KENNETH CAMERON

Kenneth Cameron
1922–2001

TO EVERYONE WHO KNEW HIM KEN CAMERON seemed quintessentially Lancashire, but the Scottish ancestry on his father's side, which is evidenced in the surname, was not very far distant, and the Scottish connection is seen also in his Christian name and in those of his son, Iain Stewart. His great grandfather, Angus Cameron, was a Gaelic speaker from the Fort William area. He was a builder of dry stone walls, and he came south, initially to Liverpool, to find work. His wife followed him with the children, and the next two generations of male Camerons became textile operatives in Lancashire. Ken's grandfather, Donald Cameron, also had an intriguing sideline. He was an entertainer in the Harry Lauder style, and was very successful at this: a prized family possession is a watch-chain hung with medals for his performances in northern towns. His wife would not countenance his making a full-time career of this, as she disapproved of the life-style which she thought might have resulted.

Ken's boyhood was closely linked to his maternal grandparents who ran a provisions shop in Padiham, near Burnley. When this grandfather died Ken's parents went to live there. Ken's mother, who had had to give up her career as a primary-school teacher when she married, eventually ran the shop. This corner shop in Byron Street is still vividly remembered in Padiham and Burnley. Ken helped in the running of it, and contemporaries remember him flying round on his bike making deliveries after school. He also had a reputation for being able to slice bacon to the exact required thickness. Ken's father, another Angus, had health problems believed to date from service in the 1914–18 war. He suffered a stroke in

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1939 and died in 1948. Ken's mother lived into her nineties, latterly in Nottingham.

Ken was educated at the pre-war Burnley Grammar School, where he became head boy and captain of cricket for Ribblesdale House. The passionate interest in sport which began in his schooldays was an outstanding characteristic throughout his life. His love of soccer was particularly strong. Iain Cameron recalled in his funeral address that to his grandsons, Ross, Rory, and Jamie, their grandad's main claim to fame was that he once 'stood between the sticks at Brighton and Hove Albion'. This was during the war when FA clubs had an arrangement with military bases enabling them to recruit temporary replacements for players who were overseas. 'Sport (supporting)' is the first of the recreations which Ken listed in his *Who's Who* entry.

Ken's spell in the RAF, from 1941–5, came at the end of his second year of English studies at Leeds University. In the two years before call-up he was taught by Bruce Dickins, whose support was later crucial in the early stages of his career. During his war service he was a pilot in Coastal Command, flying a Wellington bomber, and attaining the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant. Several friends who knew him immediately after the war have commented on how rarely he mentioned his experience as a pilot. It left him with an enduring fascination with aircraft, but without interest in other means of mechanical transport. He only acquired a driving licence and a car at the end of his life under persuasion from Jean, his second wife.

The final year of English studies at Leeds, after demobilisation, was not as happy as the earlier two years had been. Professor Dickins had moved to Cambridge, and Harold Orton had taken his place at Leeds. Ken did not get on with Professor Orton, and in later years he attributed his failure to obtain a first class in his finals to this disharmony. The setback did not, however, prevent entry into an academic career. Professor R. M. Wilson, who had known him at Leeds, had become head of the English Department at Sheffield, and relying on his own and Bruce Dickins's high opinion of Ken's abilities Professor Wilson appointed him to an assistant lectureship, which he held from 1947–50. In 1947 he married Kathleen Heap, who was then teaching geography at Burnley High School for Girls. They had known each other since schooldays. There is more to be said of Kath's input to Ken's work and of the tragedy of her death in 1977, but it is appropriate to mention the marriage here as an event of the years in Sheffield. Their daughter, Susan, was born while they were there.

The terms of appointment at Sheffield included the requirement to complete a Ph.D. thesis by the end of three years. This, combined with the rigours of a teaching programme for a newly-graduated scholar, must have needed all Ken's immense resources of energy and dedication for its fulfilment. Professor Dickins was then Director of the English Place-Name Survey, and at his suggestion Ken decided to make Derbyshire place-names the subject of his research. The preparation of the thesis was achieved between 1947 and 1950, and in 1950 Ken moved to a lectureship in English Language at Nottingham.

