

ENGLISH WORDS: SURNAMES.*

A PATRONYMIC is pretty sure to date back to the sixteenth century, if not to a much earlier period. The old Bible Christian names, like Samuel, Jacob, Daniel, Peter, John, and James, have all given up patronymic derivatives. Joseph, too, appears in Jessop. But the Bible names adopted in the seventeenth century by the Puritans, like Asa, Abijah, Seth, Eli, Jabez, have not resulted in any patronymics, because they were taken up after surnames were pretty well settled. Some personal names that have disappeared from use are preserved in patronymics. The Norman names Ivo, Hugo, Hammet, once so common, are now never given to English-speaking boys, but survive in the surnames Ives, Iveson, *Hughes* and *Hamlin*. The very pretty girl-names, Joyce, *joyeuse*, or merry; Lettice, *Letitia*, or innocent pleasure; and, best of all, *Hilary*, from the root hilarious or happy, now lost, might very properly be revived in use.

Bottom is the old Sussex word for valley, and is compounded in a number of English names, as *Higginbotham*, *Winterbottom*, etc. *Burne* is a brook; *Lough*, a ravine; *Cobb*, a harbour; *Crouch*, a cross, of which so many were erected in the market-places of towns. *Hatch* is a gate; *Holt* is a grove; *Lynch*, a thicket; *Ross*, a heath; *Sykes*, a spring; *Sal*, a hall. These are all territorial names, though *Ross* may be, in some instances, from the word meaning red.

The names of places and persons not unfrequently end in *ham*, *ingham*, or *ington*. These are true Saxon territorial names. The termination *ing* meant belonging to the tribe. Thus *King* is really son of the tribe. The *Eppings* and *Hastings* are the de-

scendant of *Aes*, the Warings of *Waer*, the Erpings of *Erp*, and so on through some two hundred and fifty monosyllabic given names. Very few of these words ending in *ing* are found to-day in England as surnames, because the custom of adopting transmissible family appellations was not instituted in Saxon England; but all of them have given names to English villages, though usually the suffix *ton*, town, or *ham*, home, is added. Thus *Walsingham* is the home of the Walsing; *Worthington* is the town of the Worthing. Then, these towns gave surnames to those who lived in them, and we have the class of old Saxon names like Remington, Hoisington, Huntington, Allington, Erpingham, Buckingham, Washington, and many others. These are the finest names in our language. *Coffin*, which is seen in Covington, is the only one not strong and euphonic. In addition to these, there is hardly to be found a town or country that has not given a surname to some families. York, Bradford, Manchester, Winchester, Sheffield, Kent, Salisbury, Richmond, Chester, we meet everywhere.

Of the third class, or occupative surnames, we have a large number, and as a rule these surnames are represented by a larger number of individuals than are any others. The *Smith* was, of course, represented in every village, though he is sometimes called a *Gower* or a *Gowan* in Celtic districts. Then we have *Bishops*, *Clerks*, *Parsons*, *Leaches*, *Carters*, *Tailors*, *Turners*, *Cooks*, *Fullers* or cloth-workers, *Carpenters*, *Wagners*, *Millers*, *Wrights*, etc., in abundance. We have no doctors nor lawyers, though *Councilman* is not unknown, nor is *Fudge* as a surname. *Stewart* is the king's steward, and *Rutler* his "boteler." Many forgotten trades are represented in occupative surnames.

* An extract taken from Professor Charles F. Johnson's "English Words. A Story of Derivatives."