

# SURREY PLACE-NAMES.

BY

ARTHUR BONNER, F.S.A.

## II. RIVER-NAMES.

### *INTRODUCTORY*

THE study of English place-names on the modern method of investigation is being developed under the leadership of the English Place-Name Society, ably conducted by Professors Mawer, Stenton, and Ekwall and their colleagues; and work is being vigorously carried on in various districts. The volumes published by the Society to date—in addition to the valuable “Introductory Survey” previously mentioned<sup>1</sup>—deal with the counties of Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Worcester (July, 1927).

Stream-names form an important section with some special characteristics, and data are being collected with a view to collation and the treatment of the subject as a whole rather than independently in small groups. This paper is written as a local contribution to that collection.

One fact that stands out clearly is that many stream-names are not individual, *i.e.* not peculiar to a particular stream. The very ancient names Avon, Axe, Usk, Ouse, Esk, Wye, Exe, at the time of their early application, simply meant “water,” or “stream,” or “river.” So in our own times the rustic use in ordinary speech is and has been largely “the brook,” or “the river,” or in the north “the beck,” or “the burn”; and, a few centuries ago, “bourne,”

<sup>1</sup> See “Surrey Place-names” in *S.A.C.*, XXXVI, p 85, 1924.

the southern rendering of O.E.<sup>1</sup> *burn*, was much used, and it survives as a specific name.<sup>2</sup>

Another outstanding fact is that, while many place-names owe their origin to the proximity of a stream, there is also a considerable number of stream-names which are named from a farm or homestead or other place near which they rise or pass. Many of these are simple and obvious, and may be seen on our Ordnance Survey Maps, and some specimens are here given haphazard:

In Middlesex, the Edgware Brook at Edgware, the Wealdstone Brook at Harrow Wealdstone, and the Yeading Brook, which, after passing the little hamlet of Yeading, becomes the River Crane as it reaches Cranford.

In S. Herts, the Mimms Brook at N. and S. Mimms—also called “Mimms Hall Brook” where it runs by the Mimms Hall Farm; the Cuffley Brook at Cuffley.

In S. Hants, the Lymington River and the Beaulieu River.

In I. of W., the Newtown River and (at the village of Thorley) the Thorley Brook.

Near Lynmouth, in the West of England, we have the Oare Water from Oare joining the Badgeworthy Water from Badgeworthy to form the Brendon Water (by Brendon Village), which becomes the East Lynn, and this at the well-known Watersmeet is met by the Farley Water from Farley.

In the western part of N. Devon, the Pulworthy Brook at Pulworthy hamlet, Hatherleigh, and, near Clovelly, the Clifford Water and the Seckington Water, which pass farms of those names on their way to join the River Torridge.

N. Cornwall has, among other such instances, the De Lank River, which rises on Bodmin Moor and passes the De Lank quarries.

<sup>1</sup> In this paper, the abbreviations O.E. and M.E. represent “Old English” (or Anglo-Saxon: i.e. the English language prior to c. 1100), and “Middle English” respectively.

<sup>2</sup> Now frequently limited to intermittent or occasional streams. In some instances these bear the seasonal limitation “*winter*” bourne.

In Essex, 18 similar instances were listed by the late Miller Christy, F.L.S., in his paper, "Essex Rivers and their Names," in *The Essex Naturalist*, XXI, 275, 1927.

An early instance of this nature in Middlesex appears in mediæval records in connection with the ancient Tyburn, which in the fifteenth century, north of the Oxford road, was called the Maryburn and Marybourne where it passed the then newly formed parish of that name, and the "Ay-broke" or Ayebroke on the south of that, where it reached the manor, etc., of Aye or Eye.<sup>1</sup>

The historical method of inquiry—*i.e.* the ascertainment by record-searching of the history of a place-name—has brought to light another class of cases in which the stream-name not only is of later origin than the place-name which was supposed to be derived from it, but that it has been made from the place-name. Surrey has some instances of this "back-formation," as will be seen below; one of them, the Mole, from Molesey, was drawn attention to about twenty years ago, and another, the Wandle, was noted as far back as 1888. That distinguished scholar, the late Dr. Hy. Bradley, editor of the *Oxford Dictionary*, in his luminous and authoritative paper on "English Place-Names,"<sup>2</sup> dealt with several of these invented river-names, which he attributed to "our map-makers," who, he wrote:

"have had an evil trick of inventing names for small streams which they found nameless, and their usual way of doing this has been to take a syllable out of the name of some place on the bank of the river. Thus Kimbolton, in Huntingdonshire, is

<sup>1</sup> See "The name 'Marylebone'," by the present writer, in *Transactions London and Middlesex Archæological Society*, N.S. IV, 75, 1918. A Marylebone plan of 1780 gives an additional name, "Rivulet Spry," to the stream, as noted by Mr. A. Ashbridge in his paper on "Marylebone and its Manors," on p. 68 of the same volume. Leland attaches the name "Marybone broke" as far south as St. James's Park (Toulmin Smith edition of Leland's *Itineraries*, II, 114). The *-le-* in Marylebone, be it noted, is a late addition (seventeenth century).

<sup>2</sup> In *Essays and Studies*, by Members of the English Association, Vol. I, pp. 32-33, Clarendon Press, 1910.

derived from the personal name Cynebald; but the river on which the place stands has been provided by the map-makers with the name Kim. Similarly, a river-name Hextild has been evolved from *Hextildesham*, a mediaeval form of the old Northumbrian *Hagustaldesham*, now Hexham, the 'home' of a *hago-steald* or unmarried warrior. The name of the river Brain is a figment invented to account for Braintree (in Domesday *Branchetreu*).<sup>1</sup> The river Penk, in Staffordshire, owes its name to a false analysis of Penkridge into 'Penk' and 'ridge'; but Penkridge is an altered pronunciation of Pencrich, the original form of which appears in the name of the neighbouring Roman station Pennocrucium. It is a compound of the words which in Welsh are *pen*, head, and *crûg*, mound. . . . The Latin name of St. Albans, Verulamium, was familiar to antiquaries from being mentioned by Bæda, and in the sixteenth century was sometimes used in the anglicized form Verulam. From this was inferred the river-name Ver, which still keeps its place on modern maps. Curiously enough, the same process had been gone through hundreds of years before, for in a tract of the eleventh century on the resting-places of the saints of England, Wærlemeceaster (*i.e.* Verulamium) is said to be on the river Wærleme."

To these may be added: in Bucks. the Chess, which has been deduced from the village-name of Chesham;<sup>2</sup> in Essex the Chelmer from Chelmsford<sup>3</sup> and the Rom at Romford<sup>4</sup>; and in N. Cornwall pretty certainly the Strat at Stratton.

Some of our topographical writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to whom we are indebted for much

<sup>1</sup> Mediæval spellings of the first element were Brancke-, Branke-, and Brank-. A. B.

<sup>2</sup> Cesteresham, Cestres- in thirteenth century, Cestreham in Domesday, and probably the "Cæstæleshamm" of a Will of 1012 (Thorpe's *Diplomatarium*, 552-3); the village-name referring to a former earthwork.

<sup>3</sup> The first element in Chelmsford is *Celmeres*- in Domesday, and in later records *Chelmeres*-, *Chelmere*-, shortening to *Chelmer*-, *Chelmes*-, and *Chelms*-. M. E. *Celmeres* indicates the O.E. personal name *Ceolmær*, in its genitive case: "Ceolmær's ford."

