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978-1-107-65888-2 - The Roxburghshire Word-Book: Being a Record of the Special Vernacular Vocabulary of the County of Roxburgh, with an Appendix of Specimens

George Watson

Excerpt

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## INTRODUCTION

THE Scottish vernacular of Roxburghshire is a lineal descendant of the speech brought in by the Anglian invaders who, from the latter half of the fifth century A.D., settled in the east of northern England and southern Scotland. Its subsequent history is practically that of the Scottish tongue, sharing in its absorption of the French and Flemish elements, as well as in acquiring considerable accessions from Southern English. But whereas it has absorbed fewer Gaelic words than have more northerly dialects, the loan-words (frequently of Scandinavian origin) borrowed from northern English dialects are appreciably more numerous—a fact due not only to proximity, but doubtless in some degree to English occupation of much of the shire during the fourteenth century. Moreover, for almost three centuries special local characteristics have increasingly appeared in its steadily-growing dialect literature; while a distinctive feature is its absorption in recent times of various Romany expressions (see Appendix II), and Yorkshire operatives have brought some accessions to the vocabulary of manufacturing towns.

The vernacular of this shire is the dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland—a dialectal area (Ellis's D. 33) which includes Annandale, Eskdale, Liddesdale\*, Teviotdale, and Ettrick Forest. From the fact that this variety of speech is distinguished by a proneness to develop diphthongs out of vowels originally simple in Anglo-Saxon (and still so in other Scottish dialects), together with the fact that it has retained a series of grammatical distinctions characteristic of the old north Anglian tongue which the other Scottish dialects have dropped, the late Sir James Murray concluded that "the Teutonic speech has in this district come less into peaceful contact with pre-existent languages, and thus yielded less to their influence than the same dialect further west and north; and that having been longer established on the soil, it has, in its system of sounds, received a fuller phonetic development here than elsewhere" (*Dialect*, pp. 83–84). Yet if, as some authorities hold, the ranking of the warriors of Teviotdale with the men of Cumbria (or Strathclyde) in the same division at the battle of the Standard in 1138 was due to the fact that even at that late date the former also still spoke Kymric†, these features to which Murray refers may be attributable to some other cause.

\* From this dialectal district Murray excluded Liddesdale. But the late Dr Ellis (*English Pronunciation*, v. 721–3) concluded that Liddesdale possessed phonetic features characterising the other parts of this area. The inhabitants themselves, indeed, emphatically disclaim near affinity of speech with the neighbouring counties of England.

† The detail of Roxburghshire places in the Inquisition of Glasgow (1116), and the early inclusion of Teviotdale in that See, seem to lend support to this view. See further, *Hawick Archæological Society's Transactions*, 1907, pp. 22–3.

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Although Leyden, writing in the *Scots Magazine* for July 1802, contended that “the Border and western dialects of Scotland are almost purely [Anglo-]Saxon in their peculiar vocables,” and later authorities regard the vernacular of Roxburghshire as one of the least altered dialects (a fact due to its being far removed from Celtic and Southern or literary English influence), yet the system of vowel-change had made almost unchecked progress until the latter half of the eighteenth century. When visiting Hawick in 1796, as she records in her *Useful Guide to the Beauties of Scotland* (1799, p. 107), the Hon. Mrs Murray endeavoured to converse with some of the youths, “but their language, to me, was as Arabic.”

As is unfortunately the case in every other Scottish district, this dialect has long had a struggle against officious prejudice and narrow-minded pedantry. Writing in 1791, the Rev. T. Somerville said—“The common people in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh *still* make use of the old Scottish dialect” (*Stat. Acc.* i. 15). In 1834 the Rev. J. Purves likewise recorded—“The Scottish dialect is spoken throughout the parish [of Jedburgh], with a few local peculiarities. It is gradually losing ground” (*New Stat. Acc.* iii. 15). In the same year the Rev. D. Stevenson, minister of Wilton, wrote—“The language generally spoken by the lower orders, throughout the district, contains many provincialisms, but these are becoming gradually obsolete” (*Ibid.* 78). He remarks upon certain distinctive local pronunciations, as does also the Rev. A. Craig of Bedrule, who adds—“These peculiarities of dialect are, of course, generally confined to the lower ranks of the people—although, such is the effect of habit and imitation, you hear sometimes people, from whose education and rank you might augur differently, utter the same harsh and barbarous sounds” (*Ibid.* 297). Yet immediately before, when referring to the diphthongs peculiar to the district, he had admitted: “All these sounds are rather pleasant to the ear.”

