

DEBBIE KENNETT, *The Surnames Handbook: A Guide to Family Name Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The History Press: Stroud, 2012. 224 pp., 20 figs. £14.99 (ISBN 978-0-7524-6862-4)

This book is intended as a general guide for anyone interested in family history and surname research. In the author's own words, it was written 'to provide a handbook that looks at all the different components of a surname study and outlines all the key resources to undertake that research' (p. 14). This is an impressive undertaking, and one which is sure to be of considerable value for inexperienced one-name researchers and family historians.

As a whole, *The Surnames Handbook* is very readable, and provides an up-to-date review of surname research, devoting an entire chapter to DNA studies and mentioning research that is still in progress, such as the Family Names of the United Kingdom (FaNUK) project at the University of the West of England. However, at times the work suffers from a lack of detail, apparently due to its wide scope, sometimes touching on many important issues without any in-depth discussion. This is an inevitable consequence of a work that looks to cover so much ground, but has meant that some sections are slightly misleading.

For example, Kennett provides a good overview of the development of hereditary surnames in the first chapter, but fails to mention the possible influence of the reduced Norman given-name stock on heredity in England. She also states that 'there are still some countries in the world, such as Iceland, which do not use surnames at all' (p. 102), but does not explain the point further. This comment is especially confusing as the names of the patronymic and metronymic Icelandic system could still be referred to as surnames, depending on how one chooses to define the term. Surely Kennett's introductory definition, that 'Surname has the sense of a second name that is added to or follows the given name' (p. 10), does indeed apply to the Icelandic system. In a discussion of pet forms, there is potential for further confusion in the suggestion that 'the name Richard can, for example, be shortened to Dick, Hick, Rick and so on' (p. 41). What Kennett means by this is not clear, and so the inexperienced researcher could be forgiven for thinking that the surname *Wick* is also such a hypocorism.

Throughout the book, there is not quite enough linguistic emphasis placed on the discussion of variant name forms, making no distinction between linguistically likely variants and clearer scribal errors or misreadings. Of course, this book is intended as a guide to family name research, not a detailed analysis of name development. However, by instructing readers to

‘try reading some of the variants you have found out loud [...] the pronunciation of surnames is not always intuitive’ (p. 54), the place of linguistic study in the identification of name variants is not mentioned, thus removing a level of understanding that might otherwise aid surname research.

This level of detail, it could be argued, would be too daunting for anyone starting out in surname research, and so it is perfectly understandable why, for example, Kennett does not mention the development of Old English /y/ as a factor in some variants of the name Mitchelmore. But, in failing to emphasise phonological development in the discussion of name variants, the reader could be misled as to how some surnames have developed. This is not to say that Kennett’s discussion of the history of surnames is unhelpful. The establishment of heredity and its regional variation is well outlined, and the problems that variants pose to a surname study are accurately summarised. Despite the concerns mentioned above, *The Surnames Handbook* contains an accessible and informative review of surname history and research, and is a good introduction to the study of family names.

As well as introducing the history of surnames to the reader, Kennett mentions many useful online and printed resources for family name studies, and suggests much relevant literature for further reading. There are a number of appendices, acting as separate bibliographies for specific areas of surname research. These are mostly well constructed, though there are some notable omissions, such as the online Calendar of Patent Rolls from Appendix A. Within the main body of the book, Kennett’s aim to introduce the reader to relevant resources can, in some parts, cause the work to appear more like a list of publications than a guide to surname research. These are extensive lists, and Kennett could not be accused of lacking awareness of relevant literature, yet there is often little or no critical treatment of sources known to have certain deficiencies, and this could, again, mislead the inexperienced surname researcher. For example, after mentioning the International Genealogical Index, it would have been helpful if Kennett had warned the reader of the inaccuracies in the community contributions to the website, and their implications for genealogical study.

Overall, *The Surnames Handbook* is a good introduction to genealogical study for the inexperienced researcher, providing a comprehensive list of useful resources, along with a mostly accurate account of surname history and the difficulties posed by name variation. The book is sure to be of great value to anyone interested in one-name study and wider genealogical research, and for these purposes I would recommend it highly. However, such a recommendation would come with a word of caution that some passages

are misleading and lacking in detail, and that other works on surname history might be usefully read alongside Kennett's.