Some of Ken's students at Sheffield have sent accounts of his teaching there. In 1947 the student body included an ex-service element, some of its members older than he was. This might have led to a 'Lucky Jim' situation, but Dr Geoffrey Barnes tells me that the members of this ex-service group 'took Ken to their hearts as one of their own'. It is clear from these accounts that while Ken was not able in the circumstances to do much more than use the content of teaching he had himself received as an undergraduate, his friendly personality endeared him to those he taught, and the lively participation of students in discussions on set texts caused them to be memorable experiences.

Ken remained at Nottingham for the rest of his career, and as a resident for the rest of his life. His career at the university was summarised by Professor Thorlac Turville-Petre in the festschrift presented to him on the occasion of his retirement in 1987.[1]

In 1950 Old English and Middle English studies at Nottingham were in need of the strong support which Ken was able to give them. A new syllabus was being drawn up for English, and the head of department, Vivian de Sola Pinto, said in an essay published in 1951 'I decided, therefore, that the first consideration in planning my new school would be the liberation of English studies from the incubus of compulsory Anglo-Saxon with the accompanying apparatus of Germanic philology.'[2] As Professor Turville-Petre comments, this was not a warm welcome for the new lecturer in English language, but in spite of this the relationship between the two was cordial. In 1961, when James Kinsley took over as head of department, the unity of English studies was reasserted. Professor Kinsley said in 1963 'At Nottingham we have removed the barriers between medieval and modern literature . . . We take the view that

[1] T. Turville-Petre and M. Gelling (eds.), *Studies in Honour of Kenneth Cameron*, Leeds Studies in English, NS, XVIII (1987).

[2] Quoted in T. Turville-Petre, 'Kenneth Cameron and the English Department at Nottingham' in T. Turville-Petre and M. Gelling (eds.), p. 5.

the "modernist" who knows little or nothing about medieval literature *at first hand* is not properly equipped for his own work.'[3]

In 1951 Ken was joined at Nottingham by Ray Page, who took responsibility for Old Norse studies until he moved to Cambridge in 1961. Professor Page had been one of Ken's students at Sheffield. He recalls that for both of them there was a very heavy teaching load, but Ken was nevertheless able during that decade to expand his Ph.D. thesis into the English Place-Name Society's survey of Derbyshire, a three-volume work which was published in 1959, and to write his remarkably successful Batsford book, *English Place-Names*, which appeared in 1961. These publications established a high academic reputation, and he was promoted to Reader in 1962, and to the first Chair of English Language at Nottingham University in 1963. Of the years which followed, Professor Turville-Petre wrote

> Under Ken's leadership and with his determined and unwavering support, 'English language' (in the extended sense of that term) has flourished at Nottingham. Over the years new teachers have been appointed to the Department, with the result that today Old and Middle English, Icelandic, Modern English Language and the teaching of English to overseas students are all firmly established, and the strength of Linguistic studies led to the development of a separate Department of Linguistics in 1979. At the same time the Department has become fully integrated, so that students whose principal interests lie in one field of study are often attracted to topics from another range of the Department's activities. The variety of subjects covered by the contributions to this collection of essays indicates the general appreciation of the vital part Kenneth has played in establishing a working team.
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> The stiffest challenge came in 1984 on the sad death of James Kinsley. Ken took over as head of Department pledging 'open government', a strategy that accorded well with his frank and spontaneous manner. He has always been firm in support of his colleagues, willing to listen and to give his own views plainly but always with kindness. He was determined that he would leave the Department a united one, with none of the traditional hostility between language and literature. This he has triumphantly achieved.[4]

Notwithstanding the demands of Ken's position as head of department, he was determined to continue with his research work which, after the completion of the Derbyshire survey, consisted of the collection of material for an even more detailed survey of Lincolnshire. On most Wednesdays there was a notice on his door: 'Professor Cameron is in Lincoln today.' From 1966 onwards his responsibilities were greatly

[3] Quoted in T. Turville-Petre, 'Kenneth Cameron', pp. 5–6.
[4] Ibid., p. 6.

increased by the key position he held in the functioning of the English Place-Name Society, an account of which is given in a later section of this memoir.

During his years as Professor of English Language Ken was a robust debater on the faculty board, and he also made a great contribution to the life of the university as a whole. He served on many committees and was chairman of the University Staff Club. He held this last position during the building of the extension to the Staff Club bar which is known as 'Cameron's Folly'. He was also chairman of the Disabled Students' Committee, in whose work he was deeply interested on account of the tragedy which had occurred in his domestic life when his wife was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis, from which she died in 1977. His interest in the problems of disabled people was also manifested in the help he gave at the Holmes Lodge Cheshire Home after Kath's death; and he gave the oration when Leonard Cheshire was awarded an honorary degree at Nottingham.

