

# Danmarks Stednavne 100 år

Jubilæumsskrift i anledning af hundredåret  
for udgivelsen af bind 1: Samsøs Stednavne



Redigeret af Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen  
under medvirken af Birgit Eggert

Museum Tusculanums Forlag  
København 2022

## Danmarks Stednavne 100 år

Navnestudier  
udgivet af Arkiv for Navneforskning  
Nr. 46

# Danmarks Stednavne 100 år

Jubilæumsskrift i anledning af hundredåret  
for udgivelsen af bind 1: Samsøs Stednavne

Navnestudier nr. 46

Udgivet af Arkiv for Navneforskning  
Københavns Universitet

Redigeret af Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen  
under medvirken af Birgit Eggert

Museum Tusculanums Forlag  
København 2022

© 2022 Forfatterne og Arkiv for Navneforskning, Institut for Nordiske Studier og Sprogvidenskab, Det Humanistiske Fakultet, Københavns Universitet.

Kopiering fra denne bog må kun finde sted på institutioner og virksomheder, der har indgået aftale med Copydan, og kun inden for de i aftalen nævnte rammer.

Grafisk tilrettelæggelse: Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen.

Alle artikler i bogen er fagfællebedømt.

Bogen er udgivet elektronisk hos Institut for Nordiske Studier og Sprogvidenskab samt hos Museum Tusculanums Forlag.

ISBN: 978-87-635-4707-9

ISSN: 0470-5165

I kommission hos  
Museum Tusculanums Forlag  
Rådhusvej 19  
2920 Charlottenlund  
[www.mtp.dk](http://www.mtp.dk)

Forsideillustration:

Udsnit af kort over Samsø (*Samos Baltica vulgo Samsöe*) tegnet af Diderich Christian Fester i 1763 og udgivet i Erich Pontoppidans *Den Danske Atlas* bind II fra 1764. Mens stednavne i selve tekstafsnittene af atlasset er excerperet og gengivet i *Danmarks Stednavne 1: Samsøs Stednavne*, så er navneformerne på atlassets tilknyttede Samsø-kort ikke medtaget i bindet. © Det Kgl. Bibliotek.

## Indholdsfortegnelse

Forord	7
RIKKE STEENHOLT OLESEN	
Individ og kollektiv – At løfte <i>Danmarks Stednavne</i>	9
JOHNNY GRANDJEAN GØGSIG JAKOBSEN	
DS 1: <i>Samsøs Stednavne</i> – 100 år efter	31
BENT JØRGENSEN	
Huller i osten. Om mangler i <i>Samsøs Stednavne</i>	51
GILLIAN FELLOWS-JENSEN	
Onsbjerg on Samsø and Roseberry Topping in Yorkshire	59
BIRGIT EGGERT	
<i>Samsø</i> og andre navne på store jyske øer	69
LARS-JAKOB HARDING KÆLLERØD	
<i>Bødker, Klejs og Pedersen</i> . Om brugen af mellemnavne på Samsø i det 18. og 19. århundrede	79
MARTIN SEJER DANIELSEN	
Stedse og i over 20 år kendt under tilnavnet <i>Fabricius</i>	113
MICHAEL LERCHE NIELSEN	
<i>Kornmaaler</i> og andre samsiske efternavne	139
SUSANNE VOGT	
Iver Ellung (1757–1820) – geografisk-økonomisk landinspektør og antikvar. Mere end bare stednavne	153
BENTE HOLMBERG	
<i>Snekke</i> -navne nok engang	179
SOFIE LAURINE ALBRIS & ANDERS PIHL	
Bornholms førkristne landskab og bebyggelse. Nogle ekstralingvistiske perspektiver på <i>Danmarks Stednavne 10</i>	199
PEDER GAMMELTOFT	
Viden og vanvid – om stednavneværker i digital form	249
BIRGIT EGGERT	
<i>Danmarks Stednavne</i> – en bibliografi	261

# Onsbjerg on Samsø and Roseberry Topping in Yorkshire

GILLIAN FELLOWS-JENSEN

I had long tried to remember why I, an English woman born in Manchester, should have chosen to write now about the link between Onsbjerg parish on Samsø and Roseberry Topping in Yorkshire. I knew that my first published reference to this link was to be found in a lecture I held in 1977 in Århus entitled ‘Scandinavian settlement in the Danelaw in the light of the place-names of Denmark’ (Fellows-Jensen 1981). My main topic there had been Scandinavian settlement names in the Danelaw but I note on p. 135 that there is one interesting name in Yorkshire that is not the name of a settlement but that of an isolated, originally cone-shaped hill (320 m high), an outlier of the North Yorkshire Moors, where its top of hard grit had protected the alternating layers of harder and softer rocks beneath it from erosion. It is now known as Roseberry Topping, but early forms of the name show that it had once been *Óðinsberg* that is ‘Odin’s hill’.

