The Names of Abington

Uithne was the name of the primitive population of this district. Its pronunciation is Owney. Anglo-Norman scribes soon spelt it Wetheny. In such documents as the Civil Survey of 1654-1656 you find several different spellings on the one page. The Cistercian abbey of Owney has the record number of names for the monasteries having followed the Rule of Saint Benedict in Ireland; this is no world record however. Here is a list of the varieties encountered so far.

The Inspeccimus of the foundation-charter calls it Wodez in Wedeny. The Ormond Deeds have further: Wony (A.D. 1217), Wetheni (1217), Wetheny, Wothnia, Owny (1436), Huonia (1436), Wothny (1536).


The Chartularies of St., Mary's Abbey, Dublin:
Woney (M.S. 1204 : Ware 1658), Wetheneya (Annals I 1205), Wethneia (Reg. S.M.D.), Wethnia (Catalogue MS., T.C.D.), Wethenia, Wetheny, Wodeny (Ware) (1626), Woniensis (Ware), Weyderya, Wetheneya; Weydeneya, Wene (Annals II 1299).

Papal Registers: Wothina (1417), Wothenia (1428), Weothyna (1436), Wytheia (1447), Vonnye (1449), Woth, Wothynia (1452), Wetheny (1454), Wonia, Wothina (1455), Wootynia (1460), Wonya, Vony (1466), Huonea (1471), Huotnia in dio. Imilicen. (1 Febr. 1471), Wothyna in dio. Imilacen. (6 March 1474), Honya (1476), S. Mary's Heyney (1485).

Annates: Wothania (1477).

Taxation of Ardfer 1300: Huthny (J. R. S. A. I. 1890, pp. 310, 316).
English State Papers: 1249-1305 Wetheneey, Wetheny; 1589: Owhennye.
Carm Peter 1558: Onn O'Mollrye.
Fiat Henry VIII 1540: Wothonia.
1596 Ownye.
Wothny (sixteenth century).
Grace's Annals: Vaschenia (1245).
Firinne's Annals: Vainthy (1452).
Franciscan MS 1636: Owne.
Dugdale, Monasticon Anglicanum 1655: Abbington. (There was in England the great Benedictine Abbey of Abingdon near Oxford.)
Census 1659: Ownhy.
Dinely 1681: ABBY-ONY, OWNY, ANTHONY’S ABBEY.
Ferrar, History of Limerick 1787: Abingdon.
Wenman Seward, Topographia Hibernica 1797: Abingdon, Abington, Withen-
eia, Wetheneey.

Johnston Westropp “Ancient Churches in Co. Limerick” 1905, has collected: Wetheneey, Wodeney, Huheney, Huerthen, Woden, Wodeny O’Cathelan, Wodeny Oifflian, Widenifidenurde (Charter of the founder), Wetheni Hoy-
Kathelen, Wetheny Hoifferan (Charter of W. de Braose), Huene (1199).

Hamilton Thompson 1931: Mainistir Ueithne, Woneyum.

theneye, Wythneya, Wythnea, Witheney, Abbingdon, Delevy. This Czech author added that Owney might also be the daughter-house of Furness known as: Sochem, Socheim, Sothim, Bocheim, Rochem in baronia Owynensi.

From still other sources: Wethran, Hueny, Oyen.

Royal Visitation 1615: Ouhy.

Down Survey: Abbeyouthebeeg.

Gillet’s Map: Abbeyowntheibegg.

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