

Previck and Leckprivick:
Onomastic Connections in South-West Scotland¹

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Privick Mill, near Annbank in Ayrshire,² and Lickprivick Road in the Greenhills area of East Kilbride in Lanarkshire, are the only living echoes of the lost Ayrshire place-name *Previck* and the lost Lanarkshire name *Leckprivick*. These names have not been considered together by previous commentators, although the similarities between the two are worthy of further examination. Nicolaisen has described *Previck* as a name of uncertain etymology, which may or may not contain Old English (OE) *wīc* '(dependent) farm'.³ The first element is more difficult, although it is possible that it represents OE **peru* 'pear-tree' or its pre-literary Scots reflex. It seems likely that the same elements are found in *Leckprivick*, with the addition of Gaelic *leac* 'a stone'. A number of place-names in south-west Scotland, including the Ayrshire name Tarbolton, have been identified as Old English coinages, later modified by Gaelic speakers. *Leckprivick* may represent a further example of this phenomenon. The early spellings for both of these place-names can be found in the Appendix.

Although the place-name *Previck* and the exact location of this settlement is lost, a place called Privick Mill is still well known to local people.⁴ Privick Mill is situated on the River Ayr, to the south and west of the village of Annbank, and is still listed on local maps of

¹ Much of the material presented here is drawn from papers delivered at the annual conferences of the Society for Names Studies in Britain and Ireland and the Scottish Place-Name Society in 2000. I am grateful to those present for their helpful comments and suggestions, many of which have been incorporated into this paper.

² All references are to the county boundaries preceding the local government re-organisation of the 1970s.

³ W. F. H. Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names*, new edn (Edinburgh, 2001), p. 103.

⁴ Information supplied by local informants, Lorna Cameron and Enoch Currie.

the area.⁵ A recent local history book notes that ‘Previck Mill ... now a store’ is situated on the bank of the river opposite a place called Gadgirth Holm.⁶ More recently still, a collection of material gathered by Wilson on the cornmills of Ayrshire explains that ‘the mill closed a few years before 1940’.⁷ The mill itself now belongs to an adjacent property that includes the mill-house, which has been converted into a detached house.⁸

Previck seems to have been located near the present village of Annbank. The building now known as ‘Annbank House’ was previously called ‘Privick House’ before it was gifted by William Cunningham of Enterkine to his daughter Ann as a wedding present in the nineteenth century, at which time he re-named it after her.⁹ Annbank itself was originally a small mining village which consisted of one street of miners’ houses, built in the nineteenth century.¹⁰

The history of *Previck* can be traced back at least as far as the late twelfth century. The earliest record of the name, *Preueic*, is found in a charter dated *a.1177*.¹¹ The precise location is unknown, though it may be significant that both Armstrong’s map of 1775 and Blaeu’s map of 1654 position *Previck* to the north and east of the site of Privick Mill, further inland along the River Ayr. A variety of sources make reference to *Previck* throughout the medieval and early modern periods, though in most cases these records reveal little about the nature of the place itself. The *Exchequer Rolls* include an entry for the year 1379 that mentions ‘Johanni Senescalli de *Prevyk*’.¹² A seneschal, in this

⁵ e.g. *Ayr, Prestwick, Annbank, Coylton, Mossblown Street Guide* (Largs, 1993).

⁶ J. Strawhorn and K. Andrew, *Discovering Ayrshire* (Edinburgh, 1988), p. 154.

⁷ J. P. Wilson, compiled by A. M. Wilson and S. W. Smith, *The Last Miller* (Ayr, 2000), p. 23. Plate 9 shows a photograph of ‘Privick Mill from the river’.

⁸ In March 2000 the owner, Gordon Tiley, allowed me to visit Privick Mill, and I am very grateful to him for taking the time to show me around the property.

⁹ Wilson, *The Last Miller*, p. 22.

¹⁰ Strawhorn and Andrew, *Discovering Ayrshire*, p. 153.

¹¹ *The Lennox*, edited by W. Fraser, 2 vols (Edinburgh, 1874), II, 1. I was alerted to this reference by T. A. Hendry.

