THE CANDOVER VALLEY AND ITS PREHISTORIC INHABITANTS.

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By T. W. Shore, F.G.S.

No part of Hampshire affords better evidence of the successive races of men which have inhabited this county than that part of it known as Candover. This district possesses no important architectural remains illustrative of the skill of medieval builders, so that a cursory visit does not show much of antiquity. If however we study as deeply as we can the history and associations of this district, and also study these in connection with its prehistoric remains, its place names, its natural features and surroundings, no part of Hampshire will exceed it in general interest.

In this short paper, I do not propose to enter into detail in regard to what is known of the history of Candover. My object is to bring before the Club a general view of this district, and to lead you on, if I can, to several lines of thoughts in connection with it.

The name Candover, is applied to the valley, which is the source of one of the streams that unite below Alresford and form the river Itchen. Candover is therefore a water-source. Look around you as we proceed through it to-day, and you will see that it is a valley which is divided from the Micheldever district on the west by a ridge which forms its western water shed—and that another higher ridge stretching almost north and south divides it from the district which slopes to the east and forms the watershed of the river Wey. If you follow the valley to the northward you will also come to the water parting which divides this upper source of the Itchen drainage from the drainage of the Loddon. The rain which falls on this area flows either under-ground or above-ground towards the Itchen.

It will not surprise us therefore that the name Candover has been derived from its connection with the water drainage, which its natural features at the present time bring before us.

The most interesting question then arises, by what race was the name Candover, or the essential part of that name first given to this district? Although we sometimes meet with the name spelt Candefer, the latter part of the name Candover, is, I think, derived from the most ancient water name found in Hampshire, or I believe in England. In some ancient documents it is written Candeure, in the same way as Micheldever is written Micheldeure, or Andover is written Andeure, these being also names of water sources.

We have many examples in Hampshire of local place names being transmitted from one race to another, and especially the water names.

The bulk of the place names are Saxon, but some Norman and Danish names still survive; the Romano-British people transmitted such Latin place names as Stratton, near to Candover, Stratfield, and Fontley, and from the earlier Celts a large number of water and other names in this county, were transmitted through the period of the Roman occupation to the Saxons, and have survived, often coupled with Saxon words until the present day, as in the names Andwell and Mapledurwell. Water place names are the most persistent names in all countries.

It will cause no great surprise, therefore, if we find that one water word, more ancient even than the time of the Britons or Celts, has been transmitted from the time of the Iberians or Neolithic people whom the Celts conquered through the Celtic, Roman, and Saxon periods until our own time. That word, I believe is "*eure*" or "*oure*," the Iberic water word, changed and modified by the Saxons and those who followed them, into *over*, *dover*, *dever*, and *dnr*, and perhaps in some instances also, into "*ore*" as in Axore, and Buggnore, which are also ancient names in Candover and its neigbourhood.

We find the word *eure* in various parts of this county. A watershed divides Candover from Micheldever and another divides the Micheldever drainage from that of Andover.

North of Micheldever also another watershed divides its drainage from that of the upper Test near Overton, which is sometimes written Ouerton in old documents.

The word Andover also is found occurring as an old place word in several parts of this county, and among other in the lower part of the Candover valley.

What ancient races called water by the word *oure* or *eure*? The earliest, as far as I knew, was the old Iberic or Neolithic race, who, as regards their language and cranial development, had some characteristics resembling those of the modern Basques of Southern France, and Northern Spain, and in these parts of Europe we still find the water word "*oure*" as in the names of the rivers Adour, and Douro-Dolmens, or stone cists, also abound in these countries, a circumstance which points to the wide diffusion of the old Iberic people.

Apparently the water word *oure* was adopted by the Celts after their subjugation of the Iberians in this part of England. These Iberians were a race of short stature and long skulls like the modern Basques. They buried their distinguished dead in a sitting or contracted position in long barrows, and these long barrows have often been found to contain stone cists or dolmens in their interior.

