup>1</sup>

The net result of my work is, I am most ready to confess, very small. I do not think, however, that any effort, honestly made, to collect and preserve our old field-names, can be quite without value, for many causes are now tending to sweep them into oblivion. The new large-scale ordnance maps, with their numerical indexes, define our fields with mathematical regularity, and are superseding the old descriptions; masses of documents, and in particular, interesting old court rolls and manor papers, are being destroyed daily all over the country; while at the same time the spread of education is fast obliterating our dialects, and promises to make the broad vernacular of our fathers unintelligible to our children. Lastly, there is, unhappily, a marked decline in the quality and vigour of our rural life, and a consequent decay of local sentiment and a slackened interest in and ready forgetfulness of the ways and traditions of the old time.

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to the Rev. C. R. Manning, M.A., F.S.A., for kindly looking through my rough notes, and suggesting a method of arrangement. For etymological purposes I have used Dr. Ogilvie's *Imperial Dictionary* (1st edition, 1854), being out of reach of special and detailed works of reference.

**Acre.** It is almost needless to observe that this word is constantly met with in its old sense of a field, without reference to extent. Ang. Sax. *æcer*, a field. Black Acre, Constable Acre, Gilden Acre, &c., &c.

**Ailbuskyes.** Elsing.

**Arbour Trees.** Framlingham.

**Aspland Meadow.** Dickleburgh.

**Austers Close.** Wortwell.

**Balking Hill.** Mendham (an arable field). The agricultural process of *balking* is, however, carried on upon every arable field, when in the usual "four course shift," it is prepared for a root crop. The field is ploughed into broad ridges, along which, when they have been flattened by a roller, the root seed is sown.

**Barren Doles.** Hempnall.

**Barrs, Water.** Framlingham.

**Beacon Hill.** A field in Mendham on the Shotford Hall farm, commanding a wide prospect over the valley of the Waveney.

**Beckfield.** Elsing.

**Bell Acre Land,** Dennington; Bell Meadow, Bury S. Edmund's; Bell Pightle, Attleborough and Clopton; Bell Rope Acre, Gimingham; Bell Rope Land, Hindringham, &c. Lands given for the maintenance and repair of the church bells and their fittings. "There is an acre of land which is to find bell ropes "for the town of Gimingham forever."—*Gimingham Terrier*, 1723.

**Bemoline Green.** Topcroft.

**Black Acre,** Cotton, &c. Blackdodds, Topcroft; Blacklands, Gissing.

**Bleach Meadow.** Hempnall, &c. Common. Bleach Pitts, Hoxne.

**Block Close.** Stuston.

**Blowbins.** S. Margaret's, Ilketshall.

**Bond Meadow,** Field, &c. "Two acres of land *bond*," &c.  
Common for a piece of *copyhold* land, which sometimes retains the old name after enfranchisement. The Lat. equivalent of *land bond* in manorial records is *terra nativa*, *ter. nat.*, a very suggestive expression.

**Boors.** Brome.

**Borzell Meadow.** Redenhall, Woodton. Giles Jacob, in his well known *Law Dictionary*, quoting Blunt, says, "Borzell folk are country folk, from Fr. *boure*, *flocus*, because they cover their heads with such stuff." (But query connection.)

**Bournfield and Bournway.** Starston. The field and way by the brook. Lower down in its course this stream divides the parishes of Alburgh and Wortwell, and so reminds us of the original identity of *burn*, a brook, with *bourne*, a bound. See note on *mere*, *infra*.

**Boy Croft.** Hoxne. (Bois?).

**Bowlands.** Pulham S. Mary Magdalen.

**Bowls.** Great and Little Dickleburgh.

**Brackho.** Fressingfield.

**Bras Hill.** Eye.

**Breck, Breck, &c.** Hevingham, &c. Common in many parts of Norfolk and Suffolk, indicating an exposed barren slope or a piece of newly *broken-up* land.<sup>1</sup>

**Breure.** "Piece of pasture land or *breure*"; "two acres of *bruery* land"; "land *breury* and soil," Manor of Matlaske. Heath or moorland, *cf.* Fr. *bruyere*, and our *briar*.

"There fayled there never so little a byrde,  
That ever was bred on brere."

*A Lytell Geste of Robin Hood.*

<sup>1</sup> The late Mr. H. Stevenson, in his very suggestive division of Norfolk for ornithological purposes, clearly defines the limits of the true "breck district" of the county. See *Birds of Norfolk*, vol. i. p. xlvi.

- Briggs.** Toperoft. Brigtoft Field, Walpole S. Peter, &c.  
**Britch Field.** Walsoken.  
**Britiff Closes.** Wells.  
**Broad Dock Meadow.** Wissett. Dock Meadow, common.  
**Broad Wines.** Gissing.  
**Brodsloth.** Matlaske.  
**Budd's Pightle.** Mendham. *Bud*, a weaned calf; from bud, a young shoot or sprout.  
**Bunthorn, Great.** Kettleburgh. Buntiback, Hempnall. Lands rising in bosses or ridges. From *bunt*, to swell out.  
**Burgess Field.** Hempnall.  
**Burgh Field.** Debach.  
**Burnt Field.** Dickleburgh, &c., common. The forms *brant* and *brent* are rarer, but occasionally met with. In the last generation it was a common practice, when a field had become foul with weeds, to strip off the surface in flags, and stack them with straw and faggots in the centre of the field. The pile was then ignited, and when the whole mass had been calcined, the ashes were distributed over the land. The practice is now, however, rarely resorted to.  
**Butt Close.** Belaugh and Matlaske. Butt Field, Monk's Ely; Butt Land, Stibbard; Butts, New and Old, Alburgh; Butt Yards, Westhorp; Butt-yard, Wyverstone. Some of these enclosures were perhaps places set apart for the practice of archery, compulsory under the old statutes (see *shooting croft*); but this word *butts* is an agricultural term, though now obsolete, at least locally, and refers to the *ends* of a field, where space is left for the turning of the plough, and which are afterwards ploughed at right angles to the main furrows. In some enclosures of inconvenient shape, a good deal of this cross ploughing becomes necessary, and

the above-mentioned fields are probably of this character.

**Buttury**, Great and Little. Framlingham.

**Cable Stake**. Willisham.

**Camp Close** and **Camping Close**. Elsing, Fressingfield, Hevingham, Mattishall. **Camping Field**, Ashfield Magna; **Camping Ground**, Denver; **Camping Land**, Garboldisham, Needham Market, Swaffham; **Camping Meadow**, Harleston, &c. The names of these meadows preserve the memory of the once popular but now forgotten game of "camping." The famous old camping matches appear to have been encounters of an exceedingly ferocious character, and the game would stand very badly in the public opinion of a generation which can scarcely tolerate football played under Rugby rules.<sup>1</sup> The **Camping Land** at Swaffham was given to the town for running, archery, military discipline, and other games."

**Cancer Field**. Very common, and generally so spelt. A field, crossed by a *made* or *raised* footpath—a causey or causeway (Fr. *chaussée*). I have also found a **Causeway Pightle**. "The Parson's Canser" at Fressingfield is a lane running alongside the vicarage grounds.

