Names on the Nar.

COMMUNICATED BY

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My object in this paper is to examine received etymologies of names of places on the river Nar, and, where I doubt their correctness, to endeavour to find others.

The course of the Nar is wholly in West Norfolk. It has two principal sources; one at Mileham, the other at Beeston, or perhaps Fransham.

The streams from these places unite at Litcham, where they form a considerable brook, which runs to East and West Lexham, Newton, Castleacre, Southacre, Westacre, Narford, and Narborough, from which place downward it was made navigable under Acts of 1750 and 1770. Thence the river runs through or by Marham, Pentney, West Bilney, Wormegay, Middleton, Blackburgh, North Runcton, Setchey, Tottenhill, Wiggenhall, Saddlebow, West Winch, and Lynn, where it finds its way to the Great Ouse, partly by a natural outfall, and partly by a new cut from a sluice made under the Nar Valley Drainage Acts, 1881 and 1884, for the purpose of stopping the navigation above Lynn, and thereby benefiting the drainage of the Nar Valley.

I will take the places I have mentioned in order, going down the river. With more sparing references to

other books, I shall have frequent occasion to cite the following:—

Blomefield: *History of Norfolk*, 11 vols. 1805.
Camden: *Britannia*, Holland's Translation, 1637.
Domesday, Norfolk: photozincographed, 1862.
Dugdale: *History of Imbanking and Drayning*, 1662.
Kemble: *Saxons in England*, 1849, vol. i.
Munford: *Local Names in Norfolk*, 1870.
Spelman: *Icenia*, Works, 1723.
Taylor: *Words and Places*, 1885.

MILEHAM appears in *Domesday* as Meleham (56), and Muleham (236). Blomefield (16) says, "Mel or Mil gives name to many towns, Melbourn in Cambridge, Melford in Suffolk, Milbourn in Hertfordshire, and Milbroke in Bedfordshire," but he offers no explanation.

Munford says, "The prefix is the Anglo-Saxon *Mylen*, Mill." He observes that a mill is mentioned here in *Domesday*. But mills occur in many places on this river, and there seems no reason to suppose that this particular mill was so important or conspicuous as to give name to the place.

Skeat (*Etymological Dictionary*, 1882) says, that meal (ground corn) is spelt by Chaucer mele. Camden (479) mentions the sandhills on the Norfolk coast between Weybourne and Hunstanton called Meales or Miles (now Meals). Spelman (149) mentions them as the Meales, Miles, or Mules, and derives the word from the German *mul*, dust. Mileham, however, is not sandy or dusty, and finding a small river in Montgomeryshire called Mule, I am disposed to think that Mile is another form of Mel or Mule, signifying river or brook. And this I take to be Blomefield's opinion. It is observable that Methwold, at the head of a rivulet which runs into the Wissey, is locally called Muel, which seems more like an

independent name than a mere corruption. Compare Mulbarton (*Blomefield*, v. 75) and Mulgrave (Yorkshire), both, I believe, on small rivers.

Beeston next Mileham is one of four Norfolk parishes so named, the others being near Cromer, Norwich, and North Walsham respectively. The spellings in *Domesday* (47, 191, 258) are Besetuna and Besetune, and I suppose that the derivation is the same in each case. Here Blomefield gives us no help; Munford thinks that the initial syllable is the Scandinavian personal name Bia, Bea, the same, I suppose, as the Beo in Beowulf, and I can offer no better suggestion. Blomefield, indeed (viii. 410), says it was not the custom of the Saxons to give names to towns from their lords or any person, but I think that a few names, such as Aylmerton (viii. 80) and Wolferton (ix. 195) can hardly admit of any other interpretation. Compare St. Bees, Cumberland; Beesands, Devonshire; Beesby, Lincolnshire; Beesthorpe, Nottinghamshire; and Besthorpe, Norfolk.