By none was the decline in this vernacular more observed than by the late Sir James Murray, who thus wrote in 1873—“The local dialects are passing away:...even where not utterly trampled under foot by the encroaching language of literature and education, they are corrupted and arrested by its all-pervading influence” (*Dialect S.C. Scotland*, p. v). To this decay reference has been made by other writers; most sympathetically of all by the late Rev. James Oliver (*H.A.S.T.* 1902, p. 12), thus:—“During my lifetime I have observed a marked change in the dialect and speech of the people. In my opinion it has been a change not for the better. There were a number of fine old forcible and pathetic expressions, as well as a number of soft and beautiful words untranslatable into any other language, which are now never heard. Old people invariably talked of Monan-day,...also of Wodensday, and Thorsday. They spoke of westlin and eastlin winds, loaning for lane, yestreen in the gloaming [etc.]”

## 3

- 1619— Jedburgh Council Records, from the MSS, the local press, etc.  
1624— Samuel Rutherford (born at Nisbet, 1600), *Letters* (1881).  
1661 } [Rutherford]  
1638— Hawick Records in James Wilson, *Annals of Hawick* (1850).  
[Wilson<sup>1</sup>]  
1639— — in J. Wilson, *Memories of Hawick* (1858).  
[Wilson<sup>2</sup>]  
1640— — in R. S. Craig and A. Laing, *Hawick Tradition* (1898).  
1642— Local records in James Watson, *Jedburgh Abbey* (1894).  
1655— *Records of the Baron Court of Stitchill* (1905).  
1670— Local documents, etc., in *Report of Trial* (1843).  
1685— Hawick Council and Session Records in J. J. Vernon, *Parish*  
1763 } *and Kirk of Hawick* (1900). [Vernon]  
c. 1740 “Elegy of John Hastie, Jedburgh,” in Leyden, *Complaynt*  
*of Scotland* (1801).  
c. 1760 Jean Elliot (of Minto), *The Flowers o’ the Forest* in Scott’s  
*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*.  
1787 Mrs Scott (of Wauchope), *Address to Burns*. [Mrs Scott]  
1791— }  
1800 } *Sinclair’s Statistical Account of Scotland*.  
1798 Rev. R. Douglas, *General View of the Agriculture of Roxburgh*.  
[Douglas]  
1801 John Leyden (of Denholm), Glossary in *Complaynt*. [Leyden]  
1802 — *Cout of Keildar, Lord Soulis*, etc.  
1802 James Sibbald (born at Whitlaw, n.w. Roxburghshire, 1745),  
Glossary in *Chronicle of Scottish Poetry*, vol. iv. [Sibbald]  
1803 John Leyden, *Scenes of Infancy*. [Leyden, *Scenes*]  
1805 Andrew Scott (of Bowden), *Poems*. [A. Scott<sup>1</sup>]  
1806 John Hogg (of Lilliesleaf and Hawick), *Poems*. [Hogg]  
1807 James Ruickbie (of Hawick; but born at Innerleithen, c. 1757),  
*Wayside Cottager*. [Ruickbie<sup>1</sup>]  
1808 Andrew Scott, *Poems*. [A. Scott<sup>2</sup>]  
1808 Rev. J. Jamieson, *Dictionary of the Scottish Language*. [Jam.<sup>1</sup>]  
1811 Andrew Scott, *Poems*. [A. Scott<sup>3</sup>]  
1815 James Ruickbie, *Poems*. [Ruickbie<sup>2</sup>]

