

REPAIRS TO CALSHOT CASTLE IN 1612.

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FOR the better defence of his realm King Henry VIII erected along the southern coast of England a series of forts, not the least important of these being Calshot Castle, which still stands guard at the mouth of Southampton Water. It is, too, the first Tudor Castle which has greeted many an American tourist about to land at Southampton, though to-day it is somewhat disfigured by the encroachments of the Royal Air Force.

Although Calshot Castle was built with stone quarried from the ruins of the nearby Beaulieu Abbey no earlier than the reign of Henry VIII, it seems to have fallen into disrepair so quickly that Henry's daughter, the great Queen Elizabeth, was compelled to undertake certain restorations. Evidence of this work may be seen in the letters "E. R." which are still found on a water-spout of the castle.¹ In the reign of the first Stuart king, too, repairs were needed at Calshot Castle, and it is to these restorations that a document in the Pierpont Morgan Library refers.² It is the official "An estimate of the charge of the repayringe of Cawlishott Castle withe the Breache there 23 Januarij 1611 (*i.e.*, 1612)"³ made by His Majesty's surveyor, John Norden.⁴

The document consists of a single sheet of paper, measuring 395 x 285 mm., folded in half. On what one may term "page 1" are the specifications set forth below, and the middle opening contains the sketch herewith reproduced (Plate I.); the last page is blank save for the endorsement: "A certificat of the supposed charge of the repayringe of Cawlishott Castle. Sowtht⁵ 1611." The estimate reads as follows:

Com. Sowtht. An estimate of the charge of the repayringe of Cawlishott Castle withe the Breache there 23 Januarij 1611.
ffirste the plotforme, beinge leaded couered with beames, Justes⁶ and planckes all decayde, contayninge in the whole 1332 foote, wherof aboute

1. Compare *A History of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* (Victoria History of Hampshire), Westminster, 1900-14, III, 292.

2. The document is included in the series: Rulers of England, James I, Treasury.

3. Until 1752 the English Civil and Legal year began on March 25th, so that the date of this document is 1612 according to our reckoning.

4. For an account of Norden's career see the *Dictionary of National Biography*, XLI, 105-108, and further details in *The Library*, 4th series, VII (1927), 233-252.

5. This contraction apparently stands for "Southampton."

6. This is certainly Norden's way of spelling "joist" although this variant is not recorded by the *New English Dictionary*.

300 foote may be supplied with the beste olde
planckes and Justes that shall arise, where the new
are to be layde : So there wilbe required 20 tuns⁷
of timber to repayre the residue, beinge 1032 foote,
The workmanship wherof will coste - - -

xvj £

The bridge, for the moste parte to be made new,
and will require in plancke 90 foote with Justes,
beames and rayles, about 3 tuns of timber, the
workmanship wherof will cost - - -

lxvj s viij d

The warde howse, to be new wetherbored will
require about 1/2 tunne timber, the workmanship -

xiiij s iiij d

The gate of the wardhowse, to be new made, will
require 1/2 tun timber, the Iron and workmanship

xx s

The poyntinge⁸ and tylinge of the wardhowse, and
workmanship, and stuffe - - -

xxvj s viij d

The mendinge of the defectes of the leade, beinge
now hidden may amount vnto - - -

iiij £

The poyntinge of some parte of the parapits, and
walls of the castle, for lyme and workmanship -

xiiij s iiij d

The mendinge of the defectes of the particion walls
within the Castle ; in lath, lime, nayles and work-
manship about - - -

xx s

The Ironworke about the castle, beinge mouldred
with rust by reason of the salt water - - -

lx s

ffor the Caryage of 24 tuns of timber out of the new
forest where it is fitteste to be taken - - -

vij £

ffor mendinge of the sluices, and the wall of the
moate, lyme, supplie of stones, and workmanship -

xxx £

ffor a peere to be new made before the moate, to
haue woode and pyles out of the new foreste, and
for workmanship - - -

xiiij £ . vj s viij d

[total]⁹ - - - iiijxx j £ . vj s viij d

7. According to *NED* a "ton of timber" is defined as "usually equivalent to 40 cubic feet (or for hewn timber, 50)."

8. A good graphic variant for "painting."

9. In Arabic numbers the total amounts to £81. 6s. 8d.

PLATE I.



Sketch from "An estimate of the charge of the repayinge of Cawlishott Castle withe the Breache there 23 Januarij 1611."

The "breach" made by the sea is illustrated in the sketch, to which the following descriptive note is attached :

This Breache beinge a thinge muche to be respected for that if it be not repayed, there wilbe shortlie noe passage without boate, to or from the Castle—as yet there is passedge for horse and man at a lowe water, and it will coste the repayinge, eyther with stones or claye (but I take clay the surest & fitteste) with some ayde of the Country whome also it doth much concerne about - - CCI £

There muste be wood allowed out of the foreste, to make a defensue hedge agaynste the violence of the sea while the worke is in hande, according as occasion shall require.

J. NORDEN.

Finally the document bears the "memorandum" from Sir Julius Caesar¹⁰ (Chancellor of the Exchequer) to Mr. John Bingley (Remembrancer of the Exchequer) to the effect :

3 febr. 1611.

Mr. Bingley, Let there bee a privy scale drawn vp for the payment of the said two summes, amounting to three hundred thirtie one lib'. vj s. 8 d. to Mr. Smith captan of the Castle vppon imprest.