**Carcase Field**. Little Bricett.

**Carr**. Town Carr, Hempnall and Matlaske. **Car Meadow**, Bardwell; **Car Close** and **West Car**, Hevingham, &c. Wet, swampy, undrained spots. Alder-carrs and osier-carrs are very common.

**Castle Close**. Mendham.

**Cattissett Pightle**. Little Stonham.

**Chantry Croft**. Clare.

<sup>1</sup> See Nall's *Dialect and Provincialisms of East Anglia*, pp. 525 and 693.

Chevenhall or Chepenhall Green, Fressingfield. Perhaps the site of an old fair or market. *Cibbehala* in Domesday Book.

“Foll effen agenest the screffesgate,  
Schowed he hes *chaffer* ;  
Weyffes and wedowes abowt him drew,  
And *chepyd* fast of hes war.”

*Robyn Hood [and the Potter.]*

**Clamps, Clamp Close, Meadow, &c.** Very common; at Ditchingham, Hoxne, Mendham, Pulham, Starston, &c. A *clamp* or a *hale* is a stack of roots piled up with straw in a long mound, and protected from the weather by a covering of earth; the roots being *haled*, or drawn together, and *clamped* or fastened with the earth or clay. A *clamp* is also a stack of bricks arranged for burning without the use of a kiln, and probably in some cases the reference is to this practice.

**Clapper Pightle and Clappers.** Mendham. Doctor Ogilvie gives as one meaning of *clapper* a “burrow or enclosure” (obsolete); that is, perhaps, a bit of land *clapped up*, secured, enclosed.

**Clink, The.** Walpole. A fir plantation on a sandy slope. This *clink* is not uncommon in Norfolk, and seems to indicate a gravelly bluff. It belongs to a familiar group of *sounding words*, which might almost be tabulated by the degree of resonance implied in them, and suggests the concussion of small pebbles on a bare and wind-swept surface.

**Clint Haugh Fields and Gate.** Redenhall. Now contracted into Clintergate. The *cleaned* or cleared wood field?

**Cloyts.** Ditchingham and, I fancy, elsewhere. Perhaps stiff, clinging, clay-land. *Cf.* the Dan. *kluit*, a clod.

**Cobbs.** Gissing.



**Cockeytheythes.**<sup>1</sup> Matlaske.

**Coldfield.** Stody, &c. Coldridge, Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.

**Coney Burrow.** Hoxne. Coneyford Green, Starston.

**Coneygarth.** Garboldisham. The Scandinavian "garth" for an enclosure is, I find, rare in Norfolk.

**Constable Acre,** Stuston; Constable's Pasture, Framlingham.

It will be found that in many parishes there are pieces of land, the ownership of which is permanently annexed to some parochial office. Of course, where these lands can be traced to some donor who has granted or devised them for such a purpose, the fact is without significance. But in some cases at least there is no evidence or tradition of any such gift; and it is therefore, at least possible that these fields may have been originally appropriated, by common consent, to the support of the officers of the primitive township. (See Clerkship Lands, Cowlinge; Reeve Land, Hoxne.)

**Cookingstool Meadow.** Eye. References to the "cuckstool" are common enough. "Messuage in Pulham near the "Cook Stool," &c. A large pond in the Broad Street, Harleston, known as the "Cookstool," was filled up in 1870, and now forms part of the site of S. John's Church.

**Cote Green Close.** Matlaske.

**Crab Marsh.** Walsoken.

**Cream Spokes.** Clenchwarton.

**Croneys.** Dickleburgh.

**Crossingford Meadow.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin. A bridge now spans the old ford of the brook, which in ante-drainage days turned its bordering meadows into the swamp or *pool* from which, probably, the village takes its name.

<sup>1</sup> As to *cockey* see an interesting statement by the Rev. W. Hudson, M.A., in Kirkpatrick's *Streets and Lanes of the City of Norwich*, Appendix II., p. 99.

**Cutts**, Great and Little. Hoxne.

**Darfold Meadow**. Pulham.

**Darrow Pightle**. Reydon.

**Daws**, Great and Little. Mendham.

**Deerboughts**. Hingham. "Lands called *Deerboughts*,"  
Redenhall Manor. "Boughts—Circular Folds," Bailey.

"Will ye gae to the *ewbughts*, Marion,  
And wear in the sheip wi' mee."—BURNS.

Deerbolts Hall, near Earl Stonham, may perhaps be Deerboughts.

**Delf**, a marsh drain, and *dolver*, a piece of drained and reclaimed marsh, are common. "The Great Delf"; "two dolvers in Westraw Fen"; "a dolver of seventeen acres at Coldham Hills," Mildenhall, &c.; A.S. *delfan*, to dig or delve.

**Dog Whippers Land**. Barton Turf.

**Doles**, dools, duels, deals, &c.; dale is a less common form. A.S. *doelan*, to divide or *deal* out. Allotments or lands parcelled out. The word enters into the composition of very many field names, sometimes in a corrupted and attenuated form. Very commonly also it signifies a boundary mark—"little yard lately divided with *dooles*," Pulham Manor; "little piece of land divided from the rest by *doole* posts and pales," Topcroft Manor. Bailey says "doles, dools, slips of pasture left between furrows of ploughed land"; and Dr. Ogilvie, "dole, a void space left in tillage"; but the reference is, I think, usually to posts. See "*rasyng* up of dowlys," note on *meer*, *infra*.

**Doppleditch Close**. Framlingham.

**Dove House Layer**, Little Bricett; Duffers (Dove-house) Pightle, Dickleburgh, &c. The substantially built circular dove-house, the familiar figure of which embellishes so generally old estate plans, is now

quite rare. The pigeon of the homestead has been the subject of special protective legislation (see, in particular, Stat. 1 Jas. I., c. 27), and there is quite a small body of obsolete law as to the respective rights of lord and tenant to erect and maintain dove-houses.

**Drift Field.** Driftway Field, &c. Common.

**Eastoles, Great.** Redenhall (East Doles).

**Endal Field.** West Walton.

**Fairstead.** Hempnall.

**Falcroft Meadow.** Stradbroke. (See next word.)

**Falgate Field, Meadow, &c.** Common. Bradwell Ash, Hempnall, Pulham, Stradbroke, Thrandeston, &c. At Potter Heigham is a "Falgate Arms" Inn; and at Whitwell a "Fall Gate" Inn.

A *fallgate* is a gate placed across a public road to prevent cattle from straying beyond their proper bounds.

"Also 3e shall enquire 3ef yer is ony mane yat "hath no3te hangyd his fal-gates at resonable tymes "as he owte to do, the whiche on hangyng hath be "noyans to hys neyburns."<sup>1</sup> The falgate may be the *falling* gate, which "shuts to" when released; or the *fald* or *fold* gate, which enfolds the cattle. At Stradsett there is a "Foldgate" Inn.