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## ROXBURGHSHIRE WORD-BOOK

- 1818 Jamieson, *Etymological Dictionary Abridged*. [Jam.]  
 1820 A. M. (? Alex. Miller), "Popular Superstitions of Teviotdale" in *Edinburgh Magazine*, April, June, August. [1820 A. M.]  
 1821 Andrew Scott, *Poems*. [A. Scott\*]  
 1824 James Telfer (born Oxnam-water, 1797), *Border Ballads*. [Telfer]  
 c. 1824 — *Fearfu' Hinderend o' Lang E[aby]*. [Telfer, *Lang Eaby*]  
 1824 William Wilson (Jedburgh), *Poems*.  
 1825 R. Wilson, *Sketch of the History of Hawick*.  
 1825 Jamieson, *Supplement to Scottish Dictionary*. [Jam.]  
 1826 Andrew Scott, *Poems*. [A. Scott\*]  
 1826 James Ruickbie, *Poems*. [Ruickbie\*]  
 c. 1826 Rev. T. Somerville, *My Own Life and Times* (1861), pp. 329–341.  
 c. 1830 Thomas Wilkie (Jamieson's helper, born in Bowden, c. 1789), "Old Rites, Ceremonies, and Customs of the South of Scotland" in *B.N.C.P.* for 1916, pp. 52–135. [Wilkie]  
 1831– *Berwickshire Naturalists' Club's Proceedings*. [B.N.C.P.]  
 1833 Mrs Agnes Hall, *Autobiography of a Scottish Borderer* (re-printed 1874). [Hall]  
 1836 Alex. Jeffrey, *Account of Roxburghshire*. [Jeffrey]  
 1843 *Report of Trial by Jury, Magistrates of Jedburgh against the Bakers*. [Report of Trial]  
 1845 T. Aird (of Bowden), *Old Bachelor in the Old Scottish Village*. [Aird]  
 1847 Rev. H. S. Riddell (Teviothead), *Poems*. [Riddell]  
 1847 John Halliday (Hawick district), *The Rustic Bard*. [Halliday]  
 1848 Robert Davidson (Morebattle), *Leaves from a Peasant's Cottage Drawer*.  
 1851 Miss Douglas (Hawick), *Auld Brig o' Slittrick's Last Address*.  
 1851 *Competing and other Poems on the Auld Brig* (Hawick).  
 1852 James Telfer, *Tales and Ballads*.  
 1856 Rev. H. S. Riddell, *St Matthew translated into Lowland Scotch*.  
 1857– } Alex. Jeffrey, *History and Antiquities of Roxburghshire* (4 vols.).  
 1864 }  
 1857 Rev. H. S. Riddell, *Psalms in Lowland Scotch*.  
 1858 — *The Song of Solomon in Lowland Scotch*.  
 1859 James Watson (born in Jedburgh, published poems by) *Living Bards of the Borders*.  
 185. John Younger (Longnewton and St Boswells; died 1860), *Autobiography* (published 1881). [Younger]  
 — *River Angling* (published 1864).  
 1863– *Hawick Archaeological Society's Transactions*. [H.A.S.T.]  
 186. Thomas Davidson (Oxnam and Jedburgh) in J. Brown, *Life of a Scottish Probationer*. [Davidson]  
 1866 J. H. Rutherford, *Southern Counties Register*.  
 1867 J. A. H. Murray, "Teviotdale Numerals and Sentences," on Plates 3–5 of A. Melville Bell, *Visible Speech*.  
 1867 Robert White, *Poems*.  
 1868 D. Anderson, *Musings by the Burns and Braes of Liddesdale*.  
 1869 Mrs Gordon, *Home Life of Sir D. Brewster* (pp. 1–34).  
 died } Rev. H. S. Riddell, *Poetical Works* (published 1871), 2 vols.  
 1870 } [Riddell plus volume]