<sup>4</sup> The early spelling is "Rumford," and O.E. and M.E. *rum* = wide, the sense being "the wide ford." Mr. Miller Christy, F.L.S.—an active Essex antiquary, and long resident in that county—in the paper referred to above, remarks that this stream is called the Bourne in its upper portion, the Rom near Romford, and the Beam below there. It may be noted that a "Romford" in E. Dorset is on the river Crane; and that fords vary in width.



information of high value, also offended in this way. John Stow, that excellent London antiquary and chronicler, in his admirable *Survey of London* (1598), invented a stream-name, and even invented one or two streams to account for names whose actual histories—recently ascertained—show a different origin.<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Wm. Harrison, who wrote (c. 1577) the "Description of Britain" which formed the first section of Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1586), gives a list of the Thames tributaries and their feeders, which includes the following original contribution to river nomenclature: the "Brome, whose head is Bromis in Bromleie parish" and runs via "Lewsham" to the Thames. This is the Ravensbourne, which is recorded in the fourteenth century as Randesbourne and Rendesbourne and whose modern spelling was used in Harrison's time by Lambarde in his *Topographical Dictionary*.<sup>2</sup> "Brome" is a pure invention. Elsewhere, Harrison describes the Sussex Ouse as the "water which commeth from Ashedon forrest by Horsteed Caines (or Ousestate Caines)," and remarks: "Certes I am deceived if this river be not called Isis, after it is past Isefield." "Ousestate" for the ancient "Horsted" (Horsa-stede) speaks for itself, and the confident inference of Isis from Isfield is significant.

The Sussex Adur is an interesting instance of this in-

<sup>1</sup> The name Holborn he asserted was due to a stream which at one time ran from west to east along the side of that street and was called the "Old-borne," a name and spelling which he uses throughout his book for Holborn; whereas the actual records show conclusively that Holeburn was the original name, which was in no single instance rendered "Old-"; and that the Holeburn was the stream whose lower reach became known as the Fleet, and which, running roughly north to south, crossed the line of the "Holeburn Strate" on its way to the Thames. Sherborne and Langborne were two other instances, both of these street-names being corruptions from earlier forms (Scheteborwe and Longbord or Longobord respectively) which indicated originals of quite different significance. See "Some London Street-Names: their Antiquity and Origin," by the present writer, in *Trans. London and Middlesex Archæol. Soc.*, N.S. III, 209-10, 1915-16, and (for Holeburn) "Staple Inn: its Topography," etc., in Vol. IV of the same, 135-6, 1918.

<sup>2</sup> The Victorian "etymology" of *yr-Avons-bourn*—a shining example of pseudo-scholarly guesswork on "Celtic" lines—was based upon the modern spelling.

ventive proclivity of our early topographers to which attention was drawn by Professor Haverfield in 1892<sup>1</sup> and by Dr. Hy. Bradley in 1915.<sup>2</sup> This stream is named Bremre in a tenth-century charter,<sup>3</sup> and "the water of Brembre" in deeds of thirteenth and fifteenth centuries;<sup>4</sup> in the sixteenth century it is known as the Cire by Leland and the Sore<sup>5</sup> by Harrison—who also quotes "Brember water" from "the ancient map of Marton Colledge in Oxford." Another name for it was Weald Ditch, mentioned by Selden in his notes to Drayton's *Polyolbion*, and attached to the stream near Lancing on Andrews and Dury's Map of 1777; and it was also known locally as the Beeding River in the eighteenth century<sup>6</sup> and as the Shoreham river during the nineteenth century.<sup>7</sup>

Its christening as Adur was traced by Prof. Haverfield to Camden and Drayton. Camden<sup>8</sup> seems to have been the first to attempt to locate the ancient Portus Adurni,<sup>9</sup> and he suggested Aldrington, near Shoreham, as its site, on the double assumption (1) that it was the "Ederington"<sup>10</sup> of King Alfred's Will and (2) that that name sufficiently resembled *Adurni* to justify the identification. As Prof. Haverfield remarks: "The similarity is a poor one at the best, and as the site of the Saxon village is to be sought in

<sup>1</sup> "The site of Portus Adurni, and the river Adur"; *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries*, 2nd series, XIV, 112-116.

<sup>2</sup> In his review of Roberts's "Place-Names of Sussex," *Engl. Hist. Rev.*, 1915, 164.

<sup>3</sup> In Birch's *Cartularium*, No. 961. Dr. Bradley (*v.s.*) remarks upon this that "there can be little doubt that the Norman castle of Bramber (*Brembre Castellum*, Domesday), from which the town took its rise, received its name from the river beside which it was built."

<sup>4</sup> Cited by Prof. Haverfield in the paper specified above.

<sup>5</sup> Evidently connected with the name Shoreham, which was spelt Sorham and Soreham in eleventh to thirteenth centuries. See Roberts's *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 143.

<sup>6</sup> *Magna Britannia*, V, 536, 1738.

<sup>7</sup> Prof. Haverfield, paper cited.

<sup>8</sup> *Britannia*, 1586, p. 158; and later editions.

<sup>9</sup> Named in the *Notitia Dignitatum* (early fifth century) as one of the nine fortresses on the "Saxon shore" of Britain.

<sup>10</sup> Camden's spelling. Eaderingtune in the original document (Birch's *Cartularium*, No. 553).

Somerset rather than in Sussex, we may dismiss it from our argument.”<sup>1</sup> Camden did not mention any stream at Aldrington; but Drayton, accepting his identification—and possibly aware of the Rivers Adur and Adour elsewhere—names it in his seventeenth Song:

“And Adur comming on, to Shoreham softly said  
The Downes did very ill, poore Woods so to debase.”

Selden’s accompanying note upon this is as follows:

“This river that here falls into the Ocean might well be understood in that Port of Adur, about this coast, the reliques whereof, learned Camden takes to be Edrington, or Adrington, a little from Shoreham. *And the author here so calls it Adur.*”

The sentence here italicised is significant. Drayton’s assumption was criticized or doubted,<sup>2</sup> but the eighteenth-century map-makers, led by Moll in 1710, adopted the name and it has come to be regarded as ancient and original. Prof. Haverfield sums up the position thus:

“It appears that antiquaries first placed *Portus Adurni* near this river for a reason (a very bad reason) which had nothing to do with any river name; that the river was then christened ‘Adur’ to suit their conjecture; and that finally the name Adur has been used to prove the site of *Portus Adurni*.”

The Sussex “Arun”—which has extensive feeders in Surrey—is another illustration of the influence of topographical writers upon the nomenclature of streams and places. The river-name seems to have reached its present spelling, and Arundel the etymology from the river, in the time of Elizabeth. An earlier form of the river-name,

<sup>1</sup> We may now add that the early forms of the name Aldrington (Eldretun and Eldritune in Domesday, and Aldrinchton in twelfth century, etc.) are conclusively against Camden’s suggestion.