¹² *The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited by J. Stuart *et al.*, 23 vols (Edinburgh, 1878–1908), III, 31.

context, would have fulfilled the role of 'a steward or similar official charged with administering the estate or household of a king, magnate, etc.'¹³ This reference to a *seneschal* or steward therefore suggests that the estate at *Previck* was well established and of noble standing by the late fourteenth century.

It has been recognised that there are a number of place-names in Ayrshire and Renfrewshire which appear to indicate 'Anglian overlordship or sporadic influence in the area at a fairly early date'.¹⁴ These names contain Old English elements including the generics *bōdl* 'dwelling', *hām* 'village' and *wīc* '(dependent) farm', identified in names such as Maybole in Ayrshire, Eaglesham in Renfrewshire and Prestwick in Ayrshire respectively.¹⁵ *Previck* is therefore particularly significant in this context, because it may be another example of a construction in *wīc*, and provide a further contribution to an understanding of Anglian influence in the west of Scotland. In 1452 a form of the name containing a medial *-w-* is recorded, in a grant of land which mentions 'Archibald Crawford of *Perwic*'.¹⁶ Since this spelling is so late, it cannot be regarded as conclusive evidence that *Previck* has *wīc* as its final element, but it does strengthen the possibility.

Comparative evidence from other parts of the British Isles may provide some further support for a derivation of the terminal element from OE *wīc*. Fifteenth-century spellings of the place-name Parwich in Derbyshire, England, include *Perwick* in 1449, a form very similar to the problematic Scottish name (*piowerwic broce* 963, *Pevrewic* 1086, *Peverwich* 1241, *Perwyz* 1269, *Pewerwike* 1281, *Pevrewych* 1298, *Per(e)wych(e)* 1305, 1313, *Perwyk* 1406, *Perwick* 1449, *Parwidge* 1577, *Parwick* 1676).¹⁷ The second element of Parwich is OE *wīc*

¹³ *The Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*, edited by W. Craigie et al. (Aberdeen, Chicago and Oxford, 1931–2002), s.v. Senesc(h)all, *n*.

¹⁴ Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names*, p. 103.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* pp. 99, 100, 103.

¹⁶ *Calendar of the Laing Charters 854–1837*, edited by J. Anderson (Edinburgh, 1899) p. 35.

¹⁷ K. Cameron, *The Place-Names of Derbyshire*, 3 vols, English Place-Name Society, 27–29 (Cambridge, 1959), III, 403.

'dependent farm'.¹⁸ At the time when the English Place-Name Survey for Derbyshire was compiled, the first element was believed to be a pre-English river name *Peveer*,¹⁹ but the evidence of a charter spelling discovered in 1983 has shown that it is more likely to be an Old English coinage.²⁰ The most recent discussion of Parwich suggests a derivation from an unidentified Old English word, and it may be possible that the same etymology underlies the Ayrshire *Previck*.²¹

At first sight, the place-name Perwick, located on the coast of Kirk Christ Rushen parish on the Isle of Man, looks as if it may be a similar construction to *Previck*. It is therefore worth considering whether the names could share the same derivation, with the exception of metathesis of the first element in one of the two names. However, the only known historical forms for the Manx place-name are *Perwick*, recorded from 1840, and *Portwick*, recorded once in 1595.²² Considering the local topography and the extensive Norse involvement in this area, the suffix of this name is likely to represent Old Norse *vik* 'bay', which is consistently represented as *-wick*. Unfortunately, given the scant evidence for early spellings, and the apparent (and phonologically difficult) shift from *Portwick* to *Perwick*, a clear explanation for the history of the first element remains problematic. Although it has been suggested that the first element may represent 'the Icelandic form of Peter', and that the name Perwick is therefore '*Petrs-vik*',²³ there is little support for this interpretation, particularly because a medial *-t-* would, in most cases, be retained in later spellings. If the oldest known form is deemed to be reliable, then there is no identifiable connection between the Manx *Portwick* and the Ayrshire name *Previck*.²⁴

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ N. Brooks, M. Gelling and D. Johnson, 'A new charter of King Edgar', *Anglo-Saxon England*, 13 (1984), 137–55 (p. 149).

²¹ *Ibid.*, 149–50.

²² G. Broderick, *Placenames of the Isle of Man*, vol. 6 (Tübingen, 2002), p. 467.

²³ A. W. Moore, *The Surnames and Place-Names of the Isle of Man* (London, 1890), p. 297.