As noted above, Ken married Kathleen Heap, a geography teacher, in 1947. They had a daughter, Susan, and a son, Iain, and were a close family. Kath was deeply involved in the place-name research, and her influence as a geographer is clearly seen in his ground-breaking work on the relationship between place-names and geology. The hospitality at their house in Beeston became legendary. Professor Page comments 'There was a close and friendly link between students and staff that I haven't experienced since, and Ken and Kath were to a great degree responsible for this.' Kath's condition deteriorated over a long period, and Ken cared for her most tenderly and attentively throughout. Inevitably the strain affected his performance of administrative tasks, and during Kath's final years and the period succeeding her death he was helped, probably more than he realised, by the staff of his department. The extent to which his colleagues supported him through these dreadful years bears witness to the affection and loyalty which he inspired.

Support during these difficult years came also from Jean Russell-Gebbert. She and Ken were married in 1998. Before and after this she shared, as Kath had done, in his place-name researches. They lived mainly in Nottingham, but their base for Lincolnshire field-work was Jean's cottage in Tealby, and it was there that he suffered a fatal heart attack on 10 March 2001.

Ken's career was liberally punctuated by honours, the most notable of which were his election to the British Academy in 1976 and his appointment as CBE in 1987. His work on Norse names in England aroused

much interest in Scandinavia, and he received an honorary doctorate from Uppsala University in 1977. In 1990 he was awarded the Jöran Sahlgren Prize by the Royal Swedish Gustavus Adolphus Academy. He was a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Other honours include a Litt.D. from Sheffield University in 1991. The lectures he gave as O'Donnell lecturer in 1979 and as winner of the Sir Israel Gollancz Memorial Prize in 1969 are discussed in a later section. He was president of the Viking Society 1972–4.

Aspects of Professor Cameron's life which remain to be discussed are his achievements as Hon. Secretary of the English Place-Name Society and Hon. Director of the English Place-Name Survey, and the influence of his publications on his chosen area of scholarship.

The English Place-Name Society had its headquarters at University College London, from 1953, with Professor A. H. Smith combining the offices of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Director of the Survey. On the death of Professor Smith in 1966, Sir Frank Stenton, the society's president, nominated Ken as his successor. The vice-chancellor of Nottingham, Lord Dainton, welcomed the transfer of the society's headquarters from London, and the hospitality of Nottingham University has enabled this to be the centre of English place-name studies since that date.

The offices of secretary and director were separated for some years, as John Dodgson, who had worked closely with Hugh Smith, expressed a wish to retain the administrative aspects of the society's work at University College. The administration was managed jointly by John Dodgson and David Mills until 1972. They resigned in that year and the administrative records then joined the library and the archives at Nottingham. Professor Dodgson also resigned the editorship of the annual *Journal*, which he had initiated in 1968, and this additional responsibility passed to Professor Cameron. Much editorial help, especially with the *Journal*, was supplied by John Field, who acted as assistant editor from 1980 to 1986; and the essential secretarial help was provided by Mrs Esmée Pattison, who became the society's full-time administrator in 1972, and who gave devoted service to Ken and the society until she retired in 1994. In 1993 Ken resigned as director and secretary, wishing at last to give his entire attention to the survey of Lincolnshire.

Since this is an account of Ken Cameron's life and work, not a history of the English Place-Name Society, it is not necessary to give details of the society's progress since 1993, but it is appropriate to note that Professor Christine Fell's assumption of the secretaryship, and her strong support for the society, ensured that Nottingham continued to be the

headquarters. The directorship was assumed by Victor Watts, who still holds this very important post. Professor Turville-Petre took over the Hon. Secretaryship after Christine Fell's untimely death in 1998.

