

## FARLEY MOUNT.

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There are in Hampshire two classes of early earthworks in the form of mounds, viz., first those which, whether thrown up by the Saxons or not, were used by them as burh mounds, and secondly, those mounds concerning which there is no record or trace that they were used by the Saxons. Of this later kind is Farley Mount.

Of those which were used by the Saxons, the great mounds on which the keeps of Carisbrook and Christchurch Castles were built, and which still exist, and the great mound on which the keep of Southampton Castle was built are good examples.

It is an interesting consideration to inquire who were the ancient mound builders, and were there mound builders of different ages?

The evidence which Hampshire affords shows that there certainly were Celtic mound builders. Here on this watershed between dry upper valleys, which lower down become the sources of streams, is this remarkable mound known as Farley Mount. From its size it appears to be too large to have been constructed as an ordinary tumulus. It has a ring-shaped entrenchment around it, and its use, or degradation, in the early part of the 18th century as the burial place of a horse has not destroyed its unmistakable Celtic features.

I should be glad, if I could, to tell you which great chieftain, if any, of the Celtic race found his last resting place here. If it was designed to mark a burial place at all, we may conclude that he must have been a notable man indeed, over whose bones or ashes so noble a monument was reared.

Whether all these early mounds were burial places or not, we know that burial places were closely connected with sacred pagan sites, and that the reverence of ancestors was one of the earliest forms of primitive religion. Some of these early

Hampshire mounds must have been sites sacred to the Celtic people of this part of England, who certainly had these sacred mounds, which were known as the gods' mounds, the god being designated the chief of the mound. Those of you who are interested in this may read more about it in the researches of Professor Rhys partly bearing on this subject in his "Hibbert Lecture" on "The growth and origin of religion."

The Celts were Aryans who tilled the land, and the great Aryan family of mankind spread over a great part of Europe and Asia. There are many customs still prevailing among Aryan nations in India and other parts of Asia which are very similar to those which prevailed among the ancient Celts of the British Islands. In reading of the mounds or high places mentioned in ancient Hebrew history, we cannot but be forcibly reminded of the ancient mounds or high places of our own county, such as this, one of the most remarkable of the high places of Hampshire, which was thrown up by a people kindred in descent to the Aryan families of Asia, and, like many of them, actuated by the same religious sentiments as sun worshippers or worshippers of Baal, these terms, as is well known, being identical.

The pagan Aryan nations of the East, who were contemporary with the ancient Jewish people, worshipped Baal or the sun, had their sacred groves, broke vessels of pottery or other articles as a symbol of the departure of the spirit at death and burial, practised witchcraft, revered fire and fountains, held their assemblies for justice in the open air, and assembled on high places for purposes of their worship, astrology, or divination. We find traces of all these customs and others of primitive Aryan origin among the remains of the ancient Celtic people of Hampshire. We need not, indeed go out of our own county to find illustrations of many of the ancient customs of the east, but may discover them on such sites as this, one of the sacred places of the ancient Celts.

Farley Mount differs from some of the other ancient mounds of Hampshire in not having, apparently, been utilised by the Saxons. If the land around it had been more fertile and better able to produce corn, a larger population would probably have settled around it. Ancient mounds such as

this, although on no great eminence, were utilised at Corhampton, Cheriton, Burton, and elsewhere as sites for churches, and at Corhampton the mound still has an undoubted Saxon church standing on it.

Some of the most ancient roads in Hampshire are met with in the neighbourhood of Farley Mount. Roads which are hollow ways are found all round it. They occur at Sparsholt on the north-east, Ashley on the north-west, and southwards in the direction of Hursley and Braishfield. These hollow ways have all the characters of those ancient hollow ways which are mentioned in Anglo-Saxon charters as being hollow or old ways a thousand years ago. They have been worn down by the traffic of past ages, assisted by the occasionable flood-water which, after much rain, finds its way down their courses. In these respects they again present us with a parallel to the much worn old ways of eastern countries, such as that mentioned by Eliphaz the Temanite in the book of Job (xxii. 15. 16), in the simile which he draws in these words:—

“Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden?”

“Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflowed with a flood.”

These old ways are certainly as old as the time of the Celts. Perhaps one the most interesting of them is that which was formerly known as Hampton-road, and is marked by this name on the parish map of the adjoining parish of King's Somborne. This old road, which led from Andover to Southampton through Hursley, still exists as a right of road for a great part of its course, and is for many miles only a grass road. I hope the public of Hampshire will keep what remains of this ancient way an open way.