Fransham is, as usual, derived by Blomefield (ix. 425) from water, and by Munford from a personal name. Assuming the present spelling to be correct, I believe it to have been the home of a colony of Franks. In *Domesday* Great Fransham (114) is Fraudesham, and Little Fransham (254) is Frouuesham. It seems difficult to reconcile these with the modern spelling, which correctly represents the present pronunciation. Fraudesham, with Frodsham in Cheshire and Frodesley in Salop, may contain a personal name. Compare Frodingham in Lincolnshire and two in Yorkshire.

The subject of place-name spelling in *Domesday* requires, and will, I think, repay greater attention than

I have hitherto been able to give it. At present I will only say that the more I study its variations from received spellings the less I am disposed to attribute them to ignorance or inaccuracy. In this paper, however, I proceed on the assumption that the name by which a place is now known is, as a general rule, the antient and true name.

LITCHAM and LEXHAM are derived by Blomefield, rightly I think, from leche, lake. Litcham in *Domesday* is written Licham (57) and Letham (191), and Lexham, Lecesham (236), and Leccesham (113). East and West do not appear in *Domesday*.

Munford derives Lexham from the Anglo-Saxon personal name Lese, Lesse, and Litcham from liced, licet, laid or left fallow, or from lic, a wet place, or from the personal name Lecha. He does not think that lic, a corpse, is applicable here, nor do I.

I think it likely that originally one name was common to Litcham and the Lexhams, and that the slight difference which existed at the Survey arose when, from subdivision of property or other causes, a distinction became necessary. Licham and Letham seem in *Domesday* to be different places, belonging to different owners. Letham I take to have been higher up the stream than Licham, and I suppose Let here, and in Letton (Norfolk), Letwell (Yorkshire), and other places, to signify river or brook; compare Fletton (Hunts).

I also think it likely that the river at Litcham and the Lexhams, and indeed all along its course, was antiently more considerable than it now is, and that it widened, as it still does at West Lexham and Castleacre, into small broads and wet marshes. A farmhouse at Litcham, near the bridge, has an east gable next the road, and a south door opposite the river, which seem

to have belonged to an ecclesiastical building in the early Decorated style; possibly a chapel in which travellers crossing the water, doubtless by a ford, offered prayers or gave thanks for safe passage.

In *Domesday* mills and saltworks are mentioned as existing in many places high up the river. It seems to follow that the stream was then sufficient to turn a water wheel (windmills not being known in England until the time of the crusades—Beckmann's *History of Inventions*, 1846, p. 159), and that the tidal water must have come up in quantity sufficient to admit of salt being procured from it. Blomefield (vi. 4), seems to think that the salt works may have been at Lynn; and see Cutting's *Gayton* (Goose, Norwich, 1889), p. 84. It seems to me on many grounds probable, if not certain, that this and other Norfolk rivers were, in historical times, arms of the sea. This may account for the non-appearance in *Domesday* of Lynn and Terrington, and the meagre mention of Wiggenhall. It does, I think, by no means follow that these places did not then exist, or were otherwise accounted for. It may be that they had become flooded and consequently unproductive. Lyell (*Principles of Geology*, 1830, vol. i. p. 267) tells us that some of the Lincolnshire fens were embanked and drained by the Romans, but after their departure the sea returned, and large tracts were covered with silt, now again converted into productive lands.

Newton (*Domesday*, 23, Nieutuna) receives from Munford the obvious derivation of Newtown. Blomefield (vi. 4) also suggests this, but prefers the less probable one, nearness to river or water. Munford's derivation seems to me the natural and the right one, and I can suggest no better.

Acre, in *Domesday* (104), Acra (22), comprises Castleacre,

Southacre, and Westacre. Its etymology has been much disputed. Blomefield (viii. 365) derives it from river or water, referring, I suppose, to the Latin *aqua*. The Rev. J. Denny Gedge, in a letter to the *Lynn Advertiser* of August 24th, 1887, suggests *arx*, referring to Arques near Dieppe. Munford refers it to the Anglo-Saxon *Æcer*, a field. Taylor (327) gives the Latin *ager* (probably the original of the Saxon), and this, I think, is the right derivation, the *ager* being the cultivated land which supplied the Roman encampment, and afterwards the Norman Castle. Compare Wheatacre in Norfolk (*Domesday*, 283, Hwateaker and Wateaker), though this may also help the arx theory, since part of it is called Burgh. The fact that each of the Norfolk Acres contains such an eminence may suggest the Greek *akros* (Taylor, 55), but as I am not aware of the early presence of Greek-speaking people in East Anglia I must still prefer *ager*.

