

Notes on Collection and Research

Scottish Place-Names : 28 Old English *wīc*

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In his last major piece of research, the late Eilert Ekwall examined in detail some of the problems of semantic development posed by the Old English (OE) word *wīc*, so common in English place-names (Ekwall 1964). The present short article is intended to draw attention to the Scottish material and to look at a number of Scottish names in *-wīc* in the light of the English evidence and of Ekwall's conclusions. It is meant to provide additional information rather than to study the question completely afresh. The material presented varies considerably as to the completeness of the early references quoted, for whereas the Border Counties (Williamson 1942) and Midlothian (Dixon 1947) have been studied extensively and in great detail, similar investigations for other parts of Scotland in which names in *-wīc* occur are lacking. Owing to the minor type of settlement to which *wīc* originally applied (see p. 82 below), several names appear to have been 'lost' or have not been identified.

Scottish names which fall within the category under discussion are:

- Berwick-on-Tweed¹ (Northumberland): *Berwic* 1095, 1095-1100, 1144 ESC²; 1160 RRS. *Berevic* 1130-3, 1142 ESC; 1153-9, 1153-62, 1159, 1162-5 RRS. *Berewyc* 1153-9 RRS. *Berewyce* 1120 ESC. *Berwyk'* 1162-5 RRS. *Barwykke* 1124-30 ESC. *Berwich* 1136 ESC; 1154-9, 1153-62 RRS. *Bereuiuch* 1144 ESC. *Beruwich* 1162-5 RRS. *Berwiche* 1128 ESC.—Ekwall's first reference is *Berewich* 1167, from the *Index to the Charters and Rolls in the British Museum*.
- North Berwick ELO: *Norh'berwic* 1160-85 N.B. Chrs. *Nortberwic* c. 1178-95, 1204-30 N.B. Chrs.; (seal) 1296 CDS. *Norberwic* 1199-1202, 1204-30 (also *Noberwic*) N.B. Chrs. *Northberwic* 1204-30 N.B. Chrs.; 1296 CDS; 1407 *et frequ. ad* 1508 ER; 1430, 1458 RMS. *North Berwic* 1452 RMS. *de Northberwico* 1303-4 CDS. *Berewic* 1165-72 N.B. Chrs. *Nordberewic* 1175-94, 1204-30 N.B. Chrs. *Norberewic* 1178-88 N.B. Chrs. *Norberewic'* 1200-50 N.B. Chrs. *Northberewic'* 1211-14 N.B. Chrs. *Northberewich* 1215-26 N.B. Chrs. *Nortberewyche* 1287 N.B. Chrs. *Northberwyk* 1311-12 CDS; 1373 RMS; 1410, 1442 ER. *North Berwyk* 1373 N.B. Chrs.; 1426 RMS. *Northberewyk* 1335-6 CDS. *Northberewyke* 1337 RMS. *North-berwick* (?) 1147-53 (1705) RRS. *Northberwick* 1296, 1389 CDS; 1573 RMS; 1645 *et frequ. ad* 1690 Retours. *Norberwick* (p) 1278-9 CDS. *North Berwick* 1611 *et frequ. ad* 1690

Retours, etc. *Northberwick* 1609, 1614, 1620-32 RMS. *Northberwick* 1642, 1659 Retours. North(-)Berrick 1690 Retours.

Also: *Northberwick-manis* 1573 RMS. *Northberwik-manis* 1581 RMS.

Northberwik-law 1547; *Northberwiklaw* 1588, 1591; *Northberwicklaw* 1609, all RMS.

From OE *berewic* 'barley farm', referring to a grange or an outlying part of an estate (Smith 1956:I 31; Ekwall 1960:39). This name has many English parallels, from Cornwall to Northumberland. It is not necessarily a compound name as 'OE *berewic* occurs a common noun in charters' (Ekwall 1964:13). By the time the East Lothian name is recorded, with one exception, the word *north* is already prefixed to distinguish it from Berwick-on-Tweed. This opposition is explicitly stated in 1287 N.B. Chrs. where *Northberewyche* appears side by side with *Sutberwyche*. It is implied in *South Berwick* 1296 CDS, *Southeberwyk* c. 1335 CDS, *South Berwik* 1428 RMS, and *Southberwic* 1464 RMS. Both places, particularly Berwick-on-Tweed must have been of some importance when these distinguishing epithets were prefixed. They cannot have been simply 'granges' anymore.

Whereas Berwick Burn and Bridge on the border of East Lothian and Berwickshire also seem to contain OE *berewic*, Berwick ABD (parish of Fintray; earlier *Berrek* on Robertson's Map), is almost surely an imported name (Alexander 1952:19).

Birswick DMF: No early evidence. Possibly OE *býres-wic* 'byre farm'.

Borthwick (Mains) ROX: *Bordewich* 1165-9 Melr. Lib. *Bortwic* temp. Alexander II Melr.Lib. *Borthewyk* 1335-6 CDS. *Borthwyck* 1336-7 CDS; 1374 HMC (Drumlanrig). *Borthwyke* 1391 HMC (Roxburghe).—Also Borthwickshiels nearby: *Borthsykschelys* 1374 RMS. *Borthwic Scheillis* 1489, 1491 TA. *Borthuiksheills* 1575 Retours. *Borthuikscheillis* 1608, 1619, 1623 RMS. *Borthwickscheills* 1670 Retours. *Borthuikscheillis* 1694 Retours.

Borthwick MLO: *Borthwyk* 1361, 1362, 1388 ER. *Borthwik* 1362 *et frequ. ad* 1426 ER; 1447, 1484, 1486 St Giles Reg.; 1488, 1489, 1494 ADC; 1494 ADA; 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507 TA; 1546 RPC. *Boirthwik* 1565-6 RPC. *Borthwike* 1414, 1415, 1425, 1426 ER; 1482-3 St Giles Reg. *Borthuik* c. 1393-7 LC; 1494-5, 1512, 1566-7 St Giles Reg.; 1496, 1506, 1507 TA; 1514 Edin. Chrs.; 1538 *et frequ. ad* 1622 RMS; 1551 Yester Writs; 1565-6, 1569, 1571, 1574 RPC; 1567 Mort. Reg.; 1573 *et frequ. ad* 1645 Retours. *Boirthuik* 1567, 1568 RPC. *Borthik* 1511 TA. *Borthwic* 1368 APS; 1403 *et frequ. ad* 1434 ER; 1457 St Giles Reg.; 1470 Mort. Reg.; 1473, 1488 TA. *Borthuic* 1473 Edin. Chrs.; 1502 TA. *Borthvic* 1504-5 St Giles Reg. *Borthic* 1473 TA. *Borthwick* 1571 *et frequ. ad* 1743 LC; 1659, 1676 Retours. *Borthuick* 1596, 1612 RMS.

*Borthwick BWK (near Duns): *Borthvic* 1501 RMS. *Borthuick* 1652 Blaeu. ?*Borthwick* Retours 1694.—*Westerborthik* 1503 RMS. *Wester Borthuick* 1627 Retours. *Wester Borthwick* 1663, 1676, 1691 Retours. *Westir Borthwick* 1668 Retours; *Wester*

Borthick 1686 Retours. *West Borthuik* 1541, 1609 RMS; 1600, 1610 Retours. *West Borthuik* 1610 Retours. *Wast-Borthuik* 1624 Retours.—*Est-Borthuik* 1511 RMS. *Eist Borthuik* 1576 RMS; 1617 Retours. *Eister Borthuik* 1632 RMS.—*Borthwick Eister et Wester* 1692 Retours. *Eister et Wester Borthwicks* 1693 Retours.—*Borthwicks butt* 1691 Retours. *Borthwick's butt* 1962 Retours.

**Borthwick* SLK: *Borthwic* 1410 RMS. *Borthuik* 1538, 1544, 1571 RMS.

OE *bord wic* 'home farm' = the farm which supplied the board or table of the lord of the district, is the usually accepted explanation because of the numerous Borelands (<Bordland) or Bordlands in formerly Gaelic speaking territories of Scotland. However, the same word OE *bord* may imply 'board = plank = wood', rather than 'board = table'. In this meaning it is regarded by Smith (1956:I 42 and:II 280) as the possible source of some English wood-names like Bordley (West Riding of Yorkshire) and Borthwood (Isle of Wight). Borden in Kent and Bordesley (2) in Warwickshire and Worcestershire may also belong here (Ekwall 1960:53). Our name may therefore mean 'wood farm' rather than 'board farm = home farm'. The decision as to whether the first or the second alternative is more likely, does not lie with the linguist but rather with the local historian. It is, however, worthy of note that the *Bordland* of Scotland does not appear to have any counterpart in English settlement names and that the concept of a particular farm or piece of land supplying the lord's own needs seems consequently not to have been known there.