No prehistoric archæological problem finds more general acceptance at the present time than this one, that long barrows denote the burial places of a long skulled race, and round barrows the burial place, or place of cremation of a broad skulled race.

We have a record of the former existence of dolmens within a short distance of this spot, and we have still existing in Candover the site of a long barrow, part of the long barrow itself, and the name Longbarrow field in which it is situated. Here then we have the old Iberic water word *eure* supported by the former existence of a characteristic dolmen, if not more than one, and other traces of burial by contracted inhumation which also occasionally occur in this valley. The Rev. Sumner Wilson has informed me of one which came to light last winter. The old Iberic race was the same as that known to geologists as the Neolithic, the people who fashioned stone implements, and generally polished these stone tools, some of

which have been found near the northern watershed of this valley. These people lived in this part of England before the Celtic race, who brought over from the continent a knowledge of bronze, and made bronze implements. They were a broad skulled race, who cremated their dead, the ashes of whom we find all over Hampshire. They commonly reared round barrows over their cremated remains, and of these round barrows we have several hundred still remaining in this county. Candover contains several of these round barrows, and on the highest part of its northern watershed near Dummer, many Celtic burial urns were found in 1888, all containing cremated human remains, a fine example of which is preserved in the Hartley Museum. The date of the introduction of bronze into England was about B.C. 1200. Consequently the date of the making of the longbarrow and stone dolmen in Candover cannot be later than that date.

During the later Celtic period and before the Roman conquest, the use of iron was introduced into England, and Candover has yielded a fine spear head of this period, which by the kindness of the Rev. Sumner Wilson, is exhibited today. This spear head was found in the long barrow already mentioned, probably having been placed there in connection with a secondary interment during the later British period. Secondary interments of that kind are sometimes met with, in barrows of older date.

During the subsequent Roman period Candover was certainly occupied. No remains of elaborate villas, have as far as I know, been discovered in this valley—but Roman tiles and other remains have been found at Stenbury near Preston Candover, and the name Stanchester, which probably denotes a Roman defensive work of some kind also remains.

Candover has its traditions of the druids and these are connected with the remarkable grey wether sandstones which are now and then turned up in the fields in this district. Sometimes they appear to rise up in the fields from beneath the clay soil, owing to rain wash and other natural causes. These stones have sometimes been called druid sandstones from the popular traditions which have long been connected with them. The older students of pre-historic archæology were

not geologists, and could only account for the existence of these large sandstones upon the chalk by some unusual natural causes, or by human agency. They saw in the holes and hollows of these stones the artificial depressions made for the purposes of druidical sacrificial rites. These stones must have excited attention in this valley many centuries ago. Some of them, as you may see to-day, were used as corner stones for the foundations of the old church at Preston Candover. Mr. Sumner Wilson has caused a number of them to be placed near the churchyard.

Mr. Duthy, who wrote his Sketches of Hampshire more than half a century ago, adopted the old druidical theory of the use of these stones, and describes them, as one of the most ancient objects of antiquity in the county;—ancient they are, but far more ancient geologically speaking than he was aware of. If he had lived in our time, I have no doubt with the evidence of modern geology before him, he would have been convinced of the natural origin of these sandstones, which are the relics of beds of sand that formerly lay above the chalk.

The most remarkable historical circumstance, I know of in connection with these stones is the mention of a stone chest or cist as a land mark, evidently a dolmen, also a rocking stone in Candover, in an Anglo Saxon charter. This charter which relates to the boundaries of land belonging to the Abbey of St. Peter at Winchester, is dated A.D. 902. It shows that the stone cist then existed, and that it, and the rocking stone of Candover were familiar boundary marks a thousand years ago. This ancient rocking stone, was no doubt one of these druid sandstones, perhaps part of a dolmen, one stone balanced on another.

Rocking stones and dolmens, or stone cists, are preserved at present in some other English counties, and it is interesting to know, by such indisputable testimony as that of an Anglo-Saxon charter that Candover, had a rocking stone, and other megalithic remains in existence a thousand years ago.