In NARFORD and NARBOROUGH the name of the river is involved, and I will consider them together.

Spelman (141) speaks of our river as "fluviolus elegans, Nar, (quod aliis commune est nomen) mihi ut videtur appellatus." He proceeds to give his reason for supposing it to be called Nar; not that he had heard it called so, but that in its course occur Narford and Narborough, which he assumes to be so called from a river Nar, because an Italian town called Narnia is, he says, so named from a river Nar which runs through it.

Now this seems to me an insufficient ground for affixing a name to a river which, so far as appears, was nameless, and I find that Narborough in Leicestershire stands on a river named not Nar but Soar. It is remarkable that each Narborough adjoins an antient road or entrenchment, the Norfolk village standing at

the head of the Devil's Dyke, the Leicestershire one on the Fossway. But how far this similarity of situation throws light on the similarity of name I am not able to say.

One thing seems clear, that our river owes its name to Spelman, and that, but for his conjecture, its antient name, if name it antiently had, is lost.

Blomefield (vii. 499), says that Henry VIII. conveyed to John Dethick a fishery at Wormegay in the water of Eye, from which he infers that the river was called the Eye, and not the Nar. I think the water was so called from the number of eys or islands in it. (Blomefield, ix. 88, says that Robert de Vallibus endowed the Priory of Pentney with the manor of Pentney in the Isle of Eya). It may, however, be fairly inferred, from the conveyance to Dethick, that the river was not then commonly known by the name of Nar. Some old maps call it Linn.

Spelman says that Nar is a name common to other rivers. I know of none but the Italian Nar, which is mentioned by Tacitus (who was born on its banks) *Annals* i. 79, and iii. 9, and by Virgil, *Æn.* vii. 517, and other Latin authors. I am informed that Naro is a river in Sicily, and many of us have seen the Nahe, an affluent to the Rhine near Bingen, but neither seems quite in point. Munford, moreover, says that Nar is Celtic for water in general, but he does not give his authority.

Camden (481), mentions our stream as "a little river carrying no name," and he adds, "This riveret or brooke with a small stream and shallow water runneth westward to Linne by Neirford and Neirborough." These spellings nearly agree with those in *Domesday*, Nereforda (71), and Nereburh (138); and with that of the Italian river in modern maps, Nera. But Spelman

is supported by a stone in the north wall of the chancel of Narborough church, inscribed "Domina Agatha a Narborough," and this, Blomefield says, "is a piece of great antiquity, and the lady is said to have died in 1293." Moreover, it must be remembered that Spelman was a Norfolk man, and that his paternal grandfather was the resident owner of Narborough, so that he can hardly have been ignorant of the spelling and pronunciation current in his day.

The forms in *Domesday* and in Camden seem to suggest the Saxon nigher (see Skeat, near) which might be used in reference to the important domain of Acre. Or an abbreviation of nether (German, *nieder*), the lower ford, and burgh, as distinguished from the fords and burgh of Acre, higher up. On the whole, however, I prefer Spelman's orthography, and I shall have more to say about the names of these two places when I come to my home at Pentney.

MARHAM in *Domesday* (208) is Mareham, (259) Marham. Blomefield (vii. 374) thinks the prefix is mere, and describes something of the kind as existing in his day. Munford thinks it is the personal name Mar, for which he gives no authority. Taylor (177) seems to derive Marham in Cornwall from mark, it being on the boundary of Devon. Our Marham is on the boundary of three hundreds, Freebridge, Clackclose, and South Greenhoe, but I am not inclined here to follow Taylor; Blomefield's seems to me the natural and probable derivation. Was this "home in the mere" in times long past a collection of lake dwellings?