²⁴ Broderick, *Placenames of the Isle of Man*, p. 467, considers the older form to be the one worthy of comment, and notes both Kneen's interpretation of the name

Two possible interpretations of the first element of *Previck* were suggested by Nicolaisen in an article published in 1967, although omitted from his later work *Scottish Place-Names*. In a discussion of OE *wīc*, he proposed that the first element of *Previck* might be a form of the plant-name *privet*, or the word *pear*.²⁵ However, he also makes the rather enigmatic statement that 'Even if the botanical evidence were acceptable, the name would still be unsatisfactory'.²⁶

OE **pryfet* 'a privet (copse)' was suggested by Ekwall as the first element of Prewley in Devon.²⁷ The name is recorded as *Prinelegh* (1380), *Prynelegh* (1439), *Preuelegh* (1481), *Preely more* (1579) and *Prevely moore* (1584).²⁸ The first and second of these early spellings contain an unexplained medial *-n-*, and there are no examples of forms which show final *-t* in the first element. The medial *-n-* could be explained as a scribal error, but the loss of the *-t* is more problematic. Other place-names which are thought to contain OE **pryfet* include Privett Farm (*bosco de Prevet* 1268; *Privatt Wood* 1632) and *Privetheye* (*Privetheye* 14th cent.) in Wiltshire²⁹ and Privett in Hampshire ((*æt*) *Pryfetes flodan* 755; *Pruuet* c.1245; *Prevet* 1329).³⁰ The historical forms for each of these names show that the final *-t* of **pryfet* is consistently retained. The early spellings of the Devon name Prewley do not provide conclusive evidence that the name contains a form of the plant-name *privet*. Furthermore, the extant spellings of the English names known to be derived from *privet* provide little support

as Old Norse *port-vík* 'harbour creek' and Marstrander's explanation that it represents Old Norse *for-vík* 'fore-creek', 'i.e. the bay before Port St. Mary, w[ith] f- radicalised to p- in the Mx. form'.

²⁵ W. F. H. Nicolaisen, 'Notes on collection and research, Scottish place-names: 28 Old English *wīc*', *Scottish Studies*, 11 (1967), 75–84 (p. 81).

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ J. E. B. Gover *et al.*, *The Place-Names of Devon*, 2 vols, English Place-Name Society, 8–9 (Cambridge, 1931–32), I, 207.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ J. E. B. Gover *et al.*, *The Place-Names of Wiltshire*, English Place-Name Society, 16 (Cambridge, 1939), p. 397.

³⁰ E. Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 4th edn (Oxford, 1960), p. 374.

for a similar derivation of the Ayrshire name *Privick*.

Nicolaisen also wrote that *Privick* could contain a form of the word *pear*.³¹ I would like to support the suggestion that the first element of *Privick* could be derived from OE **peru* ‘pear-tree’, especially if the second element were indeed OE *wīc*. The word *peru*, *pere* ‘a pear’ is rarely attested in lexical contexts in Old English, but in onomastic contexts it can also refer to the pear-tree.³²

Tree-names have been identified as one of the major categories of first element found in combination with *wīc* in English place-names.³³ More recently, Coates has drawn attention to a group of place-names in *wīc* in which the first elements denote ‘Harvestable wild plants, including fruit trees’.³⁴ He cites several examples, including Crabbet in Sussex ‘crab-apple wick’, and Appletreewick in the West Riding of Yorkshire.³⁵ In Scotland, OE *haga* ‘hedge’ occurs in Hawick in Roxburghshire, and OE *hæddre* ‘heather’ in the Hedderwicks of East Lothian, Berwickshire and Angus, and in Heatherwick in Aberdeenshire.³⁶

Some of the place-names known to be derived from OE *peru* show metathesis, including Prested Hall in Essex³⁷ and Preshaw in Hampshire³⁸. The early spellings of Prested Hall include the metathesised

³¹ Nicolaisen, ‘Notes on collection and research, Scottish place-names: 28 Old English *wīc*’, 81.

