

my court, at Winchester, in the treasury before Roger, bishop of Salisbury, and Robert, bishop of Lincoln, and Richard, bishop of London, and William of Courcy, and Adam of Port-en-Bessin, and Thurstan the chaplain, and Walter of Gloucester, and Herbert the chamberlain, and William "d'Oilly" and Geoffrey, son of Herbert, and William of Anisy, and Ralph Basset, and Geoffrey of Manneville, and Geoffrey Ridel and Walter, archdeacon of Oxford, proved by the Book of the Treasury¹ that Lewknor, his manor, owes no duties whatever to the hundred of "Peritune". All its obligations lie in the hundred of Lewknor in which hundred the church of Abingdon holds 17 hides.

202. account of the Domesday inquisition by an annalist of Worcester early in the twelfth century

(F. Liebermann, *Ungedruckte Anglo-normannische Geschichtsquellen* (1879), p. 21)

A.D. 1086. William, king of the English, sent through all the provinces of England, and caused it to be inquired how many hides were held in the whole of England, and how much the king had in lands and cattle and livestock in each province, and what customary dues each year. This he caused to be done in respect of the lands and dues both of all churches and of all his barons. He inquired what these were worth, and how much they then rendered, and how much they were able to render in the time of King Edward. And so thoroughly was all this carried out that there did not remain in the whole of England a single hide or a virgate of land or an ox or a cow or a pig which was not written in that return.² And all the writings of all these things were brought back to the king. And the king ordered that all should be written in one volume, and that that volume should be placed in his treasury at Winchester and kept there.³

203. account of the Domesday inquisition by "Florence of Worcester" (before 1118)

(*Chronicon ex Chronicis*, ed. B. Thorpe (1848), II, 18)

King William caused all England to be surveyed:⁴ how much each of his barons possessed; and how many enfeoffed knights; and how many ploughs, villeins, animals, and livestock, each one possessed in all his kingdom from the greatest to the least; and what dues each estate was able to render. And as a consequence the land was vexed with much violence.

¹ per Librum de Thesauro disratiocinavit

² in breviatione illa

³ Omnesque scripture omnium harum rerum representate sunt regi. Qui precepit ut omnes scriberentur in uno volumen et poneretur volumen illud in thesauro suo Wintonie et servaretur ibi.

⁴ fecit describi omnem Angliam

204. account of the Domesday inquisition by Henry of Huntingdon (before 1129)

(Henry of Huntingdon, *Historia Anglorum*, ed. T. Arnold (1879), p. 211)

This most powerful king sent his justices through every shire, that is to say, every province of England, and caused an inquiry to be made by sworn inquest how many hides (that is to say, ploughlands each sufficient for one plough in the year) there were in each village, and what livestock. He also made inquiry what each city, castle, township, village, marsh and wood was wont to render each year. All these writings in records¹ were brought to the king, and they are preserved in the treasury to this day.

(ii) DOMESDAY BOOK (1086)

205. The survey of Huntingdonshire in Domesday Book

The account of Huntingdonshire occupies folios 203-8 in *Domesday Book*, I (Record Commission, 1783). These passages are translated by F. M. Stenton in *Victoria County History: Huntingdonshire*, I (1926), 337-55.

The survey, though comparatively short, illustrates very well the main features of Domesday Book: note the account of the borough, and the arrangement of the land of the shire under the holdings of the tenants-in-chief. The appendix of "claims" is especially important. The general purposes of the inquisition (see above, pp. 858 f.) explain the form, and a typical entry in the Huntingdonshire survey contains these five elements.

1. The manor is assessed at so many hides to the geld: here the hide is a unit of assessment, and not an agrarian measure. For example, in Bottlebridge the king "had 5 hides assessed to the geld": this gives no information about the acreage of Bottlebridge, but states that when geld is levied on the shire Bottlebridge pays according to an assessment of 5 hides. Note the prevalence of the 5-hide unit; very often scattered entries relating to one village add up to this unit or its multiples.

2. A statement that there is land for so many ploughs: the unit is the amount of arable capable of being ploughed each year by a team of 8 oxen.

3. The number of ploughs on the demesne of the manor; and the number possessed by the peasantry, classified by their grades as freemen, sokemen, villeins, bordars, slaves.

4. Miscellaneous information relating to pasture, meadows, churches, pannage for swine etc.

5. The value of the manor under Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror: in 1066 and 1086.

Each manor must be studied individually, and these points, especially 1 and 2, are an essential preliminary to understanding the text. Stenton, *op. cit.*, should also be consulted.

Huntingdonshire

In the borough of Huntingdon there are 4 quarters.

In 2 quarters there were *T.R.E.*,² and are now, 116 burgesses rendering all customs and the king's geld, and under them there are 100 bordars who help them to pay the geld. Of these burgesses St Benedict of Ramsey had 10 with sake and soke and every custom except that they paid geld *T.R.E.* Eustace took them away wrongfully from the abbey and they are, with the others, in the king's hand. Ulf Fenisc had 18 burgesses, now Gilbert of Ghent has them with sake and soke except for the king's geld.

¹ Haec omnia in cartis scripta

² see above, p. 911

The abbot of Ely has 1 toft with sake and soke except for the king's geld.

