



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Northern Ireland *Kay Muhr*

In the summer of 2010 there were serious developments in the status of place-name research in Northern Ireland. By making the two members of staff redundant, Queen's University Belfast have effectively closed the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project, which for many years (since 1987) had provided professional research in pursuit of the aims of the Ulster Place-Name Society. Because the permanent status the researchers eventually achieved was made 'subject to external funding' this has happened without reference to the wider community, inside or outside the university. Official replies to protests simply claimed the staff had taken early retirement. There is no mistaking the finality of the University's decision, as management withdrew the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project's last funding application to complete townland explanations for the website, and also refused money offered by the Ministry for the Gaeltacht in Dublin, to pay for part-time work in Cavan. Over the years a unique database and archive had been built up on the origin, language and historical development of Northern Ireland's place-name heritage, and thanks to an agreement with Ordnance Survey NI a website had been created (<[www.placenamesNI.org](http://www.placenamesNI.org)> online Jan. 2010 but as yet unlaunched) to display both historical and map information, plus full explanations of the 9,600 townland names of Northern Ireland, to complement the website (*continued on page 2, column 1*)

### Newsletter NS. 2 Spring 2011

*Welcome to Issue 2 in the new series of SNSBI newsletters, the twice yearly update which supplements the more detailed coverage to be found in **Nomina**.*

*This issue gives you (among other things) a brief outline of the programme for the impending annual conference, details of a new project at the King's College London and disturbing news from Northern Ireland.*

*The photo strip which heads the pages of this newsletter produced an interesting response from one of our members, Professor George Broderick. It seems that the 'Smelter Farm' photo which I took on a trip across the Pennines some years ago, is from the ancestral Broderick home. Professor Broderick sent me several more photos (one below) and some further information (see Page 2)*

*My request for volunteers to receive the newsletter electronically has produced a very limited response. If you would like to receive it this way, please email me and I will add you to the email distribution list.*

*I hope that you continue to enjoy the newsletter in its new format. Reactions so far have been favourable. However, further comments suggestions and contributions for the next issue will be gratefully received.*

*Linda M. Corrigan (editor)*



CHARITY NO. 0177455

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2010-11

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**Stop Press:** last chance to book

**SNSBI Annual Conference**  
 at the University of Kent,  
 Canterbury. 15-18 April 2011  
 Contact:

<[julia\\_stanbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:julia_stanbridge@btinternet.com)>  
 (Programme details back page)

MANCASS Easter  
 Conference: **Anglo-Saxon  
 Monasticism** 11-13 April,  
 2011 Contact:  
 Dr. Francisco J. Alvarez-Lopez  
 <[F.J.Alvarez-Lopez@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:F.J.Alvarez-Lopez@exeter.ac.uk)>

**Moot and Hundred Meeting**  
 Places, 10 April 2011 at the  
 University of Cambridge Institute of  
 Continuing Education, Madingley  
 Hall, Cambridge. <http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk/component/courses/?view=course&cid=3526>



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(continued from page 1, column 1)

in the Republic, <[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)> Ordnance Survey, now in Land and Property Services under the NI Ministry of Finance and Personnel, have guaranteed the web site for at least the next four years. Both online database and archive are now in danger. Co. Down townland explanations are complete, and others in draft, but work on the website from outside is complicated by the University's claim to copyright (despite 16 years public funding). Pressure of space in teaching departments means that the thematic archive may have to be broken up, some of it officially belonging to Irish & Celtic Studies, QUB, some of it to the Ulster Place-Name Society. Any loans in danger will be returned to the lenders. The co-operative relationship between the University and the Ulster Place-Name Society has also been weakened, although the new professor of Irish, Gregory Toner, has taken on editorship of its journal *Ainm* for the time being. The old email address cannot be accessed from outside Queen's, and the new address for the Society will be <[townlands.nipnp@gmail.com](mailto:townlands.nipnp@gmail.com)> The place-name enquiry service will continue but answers will be slower than before.

### Advance Notice:

The **XXIV ICOS International Congress of Onomastic Sciences** will be held in the city of Barcelona from **September 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**, with the general theme **Names in daily life** <<http://barcelona.onomastica.cat/en/>>

### The Brodericks of Smelter Farm

(compiled by the editor from material sent by Professor Broderick)



The use of the Smelter Farm sign in the heading strip was purely fortuitous. I was simply looking for photo examples of different types of names and found that one in my collection. Imagine then my surprise when the name turned out to have a resonance for one of our society members.

