

**DOMESDAY BOOK, FOR THE COUNTY  
OF WARWICK, TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,  
A BRIEF DISSERTATION ON DOMESDAY  
BOOK, AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES  
OF THE ANCIENT POSSESSORS**

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Domesday Book, for the County of Warwick, to Which Is Prefixed, A Brief Dissertation on  
Domesday Book, and Biographical Notices of the Ancient Possessors by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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**Domesday Book,**

FOR THE

**COUNTY OF WARWICK,**

**TRANSLATED**

BY WILLIAM READER;

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

A BRIEF DISSERTATION ON DOMESDAY BOOK,

AND

*BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES*

OF THE ANCIENT POSSESSORS,

FROM THE BEST AUTHORITIES.

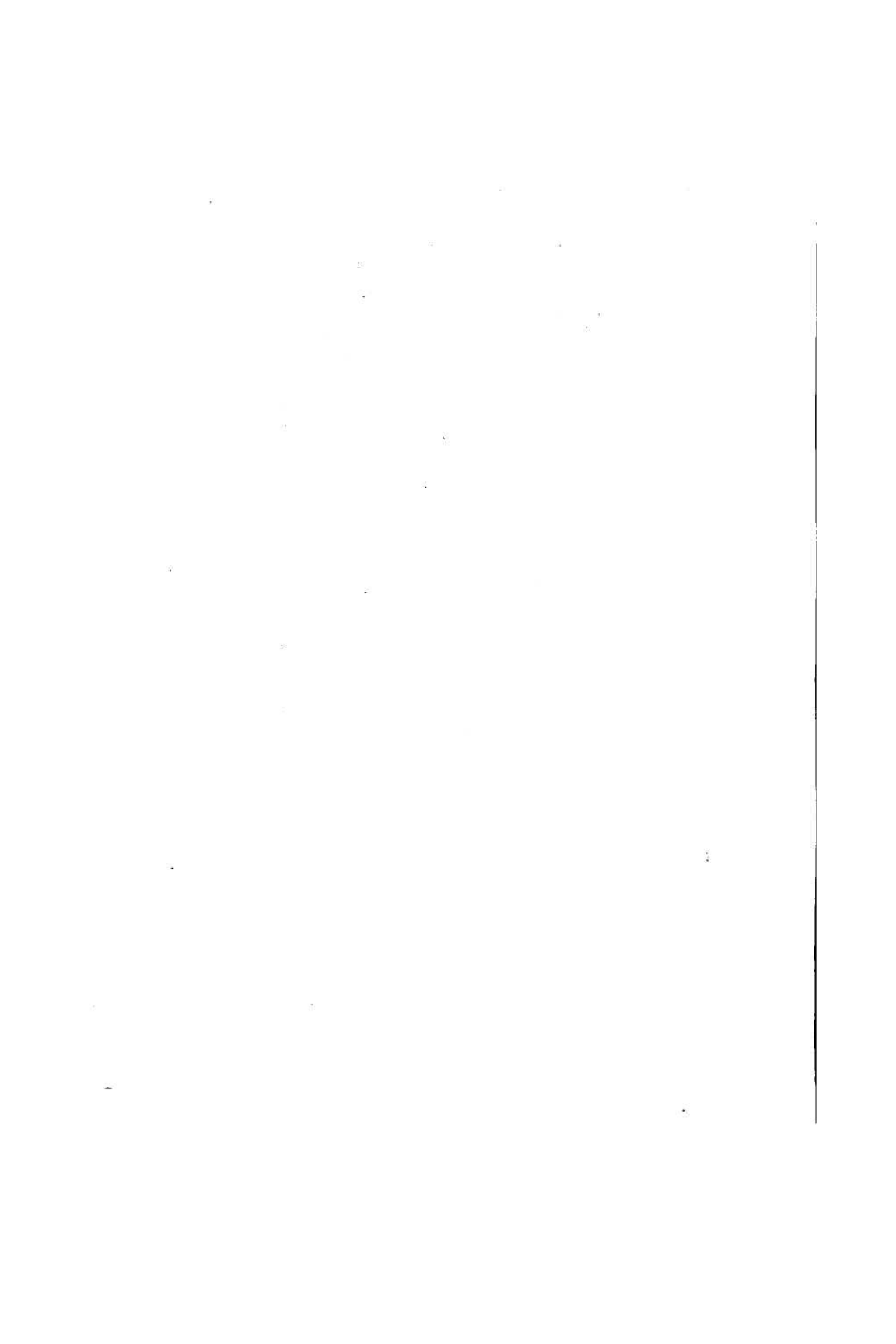
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## INTRODUCTION.

