Place-Names of South West Yorkshire by Armitage Goodall

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REVIEWS.

Place-Names of South West Yorkshire. By ARMITAGE GOODALL.
Cambridge: University Press. 1913. Revised edition, 1914.
8vo. vi + 314 pp.

The place-names of Yorkshire are receiving their full meed of attention. So recently as 1910 Dr F. W. Moorman gave us a valuable study of the Place-names of the West Riding and now we have another work of wider scope and fuller detail dealing with 'so much of the West Riding as lies south of the Aire from Keighley onwards.' Dr Moorman's book suffered from certain limitations, largely self-imposed, the chief being (1) the confining of his researches to such names as were to be found in certain medieval surveys of Yorkshire, (2) the failure to discuss the Keltic element beyond the narrowest possible limits. In the present work Mr Goodall attempts to deal with a much larger proportion of names, in fact with all those that interest him on the modern map, whether they occur in medieval documents or not. Such an attempt has hitherto been seldom made, the chief exception being Sephton's *Handbook of Lancashire Place-Names*. The result of this larger scope is that many interesting names of Anglian, Scandinavian and Keltic origin are now for the first time explained, but side by side with this advantage there is the serious drawback that when many names are explained without the help of any medieval forms, an uneasy feeling is aroused as to whether such etymologies are of much value. At any rate they are of very different value from the rest, and every time that the author points out the extraordinary difference which exists in other names between the medieval forms and the modern ones he gives fresh point to our fears. If such modern forms are to be discussed in books on place-names, and some of them fully deserve treatment, they should be kept as a distinct part of the book, so that their comparative lack of authority may be very clear to the large amateur public who will make use of a book of this kind.

High praise must be given to Mr Goodall for the industry and skill with which he has gathered together a vast mass of material and arranged it for the most part with clearness and conciseness. The only fault here is that at times he rather overwhelms us by quoting a large number of modern names which by some similarity of form may possibly throw light on a difficult etymology. Such names may however be mere will-o'-the-wisps, unless we are given at the same time the steady light of their medieval forms to keep us straight. Mr Goodall has made some really excellent finds and his etymologies are to a large extent to

be trusted. The chief weakness is perhaps the treatment of the very important question of the personal names which are to be found in place-names. The present tendency in place-name study is undoubtedly to explain more and more names as containing personal names for their first element. That may or may not be right, but it must not be carried to the extent of seizing in uncritical fashion personal names wherever they may be found in explanation of some difficult place-name. Searle's *Onomasticon* is an invaluable work for students of O.E. personal names but it must be remembered that he included many names for which we have no O.E. authority. Thus *Ongær* (104), *Loppo* (206), *Papo* (231), *Winco* (301) are quoted from Searle, but he gives them only as found in Förstemann's *Altdeutsches Namenbuch* and Piper's edition of the *Libri confraternitatum S. Galli*. Such names may have had O.E. parallels, but it should be made quite clear that their existence there is not established. The name *Croda* is of doubtful occurrence in O.E. and *Crodo* (111) comes from Förstemann. So also *Aelmun*, *Aellman* and *Aelmanus* (58) are merely variant forms of *Aelfman*. In the Introduction (p. 13) the assertion is made that many names are formed with the terminations *-er* and *-et*, e.g., *Azer* from *Azo*, *Oter* from *Ota*, *Baret* from *Bar*, *Lufet* from *Lufa*. The examples do not support the theory; *Azer* is for O.N. *Azur* (<**Atsur*) and has nothing to do with *Azo*, whatever the origin of the latter may be, *Oter* is for O.N. *Óttarr* (<**Aht-hario*) and has no connection with *Ota*, *Baret* is O.N. *Barðr* and is unrelated to *Bar*, *Lufet* is for O.E. *Lufgeat*. So also *Berner* is from O.E. *Beornhere* and *Blacker* from O.E. *Blachere*. Names were not formed with these suffixes in Old English, and there is no justification for such hypothetical names as *Coller* (109), *Hubber* (178), *Huder* (179) formed with such a suffix. Some of the Norse names quoted are very doubtful. The authority for the Scandinavian name *Buthar* is not given: it is not to be found in Lind's *Norsk-Islandska Dopnamn* and in any case could not give Mod. Eng. *Butter*; Lind does not give a Norse name *Uha*—Naumann is to be used with caution—and even if there were such a name it could not give rise to English *Ughill*. Some of the Frisian names quoted from Brons' *Friesische Namen* are interesting but it should have been made quite clear that they are only parallels.