<sup>2</sup> The well-informed writers of the *Magna Britannia* are among the doubters. They say (Vol. V, p. 536, 1738): “The river Adur, as Draiton calls it (but by an account of it, which we have from Mr. Deedy and Mr. Hayler, Inhabitants of Steyning or Bramber, it is called Beeding). . . . The ancient Portus Adurni (which we suppose gives ground for the conjecture, that the River, whose Mouth is near it, is called Adur) is in our maps, and by some Antiquaries fixed at Aldrington, or Ederington, a Village near it.”

*Tarent*, appears in Leland's *Itinerary* (1535-43), and some 800 years earlier than that, in a grant of land near Arundel,<sup>1</sup> this is *Tarente*.<sup>2</sup> Lambarde, in c. 1565, however, writes it as Arunt, and he etymologizes the town name thus: "Arundell, Aruntina vallis . . . so called of the water Arunt."<sup>3</sup> A few years later Harrison spells it Arun, and says: "The vallis wherein it runneth is called Vallis Aruntina, or Arundale in English"<sup>4</sup>—dropping Lambarde's final *t* in Arunt, but retaining his Latinized "Arun-tina." Camden in 1586 adopts this;<sup>5</sup> but in a later edition of his *Britannia*<sup>6</sup> a doubt is inserted: ". . . the river Arun, in case Arun bee the name of the river, as some have delivered, who thereupon named it in Latine, Aruntina vallis, that is Arundale." Next we have Drayton (1612-13), in his Song 17: ". . . Arun, which doth name the beauteous Arundell"; upon which "the learned Selden," in his anno-

<sup>1</sup> At Piperinges (now Peppering, on the east side of the river, opposite Arundel Park). The document is transcribed in Birch's *Cartularium Saxonicum*, No. 145.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Henry Bradley (in *Engl. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 1915, p. 164), noting this early name of the Arun, identifies it with Ptolemy's *Trisanton*, remarking that "the development of form in the name" is "in accordance with phonetic law"; and he draws attention to the fact that "to this day there is a 'Tarrant Street' in Arundel." He proceeds: "But what then, it will be asked, *is* the etymology of Arundel? The answer, I think, is suggested by the Domesday form *Harundel* (beside *Arundel*) which probably represents the Old English *hār-hūn-dell*, from *hār-hūne*, horehound. The name has come down in a Norman-French form (without the aspirates) because it was used as the designation of the Norman Castle." In this connection it may here be added that at Easter, 1915, the present writer happened to be walking about Arundel Park with two friends who were botanists. The latter drew attention to the profuse growth of horehound on the grassy slopes; the writer thereupon quoted Dr. Bradley's etymology for Arundel, and it was agreed that this was well borne out. The writer communicated the incident to Dr. Bradley, who expressed much gratification by the confirmation, which he had not been able to make for himself.

<sup>3</sup> *Topographical Dictionary*, p. 9. On p. 17 also he has "Ryver Arunt" at Amberley. The MS. of this work, though used extensively by Lambarde in his *Perambulation of Kent* (1570) and other works, was not printed until 1730.

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 93.

<sup>5</sup> *Britannia*, first edition, p. 157.

<sup>6</sup> Holland's *Translation*, 1610, p. 308. Also in the edition of 1607. The italics here and in the next quotation are the present writer's.

tations to the *Polyolbion*, cautiously remarks: "So it is conjectured, and is without controversy justifiable *if it be the name of the River . . .*" More than a century later we read in *Magna Britannia* (1738, V, p. 536):

"Our Antiquaries argue much against this derivation, I. Because they say that it is not certain, that the river had that name so early as the building of the Town. . . . To this they add that it is nowhere written Arundale, or Aruntina-Vallis, or if it were, 'twil' not agree with the language of this country, who never call a Valley a Dale, but a Level. . . ."

Thereafter the doubt is lost sight of and the etymology becomes established.

#### SOME SURREY STREAM-NAMES

The stream-names which follow are those for which the writer has been able to find ancient spellings or other information. They are arranged in the order in which the main streams enter the river Thames, from the Kentish boundary westward; the Oke and Gibbs Brook, which feed the Arun and the Medway respectively, coming last.

##### ST. THOMAS WATERING.

In the description of the road from London to Dover, "A rill call'd St. Thomas Watering" is mentioned in Ogilby's *Britannia* (1675).<sup>1</sup> The little stream is well shown on Rocque's map of London and Environs (in four sheets), edition 1763. It rose in Camberwell about where Grosvenor Park now exists, and it ran in an E.N.E. direction<sup>2</sup> to the (old) Kent Road, which crossed it at the spot formerly well known to wayfarers as St. Thomas's Watering—Chaucer's "the watering of seint Thomas"—thence it took an easterly course, joined on the way by a feeder from Peckham Rye,

<sup>1</sup> In the second edition (1698) of *Britannia* "rill" becomes "brook."

<sup>2</sup> A lane, which has become Albany Road, ran a little to the south of it.

to the Thames, which it entered at a point at the S. end of the Surrey Commercial Docks. The dedication was to Becket.

Another "brook called St. Thomas Watering" was located, in Ogilby's *Britannia* and later Road Books, on the Guildford road, about two miles S.W. of Ripley. Apparently this name was attached to the brook which rises in Clandon Park and runs northward across Send and Ripley parish to join the Wey near Newark Mill.

### THE EFFRA.

This little stream ran from sources at Central Hill, Norwood (just above the present Convent), and two or three other points on the Norwood slopes, through Dulwich by way of Crocksted or Croxted Lane and the S.E. part of Water Lane (now Dulwich Road), along the eastern edge of the Croydon (Brixton) Road to Kennington Common, and thence to the Thames at Vauxhall—a few yards to the S.W. of Vauxhall Bridge.<sup>1</sup> Until *c.* 1850 Brixton Road, for the length of its contact with the stream, was called "The Wash Way." The stream was culverted, in sections, *c.* 1830–75. Its total length has been given as  $5\frac{3}{4}$  miles.<sup>2</sup>

The earliest name which I have found attached to the river, in extensive searching and inquiry, is the "New River," which is applied to the northern or lower portion of the stream, where it crossed under the Croydon road at

<sup>1</sup> Readers who feel interested in details of its course may be referred to the following maps: Rocque's *Environs* (in 16 sheets), 1741–6, and revised edition (4 sheets), 1763, for Dulwich and northward; Lindley and Crosley's *Surrey*, 1790 (and second edition, 1830), and Faden's *London and Vicinity*, 1810, for the whole length; and Stanford's *Library Map*, London (1 mile = 6 inches), 1862, for the southern portion. The 6-inch Ordnance Survey of 1870 (sheet Surrey, VIII) shows what then remained uncovered. Greenwood's *London* (Survey 1824–6) shows the Kennington-to-Thames portion very clearly. Rocque places the "Washway" reach on the western side of the road; but Lindley and Crosley, Faden, and other later maps run it along the eastern, which is confirmed by other evidence.