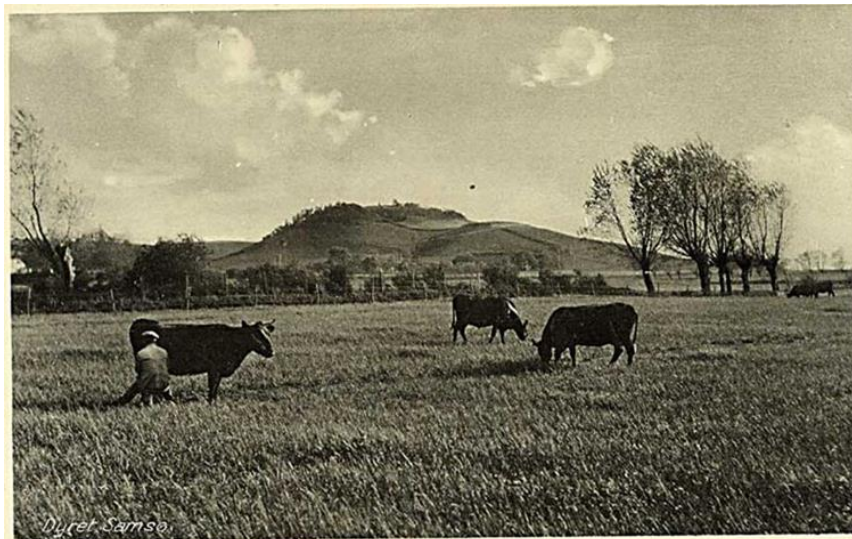
I decided to try and find my earliest reference by searching through my diaries and was soon successful. I discovered that on February 24<sup>th</sup> 1963 not only did my husband, Verner Jensen, celebrate his 34<sup>th</sup> birthday but it was on the same day that Professor A.H. (Hugh) Smith celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and was presented with a congratulatory volume (Brown & Foote 1963). This book had been open for subscription and naturally both I and University of Copenhagen’s Institut for Navneforskning were mentioned in the ‘List of subscribers’. The books were delivered to us on March 1<sup>st</sup> in those long-forgotten careless days when Denmark had an efficient postal service. I spent the next couple of weeks reading the contributions. These had been written by distinguished friends and colleagues of Hugh Smith.



*Hugh Smith (on the left) outside University of Copenhagen's main building in company with a Danish colleague K.B. Jensen on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1962. Photo in author's possession by unknown photographer.*



One contribution was by Kristian Hald, professor of Danish Language in Copenhagen. His paper was entitled ‘The cult of Odin in Danish place-names’ (Hald 1963). In 1963 I was employed as a post-doc at the University of Copenhagen, not only compiling a dictionary of Danish personal names recorded in English sources but also editing an Icelandic text, *Göngu-Hrólfs saga*. I knew Professor Hald quite well, as he was kindly and uncomplainingly engaged in transferring the many volumes of the Lincoln Record Society back and forth between his private home, to which they had been temporarily consigned, and Institut for Navneforskning, where they belonged, because there was no longer room for them there. It was in the paper written for Hugh Smith that Kristian Hald shows that the name of the heathen god, Odin in Danish but Óðinn in Icelandic, is compounded with the element *berg* ‘hill’ in a parish-name on Samsø, as already established in the first volume of *Danmarks Stednavne* in 1922 (DS 1: 48). The present spelling of the name is Onsbjerg but it was recorded in 1424 as *Othensberg*. The pronunciation in 1922 is recorded as [won’sbjörk’ə] and this can be compared with the spelling of the name Odin in other place-names recorded in a Jutland dialect, e.g. Vojens (1421 *Wodens*) and Vonsild (1452 *Wondsyld*).



