



JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY

Volume 44 (2012)

ISSN 1351–3095

Watermills called *Twygrind*

Keith Briggs (pp. 10–11)

This article is from the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, an annual peer-reviewed journal issued free to members of the Society. The *Journal* welcomes contributions of articles and notes on subjects of relevance to English place-names.

The English Place-Name Society (EPNS) was established in 1923 to conduct a county-by-county survey of the place-names of England. To date, the Survey has produced 90 volumes. Almost all English counties have been surveyed, at least in part, and work to complete the Survey is ongoing. The Survey is used by researchers, academics, and those interested in the origins, meaning, and significance of English place-names.

The research work and the publication of the Survey are financed by the annual subscriptions of members of the Society, with the help of grants from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy. Since the progress and success of the Survey depend largely upon the strength of the membership, the Society always welcomes new members, both personal and institutional.

In return for the annual subscription, members receive free of charge the current issue of the *Journal* as well as the volume of the Survey allocated to that year's subscription. They are entitled to order, in addition, any available volume of the Survey at a concessionary price. Associate Members pay a reduced subscription, for which they receive the *Journal*.

Annual subscription prices (correct as of April 2017):

Within the UK

£40 (full)

£15 (associate)

Outside the UK

£45 (full)*

£18 (associate*)

*increased prices reflect increased postage cost.

For further details or to join the Society, please contact:

Mrs Christine Hickling
English Place-Name Society
School of English
The University of Nottingham
NG7 2RD

Tel: 0115 951 5919

Email: name-studies@nottingham.ac.uk

ABBREVIATIONS OF COUNTIES AND EPNS COUNTY SURVEYS

Co	Cornwall
Ha	Hampshire
He	Herefordshire
K	Kent
La	Lancashire
Nb	Northumberland
Sf	Suffolk
So	Somerset
Wt	Isle of Wight
CPNE	<i>Cornish Place-Name Elements.</i>
EPNE	<i>English Place-Name Elements, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN BdHu	<i>The Place-Names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire.</i>
PN Brk	<i>The Place-Names of Berkshire, Parts 1, 2 and 3.</i>
PN Bu	<i>The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire.</i>
PN Ca	<i>The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely.</i>
PN Ch	<i>The Place-Names of Cheshire, Parts 1–5.</i>
PN Cu	<i>The Place-Names of Cumberland, Parts 1, 2 and 3.</i>
PN D	<i>The Place-Names of Devon, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN Db	<i>The Place-Names of Derbyshire, Parts 1, 2 and 3.</i>
PN Do	<i>The Place-Names of Dorset, Parts 1–4.</i>
PN Du	<i>The Place-Names of County Durham, Part 1.</i>
PN Ess	<i>The Place-Names of Essex.</i>
PN ERY	<i>The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York.</i>
PN Gl	<i>The Place-Names of Gloucestershire, Parts 1–4.</i>
PN Hrt	<i>The Place-Names of Hertfordshire.</i>
PN Le	<i>The Place-Names of Leicestershire, Parts 1–6.</i>
PN Li	<i>The Place-Names of Lincolnshire, Parts 1–7.</i>
PN Mx	<i>The Place-Names of Middlesex (apart from the City of London).</i>
PN Nf	<i>The Place-Names of Norfolk, Parts 1–3.</i>
PN Nt	<i>The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire.</i>
PN NRY	<i>The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire.</i>
PN Nth	<i>The Place-Names of Northamptonshire.</i>
PN O	<i>The Place-Names of Oxfordshire, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN R	<i>The Place-Names of Rutland.</i>
PN Sa	<i>The Place-Names of Shropshire, Parts 1–6.</i>
PN Sr	<i>The Place-Names of Surrey.</i>
PN St	<i>The Place-Names of Staffordshire, Part 1.</i>
PN Sx	<i>The Place-Names of Sussex, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN W	<i>The Place-Names of Wiltshire.</i>
PN Wa	<i>The Place-Names of Warwickshire.</i>
PN We	<i>The Place-Names of Westmorland, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN Wo	<i>The Place-Names of Worcestershire.</i>
PN WRY	<i>The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Parts 1–8.</i>

Watermills called *Twygrind*

Keith Briggs

Several medieval documents refer to watermills called *Twygrind* or a similar name. Since these have never been cross-referenced in the literature, I collect here the relevant data and discuss the probable origin of the name.

1. A mill (or mills?) in Cavenham in Suffolk recorded as *Twigrind* 1152–73, *Twigrint*, *Twigrind* t. Earl Roger (Harper-Bill and Mortimer 1982: 28, 59).
2. A mill in or near Barton Mills in Suffolk: *Togrind* c.1200, *Berton Togryng* 1452 (Northeast 2001: p. 257, item 708) and *Berton Togryng* 1457 (Tymms 1850: 13). An associated manor of *Togrind* also occurs 1313/4 (Copinger [c.1904]). This was apparently at some point a Templar property (Gervers 1982: xxvii).
3. One or two places in the East Riding of Yorkshire mentioned, but not located, by Smith: *Twyngreyn* 1190 (not certainly a mill); Mills of *Twagrynd* 1252 (PN ERY 324, 328).
4. An unlocated *twygryndemill* 1427 in Essex (PN Ess 586). Possibly the same as *Twygrind* near Saffron Walden in a late 13th-century deed (Berkeley Castle muniments BCM/A/2/6/21).

It is natural to assume that these all have a common etymology, but there are reasons for thinking that the second element was not originally the word *grind*, namely the spellings with final <-n> and <-g>, and the stem vowel written <-ey-> in *Twyngreyn*. The word looks instead to be the obsolete *grain* (of Scandinavian origin), in the sense ‘branch of fork of a stream’, which had typical ME spellings *greyn(e)* (OED s.v. *grain*, *n.*²). A mill with two water channels and two water-wheels is more plausible than a mill which grinds twice, and the name may describe some medieval technological innovation in water-mill design. There is an interesting variation between the feminine and neuter form of the numeral ‘two’ (OE

twā, tū) and the masculine *twēge(n)*, and cases 1 and 4 probably contain the prefix *twī-* ‘double’, which also appears (for example) in the recurring place-name Twyford.

At Barton Mills in Suffolk, the River Lark twice divides into two branches: once at grid reference TL 708743, where there is still a mill; and formerly also at TL 718740 near Barton Hall, where the decayed northern branch is now only a parish boundary. It is likely that *Twigrind* mill was in one of these forks, and if so, this would confirm the etymology proposed here.

References

- Copinger, Walter Arthur ([c.1904]), *County of Suffolk: its history as disclosed by existing records and other documents, being materials for the history of Suffolk*, vol. 3, London: Henry Sotheran & Co.
- Gervers, Michael, ed. (1982), *The cartulary of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in England; Pt.1, Secunda camera: Essex*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, for the British Academy.
- Harper-Bill, Christopher and Richard Mortimer, eds. (1982), *Stoke by Clare cartulary part 1*, vol. 4, Suffolk Charters, Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer.
- Northeast, Peter, ed. (2001), *Wills of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 1439–1474. Wills from the Register ‘Baldwyne’, I. 1439–1461*, vol. 44, Woodbridge: The Boydell Press.
- Tymms, Samuel, ed. (1850), *Wills and inventories from the registers of the Commissary of Bury St. Edmunds*, London: Camden Society.

Keith Briggs

keith.briggs@bt.com