

Dover castle : Knight's fees owing castle-guard service at Dover :
An eighteenth-century list

The following text, a schedule of the small number of castle-guard rents which were still being paid in 1738, was printed by Hardman (1938, pp 106-7). (That article, though it has its good points, is not to be trusted very far.) These are the remarks which he made by way of introduction:

"The later history of thirty of the Castleward rents ... can be traced in a Conveyance of August 15th, 1738 (penes Kent Record Society). They were ... described as ffee ffarm rents and Castleguard rents issuing and payable out of divers manors, &c. in Kent The deed of 1738 contains a schedule of the lands out of which the rents issued and of the amounts, and this is reproduced below. The occasion of the deed of 1738 was the extinguishment by purchase of the rent payable out of the Manor of Easole in Nonington, and many of the other Castleguard rents were doubtless ended in the same way, though Hasted notes that in his day some of them were still paid" (Hardman 1938, pp 105-6).

As Hardman pointed out, each of the nine medieval guards is represented by some entries in this schedule.

The rents by this time had all been annualized -- recalculated (to within a farthing) as so much per year. The basic formula used was

$$A = 120 * F * 13 / S$$

where F is the number of fees (perhaps a fraction, perhaps a small integer), S is the number of shifts in the barony to which these fees belonged, and A is the annualized rent (expressed in pence). The totals reported are generally a little more than the totals produced by this formula, presumably because they have been adjusted for the fact that there are more than $13 * 28 = 364$ days in a year; but it is not clear to me how these adjustments were made.

There are two other details which I do not understand. (1) I would have expected the total in line 2 to be the same as in line 13; in fact it is a few pence more. (2) The two Fizwillelm fees, lines 17 and 23, were apparently paying an extra shilling in the pound, but I have no notion why. These are small points. The remarkable fact is the degree to which the ruins of the medieval structure can still be recognized behind the Georgian facade.

THE SCHEDULE

- 1 The mannor of Burstead, <shift 7/1? -- one fee>
- 2 The moiety of the manor of John Dive Arnold Easling <shift 3/4 -- half a fee plus a few pence>
- 3 Mannor of Eastwell alias Fredvile <shift 6/6 -- half a fee>
- 4 Mannor of Ripton alias Chariton <shift 2/5 -- one fee>
- 5 Mannor of Sweet Arden <shift 2/5? -- half a fee>

- 6 Mannor of Wickham Bushes <shift 6/7? -- one fee>
- 7 Farningham Mannor <shift 4/6 -- one fee>
- 8 Mannor of Maplescomb <shift 4/6 -- one fee>
- 9 Mannor of Horston Chilham <shift 3/2 -- one fee>
- 10 Mannor of Evering <shift 2/3 -- one fee>
- 11 Mannor of Kernsey <shift 6/? -- half a fee>
- 12 Mannor of Coddesland Easling called Woods Court <shift 3/5 -- half a fee>
- 13 Mannor of Solton <shift 5/1 -- half a fee>
- 14 Mannor of John of Easling called North Court <shift 3/5 -- one fee>
- 15 Mannor of Eastwell alias Essoles alias St Albans Court <shift 6/6 -- half a fee>
- 16 Mannor of Withereing <shift 3/5 -- one fee>
- 17 Mannor of Downe alias Downe Court <guard 9 -- one fee plus a shilling in the pound?>
- 18 For the moiety of the mannor of Woodnesborough <shift 8/3 -- one third of a fee>
- 19 Mannor of Treiniston <shift 1/? -- one fee>
- 20 Mannor of Buckwell <shift 4/2 -- one fee>
- 21 Manor of Kenarton <shift 1/13 -- one fee>
- 22 Mannor of Popeshall <shift 7/5 -- half a fee>
- 23 Mannor of Harthanger <guard 9 -- one fee plus a shilling in the pound?>
- 24 Mannor of William Solely <shift 8/6 -- one fee>
- 25 Mannor of Oldefeild and Kingston <shift 3/1 -- half a fee>
- 26 Mannor of Ashurst <shift 5/4 -- one fee>
- 27 Mannor of Touleigh alias Trouleigh <shift 5/2 -- two fees and a half>
- 28 Mannor of Battlesmore <shift 8/5 -- two thirds of a fee>
- 29 Manor of Orleston <shift 1/13 -- two fees>
- 30 One full moiety or half part of the mannor of Lydcourt <shift 6/8? -- two fees and a quarter>

Reference

F. W. Hardman, 'Castleguard service of Dover Castle', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 49 (1938), 96--107.

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