Smelter Farm is in North Yorkshire near to the village of Aysgarth. It seems that Professor Broderick's sister had been doing some family history research and discovered that the census for 1871 listed Brodericks in Bishopdale and also at Newbiggin, at a farm called 'Smelter'. The farmer was a John Broderick, born 1797, who farmed 170 acres, while a Thomas Broderick, 32, lived at somewhere called Newhouse Gill, and farmed 90 acres.

There appears to be no census for 1881, and in the 1891 lists, there are no Brodericks. 'Smelter' was farmed then by the Metcalfe family. In the 1871 census, a Preston Metcalfe, aged 16, nephew, lived at Smelter, though he is not recorded there in 1891. Also, Metcalfes farmed alongside the Brodericks at Newhouse Gill. It wouldn't be unreasonable to deduce that the families were interrelated, given the

ubiquity of the name Preston. (It seems that both Professor Broderick's great grandfather and his uncle had the name 'Preston' as part of their own given names.) The 1861 entries also listed Medcalfs and Brodricks (*sic*). In fact, the 'Brodrick' at Smelter is the same person as the Broderick recorded in 1871. A Thomas Preston Medcalf, aged 5, is recorded as living at Newhouse Gill.



Going back to 1851, Smelter was farmed by John Broderick, aged 53, who was the same person who was recorded in 1861 and 71. Professor Broderick's great grandfather, Preston John, was also there, aged 15 but he is not recorded there in 1861. He may have already packed his spotted handkerchief and gone to Liverpool to seek his fortune, as he is recorded as marrying there in 1864. Or he may simply have been out of the house. 1841 is the earliest census offered, and John Brodrick, aged 40, was farming then. As well as his wife and four sons, there were also two Metcalfes living at Smelter Farm.

Without the 1881 census, it is difficult to be sure what happened to the family, but it is certain that Professor Broderick's great-great-grandfather farmed Smelter for at least 30 years (1841-1871). However, Brodericks had ceased farming at Smelter before 1881 and by 1891, the Metcalfe side of the family were farming, with no Brodericks at all recorded in Newbiggin or Bishopdale.





## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Update from Landscapes of Governance

*John Baker*

#### Power and place in Later Roman and early medieval Europe: interdisciplinary perspectives on governance and civil organization

UCL Institute of Archaeology, London. 10-12 November 2011

This conference will explore the background, origins, and practice of later Roman and early medieval social and political institutions from a European comparative perspective. It seeks to address questions of political participation, governance, and authority from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> centuries in England, Europe and the western Mediterranean, focussing particularly on the chronology and landscape setting of political practices. In particular, the conference will explore continuities, contrasts and parallels between governance and civil organization in Roman and post-Roman contexts. We welcome contributions from historians, place-name scholars and historical linguists, historical geographers and archaeologists. Papers are invited which address the following themes:

#### **The development and chronology of civil organization and authority in the European landscape in the first millennium AD**

**Late Roman and early medieval administrative frameworks** - What form did Late Roman/early medieval civil administration take in the landscape development?

**Law in action** - How did Roman and medieval law work; what were the powers and duties of provincial administrators, magistrates, kings, councils, and civilian representatives.

**Language and procedure of**

**assembly** - What terminology is found in inscriptions, texts and place-names relating to legal procedures?

#### **Places, political landscapes and human experience**

#### **Places of assembly: location, form and chronological changes**

- Where were Roman and early medieval assemblies held; what did these places look like?

#### **Participation and topography**

- What was the range of meeting-place types and meeting-place functions (legal, governmental, commercial, military, social, competitive)?

#### **Relationships between civility, community, economy and law**

- How did communities express themselves and can different levels of political participation be observed?

#### **Identifying and Defining Political Landscapes: methods and problems.**

This theme will be addressed through short presentations, a poster exhibition, and structured plenary, presenting case-studies from recent research. Contributions are particularly welcomed addressing archaeological / place-name approaches to political landscapes and the study of individual assembly sites

#### **Archaeological approaches**

- How can Roman and medieval assembly sites be identified and characterized archaeologically?

#### **Place-name studies**

- What can a toponymic approach reveal about the origin and the physical and social evolution of assembly sites? Can different phases of naming be identified and to what extent can different types of assembly place-name shed light on changing practices?

#### **Folklore and local tradition**

- What do folklore studies reveal about landscapes of legal and

social assembly? Can folkloric traditions be used to identify assembly places? If you would like to present a paper, please send a 200 word abstract. If you intend to present a poster, please provide a brief outline (200 words). All correspondence should be sent to: **Professor Andrew Reynolds (a.reynolds)** or **Dr Stuart Brookes (s.brookes@ucl.ac.uk)**, UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-4 Gordon Square, London WC1H

### News:

#### **Snippets from the media**

Drawing your attention to any name-related news which may have passed you by.

