

ever, it soon became general, and surnames were adopted from among those common to the conquerors, or selected from Anglo-Saxon.

In the 8th, 9th and 10th centuries the judicial system maintained by the Lombard kings included deans among its officials. A document from the archives of Modena, Italy, dated 813, mentioned by the Italian writer Muratori, gives the names of several "deaneries," *decania*. The *sybrani* are also mentioned as judicial functionaries similar to the *decani*.

The Normans had few Scandinavian words to take with them to England. The words they took were of Latin parentage. If they took *dene* with them, under any form, either as a name or otherwise, it was Romanic. If, as a clerical or other title, it had reached England four hundred years previously, though it suffered modification, it was Romanic nevertheless. If, in the English adoption of surnames, it was taken from the Norman vocabulary, *Dene* was still Romanic. While the possibility of an Anglo-Saxon origin will always exist, the equal possibility will also exist that the word came from Latin. It may have come from both sources.

The explanation previously given, page 5, regarding the change from *de* to *at*, *atte* (at the) or *a'*, deserves a further elucidation suggestive of another reason than Saxon pride for the modification. The particle *de* originally indicated possession or ownership. The word *at* meant the same originally as now and when prefixed to a name indicated contiguity, but not ownership. The name, or term, William de Dene showed William to be the owner of the valley, but William Atte Dene showed that while the original, or a later bearer of the name William, might still reside on the old homestead, the ownership had changed either by reason of sale or confiscation. The Anglo-Saxons presumably being the ones mostly dispossessed of their landed estates, this particle would be attached mostly to their names and the names of their descendants, and the pride of maintaining the identity of Saxon blood may have received its first impulse from the simple matter of making a virtue of necessity. The particle simply indicating place of residence was a fit attachment to any name, and by its use fashion was no doubt largely made to serve the purposes of pride.

The derivation of *Dene*, or *Den*, from the word *Dane*, while improbable, is not outside the possible. There are a number of instances where *Den* is a prefix clearly derived from *Dane*. Denmark is Dane-mark, or territory of the Danes. Denham is Dane home. From *Den* the word could be easily further modified into *Dene*, though there is nothing to show that this was done.

The name *Denny*, referred to on a previous page of this book as coming with *Deane* from *dene*, could also have come from the same root as *Dane*. *Dane* is of Latin origin, *Dani*, plural, contracted from *Dacini*, the people of *Dacia*, which country now forms parts of Hungary, Transylvania and some other adjacent states, and from which the Danish people