

Surrey Collections.

SURREY ETYMOLOGIES.

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THE HUNDRED OF BLACKHEATH.

IN furtherance of the proposition entertained by the SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY of devoting a portion of the volumes of its "Collections" to local names, I now submit a short notice of some which occur in the Hundred of Blackheath, not doubting but that its omissions will be filled in by the communication of much additional and curious information by the possessors of old documents to which I may not have had access.

The following notices relate to the names of woods, manors, parishes, fields, and streams, together with those of persons, as they may occur in early grants and charters in the Domesday Survey, or in manorial rolls, deeds, leases, and parish registers.

The various ways in which the same name may have been written at different times will be given, and as often as can be in chronological order. The general considerations which may arise out of this inquiry, illustrative of our early local history, will be more advantageously gone into when the like notices of the several hundreds of the county shall have been completed.

As preliminary to this inquiry, it may be well to consider some of the circumstances which influence the forms which names take; such as, for instance, what happens now, and must in all times have happened, when local

names are adopted by an in-coming people speaking a different language.¹ The Romans did this; yet the original forms of the names they have transmitted can very generally be separated from their Latinized terminations. Again, a question which greatly concerns our present inquiry is,—how nearly do our local names, as they first occur in a written form, represent the sounds as they were spoken; in other words, what were the names? and who were the writers or clerks who took them down as they were pronounced? Proper allowance being made for such considerations, it will be seen that our local names, whether of places or persons, have undergone very little real change from times anterior to the Norman Conquest, though the variation in the spelling may apparently be great; and that neither is some antique mode of spelling, departing widely from that now in use, a difference such as to make one or other incorrect; nor is the modern form necessarily the truest,—rather, perhaps, it may be the least so.

The Saxon basis of our language has been maintained down to present times, both as to grammatical construction and in its sounds, by the great uneducated class; and hence, with respect to local names, the provincial style of pronunciation comes nearest to that of the times when such names were acquired or adopted. Hāse-cūm or Brāme-ley, considered with reference to derivation, and the sounds now given to those words, are far more correct than Hās-comb or Brāmley, as now pronounced by those who would not wish to be considered provincial, the mode of spelling being at every period merely the nearest adaptation of certain letters to certain sounds.

It has often been supposed, from the peculiar spelling of the names in the Domesday Survey, that they must have been sounded very differently then to what they are at present: but such may not have been the case. The points to be considered are the language of the Survey,

¹ There is hardly a single English county which does not possess its characteristic cluster of names, all constructed on the same type.—*Words and Places*, p. 478.

and who the clerks were who took down and compiled that record. They were probably Normans ; but whoever they may have been, we know both that the Latin of that day, and for a long time afterwards, was in this country pronounced in the Continental or Italian manner ; and we also know that the evidence taken was from persons belonging to each locality, or that, for this part of England, from Saxons.

It may be useful, for more explanations than this, to bear in mind that at the time of the Norman invasion the whole of the south-east of England in its language had become completely Saxonized, which is just the reverse of what had happened in France. At the time of Rollo (A.D. 912) the Northmen and the Saxons of England could understand one another, but at the time of the Norman invasion they could not : in the course of 150 years the Northman had Romanized his language.

Latin, as pronounced in England, in Normandy, in France generally, was in the way in which it had been acquired from the Romans themselves ; and, indeed, as the Italians pronounce it now,—it may nearly be said, as all European nations do, except ourselves. Thus *c* before *a*, *o*, *u* is hard, before *e* and *i* it is soft ; *a* is hard, *u* is soft, *e* more like our *a*, and *i* like our *e* : *k* is wanting in the Latin language. A few instances taken from the Surrey Domesday may serve to illustrate this,—that they are Saxon names, but spelt as an Italian would spell them now. Wanting the letter *k*, and substituting *ch*, Woking would be written Wochinges ; Stoke, Stoché ; Kent, Chent ; Buckland, Bocheland ; Kingston, Chingistun ; Bookham, Bocheham ; Mickleham, Michelham ; Dorking, Dorchinges ; Kirkfeld, Chirch-felde ; Betchworth, Beecword ; Chertsey, Certesege ; Chelsam, Celesham ; Chesington, Cesundun. By a scribe unacquainted with the *th*, Thornecroft would be written Tornecroft, as the nearest approach he could make. In many other cases the Domesday spelling accurately gives the pronunciation of the time. Wootton was written Odetun, because then, as now, *wood* was pronounced *ood*. In fact, an Italian scribe, taking down our local names, as they are now

given in the good old Saxon manner of West Surrey or Sussex, would write them very much as we meet with them in the Domesday Survey.

