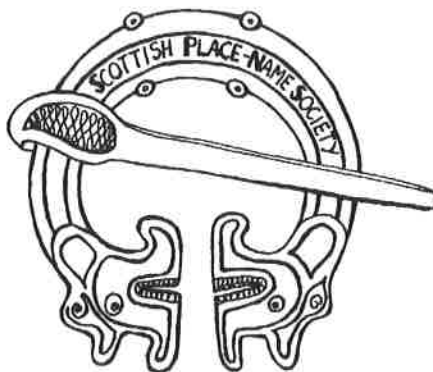


SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME NEWS

No.4

Spring 1998



The Newsletter of the
SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
COMANN AINMEAN-AITE NA H-ALBA

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WELCOME to Issue 4 of *Scottish Place-Name News*, with details of our second AGM, to be held in **Glasgow** on 2 May 1998: full details and registration form to be found on final page of this Issue.

STIRLING CONFERENCE

The SPNSoc. held a successful joint one-day conference with the Scottish Oral History Group in Stirling on 8 November 1997. It was attended by around 45 people *fae aa the airts*, and speakers included Ian Fraser on the landscape of his childhood in Gairloch, Wester Ross; Simon Taylor on the Scottish Place-Name Database; Angus Watson on the place-names of the Ochills; and Doreen Waugh on the collection of place-names from oral sources in Shetland.

AN INDEX TO PONT PLACE-NAMES

Dr Jeffrey Stone (University of Aberdeen) has published extensively on the late 16th- and 17th-century maps of Timothy Pont and Robert and James Gordon, many of which were published by the Amsterdam printer Johannes Blaeu in 1654. He is compiling an index of all the place-names on these maps, and here he describes this project in more detail:

At the second annual conference of *Project Pont*, held in the Geography Department of Edinburgh University on 29 November 1997, I reported briefly on a pilot project to investigate a possible route towards the compilation of an index of the place-names of Scotland contained in the Blaeu atlas of 1654 and its associate manuscript maps. With the publication of *The Pont Manuscript Maps of Scotland- Sixteenth century origins of a Blaeu atlas* (Map Collectors Publications, Tring, 1989), only the extant manuscript maps by Robert and James Gordon remain unpublished. Otherwise, the Pont/Gordon/Blaeu sequence of maps is now readily accessible, containing some 20,000 place-names for sixteenth and possibly early seventeenth century Scotland. An index might further improve accessibility.

In initiating the pilot project, the minimum requirements of users were assumed to be, firstly, that it was comprehensive, containing every legible place-name on any of the maps by Pont, the Gordons and Blaeu. Secondly, that the end-product should be both in hard copy and in a form which is compatible with modern methods of information retrieval. Thirdly, that every entry can be located on its source document or documents, i.e. that it would be insufficient merely to list the documents on which the place-name appears. Incidentally, the latter requirement significantly increases the work involved in compiling the index.

The computing expertise in the project is being provided by Mr Lawrence Maclean, of the Department of Geography, Aberdeen University, who selected the ARC/INFO package with the above requirements in mind. The package allows Ordnance Survey grid co-ordinates to be generated for any point which is identified on OS 1:50,000 cover. Hence each place-name is referred to a point on the relevant OS map, either by recognition of place-name continuity or by selecting a proximate location which had been associated with another Pont/Gordon/Blaeu place-name. However, publication of data derived in this way may require the consent of the Ordnance Survey.

The first trial was conducted with a Gordon manuscript map (G58) and the relevant parts of Blaeu maps covering the eastern part of the Borders. That particular manuscript is relatively legible and place-name continuity in that part of Scotland is very high, so that results were encouraging. The project is currently being extended to Pont manuscript maps nos. 1 to 4, covering parts of north-west Scotland, where transcription and identification is much more difficult.

Results to date suggest that the larger project is feasible, but continues to be faced with operational problems, including the legibility of some of the manuscript maps, cross-checking of the names which may appear in several sources, recognition of place-name continuity where it exists,

and above all, the time factor. It is envisaged that the full project may take as much as five or seven years to complete, with no external funding foreseen. In the present circumstances of purely voluntary work inputs and only goodwill by way of institutional support, the vulnerability of the completed project cannot be disguised.

