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William Bentley (1747-1811)

**“Vocabulary of Uncommon Words used in the
Parish of Halifax”
(1789)**

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Vocabulary of uncommon Words used in the Parish of Halifax.

Arran, or Arrand, A Spider. The word Arain is used in Nottinghamshire, for the larger kind of spiders only, but in this parish for spiders of every size.

Addle, to get or earn.

Ample, to go. A corruption of amble.

Arless, an earnest penny.

Anent, opposite, or over against; though it is common to hear the expression,
opposite anent.

Ashelt, perhaps.

Aight, signifies either ought, or owed. This way of pronouncing has been handed
down to us by our Saxon ancestors.

Aboon, above. In the antient Cornish language, it was pronounced aban.

Aumery, a cupboard where provisions are kept.

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B.

Bain, near, convenient.

Bat, the straw of two wheat-sheaves tied together. It is called in the North-
Riding a Battin. Bat also signifies speed; to *go at a great bat*, is to go at a great speed.

Brade, or breid. To brade of a man, is to be, or act like him.

Braidy, foolish. It is probably used in this sense to shew, that a person has
nothing original about him, and that he only acts by imitation.

Brander, an iron to set a vessel on over the fire.

Braken, Fern. Skinner writes this word Brackan. It is the plural of Brake, as the
Anglo-Saxons used to say Docken for Docks.

Belive, used in this parish for "in the evening;" and so may be contracted from
"by the eve;" but the true meaning of it seems to be, quickly, briskly, or immediately.

Bearn, a Child. This word, Bearn, answers exactly to the Latin natus, which
signifies either a child, or born. Children, therefore, may be called Bearn, because they
alone, amidst the whole creation, are said to be born.

Beck, a small Brook.

Bene. Beneson. Nurses here say to children, Clap Bene, meaning, join your
hands together to ask a blessing, or to pray.

Brig, a Bridge.

Bigging, a building, and to big, to build.

Bridle-Sty. A private way for horses, but not for carriages.

Bildering. Levelling the ground, and breaking the clods of earth, after digging, or graving, so as to prepare it for seed. The word should be billing, the instrument made use of on this occasion

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being a bill. To say bildering for billing, is agreeable to the dialect of this parish; so also speldering for spelling, &c.

Boun, ready.

Book, size, or bigness, corrupted from Bulk.

Bottil, a bottle.

Bot, a Jobber. Originally therefore a Botcher was one who mended, but did not make new. It is now used to denote one who is not very good at his business.

Boken, to nauseate, or to have an inclination to vomit.

Bonny, handsome, fine, a word used all over the North.

Broich, for broach, a spire steeple. A barrel is said to be broached on account of the shape of the instrument used on that occasion.

Bolched, poached, as eggs are done. To ask therefore whether you would have your eggs bolched, is to enquire whether you would have them broke before they are boiled.

Brust, for breast. This word is thus pronounced in German or High Dutch.

C.

Caitiff. One who has been long sick, and helpless. It has been derived from the word Captive; denoting a person in miserable circumstances.

Catrigg'd, is when a piece of cloth, by lying too long in the stocks belonging to the fulling-mills, receives such folds, or ridges, called here riggs, that it cannot easily be made smooth again.

Candler. A Chandler. A maker of candles is very properly called a candler.

Crag. A rocky place.

Cained when a white substance appears on the

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top of bottled ale; the same as in some places is mothered.

Creas. Measles.

Creese. An unnatural fold, as in a coat which has been sitten upon.

Creel. A wooden Frame on the top of kitchens, to lay oat-cakes upon. The same as flake.

Cover. Used for recover, as to recover from sickness.

Cobbles. Roundish stones.

Cole, Broth. So called because pottage was formerly made chiefly of the herb colewort.

Corp or Corpse, a dead body.

Colon, stalks of furze bushes, which remain after burning.

Clumpst, unhandy, or made clumsy, as the hands are by an excess of cold.

Cussen, cast. As when the sky is over-cast, they say it is over-cusson.

D.

Drape, a Cow not with calf, or one which gives no milk, and is to be fatted.

Daff'd, daunted, or discouraged.

Dagger, used as phrase to express a little surprise; as, What the dagger do you mean?

Dawkin, an idle slothful person. There is this proverb here, "a man had better have a Dule than a Dawkin;" meaning that a woman with a bad tongue is a less evil than an idle one, or a slut.