C before *e* being sounded as *ch*, Chilworth would be written Cilord; Fetcham, Feecham; Chelsam, Celesham; Cheam, Ceam. *C* before *i* being also *ch*, Chissington would be Cisendun, and Chivingten, Civentene.

BLACKHEATH HUNDRED.

BLAC-HED-FELD, BLAC-HET-FELLE (D.), BLACHAFELD, BLACKEHETH or BLEAK-HEATH-FIELD, from the broad expanse of barren heathy upland which this hundred presented in early times, before the introduction of the Scotch fir.

This hundred contained seven Saxon manors, out of which, either by the union of some or the subdivision of others, the several parishes have been formed, as follows:—

I. BRAMLEY ..	}	1. Bramley.
		2. Dunsfold.
		3. Hascomb.
		4. Wonersh.
II. CHILWORTH	}	5. St. Martha, or Saynt Marter.
III. TYTING ...		
IV. ALBURY		6. Albury.
V. SHEIRE . . .	}	7. Sheire.
VI. GOMMSHALL		8. Cranley.
		9. Ewhurst.
VII. SHALFORD .	}	10. Shalford.
		11. Allfold.

Or it may be said that Gommshall, in the first instance a very large holding, included Ewhurst, Sheire, Cranley, Albury; that Sheire and Cranley were first alienated, next Albury, and lastly Weston, or Western Gomm selle.

The several parishes of the hundred will be taken in the order as above, the letters *m*, *f*, *l*, when affixed to names, signifying manor, farm, lands.

1. BRAMLEY.

BRUNLIE, BRUMLEGE, BROLEGE (D.), BRUMLEI, BRAMELEI, BROMLE, BRUMLEGH, BRAMLE.

Derivation.—*Brembel, Bremel*, a bramble, A.-S.

BENBROC, BEMBRICK, *lands*.—George Benbric gave in 1683 certain lands in Shalford to the poor of St. Nicholas, Guildford. It is an old local personal name.

DANHURST, *m.*, also DANESWOOD.—At first probably from some Danish settler after the victory over Huda, A.D. 853. Later it became, and still is, a personal name. *Hoorst*, wood, B.

FRYTH-WOOD.—*Fryth*, A.-S., signifies a wood with a good deal of under-cover. Frith, in its original signification, means security from molestation, and hence came to mean any place, such as a thick underwood, affording shelter. The Normans, not understanding the term, applied it to underwood generally.

LA HALE.—*Hal* or *Hol*, A.-S., hole; stone-quarry.

HINCHCOMB, HYNCHES-COMB.—*Hengst*, A.-S., a horse; *Cym*, Celt.

HAM, HAMME, *m.*—*Hām*, A.-S., a residence.

MONKESLAND.

NORE, or NOWER, *f.* and *m.*—A projecting headland generally.

SLADE, *f.* and *l.*—*Sla*, A.-S., sloe or blackthorn.

SPRONKSLAND.—Personal name. *Spraunks* is still a local name in the Weald.

STAVOLDS, *hill* and *f.*; abbreviated from St. Avold?

SELHURST, *m.* (Wintershall since 1279).—From *Sale*, A.-S., a dwelling, and *Hurst, Hoorst*, Belgic, a wood. A *sell*, or *sele*, was a higher class residence as compared with a cottage.

SNOWDENHAM, or SNADNAM, *f.*

SCOTSLAND, *f.*, properly SCOT-LAND, or land subject to the payment of scot.

THORNCOMB, *f.* and *street*.—Valley with white-thorn. Thorn-

comb-street leads up to the small Roman camp on Hascomb-hill. *Deriv.* A.-S. and Celtic.

TANGLEY, *f.*, TANG-LEY.—Meadow with coarse grass —*Tang*, A.-S.

DUNSFOLD.

Not in Domesday Survey — a dismemberment from Bramley.

DUNTEFOLD, DUNTESFOLD, DOUNTESFOLD, DOMESFOLD.

Deriv.—*Dunc, Fold*, A.-S.

BARNING-FOLD, BURNEN-FOLD, BRUNYNGEFOLD, BRUNNING-WOLD, *reputed m.*

DAKERS, OR DACKHURST, *rep. m.*—*Hoorst*, B.

INNORNE.

LOXLEY, HIGH, *rep. m.*—A.-S. *Loca*, a sheepfold.

MONCKTON-HOOK.

MARKWICK.—*Wic*, A.-S., as a termination ; a residence.

RUSSELL, LITTLE.

SMITHBROOK, *m.*

WITHENFOLD, WITHERFOLD, A.-S., a fold fenced with live withies.

HASCOMB.

Not named in Domesday ; a subsequent dismemberment from Bramley.

Hāse-cūm gives the present local pronunciation.