#### **Location nicknames: What do you call your home town?**

by Andrew Walker.

Article related to the English Project (see Page 4, Column 1)

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-11515027>>

### Conference reports:

*J. Scherr*

The SNSBI Committee met on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010 during the SPNS autumn day conference at the Bridge of Allan. As always, the day was very well attended with many Scottish-based members of SNSBI there. Speakers included John Harrison, Pete McNiven, Stephen Digney, Elspeth Wills, Tiber Falzett and Guy Puzey. Topics covered landscape history in Scotland and Wales, the name for Stirling, Scottish place-names worldwide, and modern Gaelic place-names in Nova Scotia and Scotland. Rhian Parry described the Welsh 'Knowing Arduwy Project' [www.adnabodardudwy.org.uk](http://www.adnabodardudwy.org.uk) Michelle Cotter and Jacob King spoke about the Gaelic Place-Names Database

[www.gaelicplacenames.org](http://www.gaelicplacenames.org)



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Research Projects & Websites:

#### 'Profile of a Doomed Elite: The Structure of English Landed Society in 1066'

The project will use innovative methods for interpreting Domesday Book to survey the whole of English landed society on the eve of the Norman Conquest in 1066, identifying landowners at all levels of society from the king and earls down to the parish gentry and even some prosperous peasants.  
<<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/history/research/projects/profile>>

#### The Great British Collection of Nicknames for Places

The English Project has teamed up with [Ordnance Survey](#) to compile an 'Alternative Gazetteer' of Britain. It's what we call Location Lingo. We are keen to receive your nicknames and petnames for places and landmarks. They will then join our massive List of Location Lingo from all over the country. <<http://www.englishproject.org/>> related article

#### A vision of Britain through time

A vision of Britain between 1801 and 2001. Including maps, statistical trends and historical descriptions  
<<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>>

#### English Hundred-Names

The Arngart family and Lund University have kindly granted permission for Olof S. Anderson's three volume work on English Hundred-Names to be made available on-line. This can now be accessed on the Landscapes of Governance website, at: <<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/assembly/ElectronicAnderson>>

### Publications

Please note that this is simply a listing of items of potential interest to members. Listing here does not imply any opinion regarding quality, academic rigour etc. Where appropriate, reviews will appear in **Nomina** in due course.

**Place-names, Language and the Anglo-Saxon Landscape (Publications Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies)** [Hardcover]  
Nicholas J. Higham (Editor),  
Martin J. Ryan (Editor) Boydell Press

**Vikings et noms de lieux de Normandie** Jean Renaud, Orep Editions, Cully. No date on title page, printer's mark "3e trimestre 2009" on last page. French Text.

#### Forthcoming publications:

**Thorps in a Changing Landscape** (Explorations in Local and Regional History)  
Paul Cullen, Richard Jones, David N. Parsons (Authors)  
University of Hertfordshire Press  
(3 March 2011)

#### More forthcoming events:

Scottish Place-Names Society **Day conference and AGM** – Saturday 7th May 2011 Walker Halls, South Beach Esplanade, Troon The cost for the day will be £20, inclusive of conference, tea / coffee on arrival and departure, and buffet lunch. Full-time students £10

**Details and registration form available at:** <http://www.spns.org.uk/SPNS0511.html>

### SNSBI Conference Programme 2011 will include:

Graham Collis (Little England beyond Calais – the Anglo-Saxons and Angles and Saxons on the Continent), Dr George Redmonds (Linking surnames and place-names in the Yorkshire Dales), John Freeman (Scandinavian name-material in Herefordshire), Dr Simon Draper (Place-names and Anglo-Saxon estates), Professor Hywel Wyn Owen (Towards a place-name society for Wales), Terhi Nurminen (Hill-terms in the place-names of Northumberland and Durham), Professor Thomas Clancy (At St Meddan's convenience: Scottish hagio-toponyms and their challenges), Peter Kitson (The chronology of river-names), Dr John Baker (Place-names and Anglo-Saxon assembly sites), and more. On Saturday afternoon a visit to Canterbury Cathedral will include a display of material in the Cathedral Archives specially arranged for SNSBI delegates by Dr Mark Bateson, and on Sunday afternoon a coach tour of east Kent will be led by the conference organiser Dr Paul Cullen. Contact: Ms. Pam Coombes: <[snsbi@btinternet.com](mailto:snsbi@btinternet.com)> <<http://www.snsbi.org.uk/>>

**Forthcoming related events: International Medieval Conference:** includes **Rich Names, Poor Names: Social Status and Naming Patterns in the Middle Ages** 11-14 July 2011  
Email: [imc@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:imc@leeds.ac.uk) <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc>

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