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• CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

• ABBREVIATIONS OF FREQUENTLY-CITED WORKS, SOURCES AND ARCHIVES

CDEPN	V.E. Watts, *Cambridge dictionary of English place-names* (CUP, forthcoming 2002)
DB	*Domesday book*
DEPN (Ekwall)	Eilert Ekwall, *Dictionary of English place-names* (-4 (OUP, 1960) unless other edition flagged)
DEPN (Mills)	A.D. Mills, *Dictionary of English place-names* (-1 (OUP, 1991), -2 (1998))
EPN	Kenneth Cameron, *English place-names* (-5 (Batsford, 1996))
EPNE	A.H. Smith, *English place-name elements* (EPNS vols. 25/26, 1956)
EPNS	English Place-Name Society
ESRO	East Sussex Record Office
JEPNS	*Journal of the English Place-Name Society*
Lf	*Locus focus*
LPN	M. Gelling and A. Cole, *The landscape of place-names* (Shaun Tyas, 2000)
OED	*Oxford English dictionary* (-2 (1989))
PN X	*The place-names of county X*; EPNS volume
PN Sx (Roberts)	R.G. Roberts, *The place-names of Sussex* (CUP, 1914)
PN Sx (Glover)	Judith Glover, *The place names of Sussex* (-2 (Countryside Books, 1997))
PNIL	Margaret Gelling, *Place-names in the landscape* (Dent, 1984)
SAS	Sussex Archaeological Society
STP	Margaret Gelling, *Signposts to the past* (-2 (Phillimore, 1988))
TA	Tithe award
VCH X	*Victoria history of county X* (Sussex if unspecified)
VEPN	D. Parsons, T. Styles, with C. Hough, *The vocabulary of English place-names* (Centre for English Name Studies, 1997-, appearing by fascicle)
WSRO	West Sussex Record Office
-0	an edition-flag (e.g. *STP*-2, second edition of *STP*)

Main relevant local periodicals and series:

SAC	*Sussex Archaeological Collections*
SASNL	*Sussex Archaeological Society Newsletter*
SFH	*Sussex Family Historian*
SH	*Sussex History*
SNQ	*Sussex Notes and Queries*
SPP	*Sussex Past and Present* (successor to *SASNL*)
SRS 0	*Sussex Record Society* volume, with volume number
WSH	*West Sussex History*

• EDITORIAL

I have the unusual duty of informing local readers that they live in a place with two names which they might not have known before. Contrary to popular belief, we are in the Garden of England, along with Kent, because the new system for car registration marks recognizes Kent and Sussex as an area to be coded G ...., which is mnemonic - nothing more - for this term. Michael Leppard has also drawn my attention to the fact that in some planning circles we form part of Roseland; scarcely to be admitted without squirming that this is partly acronymic for *The Rest of South-East England.*

It would have been good to report that the application by Richard Coates and David Parsons (University of Nottingham) for a large grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) to continue the pilot database of south-eastern place-names, including those of Sussex, had been successful, but it was not. They have resubmitted the application for the 2002 round of grants, and live in hope; the decision will come in about May. Paul Cullen, who would have been employed on this project if it had gone ahead, is now a research fellow on the very important long-term project "The vocabulary of English place-names" running under David Parsons, and also funded by the AHRB.

Locus focus has benefited from some very interesting contributions over its five-year history, but there are signs that the flow may be drying up. Please, **Net** members, actualize your undoubted onomastic interests in articles, notes and queries for future issues, and persuade your learned Sussex-friendly friends to do so too. There are welcome contributions on this occasion from previous contributors Margaret Thorburn and Carole Hough and from new spnn@cogs contact Martin Blake. Thanks also to Michael Leppard for many items of information which pepper these pages anonymously.

Richard Coates
Editor

From the newspapers

The antique-dealer Billy Boyle (1915-2001), who ran a stall at various places in Brighton during his long career, will be commemorated in *Boyles Lane* in Princes Terrace, Kemp Town, built on land owned by his son Richard (*Argus* 25/05/2001).

• NOTICEBOARD: LITERATURE, THE WEB, NEWS, EVENTS

• RECENT LITERATURE

□ Abbreviations in references: see *Locus focus* 1 (3), 2, and above, pp. 1-2.

□ Items in previous issues of *Locus focus* are not listed.

Thanks are due to Paul Cullen, Michael Leppard, Geoffrey Mead, John Pile and Bill Richardson for supplying information and/or copies of writings.

Blake, Martin (2000) *... et fontem in ea a Romanis mire olim constructum ...*: the linguistic background of sub-Roman Britain, and Anglo-Saxon place-names incorporating the Latin loan-word *funta.* Dissertation for the degree of MA, University of Nottingham. [See Q5.2.1 in this number.]

Brook, Anthony (2000) The West Sussex topographic toponym *rife* and its landscape significance. *WSH* 65, 22-31. [About *rife*, with some mistaken philology; cf. Pile (2001) below for published correction.]

Combes, Pam (2001) Essential Saxon Sussex. [Review of S.E. Kelly *Anglo-Saxon charters VI: charters of Selsey* Oxford: Oxford University Press for the British Academy (1998).] *SPP* 95 (December), 12.

Cullen, Paul. See Warne, Heather.

Farrant, John, with the assistance of others (2001) *Sussex depicted: views and descriptions 1600-1800.* Lewes: SRS 85 (centenary volume). [Not generally relevant to place-naming, though the author comments in the introduction on John Norden's etymological speculations, there is scattered information about house- and other namings and name-changes, and there is much else of topographical interest. Review in a later issue of *Lf.*]

Kay, John E. (2001) The Broyle enclosure, 1767-71. *SAC* 138, 165-89. [Contains much of topographical interest, and something on the origin of some holdings in Ringmer and adjacent parishes.]

Leppard, M.J. (2001) East Grinstead hundred in 1579. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 73 (Spring), 5-10 [including maps]. [Deals with the hundred boundaries and identifies the land of tithings of other hundreds within East Grinstead.]

Leppard, M.J. (2001) What was going on here then? *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 74 (Autumn), 5-6. [Some topographical detail of the late medieval and early modern town of East Grinstead, with information on house-names.]

Leppard, M.J. (2001) East Grinstead hundred, 1579 and 1564. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 74 (Autumn), 8-10. [Deals with a survey antecedent to the one in the last item but one, with interesting spellings of local place-names.]

Leppard, M.J. (2001) Final stress. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 74 (Autumn), 7. [On the eighteenth-century pronunciation of *Coodham* or *Cowden* in Worth parish.]

Martín Díaz, M. Auxiliadora (2000-1) A two-fold development for Old English *æ* in 12th- and 14th-century Kentish place-names. *JEPNS* 33, 21-54. [Of some significance for the dialectology of (East) Sussex; author regrettably unaware of Paul Cullen's dissertation (1997).]

Pile, John (2001) Rithes, rifes and lakes: another view of the toponymy of the West Sussex coastal plain. *WSH* 67, 16-17. [Critical reply to Brook (2000; see above) on some linguistic aspects of his claims.]

Richardson, W.A.R. (2000-1) The Owers, *Les Ours*, *Weembrug* and 'The Old City': place-names, history and submarine archaeology. *JEPNS* 33, 55-114. [Very substantial study of the offshore names of the Selsey Bill area, as represented mainly on non-English maps and charts.]

Rosset, Audrey and Henry Daniels (2000-1) Mixing and matching: a study of the Woking street- namestock. *JEPNS* 33, 115-46. [A model analysis of the generics and specifiers used in the street-names of this modern Surrey town.]

Thorburn, Margaret (2001) An account of the manor of Hyde. [Available at SAS Library, Barbican House, Lewes.]

Warne, Heather (2001) Section 15: The historical and documentary evidence (with a subsection 15.5 The place-name evidence, by Paul Cullen). In Chris Butler and Malcolm Lyne, *The Roman pottery production site at Wickham Barn, Chiltington, East Sussex.* Oxford: Archaeopress (BAR British series 323).