**Field.** I have frequently met with a special use of this word in descriptions of copyhold property, which has some significance. A piece of land is described, for instance, as "lying in the *field* of Plumstead" (Matlaske, &c.); another as being "in Thorpe field" (Saxlingham Thorpe), and so on in many other cases; the *field*, no doubt, being the tract of arable land immemorially belonging to the township, and once

<sup>1</sup> Articles of Enquiry at a Court Leet.—*The Book of Brome*, edited by Miss Lucy Toulmin Smith. Trübner & Co., 1886.

allotted, in strips, among the householders. Beyond their bounded and acknowledged *fields*, the territories of the townships were ill-defined; and over the wide-stretching waste lands the men of neighbouring villages exercised or claimed rights, which were often conflicting. It is, perhaps, to some quality of this *field*, which the men who tilled it, and whose sustenance depended on the return it yielded them, had good reason to appreciate and remember, that we owe the present names of many of our parishes.

**Flint Hill.** Worlingworth.

**Foddismere.** Eye.

**Foldcourse.** "297 acres of heath land called Bodham *Foldcourse*."—Release dated 2 October, 1669. "Abutting upon the demesne lands of this manor lying within the *Field Course* towards the south."—Court-rolls of Manor of West Beckham.

The word "foldcourse" is, I think, used in our records in at least three different senses. It signifies:—(a) The right of the lord of a manor to compel his tenants to fold their sheep on his land for the manuring of the soil. (b) The right of the tenants of a manor to fold their sheep upon some portion of the wastes, or of the open fields after harvest. (c) The tract of land over which the last-mentioned right might be exercised.

**Fottiswrong.**

**Foulsloough.** Ixworth.

**Fovea.** A Latin word, which in the books of the manor of Topcroft with Denton, and no doubt elsewhere, has survived the passage into English:—land abutting "upon a certain *fovea* called Mardale." *Fovea* is generally, in Norfolk records at least, a ditch or drain; but Mr. Wright (in his *Glossary of Mediæval Latin*) and Giles Jacob restrict the meaning of the

word to a burying ground. In classical Latin it is, I need not say, a small pit or excavation, whether opened for sepulture, for the trapping of game, or for other purposes. "Donec [cadavera dilapsa] humo tegere ac *foveis* abscondere discant."—*Georgics* iii. 558. "Cautus enim metuit *foveam* lupus."—*Hor. Ep.* I. xvi. 50.

**Foxes Meadow.** Tivetshall S. Mary. Fox Hole Meadow, Pulham S. Mary the Virgin, &c.

**Free Field.** Kenton. A *freehold* as opposed to a copyhold or *bond* field (which see).

**Fullers Meadow.** Framlingham. Fullers Fold, &c.

**Furlong.** It is very general to find a piece of land, which is or has been copyhold, described in manorial records as "lying in — *furlong*," and the expression appears to call for some explanation. It seems then (though I am speaking on my own authority, and after an only local and very limited investigation) that in early times manors were, for their better administration and management, divided into rectangular blocks of land of varying area, but with an average breadth of 220 yards. Each of such pieces was called a *furlong*, and was distinguished in the Steward's "Field Book," and commonly known, by some name referring to the position or quality of the land, or perhaps to a particular tenant within its bounds who, at some time in the past, had impressed his generation with a sense of his individuality. These *furlongs* were in turn parcelled out in narrow slips, containing generally half an acre a piece, parted only by baulks or furrows; some of such slips being held by the tenants, and some retained by the lord. Across these strips ran the public roads unfenced, the grazing cattle being probably confined by

“fal gates” within the limits of their owners’ rights of pasturage.<sup>1</sup>

**Gall.** Gall Yards, Pulham; Kettle Gall, Starston; Lower, Middle, and Further Gauls, Gissing; Gall Field, Holton; Galley Field, Great Wrattling, &c.

Sand-*gall* is a common term for a nest or vein of sand in a stratum of clay, and these Gall Fields are probably lands crossed by a seam of poor and unproductive soil. The word conveys the idea of a fretting and irritating intrusion. A.S. *gealla*.

**Gallow Hill Furlong.** Matlaske; Gallow’s Close, Caistor; Gibbet Hill and Way, Ubbeston. Gallows Hole, Weybread, marks the site of the gibbet which once stood at the point where the three roads over Shotford Heath (now enclosed and cultivated) converge upon the approach to Shotford<sup>2</sup> Bridge over the Waveney.

**Gamblingshere.**

**Gate.** Bargate. Saxlingham Thorpe.  
Clintergate. Redenhall.  
Cottongate. Bedingham.  
Damgate Street. Lynn.

<sup>1</sup> This division of the manor is, of course, closely connected with the older common field system, and I fear my note may seem to trench upon the difficult question of the passage from *Mark* into *Manor*. The subject, however, is too wide to be treated incidentally in a paper written with a different purpose, even were I—which is very far from being the case—at all competent for the task under any conditions. See the late Sir Henry Maine’s *Village Communities in the East and West*, and the works of Morier, Nasse, and Von Maurer cited by him; and also Seeböhm’s *English Village Community*.

<sup>2</sup> Shotford is supposed to be *the ford in the woods*, and this derivation accords well enough with the present natural features of the place. But the woods are, for the most part, plantations of recent growth; and Shotford, in *Domesday*, is written Scotoford. May it not have been a ford where a toll—a *scot* or *shot*—was collected?

- Eastgate, The. Brooke.  
 Falgate. (See *supra*.)  
 Fengate Lane. Marsham.  
 Greengate Way. Rushall.  
 Harrow Gate. Fundenhall (a large field.)  
 Hungate Pightle. Alburgh (*cf.*, the Dogges Meare,  
 otherwise Dogges *Way* of Saxlingham Thorpe.)  
 Hedgegate Hill and Close. Alburgh.  
 Holgate. Alburgh.  
 Hulvergate. Wangford.  
 Ingate Lodge. Beccles.  
 Kirgate Marsh. Walsoken.  
 Largate Field. Horstead.  
 Mangate Street. Swaffham.  
 Meangate. Heacham.  
 Packgate.  
 Pit Gate. Gressenhall.  
 Smallgate Meer. Ranworth.  
 Sowgates. Dennington.  
 Spurgate Lane. Mendham.  
 Thorngate Way.  
 Tungate. Topcroft, Hickling, &c. Common.  
 Upgate Green. Topcroft.  
 Walgate Way. West Walton.  
 Wogate Close. Occold.

I could, if there were any object in doing so, extend this list to a great length; but I think it will be clear from the above illustrations that in local place-names, *gate* almost always bears its old meaning of a *passage*, *way*, or *road*, from the same root as *go*, A.S. *gengan*, Ger. *gehen*. So the Dan. *gade*, and Sw. *gata*, is still a street or way. See, too, the *gats* along our coast—Cockle Gat, Corton Gat, Pakefield Gat: Dan. *gat*, a channel.

“ And John is gone to Barnesdale  
The *gates* he knoweth eche one.”

*Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne.*

“ And þanne resoun rode faste þe riȝte heiȝe gate (high road),  
As conscience hym kened till þei come to þe kyng.”

