

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

## **Gloucestershire words, expressions and superstitions**

by A. E. W. Paine  
1931, Vol. 53, 260-264

© The Society and the Author(s)

If this inference and statement be correct the site is of great importance, as hitherto there has been no known circle in the county.

It is perhaps natural that such a site should have the reputation of being haunted, and so it is here. The haunting seems to be by uncanny noises only.

This may perhaps be accounted for by the name of the field immediately to the south, in which is a hollow, doubtless a dried-up stream-bed, and below which it is probable a stream still runs in an underground channel. The field is known as Nogganoise (phonetic spelling owing to absence of written evidence), which seems to have a suggestive relation to 'knocking noise'.

R. JOWETT BURTON.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE WORDS, EXPRESSIONS AND SUPERSTITIONS

[The following words, sayings, and superstitions were found in the note-books of the late ALFRED E. W. PAINE, who was for many years a Member of our Society, and they were kindly sent to the Editor by Miss Paine. Alfred Paine was a close observer of country life, and the collection was made in the course of his residence in various parts of Gloucestershire. It included a few words, etc., already printed in such lists as those of Northall and Robertson and these have been omitted.—EDITOR].

WORD	MEANING	PLACE
Barebind	bedwine	Dymock
Bather or Pather	beat	Maisemore
Butt up	fill the middle of a wagon when loading	
Buzzard	a moth	Stroud

WORD	MEANING	PLACE
Carwigs or Pugs	short broken straw that comes away with the chaff from a threshing machine	
Clom, clommed with thirst	parched with thirst	
Draith	drought	Maisemore
Fess	to heat, steam	„
Girchen	a little undersized thing	„
Glatting	hedge mending	„
Gullat	ditch, drain, small water-course	„
Hake	a newt	
Harrast	harvest	„
Haver, hever	gap, hollow	„
Helve	handle	„
Hettle	a nettle	„
Horse-hornet	a dragon-fly	Stroud
Kearf	a very wide mattock	Welford
Keck	cow parsley	„
Ketch	of hay	Maisemore
Mallock	to stick to, dry on	„
Mamruffin	long-tailed tit	„
Marchant	a small child, a toddler	„
Mast	weeds, rubbish (growing). To stock off the mast= to hoe the weeds.	„
Meek hearted	pleasant, affable	Dymock
Mommack	mess, tread about	Maisemore
Mort or Morst	to be sticky	„
Mumped up	nipped up	„

WORD	MEANING	PLACE
Mumpy	dismal, dull	Newent
Nail	a flail	Dymock
Nettle creeper	a whitethroat	"
Neurfy, nurfy	nipped, pinched with cold	Maisemore
Onker, ollyonker	a chestnut	Stroud
Parchester	a plasterer	{ Dymock
Parge	mortar	
Pleck	a little paddock	Dymock
Polt	pull	Maisemore
Quar	dirt, mess, muck	"
Rail	stagger, reel	"
Rullock	bother, trouble	"
Sabed, sabied	tired, sick and sabied of anything	Welford
Shopick	pike or pitchfork	"
Slamacking	loosely built, ' a great slamacking horse '	Maisemore
Slobbin	rough timber, sticks	"
Slurz	a slough, mess	"
Sputtock	a little spade	"
Star	steep	"
Stetch	a section, division	"
Sweal (a pig)	burn hair off after killing	Welford
Taddy-bellied	pot-bellied	Maisemore
Tiddyfocker, tidyfooster	wren	Stroud
To becall	scold or slang anyone	Welford
To bowl a barrow		Stroud
To odds it	manage it	Maisemore

WORD	MEANING	PLACE
To run wood		Stroud
To stand wood		"
To wally in	rake hay into rows	Welford
Tradesman	artisan, as mason, painter, etc.—not a shopkeeper	Dymock
Turz bill	a stock axe	Maisemore
Twirt	' a little twirt of a thing '	"
Wally	a window	
Whitefinch	a greenfinch	

## CURIOUS EXPRESSIONS

As proud as a puppy dog.	} MAISEMORE
By just (=just now).	
Good ile (=well done).	
Up to the door.	

## VARIOUS PLACES

- A bear's life (=a bad time).
- A bull dog's life (=a bad time).
- As straight as a dog's hind leg.
- In Rumble's meadow (=in the wrong).
- To cry Bill Tinker (=to make a great row).
- To talk a dog's hind leg off.

## SUPERSTITIONS

' Snakes won't die till after the sun's down. Then their noses and tails 'ul die. You may chop 'um into small pieces but they won't die afore '. *Maisemore, 1896*

' Toads eats all the pisin in the water. They eats the good pisin, and the frogs comes after and eats the rest. The toads stills the water '. *Maisemore, 1896*

It is reputed to be an unfailing cure for the ' Low ' in cattle—a disease of the hoof got from standing in wet meadows—to cut out a piece of turf in the meadow in which they are, and either stand it on edge, or turn it upside down. *Maisemore, 1895*

Never kill a pig when the moon is on the wane, as the bacon will not take the salt properly. Also when the bacon is cooked, it will waste away very much in the cooking. *Many places*

' When you cut yourself always lay some 'bacca on the wound. It will draw the venomy out '. *Dymock*

If the sun shines before midday on old Christmas Day there will be a good crop of fruit. *Churcham*

If a person lies dead over the Sunday another death will occur in the parish before the following Sunday. *Churcham and Welford*

A certain cure for the Shingles.

' Go up into the belfry at Church, and get some of the grease from the largest bell and smear this on the parts affected—this is a certain cure '. *Welford, 1917*

If a dead person is carried to the grave across private ground, it creates a right of way. *Maisemore*

It is considered very unlucky for a cat to kitten in the house the same day as a baby is born ; baby or kitten will die. *Churcham*

An old woman in the Leddington, for many years on Holy Thursday, when it rained, caught the rain in a bottle, as it fell. The rainwater thus collected is a certain cure for bad legs and sores. But it must fall direct into the bottle, held in the hand, or it is of no effect. *Dymock, 1900*

## DEA ROMA

The worship of Rome as a Goddess with a Temple grew steadily during the 1st and 2nd centuries, and she is found both seated and standing with or without helmet and her ' hasta ' or lance, like Minerva, upon coins. Here her right hand touches an altar, and her image with