What would be very helpful at this stage would be to know more about the demand for and the potential utilisation of the data thus generated, to ensure that a labour-intensive project meets real needs. Also, it would be very helpful to hear from anyone who has had occasion to systematically transcribe the place-names from Pont, Gordon and/or Blaeu maps for any particular locality in Scotland. Where local knowledge or other expertise has already been brought to bear, the transcription of the place-names is likely to be more accurate than that of the project's authors. A list of any such names in hard copy, with an indication of the source map and the locality would be a great help, but if the places have been identified with modern counterparts, then that would be even more helpful.

Anyone who can help in any of the above ways, please contact Dr Jeffrey Stone, Dept. of Geography, Aberdeen University, Aberdeen AB24 3FX.

PUBLICATIONS

The first publication of the Scottish Place-Name Society appeared in November:

***INDEX OF CELTIC ELEMENTS IN
W.J. WATSON'S
HISTORY OF THE CELTIC
PLACE-NAMES OF SCOTLAND***

Compiled by

Eric B. Basden

It is an essential companion to Watson's classic work on Scottish Place-Names, containing some 5,000 different entries (73 A4 sides) plus a seven-page Subject Index, with a preface by Simon Taylor, a brief User's Guide by Alan James, and a note on Eric Basden by his son, Nicholas Basden. Copies are available from the Scottish Place-Name Society, price £7 including p. & p..

USES OF PLACE-NAMES

edited by Simon Taylor

Remember this book? Some of you will even remember paying for this book, which is based on the **Uses of Place-Names Conference** held in St Andrews in 1996. Scottish Cultural Press, writes:

The publisher wishes to apologise to subscribers of *The Uses in Place-Names* for the delays experienced in the publication of this volume, which have mainly been caused by other books in the production system failing to meet their deadlines, thus preventing other titles from proceeding as planned. We are pleased to announce that this book is now in an advanced stage of production and will be shortly available.

Jill Dick, Director, S.C.P.

The book can be obtained from St Andrews Scottish Studies Institute [SASSI], The University, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AL, Tel. 01334 462667 (cheques to 'University of St Andrews'); or Scottish Cultural Press, Unit 14, Leith Walk Business Centre, 130 Leith Walk, Edinburgh EH6 5DT, Tel. 0131 555 5950 (cheques to S.C.P.).

Cost £9.99 + £1.50 p. & p.

For a list of place-name related publications and journal articles, see *Recent Publications* below.

MEDIEVAL MARCHES

In the *Pictish Arts Society Journal*, 10 (Winter 1996) pp. 17-22 an article by Elizabeth B. Rennie appeared called 'A possible boundary between Dál Riata and Pictland'. It is an exciting piece of research, in which she attempts to define the said boundary chiefly by means of place-names containing various 'boundary' words such as *crioch* and *fodlach*, the latter a Middle Irish word meaning 'division, part'. Questions it leaves unanswered are, for example, how far the boundary as defined in the article corresponds to medieval parish and

sheriffdom boundaries - both types of boundary have proved elsewhere in Scotland to demarcate extremely old territorial units. Another, related, question which must be asked is what other boundaries, other than the boundary between the two provinces, might have generated the boundary-names listed in the article. The whole topic deserves much more research, but congratulations to Ms Rennie for getting it off to such a good start.

Still on the subject of boundaries, Society member Ruth Richens has written an excellent article entitled 'Ancient land divisions in the parish of Lesmahagow [Lanarkshire]', *Scottish Geographical Magazine* 108 (1992), 184-189. In it she uses the wealth of medieval boundary charters from the twelfth-century onwards, mainly from the *Kelso Liber*, to reconstruct the medieval administrative and physical landscape of the parish. Although not primarily about place-names, such a study is essential for a better understanding of the toponymy of the area. I know of few more exciting ways of engaging with the medieval, as well as the modern, landscape and the language of landscape than by following a medieval boundary charter, and we need more studies such as the Lesmahagow one, which combines in-depth knowledge of the relevant documentary evidence with an intimate acquaintance with the local countryside.

The article on the medieval marches of the east Fife estate of **Wester Kinnear** by Simon Taylor and Mike Henderson, mentioned in *Scottish Place-Names News* no.3 (p.6) will be appearing in the next issue of the *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal* due out in autumn 1998.