DOMESDAY BOOK\* is one of the most ancient Records of England, and is the Register from which *Judgement* was to be given on the value, tenure, and services of lands therein described. This Survey was begun about the year 1083, and finished in 1086, by order of William the Conqueror. The Original consists of two volumes, a greater and a less, called Great and Little Domesday Book, both written in a fair legible hand, nearly pure Roman, with a mixture of Saxon. They contain a Survey of all the Counties in England, excepting the four Northern Counties, and part of Wales, viz. Hereford, which was then esteemed a Welsh County; but all the rest of Wales is omitted. These volumes were constantly kept with the King's seal in the Repository by the side of the Tally-Court, in the Exchequer, under three locks and keys, in the charge of the Auditor, the Chamberlains, and Deputy Chamberlains of the Exchequer; till, in 1696, they were removed with other books, rolls, deeds, &c. in that Treasury, and deposited in the Chapter House, at Westminster, where they now remain in the custody of a Keeper, or Inspector of the Records in the Receipt of the Exchequer. The first and largest volume is finely written on both sides of 382 leaves of vellum, in a small but plain character, in double columns on each page, and contains the following Counties: Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hants, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devonshire, Cornwall, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Bucks, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Chester, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutlandshire, Yorkshire, divided into West, North, and East Ridings, and Lincolnshire. The Warwickshire Survey begins at the 238th page, and ends at the 245th. The second volume is in quarto, written on 450 leaves of vellum, in single columns, in a fair character, somewhat larger than the other volume, and contains the Counties of Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk. In 1767, the Board of Treasury referred the question of printing this book to the Society of Antiquaries, to consider whether it would be most advisable to have it printed with

\* *Dome-Boc.*—*Liber Judicialis.*—Other names by which it appears to have been known, were *Rotulus Wintonia*, *Scriptura Thesauri Regis*, *Liber de Wintonia*, and *Liber Regis.*—Sir H. Spelman mentions *Liber Judicarius*, *Consulari Anglie*, *Anglie Notitia* et *Lustratio*, and *Rotulus Regis.*

types, or to have a fac-simile copy engraved from the original. At length it was determined to print it with types\*, and in 1783 the two volumes were completed, with the most scrupulous fidelity and exactness, after having been 10 years in the press, under the inspection of A. Farley, Esq. F. A. S. who had been familiar with this and other records, for more than 40 years. The title is "DOMESDAY BOOK: Seu, Liber Censualis Willielmi Primi Regis Angliæ. Inter Archivos regni in domo capitulari Westmonasterii asservatus. Jubente Rege augustissimo Georgio Tertio prælo mandatus typis, 1783."

In conformity with an order made July 22, 1800, complete Indexes to the two volumes of Domesday Book were prepared and printed; and a General Introduction, by Sir Henry Ellis, of the British Museum, consisting of 107 pages, was also printed in 1816, containing an elaborate and learned disquisition on the history of this valuable Record, and illustrations of its contents. To this dissertation these pages are especially indebted.

Sir W. Blackstone says—"We learn from the Saxon Chronicle, that in the 19th year of King William's reign, an invasion was apprehended from Denmark; and the military constitution of the Saxons being then laid aside, and no other introduced in its stead, the kingdom was wholly defenceless; which occasioned the King to bring over a large army of Bretons and Normans, who were quartered upon every landholder, and greatly oppressed the people. This apparent weakness, together with the grievances occasioned by a foreign force, might cooperate with the King's remonstrances, and the better incline the Nobility to listen to his proposals for putting them in a posture of defence. For as soon as the danger was over, the King held a great council, to enquire into the state of the nation; the immediate consequence of which was the compiling of the great Survey called Domesday Book, which was finished the next year; and in the latter end of that very year, the King was attended by all his Nobility at Sarum, where all the principal Landholders submitted their lands to the yoke of military tenure, became the King's Vassals, and did homage and fealty to his person. This new polity therefore, seems not to have been imposed by the Conqueror, but nationally and freely adopted by the general assembly of the whole Realm, in the same manner as other nations of Europe had before adopted it, upon the same principle of self-security."

\* The type with which it was executed, was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1808.



## INTRODUCTION.

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For the adjusting of this Survey, certain Commissioners, called the King's Justiciaries, were appointed. Those for the Midland Counties (if not for all the districts) were, Remigius Bishop of Lincoln, Walter Giffard Earl of Buckingham, Henry de Ferers, and Adam the brother of Eudo Dapifer, who probably added to them some principal person in each County. See Heming's Chartulary, Cotton MSS. British Museum, Tib. A. xiii.

