

The "Cantoche" of Domesday (1086).

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THE question is often asked, Where was the original settlement known in Domesday (1086) as "Cantoche" or Quantock. It is easy enough to place the Domesday Cantocheheved or Quantockshead, whether East or West, as the name explains itself. Northwards, where the ridge of the Quantock hills slowly subsides into the waters of the Severn sea lie East Quantockshead and West Quantockshead, the latter place being better known as "St. Audries," from the name of the patron saint of the church, St. Ethelreda.

Nor is it difficult to say where the Cantuctune of King Alfred's will (878) and the Cantoctune (Canteton or Candetone) of Domesday lay. The Exon. Domesday preserve the form *Cantoctune* or *Cantocton*, and, undoubtedly, the only place it can be in the "Terra Regis" of Domesday is *Cannington*, the well-known "ton" down by the banks of the river Parret, and close to Comwich landing-place.

Clearly "Cantoche" or "Cantok" must be somewhere else in the picturesque region known as the "land of Quantock." Let us see where it is catalogued in Domesday. It lay among the possessions of Alured de Hispania, who held, amongst other Quantock manors, Stowey, Spaxton, Merridge, Radlet, Plainsfield, and Marsh Mills, etc., and it is enumerated just after Merridge. In Domesday, coterminous manors naturally follow one another in order, and so we might look for Cantoche somewhere near Merridge.

Collinson is uncertain about its position, and hazards a guess that this "Cantoche" was in Crowcombe parish (vol. iii, p. 513), somewhere on the south-east. For a long time I thought it might have been a farm now known as "Little Quantock" in Crowcombe parish. But from the Domesday account it was out of its place here altogether. Crowcombe parish was given at Domesday to a certain "Robert," and formed part of the great "Fee of Mortain" held by Robert de Mortain, the Conqueror's half-brother, who held the castle of Montacute.

Moreover, the "Cantoche" of Domesday was found afterwards to follow the descendants of Alured de Hispania, who had Spaxton and Merridge.

There is sufficient proof to show that an *old* "Cantoche" was really in Spaxton parish, the property of this Alured de Hispania. In the Spaxton tithe map there is a Quantock Farm of 92a. 2r. 13p., the property of Nicholas Broadmead, with the following suggestive place-names: *Part of Quantock Close* (860), 23a. 3r. 18p.; *Quantock Barn and Barton* (863), 0a. 3r. 12p.; *Part of Quantock Wood* (861), 11a. 0r. 21p.; *Park Wood* (865), 2a. 0r. 14p.; *Part of (Quantock) Park*, 33a. 3r. 16p., etc.

In Spaxton Church itself on the north side of the middle row of seats there is an allotment of seats for *Quantock Farm*, which would prove the ancient character of this claim.

The north side of the middle row—the women's seats.

Mr. Bowyer.

The Chamber of Bristol for

George Grow.

Wrexmore.

Nicholas Mills.

Wm. Powell for Bonston Wood.

Quantock Farm.

Wm. Yorke.

Quantock Farm. Part of Domain
of Enmore.

In 1390 (Richard II) a certain William Tailleir has property in Stoke Gomer, Dunster, and Carhampton, also "*Lytel Cantoc in Parochia de Enmere quinque marcas redditus.*"

At present there is no distinguishable boundary between Quantock Barn and Enmore, but the line between Spaxton and Enmore used to run across the park to the Broomfield border, marked out by the old pack road just by Quantock Barn and to the S.E. of it.

DOMESDAY ACCOUNT OF CANTOCHE.

Terra Aluredi de Hispania.

"Robertus tenet de Aluredo Cantoche. Alwi tenebat tempore Edwardi Regis et geldabat pro una virgata terræ. Terra est 1 caruca et dimidium. Has habent ibi 3 villani et 8 acra silvæ minutæ Quando recepit valebat 20 solidos. Modo 25 solidos."

Translated. "Robert holds Cantoche of Alfred of Spain. Alwi used to hold it in the time of King Edward the Confessor, and paid danegeld for one virgate (40 acres) of land. The land is one ploughland and a half. Three villani hold these, and there are eight acres of small wood (coppice and firewood). When Robert received Cantoche (at the Conquest, 1066) it was worth 20 shillings, now (in 1086, time of Survey, 20 years after the Conquest) it is worth 25 shillings."

Unlike some of the manors in the neighbourhood which were wasted by Harold's sons, who attacked this part of Somerset from Ireland, *Cantoche* had prospered since the Conquest.