LANARKSHIRE

Moving on from Lesmahagow in particular (see previous item) to Lanarkshire in general, members with an interest in that county may be familiar with the work of J.P. Miller. He did a series in 1931-32 for the *Hamilton Advertiser* on the place-names of Lanarkshire. There is a type-

script (about 100 pages) of this in the possession of the Scottish Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, which is basically an alphabetical list of many Lanarkshire place-names with their early forms.

For a study on the place-names of the Strathaven area of Lanarkshire, see next item.

NOTES FROM THE SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SURVEY

The Scottish Place-Name Survey is based at the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh. It is involved in many aspects of place-name research and teaching, and has an extensive place-name library and archive. In this the first of a regular column about the activities and holdings of the Survey, its Director, Ian Fraser (also Convenor of the Scottish Place-Name Society) writes:

Student Projects on Place-Names

As part of the Scottish Ethnology teaching programme in the School of Scottish Studies, undergraduates are required to study a number of onomastic topics. This begins in the first year (SE1), which normally consists of up to 120 students, many of whom are U.S. students on their junior year abroad, as well as ERASMUS students from Germany, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Spain and France. The class receives a short introductory course on the theory and methods involved in name studies, including a brief introduction to Scottish topography. Scottish Ethnology 2 students receive lectures on place-names on selected parts of Scotland as part of the case-studies which are involved in the teaching course. Over the past few years this has involved Easter Ross, Lothian, Argyll, Perthshire and the Western Isles.

Every second session I teach an honours class in Onomastics, involving 18 hours of lectures, plus weekly tutorials, to give students a more thorough grounding in the subject. This usually involves an in-depth study by individual students on an approved place-name topic, sometimes on a

generic theme, but more usually on a regional basis, at parish level. Students have found this honours option course very attractive, and numbers usually range from 8 to 12 in any given year. It is also attended by post-graduate students, usually those who are studying narrative, music or custom and belief.

As part of the honours degree in Scottish Ethnology, students are required to complete a MS dissertation on any topic covered by the honours options which they have taken, and over the past few years a number have chosen to investigate a place-name topic. These are listed below.

1991: Anne Gorman, Livingstone: A Historical and Topographical Study From Place-Name Evidence. Photographs and maps included.

Lynne M. Prentice, A Study of the Place-Names around Strathaven, Lanarkshire. Includes maps, tables, photographs, photocopied extracts from journals and newspapers.

Anne H. Scott, The Place-Names of Kelso. Includes maps, photocopies, illustrations and photographs.

1992: James R. Wardell, A Study of the Place-Names Threap and Unthank in Scotland and the North of England. Includes maps and place-name tables.

1993: Christina J. MacKenzie, Glenesk: An Ethnological Study of a Community in Angus. Based on oral and written sources, with tapes, photographs, maps and tables.

1996: Iain Lang, The Street Names of Edinburgh: Towards an Etymological Approach. Concentrates on the areas of the Old Town, New Town and Wester Hailes in Edinburgh.

These projects are lodged in the Archives of the School of Scottish Studies, and form an important body of student research.

Anyone wishing to consult any of the above, please contact Ian Fraser at the School of Scottish Studies, 27 George Square, Edinburgh University, EH8 9LD or phone him on 0131 650 4162/4161.

INTERNET NEWS: SCOTTISH PLACE- NAMES ON THE WWW

Henry Gough-Cooper, SPNSoc. member from Dumfriesshire, who has designed and launched the SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY WEB-SITE, writes:

The SPNSoc now has its own web-site, courtesy of St Andrews University IT Services! The web-site should attract national and international attention to the Society and its aims. The site is for academics and lay-persons alike, containing, amongst other features, announcements of events in our calendar, reports on conferences, updates on current projects and links to other related sites and services. Thus it goes further than merely duplicating the material found in the newsletter, in being a public interactive forum for place-name scholars and amateurs. The list of members and their addresses will, however, continue to be available only to fellow members.

If you are on the Internet, please have a look around the site, which is at

<http://www.st-and.ac.uk/institutes/sassi/spns/spnstop.htm>

We would welcome your comments on and suggestions for the site and its development.