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- 1870 James Thomson (Hawick, but born in Bowden), *Doric Lays and Lyrics*. (Also 2nd and 3rd editions—1884, 1914.) [Thomson]
- 1871 Robert Allan (Jedburgh), *Poems*.
- 1873 J. A. H. Murray (Denholm and Hawick), *Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland*. [Murray]
- c. 1875 *Jeithart Worthies* (3rd edition).
- 1876 A. Brotherston, "Kelso Plant-Names," in *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip*, p. 39. [Brotherston]
- 1877 David Walker, *Border Pulpit*.
- 1879 Rev. John Thomson, *Life and Times of William Thomson* (2nd edition).
- 1880 John Hilson, *Jedburgh Words and Phrases* (MS Collection). [Hilson]
- 1881 *Border Counties' Magazine*.
- 1882 *Old Memories Revived* (reprinted from *Hawick Express*).
- 1883 T. Chapman, *Contentment and other Poems*.
- 1883 J. B. Webber, *Rambles Round the Eildons*.
- 1883 C. Stuart, *David Blyth, the Gipsy King*.
- 1884 W. Brockie, *Gypsies of Yetholm*.
- 1884–1915 } Sir J. A. H. Murray: various Roxburghshire usages in *Oxford English Dictionary*. [Murray in *Oxford Dict.*]
- 1885 C. Swainson, *Provincial Names of English Birds*. [Swainson]
- 1886 Britten and Holland, *Dictionary of English Plant-Names*.
- 1887 Mrs A. S. Mabon, *Homely Rhymes from the Banks of the Jed*.
- 1889 A. J. Ellis, *English Pronunciation* (deals especially with Teviotdale and Liddesdale phonetics in Part v. pp. 681–723).
- 1890 John Rutherford (of Thickside), *Wanderer of the West*, etc.
- 1892 Sir G. Douglas, *New Border Tales*.
- 1896–1905 Professor Wright, *English Dialect Dictionary* (6 volumes.).
- 1896– *The Border Magazine*.
- 1896 James C. Dibdin, *The Cleekim Inn*.
- 1897 — *Scottish Border Life*. [Dibdin]
- 1897 R. Murray, *Hawick Songs and Song-writers* (3rd edition).
- 1901 Walter Laidlaw (Jedburgh), *Poetry and Prose*. [Laidlaw]  
(Also 2nd and 3rd editions—1904, 1908—successively enlarged.)
- 1901 R. Murray, *Hawick Characters*.
- 1901 — *History of Hawick to 1832*.
- 1902 *History of Hawick from 1832*.
- 1903 *Hawick Characters*, 2nd Series.
- 1904 *Hawick Common-Riding Songs*.
- 1907 John Inglis (Hawick), *Border Land, and other Poems*.
- 1911 J. J. Vernon and J. McNairn, *Pictures of Auld Hawick*.
- 1913 Jean Lang (Bowden), *North and South of Tweed*.
- 1913 John Byers (Liddesdale), *Hamely Border Musings*.
- 1914 J. P. McGowan, *Investigations into... "Scrapie."*
- 1914 Elliot C. Smith (born in Hawick), *Mang Howes and Knowes: A Day's Dander* (see Appendix I. H). [Smith]
- 1915–7 — *Braid Haaick* (valuable MS on the Hawick vernacular).
- 1922 Miss Isabella Thomson, *Lays of Ancrum and Alewater*.  
Also Hawick, Jedburgh, and Kelso weeklies.

6 ROXBURGHSHIRE WORD-BOOK

Roxburghshire constitutes but part of the area in which the dialect of the Southern Counties is spoken. Yet in this county are three sub-varieties of dialect—Tweedside, Teviotdale, and Liddesdale (north, central, and south Roxburgh respectively). The first is stamped with Merse and Lothian affinity; the last shows evidence of Dumfries and Cumberland influence. The following scheme broadly illustrates the main differences:

Tweedside	Teviotdale	Liddesdale
alang ( <i>along</i> )	alang	alang, aleng
A'm ( <i>I'm</i> )	A'm	A'se
bane ( <i>bone</i> )	bane	beein
stane ( <i>stone</i> )	stane	steein
tairm ( <i>term</i> )	tairm	teeirm
tae ( <i>toe</i> )	tae	teei, tee
whae ( <i>who</i> )	whae	wheei, whee
me	mei	me, mæi
tea	tei	tea, tæi
see	sei	see, sæi
we, oo	oo, wei	wæi, we
hiz ( <i>us</i> )	huz	uz
licht	licht	licht
shill	shuil	shuil
hole	hole, whull	hool
horn	horn, whurn	hoorn
nose	nose	noose
coo	cow	cow
you	yow	yow, you

In addition to these three main divisions, more minute differences are heard, as in the speech of Hawick compared with Jedburgh, Bowden compared with Midlem, upper compared with lower Liddesdale. Jedburgh pronunciation is the index of the district of which it is the market-town; and so with other centres.

Especially interesting are the vowel-differences between this dialect and Standard English as spoken in the south of England. The sounds here represented are particularly those of my native Jedwater dialect (except where otherwise indicated), and frequently represent pronunciations banned by instructors of the rising generation. Given centrally, the symbols used are those adopted by the International Phonetic Association, being more fully explained in Mr W. Grant's *Pronunciation of English in Scotland* (1913) and the *Manual of Modern Scots* (1921). I have compared my results with the collected evidence of Sir James Murray, and of Dr Ellis (*Early English Pronunciation*). Based as it was on the pronunciation of an aged native of Catcleugh (Northumberland), Ellis's evidence (v. 721-3) for



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## INTRODUCTION

7

Liddesdale is not very trustworthy, and contains many forms which my Liddesdale authorities repudiate.

Sometimes two (if not more) pronunciations of the same word are here given, due not only to a difference of district, but also occasionally to older and newer usages in the same locality. Thus in Teviotdale one may hear the same word pronounced *dochter*, *dowter*, *dafter*, and also approximately to English *daughter*. To show the relative prevalency of the forms is not always possible. My purpose in the following tabulations is to set forth the differences between the Roxburghshire vernacular and Standard English, taking the latter as the basis of comparison. It must not be presumed that in every case the words thus compared have the same origin, or that either one or the other has assumed an erroneous form.

An initial capital denotes (apart from some proper names, etc.) that the word is entered and defined in the Vocabulary.

## I. THE CONSONANTS

Except when otherwise stated, the consonants are used with the powers recognised in English. They are arranged as follows:—  
§§ 1–6 Plosives; 7–10 Nasals; 11–12 Laterals; 13 Trill; and 14–29 Fricatives.

## § 1.

**p**

(A) *p* is developed in Ramps, Strumps. (B) *p* corresponds to E. (or Sc.) *b* in jujupe, Noop *sb.*<sup>2</sup>, Peysent *a.*, Skipe, †swap Rxb., *n* (= swab), Touchspale; cf. § 2 c. (C) *p* corresponds to *t* in peesweep (peewit), Snipe. (D) *pl* corresponds to *cl*, *kl*, in Snorple, Splice.

## § 2.

**b**

(A) *b* is not usually heard (as it is in English) between *m-l*, *m-r* (being frequently represented by unsounded *m*), as in brammle, †hummlle, rummlle, thimmlle, trimmlle (tremble), †wummlle (a wimble), etc.; †chammer, clammer, †nummer w, †noomer w-s (number), †slummer w, †Timmer, etc.—in some instances agreeing with *m* or *mm* of Germanic cognates. (B) *b* (symbol) is not employed in kaim, caim (comb), clim, thoom (A.S. *þúma* thumb), waim (womb). (C) *b* is misheard for *p* in barley (call for respite in boys' games), Belt *v.*, †quib (A. Scott<sup>1</sup> 65), †scoob *v.* NE; for *v* in Go-be-the-wund, Ogilbie (*written* Ogilvie). Cf. § 1 B.