³² C. Hough, ‘Place-name evidence for Anglo-Saxon plant names’, in *From Earth to Art, The Many Aspects of the Plant World in Anglo-Saxon England: Proceedings of the First ASPNS Symposium, University of Glasgow, 5–7 April 2000*, edited by C. P. Biggam (Amsterdam and New York, 2003), pp. 41–78 (p. 46). See also M. Scott, ‘Pears and pear-trees in Anglo-Saxon England’ (forthcoming, 2007).

³³ A. H. Smith, *English Place-Name Elements*, 2 vols, English Place-Name Society, 25–26 (Cambridge, 1956), II, 262.

³⁴ R. Coates, ‘New light from old wicks: the progeny of Latin *vicus*’, *Nomina*, 22 (1999), 75–116 (p. 97).

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names*, pp. 5, 102–03.

³⁷ P. H. Reaney, *The Place-Names of Essex*, English Place-Name Society, 12 (Cambridge, 1935), p. 390.

³⁸ Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, p. 373.

forms *Prestede Stulpys* (1479) and *Prestedhall* (1539),³⁹ and Preshaw is recorded as *Presshagh* in 1291.⁴⁰ In the case of Prested Hall, derivation from OE **peru* 'pear-tree' is established by a number of unmetathesised forms recorded in sources which date back to Domesday Book, including *Perestedā* (1086) and *Per(e)sted(e)* (1203, 1322, 1372).⁴¹ From this comparative evidence it may therefore be possible to suggest a similar derivation for the Ayrshire name *Privick*, with the spellings in *-i-* perhaps reflecting an alternation with OE *pirige*, also meaning 'pear-tree'.

One further point deserves some mention here, which is that *Previck* appears to have been located adjacent to the River Ayr in an area of fertile ground. There is still a nursery nearby, described in the Third Statistical Account as follows: 'The large nursery ... situated on the river bank, beside Privick Mill, occupies 50 acres of excellent land: 7 acres are in potatoes, the rest produce vegetables and soft fruit, with half an acre devoted to tomatoes'.⁴² Although this evidence is circumstantial, it does add some weight to the argument that there may have been a *wīc*, or dependent farm, on this site.

Other comparative evidence is also available within Scotland. A surname, recorded variously as *Lekprevik*, *Leckpryke*, *Leprivik* and *Lickpravick* in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Ayrshire sources, appears to be related.⁴³ It is noted by one commentator that 'the name *Leckpryke*, sometimes spelt *Lekprivik*, was afterwards spelt and pronounced *Lapraik*, and became famous through Burns' friendship with "Bauld Lapraik, the king o' hearts"'.⁴⁴ The surname *Lapraik* can still be found in the west of Scotland today. According to Black, the name *Lapraik* comes from 'the lands of Lapraik, of old Leckprevik,' the site of which has been identified as 'the old castle of Lekprevik ...

³⁹ Reaney, *The Place-Names of Essex*, p. 390.

⁴⁰ Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, p. 373.

⁴¹ Reaney, *The Place-Names of Essex*, p. 390.

⁴² J. Strawhorn and W. Boyd, *The Third Statistical Account of Scotland: Ayrshire* (Oliver and Boyd, 1951), p. 596.

⁴³ See Appendix for early spellings and sources.

⁴⁴ J. G. A. Baird, *Muirkirk in Bygone Days* (Muirkirk, 1910), p. 32.

about a mile and a half from Kilbride in Lanarkshire'.⁴⁵ The 'Kilbride' referred to here is now East Kilbride, and the castle can be seen on the Ordnance Survey's 6" map of Lanarkshire (1864). This map also shows two related estates to the south of the castle: *North Lickprivick* and *South Lickprivick*.⁴⁶ According to the key on this map, *Lickprivick Castle* was built by the Normans. However, if the ending of the name is the Old English element *wīc*, then the name itself cannot be Norman French, unless it incorporates an earlier place-name.