Worvell, Kath (2001) The two Ferring charters. *WSH* 67, 41-6. [Discussion of the topography of S48, S1178. See also note N5.2.1 in this number of *Lf.*]

• WEB RESOURCES

http://www.abcounties.co.uk/

"The Association of British Counties (ABC) is a society dedicated to promoting awareness of the continuing importance of the 86 ancient or geographical (traditional) Counties of Great Britain. ABC believes that the Counties are an important part of the history, geography and cultural life of Great Britain. ABC contends that Britain needs a fixed popular geography, one divorced from the ever changing names and areas of local government but, instead, one rooted in history, public understanding and commonly held notions of cultural identity. ABC, therefore, seeks to fully re-establish the use of the Counties as the standard popular geographical reference frame of Britain and to further encourage their use as a basis for social, sporting and cultural activities." This website has a gazetteer of 50,000 entries consisting of place-names attributed to the traditional counties (http://www.abcounties.co.uk/newgaz/index.htm).

http://www.englishplacenames.co.uk/index.html

The owner of this website, James Rye of King's Lynn, offers to interpret English place-names for you at £2 a throw, with bulk discount. The Editor has not quality-controlled this site.

http://password.lion.chadwyck.co.uk

This new web resource, only temporarily available gratis, is the subject of Richard Coates' article on pp. 15-25 of this issue.

• NEWS

Paul Cullen gave a talk on place-names to Chichester and District Archaeological Society on 24/10/2001.

• FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Sussex Archaeology Symposium 2002 meets at the University of Sussex, 16/03/2002, with papers *inter alia* on the Barcombe villa, Rocky Clump (Stanmer) and the Bishopstone valley.

The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland meets at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 05-08/04/2002.

The 21st International Congress of Onomastic Sciences meets in Uppsala, Sweden, 19-24/08/2002. [Richard Coates hopes to contribute.]

• INTERXCHANGE: NOTES, QUERIES AND RESPONSES

• NOTES

David Padgham

N5.2.1 A bath in East Sussex

In a recent lecture in Lewes (30/03/2001), Paul Cullen spoke of the OE word *bæð* as a possible indicator of Roman-period activity. *VCH* (IX: 278) records the bridge and mill of *Iltunesbeth*, later *Tyltonesbathe* - the site of Sedlescombe bridge, with the land on the north bank and east of the Roman road, given to Battle Abbey in the early 12th century. Thorpe's catalogue of Battle Abbey charters (1835: 45) records the deeds which are discussed in detail by Lucey (1978: 93). I previously thought this was a mill-pool, but apart from the Roman road there is the Roman bathhouse at Beauport, 3km south!

○ *References*

Lucey, Beryl (1978) *Twenty centuries in Sedlescombe.* London: Regency Press.
Thorpe, Thomas (1835) *Muniments of Battle Abbey.* Privately published.

□□□

Pam Combes

N5.2.2 The lost Werdon/Wardoune *[OE* weard-dūn *'watch hill'] in Bishopstone*

Werdon 1218-22 (SRS 46, no. 206)
Wardoune 1329 (SRS 46, no. 1076)

The first reference concerns a windmill built on *Werdon* next to the watermill within the manor of Bishopstone. The second concerns an area of marshland lately reclaimed form the sea. The *Newmersch* extends: southwards to *Wardoune* northwards to the down which extends to the house of Mauger de la Wykes, andwestward to the river which goes to *Seford.* It was suggested in the report on the excavations at Rookery Hill, Bishopstone, that Rookery Hill might be the *Wardoune* (Bell 1977: 249), but that does not make any sense of the abutments noted above. If the reclaimed marsh lay in the tidal inlet leading from the (then) mouth of the river Ouse at Seaford to Bishopstone, the down in question could have been the headland between Bishopstone and Blatchington, Hawth Hill (1911, OS 6"). That in turn suggests the possibility that the watermill, to which the windmill on *Werdon* lay adjacent, was in fact an early tidemill. Whether the waterway there could be described as "the river which goes to Seford" does present a slight problem, but by and large, if the abutments recorded were correct, Hawth Hill (*Hoath Hill* 1777 ESRO MS. AMS 5579) at TQ 470999 is a better bet for the 'watch hill' than Rookery Hill. Have readers any other views?

○ *Reference*

Bell, Martin (1977) Excavations at Bishopstone. *SAC* 115 (special number).

□□□

Richard Coates

N5.2.3 Walwer's Lane*, Lewes*

It has long been a settled matter that Walwer's Lane takes its name from (the family of) a medieval Lewes MP, William le Walewere, who is said to have lived there (Davey 1970: 59). He was member in 1319 and in 1323-4, and was taxed here in the 1296 subsidy.

However, it should not be a settled matter that his name means 'the builder of walls', as Mr Davey would have us believe. There is no warrant for this spelling to be an early one for *waller* in the relevant sense or for *wallwright.* The real options are:

> (1) it means *wallower*, for which it is precisely formally correct Middle English. What would that mean? Either it is an uncomplimentary comparison with pigs, or it foreshadows the use of *wallow* in the sense 'trundle (something rounded) along' (in which case the 17th- century references to the street as *Carters Lane* are a teasing coincidence). It seems to be far too early for an application of the millwrights' term *wallower* 'horizontal gearwheel at top of the upright shaft taking drive directly from the brake wheel' (Singleton 1999), recorded only from 1548 (*OED*-2).
>
> (2) it is a borrowing of the Old (Norman-)French word *walour* 'coxcomb', 'man of pleasant temper' (Reaney and Wilson 1991: 474). But that is much less likely in view of the typical spellings elsewhere in England for this name *Gallear*, *Gallier*, etc., where the final syllable is structurally wrong and the forms found all have central French initial <g> and not Norman <w>.

McKinley (1988) does not help us. The name does not appear in Fransson's study of occupational surnames (1935) or any other study I know, but it still exists.

If the transmitted form of the surname with *le* were an error (it is there in 1296 and absent in 1327 (SRS 10)), one might suggest (3) that it perpetuated the personal name *Walward* seen in e.g. that of Walward de Wadehurst who held land in Apuldram before 1229 (Peckham 1939: 153). But the match is far from perfect even though a case could be made, On balance, explanation (1) is the most satisfactory, even if we cannot settle exactly what the import of the name was.

- *References*

Davey, L.S. (1970) *The street-names of Lewes* (first edition). Lewes: Lewes Borough Council.

Fransson, Gustav (1935) *Middle English surnames of occupation.* Lund: Gleerup (Lund Studies in English 3).

McKinley, Richard (1988) *The surnames of Sussex.* Oxford: Leopard's Head Press (English Surnames series 5).

Peckham, W.D. (1939) The house of William Ryman. *SAC* 80, 149-64.

Reaney, P.H. and R.M. Wilson (1991) *A dictionary of English surnames* (third edition). London: Routledge.

Singleton, Tony (1999) Glossary of windmill terms.
http://www.argonet.co.uk/users/tonysing/Union/Gloss.htm.

□□□

Pam Combes

N5.2.4 Sandore *in Sutton identified and justified*

Part of the manor of Sutton which lies adjacent to Seaford in Flexborough Hundred became known as *Sandore Sutton.* The name *Sandore* is recorded as "lost" (*PN Sx* 364). It is recorded in 1624 on the landward slope of Seaford Head at about TQ 494985 (ESRO MSS. ACC SEA 688 and 689). Viewed from the site of the settlement of Sutton, the hill is a perfect *ōra* (*LPN* 201). Anyone travelling south from Alciston or Alfriston through Sutton would have been able to locate Seaford harbour, or the river mouth, by recognising the Sandore. Remnants of Woolwich Beds on the ridge probably give rise to the *sand* element of the name (see Gardiner 1995: 192).

○ *Reference*

Gardiner, Mark (1995) Aspects of the history and archaeology of medieval Seaford. *SAC* 133, 188-212.

