

MISCELLANEA.

DERIVATION OF THE NAME OF EASTRY.

Eastry Vicarage, Sandwich,
16th September, 1879.

My dear Sir,

I do not know whether the subjoined derivation of the name of our parish might find a place in the next Vol. of *Archæologia Cantiana*. Possibly I am prejudiced in favour of thinking that it deserves to be put on record.

The name Eastry, which has at various times been spelt Estre, Estree, Estrei, Estrey, Estry, Estrye, Eastrie, Eastire, Easterye, Eastereye, Easterye, Eastrye, has long been a puzzle to antiquaries and etymologists, and has been very variously interpreted. The following derivation was first suggested to me by a friend in the Midland Counties, and is confirmed by the high authority of Professor Skeat of Cambridge. As Woodnesborough, the adjoining parish to Eastry, derives its name from the Saxon god Woden, and means the "town of Woden;" so Eastry also is probably derived from another heathen divinity, viz., Eástor, the goddess of spring, whose festival happened about the time of the vernal equinox, and whose name has now been transferred to the great Christian festival of perpetual spring—Easter. The original form of the name now written Eastry, was Eástor-eg, *i.e.*, the eg, eye, or island of Eástor. On my asking the opinion of Professor Skeat on this derivation, he very kindly and courteously wrote as follows:—

"The question is, how was Eastry formerly spelt? I find it once; 'Æþelnoð se gerefa to Eastorege,' *i.e.*, Æthelnoth the reeve at Eastry.' Thorpe's *Diplomatarium Ævi Saxonici*, p. 462, in a will dated A.D. 929. Eastorege is the dative of Eastoreg, properly Eástoreg, *i.e.* Eástor-island. Pretty good evidence. Is it an island? I dare say it was in the old sense, anything being an island that lay a little higher than other land, so that water went partly round. A

ditch, six inches wide, and not continuous, seems to have been enough, and sometimes drainage has quite altered a place, as at Ely (Eel-land). Eástor is the goddess of increasing brightness, as in spring: closely related to Eást, East, the dawn; also to Latin aurora, and ἠώς, dawn; all well-known words from a root *us*, to burn, shine, as in Latin urere (us-ere), to burn. Aurora was once Ausosa. I think you have a good case."

In answer to the question, "Is it an island?" I reply, the centre part of the parish of Eastry stands higher than the rest, and is almost entirely surrounded by a valley. If we begin from Buttsole we see a valley coming from Venson to Buttsole, thence running round below the Lynchbank to Farthing Gate, and the Brooks, thence to Walton, and so on by Gore to Selson, and the Harnden Valley to Shingleton. So that in former days Eastry must have been an island with water on nearly all sides.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

W. FRANK SHAW.

TRANSCRIPT OF CHARTERS IN MAIDSTONE MUSEUM.

Communicated by Rev. J. CAVE-BROWNE.

I.

An exchange of lands between Robert de Chetwod of Padelsworth (in Snodland) and Hamo de Gatton of Hocelyve (Hockliffe) in Beds.

Omnibus ad quos presentes litteræ pervenerint Robertus de Chetwod salutem in domino. Noveritis me per me et heredes meos concessisse domino Hamoni de Gatton et Roberto filio suo quod cum eisdem feci cartam meam de feofamento de Manerio meo de Padelesworth integre cum omnibus pertinenciis in Comitatu Kantie sicud (*sic*) plenius continetur in eadem carta si aliquid impedimentum per mortem vel per vim dominorum feodorum fiat ita quod seysina manerii remanet discussa predicto domino Hamoni et Roberto et quod eisdem pacificam seysinam facere non potero tunc volo et concedo pro me et heredibus meis quod seysina quam Hamo de

Gatton michi fecit de manerio de Hocclyve in Comitatu Bedefordie sicud (*sic*) plenius continetur in carta feofamenti pro manerio de Padesworth in excambio quasi nulla habeatur set (*sic*) quod predictum manerium de Hocclyve cum omnibus pertinenciis suis integre absque diminucione a me predicto Roberto et heredibus meis sive assignatis ad predictum Hamonem et heredes suos quiete et solutum revertatur.

In cujus rei testimonium huic scripto sigillum meum apposui.

Datum apud Graye die Martis proxima postNatalem beate Marie anno regni regis Edwardi quarto decimo. (A.D. 1285).

Appended to this is a seal having a shield pendant bearing four crosses quarterly with the inscription S. ROBERTI DE CHETWOD.

II.

A grant by Johanna Schepere, relict of John Fuller, of Maydestone, of a messuage in the Market to Richard Propechaunt of Maidstone, and Robert Vyne of East Sutton, 3rd Henry V (1413).