Very little can now be seen of the castle site. The name *Lickprivick* is preserved only in Lickprivick Road which runs through the Greenhills area of East Kilbride. To the east of this road, surrounded by a modern housing development, is an area of open land, to the north side of which is the site of the castle. A slightly raised mound and an area of grassed-over stones is all that can be seen, very close to the end of Troon Court. To the south of the site, there is a mound which rises steeply to a height of two-hundred and twenty metres, which affords commanding views of the outlying countryside in all directions. The site would clearly have provided an ideal defensive position, and is very likely to have been used as such. There is an entry for Lickprivick Castle on the website of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).⁴⁷ However, the information provided on the website does not correspond exactly with what I found when I visited the site. A record of 1955 given on the website notes that 'the site of this building is now represented by an isolated, apparently natural knoll, with no trace of masonry or ditch'.⁴⁸ In contrast, the knoll which I saw at the foot of Troon Court, corresponding exactly to the map reference NS 6168 5271 given by RCAHMS, clearly contained much masonry and rubble, which may yield valuable clues to the date of the castle, were the site to be excavated. According to the records of RCAHMS, no excavation has

⁴⁵ G. F. Black, *The Surnames of Scotland. Their Origin, Meaning and History* (New York, 1946; repr. Edinburgh, 1996), p. 416.

⁴⁶ OS sheet 16: 1/10560.

⁴⁷ RCAHMS: CANMORE database, s.v. *East Kilbride, Lickprivick Castle*.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

ever been carried out on the site, but it may be the case that 'the mansion house or castle of Lickprivick was built like the great feudal houses, with towers, battlements'.⁴⁹ It may be worth noting, however, that this account of the castle's architectural structure has been inherited from one source, the late eighteenth-century account provided by David Ure,⁵⁰ the reliability of which appears not to have been tested by subsequent researchers. Similarly, the statement that 'the whole was reduced to ruins about 1733', given by RCAHMS, is a paraphrase of a comment in Ure's account that 'the whole was, about 60 years ago, reduced to ruins'.⁵¹ Further archaeological research into this site may result in the updating of Ure's conclusions, and may also shed some light on the peoples who occupied the site during the Middle Ages.

A little more information about the surname is revealed in a text discussing the work of Robert Lekpreuik, a sixteenth-century Scottish printer:

Lekpreuik was not an uncommon name in those days, and took its origin from a place in Renfrewshire ... The name was variously spelt, and our printer was not particular as to its orthography. But, although it was usually spelt with two *k*'s, the first was probably never pronounced, and the word would sound like *Leprek* or *Laypraik*.⁵²

Although this account places *Leckprevick* in Renfrewshire, all other sources place it in the neighbouring county of Lanarkshire. The personal name *Leckprevick* appears to have developed from the place-name, and so the evidence relating to the place-name and surname may be considered collectively in order to trace diachronic developments. Black records that 'the family of Lapraik are said to have had a grant of heritable office of sergeant and coroner of the lordship of Kilbride in

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ D. Ure, *The History of Rutherglen and East-Kilbride* (Glasgow, 1793), pp. 163–64.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 164.

⁵² R. Dickson and J. P. Edmond, *Annals of Scottish Printing from the Introduction of the Art in 1507 to the Beginning of the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge, 1890), p. 198.

the reign of Robert III confirmed to them by several charters of the Jameses'.⁵³ This would give a date between 1390 and 1406, which mark the boundaries of the reign of Robert III. A transumpt of a charter dated 1397–98 was made in 1456, and has been published in one of the Miscellany volumes of the Scottish History Society. The document confirms that 'James Stewart, lord of the barony of Kylbryde ... granted ... William Lecprefwyke ... the office of sergeand ... throughout the whole ... of Kylybryde ... as it was held by ancient custom ... according to the ... grant of Sir John Comyne ... lord of Kylbryde'.⁵⁴ Both the transumpt and the original charter are now held by the National Library of Scotland, and the spelling of the name as *Lecprefwyke* can clearly be distinguished in these two manuscripts.⁵⁵ There is one slightly earlier fourteenth-century reference to a *Jacobo de Lecprewyk* in a charter of David II from 1365, by which he was granted lands in Polkarne, in Kyle, one of the former divisions of Ayrshire.⁵⁶ As far as I am aware this is the earliest record of the name.

There appears to be a connection between *Previck* in Ayrshire, *Leckprevick* in Lanarkshire, and the personal name *Lapraik* in its various stages of evolution. One possible explanation could be that these names have a common origin in a surname that became attached to the area because of family settlements. If this were the case, the name could be Norman French in origin. In the early Middle Ages, many of the Scottish nobility were of French extraction, and the monarch often granted areas of Ayrshire land to men of high social standing. Nevertheless, there is no evidence of which I am aware

⁵³ Black, *The Surnames of Scotland*, p. 416.