□□□

Margaret Thorburn

N5.2.5 Velvats Furlong*, Kingston near Lewes*

In her thesis (1977: 60), Sue Farrant writes of improved wheats, one of which is called *velvit ear* in the late 18th century, and possibly this explains *Velvats furlong* on William Figg's map of 1799 (ESRO MS. ADA 51, ff. 24v and 25 (map), 28 (schedule); this is a 1799 copy of one by Marchant). An earlier survey of 1567 for Thos. Michell calls the furlong *Bellshours.* It is near the springline.

○ *Reference*

Farrant, Sue (1977) The role of landowners and tenants in changing agricultural practice in the valley of the river Ouse south of Lewes (Sussex), 1780-1930, and the consequences for the landscape. Dissertation for the degree of PhD, University of London. [TS. available at ESRO.]

□□□

Passing interest

Leslie Oppitz, in his *Lost railways of Sussex* (Newbury: Countryside Books (2001)), retrieves some curiosities of naming of a type which don't normally get into the place-name literature. He mentions crossings of the Horsham-Billingshurst line called *Rats Bottom* and *Frogshole Footpath*, and a bridge called *Pot Porridge* - or, apparently indifferently, *Porridge Pot - Bridge* (52). Presumably because it recalls a Sussex place-name type so easily, the surname of Dr Richard Beeching, whose plan of 1963 decimated the railway system, has been drafted in as a street-name more than once: there is Beeching Way in East Grinstead (21, 70) and Beechings in Henfield (48-9), both on former railway sites, to which we may add Beeching Road in Bexhill.

• QUERIES

□ If readers respond directly to the person making the enquiry, please would they also send a copy to the Editor?

Q5.2.1 Funta *in Sussex* (Martin Blake)

Martin Blake (MBlake1506@aol.com) was at the time of the inquiry a student on the MA in Viking and Anglo-Saxon Studies at the University of Nottingham, which he has now completed successfully (see • Recent literature).

This was originally an exchange conducted through spnn@cogs.susx.ac.uk .

As part of my dissertation, I am looking at the corpus of *funta* names, and have taken a particular interest in the collection of such names in Hampshire and Sussex. There are in fact a couple of the Sussex names which I am having difficulty with, and which I was rather hoping you may be able to shed some light on:

1. *Funtewade*, a lost place-name in West Wittering apparently referred to in a Chichester Diocesan Register of 1380, and quoted in the EPNS volume under the entry for Funtington. On the surface, this looks like *funta + (ge)waed*; if so, then given the topography of West Wittering, and the significance of the second element, presumably *funta* must here be used in the sense of 'stream' rather than 'spring'.

2. *Fontwell*, which doesn't seem to be mentioned anywhere. I don't know if it's a genuine original name or not; *prima facie* it looks like a tautological compound, but if so it's strange that it's been totally ignored.

○ **Richard Coates** *replies:*

I know of no evidence for *funta* = 'stream' (see *LPN* 17-18). *Funtewade* is very hard to get a handle on, as is *Funtington.* I have discovered that there exists a street in West Wittering, Sussex, called *The Wad.* I have no information about its origin, except that it is post-1800. But it's natural to infer that it continues a local minor place-name. The street is adjacent to a stream which one needs to cross to get to the church. It is easy to fill in the speculation that gets me backwards from this point to *Funtewade.*

As for Fontwell, it is unknown whether the name is ancient or not. It looks like 'spring amounting to a *funta* or called *Funta*', or 'stream fed by a *funta*,', but I can't add any more. As for whether it is tautological, if so it is in the sense 'spring', not 'stream', as I have just implied when talking about *Funtewade.*

A subsidiary problem is of course the differing pronunciation of the element (if that's what it is) in the two names. If ancient, *Fontwell* might be a spelling-pronunciation for a ME spelling with <o> meaning /u/ before <n>. It's a pity there are no medieval spellings to give this speculation some substance.

○ **Tim Hudson** *adds:*

For what it's worth, *Fontwell* occurs as a place-name on a map of 1630 - the earliest reference I could find (*VCH* V (1): 228; the "cf." reference there is to a map of 1756).

○ **Christopher Whittick** *adds:*

I have nothing to suggest for the West Sussex names but would add *Conifunte* in Guestling, an element of the endowment of the almoner of Battle Abbey at Maxfield in that parish. It was clearly more than a field as there was a "wood of *Kunifunte*". John le Funtener was one of the abbey's regular charter-writers in the 13th century, but that has nothing to do with Guestling or indeed place-names. I can supply detailed references if anyone is interested.

□□□

Q5.2.2 Stanmer an old wick? (Pam Combes)

Between 1700 and 1712 when the Pelhams were leasing the manor of Stanmer from the Gott family, the manor was described as *Stammer als Stanmer als Audewick* (varr. *Audewicke, Audewyke, Audwyke*; ESRO MS. SAS/A395). Is there any earlier documentation of the latter name?

□□□

Q5.2.3 Lizards in the Low Weald? (Richard Coates)

Can anyone give a context for *Goanah Farm*, just east of Petworth, which appears to contain *goanna* 'Australian monitor lizard'?

From the newspapers

The *Argus* of 10/05/2001 reported that residents of The Bricky, a close of council houses in Peacehaven, has petitioned to change the name to *Field View Close*, on the grounds that the older name didn't sound proper - it was common, in fact - and that the name was still tainted by the activities of former residents. The historian of Peacehaven, Bob Poplett, was not impressed. "Those people who want it changed," he said, "have no sense of history." It was Mr Poplett who created the name. It alluded to the nearby pits from which the clay to make the bricks which raised the earliest Peacehaven was dug.

offcentre

Pam Combes has found traces of an unusual amount of fairy activity in Flexborough hundred. She notes:
Mabbelande (1564) (later annotation, not dated, *Mabland*). Exact position unknown; lying near Meeching, but claimed to be in the manor of Bishopstone; possibly land enclosed by the shingle bar (ESRO MS. SAS/A596)
Merlins Pits (1624) in the manor of Sutton near Seaford
Puckland Furlong (1624), also in Sutton (ESRO MSS. SEA 688 & 689 and SAS/M380)
Puck Church (*c.*1881), gap in cliff between Seaford Head and Hope Gap
Pucks Parlours (*c.*1881), caves on either side of the gap (in *A Seaford sketchbook: the drawings of H.H. Evans, 1849-1926.* Seaford: Seaford Museum)

• QUICK RESPONSES TO QUERIES AND ARTICLES

R5.2.1 Lost places in Pett, Icklesham and Bexhill [ref. Q4.1.9 (Paul Cullen)]

David Padgham has recovered or located in the literature the following items:

BEXHILL:

Bexhill Museum has an alphabetical index to PNs on the tithe map, which has enabled me rapidly to pinpoint the following names.

Bedwell Field(s): parcels 1026/7 at TQ 719097, east of High Woods.

Pound Field: a group including parcels 78 and 99, south of the A259 on Barnhorne Manor centered on TQ 694077. This reminded me of a paper by Peter Brandon (1971), esp. fig. 1 facing page

78. From the Battle Abbey records *c.*1400 he plotted *Pondelonde*, *Ponden* and *Pondfold*, which coincide with the Pound Fields. *Pondelonde*, the field nearest the road, at the top of the slope, still has earthworks which best resemble stewponds and it is safe to say this is not a furnace pond from its location as there is no flowing water. So Pound Field was not a manor pound but a pond.

Northeye is, as pointed out by Christopher Whittick [Q4.1.9], the recent name of the open prison (now disused), but only by transference. The original Northeye was "The Liberty of the Sluice" of the Cinque Port of Hastings by 1229, a DMV and seaport in Pevensey Marsh in TQ 682071 - it is marked as an antiquity on maps including the new OS Explorer, and also named as *Chapel Bank.* The church was excavated by schoolboys in 1938 and the street pattern is still visible.