Dree-way, a long tedious way.

Dike, a bank of earth thrown up as a fence between inclosures.

Dockens, Docks.

Dubler, a Pewter dish.

Durn, a piece of wood, or stone, by which doors and gates hang.

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Dule, an engine to clean wool with, so called, as some say, from its great iron teeth, resembling the fancied ones of the Devil, a word which is commonly here pronounced Dule.

E.

Emang, Among.

F.

Flaights, the surface of commons, or waste, uncultivated places, cut off, and dried for fuel.

Flay, to frighten, also flaid, frightened, or afraid.

Flake, a wooden frame at the top of kitchens to keep oat-cakes on, See Creel.

Fratch, to scold, or quarrel; seemingly a-kin to the word Fraction.

Faugh, fallow, as ground which lies unused.

Flawn, a custard made in raised paste. As flat as as Flawn, is a proverb.

Fest, to put out apprentice, to be hired, to fix, or make fast.

Fearful, very, or exceeding. A term much in use, as fearful strong, fearful weak, fearful long, fearful short, and even fearful handsome, &c.

Fearlot, the eighth part of a bushel.

Felks. Fellies, or pieces of wood joined together to make the circle of a wheel.

Firster, First.

Fire-point, a fire-poker. So called perhaps from its having a shap end.

Fog, the Grass which grows in meadows after mowing.

Frosk, a Frog.

Foor, a Ford over a river.

G.

Gavelock, an iron bar, commonly called a Crow.

Gailker, a Vessel to work new in; or the drink itself.

Garth, a Yard, or Fold.

Gawm. Not to gawm a man, is not to mind him.

Glazener, or Glazner, a Glazier

Gang, to go.

Ga, or Geaw, to go.

Gar, to gar a man to believe, is to cause, or make him believe.

Grave, to turn up the earth with a spade.

Grave, or Greave, an Officer who collects the Lord's rents.

Gantry, a wooden frame, on which barrels are placed in a cellar.

Gate, a way. A Street is generally called, the Town Gate.

Greece, or Grees, Steps or Stairs.

Gip, when the berth is stopt on a man's being ready to vomit.

Gimmers, Ewe Lambs.

Gibe, to jeer, or mock.

Gig, a machine used in raising cloth, to make it fit for dressing.

Girse, Grass.

Groin, the snout of some animals. Gron is the upper lip of an ox.

Groin, to cut grass with a knife, sickle, &c.

H.

Haver, Oats. Also Haver-cakes, oat-cakes.

Haust, a cough.

Hannier, a cross, teasing person.

Helter, an Halter.

Heck, a rack to hold hay for cattle.

Hemp-Heckler, a Flax-dresser.

Hetter, cross, ill-natured.

Helm, a Hovel.

Helder, or Elder, sooner.

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Hoin'd, fatigued, oppressed. To be ill hoin'd, means to be made a great slave of.

Holms, pronounced Hooms, or Houms.

Huggo, the hip of man, or woman.

Hug, to carry.

Hud-ends, flat stones, or irons on each side of a grate, or fire-place; so called because the said sides, or ends, are hid, or covered.

Hurrion, a Slut. So called from hurrying on things, or doing them so hastily, and carelessly, that they are not well done.

Hushion, a Cushion.

J.

Ing, a Meadow.

Jimmers, Hinges; because they are fastened to the Jaums, or side posts of doors,

&c.

Jonas, or Jaunas, the Jaundice.

Jobby, a joist, or piece of timber fastened into the sommer of an house.

K.

Keel, to cool.

Ken, to know.

Ket, carrion.

Kinkhaust, the Chin-cough.

Kittle, to tickle.

Kirk, a Church. A Church-warden is also called here a Kirkmaister.

Kit, a wooden pale for carriage of water, &c.

Kist, a Chest.

Klick, to catch at any thing.

Kilps, Pot-hooks.

Kye, Cows.

Kuss, a Kiss.

L.

Lath, a Barn.

Lathing, an Invitation.

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Lake, to play.

Laup, to leap.

Lang, long.

Langsettle, a Couch, to sit or lie upon.

Langtyrne, with the y pronounced long, means a Lanthorn.

Lee, a Lie.

Leasing, an armful of hay, corn, &c.

Lib, to castrate.

Lile, a little.