Even so, the author provides an informative guide for the first-time researcher, and the enjoyment she gains through surname research is clear, particularly in the enthusiastic account of her maiden name, *Cruwys*, at the book's end. This is sure to rub off on the reader, and encourage many to engage in their own surname studies in the future. In this way, Kennett has made a useful contribution to the field, and while *The Surnames Handbook* is not without some minor issues, it is an accessible work that will be of great value to the inexperienced researcher and anyone interested in starting their own one-name study.

DAVID HARRY PARKIN

GEORGE REDMONDS, TURI KING and DAVID HEY, *Surnames, DNA, and Family History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. 256 pp. £21.00 (ISBN: 978-0-19-958264-8)

This book is ground-breaking for two reasons: firstly, it is the only book I have encountered that takes a truly multi-disciplinary approach to surname study, integrating linguistic, historical, genealogical, geographical, and scientific (genetic) evidence, and secondly, it is the first book I have read that reviews and identifies the strengths and (more particularly) the deficiencies of surname study to date and clearly sets out the various sources and methods one can and should use to investigate surnames successfully. For these two reasons alone the book deserves to be read by anyone with an interest in surnames or names and naming more generally.

That said, the material in the book is not necessarily new or revolutionary. Those readers familiar with the published work of George Redmonds and David Hey will recognise several familiar examples, and Turi King's contribution is mainly concerned with making the complex science of genetics intelligible to a non-specialist audience, a task she performs admirably. What is new is the presentation of surname study as a valid academic discipline with an emerging methodology and the potential to reveal much about language, society and culture if studied in the correct manner—i.e. balanced and unbiased, using every source of evidence and method available and free from the narrow subject-specific approaches of the past (and to some extent present). Most people studying surnames today do so for a non-academic,

often genealogical, reason. The task ahead, as I (and I think the authors too) see it, is to persuade people, particularly academics, that surnames are worthy of study for their own sake and can also offer a vehicle for investigating broader issues such as migration, inheritance and language change.

Following a wide-ranging introduction which, amongst other things, charts the history of surnames research from Guppy and others in the 19th century through P. H. Reaney's dictionary and the English Surnames Series to new mapping techniques and DNA study, the first three chapters cover the origin, expansion and decline of British surnames. The chapter on by-names is equally fascinating, for its elucidation of occupational nicknames such as Stringer and Stringfellow, and frustrating, for its lack of explanation of several of the examples given: readers are told, for example, on page 32 that Bochcollock, Cokespur, and Comberkichyn are by-names, but are left guessing as to what they mean or how they might have been acquired. It is good to see that the work of Peter McClure in the pages of this journal on pet forms of personal names is given high billing, but whilst by-names from occupation, location and personal names are discussed at length, those from personal appearance, behaviour and attributes are strangely neglected. An important message of the chapter on hereditary surnames is that surname instability was still common, even in southern England, as late as the Poll Tax of 1379-81 and often well into the 15th century. An example I encountered recently in the Patent Rolls for 1403 illustrates this: Thomas Racche-ford *alias* Draper *alias* Cornyssh. The third chapter, entitled 'Expansion and Decline', makes the important point that most British surnames are rare, whilst also highlighting how common it is for a surname to have a single family origin, something that is becoming apparent in the work of the 'Family Names of the United Kingdom' (FaNUK) Project at UWE, Bristol.

The next three chapters explore the techniques and methods of surname study. Chapter Four on distribution and migration gives due credit to Steve Archer's *British 19th Century Surname Atlas*, which maps surname distribution in England, Wales and Scotland in 1881 using census data in incredibly fine detail and provides an enormously powerful tool for those engaged in surname study. The changes that affect surnames when they move outside their home territories are complex and often surprising and the authors show the benefits of careful multi-disciplinary research in this area. The chapter entitled 'Linguistic and Social Factors' is one that sends a shiver down the spine of any surnames student. The authors illustrate the ease with which surnames can become confused with each other and altered over time to the extent that the true linguistic origin becomes obscure. Much more local

historical research is needed to track these processes in action and the authors' examples provide a salutary warning that surname etymologies are often not as transparent as they might appear. The difficulties of establishing the meanings of British surnames are explored further in Chapter Seven, 'Meaning and Method', which carries the depressing thought that 'even the most careful and methodical research does not always lead to a successful conclusion and the meaning of many surnames is in doubt' (p. 143). The importance of this statement, however, should not be underestimated, since the compilers of some dictionaries to date have over-interpreted surname meanings or been over-confident in ascribing meanings where evidence is lacking or even contradictory. These are issues that the FaNUK project is addressing and the consensus of current knowledge on surname meanings and origins will undoubtedly become clearer when its findings are made publicly available in a few years' time.