*The hill ‘Dyret’ near Onsbjerg on Samsø; a possible candidate for the original ‘Odinsbjerg’? Photo on a postcard by an unknown photographer at an uncertain date.*

As noted later by Bent Jørgensen (1982: 98–99; 2008: 219), the settlement of Onsbjerg lies on comparatively low ground but is surrounded by a number of hills of which the most striking one to the south is Dyret (51 m high). Its Danish name should really be interpreted as ‘the stout hill’ but has come to be misunderstood as meaning ‘the animal’, which may have been employed instead of the actual settlement name that was perhaps thought to be heathen and therefore necessary to avoid using. It has recently been suggested by Stephen A. Mitchell (2020: 283–295) that *Dyret* was a euphemism for the hill, which was the presumed location of heathen activities that had been coined by later Christian residents on Samsø.



*Dyret on Samsø as the hill looks today – with the author in front of it. Photo by William Fellows-Jensen, 2022.*

I must admit now that although Hald’s article was certainly what first made me think about Onsbjerg, it certainly did not make me think immediately of Roseberry Topping, since I was at this period also studying Icelandic texts.

There are, however, good reasons why I might have come to think about Roseberry Topping. Since I was interested in the Icelandic sagas as well as Danish personal names, I may well have been led to read about the island of *Samsey*, that is Samsø, in *Hervarar Saga ok Heiðreks*, which was one of the only two sagas that I actually had on my bookshelves at home at that period. I admit, however, that it is more likely that I had read about Roseberry Topping in the first edition of

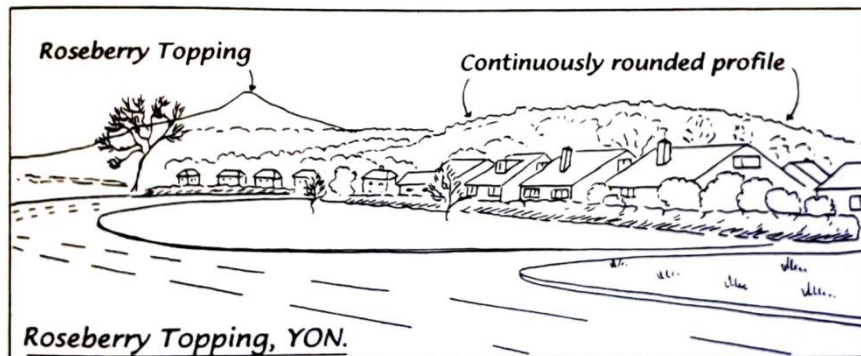
Kenneth Cameron's *English Place-Names* (Cameron 1961), where Cameron writes "The only name of a Scandinavian heathen god which appears in a modern English place-name is Odin, in Roseberry Topping (North Riding of Yorkshire), earlier *Othenesberg* 'hill dedicated to Odin'". It cannot have been as late as in the copy of the new edition of Cameron's book, which I am proud to say that he presented to me personally in 1996, and where the same opinion is reiterated on page 121.

The most reasonable explanation of my interest in the Yorkshire name was that Hugh Smith was also the author of *The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire*, first published in 1928, when he was astonishingly only 26 years old. Here he notices on p. 164 that the earliest records for Roseberry Topping, including those both from the Guisborough Cartulary and the Whitby Cartulary, all point to an "interesting derivation, viz. that *Othenesberg* is a Scandinavian parallel to the well-authenticated OE *Wodenesbeorg* (cf. IPN 38) and that this remarkable hill was a centre of the worship of Othin". Smith also notices here that there is an exact parallel to the name in Danish Onsbjerg. It is also Hugh Smith who explained how the name of the Yorkshire hill came to be turned into Roseberry because the name of the neighbouring settlement Newton had come to be referred to as *Newton-under-Ouesbergh* and this had therefore resulted in metanalysis of Ouesbergh with the final *-r* in *-under*.

It will be seen from the entries in the two above-named cartularies that the name-forms clearly support the spellings of the name as containing Odin. In the Guisborough Cartulary (1889 and 1894) it appears as Ohenesberg, Othenesberg, Outhenesbergh, Otheneberg, Utheneberg, Onesberghe and Ounesberg and in the Whitby Cartulary (1878 and 1879) as Othensberg, Odenesberg, Ohtnebergc and Oonsbergh. I also note here the form that is found in my copy of the last edition of the topographer William Camden's *Britannia* to be printed in his lifetime, namely 1607, which is *Ounsbery siue Rosebery Topping* (Camden 1607: 587). It would seem that it was in the late sixteenth century that Roseberry Topping began to appear as an alternative name for the hill.