From Farley Mount we can see also another remarkable road on the east, viz., part of the great Roman highway which connected Winchester with Old Sarum. The Roman engineers who made it laid it out from the highest point Teg Down, west of Winchester. The road out of the city of Winton first proceeds in a south-westerly direction up the slope of the hill, on the top of which the Roman engineers could get a sight to the westward, and from this elevation they laid it out

in a straight line westward, a little to the north of Farley Mount, to the ford of the Test anciently known as the Forde near Horsebridge.

This road passes near the site of a Romano-British village near Withering Corner, at the edge of Parnholt Wood, which was explored many years ago by the late Mr. Taunton, of Ashley. It also passes near the site of the remains of Roman buildings of some kind which exist in Cow lease Copse north-east of Farley Mount, which I had the pleasure of partially examining last year under the direction of one of our members, Mr. W. H. Jacob, the ex-Mayor of Winchester. This site awaits a full exploration which I hope the Field Club may before long be able to undertake.

The Roman road which passes near Farley Mount is interesting to us from other considerations. First, as regards the material used in its construction. One of our members, Mr. J. Smith, of Romsey, informed me some years since that he was engaged many years ago by the late Sir William Heathcote, Bart., to examine and repair this road, and near Farley Mount he found it paved with large pebbles of the Lower Bagshot formation such as could have been obtained from the neighbourhood of Hursley. Most of the Roman roads in Hampshire were made of layers of flint, but this road near the Mount was found when examined to have a foundation of Tertiary pebbles.

Secondly, this Roman road is interesting on account of its medieval associations. It was the chief east west road to and from Winchester and Old Sarum, and continued to be used by Saxons, the Normans, and their successors until after the building of New Sarum or Salisbury, and the desertion of the site of Old Sarum, after which it was probably found that the medieval road through Romsey and Dean Valley was a more convenient way from Salisbury than this more ancient Roman road, which had been used for so many centuries.

The old Roman road was, however, used by many of our early kings. It was along this road that William the Conqueror and his Court travelled from Winchester in August, 1086, to Salisbury Plain, just after the completion of the Domesday Survey, when all the chief men of the kingdom met him and swore fealty to him.

Nearly a century later his great grandson, Henry II, travelled along it at various times to or from his house or palace at Clarendon, where he met the chief men of the kingdom and endeavoured to settle the dispute which then arose between the ecclesiastical and civil powers, and which culminated in the murder of Archbishop Becket.

King John very frequently travelled along this road. As is well known, he was very fond of hunting, and when he came along this way he used to stop at Ashley, a place about a mile and a half west of Farley Mount, and have a little sport in the Forest of West Bere and Parnholt. King John, as is shown by the evidence of the charters and other documents he signed at Ashley, visited that place on twelve occasions. He must have been familiar with the sight of Farley Mount, minus the horse monument on the top.

The medieval sport of hunting was largely carried on in the neighbourhood of this Mount, and all the hunting franchises were held near here.

The forest of West Bere on the north west was crown property, and under forest law. The name of the old forest survives in the name Forest of Bere farm, and also until quite lately in a piece of land called No Man's Land, between Farley Mount and Ashley. We have in this county four or five pieces of land known as No Man's land.

Some of these lands are the surviving waste pieces of more extensive lands, which have probably come down to us from early Anglo-Saxon time, when all forest and waste land was No Man's land.

On the west of this Mount is a very ancient woodland known as Parnholt. Parnholt was for centuries attached to the manor of King's Somborne, which was a royal manor as far back as the time of King Alfred. Centuries nearer to our own time Parnholt was held by the dukes of Lancaster.

In the 35th year of Edward III Parnholt was a Free Chace, *i.e.*, an open chace, like that held by the Bishop at Hambledon. Henry, Duke of Lancaster, was the son of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, beheaded in 1322, and the great grandson of Henry III. He died in 1361, and shortly afterwards Parnholt and

other lands in this neighbourhood passed into the possession of John of Gaunt, who was created Duke of Lancaster in 1362, who has left traditions on the adjoining manor of King's Somborne which have survived unto the present day.

The hunting franchise of a part, was possessed by the Bishops of Winchester in Hursley Park, one of the earliest parks in the county.

Lastly, the lowest hunting franchise of Free Warren at Farley Chamberlayne, under which hares, coneys, pheasants, and partridges could be hunted and killed, was granted to Thomas de Missenden, who held the manor of Farley Chamberlayne under Henry, Duke of Lancaster, in 1355.

I have mentioned several places where medieval chapels or churches were built in this county on ancient mounds such as this.

On this mound, however, no chapel was reared, but in the 18th century, a noted horse was buried here, and this structure was subsequently reared over his bones. The Hampshire Field Club may do some good in showing the public of Hampshire that this most interesting and most ancient mound was not thrown up in honour of the horse, but that the horse was honoured, by such honour as resulted from the desecration of the mound.

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