

Francis Thin
(Memoir of Sir Roger Manwood)
London
1587

THE

Third volume of Chronicles, beginning at duke William the Norman, commonlie called the Conqueror; and descending by degrees of yeeres to all the kings and queenes of England in their orderlie successions:

First compiled by Raphaell Holinshed, and by him extended to the yeare 1577.

Now newlie recognised, augmented, and continued (with occurrences and accidents of fresh memorie) to the yeare 1586.

Wherein also are contained manie matters of singular discourse and rare obseruation, fruitfull to such as be studious in antiquities, or take pleasure in the grounds of ancient histories.

With a third table (peculiarlie seruing this third volume) both of names and matters memorable.

Historiæ placeant nostrates ac peregrinæ.

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1377a

An. Reg. 27.

Addition of
Fr. Thin.

An act for the
maintenance
to of Rochester
stone bridge
procured by
sir Roger
Manwood.

Sir Roger
Manwood a
freend to the
commonwealth.

..... And on the foure
and twentith daie of the same moneth, hir maiestie
and the lords rode to the parlement, which was that
daie begun at Westminster. <24 Nov 1584>
¶ In the foresaid parlement held at Westminster,
were manie necessarie lawes ordeined for the com-
monwealth, amongst which was one speciall act pro-
cured by sir Roger Manwood knight chiefe baron of
the exchequer, for the maintenance of the famous
stone bridge of Rochester. And here bicause there is
mention made of sir Roger Manwood and Rochester
bridge; I thinke it conuenient (sith I haue alwaies
determined to set forth what soeuer might come to
my mind and pen touching my sweet and natie
countrie of Kent, and such persons of the same as ei-
ther by honorable descent in that countrie, or by of-
fice of hie place in the commonwealth, or by worthie
remembrance deserue not to be forgotten) to speake
somewhat of the same sir Roger Manwood, and such
things as he hath doone for that countrie, especiallie
sith master Lambard a man of rare iudgement
hath not <>for gotten to treat of him in his booke of the
perambulation of Kent vnder the title of Sand-

	wich. Wherefore thinking him worthie remembrance for that which he hath doone in his owne countrie of Kent, I enter in discourse of him a Kentishman in this sort. This man being borne at Sandwich in the yeare of our redemption one thousand fiue hundred and fiue and twentie, was first instructed in the grammar schoole of that towne, as then but a meane thing and taught by a chanterie preest of the foundation of one Thomas Ellis. Afterwards, when as by dissolution of chanteries in the time of king Edward the sixt this chanterie schoole was taken away, and the children of the townes people being manie in number were forced to be taught in the grammar schooles far distant from Sandwich, to the great charges of their parents (whereby manie poore mens children for capacitie and paines taking meet for learning, were put by the course of learning, which otherwise might haue prooued learned and become good members of the commonwealth) the said sir Roger Manwood by studie in the law, and reader in the inner temple, well considering the same (and minding to restore to Sandwich towne his birth place, a better grammar schoole than that wherein he was first brought vp) did in the yeare of our redemption one thousand fiue hundred three score and three, vpon his owne charges procure from the deane and chapter of Christs church of Canturburie a vacant place (hauing manie broken stone walles) neere to the towne 1377b
The place and time of sir Roger Manwoods birth, and bringing vp.	
Dissolution of chanteries.	
Sir Roger Manwood reader in the inner temple.	
He erected a faire schoolehouse of brick and stone.	gate in Sandwich called Canturburie gate. In which void roome adioining to the river of Delfe is now erected a faire schoolehouse (for the schoolemaster, vsher, and certen boording scholers) framed all of bricke and stone. For perpetuall continuance of which schoole, the said sir Roger Manwood (now lord chiefe baron) in this yeare of our Lord 1586 procured letters patents from the queene for incorporating and assurance of the same schoole (with other lands and reuenues thereto belonging) to the maior and his brethren of Sandwich and to their successors for euer, by the name of the gouernours of the free grammar schoole of Roger Manwood in Sandwich; assuring to the said gouernours of his owne land the cleere yearelie value of 22 pounds and more. Further, thervnto procuring of his brother Thomas Manwood (sometime maior of Sandwich) the cleere yearelie value of ten pounds of lands and tenements; and also of one Thomas Tompson (iurat of Sandwich) eight pounds by yeere <i>De claro</i>, of his owne lands and tenements, in the grosse summe amounting to fourtie pounds by yeare, which lands being sufficientlie assured to the said gouernours, with conuenient dwelling for the master, and vsher, lodging for sixteene boording scholers, and with some benevolence of parents for the teaching of their children, is a large endowment for perpetuall maintenance of the same grammar schoole.
He procureth leters patents &c: for the maintenance of the same in perpetuitie.	
The summe of 40 pounds allowed yearelie, &c: to the maintenance of the said grammar schoole.	
Two scholars roomes obtained in	Besides which, for the further benefit of the same schoole, the same sir Roger Manwood hath obtained two scholers roomes in Gonuile and Caius college in Cambridge, and two other scholers roomes in