Southeye was another of the seven islands in Pevensey Marsh - the one now called Rockhouse Bank at TQ 677057, near Normans Bay Station in the extreme south-west of Bexhill parish. ESRO map ACC/1745 (ref. from copy in Bexhill Museum) defines its limits as part of the Manor of Buckholt.

Birchington is presumably the estate known in the 19th century as *Birchington House* in Collington Lane, now redeveloped as *Birchington Close* at TQ 717076.

This, I think, completes the identifications of all the Bexhill locations.

ICKLESHAM:

Cleeve Axe - on TA map, below the old sea cliff (almost the same place as Fother Marsh). It consists of two parcels numbered, I think 513 and 515 - my copy of the map is unclear - on the southern boundary with Pett, at TQ 894155 and 897157.

PETT:

Fother Marsh - see *VCH* IX: 177; there was a manor of Fother-Marsham, which survives in part as Marsham Farm in Fairlight. A lately deceased local resident Zoe Vahey published in 1991 her own booklet, *A history of Pett*, and stated from her local knowledge that "Fothre/Foder/Fodr Manor lay in the marsh [Pett Level] between Wickham Cliff and Winchelsea Beach. A spring below Carters Farm [Pett] was probably the site of Fothre Manor before the inundation of the 13C".

○ *References*

Brandon, P.F. (1971) Agriculture and the effects of floods and weather at Barnhorne, Sussex, during the late Middle Ages. *SAC* 109, 69-93.
Vahey, Zoe (1991) *A history of Pett.* Privately published.

□□□

R5.2.2 How many syllables in Lewes*? more evidence accumulates* [ref. article in *Lf* 3.1, 18-20 (Coates), N3.2.3 (Whittick, Coates and Leppard), and R4.2.1 (Combes, Pennington and Whittick)]

Richard Coates adds:

I mean *accumulation* as book-dealers use the term, as distinct from *collection.* This is just to note a further piece of evidence to add to the randomly-discovered pile which will help build towards an eventual scientific account of the question; that will have been a real team effort.

In *A compendious Register in Metre* (1559) by Thomas Brice (d. 1570), a verse celebration of the Marian martyrs available on LION (see article by Richard Coates on pp. 15-25 below), the name of Lewes is mentioned twice, as *Lewes* (line 188) and as *Lues* (line 251). The spellings clearly suggest (but do not prove) a disyllabic pronunciation, especially if the latter is trading on the Latin word *lues* 'plague; calamity'. The metrical arrangement proves disyllabicity (188) or suggests it (251):

187 Whe Whod the pastor, wt Thomas Milles
188 At Lewes lost, this mortall gayne
189 Compast with speares, & bloudye bylles
190 Unto the stake, for to bee slayne
191 When William Adheral, did die the death
192 We wishte for our, Elizabeth.

247 Whe Willia Mainarde, his maide & man
248 Margery Mories, and her sonne
249 Denis Burges, Steuens, & Wodman
250 Gloues wife & Ashdons, to death wer don
251 Whe one fyre at Lues, brought to the deth
252 We wishte for our, Elizabeth.

(NB the evidently missing macrons and other diacritics are absent in the text from which the quotation is taken.)

□□□

R5.2.3 A Coquer lugg [ref. Q5.1.5 (Janet Pennington)]

Carole Hough, Lecturer in English Language School of English and Scottish Language and Literature, University of Glasgow, replies:

Possibly of interest in connection with Q5.1.5 is the term *cockwater*, where the single citation of the sense 'a stream of water brought in a trough, through a long pole, in order to wash out the sand of the tin ore into the launder, while it is bruising in the coffer of a stamping mill' recorded in the *OED* from 1753 is pre-dated by an occurrence in a Nottinghamshire street-name from 1395 (*PN Notts* 16, under *Cheapside*). Perhaps this might suggest that *cocker* 'culvert, drain' had a wider currency than is implied by Parish/Hall (1957: 23).

○ *Reference*

Parish, W.D., augmented by Helena Hall (1957) *Dictionary of the Sussex dialect.* Bexhill: Gardner's.

□□□

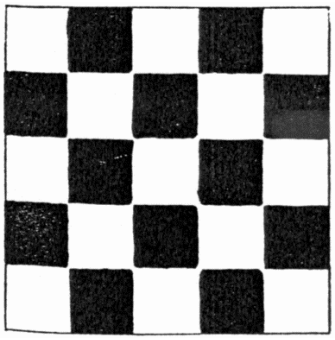
R5.2.4 Knockhundred Row, Midhurst [ref. Q1.3.3 (Richard Coates)]

Richard Coates cannot quite provide the final answer to his original query, but has come to believe that the origin of this name may lie in the expression *to knock under* 'to succumb in a drinking-bout' (see *OED*-2 under *knock*, v., 5 (c) and 17). The expression seems to have arisen in the later 17th century in the form *to knock under the board/table*, and to have been popular in the abbreviated form, which also came to mean generally 'to give in, yield, acknowledge someone else's superiority'. It would be good to know whether the proximity of the Angel in North Street is enough to account for the name or whether there were also alehouses around this point. The modern name is presumably due to folk-etymology, but a date for its first appearance in the record, and any evidence confirming the suggested older name, would be welcome - the street is not mentioned in *PN Sx.*

These notes may make sense of the following exchange from ch. 44 of Scott's *The Heart of Midlothian* (1818):

"…. Pray may I be so bold as to ask, if it is the fashion for your North country gentlemen to go to church in your petticoats, Captain Knockunder?"

"Captain of Knockdunder, madam, if you please, for I knock under to no man …."



Richard Coates

Biohchandoune *in Ferring charter S1178/ Kelly 13*

The name *Biohchandoune* occurs in a land-grant of Ealdwulf, *dux* of the South Saxons, to bishop Wehthun for the church of St Andrew at Ferring; the date of the "fundamentally authentic" grant is probably 791 (Kelly 1998: 56-7), and the MS. dates from the latter part of the 14th century. The grant is Kelly's no. 13 and it is no. 1178 in Sawyer's list. *Biohchandoune* is the place at which the transaction was effected. Kelly reasonably believes it is identical with the *biohhan dun* which was associated with an estate at *Derantune*, now plausibly identified with Durrington, although a Kentish location, Darenth, has been touted in the past (Kelly 1998: 57). This is generally believed to have been a swinepasture, but although the Durrington charter of 934 (S 425; Barker 1948: 150-62) lists 18 places as *den bæra* 'swinepastures', of which *biohhan dun* is one, not all are self-evidently pastures, to judge by their names; for instance, *prentsan hlaw* is an expression describing a barrow, *eofor sol* a wallow, *hudelinga scydd* an impermanent building, *ðyrran mere* a pond and *wæter ðorn* a tree. The name that concerns us need not therefore have originally named a swinepasture. If it is identical with *Biohchandoune* its status as a swinepasture is even more doubtful, since that was a place suitable for an assembly convened for official business including the issuing of a grant, and described as "in monte" 'on a hill' in S1178, as its name also appears to indicate.

This name (assuming that both forms denote the same place) has defied satisfactory explanation, and I shall only briefly rehearse the failed attempts so far. It is certainly not the chapel of Buncton, formerly a detached part of Ashington but locally on a hillock in Wiston, as suggested by Blaauw (1856: 185), because the medieval spellings for this place do not tally with the two OE spellings we have seen above (*PN Sx* 244). Neither can be taken as containing the OE word for 'birch', *beorc.*

However, a solution is possible provided that one phonological difficulty can be cleared up, though it will probably be controversial.