PENTNEY is in *Domesday* Penteleia (129), which would give Penteley, a spelling for which I think there is no other authority. Blomefield (ix. 37) says it is a village

pent in or surrounded with water. Munford says the prefix is the Anglo-Saxon *peond, pund,* a place enclosed or fenced in, agreeing, I suppose, with Blomefield. And their views may derive support from two curious passages in Blomefield's *Norwich* (folio, Fersfield, 1741), which I will transcribe.

Page 105, A.D. 1436. "John May, the jaylor, was displaced for being a common rogue, coming into the Hall at the Election, armed, raving, and bawling out 'Varlottes, I schal breke your hedes, and schal put yowe in Penteney.' Note—the dungeon belonging to his prison."

Page 184, A.D. 1549. "They mended the prison called the Vowte (or Vault) under the Pentney, setting fast the window in the entry called Chapell a feld, and that door that go into the Pentney and other things there."

But in an earlier passage (p. 99, A.D. 1422), I find the prison called Pountneye, and p. 348 the shrine of St. Edmund of Pountneye is mentioned, and I suspect that Pentney in this connexion is a mere corruption, unless indeed it is a personal name. We learn from Kirkpatrick (*Streets and Lanes of Norwich* by Hudson, 1889, p. 94 et seq.) that in the reign of Ed. I. Roger de Penteneye was owner of a shed in the Market there.

BILNEY is in *Domesday* (259) Benelai, which would give Beneley, a spelling for which I think there is no other authority. Blomefield (viii. 352) gives no derivation. Munford says the prefix is the Anglo-Saxon *Binnan,* between, within. I think that, without disrespect to the memory of my old tutor, I may try to improve upon this.

WORMEGAY (*Domesday,* 195, Wermegai) is referred by

Blomefield (vii. 502) to Wire, the name of a river in Lancashire. Munford thinks the prefix is the personal name Orm, Worm; and the final syllable the Teutonic *ga, gau,* a district. He does not account for the middle syllable. Taylor (328) takes the same view of the final syllable, and compares the Greek *gaia* which I think somewhat far-fetched.

With great deference to my respected predecessors, I think that these three names, Pentney, Bilney, and Wormegay, have a common origin, the abbreviation of a tribal name, with the suffix ey, island, which was doubtless appropriate before the Nar and its tributaries were embanked. On this theory the original names were Pentingey, Billingey, and Wormingey.

In the two first names I suppose i and g to have disappeared, leaving n to do duty for ing, while, in the last i has become e, n has disappeared, and g remains. But in the local pronunciation, Rungay (written Wrongey) both n and g remain. And Pentney was, as we have seen, in early times written Penteney, wherein ing is represented more fully by en.

The second and third syllables of Pentingey and Wormingey may survive in the surnames Tingey and Mingay, not uncommon in Norfolk, but not found as place names.

Whether, with Kemble (437), we call names ending in ing, mark or tribal names (as I believe them to be), or whether, with our native and popular county historian, Walter Rye (*History of Norfolk*, 1885, 11) we call them place-names, does not affect the question.

I think it a general rule that in ney final, ey means island, a dry place with watery or marshy surroundings, and n is the remains of ing, which, with the preceding syllable or syllables, formed the name of the tribe which

possessed the island. In Norfolk, eight parish names end so, and I proceed to consider how far they support my theory.

1. Barney (*Domesday*, 299, Berlei) I suppose abbreviated from Barningey. Compare Barningham (Norfolk and Yorkshire), from which Kemble (437) infers a tribe of Beorningas.

2. Bilney (*Domesday*, 259, Benelai) I suppose Billingey. Compare Billingford (two) in Norfolk, and about a dozen other English place-names consisting of, or commencing with Billing, from which Kemble (458) infers a tribe of Billingas.

3. Blakeney (not in *Domesday*) I suppose Blakingey. Compare Blakenhall (Cheshire) and Blakenham (Suffolk).

4. Bodney (*Domesday*, 119, 257, Budeneia; 254, Bodeneia) I suppose Bodingey. Compare Bodingen (Flintshire), Bodington (Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire). From Bodington Kemble (458) infers a tribe of Bodingas.