The question whether the four names listed above did in fact arise independently or whether they all go back to the same source is a complex one and largely hinges on our knowledge and interpretation of the rise of the Borthwick family.³ We know that Borthwick Hall MLO (*Halheriot* 1611 RMS. *Borthwick Hall* 1773 Armstrong's Map) is a comparatively modern name 'derived from a cadet branch of the Borthwicks of Borthwick Castle and Crookston, for long owners of Halheriot' (Dixon 1947:197). Similarly, the Midlothian Borthwick itself may be an introduction from another county since Sir William de Borthwick had received a special license to construct a castle in the Mote of Lochorwart. The change of name seems to be reflected in the RMS entry of 1538: 'Apud Glenfynlais, 21 Aug.—Rex confirmavit Willelmo Domino Borthuik—terras de *lie Moit* de Lochquhorat, et castrum ejusdem castrum de Borthuik tunc nuncupat . . . vic. Edinburgh; terras de Borthuik, vic. Selkirk; . . .' Whether the mention of the lands of *Borthwick in Selkirkshire in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries also presupposes the temporary ownership of land by the Borthwicks in that county or whether that name preceded the family name is also difficult to decide. At present, the most acceptable version is probably Black's (1946:90) who derives the family name 'from the old barony of Borthwick along Borthwick Water in the parish of Roberton, Roxburghshire'; and in the light of our present evidence the Roxburghshire Borthwick may be regarded as the original one. Only the (now apparently 'lost') Berwickshire examples may possibly also be independent creations, but further detailed research is obviously required.

Darnick ROX: *Dernewic* c. 1136 Melr. Lib.; 1143-7 RRS. *Darnyke* 1565 RMS. *Darnyk* *ibid.*; Retours 1601. *Darnik* 1588, 1605, 1607, 1621 RMS. *Dernik* 1607 RMS; 1611 Retours. *Dernick* 1640, 1645 Retours.

OE *derne wic* 'hidden farm (or dwelling)', probably in woodland or overgrown with vegetation. In England there is no identical equivalent but OE *derne* 'hidden, secret, obscure' occurs in several names compounded with OE *brōc* 'brook, stream', *ford* 'ford', *halh* 'nook or corner of land', and *stall* 'place' (Smith 1956:1 131). Nearest geographically is the hybrid name Darncrook (Northumberland) in which *derne* is combined with Old Norse (ON) *krókr* 'nook, bend'.

Dawick PEB: *Dawik* 1501-2 Yester Writs; 1534 *et frequ. ad* 1604 RMS. *Dawyk* 1606 RMS. *Dawick* 1621 RMS. *Dawick* 1649, 1668, 1681, 1696, 1699 Retours. *Dayik* 1580 (1582) RMS. *Daik* *ibid.* *Dayk* 1606 RMS (in the same document as *Dawyk*) —Also *Wester Dawik* 1556 RMS, *Wester Dawick* 1699 Retours, and *Estir Dawik*, *Ester Dawik* 1536 RMS, *Eister Dawik* 1603 RMS.

The fact that this name is apparently not recorded before the sixteenth century confines the quest for an etymology to the realm of speculation. Two words which come to mind as suitable candidates for the first element are OE *dā* 'doe' and OE *daue* 'crow-like bird, jackdaw'. Both are recorded in Scotland from the fifteenth and sixteenth century onwards, respectively. The first would have parallels in English Dacombe (Devon) and Doepath (Northumberland) (Smith 1956:1 125), whereas the second does not seem to have been recorded in English place-names. Derivation from the land-measurement *davach* which has been suggested, is not very likely in view of the geographical situation and the phonological evidence.

Fenwick ROX: *ffenwic* (pers. name) c. 1280 (c. 1320) Kelso Lib. *Fenwyk* (pers. name)? 1311-12 CDS; 1374 HMC (Drumlanrig). *Fennyk* 1511 RMS. *Fynnik* 1547, 1592 RMS; 1615 Retours.

(?) Fenwick AYR: *Fynnichhill* 1620 Retours. *Finnick* 1652 Blaeu. *Finwick* 1687 Retours. *Fennick* 1775 Armstrong's Map.

The Roxburghshire name is most likely OE *fenn wic* 'mud farm' or 'marshland farm'. Identical with the two English Fenwicks in Northumberland and the West Riding of Yorkshire. The Ayrshire name is not as straightforward although this particular meaning derives support from the well-known Fenwick Moor. The present status of a parish name also indicates a certain antiquity (there are Laigh F., Little F., and F. Water in Fenwick). Such considerations do not, however, solve the problem whether the medial -w- is generic or not. An element of doubt is introduced by a cluster of names from Lennox in Dumbartonshire. There we have *Fynnik* 1545, 1549 RMS and *Fynwick* 1655 Retours, with subdivisions like *Fynnikblair* 1548 RMS, *Fynnik-Blair* 1565 RMS, *Finweik-Blair* 1580 RMS, *Finwickmalice* 1548 RMS, *Fynnickblair alias Fynwick-Malice* 1625, *Fynwick-Blair alias Fynwick-Malice* 1655, *Finwickblair alias Finwick-malice* 1662, *Finwickblair alias Finwickmalice* 1680 (all Retours), or *Fynnik-Drummond* 1565 RMS,

Fynweik-Drummond 1580 RMS, *Fynvick-Drummond* 1625, *Fynvick-Drummond* 1662, *Finoick-Drummond* 1680 (all Retours). The geographical position and a related name recorded in RMS from 1424-1513 as *Fynneich-tennand*, *Fynnekyntemmand*, *Fenykintennand*, *Fenekintennand*, would make the *-w-* a secondary spelling device and point to a Gaelic origin for the name.⁴ The Ayrshire Fenwick might belong here rather than together with the Roxburghshire name, but see Prestwick below.

Fishwick **BWK**: *Fyschewike* 1095 (15th) ESC. *Fiscwic* c. 1100 ESC. *Fiswic* 1126 ESC. *Fiswihc* 1124-53 Nat. Mss. Scot. *Fischewik* 1591 RMS. *Fischwik* 1604, 1609 Retours. *Fischevik* 1605 Retours. *Fischuik* 1608, 1609, 1620 Retours. *Fischeweik* 1558 (1587), 1621, 1631 RMS. *Fischweik* 1632 Retours. *Fisweik* 1630 Retours. *Fishweik* 1642, 1663, 1676 Retours. *Fischweek* 1632 Retours. *Fischweick* 1610 RMS. *Fischwick* 1565 (1619) RMS, *Fishwick* 1655 Retours. *Fischik* 1548 (1549) RMS. *Fischeik* 1632 Retours. *Fisheik* 1632 Retours.

OE *fisc wic* 'dwelling where fish were cured or sold'. Fishwick in Lancashire is of the same origin. Dr Williamson points out (1942:43) that *Fiswic* is mentioned as a *piscatura* in a Durham Charter of c. 1135. There may have been fish-ponds at Fishwick.

Handwick **ANG**: *Handwik* 1487, 1529 RMS. (?) *Hanwicke* 1567 CDS. *Eister*, *Wester et Middill Handweikis* 1630 RMS. *Eist et West Handweikis* 1631 RMS, *Easter et Wester Handweikes* 1692 Retours.

Apparently a name in *-wic*, but an etymology is difficult to provide because of the late nature of the evidence. Perhaps OE *hana* 'a cock' might be the first element (see Smith 1956:I 233). In that case Handorth (Cheshire) would afford a parallel in the development of the dental stop after *n* (Ekwall 1960:216). There are, however, other possibilities, amongst them OE *hān* 'hone, stone' and a personal name *Hana*. Unless some earlier material comes to light it will be impossible to settle for one or the other (and we can hardly expect spellings which are much earlier, in this area).

Hedderwick **ELO**: *Hatheruich* 1093-4 SHR xxxvii, 119; 1094 ESC. *Hathervic* 1165-1214 Melr. Lib. *Hatherwyk* 1335-6 CDS. *Hatherwyke* 1337 CDS. *Hathirweik* 1573 RSS. *Hatherwick* 1652 Blacu. *Haddiruik*, *Haddirwik* 1574 RMS. *Hadderweik* 1604, 1670 Retours. *Hadderwik* 1607 RMS. *Hedderweik* 1607 RMS. *Hedderweik* 1614 *et frequ. ad* 1655 RMS; 1637, 1645, 1649, 1688 Retours. *Hedderwick* 1653 RMS. *Hedderweick* 1680 Retours.

Hedderwick **BWK** ('lost' in Lauder): *Hatherwik* 1509 RMS. *Hadderweik* 1587, 1594 RMS. *Hedderweik* 1649, *Hedderweick* 1688, *Hedderwick* 1696 (all Retours).

Hedderwick **ANG**: *Hathyrwich* 1267-81, *Hathirwyk* 1296-1320, 1375, *Hadirweike* 1490, *Hathirwik* 1492 (all Benholm and Hedderwick Writs in Scottish Record Office, GD4/244*-237). *Hadderwik* 1608 RMS. *Heddirwik* 1585 RMS. *Hedderweik* 1619, 1625, 1650. *Hedderwick* 1630. 1648, 1659, 1696. *Hedderweek* 1695 (all Retours).

Heatherwick **ABD**: *Haddirweik* 1600, *Hedderweik* 1598 *et frequ. ad* 1631, *Hetherweik* 1617 (all RMS).

OE **hæddre wic* 'heather farm'; identical with Heatherwick (Northumberland). Whereas the Aberdeenshire name is probably to be regarded as being in the same category as Berwick ABD, i.e. an imported name (see p. 76 above), there is no reason to suspect that Hedderwick ANG is not an original name, especially with Handwick in the same county. This does not mean that it was not coined in imitation of the East Lothian or Berwickshire model, rather than created spontaneously as a compound name from two living appellatives. Transplantation in this sense is therefore possible. However, the reference to *herds de Haddiruik vocat. Auld-Haddiruik* (1574 RMS) for the Lothian Hedderwick hardly presupposes a **New-Haddiruik* further north, but rather refers to local circumstances.