Please note also the recently announced Web site allowing full access to the National Monuments Record for Scotland

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/>

THE SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN & IRELAND

is holding its annual conference this in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, not far from Dublin, from April 17-20. The programme

will include Pádraig Ó Riain (The sixth-century names *Gildas* and *Finnian*), Liam Mac Mathúna (Narrative text and place-name divergence), Diarmuid Ó Murchadha (Formation of Gaelic Surnames), Mary Higham (Hills and Boundaries), Nollaig Ó Muraile (Microtoponymy of Clare Island), Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill (*cell* and *cluain* in Tipperary place-names), Simon Taylor (Some Scottish ecclesiastical place-name elements), Keven Murray (*Onomasticon Goedelicum*), Kay Muhr (Scottish and Irish Saints' Names), Donnchadh Ó Corráin (Irish Onomastics), and Edel Bhreathnach (Tara). There will be a guided coach tour to Co. Meath on the Sunday which will include visits to Tara and the Boyne Valley (c.£12). Registration and full board for residents from Friday dinner to breakfast on Monday, including the Conference dinner on the Sunday night, but not the coach tour, is £130 for SNSBI members, and £135 for non-members. *More information from the Secretary Ms J. Scherr, SNSBI, Queen's Building Library, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TR.*

The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland (SNSBI) has a Britain and Ireland-wide membership with an interest in both place-names and personal names. It produces an annual journal called *Nomina*, and holds a lively and varied Annual Conference over a weekend in Spring. Annual Membership of SNSBI costs £15 (£5 for students), which includes a copy of *Nomina*. For more details, contact Dr Mary Higham, 22 Peel Park Avenue, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1ET.

A FOUNDING FIGURE: Rev. WALTER GREGOR

Prof. Bill Nicolaisen, in his varied and informative column on place-names in the *Leopard Magazine* (November 1997) [see *Scottish Place-Name News* 3, p.7 'The North-East'], drew attention to a figure who deserves to be better known amongst SPNSociety members: Rev. Walter Gregor

(1825-97). Although his primary interest was the folk-lore of his native North-East, he was also deeply interested in place-names, both in their own right and as a bearer of local traditions. As the Convenor of the Committee on Topography and Archaeology of the New Spalding Club, the prestigious historical society of the North-East, he was the author of a report presented in 1887 in which the connection between topography and folk-lore was emphasised. "The main object of Topography is a collection of the names of all places [in the North-East]... Connected with many of these are legends and rhymes which should be carefully chronicled". In the September 1887 issue of *Scottish Notes and Queries* he sets out his blue-print for place-name collection: 'To carry out the work it will take a very great deal of labour, and will require many volunteers - in collecting the present names with such traditions and rhymes as still linger around them, and to read and make extracts from both printed and MS. sources, with exact references..... What form the work will take, whether that of a Gazetteer, with all the words arranged alphabetically, or under parishes, must be a matter for future and careful deliberation. Readers .. will see how much is to be done. We want workers, and many of them too, and unless we get them the proposed work will come to very little. Who will volunteer? I may state that I had in contemplation the formation of a Topographical Society for Scotland, when the Geographical Society was formed, one part of whose work is understood to be the Topography of Scotland. Will the members of that Society come forward.'

As you will see from the following item on the **Royal Geographical Society**, members did step forward, but never enough of them to put into effect Gregor's vision, the realisation of which, more than 100 years later, has still scarcely begun, with the founding in 1996 of the Scottish Place-Name Society, and the plans for a Scottish Place-Name Database. And as Prof. Nicolaisen points out in his article, it was not until 1952 that William Alexander's *Place-Names* of

Aberdeenshire, using Gregor's methodology as set out above, was published (by the Third Spalding Club), an excellent and very comprehensive publication, which divides Aberdeenshire (somewhat confusingly) into East and West, and under each section lists all the place-names alphabetically.

ROYAL SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND PLACE-NAMES

Dr David Munro, Director of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, takes up the story where the Rev. Walter Gregor's story left off. Here he describes the work of the Place-Names Committee of the RSGS 1891-1960, and lists the many place-name related articles which have appeared in the RSGS's journal the Scottish Geographical Magazine.

Geographers as well as historians have a special interest in place-names and it is not surprising that shortly after it was founded in 1884, the **Royal Scottish Geographical Society** should become closely involved in place-name studies. Between 1891 and 1899 a small committee chaired by James Burgess worked with the Ordnance Survey on the revision of place-names of Gaelic origin appearing on OS maps. This committee was revived for a brief period in 1913 on the suggestion of Col. Charles Close, Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, and again in 1938 when it met under the convenership of John Mathieson.

