

THE PLACE-NAMES OF LANCASHIRE

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45. Newchurch-in-Rossendale (N.E. of Rawtenstall ; the greater part of the old Forest of Rossendale, for the most part desolate hill country).

The Forest of Rossendale : Rocendal 1242 LI, Rossendale 1292 PW, 13 cent. WhC 154, Rosendale, Roscyndale, Roscindale 1296 Lacy C, (de) Roscyndale 1324 LI, Rossyndale 1311 LI, de Roscundale 1308 OR 160, Rosendale 1577 Harr.

A clough with a stream (White well Brook) runs from N. to S. past Newchurch through the middle of the district. This is very likely the valley that gave name to the forest. The first el. of the name is difficult, partly on account of the variation in the spellings. But I take it that c, sc, ss cannot point to any other early form than Rossen-. Possibly this might be connected with Welsh rhos " moor." A (diminutive) Rhossan is found in Welsh as the name of Ross in Heref. (Rhossan ar Wy) ; cf. Owen's Pembrokeshire II. 407, where other examples of Rossan in place-names are given. The word is once exemplified as the name of a brook. Such a form might have given E. Rossen- ; but of course the connection is doubtful.

Newchurch : Newchurch Rossindall 1590 Burghley.

Bacup (town) : ffulebachope c 1200 WhC 154, Bacop (vaccary) 1324 LI, -e 1325 LCR, Bacopboth 1464 Whit. I. 360, Bacobbothe 1507 CCR ; now [be'kap]. Bacup stands on the upper Irwell, which here runs from N. to S., turning west just below Bacup. The second el. is O.E. hop, here used in the sense " a smaller opening branching out from the main dale." The first el. is perhaps O.E. bcec " back," used in the sense " a ridge " or " hill " (cf. back " a hill " in the Ches. dial.) ; cf. Backbarrow in Lo.

Deadwin Clough : Dedequenclogh (vaccary) 1324 LI, 1325 LCR, Dedewhenclogh 1464 Whit. I. 360, Dedonclough 1507 OCR. " The clough of the dead woman " (O.E. dead adj. and cwene " woman "). A dead woman may have been found in the clough.

Deerplay, Deerplay Moor : Derplaghe 1296, 1305 Lacy C, Derpelawe 1324 LI. " The

place where deer play." O.E. deor-plega.-f

Lumb (on Whitewell Water) : Le Lome 1534 CCR. Cf. the same name p. 62.

Sharneyford (N. of Bacup) : Schernyford WhC 334. " The miry ford " ; cf. O.E. scearn " dung."

Sow Clough (at a valley of the same name): Soclogh 1463 Whit. 1. 353, Soodogh 1528 CCR. Literally " sow clough "; So- represents a Northern development of O.E. sugu.

Tunstead : Tunstede (vaccary) 1324 LI, Tunsted 1325 LCR, 1507 CCR. O.E. tunstede " village," very likely also, as in this case, " deserted site of a tun."

Wolfenden : Wolfhamdene (vaccary) 1324 LI, 1325 LCR, Wolfendenboth 1507 CCR. " The valley of the wulfhamm " apparently. O.E. hamm originally meant " enclosure," and O.E. wulfhamm might mean the same thing as O.E. wulfhaga, i.e., " enclosure to protect the flocks from wolves " (Crawf. Ch. p. 53). Or it might mean " enclosure to trap wolves in." But hamm is found with the name of an animal as defining el. without such a sense, as in O.E. heafoces hamm (BCS 1169), ylfethamm (ib. 1307).

CCR : Court Rolls of the Honor of Clitheroe, 1377-1663. Ed. William Farrer. Manchester,

Crawf. Ch. : " The Crawford Collection of Early Charters and Documents." Ed. Napier and Stevenson. In Anecdota Oxoniensia. Oxford, 1895.

Harr. : William Harrison, " The Description of Britaine." In Holinshed's Chronicle, 1577.

Lacy C : Two " compoti " of the Lancashire and Cheshire manors of Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, 24 and 33 Edward I. Chetham Soc. Old Ser. cxii.

LCR : Lancashire Court Rolls A.D. 1323-4. Ed. W. Farrer. Record Soc. xli.

LI : Lancashire Inquests, Extents, and Feudal Aids. Ed. W. Farrer. Record Soc. xlviii, liv.

PW : Placita de quo warranto, Edw. I-Edw. III. Record Com. 1818.

WhC : The Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey. Chetham Soc. Old Ser. Vol. x, etc. [The coucher was compiled in the fourteenth century.]

Whit. : T. B. Whitaker, History of the Original Parish of Whalley. 4th ed. 1872 .