Let us start from late British **Biccanodūnos* 'small fort'. This would yield early Brittonic (the form current around 500 A.D.) **Biccanðīn.* It is a well-known feature of Old English names borrowed from Primitive Welsh and containing the element meaning 'fort' that they tend to substitute the word *dūn* 'down', as in *Dunterton* and *Dunchideock* (Devon) and *Dunkerton* and *Dunkery* (Somerset). Considering also the other names in Sussex containing this element and thus available to serve as analogies, including of course *The Downs*, a similar substitution here would be unsurprising. Alternatively, the appearance of [u:] in OE may simply be a sound-substitution for Brittonic [ū] in those dialects which did not use [y:] for this purpose either because it had not yet developed or because it was not felt to be a close enough match. Either way, the appearance of *dūn* for **dīn* can be motivated.

The Old English spellings are more or less ideal renderings of **Bïccanðīn* with the element- or sound-substitution just mentioned. <io> for <i> is not impossible in a dialectally Kentish document before a geminate consonant before an <a> in the next syllable. The earliest OE had no [ð] and would have substituted [d]. The difficulty comes from that fact that the spelling in S1178, with <hch>, distinctly suggests the pronunciation [x], like the <ch> in Scots *loch.*[1] It is true that early Brittonic *[cc] came to be pronounced in this way, but the conventional wisdom, based on very solid evidence (Jackson 1953: 565-70), suggests that this did not happen until at the earliest around 550. Other English place-names containing a borrowed element with original *[cc] uniformly have spellings in <c(c)> in Old English, even if the borrowing was very late, as with

Moccas in Herefordshire (this is *Mochros* in Welsh). The only exceptions are in the far north or far south-west of England, as with Brittonic **lucc* 'pool', borrowed as the dialect word *luh* in Northumbrian Old English and surviving in the name *Looe* in Cornwall. If we believe that *Biohchandoune* contains the new pronunciation, we are committed to believing that the name was borrowed from a group of Brittonic-speakers in Sussex in or after the middle of the sixth century, a time when Brittonic is reckoned to have been culturally, and perhaps even physically, silenced. However, we should note the settlement of Britons at Cote in Durrington, early *Walecote* 'Britons' cottages' (Bleach and Coates 1987/8: 57, using evidence provided by Tim Hudson), some three miles north-east of Highdown.

This interpretation remains a tantalizing possibility, but it should be emphasized that the linguistic difficulties standing in the way of such a solution would normally be regarded as insuperable. Note that one would expect the borrowing of a place-name to occur on first contact with speakers of the donor language, and the receiving language not to respect any subsequent changes in the donor in the way required by my solution, which for that reason is tentative and needs to be treated with considerable caution.

There is no difficulty in deciding what the name might refer to in the context of Ferring. The bulk and summit of Highdown Hill, with its Iron Age hillfort, possibly refortified in late Roman times, sit squarely in the parish. The fort was occupied apparently continuously from late Roman to early Anglo-Saxon times (Wilson 1940; 1950; Bell 1978: 46-7), though abandoned thereafter (Bell 1978: 52). If it was understood as a 'little fort', we may note in support that its area is one hectare as compared with that of other local contour forts: Hollingbury (2.7), Chanctonbury (1.25), Wolstonbury (2.2) and Thundersbarrow (1.2) of the Late Bronze or Early Iron Age; and Caburn (1.4), The Trundle (4), Cissbury (24) of the Middle Iron Age. With the exception of Harrow Hill (0.4) and the Wealden Saxonbury (0.5), Highdown is areally the smallest contour fort in Sussex.[2] (These data are taken from the table in Hamilton and Manley 1997: 96.) If it was understood as 'little down', as the element-substitution might indicate, then clearly it was so called in contrast with the main block of the Downs. Worvell (2001) also believes the name to denote a place in Ferring, namely a spot on the north-east flank of Highdown, but I cannot accept her reasoning as it involves the place-names,[3] and if it denoted a place in Ferring at all, it will have been the name of the entire Highdown Hill or the fort surmounting it.

My motivation for putting forward this solution with its rugged phonological difficulty is that so much else fits. We do not know of a name for Highdown Hill before the modern one, and that is found first as late as Speed's map of 1610/1. It would be surprising if this prominent landmark had escaped mention altogether in 1100-1200 years of Sussex history. The proposed etymology is appropriate; there is indeed a small fort on the summit, and its smallness can be verified by comparison with the size of other local forts. The name is that of a place at which legal transactions were performed, and a swinepasture does not seem a credible venue - the less so when we note that the document itself calls the place a hill, using a word indicating a respectable eminence. There were Britons in slavery some three miles away at an undetermined time during the Anglo-Saxon period. The phonological problem remains. It is too much to claim that <hch> and <hh> might represent /k/, which would solve the problem at a stroke; or that <h> might be miswritten for <k>, close to being out of the question in an Anglo-Saxon document.

○ *Notes*

1 This is misspelt by earlier commentators, Barker (1947: 101) in his translation but not in his transcription, and Worvell (2001).
2 No view is taken here on what the term *(hill)fort* might mean.
3 She appears to believe that the names *Biohchandoune* and *Cealtborgsteal* (the place donated by the grant enacted at *Biohchandoune*) denoted places close together, as did Blaauw, but I can find no reason to assume this.

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□□□

Richard Coates

A new resource, Literature Online (LION)*, and some Sussex place-names with literary mentions*

A wonderful new electronic resource has been available recently on a trial basis, and I am grateful to my doctoral student Maggie Kerridge for drawing it to my attention. This is *Literature Online (LION)*, which, during December 2001 only, could be accessed at http://password.lion.chadwyck.co.uk , and which is to be available at a hefty price (over £6000 a year) in future. It contains the searchable text of over 330,000 literary works, and I used it whilst the iron was hot to satisfy my interest in the relation between place-naming and literature. I do not pretend that this piece is a finished article with a thesis, and argument and a conclusion; it is just a farrago of quotations with place-names in them which are of some interest in Sussex, and they appear in the context of some other views of mine about the literary transmission of place-names or the transmission of literary place-names. The quotations show that the system is capable of throwing up some surprises. The important questions remain to be answered. Does a literary mention serve as the origin of some of the Sussex names (as is certain in the case of such Old Testament names as *Jacob's Ladder* and *Goshen* and the Johnsonian *Happy Valley*)? Which place-names mentioned in literature are pre-existing, and exploited by the author for their associations? and do the literary mentions and the place-names share a common source in the discourse of the relevant times (as is certain in the case of those instances of *Cold Harbour* which spring up from the 1590s onwards)?

The text is presented exactly as in the resource.

• *Beggars Bush* (Kingston near Lewes and Hartfield; on the latter, Whittick (1997) *Lf* 1 (2), 13-14)

This name-type, presumably representing an instance in London (though it is not in Chalfant (1978)), is mentioned in: Greene, Robert, 1558?-1592: *A Qvip for an Vpstart Courtier* (1592)

> These with Syrenlike allurement so entised these quaint squires, that they bestowed al their flowers vpon them for fauours, they themselues walking home by beggars bush for a pennance.

Title of play by Fletcher, John, 1579-1625 *The beggars bush*

Mentioned in Randolph, Thomas, 1605-1635 A PLEASANT COMEDIE, Entituled HEY FOR HONESTY, DOWN WITH KNAVERY. Translated out of Aristophanes his Plutus, Act 3. Scæn. 1.

> ... Like the grave Senators of Beggars-bush; VVith Poverty, sole Empresse ...

> ... thou, whose potent Oratory. Makes Beggars-bush admire thy eloquent story, Come ...

• *Bo-Peep* (Alciston)

Mention of the house is first found in the 1792 Turnpike Act which established the coaching road parallel to and south of the modern A27.

There are too many early literary mentions to list here, from around 1600 onwards. One of the earliest is the following, which is of special interest as it appears to show *Bo-Peep* applied as a place-name, or at least to show how it might come to be applied as one (though the text could be read in other ways):

Mentioned in Randolph, Thomas, 1605-1635: A PLEASANT COMEDIE, Entituled HEY FOR HONESTY, DOWN WITH KNAVERY. Translated out of Aristophanes his Plutus (1651) Act 4. Scæn. 1.