Hawick (parish) ROX: *Hawic* 1165-9 Melr. Lib.; 1214 Chron. Melrose. *Hawyc* 1264-9 ER. *Haweuyk* 1296 CDS. *Hawuik* 1296 CDS (seal).⁵—In the parish is *Hawickshiel: Hawikschaues (vel Hawikscheillis) Over et Nethir* 1616 (1624) RMS.

Probably OE *haga wic* 'hedge (or enclosure) farm'; again the identical English equivalent is located in Northumberland. The reference is presumably to an enclosure formed by trees, or the like.

Prestwick (parish) AYR: *Prestwic* 1165-73 et frequ. ad 1239 Pais. Reg.; 1227 Glas. Reg. *Prestwyc* (p) c. 1272 Pais Reg. *Prestwyk* (p) 1335-6, 1336-7 CDS. *Prestwik* 1330 ER; 1504 et frequ. ad 1551 RMS. *Prestvik* 1468 RMS. *Prestuik* 1609, 1629 RMS. *Prestuik* 1620, 1625 RMS. *Prestuik* 1653 RMS. *Prestuik* 1600 RMS. *Prestik* 1556 et frequ. ad 1614 RMS. *Prestike* 1621 Retours. *Prestick* 1603, 1631 RMS; 1661, 1680 Retours. *Prestinck* 1652 Blaeu. *Prestrik* 1658 RMS. *Prestik* 1599 RMS.

Also nearby (a) *Prestwickschaws: Prestwickschawis* 1500 et frequ. ad 1556 RMS. *Prestwik-schawis* 1517 1556 RMS, 1599 Retours. *Prestwickschewis* 1517 RMS. *Prestwickschawes* 1496 RMS, 1616 Retours. *Prestuickschawis* 1603, 1609, 1620, 1629 RMS. *Prestuickschawes* 1624 (1627) RMS. *Prestikscharwis* 1587 RMS. *Preistikscharw*, *Preistischawis* 1593 RMS. *Prestick-shawes* 1680 Retours. (b) *Prestwick Moss: Prestuikmos* 1587 RMS. *Prestwick Moss* 1621 Retours. *Prestwickmoss* 1662 Retours. (c) *Pulprestwic* 1165-73, 1177-99, 1172 Pais. Reg.

OE *prēost wic* 'priest's dwelling', or *prēosta wic* 'priests' dwelling', probably the former in the meaning of 'manse'. Undoubtedly the same as Prestwick (Northumberland and Berkshire) and Prestwick (Lancashire), for which see Ekwall 1960:374. In the general context of names in *-wic*, a name so far west is perhaps rather surprising at first sight but if one adds Fenwick (see above), possibly Prewick (see below), Maybole in the same county further south (see Nicolaisen 1964:171), the curious Eaglesham in nearby Renfrewshire and, even if the ultimate origin of the same may be different and non-English, the district name Cunningham (*loc. cit.*:157), one has an intriguing group of names containing 'early' English elements like *wic*, *bōil* and *hām*, in this corner of Scotland (the obviously Norse Busby RNF is just as puzzling). These names seem to point to some kind of Anglian overlordship or sporadic influence in the area at a fairly early

date. The evidence is too patchy on the ground to represent anything more than that.

(?) Prewick AYR ('lost' near Annbank): *Previk* 1428 *et frequ. ad* 1629 RMS. *Prewik* 1572 RMS. *Privick* 1647, 1680 Retours. *Prewick* 1603 *et frequ. ad* 1623 RMS; 1648 Retours; 1652 Blaeu. *Prewick* 1652 Blaeu.

This name may contain *-wic* although there is no certain proof of this. The first element may be a form of the plant-name *privet* as in the Devonshire name Prewley (Smith 1956:II 74; Gover *et al.* 1931:I 207), or the word *pear* as in Preshaw (Hampshire) which is *Pershaue* in 1412 (Ekwall 1960:373). Even if the botanical evidence were acceptable, the name would still be unsatisfactory.

Sunwick BWK: No early evidence.⁶

Probably OE *swin-wic* 'pig farm', although without proper documentation this is difficult to establish, especially as there is no identical equivalent in England, only several other compound names containing OE *swin* (Smith 1956:II 172), and as no English name shows the development *swin->sun-*, the only similar instance being Somborne (Hampshire) <OE *swin-burna*. Sunwick is, however, almost certainly a name in *-wic*. Its meaning can be paralleled by many English examples of *wic* combined with the name of a domestic animal, like Bulwick (Northamptonshire) 'bull farm', Chelvey (Somerset) 'calf farm', Cowick (Devon, Yorkshire) 'cow farm', Gatwick (Surrey) and Gotwick (Sussex) 'goat farm', Shapwick (Dorset, Somerset) and Shopwyke (Sussex) 'sheep farm', and others (Smith 1956:II 262).

Morphologically it is of interest to note that all our modern Scottish names end in *-(w)ick* and not in the palatalised form *-(w)ich* which is so common in the Midlands and in the south of England (Greenwich, Swanage, West Bromwich, etc.). This is in keeping with Ekwall's observation that 'palatalization has not been carried through to the same extent in the North' (1964:57), although it is sometimes recorded. It is unlikely that Anglo-Norman eleventh- and twelfth-century forms like *Berwich* 1136 etc., *Berwich* 1162-5, *Berewich* 1167 for Berwick, *Bordewich* 1165-9 for Borthwick, and *Hatheruwich* 1094 for Hedderwick mean anything else but *-wik* in pronunciation. *Berwiche* 1128 and *Berewyce* 1120 (= *Berwike*), as well as *Barwykke* 1124-30 for Berwick may be reduced forms of the dative plural *berewicum* because of the numerous unpalatalised plural names in England (Ekwall 1964:33). Smith, in comparing *ditch* and *dike* also states that '-wich is regularly developed from the nom. sg. and *-wick* from the obl. cases like dat. pl. *wicum*' (1956:II 261). It is therefore possible that many of our Scottish names in *-wic*—the earlier examples anyhow—may have been originally plural in form, referring to a collection of dwellings. Later sporadic spellings like *Borthwyke* 1391 for Borthwick ROX and *Borthwike* 1362 for Borthwick MLO, are hardly reflexes of the same phenomenon as they only occur once each and alternate with *Bortheyk* and *Borthwik*, respectively, in the same period. Similarly *Fyschewike* 1095 for Fishwick is hardly conclusive, especially as it appears in a fifteenth-century copy. *Fiswihc* is puzzling, but probably for *Fiswih* (= *Fiscwih*). Generally speaking our Scottish documentary evidence is far

too late to allow any definite conclusions as to the grammatical number of the names involved. It in no way contradicts what is known about names in *-wīc* in Northern England.

Only one modern spelling indicates the loss of the *-w-* in pronunciation, Darnick; it is, however, also implied in Hawick, with *haw- < *haga-*. For North Berwick it is first shown in *North Berrick* (1690 Retours), for the Midlothian Borthwick *Borthlik* alternates with *Borthuik* in the last decade of the fourteenth century, and *Borthlic* and *Borthuic* in 1473, Fenwick ROX has *Fymik* in 1547 and *Fenwick* AYR does not show a *-w-* in spelling till the *Finwick* of 1687, obviously not a pronunciation spelling. Prestwick, although the modern pronunciation is [ˈprestwɪk], has *Prestik*, *Prestike*, and *Prestick* in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. *Fislich* 1548 also shows loss of *-w-* in pronunciation.

As regards the meaning of *wīc* in place-names, only one of the many possibilities discussed by Ekwall and others is really relevant in Scotland, 'dependent farm'; with the exception of Prestwick in which *-wick* may mean 'dwelling' rather than 'farm', and Fishwick which seems to qualify for Smith's definition as 'a building for a particular occupation' in a non-farming sense. Berwick 'barley farm or grange', Birswick 'byre farm', Handwick '(?) cock-farm', and Sunwick 'pig-farm' imply certain agricultural activities. Borthwick, if meaning 'home farm', would also belong to this category; if 'wood dwelling', to the next group which also comprises Darnick 'hidden dwelling', Fenwick 'mud dwelling', Hedderwick 'heather dwelling', and Hawick 'enclosed dwelling' in which reference is made to the geographical surroundings of the places involved. Although the neutral translation 'dwelling' has here been used, we may confidently think of these places as 'dependent farms' (probably 'dairy-farms') as well, and even Prestwick may belong here. Either the specific agricultural purpose of the place or the rather remote situation suggested by qualifying words such as 'hidden', 'mud, marshland', 'heather' and 'wood' point to places that were originally of minor importance. As Ekwall remarked (1964:42), 'Berwick on Tweed is the *berewīc* that has reached the highest status', but North Berwick, Borthwick MLO, Fenwick AYR, Hawick, and Prestwick are nowadays also quite important towns or parishes, or both. The modern status is here probably due to the fact that names in *-wīc* apply to comparatively early English settlements. In the Border Counties, 'all the examples are situated on or near large streams and on low-lying ground. They are grouped in Berwickshire and Roxburghshire on the plain of the Merse and in the valleys of the Tweed, Teviot and Borthwick Water' (Williamson 1942:42).