As a historian and non-scientist, I read the final two chapters 'DNA and Surnames' and 'The Link between Surname and Y Chromosome Type' with some trepidation. However, amid the hard science, which Dr King explains expertly, I spotted some enlightening examples of how DNA study, when combined with more traditional linguistic and historical research, can shed new light on surname origins: Butterfield (pp. 187-8) is a case in point. The authors are also quick to point out that DNA research is still in its infancy and it often cannot provide concrete answers: it is 'not a magic wand that will solve all problems' (p. 19). My only disappointment with Dr King's contribution is that it sits as an isolated chunk of the book (the last quarter) and the science is not integrated with the rest of the book. The book as a whole is slightly disjointed and one suspects this is a result of the three authors individually writing sections. Perhaps closer collaboration would have resulted in the avoidance of occasional repetition, such as the discussion of Welsh surnaming practices on both pages 53-5 and 86-7.

Despite some criticisms, this is an expertly-written book and provides a clear, thought-provoking and up-to-date introduction to surname study in Britain and Ireland. Of course, it focuses largely on native surnames and almost completely ignores those that have been brought to the UK by immigrants in the past 150 years or so. The study of British and Irish surnames within the wider context of European and World surnaming is a subject yet to be satisfactorily tackled.

SIMON DRAPER

LENNART ELMEVIK and SVANTE STRANDBERG, eds, *Probleme der Rekonstruktion untergegangener Wörter aus alten Eigennamen. Akten eines internationalen Symposiums in Uppsala 7.–9, April 2010*. Acta Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi CXII. Swedish Science Press: Uppsala, 2010. 222 pp. SEK 200. (ISSN 0065-0897; ISBN 978-91-85352-86-9)

The latest publication from the highly productive team of name scholars in Uppsala is a collection of papers from a symposium on the use of onomastic evidence in the reconstruction of lost words. The editors have assembled a formidable array of contributors, including themselves, Thorsten Andersson, Heinrich Beck, Staffan Fridell, Albrecht Greule, Botolv Helleland, Bent Jørgensen, Magnus Källström, Eva Nyman, Lena Peterson, Inge Særheim, Svavar Sigmundsson, Ola Stemshaug, Jürgen Udolph, Peter Wiesinger and Henrik Williams. Of the seventeen papers, nine are in German and eight in English. Most deal with toponyms of various kinds, ranging from settlement names to microtoponyms, island names and hydronyms. These are in alphabetical order of author, but are followed by four papers in no obvious order on personal names. The volume is illustrated with black-and-white photographs and maps, and includes indices of place-names and personal names.

The focus throughout is on methodological issues. As indicated by the title, the aim is not simply to highlight the role of the onomasticon as a rich source of unattested vocabulary, but to explore the problems presented by these kinds of data. The opening paper by Andersson offers an authoritative introduction to theoretical principles relating to both personal and place-names, citing previous work by many of the other contributors. Elmevik then outlines different approaches to the reconstruction of words from place-names, providing a strong context for the eleven papers that follow. Some are fairly broad in scope, developing methodological frameworks for use with onomastic source material (e.g. Greule, Helleland, Særheim, Sigmundsson, Wiesinger), while others address the challenges presented by individual groups of names, such as Scandinavian words in German place-names (Udolph) or Swedish-Norwegian lake names in *-agen* (Fridell). Ancient strata of names naturally feature prominently, as with the Old European river-naming system discussed by Greule and Strandberg, and the island names analysed by Stemshaug. However, there is a very broad chronological span. Jørgensen draws attention to the difficulties presented even by relatively young names dating back less than 500 years, and Særheim gives examples of dialect vocabulary from field-names formed within the last two centuries (p. 138).