The directorship of the English Place-Name Survey involves the general editorship of each of the volumes in the series. During Ken Cameron's tenure of this post twenty-one volumes were issued. This number includes three parts of his own Lincolnshire survey together with volumes by scholars working on Berkshire, Dorset, Cheshire, Norfolk, Rutland, Staffordshire, and Shropshire. Ken's policy as general editor was to allow the scholars who were producing county surveys to present the material very much as they chose within the general framework of the whole series. He wisely made no attempt to impose absolute conformity, and his editing was mainly a matter of providing helpful comments and pointing to comparative material. He was also a constant source of encouragement, which was much appreciated by the people engaged in this very laborious branch of scholarship. The only spell of disharmony between the general editor and the editors of county surveys occurred during the painful transmission from publication by Cambridge University Press to desk-top production, which took place during the middle years of the 1980s.

Ken's many virtues did not include a strong aesthetic sensibility and his satisfaction with the first volume to be produced by the new method, Part 1 of Lincolnshire, and with issues of the *Journal* at this date, was not shared by his colleagues. The situation was delicate, as production was being undertaken by Mrs Pattison, on whose help and support Ken depended heavily. It was the eventual recognition by Mrs Pattison that the machinery she was using could not produce suitable type which persuaded Ken to listen to the critics, and this led, through various stages, to the adoption of more satisfactory techniques. This was the only time, in more than thirty years of friendship and cooperation, that I was not able to give Ken my total loyalty and support.

It remains to consider Ken's published works and the influence which these had on the development of English place-name studies. The two books which established his reputation, *The Place-Names of Derbyshire* and *English Place-Names*, were not ground-breaking in the manner of the work he produced from 1965 onwards. The Derbyshire survey was more detailed than previous ones. It included a more generous quantity of field-names, and it listed all names on 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps, whereas previous county surveys had noted only those which appeared in earlier records. Both these practices were followed in future volumes in

the series, and they were useful innovations; but the attitude to the historical bearing of the material which Ken showed in the Introduction to the Derbyshire volumes was essentially that found in all such Introductions since the inauguration of the English Place-Name Survey in 1923. Similarly, the general account of the subject in *English Place-Names* gave an exceptionally clear picture of the doctrines which scholars of Ken's generation had inherited from illustrious predecessors such as Sir Allen Mawer and Sir Frank Stenton, whose attitudes were formed in the second and third decades of the twentieth century. Reviewing this book I remarked that the subject seemed surprisingly static. In fact it ceased to be static at about that time, and shortly afterwards Ken became a pivotal figure in a great rethinking. It is ironic that the phenomenal success of *English Place-Names* perpetuated the earlier attitudes in the perceptions of the reading public. The book was reprinted several times, and an edition of 1988 (the fourth) was provided with Addenda which briefly indicated the areas in which the 1961 original was seriously out of date. It was finally replaced by a new version in 1996. Ken's most famous book performed a great service in stimulating interest among non-academic readers, but it did not foreshadow the changes which were imminent.

Place-names have always been recognised as an important source of information about the events of the post-Roman period in Britain, and it is mainly this aspect which has gained the subject its niche in university teaching. The 1960s saw the publication of a number of articles criticising assumptions about the historical bearing of place-name evidence which had held the field since the early 1920s. It had been assumed, for instance, that names of the Reading/Hastings type, which were originally group-names meaning 'followers of Rēad/Hǣsta', marked the first land-takings of Anglo-Saxon settlers, and that names which referred to Germanic paganism were similarly early. These tenets were now shown to be seriously at odds with archaeological evidence for early Anglo-Saxon settlement, and a general reappraisal of the chronology of place-name types was seen to be necessary.[5] Although this reappraisal negated a good deal of what he had written in *English Place-Names*, Ken gave it his full encouragement and support, and together with other place-name scholars of his generation embarked enthusiastically on a process of rethinking which seemed to those engaged in it to be revitalising the study. Ken's

[5] An account of the relevant papers can be found in chap. 5 of M. Gelling, *Signposts to the Past: Place-Names and the History of England* (3rd edn., 1998). The main protagonists were J. McN. Dodgson, M. Gelling, B. Cox, and K. Cameron.

main contributions were a paper setting out the significance of *ecles* in English place-names and a ground-breaking study of Scandinavian names in the East Midlands, and more will be said about these when the corpus of his published works is considered as a whole.

The necessity for a reappraisal of the historical significance of English place-names was not immediately perceived by senior scholars, and this became embarrassingly apparent in 1973, when the English Place-Name Society celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. A number of well-intentioned articles appeared in that year, outlining the history and achievements of the society, but it was clear that most of our well-wishers were totally unaware of all the articles published in specialist journals between 1965 and 1973 which we thought had brought about a fundamental revision. This was the background to Ken's Israel Gollancz Memorial Lecture in 1976.

