

THE ANCIENT PARISH OF HOUND.

[From the *Hampshire Observer*.]

The northern part of this parish was formerly covered with heaths, which formed its extensive commons. This land had much the same character as Beaulieu Heath on the opposite side of Southampton Water. Plateau gravel, which has been quarried from time immemorial, lies upon its higher parts, as it does on Beaulieu Heath, and formerly, I have no doubt, the land had upon it many barrows tumuli thrown up as funeral monuments to important people of the Celtic race, such as still remain on Beaulieu Heath. A tumulus still exists near Netley Hill, where there are traces of others. From a similar tumulus near the border of the parish at West End, an urn was taken, containing the cremated remains of some chieftain of the Bronze Age, and this is now preserved in the Hartley Museum. There is some evidence to show that the Celtic inhabitants of this part of Hampshire occupied the peninsular knolls between the little creeks on both sides of Southampton Water as dwelling sites. Such positions would doubtless have afforded them facilities for obtaining fish as a food supply and have been good defensive sites. The discovery of Romano-British pottery on such a knoll, where the Superintendent's house of the Royal Military Asylum at Netley now stands, shows that Hound had its inhabitants long before the time of the Saxon Conquest.

That the Romans occupied part of it is proved by their remains which have been discovered. When the Military Asylum, attached to Netley Hospital, was built, in 1867, in addition to the Romano-British pottery I have mentioned, a considerable number of Roman coins were found. A representative series of these coins was presented by the War Office to the Hartley Institution, and are preserved in the Museum. The collection includes examples of Gallienus, 21 types; Claudius Gothicus, 19 types; Tetricus, senior, 10 types;

Victorinus, 8 types; Tetricus, junior, 7 types; Postumus, 7 types; Salonina, 3 types; and Quintillus, 1 type.

Fragments of Roman pottery found at Badnam's Creek in 1887, when the Netley and Fareham Railway was being made, are also preserved in the Hartley Museum. Some time previous to this, coins of Victorinus, Tetricus, Postumus, Carausius and Claudius II. were found at Sholing, and subsequently presented to the Hartley Institution by the executors of the late Rev. Edmund Kell. Roman coins were also found in Westwood about 1820, and included many examples of Gallienus, and a few coins of Salonina, Valerius, Claudius II., Aurelius and Quintillus. These discoveries show that the Romans had settlements of some kind in this parish.

The ancient extent of Hound was probably greater than its modern limits. Before it became a parish, it was a district, different in some respects from the other parts of the country round Southampton, for in the settlement of the sixth century, after the conquest of what is now Hampshire by the Saxons and their allies the Jutes, the Saxons certainly occupied Southampton and the valley of the Itchen northwards, while the Jutes had the Isle of Wight and part of the mainland opposite assigned to them. There is historical evidence that part of Hound at least was included within the lands occupied by the Hampshire Jutes, so that Itchen Ferry perhaps was the westward limit of the Jutish settlement. If so, ancient Hound must have extended from the Hamble to the Itchen, and included all the country between these two rivers.

Notwithstanding the change which took place in Norman time, during which Hamble and Burseldon were apparently severed from Hound, the ancient parish is still bounded by the Hamble on the east, and part of it extends to Itchen village on the west.

In considering what was the ancient extent of Hound, therefore, we are assisted by its modern topography. Until about two years ago parts of it lay to the north, west, and south of Burseldon, and parts of it lay between the east and west parts of St. Mary Extra. Hamble is only a small parish between Hound and the water. Between Hamble and Burseldon is one of the tythings of Hound called Satchell, and to the north of

