

Backtrack Masthead

Cross Edge

Most of you will have read John Chadwick's fascinating recollections about the cross at Cross Edge in Elizabeth Lawton and Ros Durbers Book "A Brown Edge Album"

I have come across two other mentions of "Cross Edge" which indicate that indeed the name is possibly quite old and relates to something other than "Across The Edge" which I have always supposed it to be.

The first is a conveyancing document from 1796 described as below.

1796 Conveyance by the Rev. Fernyhough Rowley of Endon, Staffordshire (son and heir of Fernyhough Rowley the elder of Audley, Staffs who was the son and heir of Thomas Rowley of Audley and after of Endon) and his wife Sarah of several estates including Fernyhough, Cross Edge, Endon Edge and Endon Bank in Endon, Staffordshire, to Hugh Wood, John Nodder and John Cruso of Leek, Staffordshire, in trust to sell, dated 14 December 1795. Vellum signed, sealed and stamped

Fernyhough estate is now of course Fernyhough Farm. Its name is interesting in itself. Hough is derived from the Saxon word *hoh* (pronounced as we pronounce Hough Hill) It means a hill leading to a ridge. (we would call this a Bluff now) So when the locals say *at gooin up thoff* ie "the Hough" that is exactly what it means The Hill part is superfluous and added at a later date to explain to a post Saxon generation what we mean.



From this document it shows the significance of Fernyhough as being a substantial estate with lands to the east of the old Saxon boundaries between Totmanslow and Pirehill that is marked by Hough Hill.

The Reverend Thomas Rowley came from a long line of "well to do" nailmakers from Audley. The matter apparently came to a head when in 1796

Appointment by the Revd. Fernyhough Rowley of Endon, Staffordshire, and his wife Sarah, of a farm and lands (Fernihough, Endon Edge, & Endon Bank) in Endon, Staffordshire as security for a further loan of £120 from Hugh Wood of Swanick, Derbyshire, John Nodder of Denstone, Derbyshire and John Cruso of Leek, Staffordshire, executors of the will of George Milnes of Denstone, deceased, dated 4 August 1796. Vellum, signed, sealed and stamped.

At the subsequent sale we know that the Mountfords purchased Fernyhough Farm and lived there for several generations.

The other article I have read is from the Old Nortonians archive which recalls a survey of the Manor of Norton carried out in the 1500's which states that

Leaving this place, (Gawtons well) and leaving this matter still obscure, we trace our boundary up to Yeld Brook, where runs "a small current of water or a little rindle or brook (there be trouts in it) which divides the Manour of Norton from the Manour of Horton and from thence the bounds of this Manour come straight up Brown Edge by the fence or outwall of Burnfields to the overnook or corner thereof." So, and only so, says the Survey. But the line surveyed at this place is the actual course of that more than ancient and still existing Bridle Path which led the traveller of a thousand or so years ago from the Outlands, the waste places of the earth, down to the Spaw to consult Dr. Gawton, a specialist of that day on Rheumatism

But time passes, Mr. President, and I must leave much unnoticed—on or from our boundary—and skip quickly from Brown Edge to Cross Edge where, (as also on Brown Edge), are several stones crossed and marked for Mears, (properly marcstones); and on between the tinstids and Moss Old Hayes; and down Moss Edge where are stones crossed and marked for Mears; and so down to Stockton Brook, to a little Twirlehole at the Overnook or corner of Cooper's Meadow next to Mr. Richard Bradshaw's House; and from thence all along the top of Baddeley Edge by the outfence or wall of Greenway Hall to the lower Corner of Light Oaks Lane

Several issues arise from this interesting statement.

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Brown Edge is what we call Marshes Hill now. Yeld Brook is the Trent and Burnfields existed in the 1500's. However the main facts is that then there were several crosses or marked stones around the Cross Edge area and were probably of Saxon origin.

A big clue of our forebears is the name Moss Old Hayes which is again a Saxon name.

Does anyone know of a tinstids? Clearly this is the origin of name "Tinsters wood"

Gawtons Well

The Old Nortonian book refers to the name Lionspaw (as in Lionspaw Wood), which they considered to be a mention to the fact that Gawtons well was well known in ancient times to be a cure for the kings evil, and hence gets its name from leons spa or kings spa.

This of course is not the derivation but I wonder is anyone reading knows the real origin of Lions Paw? Answers next issue!

The Kings Evil was a condition known as scrofula.



Scrofula (scrophula or struma) is any of a variety of skin diseases; in particular, a form of tuberculosis, affecting the lymph nodes of the neck. It is informally or historically known as the King's Evil, referring to the belief that sufferers would be cured by the touch of the Monarch, a practice which continued in England until the early 18th century. In adults it is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis and in children by nontuberculous mycobacteria. The word comes from the Latin scrofula, meaning brood sow.

In the Middle Ages it was believed that "royal touch", the touch of the sovereign of England or France, could cure diseases due to the divine right of sovereigns. Scrofula was therefore also known as the King's Evil. The kings were thought to have received this power due to their succession from Edward the Confessor, who, according to some legends, received it from Saint Remigius. From 1633, the Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church contained a ceremony for this, and it was traditional for the monarch (king or queen) to present to the touched person a coin — usually an Angel, a gold coin the value of which varied from about 6 shillings to about 10 shillings. King Henry IV of France is reported as often touching and healing as many as 1,500 individuals at a time.

Queen Anne touched the infant (later Doctor) Samuel Johnson in 1712 but King George I put an end to the practice as being "too Catholic". The kings of France continued the custom until Louis XV stopped it in the 1700s, though it was briefly revived to universal derision in 1825.

In the 18th Century, Mrs Elizabeth Pearson, an Irish herbalist, discovered the cure for Scrofula using herbs and a poultice and extract of vegetable and in 1815, Sir Gerard Noel, presented a petition to the House of Commons to respect her discovery.

More Dialect Words

Dialect	Meaning	Derivation
ever likely	no wonder	
facy	cheeky child	
fang	to catch hold of	Norse fanga
farming	used in phrase Wot at farming at ie looking or doing	
favour	to look like <i>eh favours is feyther</i>	
firk	to scratch or probe with a stick usually	OE fercian
flirt	to throw especially with a stick	
flit	to move house	ME flitten
fob	to move forward in torrs or marbles	
fodder road	trough in front of cows	
fogs, foggy	Claiming to go first bags i goo foggy	
fold	little field	
fother	feeding beast	
fotherbin	grain store	
franked	late for work	
fuffle	Fussing around	

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