*Piers the Plowman.*<sup>1</sup>

But the word having very generally lost its old popular meaning, it has become necessary to add the current equivalent: thus Spur Gate has become Spurgate Lane; Green Gate, Greengate Way, and so on. This process may be observed very commonly: East Haugh has become Easthaugh Wood,<sup>1</sup> and it would be easy to multiply instances. In some cases the *gate* is lost, *e.g.*, Hulver Gate is now Hulver Street.

**Gilden Acre.** Topcroft. A.S., *gylden*, golden.

**Goggols Close, and Lane.** Redenhall.

**Gore Meadow.** Old Buckenham. A rectangular piece, so the name may be from A.S. *gor*, mud. But a *gore* is generally an angle of ground—“a certain *gore* crossing a way called Woolness Way”—Manor of Brampton with the Members. *Cf.*, Kensington Gore; Scotch *gore*, *gair*; Icel. *geir*.

**Gorid Acre.** Redenhall.

**Goring Field.** Worlingworth.

**Gostcroft.** Topcroft.

**Gresholm.** Walpole S. Peter.

**Grewels, Upper and Nether.** Walpole S. Peter.

**Grovett.** A very common diminutive of *grove*, now obsolete.

<sup>1</sup> As edited by Professor Skeat for the *Clarendon Press*, 4th edition, 1886.

<sup>2</sup> This Eastaugh is in later records rendered Eastoe, and as Clint Haugh has been contracted into Clinter, we may perhaps infer the identity of three local family names, Eastaugh, Eastoe, and Easter.



- Grupp Meadow.** Grupps, grippts, Cribb Close, Crib Bottom, &c. A "groop" (the *oo* as in *wood*) or grip is locally a small, shallow water channel. *Cf.*, Dan. *groep*, and Ger. *graben*.
- Guildershift.** Pulham.
- Gull Piece** and the Gull, Hempnall; Gull Meadow, Framlingham; Gull Drove Field, West Walton, &c. Gull and Gully, a hollow or watercourse.
- Gunstaff.** Framlingham.
- Haggerlies, Little.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.
- Hagonfield or Hakenfield.** Roughton, Haggondale's Piece. Perhaps from A.S. *haccan*, to hack or notch; with reference to their shape.
- Haloway Field.** East Walton.
- Halstead.**
- Hamblings.** Rushall and Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.
- Handcross Furlong.** Garboldisham.
- Handseals, Hansells, &c.** Frequent. Hansel, something given as an earnest. Probably productive pieces yielding an early return.
- Happet, The.** Hoxne.
- Hare Pightle.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.
- Harles.** Palgrave.
- Hart Close.** Hingham.
- Hastings.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin, &c.
- Hatchet Piece, Hatchetts, Hatchet.** Gissing, Fressingfield, S. Margaret's, Ilketshall, &c. In reference to the shape of the field.
- Haugh and Shaw.** Alwins Haugh, Clint Haugh Field, "way called Bonshaw," Church Haugh Close, Redenhall; "one pightle enclosed in Little Ashaugh," Briston; Haugh Field, Shottisham; Chilsaw Croft, Stanton; Gunshaws (anciently Gonne's Haugh), Needham; Ha Fen, Banham, &c. Both words enter very commonly into the composition of field-names.

*Haugh*, generally a wood; sometimes, apparently an enclosed meadow; *cf.*, Ger. *hag*, in this sense, and Dan. *hauge*, a garden. *Shaw*, a thicket, a small wood; Sax. *scua*, *scuwa*.

“No mo ye shall no good yeman  
That walketh by grene wood *shawe*.”

*A Lytell Geste of Robin Hood.*

“When *shaws* beene sheene and shradds full fayre.”

*Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne.*

**Hazle.** Bressingham.

**Hegg and Hagg.** Copping's Hegg, Hempnall; Hegg Furlong, Matlaske; Heggate Wood, Redenhall; Hegg Close, Kirby Cane; Ladies Hegg and Little Hegg, Fundenhall; Further Haggets, Pulham, &c.

A.S. *hege*, *heag*, &c., a hedge; and hence a hedged-in piece. See note to *haugh*, with which this word is closely connected.

**Hemp Dike Field.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin; Hemp Pit Close, Elsing; Hemp Pond Field, &c., &c. Common. See note on *Retting Pit*, *infra*.

**Hempland.** In the old days no homestead was without its *hempland*. “With the outhouses, yards, gardens, and *hemplands* thereto belonging,” was the common amplification of the description of a farm-house. In innumerable cases the name of the field is retained, though its old use is forgotten.

**Hempnolls.** This suffix, *nolls*, *nalls*, or *nalds*, is very common in field-names, implying rising eminences, mounds, or *knolls*.

**Hengyles.** Diss.

**Hennbush Furlong.** Garboldisham.

**Hern.** Common. Hern, the, Denton; First and Further Avis Hyrne, Middle Hyrne, Old Buckenham; Bramble Hern, Beeston; Long Hern, Hempnall; Pulham Hern; Winter Pit Hern; Peak's *Horn*, S. Margaret's, Ilketshall, &c.

A sharply angular field; a *horn* of land. Sax. *hyrne*; a nook or corner.

“Alle fledden for fere and flowen into *hernes*,  
Save Mede þe Mayde, na no mo durst abide.”

*Piers the Plowman.*

**Hessett Hindersleys.** See *slade*, *infra*.

**Hewktree Furlong.** Garboldisham.

**Hilderbush Furlong.** Elder bush; Dan. *hylde*.

**Hogholm Field.** Walpole S. Peter. This *hogholm* in Marshland very probably indicates a former haunt of the wild boar, which abounded in the rougher parts of the country through the middle ages, and was not exterminated in England until well into the seventeenth century.<sup>1</sup>

**Hol.** A common prefix. Holcroft, Starston; Hol Wong, Redenhall; Holgate Hill, Framlingham; Holbrook Meadow, Alburgh, &c.

**Holm.** Common. In Marshland, a low-lying tract exposed to Scandinavian inroads, *holms*, as might be expected, are constantly met with; Hogholm, Gresholm, Perholm, &c.

**Holmseý Field.** Mildenhall. *Ey*, an island, (A.S., *igland*,) a common suffix. Connected with *egg* and *eye*, implying an isolated self-contained body.

**Holt.** Common. A wood, or generally a wood-crowned hill. Lat. *altus*; Nor. Fr., *haut*.

“Yee that frequent the hilles,  
And highest *holtes* of all,  
Assist me with your skilful quilles,  
And listen when I call.”

Turberville's *Songs and Sonnets*, 1567.

“The fauken and the feasaunt both  
Among, on the *holtes* on hee.”

*Battle of Otterbourne.*

<sup>1</sup> See Mr. J. E. Harting's *British Animals extinct within Historic Times.*

**Holy Oak Field.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.

**Hookwrongs.** (See Wrong Mead.)

**Hopgrounds.** Fundenhall, S. Andrew's, Ilketshall. Hop Meadow and Hop Ground Pightle, Pulham S. Mary the Virgin; Hop Meadow, Wilby. In none of these localities are hops now grown.