Deriv.—*Hase*, A.-S., a hare ; *Cym*, Celt., valley.

WONERSH.

AGNERSH, LYNERSH, WONHERCH, WONHURSHE.

Won, the mole ; *Erse*, A.-S., a warren : mole-warren.

Not named in Domesday, at which time it was included in the manor of Bramley.

BEARLANDS, *f.*—*Byr, Bear, Bere*, A.-S. and Danish, high.

—These lands are situated on the slope of the high escarpment of the sand-range.

CHINTHURST, CHYNTHURST, CHYTEHURST. — ?—*Hurst*, B., wood.

HALLDERSH, ALDERSH, AVELDERSH.—A corruption of alder-ersh, or scrub, of which wood a good deal grows in these parts. *Aler*, A.-S., alder; *Ersh*, B.

LOSTIFORD.

NORLEY and NORCOT.—North mead and North cot, A.-S.

PLAWNKS, or PLAUNKS, *f. m.*—This, though a somewhat uncommon name here now, is very common in parts of Belgium, where it is *Planque*.

READ-HAM, READS-HOME.—From personal name.

ROWLEY, or ROUGH-LEY.

SHAMELEY, or SHIMLEY.

SMARTHAM, SMARTS-HOME.—Personal name.

STROUD.

TANGLEY.—*Tang*, sedge, and ley, A.-S.

UPFOLD—Common personal name.

WILLINGHAM.—The dwelling of the family of the Wills.

ST. MARTYR'S, OR ST. MARTHA'S.

CHILWORTH, CELORDE (Domesday), CHILORTH, *m.*—? *worth*, A.-S., a place, residence.

LENCHENER, or LOCHENER. — *Loca*, *Locen*, an enclosure, A.-S.; a place shut in.

LILLINGHAM.

TYTINGE.

TETINGES (Domesday).

Deriv.—*Teothing*, A.-S., a tenting or tithing, being the half of the parish subject to tithe.

ALBURY.

ALDBURY, ELDEBEREE (Domesday), ALDBURG, AULDBURY.

Deriv.—*Ald*, A.-S., old; *Burg*, habitation, from the

old British-Roman burg on Farley Heath. After the destruction of the old burg by fire, the inhabitants may have re-settled near the stream. Albury village has nearly disappeared: the old church marks the site.

NETHERNS OR NYTHERNS, NEOTHERA OR NYTHEA. — The further lands of the parish.

HEGESPETH.

TYTHIE, OR COLLYERS-HANGER. — Part of the wood belongs to the Rectory or Tythy of Albury.

WESTON, OR WESTERN, *f.* and *m.* — Formerly the western extremity of the great manor of Sheire.

SHEIRE, OR SHIRE.

SIRA, ESSIRA (Domesday), SCHYRE, SHYRE.

Mr. Manning supposes that La Vacherie, in Cranley, was the residence of the lord or owner of Cranley cum Sheire, because the dairy-farm in early days was always contiguous to the capital mansion. Vacherie certainly became a capital residence with a chapel attached; but this does not seem to have been till after its separation from Sheire, which was the designation of the Saxon as well as of the Norman lordship.

Scir, A.-S., to cut off; also *Scyr*, a shire, a district, have been taken as the derivation of the name of this parish, signifying the portion separated from Cranley. The older form of spelling, Sira and Essira, would indicate *Sire*, A.-S., dry; Shire parish, apart from Cranley, being a dry sandy tract.

Sheire was held by Edith as queen of Edward the Confessor.

Amongst the names of places in this parish are,—

CONEY HURST = CONY? *Hurst*, Belgic.

COTHULLS, COTOLIS, *f.*, from the early settlement there of a free settler. The place afterwards gave a local name—William Cothull, presented to the rectory

of Shire in 1374. Of this holding there were two divisions—East and West.

ELLYOTTS, or ALIOTS.—A common Surrey name from early times.

GOMSHALL, GOMMES HAL, *m.*—Gomm, as a personal name, occurs amongst those of owners in Domesday and earlier, and indicates that such was the name, before the Conquest, of the owner of this lordship.

GOMSHALL-NETLEY.—The west portion of the manor of Gommshall was granted, 23 Henry III., 1239, to the abbey of Netley, in the county of Southampton.

GOMSHALL LOWER HILL.—Portion of the manor held of the Tower of London.

HARRISTILES.

LONGCHENAR, or LORKENOR.—*Locen*, A.-S., enclosure.

LUSTHAM.

PADDINGTON.

POLLINGTON and POLLINGFOLD.

QUEENSHOLD.—Part of the manor of Shiere Ebor went as dower of the queens-consort, as late as Queen Catherine Howard, *temp.* Henry VIII.