> Car(i)on: But stay, what worm-eaten Hag is / this? Holy brother, let's away to Bo-peep, / we shall be seen else. Do you not perceive / that old Beldame of Lapland, that looks as / if she had sail'd thither in an egg-shell, with / a wind in the corner of her handkercher? I / am not so much afraid of Dr. Faustus, as of / that witch of Endor. /

• *Camberlot Hall* (Hellingly)

This is surely an adaptation of the *Camelot* of the Arthurian romances, or at least the modern form of the name has been influenced by the literary name. It was originally apparently *Cromerlotte* '? crow-mere lot', but the early (16th/17th century) mentions are varied and inconsistent.

• *Canadia* (Battle)

This version of the name of Canada appears in the verse of quite a few authors between about 1760 and 1820, for instance in an anonymous panegyric drama of 1762: THE MILITARY GLORY OF GREAT-BRITAIN, &c.

... And Montreal with all Canadia yeilds.

In all cases, its use appears to be determined by the metre, which cannot be the reason for the Sussex place-name; it must therefore take its name from one or other literary reference.

It may be a remoteness name, as the place is not far from the boundary between Battle and Mountfield, but it may simply commemorate the English military triumph on the Heights of Abraham.

• *Cold Harbour* (Chiddingly, Clayton, Salehurst, Worth)

I have put this item in for completeness' sake. I identified a number of literary references from the 1590s onwards in Coates (1984) and explained its application to places outside London as having to do with the run-down condition of the relevant property like that into which the prominent Cold Harbour in London had entered at this date, and with the abolition in 1608 of the sanctuary privileges that had accrued to it.

• *Friday Street* (Horsham, Westham, and lost in Cuckfield)

The Westham name is found from 1527, and there are earlier mentions of similar names elsewhere (*PN Sr* 278-9, 410-1). Ekwall (1954: 84) notes the earliest so far found, from London, in a personal name dating from 1138x1160, which is likely to represent the archetype from which the others are copied. Chalfant (1978: 84) indirectly cites Stow (1603: I, 351) as stating that the street was "so called of fishmongers dwelling there, and serving Frydayes market".

Mentioned in a (largely verse) play by Nabbes, Thomas, 1605?-1645?: The springs glorie (1638):

> Shrovetide: This leane thin-gut starveling, begot by a Spaniard, and nurst at the lower end of Friday-street.

This at least confirms the suspicion (*PN Sr* 279) that the name *Friday Street* is uncomplimentary (or was by the 17th century) and has to do with poverty and hunger - or was it to do with the implied papistry of Friday observance?.

• *Goose Green* (in street-names in Thakeham and Horsham)

Mentioned in: Hood, Thomas, 1799-1845: "Ode to Perry the inventor of the patent Perryan pen" [from *The complete poetical works* (1906)]

O! Patent, Pen-inventing Perrian Perry!
Friend of the Goose and Gander,
That now unplucked of their quill-feathers wander,
Cackling, and gabbling, dabbling, making merry,
About the happy Fen,
Untroubled for one penny-worth of pen,
For which they chant thy praise all Britain through,
From Goose-Green unto Gander-Cleugh!---

This is clearly a mention of a pre-existing place-name, but which of the many is not known.

Mentioned in: Nicholson, Norman, 1914-: "Winter by the ironworks" [from *Collected poems* (1994), Faber and Faber; this late date may mean the poet is exploiting the name of the well-known battle-site (1982) in the Falkland Islands, and nothing earlier]

On the goose green, on the street, softly as snow
The slagbanks drift, and yellow
As snow, and seeming-permanent also,

4 Checked and chalked by the frost. Slowly,
5 Slag-flake and-fall slither and crumble over
6 Back-garden fences, breaking wire and willow,
7 Choking gulley and grid. Children (their throats
8 Smoking with dialect) burrow
9 Tunnels and runnels of shadow
10 In the yellow-grey of the slope;
11 Build slagmen, grope
12 In the crag-icy iron---as if they did not know
13 That all this mineral marvel, this H_2O, [etc.]

• *Gossops Green* (neighbourhood of Crawley)

Not in LION, but appears to take its name, with a little euphemizing, from the title of the Lewes-based writer Alice (Mrs Henry) Dudeney's novel *Gossips Green* (1906).

• *Happy Valley* (Woodingdean, Brighton, and elsewhere)

Certainly the rash of *Happy Valley*s from Llandudno to Hong Kong postdates the description of the blessed place with this name in Samuel Johnson's novel *Rasselas, the Prince of Abyssinia* (1759). LION is absolutely blank before that date for this collocation.

• *Maidenbower* (neighbourhood of Crawley but formerly in Worth)

Mentioned in: Anon., 1100-1500: "The Brown Bride and Lord Thomas" LORD THOMAS AND FAIR ANNET---C [from The English and Scottish Popular Ballads (1882-1898)]

49 "There are maidens in my maiden-bower
50 That'll lay gold in my hair,
51 And where eer there were ane link before,
52 It shall be nine times mair."

This is just the earliest of many literary mentions. The notion became a commonplace at least in place-naming (there are four *Maiden Bower*s (not including the Crawley one) and one *Maiden's Bower*, in the second edition of the *OS gazetteer* (1989)), and there are many other such names of lesser places, but strangely there is no mention at all of the collocation in *OED*-2, indicating that the editors believed it was an expression whose sense could be exhaustively derived from the senses of its parts. No-one else has commented on it either, as far as I can ascertain. That seems to me to do it less than justice. Chaucer, in *Sir Thopas* ($B^2$1932), writes of "Ful many a mayde, bright in bour ...", and these words when juxtaposed usually have to do with a bedchamber or other private place. I suggested in an incidental and tentative recent footnote (Coates 1999: 16, note 18) that the term might have among its applications an arbour of old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*, dialectally called *virgin's bower* and *maiden's honesty*), but more information may remain to be discovered. In modern times the word *bower* has been a North-Country word except when used in poetic contexts, which it occupies from the 16th century onwards. That tends to suggest that *Maidenbower* has indeed escaped from literature to become an off-the-peg place-name.

• *Mockbeggar* (between Iden and Playden)

As far as the south-east is concerned, this name clearly has a Kentish distribution, and the place near Iden is an outlier of that. The quotations are interesting as giving a definition of the name as it was understood in the century of its origin.

Mentioned in: Breton, Nicholas, 1545?-1626?: A Mad VVorld my masters. A MERRY Dialogue, Betweene two Travellers; Dorindo, and Lorenzo (1635), pp. 9-10.

> But when I came neere unto the house, and finding the doore shut, I did imagine (being about the mid time of the day) that the seruants were all at dinner, and the lord of the house either laid downe to sleepe, or gone into his closet, to talke upon some accounts with his ladie: but hearing no sound of any noyse, nor voice within of either man or dogge, I feared some ill fortune, that there was some great sicknesse, or danger of death that might dampe the spirits, and so cause the sorrow of the whole house: but staying a while, and neither hearing any voice within, nor any poore creature without at the gate, that might hope of almes from the hall, I feared the charitie within was so little, that my
>
> [Page [10]]
>
> comfort without would be according: but after that I had stood a while, loth to loose time, I knocked at the doore; where I knocked long, before I had any answere, and in the end was saluted at a window farre within by an old fellow, who, it should seem, to save a groate, had slept out his dinner; whose speech (with a wide mouth gaped out) was this: What lacke you? My friend (quoth I) I pray you let me speake with you. No (quoth he) I cannot come down, I am busie, my master is not at home, and here is no body in the house but I and my wife, and shee is not well: but say your errand, and I will heare you. My errand thought I; was there ever such a kennell for such a curre? doth he take me for some sorrie fellow, or hath hee no better kind of greeting for strangers? And thus while I stood musing, and fretting at my fortune, and this bad fellow, hee shut the window: and I with a sigh, to see how I was mistaken in this faire house, turning me from it, I met with a foole in a pyed coate, who looking upon mee, after he had out-laughed himselfe, told me: Sir, you are mistaken, this is a Banqueting-house, where the gazers are onely fed with conceipts, for there is not a chimney that smokes, nor a doore open, it is called Mock-beggar, ha, ha, ha.

