

Another source of confusion in the middle ages was the translating and retranslating of names. One family in Cornwall are called, in various records, de Albo Monasterio, Blanchminster, Whitminster, and Whitchurch.

Besides, they did not always understand what they translated; as, for instance, the name Freemantle was turned into Frigidum-mantellum, when I am confident that my definition is the correct one; viz., Frieze-mantle, or cloak made of Friesland cloth; as we now say, "a Flushing coat," "a Petersham." (*Vide* "Freemantle.")

In the following pages, I have collected a few surnames, principally English, Dutch, German, and French; including, also, sundry Cornish and Briton names, sufficient, at least, to show that the old proverb,

"By Tre, Bos, Pol, Lan, Oser, and Pen,  
You may know the Cornishmen,"

will apply as well to Briton-men.

Etymologies are at all times deceptive; and I feel assured that many errors will be discovered in my deductions, but trust they will be pardoned, as it is only six weeks since I first thought of writing this work, and then determined to finish it before leaving the city for the summer. I had, therefore, no time to send to Europe for several works that might have been of service to me; and, being unfortunately only the possessor of Directories in Dutch and English, was obliged to trust principally to my Heraldical works for the surnames in other languages, which will account for the greater proportion of common Dutch names.

It is difficult, however, to say what are common, when we find a German Count styling himself Barefoot (von Barfuss), a noble Spanish family named Frying-pan (Padilla), and an Italian called Little pots (Pignatelli). In Belgium, a family bore the name Tea-shop (Vermoelen de Theewinkel); and, in England, Arms have been granted to the name Beanshop.

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