

too records a vigorous tradition of morris dancing in the village, including an old dance called 'Shepherd's Hey'.

In the now-lost hamlet of Saxenton in the parish of Bucknell, approximately 2½ miles south-east of Troy Farm on a direct footpath, lies a pond named *Trow Pool* on modern OS maps, but *Troy Pool* on Davis's map of 1797. Nearby are Trowpool Lane and Trowpool Spinney. Margaret Gelling would presumably derive these names from OE 'treow' = tree, as she does with the name of the town of Trowbridge. But the nearby location of the Troy Farm labyrinth, and also Troy Lane in Kirtlington, might suggest a different derivation, and a reference in Kennett's *Parochial Antiquities* of 1695 to 'a ground called the Ball-Yards' in Saxenton might even suggest that the hamlet once had a labyrinth-turned-pleasure-ground of its own.

Troy Towns

John Wall, one of the more scholarly writers on the subject of labyrinths, states: 'About 40 of the 110 or so known or conjectured sites of British turf mazes carry the title "Troy's Walls" or "Troy Town"'.¹⁰ Unlike most of the popular or esoteric works on the subject, Wall's article for *Lincolnshire Past and Present* does not attempt to make a link with the legend of the Minotaur in the labyrinth at Knossos in Crete. He merely notes the existence of an Etruscan vase on which is depicted a classical labyrinth with the inscription TRUIA ('Troy'); and cites without enthusiasm a fifteenth-century reference to Troy Town (in the 'Voyage d'Oultremer en Jherusalem') as a title for the Cretan labyrinth.

Although it is tempting to suppose that in popular legend the walls of the city of Troy were constructed in such a confusing and complex way that any enemies who entered them would be unable to find the way out, I find it hard to accept a Mediterranean origin for a name that is found all over northern Europe, even as far as Poland and Russia. Common Scandinavian names include *Trojaborg*, *Trojeborg*, *Trojenborg*, *Trojn*, and *Tröborg*. Alone among commentators, Nigel Pennick¹¹ offers an etymological explanation: 'troy', he claims, is cognate with Old German *drajan*, Gothic *thravian*, Celtic *troian*, Anglo-Saxon *thrawen*, Dutch *draien*, and Swedish *dreja*, all meaning *to turn*. Cornish *tro* or *troyow*

¹⁰ Wall, J. 'Lincolnshire turf mazes and associated sites', *Lincolnshire Past and Present* vols. 10/11 and 12, 1993 (kept in the Mazes file at Oxfordshire Studies, Westgate Library)*.

¹¹ As footnote 8, page 74.