

**A GLOSSARY OF
PROVINCIAL WORDS
USED IN TEESDALE IN THE
COUNTY OF DURHAM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649457540

A Glossary of Provincial Words Used in Teesdale in the County of Durham by Frederick Dinsdale

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FREDERICK DINSDALE

**A GLOSSARY OF
PROVINCIAL WORDS
USED IN TEESDALE IN THE
COUNTY OF DURHAM**

TEESDALE GLOSSARY.

A
GLOSSARY
OF
PROVINCIAL WORDS
USED IN
TEESDALE
IN THE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

"Sir,—Ray has made a collection of North-country words. By collecting those of your country, you will do a useful thing towards the history of the language."—JOHNSON.

LONDON:
J. R. SMITH, 4, OLD COMPTON STREET, SOHO;
GEORGE BELL, FLEET STREET.
BARNARD CASTLE: JOHN ATKINSON.
RICHMOND: MATTHEW BELL; T. AND A. BOWMAN.

MDCCLXIX.



PREFACE.

THE following Glossary is intended to contain a collection of the Provincial Words and Phrases used in a portion of the county of Durham which extends from Middleton in Teesdale to Darlington. The district selected may be considered as bounded on the east by the river Skern, on the west by the Hudshope Burn, on the north by a line parallel to the course of the river Tees, and distant from it about nine or ten miles, and on the south by the river Tees,* for about thirty miles in its course.

- * "The Muse this largest shire of England having sung,
Yet seeing more than this did to her task belong,
Looks still into the North, the bishopric and views,
Which with an eager eye, whilst wistly she pursues,
Teis as a bordering flood (who thought herself divine),
Confining in her course that county Palatine,
And York, the greatest shire, doth instantly begin
To rouse herself: quoth she, "Doth every rillet win
Applause for their small worths, and I, that am a queen,
With those poor brooks compar'd? Shall I alone be seen
Thus silently to pass, and not be heard to sing?
When as two countries are contending for my spring:
For Cumberland, to which the Cumri gave the name,
Accounts it to be hers, Northumberland the same,
Will need'aly hers should be, for that my spring doth rise,
So equally 'twixt both, that he were very wise,

In the establishment of the Saxon octarchy, the county of Durham was probably included in the kingdom of Deira, the southernmost of the two which are frequently compre-

Could tell which of these two me for her own may claim.
 But as in all these fracta, there's scarce a flood of fame,
 But she some valley hath, which her brave name doth bear;
 My Teisdale nam'd of me, so likewise have I here,
 At my first setting forth, through which I nimbly slide;
 Then Yorkshire which doth lie upon my setting side,
 Me Lune and Bauder lends, as in the song before
 Th' industrious Muse hath show'd: my Dunelmian shore,
 Sends Huyd to help my course, with some few other becks,
 Which time (as it should seem) so utterly neglects,
 That they are nameless yet; then do I bid adieu
 To Bernard's battled towers, and seriously pursue
 My course to Neptune's court, but as forthright I run,
 The Skern, a dainty nymph, saluting Darlington,
 Comes in to give me aid, and being proud and rank,
 She chanc'd to look aside, and spieth near her bank,
 Three black and horrid pits, which for their boiling heat,
 (That from their loathsome brims do breath a sulphurous sweat)
 Hell kettles rightly call'd, that with the very sight,
 This water-nymph, my Skern, is put in such a fright,
 That with unusual speed she on her course doth haste,
 And rashly runs herself into my widen'd waist,
 In pomp I thus approach great Amphitrite's state."

Drayton's Polyolbion. 29th Song.

For the early history of Teesdale, reference may be made to the County Histories by Hutchinson and Surtees: for a description of the scenery, to

Hutchinson's *Excursion to the Lakes*, p. 325 to the end.

Arthur Young's *Tour in the North of England*, vol. ii, p. 179, Notes.

Tour in Teesdale, 2d Edit. (York, 1813); last Edit. 1848.

Walbran's *Antiquities of Gainford*.

Letter from J. B. S. Morrill, Esq., to Sir W. Scott. See *Life of Scott*, vol. iii, p. 372 (Edit. 1839).

Scott's *Rokeby*, canto ii, st. 2, Note: Appendix, Note A.