In 1990 I mentioned my interest in Onsbjerg and Roseberry in a brief article entitled 'Cultic Place-Names, A view from the Danelaw' at a NORNA-symposium in Gilleleje (Fellows-Jensen 1992) and this led to my being questioned about the matter by Per Vikstrand at the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Glasgow in 2014. In

the congress proceedings, he claims that Fellows-Jensen is not convinced that the Yorkshire name is a 'real' sacral place-name and that it may be a name that had been brought over ready-coined by the incoming Danes (Vikstrand 2016: 181). I am convinced that the Danes named the place after Odin but hardly that they associated it with heathen worship.

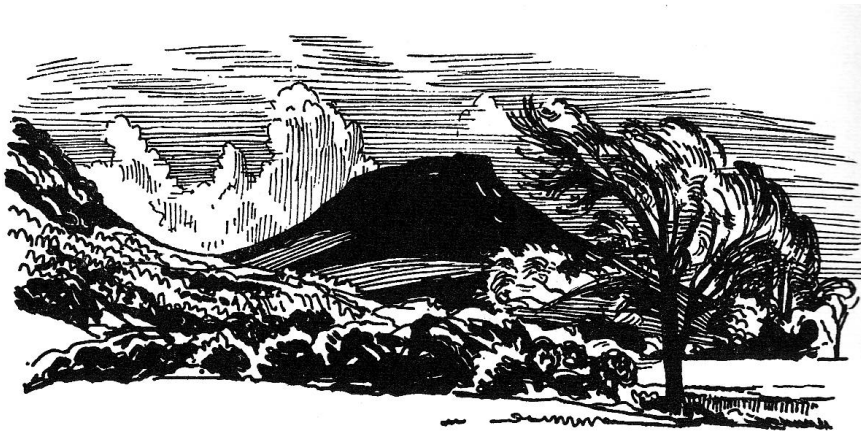


Line-drawing by Ann Cole of Roseberry Topping, published in Gelling & Cole 2000: 147. © The English Place-Name Society.

I had not expected that discussion as to the correct location and significance of this name would begin again in the present century. In the year 2000, however, Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole in their shared project published much valuable information, including about Roseberry Topping. There is a very useful line-drawing of its situation by the geographer Ann Cole, in which an arrow points to the hill in question and two other arrows point to the 'Continuously rounded profile' of a neighbouring hill (Gelling & Cole 2000: 147). In the relevant text Margaret Gelling first cites the hill as being *Othenesberg* 1119, the Norse equivalent of English Woodnesborough (in Kent), meaning 'hill of Odin' but then goes on to say that there are actually two hills close together and that 'The one called Roseberry Topping is a spectacular peaked eminence, the other has the smooth, rounded shape normally associated with *berg* names in Yorkshire' (Gelling & Cole 2000: 151–152). So far so good. And then comes the claim that the *berg* element here could be taken to refer to the rounded hill overlooked by the Topping. And this is where I become involved because Gelling then adds, 'This interpretation seems at least as likely as the suggestion in Fellows-Jensen 1981 (p. 135) that the Yorkshire name is a rare instance of a transfer from the Danish homeland, being a replica of Onsbjerg on

Samsø'. As mentioned above, however, I would still assert that this is what I think.

I have admired the iconic silhouette of Roseberry Topping both in early artistic representations and on several occasions and from several different sites in the years while I was studying Yorkshire place-names but I never came as close to it as did William Camden or the two Yorkshire topographers, Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby, who have described it so well and succinctly. They note that the hill was used as a mark of direction for sailors and as a weather forecast for neighbours, who have a proverbial rhyme, *When Rosebery Topping wears a cap: Let Cliveland beware a Clap* (of thunder). They also note that the hill must have been higher in Camden's time because he had seen there near its top a spring of curative water which is long gone. They can also record that a hoard of socketed axes and other finds from the Late Bronze Age, which is well before the arrival of the Vikings, were discovered on the south side of the hill in the middle of the nineteenth century and that these are now to be found in Sheffield Museum. Sadly in 1912, perhaps as a result of mine-working for alum and ironstone, the summit collapsed (Hartley & Ingilby 1959: 242–243).