The stone chest and rocking stone probably consisted of stones originally arranged to form dolmens over the body of some Iberic chieftain. We shall see to-day many stones similar to those anciently recorded.

There are several parts of Hampshire which have names which are names of districts rather than names of parishes or manors. Candover, Clere, Wallop, and the places anciently known by the name of Anne, near Andover, are examples of such ancient territorial or district names. Candover in Anglo Saxon time appears to have been the name of one of these extensive domains. It appears also to have been a royal estate attached to the crown. Candover is mentioned as early as A.D., 701, in the boundaries of the land at Alresford, which king Ini gave to the old Minster at Winchester. It is also mentioned in the charter of Egbert which confirmed this grant. In his will, king Alfred bequeathed Clere and Candover (no doubt as a life possession) to his daughter, Ethelgiva, the Abbess of Shaftesbury.

This bequest has been identified by one writer on Hampshire manors, as refering only to that of Chilton Candover, but the bequest referred in my opinion to the whole of the crown demense in this part of the county, except that which was granted to the New Minster by Alfred's son, Edward the Elder, in all probability at his father's wish. This bequest to the new monastery at Winchester, was that part of Candover, which was subsequently known as Candover Abbas, in the lower part of the valley, and which remained in the possession of the New Minster or Hyde Abbey from about the year 902, until the dissolution of that abbey in the 16th century. It is now known as Brown Candover.

The entries in Domesday Book referring to Candover supply us with information which shows how the district in later Saxon time became subdivided into manors. Eight separate manors or holdings are mentioned in Domesday Book in Candover, and the names of the tenants of these manors, and the tenures by which they held them are very interesting. These tenancies in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and at the time of the Norman Survey, tell us something of the circumstances of agricultural life in this district more than 800 years ago.

Five of these Candover manors or holdings, probably refer to that part of the district which has long been known as Preston Candover, one to Chilton Candover, and two to

Brown Candover. At the time of the survey, the Abbey of St. Peter at Winchester, or the New Minster held the manor, now known as Brown Candover, and another manor, then and now known as Woodmancote. The record of the possessions of the Abbey in this district reminds us of the battle of Hastings and the part which the abbot and monks of the New Minster took in that battle, in which they were all killed. In consequence of this opposition of the abbot and his monks, the Conqueror took away some of the land of the abbey, or placed upon it the burden of military service, to which it was certainly not liable under the original gift of king Edward the Elder. The Norman baron, Hugh de Port. held part of the abbey land at Candover at the time of the survey, and this points probably to the penalty which had to be paid for military services, in consequence of the part the abbot and monks took against the Conqueror at the time of the invasion.

It is interesting to note that Hugh de Port's successor in his barony, two centuries later, possessed in Candover Abbas half a knight's fee, a tenure of old enfeofment, *i.e.*, before the time of king Stephen, and this probably refers to the same land. The Baron of Basing, Hugh de Port's successor, in the middle of the 13th century, was Robert de St. John, and the land he possessed at Candover Abbas was held by military service of him by a knight named Robert de Tregot.

Candover was included in two of the hundreds of the county. Preston Candover was in the hundred of Bermondspit, anciently known as Beremellesputte, while Chilton, and Brown Candover were in a separate hundred known as Mainsborough, anciently Maynesburgh, or Maneberg.

The king was the lord of the hundred of Beremellesputte, or Bermesplet in Saxon time, for Domesday Book tells us that all the land in this hundred was in the time of Edward the Confessor held by various thanes of that king, except one of the manors of Preston Candover which had been held of earl Harold.

The manor of Chilton Candover was held, at the time of the survey, of the Bishop of Winchester by a thane or knight named Richerius, and before that time it was held as two manors of the bishopric by two thanes, named Godwin

and Lewin. With Brown Candover it comprised the hundred of Maneberg.

