

William Somner
A treatise of the Roman ports and forts
in Kent (edited by James Brome)
Oxford
1693

A TREATISE
Of the ROMAN
Ports and Forts
in KENT.
BY
WILLIAM SOMNER.

Publish'd by JAMES BROME, M. A. Rector of
CHERITON, and Chaplain to the CINQUE-
PORTS.

To which is prefixt the Life of Mr. SOMNER.

<vignette – the Sheldonian Theatre>

OXFORD,
Printed at the THEATER, 1693.

<v> <sig a4> <'The Epistle Dedicatory'>

TO HIS
Excellency
The Right HONOURABLE
HENRY
Ld. Viscount SYDNEY of SHEPEY,
Baron of MILTON, Lord Lieutenant of their
Majesties Kingdom of IRELAND, Lord
Lieutenant of the County of KENT, Con=
stable of DOVER-CASTLE, Lord Warden
of the CINQUE-PORTS, One of the Prin=
cipal Secretaries of State, and One of their
Majesties most Honourable Privy Council.

My LORD,

Since I have had the honour to serve
Your Lordship in the Cinque-
Ports, I have been frequently con=
sidering, what seasonable return of
gratitude I might make, for the fa=
vours I have receiv'd from your
Honour.

<vi>

But fearing, no production of my
own might be worthy of Your accep=
tance; I am inclin'd to borrow some=
thing out of the common treasury of
learning, wherewith to pay my first=
fruits of duty and obedience.

What I presume to lay before Your
Lordship, may not prove perhaps un=
acceptable, since 'tis a small, but ex=
cellent Treatise, of very great esteem
amongst the learned and judicious; and
does now justly implore Your Lord=
ship's Protection whether we consider
the subject matter it treats of, or the
places to which it relates; in both

which Your Lordship is at this time very nearly and happily concern'd.

'Tis an Historical discourse of the Roman Ports and Forts in Kent, wrote some years ago, by a very eminent Antiquary of Canterbury, but never before publish'd; and therefore humbly desires to be usher'd into the world under the gracious Patronage of Your

<vii>
Lordship; as being well assur'd, that the same auspicious effects, which daily attend both the Cinque-Ports, and County, from your great Wisdom and Sagacity, will as certainly here ensue, from Your Countenance and Authority.

Their Sacred Majesties, who know best how to value what is really to be esteemed, and to place those persons in the highest trust, whose merits, and great accomplishments, deservedly entitle them to such honourable employments, have advanc'd Your Lordship (of whose faithful service they have had so large experience) to that noble Station of Government, in which you happily preside in Ireland; which never stood in greater need of such an able Patriot and Protector.

Our Annals inform us, how infinitely Ireland stood once before indebted to the matchless Wisdom and

<viii>
Courage of one of Your Renowned Progenitours, The Honourable Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy under Queen Elizabeth; who, for the space of eleven years, gave admirable proofs of dexterity and Conduct, in the managing of that untractable people; though he had little else to encounter with, but obstinacy and Rebellion. And, my Lord, whoever considers those Great and Noble Endowments of mind, with which Heaven has enriched You, for the general good and benefit of the world, may from hence easily conjecture how extremely happy at this juncture the Irish nation must needs be, under Your Lordship's present Lieutenancy; who seem in all respects, both born and form'd on purpose, to be the Tutelary Guardian of that distracted Island.

To render this Tract, if possible, a little more grateful and inviting; I have subjoyned a Catalogue, from the

<ix>

most Authentic Historians, of those Noble Personages who have been Your Lordship's Predecessors in the Constableness of Dover-Castle, and Wardenship of the Cinque-Ports, which are both indeed Offices of as great Antiquity as Renown.

The learned Mr. Camden has observed, that our Warden of the Ports, did resemble the Officer, whom the Romans established for the defence of our Coasts, call'd by them, 'Littoris Saxonici', or 'Tractus Maritimi Comes'; who had then the charge of nine Ports, as the Lord Warden has now of five: and although there is no doubt, but during the Saxon Heptarchy, the Ports were under the Regency of some such sort of extraordinary Officer, as this was; yet if the famous Antiquary Mr. Lambard may have any credit, he tells us, that William the Con-

<x>

querour was the first, that imposed upon the Limenarcha the name of Warden, out of his own Norman language: and Mr. Darell, in his account of these matters, saith, that William the Conquerour created John Fynes Constable of Dover-Castle, which title of honour he settled, by Deed of Gift, upon him and his heirs; which may occasion a conjecture, not altogether improbable, that under the reign of that Prince, those honourable offices began first to be united, in the person of one man: however, 'tis certain, they have never since been separated; but whatever great and eminent Persons have been thus nobly Dignified, by the grace and favour of their Prince, their names stand now upon this signal Roll of honour, in a successive series to this present generation.

But, my Lord, I consider that your minutes are sacred.

<xi>

May your Lordship's great Merits, and honourable Achievements, both for their Majesties and their Kingdoms, make you still the Favourite of Your Prince, the Glory of your Age, the delight of your Countrey, and the Honour of the Cinque-Ports: may You live long and flourish, in an enjoyment of every thing, that may conduce to your

Happiness; that so by the favour of Heaven, I may the longer enjoy an opportunity to pay my constant duty to Your Lordship, and be more and more capable to give a repeated testimony, how much I am,

My Lord,
Your Lordships
most obliged Chaplain,
and faithful Servant,

JAMES BROME.