In 1949 the Society once more set about the study of Scottish place-names, working closely with the Ordnance Survey. It proved difficult to sustain the network of voluntary local informants and specialists and it was finally decided to wind up the Place-Names Committee in 1960 in view of the systematic work in this field being developed by the School of Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University.

The following papers and research notes on Scottish place-names have appeared in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* which was first published as the journal of the RSGS in 1885.

- Anon. (1913) 'Scottish Place Names: Revision of Ordnance Survey Maps', Vol 29:6:322-23
- Alexander Carmichael (1886) 'The Place-Names of Iona' (I), Vol 2:8:461-74
(1887) 'The Place-Names of Iona' (II), Vol 3:2:80-87
(1887) 'The Place-Names of Iona' (III), Vol 3:5:242-47
- Mrs Carnegie of Stronvar (1896) 'Place-Names of Balquhidder', Vol 12:12:609-16
- J.J. Egli (1885) 'The Present Position of Geographical Onomatology', Vol 1:9:422-28
- W.J.N. Liddall (1885) 'Notes on the Place-Names of Kinross-shire and Vicinity' (I), Vol 1:7:286-90
(1886) 'Notes on the Place-Names of Kinross-shire and Vicinity' (II), Vol 2:5:262-68
- L. McBean (1903) 'Ancient Fife: Seen through its Place-Names', Vol 19:1:27-37
- John Mackay (1894) 'Place-Names of Sutherlandshire' (Geographical Notes), Vol 10:9:484-85
- W.C. Mackenzie (1938) 'Some Oddities in Scottish Place-Names', Vol 54:3:143-48
- Donald Maclean (1896) 'Some Place-Names between Loch Lomond and Loch Long' (Geographical Notes), Vol 12:6:313-14
- Hector Maclean (1887) 'Notes on Place-Names of Iona', Vol 3:1:35-38
- John Mathieson (1913) 'Place-Names in Scotland' (Geographical Notes), Vol 29:5:268-69
(1938) 'Work of the New Committee on the Place-Names of Scotland', Vol 54:3:148-50
- Ian M. Matley (1990) 'Topographic Terms of Southern Scotland: Their Distribution and Significance' (Research Note), Vol 106:2:108-12
- James Meikle (1941) 'Old Glasgow Place-Names and Others', Vol 56:3:112-15

- Professor Meiklejohn (1886) 'History, Poetry, Etc, in Geographical Names', Vol 2:9:513-27
- James A. Ramsay (1913) 'The Use of Place-Names in the Teaching of Geography', Vol 29:8:429-32
- Ralph Richardson (1905) 'Scottish Place-Names and Scottish Saints', Vol 21:7:352-60
- Ruth Richens (1992) 'Ancient land divisions in the parish of Lesmahagow', Vol. 108: 184-189.
- J. G. Robb (1996) 'Toponymy in Lowland Scotland: Depictions of Linguistic Heritage', Vol 112:3:169-176
- Rev. William Taylor (1886) 'Names and Places in Easter Ross', Vol 2:1:1-20
- Graeme Whittington and J.A. Soulsby (1968) 'A Preliminary Report on an Investigation into Pit Place-Names', Vol 84:2:117-25

In addition to the above items published in *SGM*, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society published in 1940 *The Place-names of Berwickshire* by James B. Johnston (52pp). This was intended to be the first in 'The Place-Names of Scotland Series'.

There are a few copies of Johnston's Place-names of Berwickshire still available from RSGS for £5 including p & p.

Back numbers of most of the journals are also available at the special discount rate for SPN Society Members of £5 including p & p.

Anyone interested in becoming a member, please contact

RSGS Headquarters, 40 George St., Glasgow G1 1QE (Tel. 0141 552 3330). e-mail <chds14@pop-hub.strath.ac.uk>

WALLACE

In the last issue of *SPNNews* we mentioned the fine Wallace place-name distribution map at the Wallace Exhibition (now closed) at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling. A double trap lies in wait for the unwary Wallace-name-spotter in Aberdeen. The seventeenth-century tower-house at Seaton Park by the Don at Old Aberdeen is known as *Wallace Tower*. However, it was originally called 'Well House', which has become corrupted to 'Wallace', then had the epexegetic (i.e. explanatory) 'Tower' added, once 'House' had been swallowed up by 'Wallace', so to speak. To make matters even more confusing for distribution map makers, it originally stood in the heart of (New) Aberdeen, and was rebuilt in its present position at the expense of Lord Sieff, chairman of the Marks and Spencer after it had been demolished to make way for the new M. & S. store in 1964. How appearances - and names - can deceive! [Source: *Glasgow Herald* 11 March 1988]