As Andersson observes (p. 16), most previous attempts at reconstructing early vocabulary from onomastic data have been based on place-names. It is therefore particularly good to see the four papers on personal name evidence. All focus on runic inscriptions, a type of source material still being expanded by recent finds such as the inscribed animal bone discussed by Källström. Again the focus is on methodology, but here the challenges are somewhat different since extralinguistic evidence such as topography—regularly used in the interpretation of place-names—is rarely available for personal names. This point is made by Peterson (p. 185), who deals with personal names recorded in Proto-Scandinavian inscriptions and place-names. Williams' paper moves forward in time to Viking Age rune stones, drawing attention to the link with Icelandic *bula* vocabulary and raising the possibility that the runic Swedish vocabulary was directly affected by Old West Norse skaldic poetry.

Taken together, the papers comprise an insightful and wide-ranging collection, with much of interest to lexicographers as well as name scholars. In one respect, however, readers of *Nomina* may be a little disappointed. The following extract is from the abstract on the back of the title page:

The papers in the present volume are by speakers representing six European countries: Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Between them, they provide a good idea of what important and wide-ranging information old place- and personal names can offer regarding now lost elements of the lexicon of the Germanic languages.

The obvious omission is Britain, and there is a corresponding absence of Old English in the coverage of Germanic languages. Even the papers written in English take little account of comparative material from the British Isles, and English-language publications in the references are vanishingly few. Sigmundsson's derivation of the farm-name Steig from an Old Icelandic *\*steig* 'ridge' or 'steep path' uses linguistic and topographical evidence (p. 99), but could have gained additional support from Gelling's interpretation of OE *stīg* and ON *stigr* as 'upland path' on similar grounds.<sup>1</sup> Særheim identifies a lost river-name ON *\*Strjón* as the first element of the settlement-name Strømstad in Helleland, which he considers "probably refers to a widening of the river Hellelandsåna, or to strong currents in the river by the farm" (p. 133). However, although he draws attention to related names such as Stron-

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<sup>1</sup> M. Gelling and A. Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names* (Stamford, 2000), p. 92.

say and Strensall, he does not mention Marwick's suggestion that Stronsay refers to a good fishing place, nor my own proposal of a similar interpretation for Strensall and its doublets.<sup>2</sup> This would articulate closely with Stems-haug's point that unattested nouns in island names such as the lost ON *\*Njút* need not refer to geomorphological features. His proposal that *\*njút* and *\*sild* characterise "places where fishing and seal hunting were carried on" (p. 113) means that the former may offer a direct parallel to *\*strjón*.

Elsewhere too there are brief allusions to the British Isles (e.g. p. 151) or to Old English cognates (e.g. pp. 14, 100), but these are the exception rather than the rule. Nonetheless, there is much here of relevance to name scholarship in Britain and Ireland. This applies not only to theoretical issues such as the distinction between primary and secondary naming, a recurrent theme throughout the volume (e.g. Beck, Elmevik, Nyman, Peterson, Særheim, Sigmundsson), but to the analyses of individual names and elements. For instance, the maritime context of names from *\*dinga* 'a booming sound' discussed by Sigmundsson (p. 101) may have a bearing on the crux *Dingesmere* in the Old English poem *The Battle of Brunanburh*. Compelling arguments in favour of a connection with Thingwall have been put forward by Cavill,<sup>3</sup> but double meanings are so common in Anglo-Saxon literature that the two interpretations may not be mutually exclusive.<sup>4</sup> Peterson's treatment of the Scandinavian place-name generic *-lev* (pp. 189–91) has implications for the understanding of English place-names containing the cognate OE *lāf*,<sup>5</sup> while the German place-names from *brūn*, *braun* discussed by Udolph (pp. 143–44) may throw further light on English place-names from OE *brūn*.<sup>6</sup> An index of name elements and reconstructed words would have been helpful in tracing such examples.

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<sup>2</sup> H. Marwick, *Orkney Farm-Names* (Kirkwall, 1952), p. 23; C. Hough, 'Strensall, *Streanaeshalch* and Stronsay', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 35 (2002–03), 17–24; *eadem*, 'Another *\*(ge)strēones halh*', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 36 (2003–04), 61–62.

<sup>3</sup> P. Cavill, 'Coming back to *Dingesmere*', in *Language Contact in the Place-Names of Britain and Ireland*, edited by P. Cavill and G. Broderick (Nottingham, 2007), pp. 27–41.

<sup>4</sup> See for instance F. C. Robinson, *The Tomb of Beowulf and Other Essays on Old English* (Oxford, 1993).