<118>

A CATALOGUE
Of the
LORD-WARDENS
Of the
Cinque-Ports.

1	Godwinus. *	Edw. Conf.
2	Haroldus. *	Edw. Conf.
3	Bertram Ashburnham *	K. Harold.
4	Odo *	Will. 1.
5	John de Fiennes	Will. 1.
6	James de Fiennes	
7	John de Fiennes	
8	Walkelinus de Magninot	Steph.
9	Richard Earl of Ewe *	Steph.
10	Eustace, Earl of Bollougne *	Steph.
11	Allen de Fiennes *	Henr. 2.
12	James de Fiennes †	Henr. 2.
13	Hugh de Essex *	Henr. 2.
14	Matthew de Clere	Rich. 1.
15	William de Wrotham	John
16	Hubert de Burgo	John
17	Peter de Rivallis	

* Mention'd by Thynn, but omitted by Lambard and Philpot. † Omitted by Thynn, and supply'd out of Lambard and Philpot.

<119>

18	Richard le Greie	Henry 3.
19	Bertram de Criol	Henry 3.
20	Hugh Bigot	Henry 3.
21	Henry de Braybrook	Henry 3.
22	Prince Edward, afterwards Edward the first	Henry 3.
23	Henry de Montefort †	Edw. 1.
24	Roger Leyborn	Edw. 1.
25	Stephen de Penchester	Edw. 1.
26	Sir Robert Ashton †	Edw. 1.
27	Simon de Crey †	Edw. 1.
28	Robert de Burghersh *	Edw. 1.
29	Henry Cobham *	Edw. 2.
30	Robert de Kendal *	Edw. 2.
31	Bartholomew Badlesmer *	Edw. 2.
32	Edmund de Woodstock	Edw. 2.
33	Hugh le Spencer	Edw. 2.
34	William Clinton *	Edw. 2.
35	Reginald Cobham †	Edw. 3.
36	Bartholomew Ld. Burghersh	Edw. 3.

37	Roger de Mortimer *	Edw. 3.
38	John le Beauchamp	Edw. 3.
39	Robert Herle	Edw. 3.
40	Sir Ralph Spigornel	Edw. 3.
41	Richard de Penbrig *	Edw. 3.
42	William Ld. Latimer *	Edw. 3.
43	Edmund Plantagenet *	Edw. 3.

† Omitted by Thynn, and supply'd out of Lambard and Philpot. * Mention'd by Thynn, but omitted by Lambard and Philpot.

<120>

44	Edm. Earl of Cambrige	Edw. 3.
45	Sir Robert Ashton *	Rich. 2.
46	Simon Burleigh	Rich. 2.
47	Henry le Cobham †	Rich. 2.
48	Sir John Denros, (alias Deve= reux, de Euros, & de Evers)	Rich. 2.
49	/1 John de Beaumont	Rich. 2.
50	/2 Edmund Duke of Aumerle and York	Rich. 2.
51	Sir Tho. Erpingham	Henry 4.
52	Henry, afterwards Henry 5.	Henry 4.
53	John Beaufort *	Henry 4.
54	Tho. Earl of Arundel	Henry 5.
55	Hump. Duke of Glocester	Henry 6.
56	Sir James Fiennes Ld. Say	Henry 6.
57	Edm. Duke of Somerset †	Henry 6.
58	Humphrey Stafford Duke of Buckingham	Henry 6.
59	Simon Montfort †	
60	Richard Nevil	Edw. 4.
61	Will. Earl of Arundel	Edw. 4.
62	Richard Duke of Glocester, af= terwards Rich. the third	Edw. 5.
63	Henry D. of Buckingham *	Rich. 3.
64	Will. Earl of Arundel *	Henry 7.
65	Sir William Scot †	Henry 7.
66	Sir James Fiennes Lord Say	Henry 7.

* Mention'd by Thynn, but omitted by Lambard and Philpot. † Omitted by Thynn, and supply'd by Lambard and Philpot. 1. Lambard has it Sir Thomas. 2. Philpot and Lambard call him Edward.

<121>

67	Henry, afterwards Henry 8.	Henr. 7.
68	Arthur Plantagenet	Henry 8.
69	Sir Edward Poynings	Henry 8.
70	Henry Earl of Richmond	Henry 8.
71	Sir Edward Guildford	Henry 8.
72	George Boleyn, Viscount Rochfort	Henry 8.
73	Sir Thomas Cheyney	Edw. 6.
74	Sir William Brook	Eliz.
75	Henry Brook, Lord Cobham	Eliz.
76	Henry Howard, Earl of North= hampton	James 1.
77	Edw. Zouch, Lord Haring= worth	James 1.
78	George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham	James 1.

79	Theophilus Howard, Earl of Suffolk	Car. 1.
80	James Duke of Lenox and Richmond	Car. 1.
81	James D. of York, afterwards King James the second	Car. 2.
82	Henry Ld Sydney, Viscount Shepey, the present Lord- Warden.	Will. 3.

<These are Brome's contributions to his edition of Somner's 'Ports and forts' – an obsequious dedication (which never even mentions Somner by name) and a list of the lord wardens uncritically spliced together from three earlier lists. The references to Francis Thin's list are incidentally significant, because they prove that Brome had access to an uncensored copy of Holinshed's 'Chronicles' (1587). Otherwise there is nothing here worth noting. – C.F. June 2010.>