<sup>2</sup> *Brixton Free Press*, August 2, 1912: paper upon "The River Effra" by "Angostura" (Alderman Woolley).



the southern end of Kennington "Common" (now "Green"), in Ogilby's *Britannia* and succeeding Road Books. In an Act of Parliament of 1805 quoted by Manning and Bray (*History Surrey*, III, 524) the Vauxhall part is called "Vauxhall Creek," and this is repeated on the same page by Mr. Bray under date 1812; and on the map there given (p. 526) of the area the estuary is "Vauxhall Creek" and "Sewer" is applied to the stream. Cruchley's New Plan of London, 1835, marks it "Creek" from Kennington to the Thames. Rocque's maps (*Environs*) 1741 and 1763 name it "The Shore" from Dulwich to Kennington. Most of the maps 1750-1850 which show the stream do not attach any name. The well-informed John Edwards in his carefully compiled *Companion from London to Brighthelmston*, edition 1801, while giving a detailed description of the roads about Vauxhall, knew no name for this stream, which he notes as "a small river which bounds the east side of the street" (*i.e.* the present S. Lambeth Road at its Vauxhall end); and some thirty years later Allen <sup>1</sup> describes it as "a small brook," without name.

The first appearance which I have been able to trace of the name Effra is on a large-scale map of "the parish of Lambeth divided into Ecclesiastical districts," which is displayed in the Carnegie Library in Herne Hill Road. It is dated 1824, and "Effra Road" is shown, with a few houses at one side of it: evidently in an early stage of its existence. The name, be it noted, is not attached to the river, which at Vauxhall is shown on this map as "Vauxhall Creek."

Ruskin, in his *Praeterita*, writing of his childhood at Dulwich, refers to a drawing which he made in 1832 of "a view of the bridge over the now <sup>2</sup> bricked-up 'Effra' by which the Norwood road then crossed it at the bottom of Herne Hill."

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. of Surrey*, I, 243, 1831: "Along the eastern side of this (Brixton) road was a small brook, now partly covered over, from whence the place derived the name of the Washway."

<sup>2</sup> *Praeterita* was published 1885.

Brayley<sup>1</sup> in 1850 mentions it as "a small stream called the Effra," at Brixton.

Stanford's fine Library Map of London, 1862, marks "Effra River" where the stream runs into the Thames, and "watercourse" along its southern portion, Norwood to Brixton; and the 6-inch scale Ordnance Map (Survey 1870)<sup>2</sup> applies the name at West Norwood and Dulwich also.

These facts indicate that the name "Effra" may only date from the eighteenth or early nineteenth century; that it was first attached at Brixton;<sup>3</sup> and that its application to the whole course of the stream became general during the ensuing half-century or so.

The etymology of the name is obscure. Ruskin<sup>4</sup> suggested that it was "doubtless shortened from Effrena, signifying the 'unbridled' river"; and a writer of c. 1880<sup>5</sup> boldly declared that "The name Effra is a corruption of a Celtic term Y-frid, or torrent," which he thought was consonant with its character. These guesses are not supported by any historical evidence and they do not agree with the geographical facts. While a mountain stream with a fall of 1,000 feet or more per mile may be fairly described as unbridled, or a torrent, a quiet little brook which meanders down some 200 feet in  $5\frac{3}{4}$  miles can hardly be so regarded.

An interesting suggestion was made by Mr. W. Basevi Sanders in the second volume of the *Fascimiles of Anglo-Saxon MSS.*, issued by the Ordnance Survey Commission in 1883. One of the documents facsimiled in that volume is the well-known grant to Westminster Abbey of land at Battersea, dated 693.<sup>6</sup> It enumerates sixteen points on the boundaries of the estate, of which only two—the Thames ("tæmese") is one of them—have been identified. A

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. Surr.*, III, 362.

<sup>2</sup> Surrey, Sheet VIII.

<sup>3</sup> It may be noted that, as a centre of population, Brixton is of modern birth and development. There was no ancient village here.

<sup>4</sup> *Præterita*, 2nd edition, 1900, I, 42.

<sup>5</sup> *Half-holiday Handbook to Sydenham, Dulwich and Norwood*, p. 56.

<sup>6</sup> Not an original, but a good copy made apparently soon after the Conquest. Printed in Birch's *Cartularium Saxonicum*, I, 116. The same work (III, 189) includes a later MSS. which has some of the same boundary, and in which this point is described as "hegefre."

third point is rendered "heah yfre" and "heah efre";<sup>1</sup> it is clearly on the bank of the Thames, and the boundaries start and finish at it. Mr. Sanders translated it as "High Effra," and conjectured that it was the mouth of the Effra. Judging by the later boundary of Battersea parish, this point must have been at an inlet of the river where the Railway Dock at Nine Elms Station was formed eighty or ninety years ago, about a furlong west of Vauxhall Creek—the mouth of the Effra—and this seemed to warrant Mr. Sanders' assumption. Recent investigations, however, have shown that the word "yfre" appears in some other place-names, and that it probably had the meaning of "edge," or in some cases "escarpment";<sup>2</sup> and the translation, accordingly, should be "high edge (or bank)," indicating a point on the Thames bank which was higher than the neighbouring shore.

#### THE FALCON BROOK, BATTERSEA.

This little stream had its source at Streatham, and ran past the northern end of Tooting Bec Common, across the Balham High Road at the foot of Balham Hill, and along a shallow valley between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons into the Thames at Battersea—there becoming known as Battersea Creek.

The name Falcon was due to the Falcon Inn which stood beside the brook where it crossed the Wandsworth road, and from which also was named the lane there running northwards. This Inn sign was doubtless "in honour of the seventeenth-century Lords of the Manor, the St. Johns, whose crest was 'a falcon rising' . . . the first mention of the 'Faulkeon' Inn was in 1765."<sup>3</sup>

From the fact that York House, the property of the Archbishops of York for some half-century before the Dissolution, stood beside the mouth of this river, it became also known as the York Brook, and later, York Sewer.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Probably pronounced like "ivry" or "evry."

<sup>2</sup> See *The Chief Elements used in English Place-Names*, edited by Prof. Allen Mawer, p. 67. English Place-Name Society, 1924.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. J. G. Taylor, *Our Lady of Battersea*, p. 15.

<sup>4</sup> Both names, "Falcon Brook" and "York Sewer," are used in the Official

An earlier name than these was the Hidebourne, or Hyde Burn. This appears as Hidaburn and Hydaburn in documents of A.D. 693 and 695,<sup>1</sup> and as Hideborne in fourteenth-fifteenth-century MSS.<sup>2</sup> These early sources attach the name to the stream near Battersea, part of the grant being on its western side.<sup>3</sup> The name fell into disuse some time after the fifteenth century.

During its course by Tooting Bec Common the brook skirted the southern and western sides of Hyde Farm, an ancient property which filled a corner of Clapham parish. Probably this estate represents the "hide of land in Balham which belonged to the Manor of Clapham" which was granted, near the end of the eleventh century, to the Abbey of Bec by Geoffrey of Boulogne and his son William.<sup>4</sup>

The Falcon Brook had a feeder whose source was about half a mile south of that of the Falcon, and which ran first westward and then W.S.W. across Tooting Bec Common to the S. end of the present Avenue; there, turning N.N.W., it ran along the E. side of the Avenue across the Bedford Hill House land, Balham High Road, and Balham Park

Report with Map issued in 1866 by the Board of Works for the Wandsworth District, Streatham and Tooting, respecting their scheme for covering in (culverting) the stream. The "Index Map," by Jas. Barber, Surveyor to the Board for the parishes of Streatham and Tooting, is on the scale of 12 inches = 1 mile, and it shows the course of the stream and of its feeder, the York Ditch. A copy of the Report (with Map) is in the Streatham Public Library. The writer recollects seeing (about 1869-70) the stream flowing in private ground beside St. John's Road, Battersea: apparently the last stretch to be covered in.