<sup>5</sup> See for instance C. Hough, 'OE *lāf* in place-names', *Notes and Queries*, 44 (1997), 304–06.

<sup>6</sup> See for instance C. Hough, 'OE *brūn* in place-names', *English Studies*, 79 (1998), 512–21.



It is of course important to remember that name elements are not necessarily identical to vocabulary words. As Særheim notes, some words appear in dictionaries largely on the basis of their representation in place-names—“their use as appellatives is restricted” (p. 137)—and the same applies to specialised meanings of individual terms. An interesting issue in this connection is the role of metaphor in names, mentioned by Andersson (pp. 15–16), Helleland (p. 60) and Williams (p. 203). The latter raises the possibility of snake terms as a semantic group within personal names, comparable to animal names. Like many other suggestions made almost in passing within this rich and varied collection, the idea is an intriguing one which really deserves a full paper to itself.

Finally, it should be noted that the volume represents the symposium proceedings rather than, as has become increasingly common elsewhere, a collection of revised and peer-reviewed papers based loosely on the event. After a short Foreword, the volume begins with a verbatim record of Elmevik’s opening remarks, and other papers include direct addresses to the audience. This no doubt partly accounts for the appearance of the publication in the same year as the symposium itself: a signal achievement on which the editors are to be congratulated. Despite the rapidity with which the volume was produced, the standard of presentation is as high as the standard of scholarship, making it a worthy addition to the *Acta Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi* series.

CAROLE HOUGH

SIMON TAYLOR with GILBERT MÁRKUS, *The Place-Names of Fife, Vol. 2: Central Fife between the Rivers Leven and Eden*. Donnington: Shaun Tyas, 2008. v + 550 pp. £24.00 (ISBN 978-1900289-93-1)

The volume under review is the second of an ongoing five-volume survey of the place-names of Fife. The series aims to provide systematic and detailed treatment of place-names which will ‘join the thin ranks of fully-surveyed Scottish counties’ (p. vii). Originally, the survey was to be published in four volumes, yet the amount of information available was so great that an extra volume is necessary. Volume Two covers Central Fife between the Rivers Leven and Eden, and is the first to be completed under the auspices of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. In-depth analysis of around 740 Scottish place-names is provided.

In terms of structure, this book is the same as Volume One. After the introduction there is a section on Linear Features and Unidentified Sites, followed by a parish by parish account of the place-names. Each parish begins with an introduction and two maps. The first map shows past and present boundaries and key places mentioned in the introduction and gazetteer. The second map is the relevant section of John Ainslie's map of Fife and Kinross-shire (1775). This allows for a better understanding of the historical and present landscape of the parishes.

The authors state that the survey is modelled partly on the English Place-Name Survey (EPNS) county volumes and partly on the Place-Names of Northern Ireland series, although there are differences in approach which are clear in the layout of the material.

A typical Fife place-name entry looks as follows (p. 96):

MAYFIELD CER, TVX S NO369132 1 362 30m NEF

*Mayfield* 1828 SGF

*Mayfield* 1832 Cupar Map

*Mayfield* 1856 OS 6 inch 1<sup>st</sup> edn

? SSE *may* + SSE *field*

This could refer to a field where may, i.e. hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), grows and flowers; or perhaps to a field associated with May festivities. Both these suggestions for this ambiguous name are made by Field in his study of English field-names (Field 1972 (1989), 135). A third possibility is that it was named to commemorate a woman called May (see Mayfield, Edinburgh in Harris 2002, 390-1).

It existed as such in the late eighteenth century, since Major James Horsburgh, whose daughter Marjory married Henry Stark in 1791, retired there (Harley 2004, 6).

The key difference is the spatial data provided. The head-name is followed by a three-letter parish abbreviation, in this instance there are two, showing that Mayfield used to be in Tarvit Parish, and is now in Ceres Parish. Next is the classification of the type of feature, represented here by S meaning settlement, then the six digit National Grid Reference (NGR) followed by a single digit between one and five indicating the accuracy of the NGR. The sheet

number of the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder map follows, along with the approximate height in metres and the orientation or aspect of the feature. NEF stands for north-east facing.

This is a valuable feature as the place location is clear and a profile of elements, especially generic elements will be possible, allowing more precise definition, ‘for example, we might find that the element *muir* commonly occurs above a certain altitude, or that *pett* and *baile* names are more likely to occur on slopes with certain aspects’ (p. 11).