N.B.—According to the Glastonbury standard a virgate was 40 acres. A furlong 10 acres; a virgate 40 acres; a hide 160 acres; a knight's fee 840 acres.—From Longleat Cartulary: Canon Jackson.

In another place there is an allusion to Brumfeld (Broomfield) juxta Cantok. Things are altered now, for no one would think of defining Broomfield as near Quantock Farm in Spaxton parish.

Broomfield was conspicuous in old days as being king's property. There was the well-known Castellum of Roborough in it which, according to the Hundred Rolls, owed suit and service to Somerton as part of "Somerton Forinsecus (*i.e.* Somerton outside); there was a *Porcheria* there; there was also Oggeshale or Ogsolse, which, according to the Hundred Rolls, was in Andredsfield Hundred, and was part of outside Somerton. Here, therefore, was a small outstanding nucleus of royal Saxon habitations attached to Somerton—perhaps for sporting or forest purposes—and all of them close to the original Domesday Cantoche.

It may be mentioned that the earliest Saxon mention of the place-name Cantoc or Quantock (as at present known), occurs in Kentwine's well-known charter (c. 682), by which he gave what is known as West Monkton to Glastonbury Abbey. It is stated that the *mansiones* or places of abode then given were "*juxta famosam silvam Cantuc udu*," *i.e.* near the famous wood of Quantock.

The *Quantock Wood* of Quantock Farm, in Spaxton parish, may be a survival of this ancient "*Cantuc udu*" in name if not in reality. For the "*silva*" is gone. I know of no other wood on the Quantocks called "Quantock Wood."

Quantock Farm, now known as the meeting-place occasionally of the Devon and Somerset staghounds, and within recent times a cultivated farm, is a completely modern farm. It really lies within the "Tything of Wick" (Stoke Courcy parish), and was part of a Domesday additamentum given in 1086 to the Barony of Stoke Courcy. There is no old association here; no ancient tenement; no old world barton or farm site; no chapel or old ruin.

In West Monkton there is a farm called Quantock Farm still, but this place does not fall in with the manorial succession of the old Cantoche of Domesday, part of the land of Alured de Hispania. The site of this, most undoubtedly, is where I have placed it, *i.e.* on the borders of Enmore and Spaxton

parishes, not far from the ancient British trackway leading up the hill to Travellers' Rest. A close examination of the site of this place will show that it has been occupied and used for centuries.

The Quantock place-names may thus be located : *Cantocton* (also *Canteton* and *Candetone*), *i.e.* Cannington ; *Cantochehered* (two manors catalogued), East and West Quantockshead ; *Cantoche*, Quantock Farm in Spaxton ; *Cantucudu*, Quantock Wood, mostly gone, but the nucleus of the "*Famosa Silva*" of Kentwine's charter, to be looked for along slopes of Halswell, in Broomfield parish, and not far from Roborough Camp, and the old parts of "*Somerton Forinsecus*," which were still connected with Somerton in the reign of Edward I.

We know that in the reign of King John the hill and waste of Quantock were in the Royal possession. There was a notable hill in Broomfield called Kingshill—still so known and so called. King John, in a charter dated 17 July, 1204, gave to the Priory of Taunton and to the Augustinian Canons there serving God, the pasture and the waste of Kingeshull, "from Wulfeldesont as far as Hunteneswell" (Hunting well), which "customarily paid to our Farm of Sumerton sixteen pence p.a., to be held by the same canons of us and our heirs in free and perpetual alms."

The names of "Kingshill" and "Prior's Down" still exist. (*Proceedings*, Som. Arch. Soc., Vol. IX, p. 9.)

This passage points out the old connection of Broomfield and the neighbourhood with Somerton, the former capital of Somerset and favoured residence of the Saxon kings.

Under "*Somerton Forinsecus*" (Hundred Rolls) we have seen that Canntok was once regarded as a forest, and this may explain its connection with Somerton.

In the "*Testa de Neville*" the above gift of King John is said to be "*Pastura super Cantok*"—perhaps above the *Domesday Cantoche*, as the description suits it nearly enough.

The Prior of Taunton had also common of pasture in

Oggesole (*Proceedings*, Som. Arch. Soc., Vol. IX, p. 10), which also was a member of "Somerton Forinsecus," as hinted above.

All the above facts, and especially the fact that in Saxon times so many membra of "Somerton Forinsecus" were found in Broomfield and the neighbourhood of the ancient Roborough, help to confirm the theory that here also was the original Cantoche or Quantock hill settlement of Domesday.