JUL. CAESAR.

From documents preserved in the Public Record Office of Great Britain it is evident that the repairs to Calshot Castle were part of a large-scale rehabilitation of the forts and castles on the south coast of England undertaken in the first two decades of the 17th century. In 1609¹¹ repairs were made to Sandown and Yarmouth Castles by order of the Earl of Southampton in his capacity as Governor of the Isle of Wight. A warrant was issued on December 6th, 1611, to pay John Norden himself £125 for reparations done to "Sandham" Castle,¹² although just a year and a half earlier (June 2nd, 1610)¹³ Norden had received £412 for repairs to the same castle as well as for reconstruction in the parks at Farnham.¹⁴ A further document in the Public Record Office—bearing the same

10. For Sir Julius Caesar's career see *D.N.B.*, VIII, 204-207.

11. *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, of the Reign of James I, 1603 - 1610, Preserved in the State Paper Department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office*, London, 1857, pp. 528, 551. (The *Calendar* for the years 1611 - 1618 appeared the following year.)

12. *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1611-18, p. 97.

13. *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1603-10, p. 616.

14. *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1611-18, p. 108, records a document of uncertain date (? 1611) which contains an estimate "by John Norden of expenses of repairs done or to be done about Castles in Hampshire and Dorsetshire."

date (January 23rd, 1611/12)¹⁵ as the estimate printed above—consists of a note by Norden estimating the amount of munitions necessary for Calshot Castle, apparently a corollary to the document now preserved in the Pierpont Morgan Library.

It seems absolutely certain that the repairs to Calshot Castle were duly undertaken and completed. From Sir Julius Caesar's memorandum, as printed above, one would conclude that the sum of £331. 6s. 8d. was to have been paid to the keeper of the castle. The captain at that time, according to the estimate, was a "Mr. Smith," whose Christian name is supplied by documents in the Public Record Office. On January 31st, 1608,¹⁶ Richard Smith received the reversion, after Sir Edgar Conway, of the captaincy of Calshot Castle. On February 22nd, 1610, Conway (now cited as Thomas Conway)¹⁷ was still the "present captain,"¹⁸ while on April 13th, 1614, the captaincy was conferred upon a certain James Mills.¹⁹ It is evident that Richard Smith enjoyed the keeping of Calshot Castle for only a brief period between these terminal dates.

Although the Morgan document suggests that payment was to be made to Richard Smith as captain of Calshot Castle, one finds in the Public Record Office²⁰ a warrant made out on February 17th, 1612, to John Norden for the payment of £81. 6s. 8d. for repairs about to be made to the castle and of £250²¹ for the repairing of the "breach" made by the sea. Still another record,²² with date

15. *Ibid.*, p. 113.

16. *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1603-10, p. 400.

17. *Ibid.*, p. 588.

18. The printed *Calendar*—or the records themselves—are somewhat confused here. Before turning to the entries, it is well to recall that Calshot is located in Hampshire, while Bagshot with its mansion and park (a favourite resort of King James I) is found in Surrey. Now for 21st July, 1603 (*Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1603-10, p. 23), one finds in the Public Record Office a "grant to Thos. Conway, and Edward his son, of the office of Constable and Keeper of Bagshot Castle, co. Hants (*sic*), for life." This is apparently a misreading for Calshot Castle for, on 11th January, 1604, Sir Henry Guildford was granted "the office of Keeper of Bagshot Park co. Berks (*sic*), for life" (*ibid.*, p. 65). Again, on 25th November, 1609 (*ibid.*, p. 562), there is recorded a "warrant to pay to Sir Wm. Harmon, Keeper of Bagshot Park, co. Surrey, the necessary sums for finishing the repairs of the lodge." This apparent contradiction is explained by a later record (*Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1611-18, p. 159) whereby, on 30th November, 1612, there is noted a "grant to Sir Noel de Caron of the office of Keeper of Bagshot Park, Surrey, on surrender of Sir Wm. Harmon, to whom it was assigned by Sir Hen. Guildford." It thus becomes evident that between 1604 and 1612 the Keepers of Bagshot were successively Sir Henry Guildford and Sir William Harmon. Since Thomas Conway was appointed Keeper of Calshot Castle in 1603 and was still the Captain in 1610, it would seem certain that the "Sir Edgar" Conway of the document cited in the text above is either a misreading in the calendar or a mis-citation in the official record.

19. *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1611-18, p. 231.

20. *Ibid.*, p. 121. Mr. J. E. Fagg of the Public Record Office confirms my suspicion that the £251 as printed in the *Calendar* is a slip for £250.

21. The figure in the Morgan document is difficult to read but is certainly "CC1" pounds. That this is the correct sum is made plain by the memorandum of Sir Julius Caesar, which calls for a total payment of £331. 6s. 8d. Since the itemized repairs to the castle itself correctly total £81. 6s. 8d., it is quite certain that the estimated repairs for the "breach made by the sea" amounted to £250.

22. Mr. Fagg has also most kindly supplied me with information concerning this entry.

March 5th, 1611/12 (*Pells Order Book*, Vol. 11 [E 403/2731], fo. 122), seems to offer conclusive proof that the payment was finally made to John Norden, despite the request as noted above that payment be made to Richard Smith.