⁵⁴ 'Transumpt of Charter by James Stewart of Kylbryde to William Lecprefwyke of the office of serjeand and crowner of the regality of Kilbride, 12 January 1397–98. Transumpt dated 8 May 1456. (Original in Torrance Charter Chest)', *Scottish History Society*, 3rd ser. 21 (1933), 40–45 (p. 44).

⁵⁵ The original charter is CH 8266 and the transumpt is CH 8267. Both belong to the collection of Torrance Documents, which were deposited in the Scottish Record Office in 1950. I am very grateful to Kenneth Dunn for supplying this information and tracking down these two manuscripts.

⁵⁶ *Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum*, edited by J. M. Thomson *et al.*, 11 vols (Edinburgh, 1882–1914), referred to in this text as RMS; I, p. 40.

which could corroborate this suggestion. There are no obvious French parallels for *Lickprivick* in publications such as Dauzat's *Dictionnaire Etymologique des noms de Famille et Prenoms de France*,⁵⁷ or in older works like Moisy's study of Norman French surnames.⁵⁸ The later form of the name, *Lapraik*, could be compared (or confused) with certain French surnames that are constructed with the first element as the definite article, *le* or *la*, such as *Lecarpentier*, from *carpentier* or *charpentier* 'carpenter' and *Levasseur*, from *vasseur* 'vassal'.⁵⁹ However, there does appear to be a clear evolution of the name from forms with *Lick-*, *Leck-* to forms in *Le-*, *La-*, and the more significant etymological question concerns the explanation of the earliest spellings in *Leck-*. It may be the case that the Ayrshire *Previck* gave its name to a Lanarkshire **Previck* which then saw the later addition of the first element. On the other hand, there may be no direct relationship between the two settlements.

One previous explanation has been suggested for the origin of *Leckprivick* by James Alexander Wilson, who put forward the idea that it may derive from the Welsh (i.e. Cumbric) elements *llech* 'a flat stone' and *prifwig* 'primeval forest'.⁶⁰ He interprets this hypothetical compound, *llech-prifwig*, as 'forest stone'.⁶¹ This solution is problematic, however, as the word *prifwig* 'forest, backwoods' is not recorded in medieval Welsh and first appears on record in the eighteenth century.⁶²

It is possible that the first element in *Leckprivick* is Gaelic *leac* 'a stone', as occurs in a number of other Scottish place-names, including

⁵⁷ A. Dauzat, *Dictionnaire Etymologique des noms de Famille et Prenoms de France* (Paris, 1980).

⁵⁸ H. Moisy, *Noms de Famille Normands Étudiés dans leurs rapports avec la vieille langue et spécialement avec le dialecte Normand ancien et moderne* (Paris, 1875; repr. Marseille, 1980).

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 59, 285.

⁶⁰ J. A. Wilson, *A Contribution to the History of Lanarkshire* (Glasgow, 1936), p. 91.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 91.

⁶² *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* (Caerdydd, 1950–2002) s.v. *prifwig* eb.

Leckmoram Ness and *Legbernard* in Midlothian.⁶³ If *Leckprevick* were composed of a Gaelic element added to an existing Old English place-name, then it would be very similar in structure to a number of other names found in the south-west of Scotland, including Tarbolton in Ayrshire. This name applies to both an Ayrshire village and the parish in which *Previck* was located, and appears to derive from Gaelic *tòrr* 'hill', in combination with an earlier OE *bōðl-tūn* 'house-farm'.⁶⁴ As Taylor has suggested, this name should be 'considered Gaelic, but incorporating an already existing place-name **Bolton* coined during a period of Northumbrian settlement'.⁶⁵

Having reviewed the evidence thus far, I would like to suggest that the Ayrshire place-name *Previck* is of Anglian origin, derived from OE *wīc* 'dependent farm' combined with either OE **peru* 'pear-tree' or an unidentified Old English word, possibly the same as that which comprises the first element of Parwich in Derbyshire. *Leckprevick* in Lanarkshire appears to represent the same compound with the addition of Gaelic *leac* 'stone', and collectively these names provide further evidence of Anglian settlement in this area of south-western Scotland.