Even without the provision of a map it is clear that, with the exception of the Ayrshire and Angus examples, names in *-wīc*⁸ occur well within the area outlined by the geographical distribution of other early English elements (see Nicolaisen 1964:161-7, Figs. 5-9). Many of these names are therefore undoubtedly early and belong to the first few centuries of Anglian settlement in Scotland. We must bear in mind, however, that some of them, as in England (see Smith 1956:II 260 and Cameron 1961:148) may

be post-Conquest. Handwick and Hedderwick ANG may be classed as such, but one is inclined to regard both Prestwick and Fenwick Ayr, particularly the former, as earlier (see p. 80 above). On the whole, these names have all the hallmarks of a fairly settled population engaged in profitable agriculture, especially cattle-grazing and dairying, and one should therefore not place them before the eighth century, *i.e.* at least two or three generations after the siege of Edinburgh in 638. It would be interesting to examine their geographical relationship to names in OE *-hām*, for instance, or to names in *-ing(a)hām* and *-ingtūn*.

NOTES

- 1 This name is included here although it is now technically and administratively outside Scotland. However, as the county-name derived from it, Berwickshire, applies to a Scottish county and as the settlement to which the name was first given was for a long time on Scottish territory, there seems to be some justification in including the name here. Only those early spellings are cited which antedate Ekwall's earliest reference (1960:39). They correct the erroneous impression that the earliest form ended in *-wich*.
- 2 Source abbreviations used are those recommended in the 'List of Abbreviated Titles of the Printed Sources of Scottish History to 1560' (*Scottish Historical Review* 42, 1963). This list which is also available as a separate reprint should be consulted.
- 3 Because of the ambiguities involved, early spellings of the family-name Borthwick have not been included under any of the geographical names. The variations are more or less the same as in the place-names concerned. CDS, for example, has the following spellings: *Borthwyk* 1404-5 *et frequ.* ad 1425, *Borthvyke* 1408, *Borthwike* 1423, *Borthwic* 1398, 1484, *Bortwic* 1471, *Borthwyc* 1398 *et frequ.* ad 1425, *Borthwik* 1404, 1410, 1459, *Borthwick* 1404 *et frequ.* ad 1569, *Borthweyke* 1411, and *Borthweyk* 1411, 1426-7, 1427.
- 4 This is not the place to speculate on the etymology of Fenwick if it is of non-English origin. Apart from the Lennox names, the Renfrewshire *Fennok* 1444, 1521, 1580 RMS, *Fynnocke* 1658, *Fynnoakbog* 1606, *Fynnockboge* 1628, *Finnochbog* 1658 (all Retours) should, however, be noted.
- 5 This documentation is, of course, by no means complete as Hawick is recorded frequently in medieval documents. Only some of the earliest and more significant spellings are given here.
- 6 It is tempting to relate the name *Smuke*, about five miles S.W. on the River Tweed, to Sunwick. Early forms for that name are *Smike* 1550, *Smwik* 1578 (1582), *Smwke* 1609, *Smik* 1621 (all RMS), *Sneuck* 1652 Blaeu. However, there is no real evidence that these two names are identical in origin, although the absence of early forms for Sunwick is strange.
- 7 Ekwall has, however, pointed out that the meaning of OE *wīc* 'in individual names is often elusive and very difficult to determine. The wisest course will frequently be to leave the question of the exact meaning open' (Ekwall 1964:5).
- 8 It is by no means claimed that all Scottish names ending in *-wick* have been listed in this article. In some cases it is doubtful whether the name in question belongs to this category. The Kirkcudbrightshire parish name Southwick, for instance, does not show a medial *-w-* until the sixteenth century (*Southuic* 1507 RMS), whereas earlier spellings, like *Sutheyk*, *Suthey*, *Suthaye*, *Suthayk*, *Suthaik*, *Suthayck*, *Sothehack*, *Sotheyak* (all 13th century CDS) show no hint of it. A similar name is recorded for Cunningham in Ayrshire (*Southuik* 1576, *Southweik* 1596, *Southuik* 1614 all RMS; *Southuic* 1661, *Southuic* 1685 both Retours), but the second element can hardly be *-wic*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As this article had to be written while the author was abroad, he gratefully acknowledges the competent help of Professor G. W. S. Barrow, Department of Modern History, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Dr Grant Simpson, Scottish Record Office, and Mr Ian Fraser, School of Scottish Studies, who have checked several sources and spellings for him. Without their assistance this article could not have been completed.

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Thurso : a Reply

PER THORSON

Dr W. F. H. Nicolaisen showed me the courtesy of reviewing my Viking Congress lecture (1965) on the name *Thurso* before the paper was published. He will also, I hope, allow me to reply to his review.†

As Dr Nicolaisen is aware, my derivation of *Thurso* from **pórshaugr* is dependent on the medieval Latin forms of the name which he quotes and discusses. His remarks on these early forms, however, have not shaken my belief in their cogency as evidence in the direction I suggest.

† *Scottish Studies* 10: 171-6.

Commencing with Hoveden's 'Turseha', I am grateful to my critic for pointing out that it occurs, in the Chronicle, in the connection *ad Turseham*, which may—but need not—represent the Latin accusative. Further, Dr Nicolaisen is inclined to disregard *h* in *Turseha(m)* on the ground that Hoveden has, in other names, many superfluous *h*'s. It is creditable to point out this circumstance too, although I wish the matter could be more systematically looked into. Might not, for instance, some of the English names which the Chronicler provides with a seemingly gratuitous *H-*, be reactions against incipient *h*-dropping?

Even if the *h* in *Turseham* could be proved to be graphic only,¹ this should not cause any great surprise, seeing that *e.g.* the ON place-name termination *-heimr* was in the late Middle Ages reduced to *-eimr*,² just as OE *-hām* still earlier became *-ām*.³ The fact is that the ON base-form in *-haugr*, which I advocate, is bound up with the diphthong manifested in the Latin forms, quite as much as with their more or less unstable *h*. There is *an* in *Turishau* and **Thorsau* (the latter for the original's *Thorsan*, by an emendation of mine which Dr. Nicolaisen accepts). It can hardly be a wild proposition to bring the third Latin witness, *Turseham*, into line with the former two, by considering *-m* as a mistake for *-u*.⁴ The result will be **Tursehau*, whose resemblance to *Turishau* is striking enough.

I fail to see how the Latin evidence can support ON *ǫ*, *á* 'river' as second element in our place-name. If, for example, the final vowel of 'Turseha' be resorted to as a possibly long *a*, this is delusive proof, for the Norse river-term, whether denoted by *á* or by *ǫ*, was pronounced with the labialised vowel.⁵ The coalescence of *á* with *ǫ* about 1200 entailed the use of *á* as a common symbol for the two originally different sounds, whence spelling like *skál* 'bowl' for older *skǫl*, etc. Since *á* ('river') represents a secondary and not very informing notation, I prefer giving the word as *ǫ* in keeping with early Old Norse. My spelling therefore does not imply that the rounding took place in Caithness, as presumed in Nicolaisen's Note 4.

Dr Nicolaisen is 'inclined to think that, because of Ptolemy's *Tarvedu(m)m* < Early Celtic **Tarvo-dānon* "bullfort" for one of the headlands near Thurso,⁶ the original river-name was **pjórsá* "bull's river". To account for 'the original river-name' he starts from a Celtic **Tarvo-dubron* 'bull's water' (or simply *Tarvos* 'bull') which was, in his opinion, translated into ON **pjórsá*, the Norse name being, 'before saga-times', re-interpreted as *pórsá* 'Thor's river'.

The present writer finds it hard to believe in this hypothetical process of translation and re-interpretation. Besides, the theory that *Tarvedu(m)m* designated a headland near Thurso is highly questionable. In Captain F. L. Thomas's construction of Ptolemy's map,⁷ *Tarvedum* is assumed to be Cape Wrath.

As appears from my Viking Congress lecture, I have no scruple, on the strength of *Skinnet* in its early forms, in establishing *Sknuandi* as the ancient Norse name of Thurso River. I see no reason why that name should not have applied to the river at large—also to the Halkirk-Thurso stretch, where its flow may well be called 'shining'. In Norway

there are, according to O. Rygh's *Norske Elvenavne*, a dozen river-names with the present participle termination *-andi*, *-ande* (including *Skinandi*), each occurring, in the majority of cases, in more than one locality. The signification of such names depends, as we expect, wholly on that of the verbal stem. To illustrate this, reference may be made to the opposite names of two confluent rivers in eastern Norway: *Hyggjande* 'the circum-spect, calm one' and *Verpande* 'the throwing, gushing one' (Rygh, *op. cit.* pp. 112 and 295, respectively).

NOTES

- 1 Cf. its notorious absence in the second syllable of *Thorsan*/**Thorsau*. As for *Turishau*, Dr Nicolaisen does not controvert its *h*.
- 2 *Norske Gaardnavne, Indledning*: 54.
- 3 Example *Cloppan* (1060 A.D.), i.e. *Clapham* in Bedfordshire (quoted from Ekwall's *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*).
- 4 The scribe may have been influenced unawares by the ending *-am* in two immediately preceding names, *Moreviam* and *Cathaniam* (both obvious Latin accusatives).
- 5 The primary ON form of the river-term was actually *ó*, while *ø* is due to analogy (see A. Noreen, *Atlisl. n. altnorv. Gram.*, 4th edn., § 77).
- 6 Alex. MacBain identified the headland with either Holborn Head or Dunnet Head, while W. J. Watson preferred the latter (cf. his *History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland*: 36).
- 7 See the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's *Early Maps of Scotland*, 2nd edn. (1936), opp. p. 17.

