Nicholas de Estleche dictus le Tardif

A Couple of Hundred English Place-Names

11 July as55 ad2020

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What is Named?

Natural Features

- Rivers, Streams, Brooks,

- Mountains, Hills, Mounds

- Valleys

- Forests, Woods, Trees

- Glades, Clearings

What is Named?

Human Landscape

- Canals, Dykes, Ditches

- Barrows, Earthworks

- Mines, Quarries

- Woods, Copses, Orchards

- Fields, Meadows, Pasture, Enclosures

- Roads, Highways

What is Named?

Messuages, tenements, etc.

- Castles, Manors, Estates

- Farms

- Houses

- Inns, Shops

- Barns, Yards

- Streets

What is Named?

Civil, secular

- Hamlets, Villages

- Towns

- Hundreds

- Cities

- Counties

What is Named?

Ecclesiastical

- Chapels, Churches, Cathedrals

- Monastries, Nunneries

- Hospitals

- Parishes

- Dioceses

What is a Hundred?

An administrative district below that of a shire comprising a varying number of parishes.

Bibury was a tiny Hundred originally, later absorbed into the larger Hundred of Brightwell's Barrow.

Each Hundred had its own court and were grouped under the larger shire or county.

What is a Hundred?

No one really knows the origin of Hundreds or why they are so called. In what was Mercia they do seem to be about 100 hides in size, but this doesn't apply further south.

It may be to do with military service, or it may be to do with the number of inhabitants.

The name Hundreds is certainly of Anglo-Saxon origin.

What is a Hundred?

In the Danelaw parts of England the equivalent districts are called Wapentakes.

In Wales they are called Cantrefi, which are then subdivided into Cymydau, also called Commotes.

What is a Hundred?

Hundreds were largely abandoned in England and Wales in the 19th Century.

The concept was exported to the USA in the British founded colonies.

The State of Delaware, USA seems to be the only place that modernly still uses Hundreds as an administrative division.

Original Settlement Names

When?

Almost all names originate from the period between the withdrawal of Rome and the Norman Conquest, although corrupted over time.

A few names can be traced back to Roman times.

The Normans founded in excess of 125 planned towns, but they were named for pre-existing places, such as manors.

Original Settlement Names

Rivers

Usually at least one settlement named for it.

- Windrush (*Uuenrisc*) → Single village
- Leach (*Lecche*) → x4, 3 originally called just Leach
- Eastleach Martin, Eastleach Turville
- Northleach, Lechlade

Original Settlement Names

Landscape Feature

Natural or Man-made

- Windrush (*Uuenrisc*) → White Fen

- Sherborne (*Scireburn*) → Clear Stream

- Fairford (*Fagranforda*) → Fair/Clear Ford

- Hatherop (*Etherop*) → High Farmstead

- Deerhurst (*Deorhyrst*) → Wooded Hillock used by Deer

Original Settlement Names

Someone's Thing

Most names originate from the period between the withdrawal of Rome and the Norman Conquest.

The thing can be natural or man-made.

- Arlington (*Ælfredingtune*) → Ælfrēd's Farmstead

- Bibury (*Beagan byrig*) → Bēage's Burg

- Brightwells Barrow (*Brictwoldesberg*) → Beorhtwald's Hill

- Kempsford (*Cynemæres forda*) → Cynemǣr's Ford

Name Drift

Names drift with sound and accompanying written form, a process which I suspect is mutual.

They don't get a modern translation of an old word. They may get an unrelated word close to the sound.

- Gettinge le Poers → Guiting Power

Name Drift

Some generalizations:

- Ch → K

- Est → East

- -ec(c)h(e) → -each

Name Modifications

Usually to distinguish between what would otherwise be settlements of the same name.

Name Modifications

Addition of a Cardinal Direction

Relative to physical or administrative features.

- Southrop vs. Hatherop

- East Dean, West Dean vs. Little Dean

- Leach → Eastleach, Northleach

- The Leaches are named for their position within their Hundreds.

Name Modifications

Addition of a Local Feature

Either a generic term or the name of a specific feature.

- Bourton on the Water, Bourton on the Hill

- Moreton in Marsh

- Frampton on Severn

Name Modifications

Feature Redundancy

Some changes illustrate the loss of the original meaning.

- Clapton on the Hill →

    Hill Farmstead on the Hill

- Moreton in Marsh →

    Marsh Farmstead in the Marsh

Addition of a Saint

Almost always the patron saint of the local parish church. Over time, occasionally the 'Saint' is dropped.