5. Colney (*Domesday*, 160, Colenen; 92, Coleneia), I suppose Collingey. Compare Collingbourne (Wilts), Collingham (Notts), Collington (Herefordshire), and Collingtree (Northamptonshire). From these Kemble (461) infers a tribe of Collingas.

6. Pentney (*Domesday*, 129, Penteleia), I suppose Pentingey. No probable tribal name found. Perhaps Penting or Pending (from Penda).

7. Tilney (*Domesday*, 196, Tilinghetuna, I suppose Tillingey. Compare Tillingham (Essex), Tillington (Herefordshire, Staffordshire, and Sussex). From these Kemble (475), infers a tribe of Tilingas.

8. Welney (not in *Norfolk Domesday*), I suppose Wellingey. Compare Welling (Kent), Wellingborough (Northamptonshire), Wellingham (Norfolk), Wellingley (Yorkshire), Wellingore (Lincolnshire), and five Wellingtons

in as many counties. From these Kemble (477) infers a tribe of Wellingas.

Of such names elsewhere I will mention two, one English, Athelney (Somersetshire), I suppose Athelingey (compare Athelington in the same county and Athelington in Suffolk), and one Scottish, Orkney. Of this name Taylor (113) says, "The terminal syllable, ey, is the Norse for island. The n which precedes is, apparently, a vestige of the Gaelic innis or inch, island. Ork is probably from the Gaelic orc, a whale." With the deference due to such an authority I think the n is here, as in Athelney, a vestige of ing, the termination of a tribal name, probably Orking or Working (perhaps from Orc). Compare the Cumberland seaport, Workington.

Nor is this rule confined to Britain. The Narnia of Tacitus seems merely the Latin form of a vernacular Narni, the modern, and, I believe, the ancient name, wherein ni answers to ney. So we get Narringi, which leads to a tribe of Narrings, some of whom may have left their name in Narringford and Narringburgh, since abbreviated to Narford and Narburgh, just as we may suppose Welbury (Yorkshire), and Welford (Berks, Gloucestershire, and Northampton), to have been abbreviated from Wellingbury and Wellingford.

Narnia is translated by Ainsworth (*Latin Dictionary*, 1808), Naray, which looks like Nar island (Taylor, 330). This, I suppose, is a vernacular alternative to Narni.

Near Narni, and on the same river, is Terni, the birthplace of Tacitus, in Latin Interamnia, a word which, while ingeniously incorporating the vernacular name, conveys a new though not less significant meaning, the true one being doubtless lost. Strange, if a meaning unknown to Virgil has been found by those of whom he wrote (*Eccl.* i. 66)

"Et penitus toto divisos orbe Britannos."

For Terni, unless I am mistaken, leads us back to a tribe of Terrings. Compare Terrington (Norfolk and Yorkshire), from which, with Tarring (Sussex), Tarrington (Hertfordshire), and Torrington (Devonshire and Lincolnshire), Kemble (471) infers a tribe of Teoringas.

Fanciful as it may seem, I cannot doubt that, in times anterior to British or even Roman history, the North of Europe (vagina gentium, Holcroft's *Procopius*, 1653; the *Gothick Warrs*, book 2, c. 12 note, officina gentium; vagina nationum, Jornandes (83), cited by Malthus, 1817, i. 169), sent its swarms to Britain and to Italy, and that a close examination of place-names would reveal traces of their route. May not Ferney, on the Lake of Geneva, recall the Feerings, whose name is that of an Essex parish? Can the resemblance of Ammergau (so much talked of just now) to Hammeringham in Lincolnshire, and that of Almenau (not less familiar to the readers of *Quits*) to Menai in Anglesey, be altogether fortuitous and inexplicable? May not our gay have a counterpart in the German *gau*, and our ney in the German *nau*, the French *nay* and *ny*?

Spelman notwithstanding, I believe that neither the Norfolk Nar nor its Umbrian prototype gave name to a place, but that, on the contrary, each took name from a place, itself named from early (though probably intruding) inhabitants, Narrings, descendants of Nar, whose name is lost in the mist of ages, unless, haply, we find it in the first syllable of Narses, the name of more than one historical personage, notably of the warlike eunuch, the colleague and rival of Belisarius. Perhaps an Oriental scholar may detect in the eastern *ses* an equivalent of the Western *ing*, and in the recorded Narses a counterpart of the unrecorded and forgotten Narring.