*Roseberry Topping. Drawing by Marie Hartley in Hartley & Ingilby 1959: 242. © J.M. Dent & Sons, London.*

When I wrote to tell my cousin's-cousin, Ian Fellows, last Christmas that I was writing about Roseberry Topping, he wrote back and told me that he had actually climbed it. I have never been a rock-climber, not even in my younger days. I understand now, however, that an ascent of

Roseberry Topping is at present classified as a walk rather than a climb but I shall nevertheless keep well away from it. I am certainly convinced that the original name of Roseberry Topping was coined by people in the area who knew about Danish heathendom but not necessarily that they had also been familiar with Onsbjerg in Suffolk in its heathen days. Both Roseberry Topping and Dyret south of Onsbjerg have commanded and still command wonderful views over both sea and land.

### Source publications and literature

- Brown, Arthur & Peter Foote [eds.] (1963): *Early English and Norse Studies*, London.
- Camden, William (1607): *Britannia*; published in *Anglistica & Americana*, Hildesheim and New York 1970.
- Cameron, Kenneth (1961): *English Place-Names*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., London 1961; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1966.
- DS 1 = *Danmarks Stednavne* vol. 1 ('Samsøs Stednavne'), ed. Stednavneudvalget, Copenhagen 1922.
- Fellows-Jensen, Gillian (1981): Scandinavian settlement in the Danelaw in the light of the place-names of Denmark, in: *Proceedings of the Eighth Viking Congress*, eds. Hans Bekker-Nielsen, Peter Foote & Olaf Olsen, Odense, pp. 133–145.
- Fellows-Jensen, Gillian (1992): Cultic Place-Names, A view from the Danelaw, in: *Sakrale Navne* (NORNA-rapporter 48), eds. Gillian Fellows-Jensen & Bente Holmberg, Uppsala, pp. 265–272.
- Gelling, Margaret & Ann Cole (2000): *The Landscape of Place-Names*, Stamford.
- Hald, Kristian (1963): The cult of Odin in Danish place-names, in: *Early English and Norse Studies*, eds. Arthur Brown & Peter Foote, London, pp. 99–109.
- Hartley, Marie & Joan Ingilby (1959): *The wonders of Yorkshire*, London.
- Hervarar Saga ok Heiðreks*, published with notes and glossary by G. Turville-Petre, introduction by Christopher Tolkien, London 1956.

- Jørgensen, Bent (1982): *Dansk Stednavneleksikon: Jylland – nordlige del*, Copenhagen.
- Jørgensen, Bent (2008): *Danske stednavne*, Copenhagen.
- Mitchell, Stephen A. (2020): Place-Names, Periphrasis, And Popular Tradition: Odinic Toponyms on Samsø, in: *Making the Profane Sacred in the Viking Age. Essays in Honour of Stefan Brink*, eds. I.G. Losquiño, O. Sundqvist & D. Taggart, Turnhout, pp. 283–295.
- Smith, Hugh (1928): *The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Cambridge.
- Vikstrand, Per (2016): Place Names and Viking Age Religion, in: *Names and Their Environment, Proceedings of the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, Glasgow, 25-29 August 2014*, vol. 2, Toponomastics II, eds. Carole Hough & Daria Izdebska, Glasgow, pp. 177-184.

## Resumé

### Onsbjerg på Samsø og Roseberry Topping i Yorkshire

Det var med Kristian Halds artikel om Odins rolle i dansk navneforskning, et bidrag til festskriftet for Hugh Smith i 1963, at jeg begyndte at tænke på Onsbjerg på Samsø i forbindelse med bjerget Roseberry Topping in Yorkshire. Det var Hugh Smith, der i *The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire* (1928) selv havde gjort opmærksom på, at navnet på bjerget i Yorkshire oprindeligt havde haft en form, som kan betyde *Odinsbjerg*. Dette navn har en klar parallel i Onsbjerg på Samsø. Næsten halvtreds år senere skrev jeg om sammenhængen mellem Onsbjerg og Roseberry Topping i et foredrag i 1977 (trykt i 1981) og en mulig overførsel af et dansk stednavn med hedensk betydning, som kunne være bragt til England af hedenske danskere. Endnu tyve år senere indtil Ann Cole og Margaret Gelling i 2000 foreslog en anden fortolkning af bjergets navn, men den finder jeg mindre tiltalende.