Burlesdon Bridge there was until quite recently the outlying part of Hound known as Brixden farm, Upton farm and Freehills. A chapel at Brixenden is mentioned as early as the time of King Stephen. The old road to Itchen ferry between Pear Tree vicarage and Woolston Railway station was a Hound parish road. This circumstance cannot, I think, be satisfactorily explained except on one or both of the following suppositions :—(1) That the original settlement of Hound formerly extended from the Hamble to the Itchen, or (2) That what afterwards became known as S. Mary Extra was a settlement of another kind, perhaps a later one of Norsemen, as the name, Olvestune, for Woolston, seems to imply, and having some people of Jutish descent in it as an outlying part of Hound.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells us that the Jutes occupied Kent and the Isle of Wight, and that there was a race among the West Saxons on the mainland called the race of Jutes. As this Chronicle was compiled at Winchester in the time of King Alfred, it is clear that the Jutes on the mainland of Hampshire must have been recognised as a distinct race in the time of that king. Bede gives us a little more information of special interest to this parish of Hound. He says that "the River Hamble flows from the land of the Jutes." This is evidence that the Jutes were settled on both sides of it, and not only on the east of it towards the Titchfield river, which we know flowed from a Jutish province, so that some of the Jutes must have lived in Hound. That Hound was one of these settlements is indicated also by the way in which it is mentioned in Domesday Book. Part of the parish is referred to under Leteley, or Netley, and part under the name of Hune. This part, Hune, is mentioned incidentally under Warnford, in connection with which it is stated that three hides and four acres of land in Hune formerly belonged to Meonstoke Hundred, although it was taxed in the Hundred of Mansbridge. Meonstoke was a Jutish Hundred. In this way, the Domesday record, which is itself more than 800 years old, refers to an arrangement which was ancient even at the time of the Norman Survey, viz., that part of Hound at least belonged at one time to the Jutish Hundred of Meonstoke.

We must remember that in their origin hundreds were not entirely territorial divisions, but also tribal divisions, so that people of the same race, or tribal connections, were included in the same hundreds, although they lived in detached parts of them. We have thus in the history of this parish of Hound, an example in ancient time of the way in which race distinctions were respected, in the same way as they are in certain parts of the British Empire at the present day. The Domesday record also tells us that it was Hugh de Port, the chief Hampshire baron, who held Warnford, and the outlying land belonging to that manor in Hound. The extent of the manor of Warnford is stated, including the land in Hound. It is an interesting historical circumstance that Hugh de Port's successors in the barony of Basing were the superior lords of part of the land in Hound parish several centuries later.

At the time of the Norman Survey Netley as a separate manor was held by Richard Pungiant, who was apparently a Norman knight. This manor is that now known as Old Netley. It is entered in Domesday Book under the name of Latelie. In the time of Edward the Confessor it had been held by a thane named Alward, who was free to move, if he so wished. The extent of the land is stated, and the number of the inferior tenants. It is also stated that the manor had a little church (*ecclesiola*), which was probably a Saxon building. This chapel has long since disappeared, and as Hound and Netley have been closely connected as one manor since the 13th century, both names being used for the manor, it is not unlikely that the present church of Hound took the place of the chapel mentioned in Domesday Book under the name of Netley.

As regards the part of the parish which belonged to Meonstoke the question naturally arises—can this part of Hound be identified? There is, I think, evidence to show that it was the outlying part bordering the Hamble river, lying to the north of the village of Burseldon and west of Burseldon common. It was Upton Farm and the land around it. Anyone who will visit this part of Hound will see that it comprises some of the most fertile land in the parish, if not the best. Oak timber grows well upon it, while to the west and north lie

the sandy heaths upon which nothing but heath and fir trees can grow. Among the manors belonging to Robert de St. John, who died in 1266, and who was the successor of Hugh de Port, was one called Hupton in the Hundred of Meonstoke, which was at that time held by William de Arundel of Robert de St. John, lord of Basing, by the military tenure of one knight's fee. There is no Upton in the Hundred of Meonstoke except this outlying part of Hound, which at one time was included in it. The same holding is mentioned in the 6 Edward I. as Hone, and was then held feudally by John de Mohun. It is included also under the name of Honne among the fiefs of Hugh de St. John, who died in the 11 Edward III., and it is also included under the name of Homme among the fiefs of Edmund de St. John, who died 21 Edward III. This part of Hound was held, therefore, by military tenure, and has a history of its own dating back to a remote period.

