

three syllables, as against 191 in which the middle vowel is suppressed.

(It may therefore be assumed that these names possess a common origin. That origin, in all probability, is the Oxfordshire village of Fimere, which certainly gave its name to a family who resided there in the thirteenth century.* This supposition is strengthened by a review of the geographical distribution of these surnames, as the reader will see by referring to the accompanying outline map. To the present day, a considerable number reside in Oxfordshire, where the spelling Fenemore is principally adopted. The name extends south and south-west through the counties of Berks, Wilts, Hants, Gloucester and Devon. The principal family, the Fynmores of Whetham, Wilts, undoubtedly came from Fimere, and it is especially worthy of notice that almost every place during the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries, where the principal settlements of the name existed, was intimately associated with the manufacture of cloth. Thus, Calne, East Hendred, Reading, Cam, and Tiverton, were all centres of the "clothing" industry. There was, doubtless, a good deal of intercourse between these places, and we are thus led to the inference that the various Fynmores, Fynmores, etc., may have sprung from a common stock. The Fenmores or Finymores who lived in Shropshire in the 17th century, also were evidently engaged in the cloth trade, so that they too may have come from Berkshire or Wiltshire, and not from the early Shropshire Fennymere. But all this, of course, is mere surmise.)

The Fynmores of Reading and Hinksey were not improbably of the same stock as the Fynmores of Calne, for, though at present, no documentary evidence in support of this theory is forthcoming, it must be remembered that both families used the same armorial bearings. The earliest known ancestor of this family was a certain William Fynmore or Finnemore, who was settled in Reading evidently about the middle of the sixteenth century, and with him, therefore, we commence the pedigree.

The accompanying chart will show at a glance the relative positions occupied by the different members of the family, while the system of reference adopted renders it easy to identify the various individuals mentioned in the text:—

* The name Fimere, in its ancient form Fenemer, may be thought to be connected with marshy land, but this derivation scarcely accords with the nature of the locality. Fin is a prefix found in very many place names. Abroad we have Finland, and in this country we find Finsbury, Finborough, Finden, Flingham, etc., and in Oxfordshire, Fimere and Finstock, besides many places with the prefix Fen. The prefix Fin is probably of tribal origin. The Finnish tribes, who are said to be of Mongolian descent, were spread widely over some parts of Europe. The royal genealogies, which are traced back to Woden, number amongst the ancestors of Cerdic, the hero or demigod Fin. Beowulf's Lay tells us how Hengest, the child of the Jutes, plied in Friesland through the winter, till king Finn gave to him "Hunlafing, a war fame, and best of axes."

Fimere, and other places with a similar affix, may have received their distinctive appellation from being originally peopled by persons of a Finnish origin, or by those who revered Finn, "the god to whom the Frisians prayed." Or it may be due to the personal name of some early settler. It may be mentioned that Finn still survives amongst our English surnames.