**Hulks.** Mendham, &c. A.S. *hulc*, a cottage.

**Hulver.** Hulverbush Meadow, Eccles; Hulvertrees, Mendham; Helver Pightle, St. Margaret's, Ilketshall, &c.

*Hulver*, the holly. *Cf.*, the Saxon words *gehul* and *geohol*, a feast; whence *Yule*, Christmas. In popular speech the plant and the festival have long been identified; *Christmas Lane*, Metfield, is a road fringed in places by *holly* bushes, and was so known in 1582, when commissioners were appointed under letters patent to speedily repair "a lane called Christmas Lane, near the town of Metfield."—*Gawdy MSS.*, No. 110.

**Hurst.** Common; chiefly as a suffix. "The Hurst in Holywell Fen," &c. A.S. *hurst*, *hyrst*, a wood or grove.

**Keelings.** Huntingfield.

**Kerricks.** Topcroft.

**Kilderkin Meadow** Hempnall.

**Kisgrave.** Topcroft.

**Kye Field.** Willisham.

**Labour-in-vain.** Wissett and Old Buckenham.

**Lambs Win.** Holton.

**Lammas Meadow.** Ellingham: Upper, Lower, and Little Lammas, S. Margaret's, Ilketshall, &c. Scattered over the two counties we still find these "lammas meadows," recalling in their names alone the common pasture of the old township, which, from the time when the grass began to shoot until Lammas Day, when the hay had been gathered in, was fenced off into fields, one for each householder, and which for the rest of the year lay open and unenclosed.

- Langdole.** Brome.
- Langridge Furlong.** Garboldisham.
- Leakhorn Barn Meadow.** Framlingham.
- Leathmere Field.** West Walton. See note on *mere* and reference to Livermere in foot note, p. 165. Possibly from A.S. *lithe*, pliant, easily subdued, hence *quiet*, pool; or from A.S., *lath*, unwilling, reluctant, *sluggish*.
- Lechmere Lands.** Yelverton. Letchmere, Kirby Cane.  
Perhaps wet fields. From the root of *lake* and *loch*. *Leche* in Durham is a gutter, and in Yorkshire a watering pool. *Cf.*, the parish names Lexham (formerly written Lechesham and Leccesham) and Laxfield.
- Leech Pit Close.** Wells. Leech Pond Close, Bury St. Edmund's.
- Leek Craft.** Strumpshaw. *Craft*, a northern form of the common *croft* is rare.
- Lizards.** "Lands called the Lizards," Haynford; "Place called the Lizards," Wymondham; Great and Little Lizards, Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.  
It has been suggested that these "*Lizards*" were former resorts for *lazars*, and that this is the explanation of the name Lizard Town, a remote Cornish village on the heath above Lizard Point. But the idea has probably no place in the Pulham *Lizards*, nor in the next word.
- Lizlands, Great and Little.** Hempnall.
- Loke Pasture, Lokeway, &c.** *Loke*, a lane, is very common. A.S. *loc*, a shut-in place (whence our *lock*). Dan., *lukke*, a hedge or fence.
- Looms.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.
- Lyng Furlong.** Garboldisham.
- Madder Piece.** Ditchingham.  
I have no information as to the local cultivation

of the madder (*rubia tinctorum*), from which the valuable red cotton and linen dye is obtained. Several statutes, however, regulate the planting and preparation of the root in England, as 14 Car. II. c. 30, and 31 Geo. II. c. 12.

**Maggots.** Gissing.

**Maid's Well Pightle.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.

**Mardale.** "Fovea, called Mardale," Topcroft (see note to *fovea, supra*); Mardle Piece, Framlingham; Great Mardles, Mendham; Marland Meadow, Old Buckenham.

**Market Field, Close, &c.** Very common, and requiring some explanation.

**Meagres, Great and Little.** Framlingham. Thin, poor soils.

**Mere, meer, mear, meare.** Bramble Meer, Meer Green, Alburgh; Depemear, Redenhall; Redmeare, Skeetsmere, Needham; Gilden Acre Meer, Bossett's Meare, Topcroft; Woolmer, Tharston; Letchmere, Kirby Cane; Bound Mere, Matlaske; Mere Field, Debach and Dallinghoe; Holmer, &c., &c.

*Mere*, a boundary; Sax., *mære*, *gemæra*, probably from an Aryan root of high antiquity, for *cf.*, the Gr. *μεῖρω*, to divide; and Russ., *miryu*, to measure.

The *mere* of our current speech signifies a lake or pool, and has affinities with the Lat. *mare* and our *moor*; but in old local place-names the word, I believe, almost always carries the sense of a boundary. Both *mere*, a pool, and *mere*, a boundary, are probably, however, from one primeval root, for the shore of lake or ocean would be the most natural and earliest of boundaries. In the same way *boorn* or *burn*, a brook, is closely and quite naturally associated with *boorn*, a bound or limit.

The word under consideration occurs as a suffix in the names of the Norfolk parishes of Anmer (?), Barmer (?), Egmere, Langmere, and Wickmere; and

of the hundreds of Bosmere and Hartismere, the river Minsmere, and the parishes of Livermere, Rushmere, and Semer, in Suffolk.<sup>1</sup>

In local records, I think, then, the first and most usual meaning of *mere* is a boundary—"lands abutting upon the hundred mere<sup>2</sup> towards the north," manor of Pulham. So the boundary between the parishes of Debach and Dallinghoe runs through the middle of the "Mere Field" above referred to.

And particularly the *mere* was a baulk or furrow in an open field—"lands, the *mere* whereof has been ploughed up," Needham. See the 7th Art. of Enquiry at a Court Leet in the Brome Hall MS., "Also 3e shall enquere of all maner purprises and purprestures<sup>3</sup> in feldys, fennys, and in comyns, as *erying up of merys*, rasying up of dowllys . . . ." Next, by an easy transition, the word came to be used (generally by way of suffix), to indicate the whole area enclosed by any known and definite bound; and finally, because the *meres*, being waste strips and unappropriated, were commonly used as footpaths, we constantly meet

<sup>1</sup> There is a parish called Mere in Cheshire, and another in Lincolnshire, besides the better known town of Mere in Wilts, which, it has been conjectured, marked in Saxon times the western bound of the conquests of the Gewissas (J. R. Green's *The Making of England*, p. 93). The word, too, is probably the prefix in such place names as Merevale (Kent), Mereworth (Warwick), Merton, and many others. Livermere, however, recalls Liverpool, the sluggish pool or widening out of the Mersey above the city, and the name of the Suffolk parishes has probably a reference to the lake in Ampton Park, the northern arm of which runs nearly up to Great Livermere Church.

<sup>2</sup> Separating the hundreds of Depwade and Earsham.

<sup>3</sup> Purprise and Purpresture, an unlawful enclosure or encroachment, are very common in old legal documents, and are used quite familiarly, though the words are now obsolete. "With liberty to hang linen in a little yard called a *purpresture*."—*Pulham Manor Court Books*. "It shall be lawful for the trustees to pull up all wears and *purprestures* in the rivers and drains."—Stat. 16 and 17, Car. II., c. 11, s. 12, Act for draining the Lincolnshire fens.

with the word in this latter sense—"the *meer* leading from Subbings," Redenhall; "way called Dogges *Meare*," Saxlingham Thorpe; Skeetsmeare or Skeet's Way, Needham; the tunmeare or perambulation way, &c.