A Scheme for the Systematic Collection of Place-Name Material in the Hebrides

I. A. FRASER

Recording of place-name material on tape has been undertaken by the Place-Name Survey of the School of Scottish Studies since 1960, and spasmodically by other field workers in the School since 1958, but at no time has there been an attempt to carry out a systematic survey of names from oral tradition. Recordings were made as the need and opportunity arose, and a vast amount of work was done by Dr Nicolaisen in recording material in areas where Gaelic was fast dying, or almost extinct, e.g. Perthshire, Arran, and Inverness-shire east of the Great Glen.

When I joined the Place-Name Survey in 1965, it was my responsibility to undertake field work in the true Gaelic-speaking areas. Obviously there was scope here for work of a more systematic nature, especially in areas where Gaelic was still widely spoken.

Lewis seemed the most suitable area to start such a systematic survey, especially as we had many contacts there. The first recordings of place-name material in Lewis were made in June 1966, with the aid of Mr Norman MacLeod, schoolteacher in Lionel,

Ness. Using six-inch Ordnance Survey maps sent to him by Dr Nicolaisen, Mr MacLeod had visited over a dozen informants, and, township by township, had built up a coverage of the place-names of Ness and Point. It remained for Dr Nicolaisen and myself to contact these informants, and record the pronunciations of the names on tape. This particular piece of work had been slowly built up by Mr MacLeod over many months, but the system had its merits in that it allowed the informant to examine the map at his leisure and thus to produce a list of unmapped names which would be fuller and more accurate than if he had been visited and interviewed in one evening by a field worker. The informant could consult knowledgeable friends and neighbours, and gather together much more local information if he had the map in his possession over a period of weeks or months.

Consequently, more maps were distributed, giving full coverage of Lewis and Harris; this involved about fifty six-inch sheets in all. It was thought that the schools, especially Junior Secondary schools, should be able to play a big part in the work. Teachers in those schools which were approached greeted the project with enthusiasm, and some nine schools in Lewis and Harris accepted maps, covering their respective areas. In a few cases teachers undertook the work privately; in others, like Back, Leurbost, Tarbert and Leverburgh schools, senior pupils were asked to act as contributors. Here, each pupil is responsible for collecting place-name material from his own particular township, and acting as a field-worker in his or her own right. In this way, the pupils acquire an interest in the place-name tradition of their native community, which they might otherwise not have received.

Private individuals were approached as well, after careful enquiry beforehand. All of those asked to assist were most co-operative, and Lewis place-names are being collected at present by over a dozen such individuals.

To take full advantage of this system, and to speed it up as much as possible, it is necessary to keep in constant communication with those in the field. During my second trip to Lewis, in September 1966, I visited several informants who had accepted maps in June, and who had not completed their maps and lists. Progress was inspected and any problems were discussed, and although some visits consisted of a few minutes' conversation in a hay-field or in a loom-shed, I thought it worth-while to show interest in the progress made by informants since the work involves many hours of their time. Personal contact in a systematic survey of this nature is vital, since it tends to reduce the time taken to complete a piece of work. Short, frequent, field-trips are therefore more desirable than occasional long ones, and in the long run are more likely to pay the best dividends.

Thus, a close watch is kept over the field, and it is possible to distribute maps systematically for a very large area in a fairly short time. (This was done for most of Lewis and the whole of Harris in less than a fortnight.) If contact is made and maintained by personal means the end product, in the form of recorded material, should be comprehensive and accurate, although it might take many months before all the material is collected and recorded.

I propose soon to extend this system to two other areas—Skye and Ardnamurchan. If results in Lewis and Harris are encouraging, there is no reason why this system should not be used in other parts of the Gaelic-speaking areas.

Whale Bone Artifacts and Some Recent Finds in Berneray, Harris

I. A. CRAWFORD

Recent ploughing (1964) in the area of Borve, Berneray (Harris) has resulted in certain artifacts being collected as surface finds. The objects were five in number, of which only four are illustrated, and were found on the site of the baile of Scalabrig which was cleared in 1853 according to local informants. Other bailtean like Sheabie (*Siabaidh*) are thought to have been cleared at this time. (See *Post Medieval Archaeology* I 1967 forthcoming.) Further details obtained locally indicated that seven houses were on the site at the time of clearance—and that subsequently the walls were removed. Probably then the objects derive from floor or midden levels associated with these buildings.

Inventory of Objects found at Scalabrig site (NGR: NF/909.817) (Plate I)

o. A large whale vertebra 1 ft. \times 1½ ft. diameter which has been deeply scooped to form a massive bowl. This may well have been a barley humbler or knocking 'stone'. (Comparable objects N.M.A. GNA 234 and 235, were recovered at Foshigarry.) This was not available for illustration.

1. (Plate I.) A heavy whale bone blade or sock of 'hoof-shaped' profile, up to 3 in. in cross-section, 9 in. long and 5 in. broad, it is dressed to a fine edge at one end and has deep V incisions at the opposed end. The trimmed edge is highly polished and occasionally deeply scored and gives an appearance of much usage. As the illustrations show this blade has an asymmetric sheer. This sheer resembles the characteristic wear which occurs on iron digging and delving spades (Fenton 1962-3). The V incisions may well indicate hafting by lashing but there are no obvious signs of rub marks indicative of the lashing itself across the face of the blade (nor are there on the comparable material). Blades of split whale bone, when thick enough to incorporate the cancellous tissue, have, by virtue of this depth of cut, two faces: a smooth original bone exterior (in this case probably the upper face when hafted) and a cellular, fibrous, interior—probably the lower face in this case. The latter face has been so polished by friction as to have a fine hard shine almost obliterating the cellular quality of the material.

I consider this may very well have been the blade of a digging or delving spade (a plough sock is also a distinct possibility). Thick and durable, it might not have been sharp enough to cut thick turf or to cope with stony ground, but on light machair soil

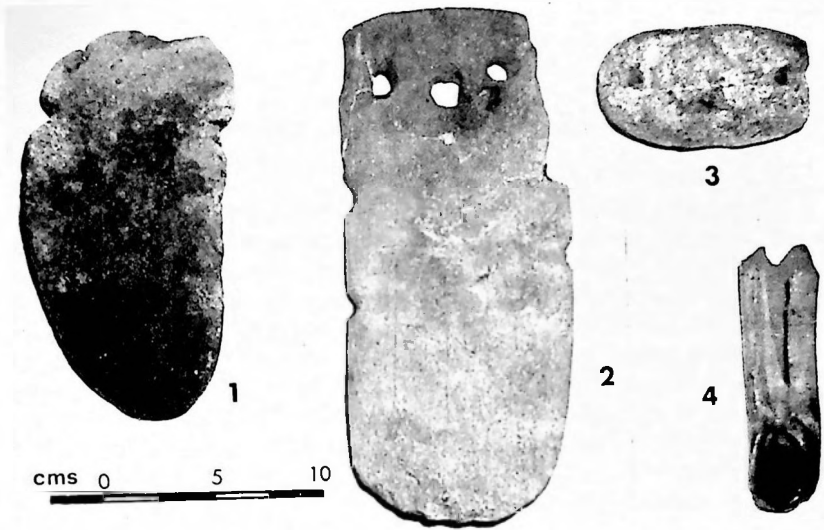


Plate I Four whalebone artifacts (see pages 88 and 89)

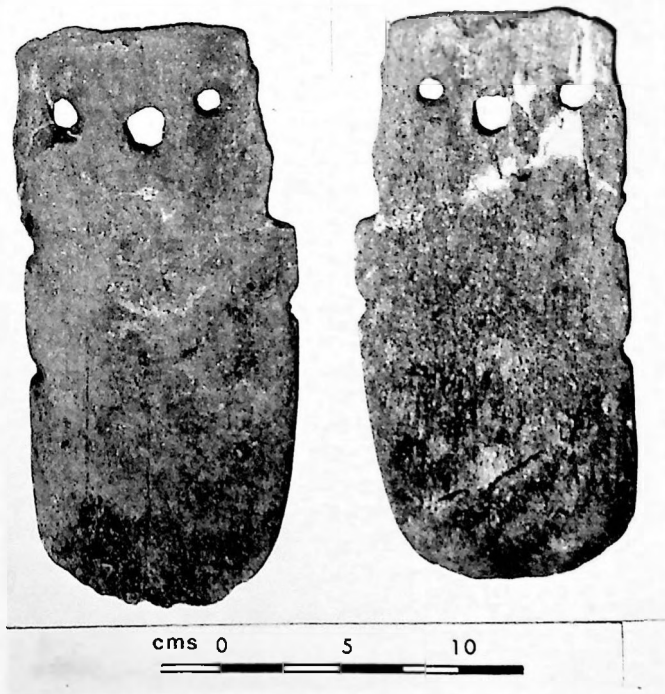


Plate II Whalebone artifact No. 2 (see page 89)

or indeed on peat it could keep ground in cultivation, and after all, given the raw materials, it would be very easily replaced. The asymmetric wear does strongly suggest the turning-over of ground.

There are many close parallels from Foshigarry (Beveridge 1930-1 and Callander 1930-1) especially N.M.A. GNA 207.