## § 3.

**t**

(A) Developed *t* appears in brasent, brasent-faced, Clierts, Cloft, †cropt (crop) [r663–4 in *Stitchill Records* 27, 32], duffert NE, †eddart (adder) [Riddell *Psalms* lviii. 4, cxi. 3], †Gammonts, Grossert, Hurchint, †Huront, leibelt w (libel), meisert (miser), †Pethirt, Pipe-stopplit, Scotchbolt, †Staivelt (?), suddent c–s, Turbleent w,

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†Turneep. (B) Retained *t* occurs in “the tane...the tother” (the one...the other), “the tae [= one] half,” etc.: see these words. (C) *t* is unadopted in †cormoran s (Old F. *cormoran* cormorant), heeze (hoist), Hoise, †phaisan (Old F. *phaisan* pheasant), †Tarran, †Tyran. (D) *t* is omitted in cundy (conduit), cusha (“cushat”), ech’ (days, etc.) [= eight], warran’, Whuss’nday (Whitsunday); it is usually dropped from *-ct* (and in writing is replaced by ’ or *k*) as ac’, collec’, respeck, stric’, etc.; also after *p*, as in attemp’, corrup’, emp’y, temp’, etc. (E) *t* is lost between *s-l*, *s-n*, *s-t* in various words (as in E.); also in bease (beasts), dursna (dared not), wurset (worsted); lichnin’ (lightning), Forfeuchen, tichen (tighten). (F) Intervocalic *t* or *tt* with *l*, *r*, or *n*, in the following syllable has (in the towns) become a mere glottal catch (?), as in battle, better, bitter, butter, British, kettle, nettle, Setterday, waiter (water), written. (G) *t* replaces *d* in many verbal (*-ed*) endings, as crabbit, dozen’t, wonder’t (crabbed, dozed, wondered), etc., etc.; similarly in fremt (Fremd), stuipit (stupid), wurset (worsted), sell’t, tell’t (sold, told). (H) *t* frequently replaces final *d* in *-ld*, *-rd*, as in cubbert (cupboard), donnart (Sc. *donnar’d* stupefied), feart *n* (Sc. *feard* afraid), guisarts (Sc. *guisards* mummings), Jethart (earlier “Jedword”), lubbart (lubbard), orchart [so also on Pont’s map (c. 1600) for Orchard, near Hawick], standart (so also in 1687 [Wilson<sup>2</sup> 25]), towrt (toward), worlt (world). Cf. § 4 H. (I) *nt* frequently replaces E. *nd*, as in ahint (behind), ayont (beyond), †dymont w-s (diamond), eerant, yirrant (errand), eident (med. E. *ythand* diligent), fient! *n*, Heelint, husbant, saicont (second), thoosant, wullant (med. E. *willand* willing). (J) *t* corresponds to E. *th* (θ) in fowrt, fift (fourth, fifth), etc.; Hoggart. Cf. § 16 I.

## § 4.

## d

(A) *d* is developed in †beind (bean) [1670 in *Report of Trial* 51], †Brand (see Brawn 1), foondral (funeral), †reind (rein) [Murray 146]. Cf. Pander *v.*, Streind *v.* (B) Original *d* is retained in awnd (owing), †Veand, †wulland (willing) [Murray 121]. (C) *d* is dropped: Finally—(a) in chiel (Sc. *chield* fellow), †Miles (Milds), †skebel (Skybald), †Will-corn (Rxb.), †wull-cat c-w; Frem; har’ (before *d* or *t*; = heard), Hunder (hundred), †Lair (lard), neegir (niggard), Sluigger, tanker [also 1676 *Jedburgh Records*]; cf. Worlin’; (b) from *-nd*, as in *-in’* present pple. (= A.S. and med. Sc. *-and*), an’, bun’ (bound), len’, pen’ *n* (= Pend), vaigabun’ (also vagabone [1696 in *Jedburgh Records*]), likewise ban’, Bin’ *v.*, gran’, grun’, wan’, wun’; these were formerly current, but now rare, in *n-w*,—yet are common in Liddesdale, as are also han’, lan’, san’, soon’ (sound), etc.; (c) from medial *-ndl-*, *-nd-r*, etc., as cannle, dinnle (to tingle), dwinnle *v. w*, †funlin’ (foundling) [Murray 121], gainer *w* (gander), hannle, kinnle, Rannel-tree, spinnle, trinnle (trundle); [but retained in Hunder,