<sup>1</sup> Birch's *Cartularium Saxonicum*, Nos. 82 and 87. The main passages of both were transcribed in *S.A.C.* X, pp. 209-13, and the whole are carefully discussed in detail by Dr. J. G. Taylor in his recent admirable work, *Our Lady of Battersea*, pp. 2-16. The MSS. refer to land at Battersea.

<sup>2</sup> *Westminster Abbey Cartulary*, under date 1085-9 (MSS. of c. 1305), and fifteenth-century endorsement on the document of 693 mentioned above.

<sup>3</sup> The present writer arrived at this identification more than twenty years ago, after a careful consideration of the localities and boundaries mentioned in the documents. Dr. J. G. Taylor's later investigations have led him to the same conclusion, which has been strongly confirmed by his discovery of the passage in the *Westminster Cartulary* (A.D. 1085-9) which specifies the land at Battersea as lying on both sides of the Hideborne.

<sup>4</sup> *V.C.H., Surrey*, I, 96. Hyde Farm, it may be noted, became the property of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1629, its acreage then being 61.

Road, to join the Falcon at a point about half a mile E. of the present Wandsworth Common Station. The Official Map of 1866 shows this course in detail and attaches the name of York Ditch<sup>1</sup> to the streamlet. Its eastern end (east of the Croydon railway) was then already running in pipes, and the remainder of its course was thereafter similarly treated. The surface drainage of the Tooting Commons contributed some small feeders, and another came from the lake in Streatham Park—where in a summer-house beside this lake, during the Thrale ownership, Dr. Johnson is said to have passed much time.

#### THE WANDLE.

This familiar name is not found earlier than the sixteenth century. It was first given by Camden, in the Latinized form of *Vandalis*, in the first edition of his *Britannia* (1586, p. 152), and Drayton (*Polyolbion*, 1613 and 1622) followed with Vandal, which was adopted by Cox (*Topographical, etc., History of Surrey*, 356) in 1700, and by several eighteenth-century map-makers. Drayton also spelled it Wandal. Aubrey (*Surrey*), c. 1673, and Ogilby (*Roads*), 1675, appear to have led the way with the present spelling.

An earlier name appears in the Westminster Abbey Charter of 693, in the boundaries of Battersea, viz., *hlidaburn*,<sup>2</sup> and this was in use until the fourteenth century or later, as we learn from two documents in the Westminster Abbey *Cartulary* noted by Dr. J. G. Taylor and printed

<sup>1</sup> The name Streath(am) Bourne was conjectured for this brooklet by the late T. W. Shore, F.G.S. (in a paper on local history and antiquities read to the Balham Antiquarian Society, and published by them in 1903), owing to the fact that one of the roads on the Bedford Hill House Estate (laid out for building in 1894) was christened "Streathbourne" by the builder-speculator. Prima facie it seemed a reasonable guess, but it was unsupported by evidence, and the actual name is now known to have been York Ditch. The *hlidaburn* has been confused with the *hidaburn* mentioned above.

<sup>2</sup> The present writer came to this conclusion more than twenty years ago, in endeavouring to identify the points in these early boundaries, but he was then unable to find any later appearance of such a name. Dr. Taylor's "finds" among the Westminster Abbey Muniments, and his independent confirmation of the identification, are of special value and interest.



in his valuable work.<sup>1</sup> The first of these refers to land "in Southcroft field in the vill of Wandsworth stretching to the water called *Ledeborne* near the croft belonging to the Prior of Merton," and dates from c. 1222-46; and the second, of t. Edward I, relates to property in Wandsworth "against the King's highway and stretching along the water called Lodeburne." The stream in each case is clearly the present Wandle, and the thirteenth-century *Ledeborne* quite agrees with the O.E. *hlid burn*, whose aspirate would naturally weaken and drop out in later speech. The O.E. *hlid* in place-names had a special significance, apparently associated with O.E. *hlyde*, signifying a noisy stream.<sup>2</sup> If the name of Lidwell, the spring on the slope of St. Martha's Hill, is ancient, it may afford another instance of this word among Surrey names.

"Ledeborne" and "Lodeburne" evidently went quite out of use by the sixteenth century. Harrison, in his list of Surrey rivers in his *Description of Britain* (c. 1577?), describes it as "a beck from Wandsworth," evidently knowing no name for it. The way was open for a back-formation from the ancient name Wandelseworth or Wandlesworth, the town at its mouth, in the style so favoured by our early topographers.<sup>3</sup>

The new name evidently did not speedily become generally or officially accepted. In the official documents of 1610 concerning the proposed waterworks on the Wandle, which were printed in these Collections with Mr. Giuseppi's paper upon "The River Wandle in 1610,"<sup>4</sup> no

<sup>1</sup> *Our Lady of Battersea: The Story of Battersea Church and Parish told from original sources.* G. White, 396, King's Road, Chelsea. 1925.

<sup>2</sup> See *The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire*, by Profs. Mawer and Stenton, p. 199. English Place-Name Society, 1925.

<sup>3</sup> Wandsworth first appears in the 693 Charter: *Wendles wurthe*; the first element is mostly spelt Wendles and Wendeles until late thirteenth century, when the *-a-* spellings, Wandeles, Wandles, Wandes (which are first seen in Domesday) begin to supersede them. *Wendeles*=the personal name Wendel in the genitive case; and *wurth*=estate or enclosure; the sense being Mr. Wendel's estate (or enclosure). This etymology was put forward in 1888 in the *Academy* (p. 80) by the late W. H. Stevenson, of Oxford (our leading authority on early documents and place-names), and later by Prof. Skeat and other scholars. The history of the river-name was not then known.

<sup>4</sup> *S.A.C.*, XXI, 176-191.



name is attached to the stream : the Royal appointment of the Commission describes it as "the river and course of water beginning and arising from the springs in Croydon"; in the petitions from the inhabitants, etc., it is "ye smale brooke arising at Croydon," "ye river of Croydon," "ye streame comming from Croydon," "ye river from Croydon," and "ye river yt runeth from Croydon"; and in the Finding of the Commissioners it is "the River which arriseth at Croydon and goeth from thence to Waddon and soe to Wansworth."

THE GRAVENEY "river," a small stream which joins the Wandle at Merton, appears to have been christened in very recent times. Its source is (or was) at Addiscombe; and passing through Norbury it crosses the Brighton road at Hermitage Bridge, Lower Streatham, and runs via Tooting Graveney to what was Bigrove Mead near Merton Mills. Its course is described in the Act of 1801 (41 Geo. III, Cap. 127) for constructing the Croydon Canal, but no name is attached: it is "a certain watercourse or stream." In 1812 it is designated "Addiscomb Brook, from its rising near the Earl of Liverpool's at Addiscomb in the parish of Croydon."<sup>1</sup> The Ordnance Survey of c. 1865 marks it "Norbury brook" at Norbury and "Graveney river" as it reaches Tooting Graveney parish. The parish name refers to the family "de Gravenel" who held one of the Tooting manors in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

#### BEVERLEY BROOK.

From two sources near Sutton—one by Worcester Park and the other (the Pyl brook) at or near the Green by Beenhill—the Beverley runs between Merton and New Malden, along the western edge of Wimbledon Common, and through the eastern part of Richmond Park (here receiving a feeder from the Pen Ponds) and past Barnes Common to its juncture with the Thames at Barn Elms.