Ken used the occasion of this prestigious lecture to explain and give authority to the revisionist writings of the preceding decade. It was a memorable event, and the older generation of scholars who had either failed to notice or chosen to ignore what was happening in place-name studies were obliged to take note. This led to a good deal of backlash, some of it surprisingly fierce. The *-ingas* theory, in particular, was indignantly defended for some time. Writing in 1986 Dr J. N. L. Myres spoke scornfully of John Dodgson's 'new notion' (actually promulgated twenty years earlier) that *-ingas* names were not likely to refer to the earliest English settlements.[6] But despite the difficulty of convincing the preceding generation of scholars of the necessity for fresh thinking about the historical significance of place-names, the new attitudes led to a period of fruitful cooperation with contemporary and younger scholars in the disciplines of history, geography, and archaeology. It was fortunate that Ken had become Director of the English Place-Name Survey in 1966, enabling him to confer irrefutable academic authority on work which might otherwise have continued to be regarded as heretical.

Ken's inaugural lecture of 1965 has the title *Scandinavian Settlement in the Territory of the Five Boroughs: The Place-Name Evidence*. In this he developed a method of study which (as he acknowledged) had been suggested in 1935 by L. W. H. Payling: that of relating village names to the type of soil on which the village stands. In areas where the siting of settlements is not constrained by dramatic topography there is a preference for light, well-drained soils; and by use of detailed maps showing

[6] J. N. L. Myres, *The English Settlements* (Oxford, 1986), p. 41, n. 1.

drift geology it was possible to demonstrate that settlements with Scandinavian names were frequently on less desirable sites than those with English names. One of his maps from this exercise was reproduced in The British Academy *Review*, January–July 2000, in an account by Professor R. Coates of the work of the English Place-Name Society.

From the results of this study Ken concluded that a great many Scandinavian place-names in eastern England resulted from a migration of farming people who came there during the two generations when the land was under the control of Danish governors; and that many of the settlements with Scandinavian names were likely to be new foundations of the late ninth and early tenth centuries established in peaceful conditions, rather than pre-existing settlements taken over by members of disbanded Viking armies.

This interpretation cut across the prevailing ethos in settlement studies. The 1960s saw a great swing from the 'clean sweep' theory, which held that continuous English settlement history mostly began with the Anglo-Saxon settlement, to the opposite view that most of the settlement pattern went back, through the Roman period, into prehistoric times. The suggestion that settlement expanded substantially at this late date opened a long and acrimonious debate. The initial study, which was mainly of names in *-bý*, was followed in 1970 and 1971 by others which considered names in *thorp* and those in which Old English *tūn* was combined with a Scandinavian personal name. The three studies were reprinted in 1975[7] in a form which made them accessible to a wider readership. In other papers on this theme Ken stressed the density in some parishes of medieval field-names which contained Scandinavian terms, and the presence of clear traces of Scandinavian grammar and pronunciation. Finally, in 1985, he published a paper which (in the note he sent with the offprint) he described as 'my last will and testament on Danish settlement'.[8] This paper gives a generous summary of the debate and a clear statement of his final position. Some paragraphs deserve quotation:

> In the end, one must reach a conclusion on the balance of probabilities . . . I, and others too, still think that a secondary migration is necessary to explain the evidence as we have it at present. (I) Given in the East Midlands that members of the victorious army settled in established villages without altering the names in

[7] *Place-Name Evidence for the Anglo-Saxon Invasion and Scandinavian Settlements* (English Place-Name Society, 1975), pp. 115–71.

[8] 'Viking Settlement in the East Midlands: The Place-Name Evidence', in R. Schützeichel ed., *Giessener Flurnamen-Kolloquium* (*Beiträge zur Namenforschung*, Neue Folge, 23) (Heidelberg, 1985), pp. 129–53.

