**POSSIBLE ANGLIAN TRIBAL CLAN NAMES**

The Germanic tribes of Angles, Saxons, Jutes, etc., were composed of family groups, some of which may have acquired identities as clans. Individual sons and daughters may have intermarried with other, neighboring tribes, but the clans and the tribes retained their identities, probably with fathers passing their clan affiliations to their wives and down to their offspring. These names used in ancient times are rarely recorded in writing, but some have been preserved in the form of place names, utilized to recognize or remember occupation of an area by a clan. The tribes themselves left many well-known place names on the Continent and in Britain, but their clans, being so much smaller, have left fewer marks. The movement of these clans is therefore harder to track, and the etymology of these place names is harder to trace.

The names listed in the table below describe “den” names found in Kent, England, that have similarities with place names found on the Continent, primarily in Germany. These Clan Names mostly describe the plural form of the names from which place names might have been derived (such as “Wicken”), with an occasional use of the singular (such as “Wick”). The listing of parallel forms from the Continent assumes that British place names would be used to identify something like a “den,” (swine pasture, ancient), while Germanic place names would be used to identify something like a “burg/berg” (mountain) or “dorf/dorff” (village) along with typical changes such as “sch” in German which might be appear as “sh” in English.

While only some of the den names may derive from the name of a family group or clan, those that do may mark the location of the clans as they moved with their tribes up to northern Germany and back down and over to the Frankish coast, across the English Channel and down to dens in the Kentish forest known as the Weald.

An examination of historical places and maps might reveal more clan names and cognates. In addition to the loss of information over time and the inconsistency of place name formation, there may of course be some den names (as well as other place names in Kent) whose clan name cognates have not been found, and, on the other hand, some den names whose cognates are questionable or simply coincidental, derived from the same source in different places (such as “Wicken” from Wicken ash trees or “Otter” from the animals). Nevertheless, those names for which cognates have been found provide some evidence of possible a link between family groups across geography and through history.

They also provide support for the conjecture that the Wicken were a tribal clan that originated in central Germany and that moved across the channel, with some families then moving down into the Weald of Kent, one of which formed the Wicken Den. However, the Wicken appear to have been a much larger clan than most, because they inspired many other place names similar to “Wickenden” across Kent and also in southcentral England, where they were identified in Latin documents as the *Hwicce*, a clan of Angles associated with a territory called the *Kingdom of Hwicce*.

**NOTE ON REFERENCES**: The primary source for information about “Wickenden” was Guy Ewing’s *The History of Cowden*, 1927. The primary source for den names in Kent was Wikipedia’s List of Place Names in Kent, https://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/List\_of\_places\_in\_Kent. The primary source for Continental cognates was An Interpretive Map of Austria, <https://www.austria.info/us/basic-facts/interactive-map-of-austria#/z6/46.3924112,8.6682129/toursprung-terrain>. Kentish den names apparently lacking any Continental cognates include the following: Chillenden, Cowden, Culverden, Hoaden, Horden, Lydden, Rolvenden, and Smarden

**TABLE OF POSSIBLE CLAN NAMES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **British** **Place Name** | **Continental Place Name** | **Anglian Clan Name** |
| Benenden Village and civil parish in Tunbridge Wells District  | Bennenberg Place in Germany, near the Belgian border  | **Benen/Bennen** |
| BethersdenVillage west of Ashford | Bethen, Bethenberg Place In Marienwallfahrtwort, Germany | **Beth/Bethers/ Bethen** |
| Biddenden Village in Ashford district | Biddenburg In Rhin-Erft-Kreis | **Bidden** |
| Borden Village near Sittingbourne | Borden Small town in Central Germany | **Borden** |
| Chattenden Village in civil parish of Hoo | Chattenburg Monumental castle in Hesse- Kassel  | **Chatten** |
| Crippenden Manor in Cowden Village | Krippendorff Village in Jena, Germany | **Crippen/Krippen** |
| Frittenden Village and civil parish in Tonbridge Wells | Fritten, Fritt In, City Fritt Places in Viborg, Halle, Eupen, Germany  | **Fritten**  |
| Hersden Village and parish east of Canterbury | Hersdorf Municipality in Rhineland- Palatinate, Germany | **Hers** |
| High Halden Ancient parish in Tenterden | Haldenburg Castle from 950 near Schwabegg in Schwab-munchen, Germany | **Halden** |
| Horsmonden Village in Tunbridge Wells | Horsdorf District of Bad Staffelstein in Upper Franconia, Germany | **Hors/Horsmon** |
| Newenden Village and civil parish in Ashford District | Newberg Castle, Republic, Capital in Austria, Czech, and Bavaria  | **New/Newen** |
| Otterden Parish in Hollingbourne | Otter, Otterburg Places in Samtgemeinde, Tostedt, and Veldhoven; and a castle,church and city | **Otter**  |
| Rushenden Village on Isle of Sheppey | Ruschen, Die Rusche Places in Unna, Speicher and Buromeister, Dombin | **Rusche/Rushen** |
| Sholden Village adjacent to Deal | Scholden Municipality in Rhineland- Palantinate, Germany | **Scholden/Sholden** |
| Swattenden Settlement in parish of Cranbrook and Sissinghurst | Swatten Weg Near Hamburg, Germany | **Swatten** |
| Tenterden Town in Ashford District and Village on Isle of Sheppey | Tenter Bach, Tenter Graben Remscheid and Ratingen, Germany | **Tenter** |
| Wickenden Den in Lewisham Manor and in the Village of Cowden | Wickenberg/burg, Wickendorff Settlements in Austria, Bavaria, Germany, and the Netherlands. | **Wicken** |