2. (Plate II.) A long (11 in.) spatulate blade 6 in. wide of whale bone, much less robust than No. 1 being only $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in cross section. There is slight trimming at one end, slight polishing and scoring on the 'interior' surface and there are two pairs of V notches (not in one case directly opposed) at the mid point of the blade with three large perforations (each 1 in. in diameter) at the opposed end to the trimming. Again this seems to have been a hafted blade and to have been lashed to the haft—but additionally to have been pegged in place as well. This would certainly not have been a plough sock and is unlikely to have been a spade blade: on the grounds of durability and strength it is too delicate an object. An almost identical object was retrieved from the Broch of Burrian—purpose unknown (N.M.A. GB 254); a similar object, termed a scoop, was found in Iron Age levels at Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: Fig. 27 No. 6). I cannot state a function for this type of object although the possibility of its use as an oar-blade occurs to me, bearing in mind timber shortage in the Outer Hebrides.

3. (Plate I.) An oval lump of steatite with a bi-perforated hole at opposite ends. Very probably a sole weight on a net or possibly a loom weight or tether weight (identical objects occur at Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: Plate XXXVII Nos 3 and 4)).

4. (Plate I.) Portion of a long bone (species unidentified) highly polished by friction. This appears to have been the middle unit of a tripartite implement with a head fitting in the narrow end and a shaft (presumably wooden) inserted in the open slot at the opposed end. (A. Fenton has however suggested in conversation that this could be a polisher for leather harness.) This object is split longitudinally and shows signs of binding or lashing.

Objects 3 and 4 are not relevant to this discussion but are included as they were found with the others. They will not be discussed further.

The intention in publishing these items is primarily to record their existence (they have been retained in Bernera), but also to discuss very briefly the possibility that they may indicate the survival of some aspects of early technology into the pre-clearance phase in the Outer Hebrides. In this connection it is items 0, 1 and 2 which are of particular interest, as they indicate the continuing intensive use of whale bone. The stranding of whales whether by accident or design has been a common feature of North-West Atlantic societies until the present day. The phenomenon exists yet in Faroe, did so until recently in Shetland, and there are Hebridean references and illustrations (Daniel 1818). Sites like Foshigarry, N. Uist (Beveridge 1930-1) show use of cetacean bone covering a wide range of objects, and recent finds (unpublished) excavated from

seventeenth-century levels at Udal, N. Uist, show similar if less intensive usage. Given availability of material of course there is no reason why whale bone should not persist in use until the mass production, distribution and cheapness of metal work rendered it obsolescent, and this would not be so in the Outer Hebrides until the nineteenth century.

The whole question of the use and significance of whale bone artifacts requires more detailed treatment than is intended here and this must be attempted at some later date. I should like however, to make one or two points at this stage. Firstly it is conceivable that in whale bone blades we may have a more or less accurate presentation, in more durable form, of iron blades (and possibly, plough socks) which are themselves rarely found now owing to corrosion. This is particularly important in the case of Foshigarry where a really considerable range of material exists. Beveridge (1930: 303) writes that perhaps the outstanding feature of the site is the abundance of worked cetacean bone 'more than forty specimens of flat or slightly curved slabs usually measuring when complete about 8 in. or 9 in. in length by 3 in. width by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in thickness with the peculiar characteristic that each bears four or occasionally six V-shaped incisions in its sides symmetrically arranged at both edges in precisely opposite pairs'.

Beveridge sees these as 'almost obviously' weapons or clubs and perhaps axes—these ideas seem highly unlikely guesses. Callandar (1930-1:351) is on better ground when he describes the objects as blades, although some are massive enough to be termed sock-like, and he also points to the relatively few parallels at the Broch of Burrian and Howmae, North Ronaldsay, and Saverock, Kirkwall (Callandar 1930-1:352) especially No. 10, Fig. 12 in the site report.

There are some indications then of a more versatile whale bone technology than has been envisaged, of the interesting possibility that we may have bone skeuomorphs, giving some indication of vanished iron objects, and finally of possible continuity in use and form from the Iron Age to pre-clearance phase. A note of caution should be sounded on the last consideration, archaeological dating on the Scottish West Coast being still highly imprecise: the Scalbrig material could have been ploughed up from a level (or levels) underlying the pre-clearance baile. In a sense this is the situation at Foshigarry where an extensive pre-clearance baile (Crawford 1965:55) overlies (actually by some 15 ft. according to Beveridge) the presumed Iron Age site with its wealth of whale bone. Artifacts at Udal (see above) are fairly securely dated to the seventeenth century A.D.

Further consideration of these objects must await the excavation of more comparable material from well dated contexts.

I am indebted to my friend, Mr Ian Fergusson of Borve, Berneray (Harris), for taking considerable trouble to show me these objects and their provenance in Berneray.

NOTE

Plates I and II are reproduced from the School of Scottish Studies Photographic Archives BV 3a 1 6837 and 6838.

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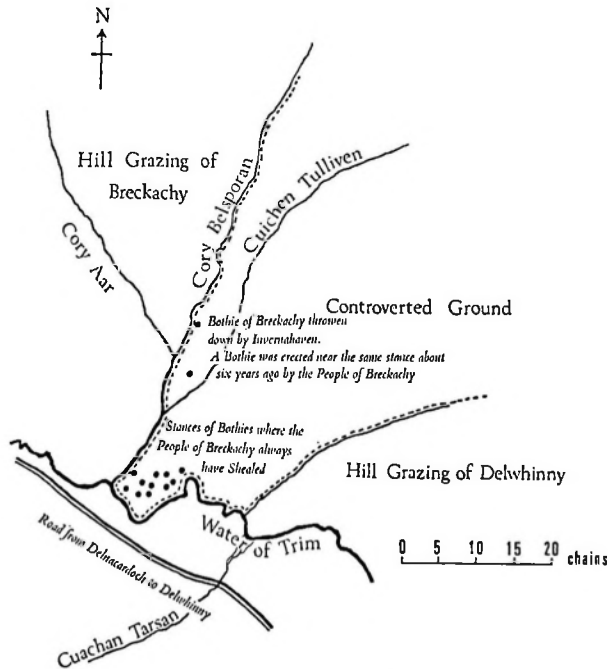
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Shielings of the Drumochter

VICTOR GAFFNEY

Though the Drumochter was a grazing area, the shielings¹ proper of the Badenoch and Atholl people stopped short of the summit where the Forest of Drumochter and Forest of Glengarry (or 'West Forest of Athole') marched. These 'forests' were hunting country of the Dukes of Gordon and Atholl respectively but those who were given commissions as forester (e.g. the Macphersons of Breakachy to the north and the Robertsons of Auchleeks and Blairfettie in Atholl) generally enjoyed some rights of pasturage for their cattle. In practice there was a good deal of encroaching on the forest ground by the foresters' own subtenants and others. There were penalties for trespass but these did not deter Badenoch people shieling in glens to the east from allowing their cattle to cross the Truim to the forest ground. Herds generally let their cattle go as far as would allow them to return 'in due milking time'. If the forester appeared, however, they were 'all in a surprise and a hurry'!²

The most coveted side glens were Coire Dhomhain and Coire Chaoruinn. These are now on the Atholl side of the county march but in the eighteenth century they were used indiscriminately by Badenoch and Atholl people based on shiels some distance away, and by drovers. This was in fact 'controverted' or disputed ground, the Badenoch people claiming as far south as Craig nan Ubhal or even Dalnaspidal (once a shieling



Plan showing controverted pasture between the grazings of Breckachy and of Dalwhinny. Redrawn from G.D. 44/48/33.

of Auchleeks) while Atholl folk maintained that the hummocks or 'shians' in the boggy ground below An Torc (The Boar of Badenoch) were the 'Cragganannual' traditionally associated with the march. Cattle frequently strayed—'in starts' as the herds said—on to the wrong ground, Atholl beasts sometimes wandering as far as the north end of Loch Ericht and Badenoch animals as far south as Dalnaspidal.

Various perambulations of the marches and attempts at a proof took place; depositions of witnesses survive from the years 1729, 1730, 1731, 1735 and 1767. In 1767 the process was brought at the instance of the advocate for the Crown, the Lochgarry estate being then in the hands of the Barons of Exchequer as a result of the forfeiture of Donald Macdonell for his part in the '45. Despite the mass of evidence then gathered no settlement was reached. In 1797 the dispute was put in the hands of two arbiters. They disagreed, however, and in 1819 it was submitted to a single arbiter, Henry Cockburn (later Lord Cockburn).

Donald Macdonell's connection with the district probably helped to confuse the issue still further because he was for a time in possession of the territory on each side (*i.e.* north and south) of the Drumochter. As factor for the Duke of Gordon in Badenoch

and Lochaber and son-in-law of Gordon of Glenbucket, the Duke's commissioner in Badenoch, he no doubt found it easy to come into possession of the Drumochter grazings some years prior to the '45. He was also a vassal of the Duke of Atholl. In 1738 he was granted a feu of the Lochgarry grazings by James, Duke of Atholl, and he thereupon took the designation 'of Lochgarry'. He was also in possession of Cullachie at the Fort Augustus end of the Corrieyairack Pass, wadset to him by his cousin, John Macdonell of Glengarry (the Inverness-shire glen).

Donald Macdonell was a useful man to have on the Atholl-Badenoch bounds. He had joined the Highland Regiment or Watch in 1742 and was successful in hampering the activities of the reivers who used the pass as a corridor for booty.

The forfeited estate was in 1784 returned to his son, Colonel John Macdonell, who had seen service in Canada as major in Fraser's Highlanders and became colonel of the 76th Regiment.