Lig, to lie down. Chaucer, in his Plowman's Prologue, says,

“The Plowman pluckid up his plowe,
When Midsomer morn was comen in,
And saied his bestes should ete inowe.

And lige in grasse up to the chin.

Lithouse, a Dye-house.

Lover, a Chimney.

M.

Maslegin, Bread made of wheat and rye mixed.

Maddled, puzzled.

Maund, a Basket.

Meeon, any thing enjoyed between two.

Meny, or Meiny, a Family.

Met, four pecks in measure.

Merritotter, a Swing for exercise.

Mistol, a Cow-house.

Mislippen'd disappointed.

Milner, a Miller, also Milne for a Mill.

Mixen, a Dunghill.

Moor, as a cow does, when her water is mixed with blood.

Mule, generally used in this parish for an ass.

N.

Nar, nearer.

Neeld, a Needle.

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Neive, a Fist.

Nooiningscaup, the Labourer's resting time after dinner. The word is formed from Noonning, Noon, and Scope, used for liberty, or privelege. The termination ing is generally here put to noon, as well as to morn and even.

O.

Once, used as an expletive; as I'll come once in an hour.

Owe, to own; as he owes an house, for he owns an house.

Owse, an Ox, and Oisen for Oxen.

Ond, ordained, a contraction.

P.

Pawse, to kick with the feet.

Plat, the Ground.

Pan, to join or agree.

Peat, Turf.

Peace, Easter. Corrupted from the Latin Pascha, by which this was formerly expressed.

Poite, to thrust with the feet.

Poich, an Hive to take bees in after they have swarmed.

Pund, a Pound.

R.

Rammil, Brush-wood.

Reek, Smook.

Reeam, Cream.

Rice, small wood, same as Rammil.

Roky, Misty.

Ruddle, Rud, a sort of red chalk.

Ruzzom of Corn. An ear of corn.

S.

Saig. saw.

Scage. To throw a stick at any thing.

Stake, to shut. From the German Stecken, to

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fasten, Dutch Steken. For shut in this parish, they say stokk'n.

Saghe a Saw.

Sam, to gather together.

Sawg, the Palm-tree.

Scar, a steep bare rocky place on the side of a hill.

Sark, a shirt.

Slape, slippery.

Stang, a Pole, or Leaver carried horizontally.

Sang, a Song.

Standling, Straw, &c. at the bottom of a stack of hay.

Spene, to wean, as a child.

Sweb, a Swoon.

Shenk, a dish to take the cream off milk with.

Seely, weak in body.

Steeigh, or Stee, a ladder.

Steven, to bespeak

Spelder, to spell.

Sipe, to drain, as water does.

Spir, to ask, or enquire.

Snite, to wipe, or blow the nose.

Shirl, to cut with shears.

Shire, an expletive; "as he came shire from such a place."

Sike, a Spout, or small running water, received into a reservoir.

Sind, to make a vessel clean by shaking water in it; to wash linen a second time
in clean water.

Smittle, infectious.

Spool, or Spoil, a Quill to wind yarn on.

Soil, to put liquor through a cloth, to fine it.

Soppy, as when mown grass lies in lumps upon the field.

Snod, smooth, fine, or neat.

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Soss, to lap, as dog.

Soil, to give mown grass to cattle.

Studded, put into a study, or deep thought.

T.

Thack, the covering of an house.

Traunway. The expression, What is that traunway? means, What is that strange
thing you say?

Tems, a Sieve.

Tell'd, told, from tell.

Titter, sooner.

Tick-tack, a very small space of time. Formed, perhaps, from the movement of a
clock or watch.

Tinkler, a Tinker.

Thro. A person is said to be thro about any thing, who is very keen or intent about it.

Too-to. Often used to denote exceeding.

Tul, to.

W.

War, stand aside, or take care.

War, worse.

Whau, whau, why, why; terms of consent.

Waterstead, the bed or course of a river or brook.

Walkmill, a Fulling-mill.

Wark, to ake, as the head, &c. perhaps the same as work.

Way-bit. As a mile and way-bit. Meaning a wee, or little bit.

Wax, to grow.

Wesh, Urine.

While, until.

Whins, furze-bushes.

Whitton, Knowledge, or Judgment.

Winkle, weak, feeble.

Wile. By wile, is by the way, or by chance.

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Why-calf, a female Calf.

Woken'd. When the breath is stopt with over hasty drinking, &c.

Wuns, dwells.