**Mirables.** Frequent.

**Molers.** Haynford.

**Moll.** Very common in manorial records. "Three acres of land moll," "seven acres of molland," manor of Pulham; "one acre of land of pasture of molland," manor of Dennington with the members; "two and a half acres of land, moll land," manor of Hindolveston, &c. I have been told that *molland* is arable land, but I cannot find in practice that *moll* bears this sense. Indeed, as in one of the above illustrations, the term is sometimes applied distinctly to pasture land. Jacob, on the authority of Spelman's *Glossary*, says a *molman* is "a man subject to do services, applied to the servants of a monastery;" and I would suggest that *molland* is *land* subject to services, or *copyhold* land. There is in Kent a manor of "Molland and Dean Fee," the name of which bears out this view. The word may be connected with our *mild*, in the sense of something subdued or subjected (Lat. *mollis*, W. *mall*) and with *mould* (A.S. *mold*, W. *mol*), both probably from the same root.

**Morell Piece.** Needham.

**Mudgeon Close.** Old Buckenham.

**Mussett Ling.** Redenhall.

**Mussle Field.** Winfarthing.

**Natt's Home.** Redenhall.

**Neathouse Pightle.** A.S. *neat*, an animal, and particularly an ox or cow.

**Nelland (or Nelling) Pightle.** Tharston.

**Netherdale.** Brome.



- Nettledale**, Framlingham ; Nettleholmes Meadow, Bungay.  
**Nop Goose**. Wilby.  
**Norrisland**. Fundenhall.  
**Nudgins**. Hoxne.  
**Older Yards**. Gissing.  
**Ollands**. Broad Olland, Ploughed Ollands, Fundenhall ;  
 Witchingham Ollands, Matlaske ; Hollands, Redenhall,  
 &c. Very common. *Old* lands newly ploughed and  
 brought into cultivation. Or perhaps, in some cases,  
 hollow wet lands.  
**Orinth-land Furling**. Harpley.  
**Oxcroft**, Hickling. Oxnell Close, Topcroft.  
**Oyster Meadow**. Worlingworth.  
**Packgate Meadow**, Packway Close, &c. Common.  
**Packs, Little**. Framlingham.  
**Palls**. Hempnall.  
**Palmer's Holt**. West Walton. Palmer's Way, Gar-  
 boldisham. "Palmer" in Norfolk is a common  
 enough family name, but it is possible that this  
 "Palmer's Holt" at the head of the Wash, may  
 have been a pilgrims' resting-place on the road from  
 the north to the famous Image of Walsingham. So,  
 too, the "Palmer's Way" of Garboldisham, if not a  
 continuation of the "Peddars' Way," may be a pilgrims'  
 track leading into that well-known road.  
**Partables**. Hoxne, &c.  
**Patch Brigs**. Denver.  
**Peddars' (and Paddars') Way**. "Queen's highway leading  
 from Hempnall to Beccles called Peddars' Way,"  
 Topcroft ; "the common way called Peddars' Way,"  
 Needham ; Peddars' Way, Wortwell, &c. Common,  
 and I think generally applied to a *foot-way*, a  
 track used by pedestrians or *peddars*.  
**Pen Lands**. Willisham.  
**Perambulation Way**. References to the "perambulation

way," or "procession mere," are so abundant in old documents that it is needless to give illustrations. In most places the old Ascension-tide procession of minister, churchwardens, and people, around the parish boundary, has long since fallen into disuse, and the custom, though now and then an attempt is made to revive it, will soon be forgotten. The bounds of the parish, accurately defined as they may be upon the Ordnance maps, are by no means so much a matter of popular notoriety and general interest as they once were.

**Pestle Field.** Barnardiston.

**Pinfold, Pound Close, &c.** Common.

“There is neither knight nor squire, said the pinder,<sup>1</sup>  
Nor baron that is so bold,  
Dare make a trespass to the town of Wakefield,  
But his pledge goes to the *pinfold*.

*The Jolly Pinder of Wakefield.*

**Plough.** Very general for an arable field. Long plough, &c., &c.

**Poak Field.** Walpole S. Andrew. Puddingpoke Field, Wetheringsett; and Plantation, Fundenhall. *Poke*, a bag, pouch, or sack:—"a poke ful of pardoun"—*Piers the Ploughman*.

**Potash Meadow, Field, Farm, &c.** Common.

**Potter's Pit.** Mendham. There is in this field a pit of loam from which a coarse pottery was once made. Potter's Mere, Tivetshall S. Mary.

**Priory Yards.** Mendham.

**Puddings.** Tivetshall S. Mary.

**Pulk Field.** Mendham.

<sup>1</sup> The old office of pinder or pound-keeper of the manor is almost obsolete; but up to a very recent date a pinder was duly appointed and sworn to his duties at the annual court leet of the Manor of Pulham.

**Puthawks Bush**, Bury St. Edmund's. Puttock Croft, Whissonsett; Puttock's Close, Matlaske. We have here perhaps a reference to the kite (puttock), which is, however, very rare in Norfolk and Suffolk, and has long since ceased to breed in these counties.<sup>1</sup> Puttock, however, is a not uncommon family name.

**Ravenscroft**, Denver. Ravens Vents, Debach. The raven is a rare and accidental visitor in these counties, and is not known to have nested in Norfolk since 1859.<sup>2</sup>

**Reeves Land**. Hoxne.

**Retting Pit Field**, Wretting Meadow, Redding Field, Reddings, Readings,<sup>3</sup> &c., &c.

A.S. *hreddan*, Ger. *retten*, to *rid*, free, or separate. These "retting pits," in which the hemp was steeped and macerated, abound in every part of Norfolk and Suffolk, and show how universal was the culture and home preparation of the plant. Generally, a pond was made use of, but sometimes a large ditch would serve the purpose, the water being dammed up between two "stanks" or cross-banks of clay. Soaking hemp and flax in public waters is an offence, which we often find presented by the jury of the court leet; and the Statute 33 Hen. VIII. c. 17, s. 2, prohibits the practice under a penalty of twenty shillings.

**Rigg**. "A certain piece of land containing four *riggs*"; "containing in breadth at the east end thereof four *riggs*, as far as the middle of the said piece, and from thence to the east end, three *riggs*"; "and three *riggs* of land," Manor of Topcroft with Denton. Long Rigs, Cratfield. A.S. *rig*, Ger. *rucken*, the back. Our arable fields are ploughed in *ridges* or *stetches*, of nine

<sup>1</sup> *Birds of Norfolk*, vol. i. p. 26.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, vol. i. p. 256.

<sup>3</sup> Reading Green, Hoxne, is pronounced *Reeding* Green, and so may once have been a meeting place for discussion.

or ten furrows each, separated by larger drainage furrows. This old form *rig* is now, I imagine, obsolete, though Alburgh men have heard their fathers speak of "a ten furrow rig."