Having so far given reins to conjecture, I must hazard

one on the likeness of the names Roman and Norman. What if Romulus (or rather Remus, compare Reims, also Catullus "Remi nepotes") and his companions were Norsemen or Normans, their city's name a corruption of Norma, its Greek and other extant derivations (Lewis *On the Credibility of Early Roman History*, i. 395), and even the name of Romulus, as fictitious as the *Æneid?* What if Tacitus, writing de moribus Germaniæ, unwittingly described those of his ancestors, yet uncorrupted by the soft air of Italy and the empire of the world? I throw this out for consideration, only remarking that, on the supposition, the penuria mulierum (Livy, i. 15), which led to the rape of the Sabines is easily explained.

In gay or gey final, ay or ey is island (Taylor, 330), and ing is in some cases represented by g and in others remains entire. Of place-names so ending we have two in Norfolk, both abbreviated.

1. Hilgay, Hilgey, or Helgay (*Domesday*, 213, Hidlingeia), I suppose abbreviated from Hidlingey, Hillingey, or Hellingey. Compare Hillingdon (Middlesex), and Hillington (Norfolk), from which Kemble (467) infers a tribe of Hillingas; and Hellinghill (Northumberland), and Hellingley (Sussex), from which (466) he infers a tribe of Hellingas.

2. Wormegay (*Domesday*, 195, Wermegai), I suppose originally Wormingey. Compare Wormingford (Essex), Worminghall (Bucks), Wormington (Gloucestershire), from which Kemble (477) infers a tribe of Wyrmingas. Blomefield (*L'Estrange pedigree*, x. 314), says that Sir Ralph L'Estrange, who died 1197, married Ela, daughter of Richard Lord Wormingay; and Dugdale (288) says that in 55 Hen. III. complaint was made that lands of the Prior of Wyrmingey, lying in Wyrmingey and Tokenhull (I suppose Tottenhill), were inundated from the seas and river of Secchehithe.

Of such names in other counties I will mention two, both unabbreviated.

1. FOTHERINGAY (Northamptonshire), from which Kemble (464) infers a tribe of Foderingas.

2. GAMLINGAY (Cambridgeshire) from which (464) he infers a tribe of Gamlingas.

Spengay, Cambridgeshire (Taylor, 328), is I suppose a misprint for Shengay, otherwise Shingay. Compare Shenington (Oxon), Shinfield or Shiningfield (Berks).

KETLAM, a brook which rises in East Walton, and falls into the Nar at Pentney, near the Abbey, preserves, I think, the memory of a lost village, Kettleham, so named from the brook Kettle. Compare Kettleburgh (Suffolk), Kettlewell (Lynn and Yorkshire).

GOLDINGHAM WAY, a highway in Pentney, ends in a driftway and bridleway, which lead to a wooden bridge built over the Nar to replace a ford which was destroyed in making the river navigable. Here I suppose was a home of Goldings. Compare Goldings (Surrey), Goldington (Bedfordshire).

MIDDLETON (*Domesday*, 259, Mideltuna), is said by Blomefield (ix. 20) to be so called as lying on a hill, surrounded with low grounds, marshes, and water, Mid-le-ton. The late Charles Wycliffe Goodwin, a man whose talents did not find their place, with more probability thought it the middle town of a Saxon domain, of which East Winch and West Winch (Anglo-Saxon *Wincel*, a corner), were the extremities (see Eller's *Memorials of West Winch*, 18). This is adopted by Munford, and I can suggest nothing better.

BLACKBURGH, a hamlet of Middleton, does not appear

in *Domesday*. Neither Blomefield (ix. 32) nor Munford suggests a derivation. Taylor (264) interprets Blackheath, bleak heath. But I suspect that here Black is a personal name, represented by the modern surname Blake.

