

*At Wydford thus Prince Freomund did his glorious crown attain,  
Whilst slaying guilty folk, at once himself is guiltless slaine.*

From the translation by T. Burgess in his 'Historic Warwickshire' published in 1893, of a poem in Latin from an unknown source, quoted by Camden, concerning the death of Freomund

## APPENDIX

The author has looked for evidence for the existence of an old track-way which may have connected the Upper Thames valley with the town of Warwick. There is some documentary evidence for its existence from Warwick as far as Wormleighton, which is noted in the English Place-Name Society's vol xiii. A statistical survey of Sites and Monuments References for Warwickshire carried out by the author revealed the suggested course of this track within Warwickshire had at least twice the number of references compared to the course of the M40 motorway within the county and also twice the references to a random search within the county. For the route south from Wormleighton, the south-west stretch of parish boundary (OS 440523) was referred to in two tenth century charters as *the straet* (see *Warwickshire Anglo-Saxon Charter-Bounds*, by D. Hooke) and the existing road to Claydon was known as Warwick Way before enclosure. Similarly the route beyond Claydon was known as Warden Way as far as Highfield (OS 481491). The suggestion is that shortly after this the route crossed the river Cherwell by a ford called *Stakamforde*. According to the *Victoria County History for Oxfordshire* the Bodleian Library holds a survey of the bounds of Wardington parish from 1552 which states the bounds pass "*from Stakamford along Edgcote Hedge to foresworne close, thence along the via regia to the hoar stone*". It is noteworthy that this stretch forms the Oxfordshire county boundary today. The Hore stone, no longer visible, was there in 1712, according J. Moreton in his *Natural History of Northamptonshire* (OS 518440). From Thenford hill, the site of a small Iron Age fort, the route may well have gone on to Kings Sutton and beyond as far as the roman road called Akeman Street, but much more work is needed with regards to this section.

### ***British Association for Local History***

The Banbury Historical Society is an affiliated member society of the BALH, and that means that all our members are welcome to join any of their organised activities in 2009. The first is a visit to St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and its Archives, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and at the end of February a visit to the *Who do you think you are?* Exhibition in London. There is something every month, and not all in London or the South-East. For more details, look at their website, [www.balh.co.uk](http://www.balh.co.uk) or write to BALH, PO Box 6549, Somersal Herbert, Ashbourne DE6 5WH.