One of the earliest records concerning Hound Church is that of the year 1290, known as the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, which contains a reference to it. Hound Church, with its chapel, was assessed in 1290 at £6 13s. od., and paid a tenth of that amount as tax, viz., 13s. 4d. There can be little doubt that the chapel referred to was that at Burseldon, which was attached to this church until 1849. The parish is entered in the Taxatio under the name Homme, a variation in the spelling which occurs in other old documents. Hound Church and its chapel are also mentioned in the episcopal register of Bishop Beaufort in 1411, and in the registers of other bishops.

In the 15th Edward III., about 1341, the Inquisitiones nonarum were held for the purpose of levying the tax of the ninth on the clergy on account of the French war, and the revenues of this church of Hound are mentioned in the record of this tax. It is entered under the name Houne, as part of the Deanery of Southampton. The jurors were named Free, Palmer, Buck, and Muleward, and Freehills, Palmers, and Butlocks are still place-names in the parish. They declared that the assessment of the church revenue made in 1290 was too high, and that the ninth in 1341 did not amount to the value of the tenth or tithes as assessed fifty years previously. The jury said the church had two messuages and one virgate

of land (about 30 acres), with appurtenances, worth 10s. annually. They declared that the tithes of sheaves, wool, and lambs were worth 68s. 8d. annually, that the small tithes with oblations and mortuaries amounted to 34s. annually. These small tithes are said to have been those on milk, hay, fish, and salt, and amounted to 13s. The oblations or offerings on certain days with wax amounted to 10s., and the tithes of gardens, orchards, and pigs with the mortuaries came to 11s. Such were the revenues of this church of Hound in 1341. Four centuries later the revenue had greatly increased, for when the tithes were commuted in 1839, the rectorial tithes assigned to Winchester College amounted to £345 per annum, and the vicarial tithes, &c., amounted to £172 per annum.

We can look back on some of the conditions of life which prevailed in the neighbourhood of Hound early in the 14th century with certainty. There were foreign monks, who exercised an important influence, located at Hamble Priory, which was a branch of the Norman Abbey of Tyrone, and had been given to it in the time of our Norman kings. Part of their priory church still remains. These monks had ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Burseldon, the chapel of which, under the name of Brixenden, is mentioned as belonging to them as early as the time of Bishop Henry de Blois, brother of King Stephen. Hound, Hamble and Burseldon were alike under the ecclesiastical patronage of that priory. The church of Hound is said to have been built by the Priory of Hamble in 1230, nine years before the foundation of Netley Abbey.

The old manor of Netley and the manor of Hound were controlled by the Abbey of Netley, founded in 1239, and the tenants of Hound and Netley owed suit and service to the manor court held by the abbot. They had to grind their corn at their lord's mill, which there is evidence to show was the Hound windmill. The abbot regulated the assize of bread and beer, and he had extensive judicial power, including the right to take thieves beyond the boundaries of his manors, and the privilege of a gallows.

Another religious house, the College of S. Elizabeth at Winchester, for secular priests, established in 1301, held the manor of Botley. The same College also held Sholing, which

appears to have been at that time made a manor separate from Hound, although the Abbot of Netley also had some property in it. All these ecclesiastical manors had their extensive commons, the remains of which, under the names of Sholing Common, Netley Common and Burseldon Common, may be seen at the present day.

Burseldon and Hound had Salterns, where sea water was evaporated and salt made during the summer months. The mounds which still remain on the salt-marshes on the western side of the river Hamble, are relics of these medieval salt works. The monks of Hamble, who were until 1391 the ecclesiastical patrons of Hound Church, apparently gave Hamble its character as a fishing place, which it has never since lost. These monks had oyster beds there, and in return for certain yearly gifts from S. Swithun's Priory, they had to send to Winchester every year 20,000 oysters in Lent. Hound had its market, a privilege granted to it in 1250 by Henry III. for the benefit of Netley Abbey.