⁶³ Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names*, p. 23; W. J. Watson, *The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland* (Edinburgh and London, 1926; repr. Edinburgh, 1993), p. 142. I am grateful to Simon Taylor for this suggestion.

⁶⁴ The name is first recorded as *Torboultoun* a.1177 in *The Lennox*, edited by Fraser, II, 1.

⁶⁵ Simon Taylor, personal correspondence.

APPENDIX: HISTORICAL SPELLINGS

1. *Previck* Ayrshire

- a.1177 *Preueic* Lennox⁶⁶ II 1
 1379 *Prevyk* Exchequer Rolls of Scotland⁶⁷ III 31
 1413 [*Per*]wyc Calendar of the Laing Charters⁶⁸ 25
 1428 *Previck* Nicolaisen⁶⁹ 103
 1428 *Previk* Lennox II 62
 1452 *Perwic* Calendar of the Laing Charters 35
 1572 *Prewik* RSS⁷⁰ VI 52
 1620 *Privik* RMS VIII 23
 1647 *Privick* Retours⁷¹
 1654 *Preuick* Blaeu, Atlas of Scotland
 1775 *Privack* Armstrong, A New Map of Ayrshire
 1863 *Privet* Paterson⁷²

Privick Mill Ayrshire

- 1654 *Preuik* Mill Blaeu Atlas of Scotland

as a surname:

- 1442 *Willelmi de Prevyke* Registrum de Panmure⁷³ II 233

⁶⁶ *The Lennox*, edited by Fraser, II, p. 1.

⁶⁷ *The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited by Stuart *et al.*, III, 31.

⁶⁸ *Calendar of the Laing Charters 854–1837*, edited by J. Anderson (Edinburgh, 1899).

⁶⁹ Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names*, p. 103. Source given as RMS in Nicolaisen, 'Notes on collection and research, Scottish place-names: 28 Old English *wīc*', 81.

⁷⁰ *Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum*, edited by M. Livingstone *et al.* (Edinburgh, 1908–), referred to in this text as RSS.

⁷¹ *Inquisitionum ad Capellam Domini Regis Retornatarum*, edited by T. Thomson, 3 vols (London, 1811–16), I, Ayr §413.

⁷² J. Paterson, *History of the Counties of Ayr and Wigton*, 3 vols (Edinburgh: 1863–66), I:ii, 766.

2. *Lekprevick Lanarkshire*

1397–98 *Lecprefwyke* (transumpt of 1456) SHS 3rd ser. (Miscellany) XXI 40–45

1568 *Lekprevik* RSS VI 84

1595 *Lekprevick Origines Parochiales Scotiae*⁷⁴ I 505

1793 *Lickprivick Ure*⁷⁵

as a surname:

1365 *Jacobo de Lecprewyk, Jacobo de Lekprewyk* RMS I 40

1488 *Jame Lekprewik* Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Lanark⁷⁶ 1

1562 *Alexander Lekprevik* Calendar of the Laing Charters 191

1565 *John Lekprevik* Calendar of the Laing Charters 200

1607 *John Lekprevik* Calendar of the Laing Charters 366

1623 *Andrew Lekprivik* Cartulary of Pollok-Maxwell⁷⁷ 340

1661 *John Leckpryke Baird*⁷⁸

1704 *John Leprivik Baird*⁷⁹

1761 *John Lickpravick Baird*⁸⁰

1851 *Licprivick Origines Parochiales Scotiae* I 101

⁷³ *Registrum de Panmure*, edited by J. Stuart (Edinburgh, 1874).

⁷⁴ *Origines Parochiales Scotiae* (Bannatyne Club, 1851–55).

⁷⁵ Ure, *The History of Rutherglen and East-Kilbride*, p. 179.

⁷⁶ *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Lanark: with Charters and Documents relating to the Burgh, A.D. 1150–1722*, edited by R. Renwick (Glasgow, 1893).

⁷⁷ *Cartulary of Pollock-Maxwell*, edited by W. Fraser (Edinburgh, 1875).

⁷⁸ Baird, *Muirkirk in Bygone Days*, p. 31, quoting the minutes of the Muirkirk session.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 24.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 52, quoting from the anonymous ‘A Description of the Parish’, first published in the *Edinburgh Magazine*, vol. V, 1761.