Teisa, a Poem, by Anne Wilson (Newcastle, 1778).

hended under the general name of Northumberland. Historians, however, are not well agreed as to the exact limits of Deira* and Bernicia.

Hitherto there has been no Glossary of words peculiar to the county of Durham, or any part of it. The manuscript Glossary† of Kennett, in the British Museum, and the Glossaries of Ray, Grose, and Brockett, doubtless comprise this county.

I must not omit to mention a manuscript 'Collection of Words used in the Bishoprick of Durham and some adjacent Counties,' in the handwriting of Gray, the poet, which was recently purchased by Peter Cunningham, Esq. It contains 195 words, and was probably furnished to the poet by his friend Dr. Warton.

Ritson also appears to have made a collection of such words. In a letter to his relative, Joseph Frank, Esq., he says: "You must either make use of my collection of Durham words or send me yours. Parson Boucher, vicar of Epsom (who is preparing a glossary of ancient and

* "The British kingdoms of Deyſr and Bryneich (Latinized into Deira and Byrnicia) were divided from each other by a forest, occupying the tract between the Tyne and Tees. This border-land, now the Bishopric of Durham, does not seem originally to have belonged to either kingdom; but in subsequent times the boundary between Deira and Bernicia was usually fixed at the Tyne."—*Palgrave's History of the Anglo-Saxons*.

"Durham was a portion of the Province of Bernicia, which, together with Deira, formed the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumberland, the most cultivated because the most learned of the states into which Saxon England was divided."—See *Preface to Anglo-Saxon Ritual of Durham*. See also *Bosworth's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, p. xvi.

† Lansdown Collection, 1033, 79 f.

local words, which he tells me is in great forwardness), anxiously desires to peruse the Durham words."*

The principal classes of words included in this Glossary may be thus defined; (and here I am following and quoting from the author of the 'Herefordshire Glossary:')

1. "Words used by classical writers, but now obsolete."
2. "Words not obsolete, but used only in poetry, or as technical terms."
3. "Words which are not known to have ever been used in the language of educated persons."
4. "Words substantially the same as words current in the language of educated persons, but modified in form. In some cases the provincial form is more ancient than the literary form. In some cases there is a variety of forms, without any indication by which the greater or less antiquity of either can be determined. In other cases the provincial form is a corruption of the literary form, arising from ignorance."†

It will be readily assumed that many of the words comprised in this Glossary are current as provincialisms in other parts of the county, also in that part of Yorkshire which is separated by the Tees from the district here selected, and in other parts of England.‡

Many words are inserted herein which are found in the

* Ritson's Letters. 2 vols., 1833. Vol. ii, p. 248.

† See Herefordshire Glossary, p. vi; also Forby's Vocabulary of East Anglia. Introduction, p. 109; Latham on the English Language, 1st Ed. p. 77; Article on 'Dialect' in Penny Cyclopædia.

‡ See Hunter's Hallamshire Glossary, p. xxvi.

last edition of Johnson's Dictionary, and also in that of Webster. Of these, some occur in our old writers, yet are no longer standard words in composition; as "Trail," which is found with its present signification in Milton, Dryden, and Pope.

The words contained in this collection were all in use in the present century, though some of them, indeed, have now become obsolete, or nearly so; e. g. the word "chirm," which Webster says is not in use.

It may be objected that I have inserted several words which are not provincialisms at all, such as *coping-stone*, *crate*, *croft*, *cote*, &c. My answer is, that such words are not in general use, either written or spoken. There is no reference to any modern writers, in either Johnson or Webster, under any of the above-mentioned words, with one exception. The word "crate" is used by Dr. Johnson in the 'Journey to the Hebrides.'

I have introduced into this work some descriptions of local customs, sports, and pastimes, which may tend to rescue from oblivion these fast-perishing relics of a bygone period.

Some excuse may be expected for my attempting a Glossary of a small district which is comprised in the much larger extent of country to which Mr. Brockett's Glossary refers. It appeared to me that by a careful investigation of the dialect of a limited district, with which I was once well acquainted, I should render a greater service towards the illustration of our language than if I had taken a wider range:

"Alius enim alio plura invenire potest, nemo omnia."*

* Ausonius.