

ROUNDHAY AND THE DOMESDAY SURVEY OF 1086.

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In the winter of 1070 King William I celebrated Christmas in the ruins of York. This was during his vengeful campaign often called 'the Harrowing of the North' where he developed his own cruel brand of 'ethnic cleansing'. Following the rebellion by the northern Earls of Northumbria and Mercia, Morcar and Edwin, with help from Denmark, most of the North Riding and much of the East and West ridings were depopulated. Houses, cattle and crops were destroyed and the population killed or driven off their farms to face starvation. Later accounts tell us that; 'Between York and Durham he left no house standing and no human beings alive that his horsemen could search out'. Another embittered chronicler wrote; 'They make a wilderness and call it peace'. The Scandinavian influence on the social structure of the region was lost forever, to be replaced by the French system of strictly territorial feudalism.

After the Norman conquest of 1066, all the land of England became the property of the King. He delegated some of his powers to his Norman barons, dividing land between them in return for both money and military service. These powerful lords often held large estates consisting of hundreds of manors. They retained some in demesne; that is under their own administration for their own use; subdividing the rest between lesser lords and so on until minor lords held only one manor in sub-tenancy. These measures were part of the new military arrangements established by the Norman overlords.

The Domesday Book, so called because its decisions were considered to be as Final as the last judgement (or doomsday), was a survey ordered in 1086 by the King, recording all the land of England.

It was a record of who occupied the land before the Norman conquest and the value at that time, together with the name of the new person now holding it on behalf of the King and its value at the time of the survey.

The local economy had still only partially recovered 15 years after the King's punitive expedition. We can estimate the damage to the communities in this area by looking at the loss in value of each local manor between the conquest and 1086.

The Roundhay enclosure was not included in the survey of 1086. The boundaries of this ancient hunting park can only be determined by the layout of the five manors which surrounded it.

To the north was the manor of Thorner, containing Shadwell which was recorded separately.

In the east was Wheatcroft (in latin Watercroft). Its location roughly coinciding with Roundhay Grange and part of present day Seacroft. It was divided from Thorner by a narrow strip of land belonging to the extensive Manor of Barwick in Elmet. In the survey, Wheatcroft is linked with Birkby (in latin Bretebi), both are 'Berewicks or Sokelands' of Thorner (i.e. lands attached to a central manor for payment of dues and for judicial purposes).

To the south east the manor of Seacroft bordered the Roundhay enclosure, and in the south and south west was Potternewton which included the settlements of Gipton and Coldcotes.

In the West was (Chapel) Allerton which bordered both the enclosure and Shadwell.

Much of the land in the area passed into the hands of the powerful Norman baron, Ilbert de Lacy. Ilbert took his name from the village

of Lassy near Vire. He emerged in 1067 as 'liegeman' to Odo of Bayeux, the half brother of King William. When Odo, too rebelled, Ilbert, his liegeman, was further rewarded for remaining loyal to King William, Ilbert eventually held over 200 manors in Yorkshire, including the 500 square miles which made up the Honour of Pontefract, also extensive lands in Lincolnshire and the Midlands.

The entries in the Domesday Book, for the lands surrounding Roundhay, are as follows:-

Thorner:-

'In Thorner (Latin = Tornoure) 4 manors, Ulfketill, Ulfr, Bergulfr and Wulfstan had 8 carucates taxable; 4 ploughs possible there. Now Ilbert has there 2 Villages and 1 smallholder with 2 ploughs. Woodlands pasturable, 1/2 league long and of same width. Value in 1065, £4; now, -10s.'

Shadwell:-

The entry for Shadwell is included in the king's manors 'Manor. In Shadwell (Latin = Scadeuuelle), Kentill, 6 carucates taxable. Land for 3 ploughs. -40s.'

Wheatcroft:-

'In Birkby (Bretebi) and Wheatcroft (Watecroft) Alweard had 2 carucates taxable; 1 plough possible there. Now Robert has it from Ilbert. Waste. Value before 1065, -10s'.

(Robert = Robert de Somerville held it for Ilbert; Alweard = in Norse Harvarthr)

Seacroft:-

'Odi, Nivelung, Wolfmaer. Steinulfrand Ragnaldrhad 7 carucates of land taxable; 4 ploughs possible. Now Robert has (it) from Ilbert. Waste.

Also woodland pasture, 4 furlongs long. 3 wide. Value before 1065-£4 now -20p.'

Gipton:-

'In Gipton 1 carucate belongs to the jurisdiction of Kippax and

Ledston, (Previously owned by Earl Edwin). Also land properly called Barwick (in Elmet).'

'In Gipton and Colton, Gospatric had 4-1/2 carucates of land taxable; 3 ploughs possible there. Now Ilbert has(it). Waste. A church is there. Also woodland pasture, 1/2 league long and 1/2 wide.

Value before 1065, -40s now -2s.'

Chapel Allerton:-

'In (Chapel) Allerton (Latin = Alretuna), Gluniairn had 6 carucates of land taxable; 3 ploughs possible. Now Ilbert has (it). Waste. Value before 1065, -40s. Woodland pasture, 1 league long and 1/2 league wide.'

(Carucate = Danish equivalent of a Hide. The land ploughed by eight oxen - varied locally and like the Hide could be reassessed from time to time. Possibly = 80- 140 acres; League = Gaulish measurement of distance. Approx. 3 miles).

