

I should question the connection
between Wer-mere & Vern, as I
do not see how the same population
could at the same time pronounce
the same initial sound in two
different ways - unless, of course,
Vern could be traced to a French spelling.

I will write to you again on
the subject as soon as I have
looked up Jones's book in the
Bodleian.

Yours very truly
A. H. Sayce.

2558

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

Oct. 25/88.

Dear Genl. Pitt-Rivers,

I have delayed answering
your letter in the hope of being able
to consult Jones's "Domesday for
Wiltshire", but I have not yet had
time to do so & will not ^{delay} ~~wait~~
any longer to send a provisional
reply to your questions.

OXFORD
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Mr. Acton's etymology is a philological impossibility: it would require an earlier form *Laymere* & a later *Laymere*.

But *Laver-mere* must contain the same element as *Laver-ton* in *Somersetshire*. In *Domesday* the latter name is written *Lauretona*, & usually supposed to be derived from the A-S. *laure* or *laur* "a laurel."

The old spellings of *Rushmore* which you quote seem to necessitate

a derivation from "*rubra*". But the A-S. *rise* was borrowed from the Latin *rescum* "butcher's broom," & originally had the same meaning. Could not *butcher's broom* have grown on the site of *Rushmore*.

Brid-mere & *Brid-more* would differ "brid" or "bridge" as in *Brid-port*, but if the name appears as *Brit-mere* in *Domesday* I think there can be little doubt that it is derived from the 'Brits' or Britons.