In the Battersea Grant of 693 there is a stream-name "beferithe"—rendered "bæuerithe" in a later Battersea "terrier" (dated 957, in Birch, No. 994). This has been

<sup>1</sup> Manning and Bray, *Hist. Surrey*, III, Appx. clx.

assumed to be the Beverley brook, but the position indicated by the documents seems too far to the east, and this "Beaver rith" (beaver brook) was more probably one of the channels or branches of the Hlidaburn or Ledeborne, afterwards the Wandle.

Failing this, no ancient records of the name have come to light, "Baverley" of mid eighteenth-century maps being the earliest noted. The beaver figures in other English place-names, and assuming the antiquity of this name, its first element very probably commemorates an association of that aquatic animal with the grassy meadows or leas beside the brook.

#### THE HOGSMILL RIVER.

With sources at Epsom and Ashstead Commons and Ewell—where there are strong springs, as the name implies—the Hogsmill's course is short and merry as it passes Chessington, Ruxley Splash and Malden on its way to Clattering Bridge and the Thames at Kingston.

The ancient name of Hog's (or Hogg's) mill at Kingston is very probably commemorative of John Hog, who was a prominent townsman there about the close of the twelfth and the early part of the thirteenth century. We learn from the Records of Merton Priory<sup>1</sup> that in 1179 and 1203 he acted as a representative of Suberton (Surbiton) in granting to the Priory leases of land belonging to the township; and that between 1186 and 1198 his signature appears on another Merton grant. "Le Hoggbrug" (Hog's bridge) at Kingston is named in a P.R.O. "Ancient Deed" (No. B1628) dated 1330; and "Hoggesmyll" in Queen Elizabeth's Patent of 1564 endowing the Grammar School at Kingston (*S.A.C.*, VIII, 350-2). The Index to V.C.H. Surrey has "Lurtebourne (see Hogsmill riv.)," but repeated searches have failed to trace such a name in the text. "Hogs Mill River" is applied to the stream on Rocque's map of Surrey of *c.* 1762, and on later maps, including the first edition of the Ordnance Survey (1816, Sht. viii.).

<sup>1</sup> Heales' *Merton Priory*, pp. 35, 41, 59.

## THE MOLE.

The earliest reference to this stream appears to be in the Close Rolls of 1238, in which we read of "the banks of the branch water (or stream) at Mulesey" ("... ne quis eat ad riveandum in brachio aque de Mules'...").

A specific name is attached to it, for the first time so far as is known, in the Chertsey Leiger (fifteenth century), where, under date 1331, it is recorded that Wm. of Bourstowe (Burstow) conveyed land in Horley to Chertsey Abbey "bounded on the west by the water called Emelé."<sup>1</sup> Leland, writing between 1535-43,<sup>2</sup> names it "Emene."

The modern name seems to have been introduced by Harrison (c. 1577)<sup>3</sup> who called it "Moule," and Camden, in his *Britannia* (first edition, 1586) used the Latinized form "Molis"; and later topographical writers, from Drayton (1613) onwards, used "Mole," mostly.

The name of the village and parish, Molesey, is of pre-Conquest origin. Its earliest forms, Muleseg(e), Mulseige, Moleseya,<sup>4</sup> etc., indicate the O.E. personal name Mul for the first element, with the sense of the island or waterside land of Mr. Mul; and the modern "Mole" for the river evidently arose from some confusion of the first element of the place-name with the ancient river-name, strongly influenced by the behaviour of the river at its "swallows," which led Spenser to liken it to "a nousling mole" which "doth make his way still underground, till Thames he overtake," and which inspired Milton's well-known line, "Sullen Mole that runneth underneath."

While "Emele" has not been traced as the specific river-name earlier than 1331, it appears frequently in records as the first element in the name of the Hundred, Elmbridge, formerly Emleybridge. Domesday spells it Amele-

<sup>1</sup> Manning and Bray, Surrey, I, *V.C.H.*, Surrey, III, 301 n.

<sup>2</sup> *Itinerary*, Toulmin Smith edition, V, 193; quoting from *Mappa Mundi*.

<sup>3</sup> Description of Britain, by Rev. Wm. Harrison, in Holinshed's *Chronicles*, I. This work was described in its edition of 1587 as "first collected by Raphael Holinshed, Wm. Harrison and others, and newly augmented and continued to 1586 by John Hooker," etc.

<sup>4</sup> Domesday stands alone in its spelling "Molesham"; the numerous other recorded spellings agree in Mules- or Moles- for the first element and the usual -eg, -ege, -eia, -ey, -eye, etc., spellings of the second element.

and twelfth and thirteenth-century forms are mostly Emel- and Emele-, with some cases (in Pipe Rolls) of Hameles-. The modern name Imber, or Ember (Court), in Thames Ditton parish, in a thirteenth-century form of Imele-, may also indicate it. Its meaning has yet to be ascertained, its origin probably being pre-Saxon.<sup>1</sup>

GAD BROOK is one of the numerous tributaries of the Mole south of the North Downs. It rises at Holmwood and runs past Gadbrook Common to join the river near Rice Bridge. "Land at Gadbrooke" was bequeathed in a Betchworth will of 1589;<sup>2</sup> "Gaddebrooke Common" and "Gadde Brooke Landes" appear on a Plan of Lye (Leigh) Manor of 1627;<sup>3</sup> and "Gadbrooke Common" and "a farm called Gadbrook" are on another estate plan, dated 1724.<sup>3</sup> The sense of "brook" in these references might be "water-meadow" or "marshy ground"—a meaning which was attached to the word in Sussex and Kent. There is a "Gade" river in Herts by Great and Little Gaddesden villages, but as the village name was Gætesdene in the tenth century, and Gatesdene in eleventh to fourteenth centuries,<sup>4</sup> this stream-name is apparently a back-formation from a modern spelling of it.

DEANOAK BROOK is another tributary in the same district. It runs beneath Dean Bridge (near Stumblehole), and past Dean Farm into the Mole below Sidlow Bridge. Dean Bridge is mentioned in the Appendix to Manning and Bray in 1812, Deans Farm is on eighteenth-century maps, and Dene was a place-name here in the fourteenth century,<sup>5</sup> which evidently has become a descriptive name. The upper part of the stream, from a source in Capel, runs by Misbrook Farm and Green; names which also appear on eighteenth-century maps. Misbrook Farm is ancient, and Misbroke was a personal name hereabouts in the six-

<sup>1</sup> Mr. J. E. Gover, who is now collecting data *re* Cornish names for the English Place-Names Society, has found old spellings of Amel, Emel, Emle, etc., of names there which may prove to be an ancient stream-name.

<sup>2</sup> Surrey Wills, *Herringman Register*, p. 61. Surrey Record Society.

<sup>3</sup> *S.A.C.*, XI, p. 184. <sup>4</sup> Skeat's *Place-Names of Herts*, p. 21.