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johanna Schepere relicta Johannis ffullere draper de villa de Maydestone in mea plena et legitima viduetate dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Richardo Propechaunt juniore de eadem villa et Roberto Vyn draper de parochia de Eastsutton unum mesuagium cum pertinenciis in foro de Maydestone predicta situatum inter mesuagium quod quondam fuit Alani Deyghere ex partibus North et East et ad altam communem Regiam stratam versus South et ad unum mesuagium Johannis Reve de Eastfarleye versus West prout mete et bunde undique dividunt et demonstrant quod quidem mesuagium cum suis pertinenciis fuit olim Willelmi Davy alias dicti Skynnere patris mei naturalis, habendum totum predictum mesuagium cum omnibus suis pertinenciis prefatis Ricardo Propechaunt et Roberto Vyn heredibus et assignatis eorum. Tenendum de capitalibus dominis feodi per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta in perpetuum. Et ego Johanna et heredes mei totum predictum mesuagium cum omnibus suis pertinenciis prefatis Ricardo Propechaunt et Roberto Vyn heredibus et assignatis eorum contra omnes gentes warantizabimus in perpetuum.

In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum presentibus est appensum. Datum apud Maydestone predictum in festo apostolorum Philippi et Jacobi anno regni regis Henrici quinti a conquestu Anglie tertio. Hiis testibus Ricardo ffestyngdenne

alias dicto Longe Roberto Leycestre Ricardo Elys Petro Longe Thoma Clerk Skynnere et aliis multis.

Attached is a seal of exquisite workmanship, a female crowned and richly draped, holding a small cross in her right hand with an inscription.

III.

A grant of two pieces of land called "Spelfeld" and "Goosland" by Robert and Richard Cristemasse, of East Sutton, to their brother John Cristemasse, A.D. 1423.

Noverint universi per presentes nos Robertum Cristemasse et Ricardum Cristemasse filios quondam Thome Cristemasse de East-Sutton remisisse relaxasse et omnino pro nobis heredibus et executoribus nostris in perpetuum quietum clamasse Johanni Cristemasse fratri nostro de East sutton prefatum totum jus nostrum et clamium quod habuimus, habemus, seu quovis modo habere poterimus in duabus peciis terre cum suis pertinenciis existentes in parochia et in tenura de Eastsuttone quarum una pecia terre vocatur "Spelfeld" et jacet versus North ad Regiam stratam East ad terram Thome Burgeys South et West ad terram heredum Thome Pynde et altera pecia terre vocatur "Goosland" et jacet versus North et West ad terram domini Eastsuttone East ad Regiam stratam et South ad terram Thome Cristemasse sicut mete et bunde dividunt et demonstrant ita quod nec nos prefati Robertus et Ricardus neque heredes nostri aliquod jus seu clamium in predictis duabus peciis terre cum suis pertinenciis versus prefatum Johannem fratrem nostrum heredes aut assignatos suos exigere seu vindicare debemus set ab omni actione juris tituli inde petendi sumus exclusi per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus sigilla nostra apposuimus.

Datum apud Eastsutton in festo Epiphanie domini anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Angliæ secundo.

Hiis testibus Johanne Grove Thoma et Johanne Barmelyng fratribus Johanne Down Willelmo Reynolde et multis aliis.

It'm payde to pyrs Sowthehowsyd for ix q'rt'is of lyme that Joh' mabbe tyler occupijd for eu'y qr't' vj <i>d.</i> - - - - -	iiij s. vj <i>d.</i>
It'm for Caryage of same lyme and sand to occupy therwyth and lome by the space of iij daijs taking eu'y day xiiij <i>d.</i> - - - - -	iiij s. vj <i>d.</i>
It'm for mete and drynke for the said Joh' mabbe and hys ij men - - - - -	viiij s.
It'm ffor C di. of iij d. nayle delyu'd to the said Joh' mabbe - - - - -	iiij <i>d.</i> ob.
It'm for nayle for op' (<i>other</i>) repa'ac delyu'd to laur' Bakir - - - - -	i <i>d.</i> ob.
It'm ffor a Stapyll and an haspe to p ^o gate at modynton - - - - -	iiij <i>d.</i>
It'm ffor a ryngyll an haspe and an lache to p ^o Courtgate - - - - -	iiij <i>d.</i>
It'm payde to Dawne Smyth for making of the mylspyndyll and for viij li of new Iron put p'to -	ij s.
It'm ffor a Thong of lethyr for the (<i>sic</i>) - - -	ij <i>d.</i>
It'm to a laborer for castyng off the mylpond a bowte the flodgate - - - - -	iiij <i>d.</i>

(Ends abruptly.)

N.B.—*Hohyngbourne* is probably not a mistake for *Holyngbourne*, but represents the rustic pronunciation with both the letters h strongly aspirated. *en*, for end, also agrees with rustic pronunciation, which often is *een* for end.

A SAXON CEMETERY AT CLIFFE.

A Saxon cemetery has been cut through by excavations for the railway, near the Rectory at Cliffe at Hoo. The only remains which have been preserved were secured by Mr. William Wood of West Court. They consist of a spear-head in iron; the bronze fittings of a belt; a circular piece of bronze with raised concentric circles, cut, apparently from the bottom of a dish or patera; a middle brass coin of Nero, and a small brass of Maximian. Mr. Wood states that a large quantity of bones has been carted away; and with them, probably, other remains.

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C. R. S.

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