**Ristoft Field.** Walpole S. Peter.

**Robs.** Tivetshall S. Mary.

**Rodens, Upper and Lower.** Weybread.

**Ruck Slough.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.

**Ruggetts.** Framlingham.

**Rummer's Hill.** Hevingham.

**Runcorn Field.** Fressingfield.

**Running Mead.** Kettleburgh.

**Runtings.** Brundish.

**Rust Croft.** Denham.

**Rycroft Field.** Groton.

**Sagg Close.** Redenhall.

**Sallow Land Pightle.** Rushall.

**Samps and Skirts.** A piece of land "with the samps and skirts." *Samps*, edges; Ger. *saum*, a border; *cf.*, *seam*, *sempstress*, &c. The connection between *edge* or *hem* with *seam* or *join*, is obvious.

**Scragnalls.** Mendham.

**Scutes and Scuty Close.** Hempnall.

**Seals, Little.** Cony Weston.

**Seamoor, Little.** Dickleburgh.

**Sebergh Meadow.**

**Sermon Acre.** Mundesley, Gimingham, &c. Given to make provision for the preaching of an annual sermon upon some fixed day.

**Sessions Field.** Fressingfield.

**Shack Field.** Tivetshall S. Mary. *Shack* or *shackage*, a right of pasturage for sheep and cattle during winter. Here, probably, a reference to an older agricultural system.

**Sheriffs.** Syleham.

Sherwood, East. Eye.

Shoddker Pightle. Fundenhall.

Shooting Croft, "otherwise *Church Croft*." Swaffham.

Shreading, Shreddings, &c.

Silk Hill. Beeston Regis.

Sink Meadow. Gissing. Sinks, &c.

Sise Stock. West Lexham.

Slade, sladd, slay, Slade Lane, "way called Sladeway," Topcroft; piece of land "lying at the Sladd," Matlaske; Slade's Green, Edwardstone; "a certain furlong called Plumstead Sladd"; *Slaylands, Slade*, "a breadth of greensward between plowlands or woods"; "a long flat piece or slip of ground"; "A.S., *slad*, a little dell or valley"; *Slay*, "a lane cut through a cover."<sup>1</sup>

"For when he came to Barnesdale,  
Great heavinesse there he hadd,  
For he found two of his own fellowes  
Were slaine both in a *slade*."

*Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne.*

Slings, Upper and Lower. Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.

Slipe. Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.

Slough Close, Field, Meadow, &c.

Smee, Long. Blo Norton. Marshland Smeeth, Walpole S. Andrew. *Smeeth*, a level plain; A.S., *smethe*, even, level, *smooth*; *cf.*, Tilney Smeeth, the scene of Hickathrift's exploits.<sup>2</sup>

Smeethescroft. Redenhall (Smith's Croft.)

Smock Gussett. Wissett. Smock Meadow, Chelsford.

Snor, snorce, snotch. These are terms of land measurement, once, apparently, in general use in the Manors of Topcroft with Denton and Holbrook otherwise Alburgh,

<sup>1</sup> *Cf.*, Slaidburn, Slaithwaite, Sledmere (York), Slad (Gloucester), Slaley (Northumberland).

<sup>2</sup> Smeeth, the name of a Kentish parish, has perhaps this meaning.

and probably in neighbouring manors, but which I have not met with in any other district. I give the following illustrations:—"piece of meadow containing four *snors*;" "dole of meadow land, containing at the south end eight *snors*, and at the north end nine *snors*"; "parcel of meadow containing, by estimation, half an acre, being seven *snors*"; "piece of meadow containing two *snorces*"; "meadow called thirteen *snorces*, containing, by estimation, three roods, in Stable Meadow"; "one piece of meadow bond, containing three roods, lying in Marsh Meadow, in breadth eighteen *snotches*." *Snotch* is familiar enough, and probably all these words are identical, and refer to the drainage furrows (*notches*) separating the ridges or stetches of a field, or perhaps to the knots or other divisions of a steward's measuring line. *Snor*, however, in Danish, is a cord or string (Swedish, *snore*; German, *schnur*), and it is possible, therefore, that we may have a Scandinavian form preserved in these records. In the same district *toft* is constantly met with, and in the Topcroft with Denton court books, a "parcel of land distinguished by bounds and *stulps* there placed" is referred to. *Stolp* in Dan. is a post.

**Soil.** "Land soil" ("terra solciata" in Latin records) is presumably land broken up, prepared for tillage; but the term is applied to pasture and to woodland, and the context is sometimes perplexing.

**Sonnary.** Clare.

**Spincroft.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.

**Spital Field.** Spital House, Croft, &c. Common.

**Spong.** Exceedingly common for a long enclosed strip of arable or pasture land.

This is an interesting word, which has caused some perplexity; and I am indebted to the Rev. Jas. Earle,

M.A., Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Oxford, for a note as to its probable history. The A.S. *spōn* meant a splinter of wood, such as originally served the purpose of our modern spoon, so that *spōn* might naturally have been used for a waste slip or border of land. But this strip may have been left unappropriated for convenience of access to other lands; and this association of linking or connecting may, suggests Mr. Earle, have imported into the word the final *g*; for the A.S. *spange* meant a clasp, as does the same word in modern German; and there is also the A.S. *gespang*, a harness of links or shackles. I have noted a *spoon croft* in Tivetshall; and I have before me the plan of a farm in Redenhall, in which one of these *spongs* is traversed by a cartway connecting the farmhouse with the high road.

**Spoon Croft.** Tivetshall S. Mary.

**Stang.** Aslacton.

**Starve Acre,** Rushall, may be grouped with "Long Sufferance," Gissing; "Labour in Vain," Wissett and Old Buckenham; "Scotchman's Close," Wissett, &c. In contrast we have "God Thank," Brockdish; "Fullgood," Monk Soham; and probably "Mirables." In this connection I may mention "Hundred Acres," a name very commonly given to some pightle of the humblest dimensions.

**Steverfield.** Stradishall.

**Stews Pightle.** Dickleburgh.

**Stimbles.** Cotton.

**Stollery, Upper.** Debach.

**Stubbs, Stubbings, &c.** Common everywhere. Woodlands *stubb*ed up and converted into tillage.

**Sty Field.** Topcroft. Stythe Went, Coney Weston; "way called Mill Stye," Homesty, Beer Stye (probably *Bier Sty* and identical with *Church Sty*); "a way

leading from Hempstead to Sheringham called Peacock's Sty," &c.

Sty for a public footway is very common; A.S. *stig*, a path, from *stigan*, to ascend; Ger. *steig*.

In the "Articles of Enquiry," cited in the note on *falgate*, the jury of the leet are directed to enquire if "ony mane hath made ony wrong wey or ony wrong *sty*, for yer be no mo of ri3te but cherche wey or *sty*, market *sty*, mylle *sty*, and *welle sty*."

The *sty* was generally a *rising* footpath—the ascent to the church or the mill.<sup>1</sup> In a thirteenth century edition of the Creed we find *steih* for ascended, and many passages in which the word occurs will be remembered:—

"A boy or tweyn anone up *styen*  
And overthwart the sayle-yard lyen."

*The Pilgrim's Sea Voyage.*

**Sutors, The.** Mendham.

**Swaley Close,** Fressingfield. Swaley Meadow, Rumburgh;  
Swayles, Redenhall; Lower Swaly, Ubbeston. Swelling, undulating lands.