The bishop of Lincoln had in the site of the castle a messuage with sake and soke which has now disappeared.

Earl Siward had a messuage with a house with sake and soke, quit from all custom, which the Countess Judith has now.

In the site of the castle there were 20 messuages assessed to all customs, and rendering yearly 16 shillings and 8 pence to the king's "farm". These do not exist now.

In addition to these, there were and are 60 waste messuages within these quarters. These gave and give their customs. And in addition to these there are 8 waste messuages which *T.R.E.* were fully occupied. These gave all customs.

In the other 2 quarters there were and are 140 burgesses, less half a house, assessed to all customs and the king's geld, and these had 80 haws for which they gave and give all customs. Of these St Benedict of Ramsey had 22 burgesses *T.R.E.* Two of these were quit of all customs, and 30 rendered 10 pence yearly each. All other customs belonged to the abbot, apart from the king's geld.

In these quarters Aluric the sheriff *T.R.E.* had 1 messuage which King William afterwards granted to his wife and sons. Eustace has it now, and the poor man, with his mother, is claiming it. In these 2 quarters there were and are 44 waste messuages which gave and give their customs. And in these 2 quarters Borred and Turchil *T.R.E.* had 1 church with 2 hides of land and 22 burgesses with houses belonging to the same church with sake and soke; Eustace has all this now. Wherefore these men claim the king's mercy; nevertheless these 22 burgesses give every custom to the king.

Geoffrey the bishop has 1 church and 1 house from the aforesaid which Eustace took away from St Benedict, and the same saint is still claiming them.

In this borough Gos and Hunef had 16 houses *T.R.E.* with sake and soke and toll and team. The Countess Judith has them now.

The borough of Huntingdon used to defend itself towards the king's geld for 50 hides as the fourth part of Hurstingstone hundred, but now it does not so pay geld in that hundred, after the king set a geld of money on the borough. From this whole borough 10 pounds came out *T.R.E.* by way of "Land-gable" of which the earl had the third part, and the king two-thirds. Of this rent 16 shillings and 8 pence, divided between the earl and the king, now remain upon 20 messuages where the castle is. In addition to these payments the king had 20 pounds and the earl 10 pounds from the "farm" of the borough more or less according as each could make disposition of his part. One mill rendered 40 shillings to the king and 20 shillings to the earl. To this borough there belong 2 ploughlands and 40 acres of land and 10 acres of meadow, of which the king with two parts, and the earl with the third part, divide the rent. The burgesses cultivate this land and take it on lease through the servants of the king and the earl. Within the aforesaid rent there are 3 fishermen rendering 3 shillings. In this borough there were 3 moneyers paying

40 shillings between the king and the earl, but now they are not there. *T.R.E.* it rendered 30 pounds; now the same.

In Hurstingstone hundred demesne ploughlands are quit of the king's geld. Villeins and sokemen pay geld according to the hides written in the return, apart from Broughton where the abbot of Ramsey pays geld for 1 hide with the others.

Here are noted those holding lands in Huntingdonshire

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. King William | 16. Swein of Essex |
| 2. The bishop of Lincoln | 17. Roger of Ivry |
| 3. The bishop of Coutances | 18. Arnulf of Hesdins |
| 4. The abbey of Ely | 19. Eustace the sheriff |
| 5. The abbey of Crowland | 20. The Countess Judith |
| 6. The abbey of Ramsey | 21. Gilbert of Ghent |
| 7. The abbey of Thorney | 22. Aubrey "de Vere" |
| 8. The abbey of Peterborough | 23. William, son of Ansculf |
| 9. Count Eustace | 24. Rannulf, the brother of Ilger |
| 10. The count of Eu | 25. Robert Fafiton |
| 11. Earl Hugh | 26. William "Ingania" |
| 12. Walter Giffard | 27. Ralph, son of Osmund |
| 13. William of Warenne | 28. Rohais, the wife of Richard |
| 14. Hugh of Bolbec | 29. The king's thegns |
| 15. Eudo, son of Hubert | |

1. The land of the king

Hurstingstone hundred

A manor. In Hartford King Edward had 15 hides assessed to the geld. There is land for 17 ploughs. Rannulf the brother of Ilger keeps it now. There are 4 ploughs now on the demesne; and 30 villeins and 3 bordars have 8 ploughs. There is a priest; 2 churches; 2 mills rendering 4 pounds; and 40 acres of meadow. Woodland for pannage, 1 league in length and half a league in breadth. *T.R.E.* it was worth 24 pounds; now 15 pounds.

Normancross hundred

A manor. In Bottlebridge King Edward had 5 hides assessed to the geld. There is land for 8 ploughs. The king has 1 plough now on the demesne; and 15 villeins have 5 ploughs. There is a priest and a church; 60 acres of meadow and 12 acres of woodland for pannage in Northamptonshire. *T.R.E.* it was worth 100 shillings; now 8 pounds. Rannulf keeps it.

In this manor belonging to the king, and in other manors, the enclosure of the abbot of Thorney is doing harm to 300 acres of meadow.

In Stilton the king's sokemen of Normancross have 3 virgates of land