SELESDEN.—*Sele*, A.-S., dwelling.

SOPELEY, or SOPPELEY.

SHIRE-VACHERY.

SHIRE-EBORUM, or EBORACUM.—Part of the manor of Shire lying in Cherte, from having been held by Richard, Duke of York, 1425, and after.

STAPELEY, or STAPELE.

WESTLAND.

CRANLEY.

Deriv.—In this parish is much low, wet ground, to which cranes would resort.

BAY-HURST.

BAYNARDS, *m.*

BROCKHURST, BROC-HURST, BADGER-WOOD.—The badger is

still living in some of the southern parishes of Surrey.

COLD-HARBOR, *f*.—A shelter station on the line of the Stane Street.

ELLIN, or ELLING.—*Ellen*, A.-S., the elder-tree; also a personal name.

GASON- or GARSON-GREEN.

HAMMER, *f*.—Site of old iron-works.

HOLT- or HOLDHURST.—*Holt*, A.-S., a wood; *Hurst*, *Hoorst*, Belgic, wood. Gave a family name from Edward III. to Henry VIII.

HOLBECK.—*Hol*, A.-S., hollow; *Bece*, brook, from the deep channels the streams cut in this parish—clay.

IFIELD, or IFOLD.—Qy. High, same as Up-fold.

IRONMONGERS.—Site of old iron-works.

KNOWLE, or KNOLE, A.-S., a low rounded hill.

LINACRE.—*Lin*, flax.

LANGHURST, or LONGEST.—*Lang*, long, A.-S.; *Hoorst*, Belgic, wood.

PARK, Celtic, enclosure, occurs very frequently in this and the adjoining lower parishes of the county; as, Hyde Park (on the heath), Old Park, New Park, Park-house, &c., and shows how the early Celtic population resorted to these places for summer pasture or autumn panage.

PALLINGHURST.—*Pal*, A.-S., a pale; *Hurst*, wood, where oak grew fit for pale-splitting.

REEDING-HURST, REDING-HURST.—*Read*, A.-S., red, from the colour.

SNOXALL, or SNOCKSHILL.

SPRAUT.

TOT-HILL.—*Toht*, A.-S., conflict. The site of a fight in the Saxon invasion.

TAN-HURST.—*Tan*, A.-S. adj., spreading; *Hurst*.

UTWORTH, or ODWORTH, *m*.—A detached or outer worth or wooded place of the original manor. It afterwards gave a local personal name

EWHURST.

The name does not occur in Domesday.

BREACHE, *m.* and *f.*

BREMBLE-HURST, *m.*—*Brembre* or *Bremel*, A.-S., bramble-bush.

CHERT, or CHURT.—A common tract in this and Sheire parish. This is a local name, to be met with in many parts of the south-east of England, for a kind of compact, flinty sandstone, and which occurs in parts of these two parishes, particularly along the ridge of hills overlooking the Weald.

CONEY-HURST.

POLLINGFOLD.—*Pollen*, A.-S., the plant “Nose-bleed.”

SOMERBURY, SOMERBERIE, a summer location for flocks.

SHALFORD.

SCALDEFOR (Domesday), SCHALDEFOR, SCHALDFORD, SCALDEFOR, SCAUDEFORD.

Deriv.—From the shallow ford across the Tillingbourne stream.

BUGGELE-FIELD, or BUGGELE DOWN, from the common plant of that name.

CHENLEHAM, CHENNELS-HOME.—A very old Surrey name.

OLD CROFT AT LA NYE.—*Croft*, A.-S., a small enclosed field.

LOTTINGHAM.—The abode of the Lotts.

PRATTESMEDDER, PRATTS-MEAD, from name of person.

LE PARK.—This designation always indicates the oldest enclosure of the parish, dating back to Celtic times.

REPPYNGE-HOH, or HAGH.—*Repheeng*, Sax., partridge.

VANHURST, corruption of WAN-HURST.—Wan is the common splinder-tree (*Euonymus Europæus*).

ALFOLD.

ALDFOLD, ALDEFOLD (usually pronounced as Awfold), is OLD-FOLD.

Not named in Domesday, at which date it was probably a thickly-wooded district. The manor of Shalford formerly extended into this parish.

ALFOLD-PARK, a word which occurs so frequently in the lower part of the county, means an enclosed place. In the Weald, as in the West of England, single fields are constantly so named. Aldfold Park, the principal enclosure, belonged to the manor of Shalford.

HOOK-STREET.—*Hoc*, A.-S., crooked. Hookwood, common name.

RICH-HURST, or RYKHURST, or HEDGE COURT, *m.*; sometimes called Sydney manor.

Deriv.—*Rykan*, butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*).

WILDWOOD, GREAT, *m.*