We find, therefore, that Preston Candover was in the *royal* hundred of Bermondspit, and Chilton Candover, and Brown Candover, then probably known as Candover Abbas, were in the *ecclesiastical* hundred of Mainsborough.

These circumstances are interesting to us in connection with the later history of the manors.

First we may note that the manors in Bermondspit Hundred were in Saxon time held by thane service, which made their holders liable for the repair of bridges, the repair of local defences, and for service against the enemy in case of invasion. At the battle of Hastings therefore, the thanes and their contingent from Bermondspit Hundred were probably present under the terms of their tenure, as well the abbot of Hyde and his monks, who went voluntarily, with no doubt some of his men from this neighbourhood.

Two hundred years after this battle, an interesting circumstance occurred in reference to Chilton Candover, of which a record still exists. The manor was at that time held by the Daundely family, the actual holder being Robert Daundely. He was also lord of the hundred. The mis-rule of Henry III. had terminated, during which many irregularities had occurred. Considering that the country had been engaged in civil war, this is not to be wondered at. King Henry was dead, and prince Edward had returned from Palestine, and become king Edward I., a strong ruler, determined to maintain the rights of the crown. He resolved to ascertain by what warrants certain privileges were held, which certain lords of manors claimed to possess, and in this county a number of persons were summoned to prove their claims to any exceptional privileges. Robert Daundely, of Chilton Candover, was one of these. He was not only lord of the manor, but claimed to be lord of the hundred of Mainsborough. He was required to show by what warrant he claimed the privilege of free gallows, and the assize of bread and ale in Candover. This inquiry took place about 1280. He proved his claim not as lord of the manor, but in right of the hundred of Mainsborough, which had belonged to his predecessors, and which they probably

acquired from the bishop or the abbot of Hyde, who held between them the entire hundred at the time of the Norman Survey.

The privileges to which Robert Daundely proved his right were very important. He held the Hundred Court. That court could try criminals, and hang them on the gallows. It also appointed the ale taster, and regulated the price of bread for the hundred. The ale taster had to see that "the bread was of good weight, and the ale fit for man's body."

It is interesting to note that Chilton Candover was apparently held by the Daundelys as two manors, as it was held in the time of the Saxons, for in the next century we meet with records of Chilton Candover manor, and also the manor of Daundeleywyk, both in Chilton Candover.

In the record known as the Nomina Villarum containing the results of an inquiry into the manors and their lords, in the 7th Edward II., we find that the manor of Chilton Candover was held by Roger Daundeley.

A hundred years later, we find that the manor had passed from the Daundeley family to that of Baynton, or Benyton, for an inquisition was held about 1422, which showed that Nicholas Benyton, who had died, had held Chilton Candover manor, and Daundeleywyk manor.

Another record connects Chilton Candover with the time of the Wars of the Roses. In the 15th year of Edward IV. an inquisition was held, and it was found that Chilton Candover manor, and Daundeleywyk manor were held by Nicholas Baynton, of Farleston, who had been attainted, perhaps on account of his being a supporter of the Lancastrian party.

This brings me to the consideration of the date of the yew tree avenue at Chilton Candover. The yew in some parts of this county has been called "the Hampshire weed." It is certainly indigenous in this county, and in some parts, it is very difficult to prevent its growth.

The name appears to be Celtic. The Gaelic word for it is *eó*, or *yó*, or *yure*, the Welsh word *yw*, and the Anglo-Saxon *iw*, apparently adopted from the Celts. In Ireland, the yew and not the oak appears to have been the sacred tree of the

druids of that country, and there are in Ireland many place names apparently derived in part from their sacred yews. The planting of yews in churchyards may be considered as a survival of a pagan reverence for that tree. In favourable situations the yew tree is practically immortal, for it renews its youth, as the old hollow trunk decays, by a young stem growing up among the old wood, examples of which exist in this county.

As the yew is a tree so commonly found in churchyards, we may conclude that the statute of Edward I., passed in 1307, forbidding any rector to cut down trees in a churchyard, referred mainly to it.