<sup>5</sup> Surrey Taxation Returns; the Lay Subsidy of 1332. Surrey Record Society, XVIII, 37, 40.

teenth century.<sup>1</sup> Possibly this was an old name for the little stream? There is the Misbourne in Bucks, running by the Missenden villages, which was written Misseburne, Mysseburne, and Messeborne in the fifteenth century, and it may be from a personal name Myssa, from which the village name descends.<sup>2</sup>

### THE WEY.

This name is comparatively well recorded as a river-name, and it also appears as the first element in the place-name Weybridge. In the thirteenth-century *Cartulary* of Chertsey Abbey, in which the early charters to the Abbey were "copied," the spellings Waie, Waige-, Wei- and Wey- are given under the dates "before 675," "675" (727) and 1062. Domesday has We- (-bruge and -brige). Way(e) and Wey are frequently recorded back to the thirteenth century, and Wye is an alternative spelling ("Wey, otherwise Wye," "Wey or Wye") from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries—including a Statute of 1682.

These spellings agree with early forms of other instances of this well-known river-name, the Hereford-Monmouth stream, *e.g.*, appearing in eleventh-thirteenth centuries as Waia, Waie, Wæge, Gwy, Guai, Waya, and Weya; and the derivation appears to be from a British root *ueiso-*, fluid, cognate with Welsh *gwy*, fluid, water.<sup>3</sup>

### THE BOURNE OR WINDLE BROOK.

Rising in Bagshot Park, this brook runs between Bagshot and Windlesham through Chobham village and past Addlestone to Woburn Park, where it divides into two, both discharging into the Wey.

It is evidently "the water of Bagset" (Bagshot), near which 50 acres of heath were given in 1228 by Henry III to the prioress and nuns of Bromhale<sup>4</sup> (Broomhall Nunnery,

<sup>1</sup> Ric. Misbroke was a Churchwarden of Newdigate in 1553; see Inventories of Church Goods, etc., in *S.A.C.*, IV, 175.

<sup>2</sup> *Place-Names of Bucks*, by Profs. Mawer and Stenton, p. 153. English Place-Name Society, 1925.

<sup>3</sup> *Introduction to the Survey of English Place-Names: The Celtic Element*, by Prof. Eilert Ekwall, p. 24. English Place-Name Society, 1924.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Charter Rolls*, I, 70.



Windlesham). At that time, it would appear, no special name was attached to the brook, as is the case in so many instances; and five centuries later we find it referred to in the list of the streams entering the Thames, as it passes Surrey, as "another pretty large Brook, without name, which rises near Bagshot and passeth through Chertsey Hundred into the Thames."<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. Wm. Harrison,<sup>2</sup> in writing a similar list of Surrey tributaries of the Thames, gives it the Latinized name "Vindeles"—which one may assume is what he considered suitable for a stream coming from Windlesham.

The Ordnance Survey (Survey 1868-70, current edition, 6-inch scale, sheets 10, 11, 16 and 17) attaches the following names to it:

Windle Brook, in Windlesham Parish.

Hale Bourne, in Chobham Parish, West.<sup>3</sup>

Mill Bourne, in Chobham Parish, East.<sup>4</sup>

The Bourne, for the remainder of its course.

The first edition Ordnance Survey (1816, 1-inch) has "The Bourne" throughout, and this is the name given by earlier maps: e.g. Rocque, 1762, Andrews and Dury (*Sixty-five Miles Round London*), 1774, Lindley and Crosley, 1790, etc.

The name of the parish in which the stream rises, Windlesham, has early forms (Wyndelesham, Wyndlesham, etc.) which indicate an O.E. origin in a personal name Wyndel, Windel, or Wendel. Windle is evidently a back-formation from the place-name.

A considerable "feeder"—which, in fact, might be regarded as the main stream—which joins the Bagshot "Bourne" at the N.E. corner of Woburn Park, is also called "The Bourne." It rises beyond Virginia Water, through which it runs, and passes through Egham Thorpe and Chertsey parishes. Its early portion, west of Vir-

<sup>1</sup> *Magna Britannia*, by Cox and Hall, 1720, III, 442.

<sup>2</sup> *Description of Britain*, previously cited.

<sup>3</sup> Here, by Clappers Farm and The Clappers, it is joined by the small "Clappers Brook."

<sup>4</sup> Here joined by a feeder from Colony Bog, Chobham Ridge, which in its short course is named Trulley Brook when near Trulley's Farm and later "the Bourne."



ginia Water, is "Mill River" on Lindley and Crosley's map; Mr. Turner<sup>1</sup> attaches an ancient "Redebourne" to it between Virginia Water and Trumps Mill (Egham-Thorpe boundary). The Chertsey portion of it is carefully dealt with by Miss Lucy Wheeler, in her paper on "The Waters of Redewynd" (*S.A.C.*, XXX, 31-37), who shows that its course thereabouts has been changed, and who identifies it with the name "Redewynd" locally applied in the Chertsey Abbey *Cartulary* (fifteenth century).<sup>2</sup> "Rede" here, doubtless, is O.E. *hreed*, modern *reed*.

A small tributary of this northern "Bourne" runs southward from Thorpe Lee and forms the boundary between Thorpe and Egham parishes for a short distance before it turns eastward to join the Bourne.<sup>3</sup> This appears to be the Depebroke and Depenbroke of the Chertsey Abbey Charters;<sup>4</sup> and Mr. Turner, in his *History of Egham*,<sup>5</sup> quotes Depingbroke and Duppingsbroke from later records (sixteenth century, etc.). About 1855, however, it was still known as Deepenbrook;<sup>6</sup> but Mr. Turner, writing seventy years later, gives its present name as Dimmins Brook.

"Depe" in M.E. represents O.E. *deop*, and modern "deep": deep brook. Mr. Turner's "Depingbroke" may not be the stream itself: the reference he gives (*op. cit.*, p. 98) is to a record of "land in Depingbroke" and elsewhere, which would rather indicate another meaning of *-broke*, viz.: wet or marshy land, which is found in Sussex (e.g. Amberley Wild Brook) and Kent. That the word was used in this sense in this locality is clear from a sixteenth century Lands List reproduced by Mr. Turner (*op. cit.*, 113 and plan facing), which includes "two pieces of meadow

<sup>1</sup> *History Egham*, map facing p. 8.

<sup>2</sup> "The water of Redwinde" or "Redwynd" also appears in Patent Rolls of 1342 and 1410. Redewynde was the name of an estate at Thorpe in the fourteenth century (*V.C.H. Surr.*, III, 437).

<sup>3</sup> It also sends an offshoot into the Abbey River, as shown by the Ordnance Surveyors (6-inch, Surrey, XI, N.W.).

<sup>4</sup> Of dates "before 675" and "temp. Alfred," but MSS. of thirteenth century; transcribed in Birch's *Cartularium Saxonicum*, Nos. 34 and 563.

<sup>5</sup> Pp. 10 and 98.

<sup>6</sup> *S.A.C.*, I, 86.

called Dimmins Brooks," which from their position on the plan must have been beside or near the brook.

"Woburn," where the two Bourns meet, evidently received its name from its contiguity to the streams. The land boundaries in the Chertsey Abbey Foundation Charter include "Woburn brugge . . . to Woburnen and lang burnen" (Woburn bridge . . . to Woburn along the bourne), and in later records the common mediæval spelling "bourne" is used for the second element in the name. O.E. *woh* = winding or crooked, and "the winding brook" describes both the streams.