The meaning of the second syllable is not obvious, there being no eminence that answers to it. But a mound (artificial I think) is in the upper part of Middleton, not far from the church, and I suspect that the whole of Middleton was from it antiently called Blackburgh, and that when the upper part was occupied and re-named by intruding Saxons, the part next the river retained the old name, and probably the old inhabitants.

Runcton (*Domesday*, 197, Rynghetuna; 201, Rungbetuna), in early Court Rolls (penes I. O. Smetham, steward) Rongeton, Ronghton, Roungton, Runckton, is spelt by Dugdale Rungeton, and by Blomefield (ix. 62) Rungton. Blomefield says it takes its name from its site as surrounded with water, but he does not explain this derivation, nor is his description a happy one. Munford says the prefix is the Scandinavian Runne, old French Ronce, a briar, a bramble, a thicket, but more likely a personal name derived therefrom.

I derive Runcton, like Wormegay, from Orming or Worming. Rungay, the common pronunciation of Wormegay, and Rungton, are alike in the first syllable. I believe that the original name was Wormington: (compare Wormington, Gloucestershire and Roxburghshire) and that the people who shortened Wormingay into Rungay, shortened Wormington into Rungton. A curious illustration is, that as Rungay (on my hypothesis) is akin to Runcton, so Bungay, which I suppose to be shortened from Bunningay (John Bunning in 1469 gave £3. 6*s*. 8*d*. to Redenhall church) has its fellow in Bunckton (Sussex).

SETCHEY is a hamlet on both sides of the river, which here divides North Runcton and Wormegay. It does not appear in *Domesday*. Munford derives the name from Sytch or Seke, a watercourse. Dugdale (1242) and Blomefield (ix. 64) call it Sechey Magna, to distinguish it from Setchey Parva (*Blomefield*, viii. 443) a hamlet in South Lynn, now called Seech. Blomefield says that in an old record (I suppose the conveyance to Dethick, *ante*) he finds the river here called the Eye, and he thinks that Setchey takes its name as set on that river, a derivation which takes no note of the letters ch. Although I believe that ey almost always means island, I do not doubt that it sometimes means water, witness the channel in the Wash called Wisbech Eye. But here I think it means neither water nor island, but is a corruption of hithe, a landing place (Taylor, 188). Dugdale, as we have seen, in copying a document of the reign of Henry III., writes it Secchehithe. He usually writes it Sechithe, but sometimes Sechey. Blomefield (ix. 64) copying a fine of the same reign writes it Sechith, which is also the spelling of the early court rolls, and I am not aware of any older authority.

Setch I am inclined to identify with Sedge, and to believe that both words antiently meant not only the rough grass on a river brink, but the brink itself. This suits Sedgeford in Norfolk, and, I think, Sedgeford Lane in Lynn, which runs along the brink of the Purfleet (until lately a navigable river), between two bridges which doubtless replaced fords. I do not forget that Thomas de Sedgeford (Mackerell's *History of Lynn*, 274) or Sechford (*Lynn Historical MSS.*, 132, et seq.) was Mayor of Lynn in 1306 and 1308, but I do not know that any Lynn street was antiently named from an individual. On the whole I think that Setchy is the landing-place on the river brink.

Sandringham Eau was antiently a name of the lower part of the river. By the Nar Navigation Act of 1750 no haling or towing with horses is permitted "between the town of King's Lynn and a certain place called Sandringham Eau, where the tide ebbs and flows." Here I suppose was once a home of Sandrings. The strange derivation in *Domesday* of the existing Sandringham, "Sant Dersingham" (309), cannot apply here. Kemble (472) derives Sandringham from a tribe of Sandringas. Munford concurs, and I have no doubt that they are right, and that this place on the Nar was a home of the tribe.