WHISKY

Glenmorangie is an excellent whisky - it's just a pity about the name, which their latest advertising campaign, as well as the blurb on their packaging, strongly imply means 'Glen of Tranquillity'. It means no such thing; in fact even the 'Glen' is bogus, lying as it does on a coastal strip. The name of the site where the distillery stands is 'Morangie', first recorded as (the farm and mill of) *Morinchy* in 1487, as *Morinch* in 1507, and as *Morinschie* in 1618. It is made up of two Gaelic words: *mór* 'big' and *innis* 'haughland, low-lying land beside a river or estuary', often found as *inch* in place-names, such as the famous North and South Inches in Perth - for more information see W. J. Watson's excellent book, *Place-Names of Ross and Cromarty* (1904, reprinted in paperback 1996 by Highland Heritage Books). But when did the whisky advertisers let sound toponymics get in the way of a good sales ploy? *Scottish Place-Name News* would be glad to hear from readers about their favourite whisky place-name nonsense. *Slàinte*.

NORMANDY NEWS

Elisabeth Ridel, a SPN Society member, who is writing her Ph.D. thesis on Norse-derived place-names on the Normandy coast, reports on exciting developments on the other side of 'La Manche':

In January or February 1999 in Normandy, probably in Cherbourg, I am organising a conference entitled '*The Viking Maritime Heritage in North-West Europe (Great Britain, Ireland and Normandy)*'. This conference is being held under the auspices of the Raphael Programme, a European project for the appreciation of European cultural heritage, and will lead on to a permanent exhibition on the above-mentioned theme.

The project has recently received financial backing from the District of la Hague [the origin of the Scots surname Haig ed.] and the European Community. It has received generous moral support from the Scottish Place-Name Society, The Maritime Fife Project and the Institute of Maritime Studies, University of St Andrews, as well as *l'Office Universitaire d'Etudes Normandes*, University of Caen and St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland.

The Conference will be multi-disciplinary (archaeology, toponymy and historical linguistics) and will cover the following: 1) the boat: Scandinavian influence on boat-construction, nautical vocabulary; 2) fishing: names of marine flora and fauna, fishing techniques, maritime law; 3) description of the seascape: maritime toponymy; and 4) possible studies on the 'Viking myth'.

Any suggestions for papers or themes for the Conference will be gratefully received. Please write to me at:

Les Aunettes, 14 330 Le Molay-Littry, France. Phone & fax 00332 31923155.

Congratulations to Ms Ridel and the District de la Hague on their successful application to the E.C.. *Scottish Place-Name News* will of course keep the SPNSoc. membership informed of developments.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS & FIELD-NAMES

SPNSociety member Alan Craigie from Dundee has written suggesting that the Society should consider taking a small stall at local Agricultural Shows. Armed with OS maps (Pathfinder/1:25,000 or more detailed) and tape-recorders, volunteers could collect field-names and other local place-name information from the assembled farmers, themselves important repositories of place-name information and lore. At the AGM in St Andrews in May 1997 it was suggested that local groups might form, and this would be an appropriate activity around which to organise such a group. Mr Craigie points out that the *Events Magazine* (available free from the Scottish Tourist Board, 23 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3EU) lists more than 40 agricultural shows the length and breadth of the country, from May to September, along with the addresses of the secretaries.

This would all cost money, but it might be possible to raise some from various relevant local or national businesses. The Angus Show at Arbroath is the nearest one to Dundee. Mr Craigie writes that if anyone is interested in spending a few hours (or pounds) there this summer, he would be pleased to hear from them. His address is 18 Roseburn Gardens, Whitfield, Dundee DD4 0UF.

Anyone interested in collecting field-names locally, by whatever means, is encouraged to obtain *Field-Name Collection Sheets & Notes on Field-Name Collection* (updated November 1997) from the Scottish Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH8 9LN. The Survey has been gathering information on field-names from throughout Scotland for many years, and can supply maps on which to transfer information. Once an area has been completely surveyed, these maps, marked with felt-tip pen, are lodged with them, along with copies of the relevant Collection Sheets. The contact there is Ian Fraser.