- Ampney St. Mary, Ampney St. Peter

- Stanley → Stanley St. Leonard

    → Leonard Stanley

- Eastleach → Eastleach St. Martin

    → Eastleach Martin

Name Modifications

Addition of a Family Name

Usually from the local Norman lord, hence generally derived from locatives from other places. Sometimes temporary.

- Aston <u>Longchampe</u>, now Aston Blank
- Eastleach <u>Turville</u>
- <u>Cassey</u> Compton
- Guiting <u>Power</u> (Poer)
- <u>Meysey</u> Hampton

Name Modifications

Addition of a Given Name

Usually from the local lord, but in this case a specific individual. Sometimes temporary.

- Coln <u>Rogers</u>

- Eastleach <u>Cecilia</u>, now Eastleach Turville

Name Modifications

Meysey Hampton in more detail

- Hantone *DB*

- Hamtone Rogeri de M(o)eisi *1221 Ass*

- Hampton Meys(e)y *1243-1587*

- Meseishampton *1287 QW*

- Meyse(y)hampton *1437 Pat*

Name Modifications

Addition of an Organization

- Temple Guiting

Name Modifications

Addition of an Office

Sometimes temporary.

- Bishop's Cleeve

- Charlton Abbots

- Charlton Kings

- Clifford Chambers

- King's Stanley

Name Modifications

Addition of an Adjective (small set)

- Magna/Parva

- Great/Little

- Upper/Lower

- Chipping, Over, Wyck

Name Modifications

Aliases and Alternate Names

The usual pattern is for one of the above changes to be used at the same time as another, until one wins out.

- Eastleach Turville, Over Eastleach,
- Leach St. Andrew
- Occasionallym completely unrelated.
- Eastleach Martin → Bouthrop (from 1310)
- still locally Bouthrop Church and House

Sources

The Usual

- All the books in the Admin Handbook

- http://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXH

- Various articles

- All excellent, but not comprehensive

- Most were written prior to the internet

Sources

Having said that … still to be outdone

- The Place-Names of <County>

- by the English Place-Name Society

- A History of the County of <County>

- Large, multi-volume tomes, known as the Victoria County Histories

- https://www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/vch

Google Maps (or equivalent) … Yes, really.

If you have a sensible constructed name, or in many cases even a silly one, you will stand a high chance of finding it.

If you do, you can then focus a search back into period for references.

There are almost no completely new post-period names in England: even a new town will take a pre-existing local name. Generally only modified ones post-Conquest.

Sources

The National Archives, Kew, London

- The Discovery Catalogue

- https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

- The search engine covers not jus TNA, but also all the county archives. Many entries are not normalized, obvious when both document and normalized name are given.

- Some digitized series, especially SC 8.

Spelling

There was no standard spelling.

It was unimportant in period: in the SCA we worry about it too much, for English at least. You will see spelling change within documents and even within sentences.

Spelling is generally phonetic, but it does seem in many cases to be out of area scribes coping with names as pronounced by locals.

Spelling

Spaces are optional

- Brictwoldesberg ⟷ Bricthwolde bergh

- West Dean ⟷ Westdene

- Wyck Rissington ⟷ Wikeresindon

- Eastleach Turville ⟷ Est Lecch Turvill

  ⟷ Leccheturvill

Spelling

Terminal 'e' comes and goes

- Eastleach Turvill(e)

- Aldesworth(e)

- Often also applies to internal syllables.

- Lech(e)lad(e)

- Fair(e)ford(e)

Spelling

Double consonants

- Estlec(c)he Turvil(l)e

- Kem(m)ysford

- Hatherop(p)

- Bar(r)ington

Spelling

Letter substitutions

a/e, i/y, ch/k, u/v

- Haythrop, Heythrop / Astleche. Estleche
- Ailwin, Ailwyn, Aylwin, Aylwyn
- Chenemeresforde, Kenemeresforde
- Quenington, Qvenington / Mortun, Mortvn

Spelling

Letter substitutions

Wider combinations

- M<u>ore</u>ton, M<u>oor</u>ton, M<u>our</u>ton

- M<u>or</u>ton, M<u>ur</u>ton

- N<u>ew</u>ton, N<u>eu</u>ton

- Alb<u>er</u>ton, Alb<u>ir</u>ton

- F<u>ai/y</u>reford, F<u>ei/y</u>reford

Coteswold

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