Tottenhill stands on what in West Norfolk may pass for a hill. It does not appear in *Domesday*. In the reign of Henry III., we have seen it spelt Tokenhull. Blomefield spells it Tottenhill (vii. 430) and derives it from Tot or Tut, the name of a rivulet. Munford derives it from a personal name Tit, Tyt. Supposing the modern spelling to be correct I derive it from a tribal name, Totting; Kemble (475) derives Tottington (Norfolk and Lancashire) from a tribe of Tottingas. Supposing Tokenhull to be the antient form I derive it from Toke, a Saxon name (*Domesday*, 121) which survives in the surnames Tuck and Tooke, and hull the name of a river in Yorkshire. Compare Tokenham or Tockenham (Wilts). I am inclined to think that here, and perhaps at Fransham and Litcham, may have been two villages, which from propinquity of situation and similarity (by no means identity) of name, have been confounded. Contemporary with the existing village on the hill may well have been one, now lost and forgotten, by the river.

Wiggenhall appears in *Domesday* (332) as Wigrehala. But so early as 8th Richard I., A.D. 1187 (*Blomefield*,

ix. 967) it was written Wigenhale. Blomefield derives Wigre from Eager, the swell in a tidal river when the rising salt water meets the falling freshes, well known in the Seine and seen by myself in the Ouse. Hale here as elsewhere he interprets water. Hall, mansion house, he rejects, rightly I think. I believe Wiggenhale to be the right spelling, and the prefix to be a tribal name, Wigging. Compare Wigginton (Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, and Yorkshire) and the surname Wiggins. Taylor (252) says that hal means salt, and this is not an unlikely place for saltworks. But fifteen place-names in Norfolk (besides Holm Hale) end in hale or hall, and some of them do not seem likely places for salt. Of the fifteen names the prefixes of seven look like tribal names, and those of fifteen others like genitives or plurals.

I cannot with much confidence suggest a meaning for the final syllable, but as hale in Norfolk means heap, may not Wigenhale be a gathering or collection of Wiggings ?

Saddlebow is a hamlet partly in Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, and partly in South Lynn. It does not appear in *Domesday*, but it occurs in a deed dated 5th Edward I. (*Blomefield*, 183). Dugdale (291) mentions "*Sadilbow Pitts*" in 2nd Henry IV. Blomefield (ix. 182) offers no derivation. Munford does not mention the place. Besides the mountain called Saddleback (supposed in reference to its shape), we have Saddlewood in Gloucestershire, Saddleworth in Yorkshire, Saddlescomb and Sedlescomb in Sussex, with Bow in Devonshire and Middlesex, Bow Bank in Yorkshire, Bow Brech in Kent, Bow Brickhill in Bucks, and Bowden or Bowdon in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Devonshire, and Leicestershire. But I cannot suggest a derivation of either syllable, unless Saddle is a contraction of a tribal name, Sadling (compare

Saddington, Leicestershire), and Bow, a bend in the river here, which was cut off under the Nar Navigation Acts.

Of LYNN, Camden (480) says "Linne, peradventure so "named of the waters broad spreading; for that doth "Lhyn import in the British tongue."

Spelman (143) says, "Dici autem Len (nam corruptè "Lyn), a Britannico Lhyn pro Stagno aut diffusis aquis, "si vox eo traheretur (ut Camdenus voluit) non assentior. "Saxonicum plane existimo, et alias Prœdium, alias "Feodum significare. Sic apud Germanos hodie Fanelhen, "Prœdium sen Feodum Baronis, et Len Episcopi idem "plane quod Prœdium Episcopi." In plain English the name is not Lyn, a watery expanse, but Len, a farm.

The place is mentioned in *Domesday* as Lena and Lun, and Len or Lenn is undoubtedly the spelling in the oldest records. But I think that Camden is right, and that Len is merely another form of Lyn. Thus Lenwade in Norfolk is the water wade or ford, equivalent to Lynford in Norfolk and Waterford in Ireland; Lendal in York is a low-lying street next the Ouse; Lenton (Notts), and Lenham (Kent), are water town and water home; and Lenox, in Scotland, is a double water name, len and ox, usk or ouse.

Rye (3) leans to Spelman. But Taylor (144), without discussing the question, perhaps, indeed, without knowing it, says, "Deep pools or lynns have given names to Lincoln, King's Lynn, Dublin, Glaslin, Linlithgow, Linton, Killin, and Roslin." The water at Lynn is both wide and deep, and with this obvious, and, I think, correct etymology of the name of my native town, I close my paper.