The drovers mentioned are two Macintoshes, both Duncan, one of Essie and the other from about Inverness. They were met by the Duke of Atholl's ground officer and shown the 'glens' where they were to pasture their cattle: Coire Dhomhain, Coire Mhic-sith, Coire Luidhearnaidh and Coire Chaoruinn. For each they paid £5 sterling. The cattle went straight from there to the trysts. MacLeod of Ose was another drover who was placed in Coire Dhomhain, but by Macpherson of Ralia. Yet another was Alexander Cumming of Coire, south of Loch Rannoch and on the Struan estate, who was not popular with the Drimchastle tenants who found his cattle too close to their ancient shielings of Allt Easan and An Cearcall.

At least two old plans exist of this piece of territory: John Lesslie's (1767) and another by Alexander Taylor (1770). Each gives some indication of the sites of shieling bothies. Macpherson of Ralia stated in 1797 that in 1773 he had demolished bothies built by Atholl people 'on the Duack side' (Allt Dubhaig). Traces of these and other bothies are unlikely to have been obliterated unless the sites were taken over for modern cottages, as seems to have happened at Cockburn Cottages on the Badenoch side of the summit. Some bothy remains may well be close to the modern highway and others near the old military road. Four shiels at the Allt Fuar Mhonadh were on ground which is now between the two roads.

Places of Shielings

Places are given in north to south order; positioning to right or left of the page indicates whether they lie east or west of the pass. (Variants of the place names, as they appear in eighteenth-century documents, are given in brackets after the Ordnance Survey version.)

ALLT COIRE UILLEIM (Shieling of Ault William). 'East of the military road from Dalwhinnic to Dalnacardoch and nine or ten miles from Uvie to which it belongs' (CR8/194).

ALLT COIRE NAN CISTEACHAN

(Aldnakistichan). Macpherson of Uvic shieled here before going to shiel at Gerary.

Noted (CR8/194) as shieling of Crubenmore.

DAIL A' CHAIRN (O.S. 6 in.) (Dellichurn).

Breakachy tenants used this pasture. Grazing extended into the hill above it. Given

(CR8/192 and 194) as a shieling of Pressmuckrach 'lying in Forrest of Drumchter along east side of Great Highland Road and seven miles south'.

ALLT BEUL AN SPORAIN (Bcallsporrain, Altvealsporain, Aldsporrain, Coirbialsporrain). Shieling of Breakachy and Corachy 'lying in Drumachter on west side of Highland Road and about nine miles south'. Atholl people were known to come thus far with their cattle at times (*v.* Plan No. 33, GD44, Sec. 48).

'GERARY' (Ghiararie, Leikghairarie, Riadghiar Aric). A shieling place of Breakachy; range of Pasture to the top of Leachtgerarie, east to Gearlecht to foot of Altdarie, east to Altvealsporain. Leckghairarie was 'forest' ground but Breakachy tenants shieled there because Macpherson of Breakachy was forester. Horses were often 'taken' (trespassing) in Cory Machronich (A'Mharconaich, N.G.R./NN 598764).

'STRATHDOWNAIG' (Pass of Drumochter).

Cf. O.S. Creagan Doire Dhonaich ('Craigdarichonie') This was part of the normal range of pasture of the Gordon tenants of Badenoch.

ALLT CREAGACH (Aultanchraggan, Auldancraigiech, Altancraggach). Tenants of 'Prestmuckrach' (part of the tack of Breakachy) shieled there but they often sent their 'yeld' cattle to Corrydoan and Corrychurn—also to Feaduaig (presumably the source of the Allt Dubhaig).

Badenoch people, we are told, pastured their cattle 'on the brea face above the shieling of Corryduaig'.

Pitgowan Macphersons were often here in the early part of the season and later at Gerary.

AN TORC OF BOAR OF BADENOCH (Torcht, (Turcht). 'Opposite to Altanraggach'; 'a mile south from Gerary'.

Tenants of Breakachy shieled at the foot of it; the 'Face of Torcht' was normal range of pasture for Breakachy and Pressmurchach people.

The 'Shiel' was between the 'face of Torcht and the King's Road'.

John Macpherson of Invermahaven, when a boy of 12, spent a night in an empty shiel there with an uncle 'at the hunting'.

Gregor Macpherson in Corachie (part of Breakachy tack) shieled there for several years; 'a party of soldiers passing burnt the timber of his shiel house'. There were 3 or 4 more 'hutts' there.

The marshy ground below An Torc had in it 'small eminences' called 'shians' by the Badenoch people. Some Atholl people maintained these were Cragganannual and not the rocks on the Atholl side of the march which Badenoch people claimed as the march.

A' BHUIDHEANACH (Buinach, Buyannach). Both Badenoch and Atholl peoples shieled here. It was said to be in Auchlecks' tack of the Lochgarry grazings.

COIRE CHAORUINN (Aultachurn, Altchierin, Coiriechierin Corriechierin). Lochgarry cattle pastured here; Pressmukerach cattle too.

John Duff, Delnamien (Dail-na-mine, N.G.R./NN 75697) took possession of a hut built by the military when making the 'high road' and shieled here for a year or two until it was pulled down by Badenoch people.

Auchleeks tenants shieled at the 'Inver of Althurn'. They had a bothy by the burn and Donald Robertson had one on the opposite side 'close by the burn'.

COIRE DHOMHAIN (Corrydoan, Corriedoinn). Sometimes 'near a thousand head of cattle' in it. For 15 to 20 days each year Alex Oig Roberston would have six or seven hundred cattle there. Pressmukcrach cattle were frequently to be found there and Robertson of Flichity, who had a tack of Drumochter for 3 years, kept cattle there until they went to the fairs. Many cattle were lost over the rocks of Corriecraggach and Mackronach. Atholl herds, trying to establish a march there, were said to graze on the north side, without bothies, spending nights in the open. Tenants of Drimchastle shieled on south side, a little east of the Burn of Claisdourach ('Clashdourchoin'—the first tributary glen above main highway on south side of Coire Dhomhain). There were Atholl bothies at Clashindourechoin—'close to Mcaldourchoin'.

BRUACH NAN IOMAIREAN

(Bruichnanimirchin in Corriedoin, Bruchnahimrichin). Duncan Robertson of Auchleeks' great-grandfather, who had his shiel there, also had grazings at Edendon and Stranphatrick.

At 'the junction of Fraoch Coire and Coire Dhomhain ("Inverfruochcorry") John Roy McClicasch or McKeneth, bowman to Macpherson of Breakachy, Laggan, was known to have his bothy'; the 'laroch' of John Oig McAllum McGregor's bothie was also to be seen there.

CRAIG NAN UBHAL (Cragganoule). 'A small rock in the hill face'; a march stone nearby had charcoal under it but the stone was 'pulled down at the making of the road'.

A 'chair stone' (Craganancil) referred to. Donald Mcpherson in Cailley (1767) had been shown by a very old man, Donald

McGillivray, where Bacht McLcalan had sworn to the marches on his knees 'by a stone having the form of a chair in it below Craggananoule which stone was removed by the military and still lyes at the side of the road'.

ALLT DUBHAIG (Strathduaig, Breaduaig, Corryduaig, Feaduaig). Badenoch people sometime grazed their cattle on this side of the Drumochter 'in the fore part of the year before the Lochgarry people went to their shiels'; there was no 'poindler' there to interrupt them.

ALLT FUAR MHONADH (Auldfourvoine, Altfuarvonnie). Many Atholl shiels there before 1745. Among those who shieled there were James Robertson in Dalreoch, James McPhaderich in Braikrie, and Donald McIntosh in Blairfettie. There are five bothies between the Wade road and the modern one.

ALLT RUIDH NAN SGOILEARAN (Riinascolairin, Rii na siolairin). Angus McDonald in Trinafour, Charles Robertson in Tomcraigiech of Auchleeks and Duncan Robertson Dow in Croftdow of Struan were among those known to have shieled there. The latter was on one occasion sent from his shiel to invite Lochiel to a hunt arranged by Lord George Murray. (Remains of what look like circular shiels are on the north side of the Burn.)

ALLT COIRE EASAN [S.W. Loch Garry] 'Auldessan'. Colonel Alex. Roberston of the Dutch Service told of his father shieling there.

AN CEARCALL [N.E. Loch Garry]. Riidowchiarcle, 'The Ciarcill'. John Roy Robertson was one who herded there—Alex. Oig Robertson in Dalnacardoch's cattle—until the end of June when Sir Robert Menzies's people and the Atholl people who shieled at Dalnaspidal arrived. He then moved north to Coire Dhomhain.

ALLT COIRE LUIDHEARNAIDH
(Corryliurnie, Liurnie, Corryleirnie). Part
of the grazing of Lochgarry included in
Auchleeks' tack of the grazings.

ALLT COIRE MHIC-SITH (Corrymackshie).
Auchleeks and Blairfettie cattle grazed here
as well as at Cearcall, Luirnie, etc. (Several
clusters of bothy remains at N.G.R./NN
647737.)

DALNASPIDAL (Dalinspiddle, Dellspidell)
Badnoch cattle and horses often grazed as far
south as this, it was claimed.

Lord George Murray pitched his tent here
when he arranged a hunt for his friends in the
Drumochter.

NOTES

- 1 *Scottish Studies* has adopted this spelling without prejudice to the etymology.—EDITOR.
- 2 Unless otherwise stated, throughout this note information has been drawn from the depositions in GD 44/27/13.