> any way; (II) given the number of hybrids, both personal name and of the *Carlton* type; (III) given the Scandinavianised names like Fiskerton, Melton and Stainton; (IV) given over 80 place-names of Scandinavian origin other than those in the groups I have discussed, like *Eakring* 'the ring of oaks', *Holme (Pierrepont)* 'the island of land' and *Leake* 'the brook'; (V) given the fact that there are 303 Domesday place-names in *-by* of which, according to me, 192 have Scandinavian personal names as first part; (VI) given, at least, the Viking influence which was responsible for over 100 Domesday-names in *thorpe* and (VII) for the vast number of field-names here derived from words of Scandinavian origin; (VIII) given the linguistic influence of Old Danish on the Old English vocabulary, syntax, grammar and sound-system; given all these, even a third division of an army numbered in a few thousands[9] hardly seems a sufficient explanation.
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> We have also to remember that many of the place-names are those of units of land, which appear to be the results of colonisation in the strict sense, and that additional corroborative evidence for the agricultural activities of the settlers is to be seen in the numerous Scandinavian words connected with farming and land-measurement found in field-names. Everything seems to point to the presence of farmers settling the land, in addition to the soldiers of the 'great Danish army'. There seems now to be reasonable agreement that the fact that place-names borne by settlements in less attractive sites are regularly Scandinavian in most of the East Midlands suggests that it cannot merely have been a Viking military aristocracy that settled these land-units.

In this paper Ken stressed, as he had done in the Inaugural Lecture of 1965, that villages with names in which *tūn* was combined with a Scandinavian personal name (e.g. *Rollaston*, *Goverton*, *Thurgarton*) may reasonably be supposed to be ancient settlements which came into the possession of men who had fought in the Viking army. In the East Midlands the sites of such villages are comparable in desirability to those with wholly English names. It is important to note, however (though, since it was not immediately relevant, Ken did not mention this), that in some parts of England outside the Danelaw there are names of this type in which the reference is to later Danish overlords who were associated with the government of King Cnut.

These influential studies of Danish place-names in eastern England were at odds with some 1960s thinking about settlement history, but they accorded well with the growing belief that it is necessary to consider the physical setting of names in addition to studying them as linguistic phenomena. Since 1965 there have been many studies of topographical aspects of the subject, and Ken used to refer to these as 'practical place-names'.

[9] This alludes to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*'s note of three settlements by retired Vikings, in East Anglia, the East Midlands, and Northumbria.

In two important papers Ken contributed to the search for toponymic traces of the descendants of the people of Roman Britain which has been a major preoccupation of place-name scholarship in recent decades. The first of these was 'Eccles in English Place-Names'.[10] In this he provided a corpus and a distribution map for a term borrowed by Anglo-Saxons from Primitive Welsh (the Dark Age reflex of the British language of Roman times) which is believed to refer to a centre of Christian worship. The relevant names are concentrated in the West Midlands, and Ken's map showed that they have a relationship to major Roman roads which cannot be accidental. This paper, which appeared in 1968, shows a striking similarity of approach to my paper of 1967,[11] which demonstrated the close relationship of the place-name Wickham to Roman roads and remains of Romano-British habitation sites. We were not aware of each other's work while these papers were in preparation; the realisation that distribution maps were a vital tool in estimating the significance of place-names was part of the new approach now characterising the subject.

When Ken was invited to give the O'Donnell lecture he regarded this as a challenge to find further evidence in place-names of a non-Germanic element in the ethnic composition of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The endowment of these lectures states that they should concern 'the British or Celtic element in the existing population of England'.[12] Ken's contribution, an exhaustive study of the Old English word *walh* as used in place-names, is arguably the most satisfying of all his papers. It was published in 1980.[13] His starting points for the study were a previous O'Donnell lecture by J. R. R. Tolkien[14] and a paper by Dr Margaret Faull.[15] Both these papers included brief discussions of place-names containing *walh*, suggesting that these might refer to Welsh people rather than (as was the view prevalent earlier) to serfs; and Dr Faull's paper provided substantial evidence that 'Briton' was the earlier and commoner meaning of the term. Ken's paper provides a complete corpus and a

[10] In M. W. Barley and R. P. C. Hanson (eds.), *Christianity in Britain, 300–700* (Leicester, 1968), pp. 87–92. Reprinted in collection of papers cited above in n. 7, pp. 1–7.

[11] Reprinted in *Place-Name Evidence for the Anglo-Saxon Invasion and Scandinavian Settlements*, pp. 8–26.

[12] 'Note' in *Angles and Britons: O'Donnell Lectures* (Cardiff, 1963).