The Inquisitors, it appears, upon the oaths of the Sheriffs, the Lords of each Manor, the Presbyters of every Church, the Reeves of every Hundred, and the Bailiffs and six Villeins of every village, were to enquire into the name of the place; who held it in the time of King Edward; who was the present possessor; how many hides there were in the manor, and how many carucates in demesne; the number of villeins, cottagers, bordars, bondmen, bondwomen, and freemen; how many tenants in socage, and the quantity of wood, meadow and pasture, mills and fish ponds; how much had been added or taken away since King Edward's time; with the gross value then, and the present value; together with how much each freeman, or socman had, or has. All this was to be triply estimated; first, as the estate was held in the time of the Confessor; then, as it was bestowed by King William; and thirdly, as its value stood at the formation of the Survey. The jurors were moreover to state whether any advance could be made in the value. Such are the terms of an Inquisition in the Counties of Cambridge and Hertford.—The method generally followed in entering the Returns was, first, to enter at the head of every County, the possessions of the King; and then a list of the Bishops, Abbots, Norman Barons, and others, according to their rank, who held of the King *in capite* in that County; and also of his thanes, ministers, and servants; with a numerical character in red ink prefixed, for the better finding them in the book. The list of the tenants, manors, and possessions, which belong to the King and also to each owner, are minutely noted, with their under-tenants. The King's demesnes stand first; then the lands which belong to some Bishop, religious house, or great tenant; and afterwards is given a description of the property. The Inquisitions having been taken, were sent by the Justiciaries to Winchester, and there classed, methodised, and entered in a Register, in the state we now view them.

It will be observed, that the land frequently increased very much in value in the time of the Conqueror, from that of Edward the Confessor; this may be

attributed to the improvements made in Agriculture, during the period when the Kingdom was not so much oppressed with claims from foreign enemies as it had been in the preceding ages, or the want of exactness in the first of these Surveys. It must be acknowledged, however, that several estates appear to have sunk considerably in their value; but local circumstances must have occasioned this decrease. It is sufficiently evident it was not generally the case. Some parcels of land are occasionally entered as waste. Other lands appear to have been mortgaged, or to have different claimants; and some instances occur of unjust seizure and forcible detention of Church lands.

The Survey seems to have been made with the greatest possible exactness; though the magnitude of the design necessarily produced some omissions. Some places mentioned in the Survey, have been since quite depopulated, and every memorial of them lost, whilst many other places, which are now of consequence, did not exist in the time of the Conqueror. Manors continued to be created till the statute of "*Quia Emptores*," which passed in the 18th year of Edward I. and numerous parcels of land, which now form Manors of themselves, were, at the time of the Domesday Survey, parcels of other greater Manors still in existence.—The manors of *Salwebrige*, *Berchewelle*, and *Witacre*, in Warwickshire, are inserted in the *Northamptonshire* Survey\*. Many instances might be cited in other Counties, where entries belonging to one County, either for convenience, or the juxta-position of the property of a particular landholder, or some other reason, have been confessedly placed in another.

*Manors*, although as ancient as the Saxon constitution, are considered, by our best writers on English antiquities, as of Norman introduction. The name is either from the French *manoir*, or from the Latin *manendo*, as the usual residence of the owner on his land. The ancient demesne of the Crown, as recorded in the Survey, consisted of 1,422 manors, in different Counties, besides some scattered lands and farms not comprehended therein, and quit rents paid out of several other manors.

From the prodigious slaughter of English Nobility at the battle of Hastings, and the fruitless insurrections of those who survived, such numerous forfeitures had

\* Portions of the Warwickshire Domesday have been printed by that great Historian, Sir W. Dugdale; but it may be necessary to remark, that nearly forty Manors, are by him, totally unnoticed.

accrued, that William was enabled to reward his followers with very large and extensive possessions. The assistance which he obtained from his Barons was voluntary, and evidently given with a view to possess this property. This accounts for the circumstance in Domesday, of the King's lands being almost uniformly those which Edward, Harold, Earl Godwin, Ghida the mother of Harold, Goda the sister of King Edward, Guert, Tosti, Stigand, Algar Earl of Mercia, Earl Edwin, Earl Morcar, Edric, or Editha, the Confessor's Queen had held; whilst the lands of the Saxon Nobles appear to have been doled out to the Officers of the Conqueror's army, apparently either in proportion to their rank in Normandy, or according to the supplies they furnished to the expedition.

In the Saxon times, the *inland* lay around the mansion of the Lord, and was tilled by his domestic servants or bondsmen (*servi*). It was afterwards called by the Normans *demesne*, or Lord's land, from the Conqueror taking such into his possession, and causing the Lords themselves to hold them of him, as they, obliged their vassals to hold the *folcland* of themselves. The *folcland* was held by small grants of land, by persons, bound to their allegiance, by certain annual payments of victuals, &c. This acknowledgment was originally called a *feorm*, or *farm*, which signifies meat and victuals. The *outland*, or *utland*, lay at a greater distance from the mansion, and was divided amongst the villeins and bordars, the attached and faithful free-servants of the chief possessor.

By the completion of this Survey, the Conqueror acquired an exact knowledge of the possessions of the Crown. It afforded him the names of the landholders. It furnished him with the means of ascertaining the military strength of the country; and it pointed out the possibility of increasing the revenue in some cases, and of lessening the demands of the tax collectors in others. It was moreover a Register of Appeal for those whose titles to their property might be disputed. To its authority even the Conqueror submitted in cases wherein he was concerned.

After the Conquest, we find the Churches and Monasteries, still retaining their ancient patrimony, and, in some cases, with considerable additions from the Conqueror himself. Numerous instances might be adduced of property held by men who had been either *Thanes* or *Ministri*, in the Court of Edward the Confessor.