Some of the etymologies are at fault in their phonology. Thus O.N. *bæna* cannot develop to M.E. *Banner* (66); the M.E. forms of *Blacker*, *Blackley*, *Blake Low* (76) cannot go back to O.N. *bleikr*; O.N. *ból* 'a farm' would give Mod.-Eng. 'bool' and not 'bole' (77); *Chisley* (102) cannot be connected with O.N. *kjesa*; M.E. forms in *Himling* (165) cannot be connected with O.E. **Hamel*; the persistence of *ay* spellings in the earlier forms of *Snapethorpe* (262) shows that it must be connected with some Scandinavian word with *ei* and not with *a* as its stem vowel. *Shackelton* (252) cannot go back to O.N. *skökul*, it must rather be connected with O.E. *sceacol*. A good many place-names in *-ster* are recorded (67, 77, 181 and 270) and are traced to O.N. *staðr*. They should rather be connected with the plural

form *-staðir*: the inflexional *r* in the singular would not be maintained. So also *Slithero* (earlier *Slitherow*, *Slidrihen*) can hardly contain O.N. *slíðr* 'a scabbard.' A few further scattered points may be noted. *Angram* (159)—the element *Anger* is not confined to the North, it is found in *Angersleigh* (Som.) and in *Ongar* (Essex D.B. *Angre*): *Apperley* may be for earlier *Apeltreley* as in the case of *Apperley* (Nthb.); *Butterby* (88) is not of Danish origin but a piece of folk or antiquarian etymology for earlier *Beautrove* (O.F. *bel trové* 'well situated'). *Chipping Ongar* in Essex is certainly not an example of a place-name followed by a personal name. *Chipping* is O.E. *cieping*, 'bargaining' hence 'market,' and is frequently prefixed to the names of market-towns, e.g. Chipping Norton, Chipping Barnet, often to distinguish them from other towns or villages of the same name, e.g. from High or East Barnet, from High Ongar. For the name *Ongar* v. *supra*. The Northumberland *Kielder* (earlier *Keldre*) should be taken into account in dealing with the difficult name *Calder* (earlier *Kelder*) (91); there is no doubt that many of the English place-names in *Dud-* (124) go back to one or other of the common O.E. name-forms *Dud*, *Duda*, *Dudda*; similarly those in *Lud-* (204) are generally to be referred to O.E. *Lud* or *Hlud*; *Marley* (208) should probably be traced to O.E. *merdleah*, *merd* meaning 'dung'; *Ovenden* (223) is to be connected with the O.E. personal name *Ofu* rather than O.E. *ufan* = above, for the O.E. adverb was never thus used as a prefix; the name *Skew* (251) is sometimes of adjectival origin meaning 'crosswise'; cf. the frequent use of *Skew* in names of bridges which do not cross a road or railway at right-angles.

The introduction gives some account of each of the ethnic elements represented in the district. The discussion of the Scandinavian element is specially thorough. It is to be regretted that use was not made of Lindkvist's *M.E. Place-names of Scandinavian Origin* in this connexion. In an appendix Mr Goodall advances one more theory as to the site of 'Brunanburh.' Its chief supports are an identification of the *Vinheiði* of *Egilssaga* with *Went* (earlier *Wenet*), a river name found also in Wentbridge and Wentworth, and of *Brinsworth* (D.B. *Brinesford*) with *Brunsford* and *Brunford*, the names given to the site of the battle by William of Malmesbury and Ingulph of Croyland—neither of them very good authority in this matter. The identification of *Wenet* with *Vinheiði* from a phonological point of view is just possible, though very doubtful; that of *Brinsworth* and *Brunsford* is impossible. The suggestion is made that D.B. *Brinesford* is derived from an earlier **Brunesford*, presumably by i-umlaut of the stem vowel, but umlaut had of course ceased to operate long before this.

In conclusion we may congratulate the author on the completion of what was very evidently a labour of love. His very zeal has at times led him astray and exposed his work to unfavourable criticism in certain of its details.

ALLEN MAWER.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.