An excellent introduction to the study of field-names in general is J. Field, *English Field Names: A Dictionary*, 1972 (paperback edn 1989, £7.95).

NOTES AND QUERIES

Devon < **Domnona*?

The River *Devon* PER CLA KNR *aquam de Douane* c1173 (*Glen*)*dovan* 1210 (*Glen*)*dofona* 1271 has always been derived from **Dubona* 'Black One', or 'Black Goddess' (W J Watson [*CPNS*:438] Johnston [*PNS*:155], Nicolaisen [*SPN*:177] and Angus Watson [*The Ochils: Placenames, History, Tradition*, (Perth, 1995):56]), a meaning which *Duibhe*, the Gaelic form of the name, would appear to confirm. However, this may only have been an assimilation to a perceived *dubh* 'black'.

In the 14th and 15th centuries the fort of *Down Hill* which separates the Yetts o'Muckhart seems to have been *Dundovane* [Watson 1995:56]. In West Lothian we have *Pardovan*, from the Cumbric reflex of W *par* + *dwf(y)n* 'deep pasture', ie 'lush grazing?', *Pardufin* in 1124, (an almost 'Welsh' form), later *Pardovin* and *Pardovan* in 1541 [MacDonald 1941 (*Place-Names of West Lothian*):62]. Analogues exist in *Pardivan* near Haddington ELO, *Parduvine* near Gorebridge MLO and *Perdovingishill* RNF, this last a 15th c. form. Despite confusion over vowels, it seems quite probable that the river-name too comes, as its current form suggests (cf *Devon* in England), < B **dumno-*, *dubno-* 'deep', like the **Damnonii* themselves (recte *Dumnonii*), proto-Pictish **domno/dobno*, [cf John T. Koch 'The Stone of the *Wenikones*' in *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies* 29 (1980-82), pp87-9] thus < N.Br.**Domnona* 'Deep One, Mysterious One'[see *PNRB* (Rivet, A.L.F. & Smith, C. 1979, *Place-Names of Roman Britain*): 342-4], whether divine or not. And the oft proposed derivation seems contradicted by the more southerly *Black Devon* which rises by the suggestively named *Aberdona* House (*Aberdonie* 1652), itself likely < **domn-*. Note too *Devon*, Kettle parish,

FIF, earlier *Dovan* < G *domhain* 'deep, low-lying', also *Baldovan* near Dundee and a *Ball Domin* in the Gaelic Notes to the Book of Deer.

It is not likely that the river commemorates the Romano-British folk-name; however *Cardowan* Wishaw LAN and *Dowanhill* Milngavie DNB possibly preserve the ethnonym of the first recorded inhabitants of Strathclyde, and hint at former strongholds.

[NB: If **Domnonii* represents a derivative of a divine name [see *PNRB loc. cit.*], then **Domnowalos* > *Dyfngual/Domhnaill* > *Donald*, by analogy with *Luguwalos* 'strong in Lugas', the eponym of *LUGUVALIUM* now Carlisle, is not necessarily 'world-strong' but 'strong in **Domn(on)os*' or the like, though perhaps ambivalently both.]

John Wilkinson, Torphin House
Harburn, West Lothian

California

In Strathmiglo FIF a brand-new street-name sign has appeared where formerly there had been none: *California*. It had been known as such by all the older inhabitants, but this is the first time it has achieved any kind of official recognition. But why California? It is on the extreme western edge of the village: could it have been one of those humorous transferred names last century when California, through the Goldrush, was famous worldwide as the epitome of the far-flung, and somewhat wild, west? California does appear with some frequency in minor Scottish place-names - are they always west of the main settlements? Can anybody help throw light on this?

Simon Taylor

WHAT'S ON around Scotland?

• **ARGYLL - LOCHGILPHEAD**

The *Scottish Society for Northern Studies* Annual Study Conference will be based at the Stag Hotel, Lochgilphead, 3-7 April. Lectures will include Rachel Clough on *Kilmartin Glen*; Angus Martin on *Fishermen's names, Nicknames, Place-names and Technical names*; Murdo MacDonald on *Argyll Communications; Drove Roads and Ferries*; and Ian Fisher on *The Early Church in Argyll*.

Further details can be obtained from Dr David Finlayson, Greenloaning, Kingsbarns, St Andrews KY16 8ST.