Mentioned in: Shipman, Thomas, 1632-1680: The Old-English GENTLEMAN. An Elegiac Poem upon the truly honourable Sir Gervas Clifton, of Clifton, Knight and Baronet. [from Carolina: or, Loyal Poems (1683)] 5.

166 The Hospitality of old
167 (Which gave that Age the name of Gold)
168 He did revive, and afterwards uphold.

169 The noble Pyles those times did rear,
170 Inviting Landmarks did appear,
171 And gave free Welcome to each Passenger.

172 Not like those, which our poor-men call
173 (And justly too) Mock-beggar-Hall;
174 Where Rats and Mice do into Famine fall.

Harrison Ainsworth used the name *Mock-Beggar Hall* as a literary topos for what appears to be Southover Grange in his novel *Ovingdean Grange* (1859/60).

• *Mount Pleasant* (ubiquitous)

I wonder what this name owes to the rubbish mound in the former London borough of Finsbury (first recorded 1732, *PN Mx* 96) and what to John Cleland's *Fanny Hill: memoirs of a woman of*

pleasure (1749), p. 29:

> My breasts, if it is not too bold a figure to call so, two hard, firm, rising hillocs, that just began to shew themselves, or signify any thing to the touch, employ'd and amused her hands a while, till slipping down lower, over a smooth track, she could just feel the soft silky down that had but a few months before put forth, and garnish'd the mount-pleasant of those parts, and promised to spread a grateful shelter over the sweet seat of the most exquisite sensation, and which had been, till that instant, the seat of the most insensible innocence. Her fingers play'd, and strove to twine in the young tendrils of that moss which nature has contrived at once for use and ornament.

This is the earliest literary reference in LION. I guess that Cleland is playing on the pre-existing place-name which is a gift for word-play (as, with anachronistic hindsight, is the heroine's own name).

• *No Man's Land* (Findon) and *No Man's Land Gate* (Upwaltham)

The oldest mentions of this name in *OED*-2 all relate to a place of execution outside the walls of London, the earliest being of 1320. It is antedated by *Nonemannes Lond* in Cranborne (Dorset) in 1282, and such names may surface in modern times as *Normans* (Field 1993: 145, 153). There are occasional other names containing *no man* from the high Middle Ages: for instance, *Nomannes Wood* (Sutton in Ashfield, Notts.) names a piece of land free of jurisdiction and therefore possibly offering sanctuary for outlaws (Field 1993: 60). Perhaps surprisingly, the earliest use registered in *OED*-2 of *no man's land* in a military sense is 1908.

The first literary mention is as late as Defoe, Daniel ?1651-1731: *Robinson Crusoe*:

p. 295

> I ask'd whose Dominion this was in, and they told me, this was a kind of Border, that might be called no Man's Land; being a Part of the Great Karakathie, or Grand Tartary, but that however it was all reckon'd to China; but that there was no Care taken here, to preserve it from the Inroads of Thieves, and therefore it was reckon'd the worst Desart in the whole World, tho' we were to go over some much larger.

p. 302

> After this, we pass'd several great Rivers, and two dreadful Desarts, one of which we were 16 Days passing over, and which, as I said, was to be call'd no Man's Land; and on the 13th of April we came to the Frontiers of the Muscovite Dominions: I think the first City or Town, or Fortress, whatever it might be call'd, that belong'd to the Czar of Muscovy, was call'd Argun, being on the West Side of the River Argun.

• *Rat's Castle* (Wartling)

Mentioned in: Moncrieff, William Thomas, 1794-1857: *The scamps of London; or, the cross roads of life! A Drama of the Day, Adapted from the French.* [n.d.] In the front matter we find this mention of a (public) house in London:

> the Rat's Castle, of the Rookery, Dyot Street, St. Giles's, now happily demolished

• *Rotten Row* (Lewes and Street End, Sidlesham)

Mentioned in: Hall, Joseph, 1574-1656: VIRGIDEMIARVM. LIB. I. SAT. III. [With some Potfury rauisht from their wit] (1598)]

41 A goodly grace to sober Tragike Muse,
42 When each base clown, his clumbsie fist doth bruise
43 And show his teeth in double rotten-row,
44 For laughter at his selfe-resembled show.

Mentioned in: Peacham, Henry, 1576?-1643?: Vpon Dorinda. Epigram 105. [from *Thalia's Banquet* (1620)]

1 The faire Dorinda dressed cap a pie
2 In state, resembles Cambridge Trinitie,
3 Her, her all turret, and of wondrous cunning,
4 Her back-side broade, and front full faire in shew,
5 Onely her teeth stand like old rotten Row.

Mentioned in: Glapthorne, Henry, *fl.* 1639: *The Hollander. A Comedy* (1640) Actus Tertius. Scena Prima.

> Sconce: "Count Freese, gray Felt, and mony-lacke, Duke of Turnbull, / [150] Bloomesbury, and Rotten Row, Lord paramont of all / Garden-Alleyes, Gun Ally, and Rosemary Lane. /"

Mentioned in: Mill, Humphrey, *fl.* 1646: A Nights Search, Part I (1640), Sect. 25.

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85 Then by the way that is about the Play-house,
86 Search carefully, for I mistrust the day-house;
87 If still you misse 'em, go to Shorditch then,
88 For that's a place, where whores have beggerd men:
89 If there you find them not, I'le say 'tis strange,
90 Yet be not out of heart, for Pickt-hatch Grange

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91 Is the most likeliest place: For this I know,
92 They're either there, or gone to rotten Row.

Mentioned in: Wither, George, 1588-1667: SECOND COLLECTION A Triple Paradox: Affixed to a COUNTER-MURE Raised against the Furious Batteries of Restraint, Slander and Poverty, The three Grand Engines OF The World, the Flesh and the Devil. By Major GEORGE WITHER, Who, now beleagured by their Forces, throws out unto them this DEFIANCE. The said PARADOX maintains these Particulars. That Confinement is more safe than Liberty, Slander more advantageous than Praise, Poverty more profitable than Riches.

843 This fury SLANDER, hath been quarter'd long,
844 In Rotten-Row, and Hart-street, at the Tongue;
845 Her Magazeens and Forges are all there,
846 The Shop at which she vents them, is the Ear,

847 In ev'ry Town and City; and no places
848 Or persons, her aspersions and disgraces
849 Can long avoid: For, ev'ry where she scatters
850 That shot wherewith the Forts of Fame she batters.

It is interesting, and unexpected, that the first two mentions, from Hall and Peacham, play on the image of bad teeth. The oldest such names clearly derive from *ratoun* 'rat', but by the seventeenth century the common opprobrious place-name had evidently been reinterpreted; we begin to find regular interchanges between *ratten* and *rotten* (see e.g. the older name of Cheapside, Nottingham, *PN Nt* 16, around 1650). Several of these quotations, from the plays especially, suggest that there was a Rotten Row in London which predated the famous one in Hyde Park (known from 1781, *PN Mx* 182), but which is not known to Ekwall (1954) and is absent from Jonson's plays (Chalfant 1978).

• *Seven Sisters* (Eastdean (East Sussex))

Evidently an ancient topos containing a magical number, and an almost automatic name for a group of seven of anything, competing with *the seven stars*, i.e. the Pleiades, which immortalize the seven daughters of Atlas and Pleione. (See also Q4.1.7, R5.1.2. For the name as applied to the Sussex cliffs, see *PN Sx* 418-9.) All the mentions below are from a great collection of ballads of high antiquity.

Anon., 1100-1500 GIL BRENTON---H 3Kb, [from The English and Scottish Popular Ballads (1882-1898)]

... [note] 1 We were seven sisters in a bower,/ Adown ...

Note this also for • *Maidenbower* (above).