The source languages of the place-name elements in Mayfield are also worth consideration. The etymology of *may* is not certain, yet both elements are marked as Scottish Standard English (SSE). The introduction states that ‘at least six languages have contributed elements to coin place-names in Fife. These are Pictish, Gaelic, Scots, French, Norse and Scottish Standard English’ (p. 7). No further explanation is given regarding the distinction between Scots and SSE, which exist on a linguistic continuum. This is disappointing as it would be beneficial to know the method used to assign certain place-name elements to one language or the other, for example *hall*. In Fiddlehall (p. 160) and Ravenshall (see below) the element is given as Scots. However, in Linwood Hall (p. 520) the element is given as SSE. Also many elements are given as both, for example Burnsquare (p. 69): “Sc or SSE *burn* + Sc or SSE *square*”. Taylor and Márkus state that ‘There will more discussion of all these languages and their interaction in Vol. 5’ (p. 8). However, until Volume Five is available, the detail surrounding this issue will remain unclear.

This practice of referring readers to different volumes throughout the text shows that it is clearly meant to be read in conjunction with others in the series. This allows for a greater breadth of material to be accessed than in one volume alone. However, it seems to render much of the Introduction unnecessary as most of it is repeated from Volume One and many of the entries show that a full understanding of many place-names means the volumes cannot be used independently of one another.

The Fife volumes differ again from the EPNS county volumes in the treatment of field-names. Field-names are not included in the Fife volumes in a systematic way, although occasionally examples are cited if they are known and can add further explanation to a major name. For example the field-names Big Devillie and Little Devillie are used to supplement the early spellings for Devillie (pp. 154-5) and to prove the etymology ‘Bad farm or non-farm’ is correct.

Field-name evidence is also used in the discussion surrounding some names, for example Fiddlehall (p. 160). The only spelling provided is from

the OS map (1856) and the discussion states that ‘in field-names the element *fiddle* can refer to the shape of the referent.’ This does not appear to be specific to Fife, rather it has been included as a possible explanation of a difficult name that lacks historical spellings.

Such evidence shows that minor names can usefully add to the major names discussed and could make a valuable addition to the Fife survey as they have done in the EPNS county volumes. However, this would be a considerable undertaking involving oral data collection as documented field-name evidence in Scotland is sparse.

Indeed, even when analysing major names, the documentary evidence can create complexities for the Scottish toponymist. Especially in cases where sources are not wholly reliable, or there is little comparable data. For example Ravenshall (p. 181):

RAVENSHALL FAL S NO253098 1 373 40m

*Rundhall* 1775 Ainslie/Fife

*Renshaws* 1788 Sasines no. 1856 [‘*Renshaws* and pendicle, with the *Divilla*’ (Deville # FAL)]

*lands of Ravenshall* 1806 Sasines no. 7504 [parish of Falkland]

*Raven’s Hall* 1828 Falkland Wood Plan/1828 [part of *Darnoe* FAL]

*Ravenshall* 1856 OS 6 inch 1<sup>st</sup> edn

The breakdown of the elements is given as “? + ? Sc *hall*” with four possible etymologies. The first is ‘round hall’ based on the earliest spelling and evidence is provided for a homestead, ring ditches, pits and cultivation remains. Yet the authors note that this spelling may be an error and also provide ‘wren’ but ending up as ‘raven’ as a second possibility, backed by evidence that the combination ‘bird-name + *hall*’ is an identifiable sub-group discussed by other scholars such as Hough. The third etymology is ‘wood, thicket’ from Sc *shaw* and the fourth is given as ‘water-meadow, riverside meadow’ from Sc *haugh* which is plausible because of its position on the flood-plain of the Eden.

Of course, there are still a few names for which a detailed account of the etymology is simply not possible, demonstrating that more research is needed in other areas of Scotland to find comparable data. One instance of this is Ibracks (p. 329). One early form is provided which appears three times in Sasines up to 1820. No source languages are provided yet it is noted that this

name 'seems to share the same etymology as the equally puzzling Ibrox in Glasgow...'

Despite the complexities, plausible suggestions are offered where possible and *The Fife* series as a whole sets a new bench mark for county place-name analysis and provides a template for future research.

ALISON BURNS