The yew tree avenue at Chilton Candover is the only one of its kind in Hampshire. I am not aware that any finer avenue of yew trees in their natural growth, exists elsewhere in England.

Hampshire possesses finer avenues of other trees, but I do not think it possesses a complete avenue older than this. Some of the trees in it are considerably smaller in the trunk than others, and this may have arisen from three or more circumstances:—1, some of the smaller trees may have been planted later, to take the place of others; or 2, some of them may not have found the soil beneath so congenial to their growth; or 3, some of the trees may have grown naturally and others may have been planted to complete the two lines.

It would be a very interesting circumstance if we could determine who laid out or planted this fine avenue. Having regard to the size of those small yew trees known to have been planted about two centuries ago, to the slow growth of the yew after the first hundred years of its age, and to the hollow and very ancient trees which must be quite a thousand years old, existing in some old churchyards, considering also the intermediate size of these trees, also remembering that in the 13th and 14th centuries the Daundeley family held this estate, and in the 15th century the Benyton family followed them, I think that we shall not be far wrong if we conclude that these yews, or the largest of them, are as old as the 14th or 15th centuries, when the Daundleys and Benytons were lords of the manor and lords of the hundred of Mainsborough.

From these remarks I think you will agree with me, that although Candover contains no remarkable architectural antiquities, yet the valley possesses interesting early associations.

Its greywether sandstones, and the rounded flint pebbles occasionally found in its gravel, are evidences of the former existence above the chalk in this district, of beds of the Tertiary geological age, such as are found in the north and south of the county.

Its name, its longbarrow, the traces of its dolmens in the Anglo-Saxon charter I have mentioned, are evidences of the former presence here of a people more ancient than the earlier Celts.

Candover affords unmistakable traces also of the later Celts —the Belgæ, who cremated their dead; and also of the Romans. Its recorded history begins with the early Saxon period in the 8th century. The Norman Conquest affected some of its land tenures, and although it has no special architectural remains, some at least of its old yew trees, are silent, but living witnesses of the later medieval period.

On the occasion of the visit to Preston Candover (May 4th, 1893), when the above paper was read, several of the trunks of the yew trees were measured, the largest being 10ft. 8in., 12ft., and 12ft. 6in., at about four feet from the ground. The Rev. W. L. W. Eyre said that Dr. Lowe, F. L. S., who somewhat doubted the great age commonly ascribed to yews, came here and measured many of the trees in the avenue. He stated that the average growth of a young tree was given as one foot in about 75 years; while that of older trees was much more rapid, owing to a process equivalent to pollarding by which the old and new wood became welded together; and, according to this estimate, the age of the avenue might be put at about 700 years.

Not far distant from the avenue is the churchyard of Preston Candover with its ivy-grown mortuary chapel which constituted the chancel of the old church. The interior depends for its chief interest on a small brass in front of the

altar to Catherine Dabridgecourt (1607). The Dabridgecourts were a distinguished Hampshire family in their time, and it is mentioned in the life of Lord Sherbrooke that Pym, Hampden, W. M. Thackeray, and Robert Lowe (Lord Sherbrooke), were all descended from him.

On one of the stones of the doorway on the outside of the old church, are some curious marks which some have thought to be Runic. The antiquity of the district has been well established by Mr. Shore in his paper, and it is possible, as has been suggested by the rector, the Rev. Sumner Wilson, that they form an inscription in the Ogam character of the Celts, many examples of which have been found in Devonshire, in North Britain, and at Silchester during this year. It would be well to have the curious marks on this stone investigated, as they may possess considerable interest.

The Rev. Sumner Wilson exhibited a sword found in the parish, from its probable date and workmanship it may have been lost in the retreat from Chewton Fight during the Civil War when 10,000 men poured through the Candover valley crying, "The Kingdom's lost," and Lord Hopton buried on his way seven of his nine guns which have never been recovered.