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Shunder, under, wander, yonder], banster, benbox (bandbox), Hainberry, hinmaist (hindmost), stannin' [but stand *v.* is usual in Teviotdale]; (*d*) from breeth (breadth). (D) *d* is unadopted in †Aller, †Earn-mail, Eller, thunner (A.S. *þunor*). (E) *d* replaces *g* (*g*) in dervie (see Gervie *sb.* 2), Dod (= God!). Cf. § 6 c. (F) *d* replaces *j* or *g* (*j*) in duist (just *adv.*), Geordie (George). (G) *d* is misheard for *r* in †eediter NE (heritor), †Scuddievaig, †“widdy (or worry) bag” [rhyme in Jam. s.v. *Hornieholes*], †Woodie-carl. Cf. § 13 D. (H) *d* replaces *t* in 'd (occasionally for *it*), Dishilagie, Haet, hundie-gowk *w* (hunt-the-gowk); also †boddum (bottom). Cf. § 3 H. (I) *d* or *dd* replaces E. *th* (ð) in ferdin' (farthing), †wordie NE, *w* (worthy); †bodder *w-s*, †faddom *sb.* and *v.* NE, *w*, smiddy, stiddy, Suddrenwud, wuddy (withy, halter). Cf. § 17 c.

## § 5.

**k**

—the consonantal sound that is twice heard in E. *cook*—is represented graphically by *c*, *ck*, or *k*. (A) It was pronounced in words with *kn-* until within living memory. Murray (p. 122) heard this usage only “by old people” in Teviotdale; but sixty years previously A. Scott (pp. 57, 78) wrote '*nife*, denoting that the *k*-sound in such had dropped out of north Roxb. use before 1805. (B) Symbol *k* is preferred to E. *c* in kae (caw), kail (cole), kaim (comb), keckle (cackle), kirsan (to christen), kye (A.S. *cý* cows), skuil (school). (C) *k* is dropped from (or unheard in) Assle, Milsie, mista'en, neist *N*, *w* (next), owsen (oxen), †owsen-bow Td. (cow's wooden collar), Owsnam (Oxnam), ta'en; *c* from chariter (character); *ck* from Banna, Hadda, Humlo, Hummie, Wylie (?). (D) *c* is preferred to *ch* (tʃ) in Caff, †cauk *N* (chalk), Sic, Siccan. (E) *c* or *k* is preferred to *t* in Beek *v.*<sup>2</sup>, Coachbell, Cooslip (Twislehope in Liddesdale), Eemake, Gemlick, Rambusk, Stane-chacker (E. dialect *stone-chatter*), etc. Cf. Quinter (= Twinter). (F) *ck* corresponds to E. *g* in flack (= Flag), †hack (a hag) [Hogg 83], Hackberry, §jock-trot, jockery-packery (jiggery-pockery). (G) *ck*, *c'*, or *c* obtains where E. has *ct*; see § 3 D. (H) *ck* corresponds to E. *ch*, *tch* (tʃ) in muckle (much). (I) *k* is preferred to E. *ch* (tʃ) in many words of doublet form, as †Kaisart, Keeselip, kincough, kirk, kirm, kist (church, churn, chest); bank (bench), beseek *v.* *w*, birk, Breeks, †ilk (each), †pick NE (pitch), skreek (screech), †whulk (which). (J) *k* represents E. *tch* in dike (wall; cf. E. ditch), Flake (flitch), sike (E. dialect *sitch* ditch), steek (stitch), thack, theek (thatch), yook (itch). (K) *k* represents *qu* (kw) in Kitt, †koa (co', = *quo'* quoth), markiss, venterlokist (ventriloquist).