Two other tributaries of the Wey have the name Bourne. The first of these joins the river at Pyrford, and the name "Bourne" is attached to it near Pyrford on the Ordnance Survey Map (6-inch scale) of 1869-70. Higher up in its course the same map marks it "Stanford Brook." One of its two chief sources is just beyond Stanford Common, which it skirts; and the other is near Wanborough, passing through Henley Park and by Clasford before joining the Stanford Brook.

The second is the Bourne near Farnham. It is called "the Wynterburn" in Henry de Blois' grant to Waverley Abbey of date *c.* 1150, and again ("Wynterborne") in a Winchester Bishopric Rent Roll of 1450. It is dry most of the summer.<sup>1</sup> Among the eighteenth-century maps Andrews and Dury (1777) call it "The Bone" and Lindley and Crosley (1790) "Bourne or Brook." As "the Bourne" it has given the name to the modern settlement and ecclesiastical parish.

#### THE TILLINGBOURNE.

Rising in Broadmoor Bottom, Wotton, this bourne runs through Abinger Shere and Chilworth to Shalford, where it joins the Wey. It receives feeders from other bottoms in the northern slopes of the Leith Hill range, the longest of them coming from near Peaslake through Brook and joining the main stream at Postford Pond.

<sup>1</sup> Information from the Rev. T. F. Griffith, The Bourne Vicarage, Farnham.

The name is first noted in Gough's additions to Camden 1806, as "Tillingborne brook." Manning and Bray (II, 145) in 1808 say it was then "sometimes called the Tilling bourn";<sup>1</sup> and Brayley (*Surr.* I, 169), *c.* 1846, states that it was then "usually called the Tillingbourne"; from which it may be inferred that the usage of the name had increased between 1806 and 1846.

The northern continuation of Broadmoor Bottom is occupied by a house and small park called Tillingbourne. Previous to about 1840, however, this was known as Lonesome,<sup>2</sup> and the dell as Lonesome Bottom; the renaming of the house followed a change in ownership. Brayley (*sub* Wotton) describes it as "the secluded dell called Lonesome, or otherwise Tillingbourne, from the little rippling stream which meanders through it."

Tilling is an ancient personal name in the district, appearing in the early forms of Tennings Hook Wood, Shere, which was Tillingshokes, Tillingshoke and Tyllingshokes (wood) in the fourteenth and fifteenth century, and Tillings Hook (wood and gate) in the seventeenth and eighteenth century.<sup>3</sup> The western and longest feeder of the Tillingbourne, which rises near Coverwood, on the western slope of Holmbury Hill, runs within 750 yards (crow fly) of this wood; the next feeder to the east of that, which runs from Holmbury St. Mary via Sutton to the main stream at Abinger Hammer, passes about the same distance from the eastern side of the wood; and yet another little tributary rises in the wood itself or very near it. Some connection with the name of the brook seems probable.

#### THE OKE.

From springs at Pitland Street on the eastern slope of Holmbury Hill, and at High Ashes on the western slope

<sup>1</sup> It may be borne in mind that Wm. Bray, F.S.A., who revised and completed Manning's work, resided in this neighbourhood.

<sup>2</sup> See Manning and Bray, III, 145, and other County Histories; and eighteenth and early nineteenth-century maps.

<sup>3</sup> Noted by Miss Joan Parkes from the Court Rolls of Shere, in the MSS. left by Wm. Bray, F.S.A.—to which Miss Parkes has had access. The present writer is also indebted to Miss Parkes for further information respecting this locality.

of Leith Hill, this streamlet finds a very winding way past Forest Green and Oakwood Hill to a point a short distance to the S.E. of the latter, where it meets a rivulet from Stanbridge Hill, by Coldharbour, on the E. side of Leith Hill; and these two, with the feeders—also from the Leith Hill “massive”—which they have gathered on their way, form the “North River” of the Arun—*i.e.* the North Arun.

The large-scale (6-inch = 1 mile) Ordnance Survey of 1870-76 shows the course of the streams and of their feeders; and it does not attach any name until the union becomes “North River.”

Ogilby’s road-book *Britannia* applies the name Oke to the stream where it crosses the road at Oakwood Hill, and those of the eighteenth-century maps which attach any name at all<sup>1</sup> give the same spelling at the same spot—Bowen (*c.* 1750) alone extending the name to a little N. of Oakwood Mill—the Lindley and Crosley map having the modern “Oak” spelling.

The present writer has not been able to trace this name earlier than 1675, and the conclusion seems clear: that it is a back-formation from the name of Oakwood Hill; and its significance may be judged from the recorded spellings of this place-name, which are here appended:

Okwode: 1263 to 1339.

Ocwode: 1272 to 1361.

Okewood: 1539 to 1801 (many).

Ockwood and Ockewood: 1603 to *c.* 1654.

Oakwood: 1663 and later.

Oakewood: 1674-6-9.

The first element in the name Ok, Oc, Ock, and Oke appears in what were normal spellings at these dates of O.E. *ac*, and modern *oak*; and the modern spelling comes into use in the second half of the seventeenth century and gradually displaces the older “Oke” form. This is quite “according to Rule,” as Prof. Skeat used to say in such

<sup>1</sup> It is commonly shown without a name. In Manning and Bray (*History, Surrey*, II, 145) it is also anonymous: “Under Leith Hill another small stream, which rises in Abinger parish, runs by Oakwood Hill to the river Arun.” They add: “There is a considerable quantity of Wood-ground, both in coppice and timber, of oak, ash, beech, birch, and hazle.”

cases. The Oaktree is a very frequent element in English place-names. Oakwood Chapel and Oakwood Hill are in a thickly-wooded district in which the oak grows freely. The neighbouring Ockley, as its name-history shows very clearly, is also named from the oak, its first element retaining one of the most common of the mediæval spellings (*Ock*) which in most of the many other instances of the name has "moved with the times" to the current spelling, *i.e.* Oak(ley).

#### GIBBS BROOK, OXTED-CROWHURST.

From sources near Godstone and Titsey this brook divides the parishes of Oxted and Crowhurst before it unites with the Eden Brook (from springs near Felbridge and Horne) to feed the Kentish Medway. Mr. G. Leveson-Gower, F.S.A., in his paper on the place-names of Tandridge Hundred (*S.A.C.*, VI, p. 135; 1874), gives the following spellings from his own manorial records: *Gibbys Mede* in 1475, *Chepsbrooke* in 1513, *Gippes Brooke* in 1555, and "the river of Gippes" in 1577. "Gibbys Mede" refers to meadowland near the brook, and "Chepsbrooke" is the name of a road or way in 1513. Gibbys—as Mr. Leveson-Gower suggests—most probably was the name of a tenant or an owner.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H., Surr.*, IV, 274, quotes the sixteenth-century Gippes above, and in a footnote says: "Compare the Gipping at Ipswich, formerly Gippeswick." Ipswich was Gipeswic in the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" and other records of tenth to twelfth centuries, and Prof. Skeat, in his *Place-Names of Suffolk*, derives it from a personal name, *Gipi* (later *Gipe*), and O.E. *wic*, a dwelling. (See also *wic* in Prof. Mawer's *Chief Elements in English Place-Names*, p. 64.) The present river-name at Ipswich, Gipping, appears to be a back-formation.