**Swangey Piece.** Attleborough.

**Swimmers.** Wilby.

**Swineyards.** Dickleburgh.

**Tampions Field.** Kenton.

**Tanners Meadow.** Framlingham.

**Tax Burrow.** Ditchingham.

**Tebble's Mere.** Framlingham.

**Tenter Close.** Bury.

**Thorow Field.** Walpole S. Peter.

<sup>1</sup> Sty Head Tarn in the Lake District is a familiar illustration of this use of the word. There is, too, in Northumberland, a parish called Styford. The terminal guttural of the A.S. *stig*, and its modern German equivalent *steig*, may perhaps be traced in the name of a Shropshire parish—Styche in Woodlands.



**Thriffs.** Brundish.

**Thunder,** Lower and Round. Tivetshall S. Mary.

**Time Lay.** Great Bricett.

**Tindale,** Town. Hempnall. Tindalls, West.

**Tingles.**

**Tobbels.** Tivetshall S. Mary.

**Toft.** Very common. Old Tofts, Ottestoffe, &c., Topcroft; Allen Tofts, Topcroft; "All that one *toft* heretofore built," Needham, &c.

The enclosed yard of a homestead, or, more frequently perhaps, as in the last illustration, the site upon which a house once stood. This would naturally be an eminence, and the connection of *toft* with *tuft* is thus clear.

"As I behelde into þe est and hiegh to the sonne,  
I seigh a toure on a *toft* trielich ymaked."

*Piers the Plowman.*

In the sense of a field or enclosure the word is clearly identical with the Dan. *toft*, bearing the same meaning; when indicating a cleared and prepared space it is connected with the Dan. *tomt*, a site, from the same root as the Icel. and Sw. *tom*, empty.<sup>1</sup>

**Towes.** Monk Soham.

**Tun.** Tungate Green, Hickling and Topcroft. Tunbeck, a brook dividing the parishes of Alburgh and Wortwell, recalls the primary meaning of *tun*, a *protective* bound. In old documents references to the *tunmere* are very frequent.

**Turret Close.** Bury S. Edmund's.

<sup>1</sup> Canon Raven tells me that in Wangford, near Brandon, there are two streets known respectively as Church Lane and Tom Street, and he suggests that the former was the original street of the village, and the latter a roadway formed and cleared at a later date. Cf. a popular derivation of *Tombland*, Norwich.

**Waddinghole Meadow.** Bardwell.

**Wales.** Brundish.

**Wallow Field.** Great Bricett.

**Wannage Lands.** A tract of land containing about 200 acres in South Fen, Feltwell. Probably land reclaimed, *won* from the fen; A.S. *winnan*, to labour. (*Wainagium*, tillage—Andrew Wright).

**Ware.** "Ten acres of *ware* land," Manor of Walsham Hall, Mendham; ". . . acres of land *ware*," very frequent in the Pulham Manor records; "one piece of land containing, by estimation, half an acre, called Acre *Ware*," Manor of Earsham. *Wara* is defined vaguely by Andrew Wright and Giles Jacob as *a measure of land*. The exact significance of the word in this connection is rather obscure. In a communication to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, Mr. O. C. Pell supports its derivation from the same source as the Celtic *war*, woods, and Sanskrit *vara*, broad; and takes it to be waste or wood land. This *war* enters into a great number of English place-names,<sup>1</sup> of which, perhaps, the most suggestive is Warboys (Hunts), where an explanatory Norman suffix of kindred meaning seems to have been added to the original Celtic word. The same process may have produced Warcop (Westmoreland), if *cop* be coppice.

**Water Gate Close.** Hempnall.

**Wax Land.** Kettleburgh.

**Wees, Lower.** Hempnall.

**Went.** Drover's Went, Bury S. Edmund's (containing 28a. 0r. 14p.); Middle Went, Old Buckenham (10a. 3r.

<sup>1</sup> Warborough, Warburton, Warden, Wardle, Warfield, Warham, Warley, Warwick, &c. Ware in Herts is now eminently a place of woods. There is, of course, a risk in some cases of confusing the word with the root of *ward*, to guard.

29p.); "one other piece, containing one acre and a half, lying in two *wents* in Woodton in a meadow called Borzel Meadow"; "one piece of land and pasture of the demesnes lying in the field of Brooke, near to Woodton, in a *went* called Eighteen Acre *Went*," Manor of Woodton with Langhall; "one acre in a *went* called the Stythe *Went*, Coney Weston"; "lying in a *went*," Fundenhall (?); *Went*, Brome Hall Manor; Thrandeston *Vent*, Stuston; *Univent*, Fundenhall.

*Wend* is defined by Bailey (1742) as "a large tract of land containing many acres," and by Jacob as "a certain quantity or circuit of ground." Cf. A.S. *wendan* and its derivatives.

- Westlyfield.** Bury S. Edmund's.  
**Wharf Lews.** Denton.  
**Wheelbarrow Field.** Kenton.  
**Whiffins.** Tivetshall S. Mary.  
**Whinsells.** Framlingham.  
**Whipping Field.** Pulham S. Mary the Virgin.  
**White Bread Meadow,** Scarning; White Bread Close, Watton, &c. Lands given in trust to provide doles of bread for the poor.  
**Widow's Acre.** Hickling, North Tuddenham. Parish charity land.  
**Wimpenny's Pightle.** Brome.  
**Winlands and Winney.** Wissett.  
**Winterthrif.** Market Weston.  
**Wissed Pudges.** Moulton.  
**Wolves Bottom.** Kenton.  
**Wong.** Fundenhall Wong; Emeswong Furlong, Wowong Furlong, Garboldisham; "half an acre of land in Hall Wonge, at Redenhall"; Little and Further Wongs, Gissing; Over and Netherwhitewong and Mousewonge, Old Map of Snetterton, &c. A.S. *wang*, a field. A large open field or a tract of land.

**Wormwood Hills.** Framlingham.

**Wrags, Little.** Framlingham.

**Wren's Park.** Framlingham, Huntingfield, S. Margaret's, Ilketshall; Wren Park, Yaxham; Raney's Park, Stuston.

I cannot, as yet, give any reasonable explanation of this common field-name.

**Wrong Mead,** Wissett; Wrong Lane Pightle, Clenchwarton; Wrongland, South Walsham; Hookwrongs; Fottiswrong; Rongtones. Probably crooked or sharply turning fields; A.S. *wringan*, to turn. *Wrongs* are roughly trimmed spars of wood, such as are used for hurdle bars.

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#### A D D E N D A .

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Since writing the above note on **furlong**, pp. 155, 156, I find that old maps, showing the parcelling out of the Manor into blocks and slips, which I have referred to, have been met with in many parts of the county, so that this division may be taken to have been general and not local or occasional, as I (writing without the chance of freely consulting authorities) had imagined.

Since the above note on **molland**, p. 166, has been printed, I have been referred to a paper (which I have not seen) by Mr. Paul Vinogradoff in the *English Historical Review*, No. 4, October, 1886, p. 734, as to the history and meaning of the term.