• **DUNDEE**

18 March: A public talk on Place-Names and the Past will be given by Simon Taylor in the Dundee Afternoon Lectures Series; **2 pm, Dundee University Tower Block, Perth Road.** Members of the Scottish Place-Name Society welcome

• **FIFE - LARGO**

20 March: A talk on Eastern Scottish Place-Names will be given by Simon Taylor to the Largo Field Studies Society; **7.15 pm, Simpson Institute, Upper Largo.** Members of the Scottish Place-Name Society welcome.

• **GLASGOW**

2 May: Scottish Place-Name Society AGM and Day Conference. See separate Registration form attached.

**PLEASE LET THE EDITOR
KNOW ABOUT ANY TALK OR
OTHER EVENT WHICH WOULD
BE OF INTEREST TO THE
MEMBERSHIP.**

Dead-line for material for
next Newsletter: 20 August
1998

Recent Publications

(a) Books

- Conroy, S., *The Name's the Same. Scottish Placenames Worldwide*. Glendaruel, Argyll: Argyll Publishing, 1996.
- Harris, S., *The Place Names of Edinburgh. Their Origins and History*. Edinburgh: Gordon Wright, 1996. ISBN 0-903065-83-5. £45.00.
- Koch, J.T., 1997, *The Gododdin of Aneurin: Text and Context from Dark-Age North Britain*. [Contains material on early place-names.]
- MacDonald, Murdoch, *Old Torridon. Notes on the History of Torridon*. Torridon Publishing, 1997. ISBN 0 9530978 0 3. [Includes two chapters on place-names.]
- Whyte, D., *Scottish Forenames. Their Origins and History*. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 1996.

(b) Journal Articles etc.

- Breeze, A., 'Simeon of Durham's annal for 756 and Govan, Scotland', *Nomina* 20 (1997) or *Nomina* 21 (1998). Forthcoming.
- Brooke, D., 'The Place-Name and Port of Menybrig, Leswalt', *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 71 (1996), 115-8.
- Cox, R., 'Modern Scottish Gaelic reflexes of two Pictish words: *pett* and *lanerc*', *Nomina* 20 (1997) Forthcoming (soon).
- Hough, C., 'The earliest Old English place-names in Scotland,' *Notes and Queries*, 44 (1997), 148-50.
- Lockwood, W. B., 'Further remarks on the early history and origin of the names *Orkney* and *Shetland*', *Namn och Bygd*, 84 (1996), 134-35.
- Mowat, M., 'Place-names in Whalsay', *The New Shetlander*, 202 (1997), 12.
- Ó Muraile, N., 'The Columban Onomastic Legacy' in *Studies in the Cult of Saint Columba*, ed. C. Bourke (Dublin 1997), 193-218.
- Pálsson, H., 'Aspects of Norse place-names in the Western Isles', *Northern Studies*, 31 (1996), 7-24.
- Rennie, E. B., 'A possible boundary between Dál Riata and Pictland', *Pictish Arts Society Journal*, 10 (Winter 1996), 17-22.
- Robb, J. G. 1996, 'Toponymy in Lowland Scotland: Depictions of Linguistic Heritage', *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, 112, no.3, 169-176.
- Sandnes, B., 'The Bu of Orphir, Burn of Gueth: a Gaelic pattern in Orkney place-names?' *Northern Studies*, 32 (1997), 125-28.
- Taylor, S., 1996/7 'Ainmean Gàidhlig air a'Ghalldachd (Gaelic names in the Scottish Lowlands)/Nightmare on Distribution Map', *Cothrom* 10, 17-20.
- Taylor, S., 1997 'Gàidhlig an Dùthchas nan Gall/Gaelic in Lowland Heritage', *Cothrom* 11, 14-16.
- Taylor, S., 'Seventh-century Iona abbots in Scottish place-names,' *Innes Review*, 48 (1997), 45-72.
- Taylor, S., 'Generic Element Variation, with special reference to Eastern Scotland', *Nomina* 20 (1997) Forthcoming (soon).

Thanks to Dr Carole Hough for compiling the bulk of these references. Please let us know about any articles we may have overlooked, or forthcoming articles which should be included in the next issue.

Please note that back copies of Scottish Place-Name News are available from the Society for £1.50 (which includes p. & p.). Issue no.2 contains a Directory of Members, with their interests and publications, up-dated in issue no.3. A further up-date will appear in the next issue.