## § 6.

**g**

—the consonant heard in E. *gig*. (A) It is developed in †baygonet, Prignicketie. (B) *g* is preferred to *c* (k) in †Gavel NE (= Calville apple), Gom-up (?), Gonshins, gravat, vaigands (see Vacance); to *ck* in †nig-nag, Td. (a knick-knack), Slitrig (for earlier Slitterick, etc.).

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George Watson

Excerpt

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Cf. Sneg. (c) *g* replaces *d* in wheegle w (to wheedle or cajole). Cf. § 4 E. (D) *g* is preferred to E. *-dge* in brig, rig, Segg.

## § 7.

**m**

(A) *m* is developed in †Rambaskious, †Rambusk (robust). (B) *m* is lost in Bantie, C'way. (C) *m* replaces earlier *n* in Beam v., Bramlin', Leggin (a *leggin'* = legging), †Scrimger (?), Turmeet (a turnip). Cf. § 8 F. (D) *m* replaces *ng* in Mem'd.

## § 8.

**n**

(A) *n* is unadopted in Brander, drucken (Old N. *druk*n drunken), i' (med. E. *i*, in), kye (kine; A.S. *cý*), yae [day, etc.] (A.S. *a* one). (B) *n* is omitted in Cannegate (= Canongate, Jedburgh; "Cannogate" in *Retours*, 14 Dec. 1603), Mairtimas, †Orpie, Saicy, †Slucken; asteed, isteed (instead); Eer sb., †Est, Ettle-earnest, Eave, Yave (nave). Cf. Covoy, †Cuddie sb.<sup>2</sup> (C) Added *n* appears in bleck'nin' (blackening), cannot? c-w (cannot?), Megginstie, Mennen, meenint *N*-w (a minute of time), Rampern, Sennen. See Noration. (D) Radical *n* is retained in †Brunstane, Een, Hollin (holly), †miln, muln (A.S. *mylen* mill), †Monanday, Ratten, Shuin, Stern sb. (E) *n* corresponds to E. *l* in flannen, Melvin (*written* Melville), trowen. Cf. § 11 F. (F) *n* corresponds to *m* in †albeen w (album), †Fearn (= Therm), Yern (cf. Yerm). Cf. § 7 C. (G) *n* corresponds to E. *ng* (ŋ) in all endings of verbal nouns, pple. adjs., and present pples., also in nouns ending similarly, as ferdin' (farthing), Fleemin' (personal name), hafflin' (stripling), herrin', loanin' (lane between fields), etc. Cf. 9 D. (H) *n* replaces *ng* before *th* (θ) in lenth(en, strenth(en. (I) *n* corresponds to *r* in Bountree (Sc. *bountree* elder), gairten (garter). See Brandon, Cannon-nail. Cf. § 13 F. (J) *nt* is developed in †ballant (ballad), Mennent, Sennent.

## § 9.

**ŋ**

—the voiced back nasal usually represented by *ng*, but also by *n* before back consonants, as in Bink, Kink v., etc. (A) It corresponds to E. *ng* (ŋg) in anger, dangle, England, finger, hunger, mingle, monger, single, etc. (B) It is dropped in Hanlawhile, Loanie; developed in ungshin, ungshineer (auction, -eer), Hangmanay. (C) It replaces E. *gn* (n) in †bening, †conding, †maling (w). (D) It corresponds to *n* in Bingwud, ingin (onion), Spang, spang-new, Ringan (Ninian). Cf. § 8 G. It is not certain whether †gowpung [1686 in Wilson<sup>1</sup> 89] (= Sc. *gowpen* the fill of both hands held bowl-wise) denotes an actual former pronunciation, or is a mere scribal variant.

## § 10.

**ɲ**

—voiced front nasal—the "liquid *n*" heard in F. *signé*, was long preserved in a few words in this county. Murray gave evidence to Ellis [*E. E. Pronunciation*, 1. 298 note] of cuingie (coin), gaberluingie (wallet). †Lunyie (loin) was still current about 1840; cf. also Cunyie.