The Abbey tenants in Hound and Satchell also had freedom from toll in Southampton. In the year 1290 a dispute arose between the Abbot and the bailiffs of Southampton on this matter. The bailiffs claimed toll when these tenants of the Abbey came into Southampton to buy or sell. The Abbot claimed that by his charter granted by Henry III. and confirmed by Edward I. his men of Hound and Satchell were free of toll. A compromise was made, by which the Abbot and his tenants were at liberty to buy and sell in Southampton whatever they required for their necessities free of toll, but not to be free if they bought and sold as merchants.

Among other antiquities of the parish are some remains of its early system of agriculture, that may be seen in the large earthen banks along the sides of some of the old roads, which led through the cultivated fields to the great heath, where the commoners had grazing rights, and the right of cutting turf and furze for fuel. The common rights which the inhabitants acquired over their extensive heath and other common lands, arose through custom from time immemorial, when the heath and woods were perhaps part of the King's forest of Bere. This forest as late as the 13th century extended from

the eastward to the boundaries of Southampton, as is shown by an inquisition taken and made in the 38 Henry III, by 24 lawful men, before Sir Enaldus de Bosco, the King's Justice of the Forest, a copy of which is preserved among the municipal archives of Southampton. It is uncertain whether the Hound commoners acquired their privileges originally from forest privileges, like the New Forest Commoners, but it is certain that they possessed similar rights, not only for grazing, but for a supply of wood for making their carts and implements, for fences, for house repair, and for fuel. These privileges were safeguarded to the tenants of Hound by the Manor Court, which, in 1536, brought in to the Abbot of Netley £1 annually in fees. He also received £6 a year from the Hound tenants, and £2 a year from the Hound windmill.

A copy of the Presentment of the Jury and Homage at the Court Baron of Thomas Dummer, Esq., for the Manor of Hound in the year 1767, is preserved in the Hartley Institution. From this we learn that these common woodland rights were claimed in 1767 as cart boot, plough boot, rail boot, and all other boots, and the jury presented that they are to be granted by the Lord of the Manor, at his expense, and if not assigned at fourteen days' notice to him, or his woodyer, the tenants are to take the wood without assignment. These rights for a supply of wood for all the purposes enumerated, were valuable privileges, and must have come down from a great antiquity, when the woodlands were probably part of a forest, during the Saxon period, or were uncleared areas, between this and the adjacent manors.

The presentment to which I have referred contains one clause which is interesting, as stating an ancient right, and its limitation, viz., that the Grange Farm hath a right for "three Hundred Sheep upon the great Heath only." The Grange Farm was the Abbey Farm, and this presentment probably shows what the privileges of the Abbey in this respect were on the great heath of this manor. As far as I know, the old field named Prior's Hill, in Hound, is all that remains to remind us of its former connection with the Prior of Hamble, except the connection of Hound church with Winchester College, which began, I believe, about 500 years ago, when

Bishop William of Wickham purchased Hamble Priory and all that belonged to it from the Norman Abbey of Tirone, to which it had belonged for about two centuries, and gave it to his new college at Winchester.

The historical circumstances of the time which led to this purchase are interesting. There was an Abbey of the Cistercian order at Netley, and there was a Priory of the Cistercian order as a branch of the Abbey of Tirone at Hamble, the monks of which were foreigners, or at least controlled by a foreign abbey. The monks at Hamble were only the administrators of their Priory, the property being all vested in the foreign abbey. The political feeling of the time was against the continuance of the alien priories belonging to foreign abbeys. Some of these abbeys had already lost their English possessions. Great changes, both political and ecclesiastical, had come over England since the time of the Norman kings, when these alien priories had been established. Tirone Abbey sold what it could no longer retain, and in this way Hamble Priory passed to Winchester by agreement and purchase and with it went the patronage of this church.