[13] K. Cameron, 'The Meaning and Significance of Old English *walh* in English Place-Names', English Place-Name Society *Journal*, 12 (1979–80), pp. 1–53.

[14] J. R. R. Tolkien, 'English and Welsh', in *Angles and Britons*, pp. 1–41.

[15] M. Faull, 'The Semantic Development of Old English *wealh*', *Leeds Studies in English*, VIII (1975), pp. 20–44.

distribution map of place-names containing *walh*. The assembling of the corpus required great care in distinguishing names in which *Wal-* certainly derived from this source, rather than from *wall* 'wall', *wald* 'forest' or *wælle* 'spring'; Tolkien had given this as his reason for not pursuing the matter. From this exercise Ken concluded that when early spellings show them certainly to contain *walh*, names such as Walton, Walcot, and Walworth indicate the continuance of Welsh speech in some communities for several centuries after the immigration of Germanic-speaking people. This is a substantial contribution to the evidence for a British presence in Anglo-Saxon England, and it has been widely accepted as such.

The main focus of research for Ken, as for all English Place-Name Society editors, was the production of the county volumes of the English Place-Name Survey. At the time of his death he had just completed Part 6 of *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*, so that, together with the three Derbyshire volumes, he contributed nine items to the Society's total score to date of 77. Compiling these volumes is slow, laborious work, involving the extraction of early spellings from a vast number of printed and manuscript sources, the often tricky process of identifying these spellings with surviving place-names, and finally the provision of sound etymologies for all items which have sufficient documentation. Ken delighted in the search for material in medieval manuscripts, and his weekly visits to the Record Office in Lincoln must have been oases in a working life beset with administrative chores. They were convivial occasions also; an archivist who worked there for a time has told me that Ken and the staff regularly had lunch together on the Wednesdays when he was there. His friends among Lincolnshire archivists and historians included Dr Kathleen Major, to whom he dedicated Part 4.

A bibliography of Ken's publications in the years 1956–85 was compiled for his festschrift.[16] After 1985, there were Parts 2–6 of *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*, and *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names* which covered what are loosely known as 'major names' in the county. This last, which is Vol. 1 in the English Place-Name Society's Popular Series, appeared in 1998; it is one of several books in which county editors have presented material for the major names in a whole county while their life-time's work on the detailed survey is in progress. The dates of the Lincolnshire volumes are: Part 2, 1991; 3, 1992; 4, 1996; 5, 1997; 6 (posthumously), 2001. In these works Ken acknowledges the help of his former research student and friend, Dr John Insley; and Part 6 of the

[16] See above, n. 1.

county survey is dedicated to 'the memory of John Field, who worked with me on all six volumes of *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*'. As noted above, the new version of the Batsford book *English Place-Names* appeared in 1996, and this will be the standard introduction to the subject for many years to come. There were also some articles and reviews. The most important of the articles was the printed version of a lecture given at Reading University in 1995, 'Stenton and Place-Names'. The last of his reviews (and this is a source of great pleasure to the present writer) was of M. Gelling and A. Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names*: this appeared in *Lincolnshire Past and Present*, no. 44, summer 2001.

The present high academic status of place-name studies in England and the widespread public interest in them owe much to Kenneth Cameron's devoted work. He was an inspiring, supportive, and extremely generous colleague. Dr Peter Brown, when asked to comment on his work for the British Academy, said '. . . he was a loyal and conscientious attender of Section meetings . . . he endeared himself greatly to members of staff . . . he was always ready for a drink or a pub lunch, and, of course, he was the keyest of key figures in the English Place-Name Survey/Society and drew us most welcomingly into its affairs'. He was Chairman of Section 6 from 1986 to 1991.

MARGARET GELLING
Fellow of the Academy

Note. I have to thank Jean Cameron and Susan Cole for information about Professor Cameron's family background and domestic life, also Eric Higham for finding informants who remember his boyhood in Padiham. Information about his teaching at Sheffield University was supplied by Dr Geoffrey Barnes and Professor Ray Page. For the outline of his career at Nottingham University I am mainly indebted to Professor Thorlac Turville-Petre. Some additional information about this has been provided by Professor Page and Professor James Boulton, who also taught with him in the English Department there. Dr Karl Inge Sandred sent details of the honours Professor Cameron received in Sweden.

Professor Boulton has done me the great service of reading a draft and suggesting a number of improvements.