Anon., 1100-1500 Mild Mary FAIR MARY OF WALLINGTON---E 4Kb, [from The English and Scottish Popular Ballads (1882-1898)]

... 3 There were seven sisters o us a', We ...

Anon., 1100-1500 The Gay Goss-hawk THE GAY GOSHAWK---D 5Kb, [from The English and Scottish Popular Ballads (1882-1898)]

... "Rise up, rise up, ye seven sisters, / And make her winding...

... "Go home, go home, you seven sisters, / Go home and sew...

Anon., 1100-1500 The Gay Goss-hawk THE GAY GOSHAWK---E 10Kb, [from The English and Scottish Popular Ballads (1882-1898)]

... Then up and gat her seven sisters, /And sewed to her ...

Anon., 1100-1500 The Scottish Squire THE GAY GOSHAWK---G 13Kb, [from The English and Scottish Popular Ballads (1882-1898)]

... 35 Her seven sisters were employed / In making ...

Anon., 1100-1500 Richard Storie RICHIE STORY---E 4Kb, [from The English and Scottish

Popular Ballads (1882-1898)]

... The Earl of Wigton has seven sisters, /And O but they ...

• *Silverdale* (Salehurst)

Although this place is overlooked by Silver Hill (Hurst Green), it is worth comparing the following:

Morris, William, 1834-1896: The Collected Works (1910-1911)] VOLUME XV THE ROOTS OF THE MOUNTAINS, CHAPTER XXXIX. OF THE GREAT FOLK-MOTE: MEN TAKE REDE OF THE WAR-FARING, THE FELLOWSHIP, AND THE WARLEADER. FOLK-MIGHT TELLETH WHENCE HIS PEOPLE CAME. THE FOLK-MOTE SUNDERED. This contains a song:

"It is sooth that my Brother sayeth, and that now again we wend,
All the Sons of the Wolf together, till the trouble hath an end.
But as for that tale of the Ancients, it saith that we who went
To the northward, climbed and stumbled o'er many a stony bent,
Till we happed on that isle of the waste-land, and the grass of Shadowy Vale,
Where we dwelt till we throve a little, and felt our might avail.
Then we fared abroad from the shadow and the little-lighted hold,
And the increase fell to the valiant, and the spoil to the battle-bold,
And never a man gainsaid us with the weapons in our hands;
And in Silverdale the happy we gat us life and lands."

It is possible that this is the source of the rash of Silverdales on the map (five significant enough to get into the *OS gazetteer*); it was a popular name for e.g. hotels and streets (nine in Sussex alone) in the early decades of the 20th century. The settlement-names in Lancashire and Yorkshire definitely predate Morris, however.

• *Small Dole* (Henfield)

This could obviously just be a fully meaningful expression, but I found it interesting that it occurs four times in *LION*, all four times in verse, of which the earliest instance is:

Duncombe, John, 1729-1786: VOLUME the SECOND and LAST. THE FIRST BOOK OF THE

EPISTLES OF HORACE. Translated by John Duncombe, M. A. EPISTLE XVII. To Scæva. [from

The works of Horace (1757-1759)]

He thus the Cynic's Snarlings would retort:
'I, for my own sake, sooth the Great. You court
'The Vulgar. I have Horses at Command,
'And dine with Princes. You, with craving Hand,
'Beg a small Dole, yet say you nothing want:
'Far beneath those, who your Petition grant!'

• *Smock Alley* (Amberley, West Chiltington and formerly Petworth)

See Neale (1974). This note revealed a use of the term as early as Ben Jonson's *The Divell is an asse* (1616), Act 1 Scene 1, which does not appear in *LION*, to mean 'the female genitals'. It was

also used as the name of a Dublin theatre; see Swift, Jonathan, 1667-1745: BILLET to the Company of Players. [from *The poems of Jonathan Swift.* Edited by Harold Williams (1937)], which does figure in *LION.*

• *Somers Town* (Chichester)

Evidently transferred from the place now postally in London N1, built up from 1786 onwards on land of Lord Somers and first recorded by name in 1795 (*Sommers Town*; *PN Mx* 142). For the history and topography of the area in Chichester, see Green (1996: 35). The items below refer to the London name.

Mentioned in: Pindar, Peter, 1738-1819: (alias John Wolcot): VOL. IV. GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL; OR, THE SQUADS IN AN UPROAR; OR, THE PROGRESS OF POLITICS, OR, EPISTLES, POETICAL AND PICTURESQUE. WRITTEN BY TOBY SCOUT, ESQ. A Member of the Opposition; AND EDITED BY PETER PINDAR, ESQ. EPISTLE IV. [from *The works of Peter Pindar* (1816)]

> .... a pension for poor Uncle Tommy, the tinker of Somers Town.

Mentioned in: Locker-Lampson, Frederick, 1821-1895: UNFORTUNATE MISS BAILEY. (AN EXPERIMENT.) [from *A selection from the works* (1865)]

> Hark! the sound of life is swelling,
> Pacing up, and racing down,
> Soon they reach her simple dwelling---
> Burley Street, by Somers Town.

• *World's End* (Burgess Hill; original parish uncertain)

The phrase *to the world's end* becomes a cliché in the literature of the eighteenth century, though it is found sporadically before, most interestingly in this exchange from Congreve's *Love for love* of 1695, with its quibble on the possibility that there might be a place with such a name:

Congreve, William, 1670-1729: LOVE for LOVE: A COMEDY (1695). ACT II. SCENE I.

> Mrs. Fore: You have been at a worse place. /
> Frail: I at a worse place, and with a man! /
> Mrs. Fore: I suppose you would not go alone to the World's-End. /
> Frail: The World's end! What do you mean to banter / me? /
> Mrs. Fore: [400] Poor innocent! you don't know that there's a place / call'd the World's-End? I'll swear you can keep your Countenance / purely, you'd make an Admirable Player. /
> Frail: I'll swear you have a great deal of Impudence, and in my / mind too much for the Stage. /
> Mrs. Fore: Very well, that will appear who has most, You never / were at the World's End? /

Occasionally I have found unexpected mentions of the very Sussex places themselves in literature.

• *Sea Houses* (Eastbourne)

Mentioned in: Smith, James, 1775-1839: MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES. MISCELLANEOUS

PIECES IN VERSE. THE WATERING PLACES. [from *Comic miscellanies* (1840)]

Who loves to hide should go to Ryde,
  Full equi-dismal Cowes is:
And poor Eastbourne appears to mourn
  Her runaway 'Sea Houses.'

And finally ....

My last note is about the probably irrelevant word • *hangle.* This is mentioned in: Shepherd, Luke, *fl.* 1548: The Prayse of the Meter [O meter passing measure] [from Philogamus [1548?]]

You maye claspe vp your bookes
And then go kepe the roockes
Or els wyth hangle hookes
Go fyshe and take some flookes
For cleane your cleargy crookes
And goeth no more on ryght

This word is absent from *OED*-2 except as a variant of *hingle* 'hinge' which does not seem to be intended here. Equally, it does not seem to be the direct descendant of OE *hangelle* 'hanging thing', ?? 'long gentle slope', that appears in the two Sussex instances of *Hangleton* and nowhere else; at least, not as regards its application even if formally it is the same word. But it is the only trace outside the place-name record of a post-OE word of this form which is not simply a variant of a different one.

LION is a massive resource, and I must therefore weigh up carefully what the absence of an expression from it might mean. I was hoping to find sources for the Sussex names *Cackle Street*, *Jumpers Town*, *Mutton Hall* and *Hope in the Valley*, but hoped in vain. So I must reckon after all with the probability that these do not contain literary allusions. Some readers may know better - I have an image of girls' pony-novels in my head when I think of the last-named (it is a recurrent name usually applied to riding-stables, as now at Lewes and formerly at Hamsey), but since I have never read any of these and never been among the pony-mad, and given that they are not generally found in university libraries, the allusion may simply be eluding me.

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