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Plans:

R.H.P.60 Register House Plan. 'Plan of the high hill grazings of Loch Gary in Athol, by Wm. Tennoch' [c. 1790].
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GD44/27/13 Contains 'Copy, Eye Sketch of the Contraverted Marches betwixt the Annexed Estate of Lochgarry Perth Shire, & His Grace the Duke of Gordon's Estate of Badenoch in Inverness Shire, taken Sept. 3rd 1767 by John Lesslie'.
GD Sec. 48, Plan No. 33 'Contraverted Pasture betwixt Grazing of Breakachy and that of Dalwhinny'.

Oran Mór Sgorbreac

JOHN MACINNES

These two melodic variants of *Oran Mór Sgorbreac* were recorded from the late Mrs Kate Beaton, Woodend, Portree, Skye, and from Mr John MacLean, Oban, a native of the island of Raasay. A text of the song with translation and commentary has already appeared in *Scottish Studies* 6:235. I am grateful to my colleagues Miss Morag MacLeod and Mr James Porter for transcribing the music.

John MacLean SA 1953/43 A.4.

Far am faigh - te fon ri òl ann

Cup-an air-eig iod 'scu-ach-an feòd - ar

Hù hoir-eann ò hi ri o hò

Hù hoir-eann ò hi ri ri ri u

Dhì hoir-eann ò hi ri i o hò

First note Ceud Far

Gheobh-te siod an taigh mo leann-ain

Gheobh Last note Hò

Mrs Kate Beaton SA 1953/166

'S mi 'm both-an bochd air dhroch còmh -dach

'Slonn -an sin 's mar dh'èir ich dhòmh -sa [Hù-]

Shetland Weather Lore:
from the MSS of Laurence Williamson of Gardie (1855-1936)

PETER JAMIESON

Laurence Williamson of Gardie,¹ Mid Yell, Shetland, who was one of Dr Jakobsen's chief informants on Shetland dialect, place-names, and folk legends, mainly during the period 1893-1900, himself wrote down a great quantity of material he had learned in the course of his travels throughout Yell, Fetlar, Northmavine, and other districts. He also visited Scalloway and Lerwick a few times and paid his only visit to the Scottish mainland for about three or four months in 1895. He made use of whatever scrap of paper lay handy to jot down items while they were still fresh in his memory, and this explains the variety of rather unusual sheets on which his records have come down to us. The dates on the notes cover the period from 1868 (a poem), when he was 13 years old, to 1933 (an extract from the *Family Herald* of Toronto noting the death of one of the Gardners, probably a relative of his mother's). Much of what he recorded came from his mother, Mally Gardner, who is the 'MG' in the selection given below. The material, threatened with decay, was fortunately rescued by Mr Laurence G. Johnson, Setter, Mid Yell, an intimate friend of Laurence Williamson.

In this writer's transcriptions, the symbols used in Laurence Williamson's rather personal notation have been faithfully preserved. Some of the more unusual consonant symbols perhaps need explanation in terms of the International Phonetic Alphabet:

s[ʃ], w^ə[hw], ŋ[ŋ], [tʃ], j[nɔʃ], ŋ[ɲ], ʃ[λ].

In spite of the dialect pronunciation and vocabulary involved, translations into standard English have not been felt necessary. Items in square brackets in the text are editorial additions.

- 1893
 April In we dont he sheep, not one ta yarm, dats not da way wi da Refirt folk it hes a stok. R.P. Ap. 93
- 1 April Hit wiz a *windy spit* standin up fre da sun when he set, in w^əcn he reis he wez is red is bliid. M.G. 12.0 p.m. 1 Ap 93
- 20 April Is i dry midir. No, No, hes wer din i wis agin:his awfil blak ti da nordirt in wastirt—Hil maybe be a dirty day yet. Hil be a dirty day if i blofs/. L.W. & M.G.; 11.8 20 Ap, 93
- 22 April His a gel o wind. He wis seli-frost i da mornin:dats w^əy his gotm up se/ Da ground wis in a mer o wit dew/ Will, dats just seli frost. MG & MW 11 am., 22 Ap 93. S. fresh, breezy.

- 13 May W^cats du opin da windu for:Im opin im ta hear if da levrik is singin. 'Whits ta hinder dim nu it is haf *owerliyt*. De sing at 12 oclock.' De first sing ta da dim in dan de sing ta da rev. MG., & LW. 1.10 am 13 May 93 fine ng.
- 20 May I didna expect it wid ever peep ut o da ert w^een it wis... /Ah?/. I didna expect it de wid be a briar-pukl w^een it wis sawn:hit wis s'aln extri tik. MG., 20 My 93.
- 28 May Foal. Andrew's in is skunjn da sem. Se dat... se dat. Wit in dry is a da sam ti him ('I wis i may na run imsel itil a hol'). He's *şuirly* takin exerces da niyt.—Hits a complete sport. (Foal running... MG., 28 My 93, 7.20 Pm. bleak N. beyntir)
- 28 June I tawt he wez gain ta dry up/ Du needna a tawt dat. When he wez şakit him ta sul a pil in so şifted da *árt*, hit wez herly lekli. MG., 11.15 am, 28 Ju 93.
- 2 August Dir no hed a wit kliv—da gets. MG., 8 10 p.m. 2 Au 93
Is lej is he h'ejs dis way his nedr wil ir il. M.G. 8.40 p.m. 2 Au 93.
- 4 August His no more lek drying din da monint it i began. I kent da streen bi da fleyt it wis on da sky in da appearins o im it i denoted no good. M.G., 9.20 am. 4 Au 93.
- 13 August Da wind is geen ta da SW.,:dats no gud sign—Hill cdir blo iin af ir rein im af, dats a sure thing. MG., 10.20 p.m., 13 Aug 93.
- 18 August Hi wiz a lip o het da niyt, in yon *órm* otras it wis ut, it wez fearfil. M.G., 18 Au 93.
- 19 August Hes no se mukl wind at onyrate:he wez a gelder o wind after du gud. M.G., 0.15 a.m., 19 Au 93.
- 20 August Da sea is in a hurl far meir den da wind is bin. Hits up in a *agitation* more. M.G., 6.30 p.m., 20 Au 93
- 21 August Da baas is bin gain da sam is de wir yesterday. De wir gain. is. tho de wir no wind, de wir in a agitation. MG., 7.40, 21 Aug 93
His no time haulin im up—no time i' da world:his a swip o terror upo da sky. MG., 7.50? 21 Au 93 (go for geese).
His a perfit storm:his very wild *lukin* agin (At west corner, returning) lb, 8.5.
- 30 August His a terrible *şela*. His a hurl i da sea ta da est/ His tiknd up da sky, wez i tiknd up da sky whan du kam in. His tiknd up da sky at wans. (Da wind'l be gain dere.)
I see Bina Pole *şerin* i da head o ir et rig/ Did du no hear me sayin it *şu* wez *şerin* w^ean I kam him fre da hil. L.W., & M.G., 3.37 p.m., 30 Au 93

- 1 September Hits bin twa beutifil days/ Da wind at da Nort in munlyt de say hits odius gud for metin da corn. Da nort wind lays da beards o da corn ta da sun—in dry. MG., 1 Sp., 93
- 2 September Hits no up inondir a lee shore at de he ta ging: nothin bit *ocean-bed*. MG., 5.15 pm., 2 Sp. 93
- 4 September Just finished flitting the peats 64 geng × 3horses[?]: 192 plus 114:306 lead. Fine day. Wind south west, sunshine, folk shearing. 2.12 p.m., 4 Sep., 1893.
- 5 September Hil waken ut o dis fog: de kin luk for it. M.G., 6.30 p.m., 5 Sp., 93.
- 19 September Yon shild is *uevlin* away at da idir in . . . Dis is der game-time-o night. Elfin is up helpin dem: he held a niyt wi dim da streen. MG., 10.15 p.m., 19 Sp. 93.
- 20 September Da sky in da nort in nort-est is da sam is hed bin sna in winter—he may sun be. great-white—kluds bigid da ten ut ower da tidir. He wis dry w^an I wis up atwin 4 in 5 oclock. Da starns wis ut—very dim ta da suth. De wir ut clear i da nort, da streen—whan we gud ta bed. MG., bk., 10.30 20 Sp 93.
- 10 December Da wind is due suth. Der ne carry on da sky. Da frost is lyin ta da leewird o da deks in ta da leeward o da braes. . . . Dus du no see i da shimly w^air da wind is no standin on. MG., 1.20 p.m. 10 D 93.
- 12 December Hil no be lan dry: hes filin up da lee sky: hill be a valjinsi agin. M.G. 0.50 p.m. 12 D 93 (SSE out of frost. Fetlar boat lifting [lying?] at Busta Wg & M)
- 13 December His ne siyn o dryin/ As for drying w^an hes lowsn fre da N in NE ut o frost. MG. 8.0 pm., 13 D 93.

NOTE

- 1 In 1962, *Scottish Studies* published an article (6:49-59) by Mr L. G. Johnson of Setter, Mid Yell, on the eminent Shetland folklorist Laurence Williamson. The peculiar working methods Williamson employed were described fully in that article and are only briefly touched upon in the introduction to this selection by Mr Jamieson from Laurence Williamson's manuscripts, here published with Mr L. G. Johnson's kind permission. The items selected all have some bearing on Shetland weather lore, and have been arranged in chronological order. The period covered is April to December 1893.
- EDITOR.