The manors, now held by Ilbert de Lacy, surrounding the Roundhay enclosure, seem to have suffered badly as a result of the devastation following William's punitive expedition.

To summarize:-

Thorner was worth £4 now worth -10s; Wheatcroft plus Birkby was worth 10s now waste; Seacroft was worth £4 now worth -20p; Gipton was worth 40s now worth -2s; Chapel Allerton was worth 40s now waste. Shadwell, a King's manor, value unchanged at -40s

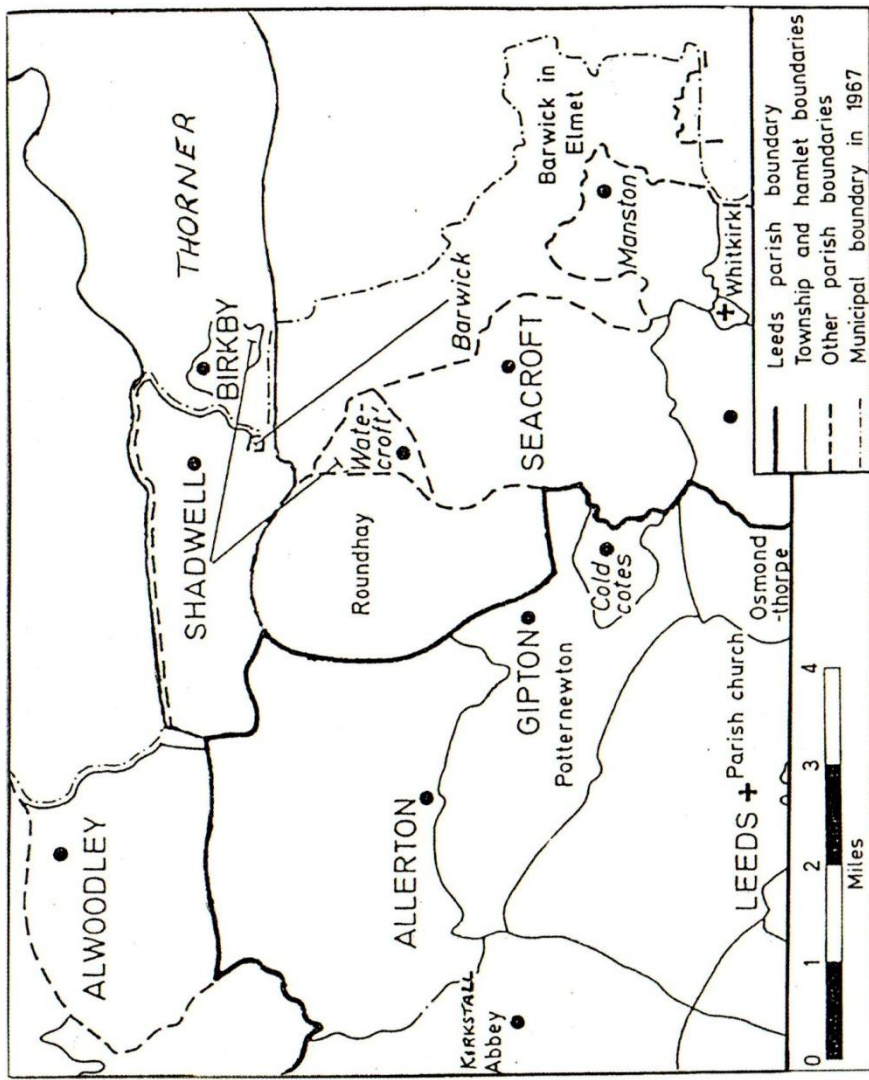
The manors of Barwick in Elmet and Leeds, however, seem to have remained unwasted. The manor of Leeds, actually, seems to have increased in value from £6 to £7. G R Jones, in his book, 'Leeds and its Region', argues that, perhaps, Leeds did not escape devastation, but as an important river crossing, was later

built up at the expense of the surrounding area for military and administrative convenience.

Ilbert's military base at Pontefract had been created deliberately to cover all land routes to the north and to control the remaining local population. The king probably kept some of the local manors directly under his own control to curb Ilbert's expansion. The manors of Shadwell, Harwood, East Keswick, Wike, Bardsey and Wothersome, were King's manors.

In 1293 Henry de Lacy's only remaining child and heiress, Alice, who later also inherited her grandmother's estates which included Leeds, Gipton and Allerton was married to Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, the nephew of King Edward 1. On the death of Henry de Lacy in 1311 his lands, including The Honour of Pontefract, became part of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The complex and often turbulent history of the Lancastrian inheritance and the ownership of Roundhay Park and surrounding Manors are told briefly in part one of the 'Oak Leaves' books.



ALWOODLEY

SHADWELL

BIRKBY

THORNER

Roundhay

Watecroft

ALLERTON

KIRKSTALL
Abbey

GIPTON

Potternewton

COLD COTES

SEACROFT

Barwick

Barwick in
Elmet

Manston

Whitkirk

LEEDS + Parish church

Osmondthorpe

- Leeds parish boundary
- - - Township and hamlet boundaries
- · · Other parish boundaries
- · - · Municipal boundary in 1967