Cambridge and two in Oxford for such scholars as remooue from the said schoole to either of the vniuersities.	Lincolne college at Oxford, with pension of foure markes yearelie to euerie of the said foure scholers to be remooued from that schoole of Sandwich, and to be placed in those colleges, from time to time as often as anie of the same college scholers roomes shall be void, and that anie scholer shall be meet to come from that schoole of Sandwich. Beyond all which that he hath doone for recompense of his birth place, with a free grammar schoole for the education of the youth there, he also for reliefe of age hath neere vnto his dwelling place of saint Stephans in Hackington parish (adiointing to Canturburie) built in the yeare of our redemption 1573, a faire row of seuen almes houses of bricke, placing in euerie of the same almes houses poore folkes, such as are counted to be honest and good. For perpetuall maintenance of which almes persons he hath endowed that building with a yeerelie allowance of the value of foure pounds by yeare (to euerie of the same almes men and houses) in monie, bread, and fewell. And in the same parish church neere to those almes houses he hath newlie erected an Ile, where his toome is made and placed, and in that church a new roome of seuen pewes and seates for the almes people to be bestowed in, togither by themselues.
Seuen almes houses by him founded for the releefe of the honest aged.	
Sir Roger Manwoods toome.	
A house of correction for lustie idle persons.	Likewise for setting to worke of middle age, whereby they may eschew idlenesse, this Sir Roger Manwood did in the yeare of Christ, one thousand fiue hundred seuentie and eight, build a new house of correction in the Westgate street in the suburbs of Canturburie. And moreouer, whereas Rochester bridge standing on the riuer of Medweie, being famouslie built of stone (in the time of king Richard the second as is most likelie; though some attribute the same to the time of Edward the third) by one sir Robert Knolles knight, with the helpe of Iohn lord Cobham of Cobham, and Margaret Courtneie his wife, being two of the principall benefactors therevnto, after the decaie of a woodden bridge (first erected ouer the same riuer some hundred yeares before that of stone) had (for the perpetuall maintenance of the same stone bridge) the ancient contributarie
The ancient bridge of Rochester, when builded and by whom.	
Diuerse opinions concerning the first founding of the said bridge.	
	1378a
How the said bridge began to decaie, and what meanes are vsed for the repairing of the same.	lands (giuen for the support of the woodden bridge) after the ruine of the same woodden bridge reduced (by act of parlement holden in the one and twentieth of Richard the second) to the maintenance of the same new stone bridge; and that sundrie manors, lands, tenements, and rents in Kent, London, and Essex, were by deuise of sundrie persons assured for the vpholding of the same new stone bridge: yet by want of due circumspection this new stone bridge became in so great decaie, that in the latter time of queene Marie, and begining of hir maiestie now reigning, collection was made vpon all horssemen, and carriages passing ouer that bridge in manner of a tole or tax: and more, by reason of the queenes commission, an vniversall taxation was made in nature of a tenth and fifteenth ouer all the countrie of Kent, and the citie of Canturburie, for and towards the reparations of the same bridge.
	All which being an vnwilling burthen, and griefe to

Sir Roger Manwoods deuised remedie for the keeping of the said bridge well repared.

His deuised remedie tending to so good a purpose was impugned.

The yearelie reuenues of the said bridge amount vnto more in value by triple than they were before.

A further remedie deuised.

An act of parlement obtained for the behoofe of the said bridge.

the people, together with the reuenues of the bridge lands, did not yet suffice to save the ruine of that famous stone bridge, vntill by the carefull trauell of the said sir Roger Manwood (then a iustice in the common plees) a remedie was found therefore without iniurie to anie person, and without exaction of anie passenger. Which remedie was, that all the manors, lands, tenements, and rents, belonging vnto the bridge, should be freed from all leases thereof, made at small rents; and the same lands so let to be dylie improoued to a higher rate, the same being a matter answerable to right and reason; considering the cause of the first gift of those lands then sufficient, and the now dearth of things, which made it insufficient to support the said bridge) the stone, timber and other stuffe, for repaire of the same bridge, with the works, wages, and carriages concerning it, being now growne to farre greater prices than in old time they were. Which deuised remedie to vndoo the old leases, was much impugned by manie persons of wealthie hauior, receiuing great profit by those old vnder rented leases.

All which notwithstanding, this Roger Manwood prosecuted the same to a good successe: for he making to appeare before the lords of the councell, and the rest of the iudges of the realme (in the presence of such as inioied these old leases, and of their learned councell, and other fauourers) that the said manors, lands, and tenements, belonging to the said bridge, were giuen to the wardens and communalitie, owners of the contributorie lands; and that their old leases made by the wardens onelie, without consent of the communalitie, were not good in law: the farmers submitted themselues to surrender their old insufficient leases, and to take such as might be available in law of the same lands. Whereby the yearelie reuenues of the bridge lands grew to be of more value than triple that which they were before: and yet the old farmers had new leases vnto their owne contentation; bicause the same are not so improoued, but that they are as reasonable letten as other priuat mens lands be.

To which deuise a further remedie was then added, and set forth by the said iustice Manwood, who for perpetuall supplie (when need should be) procured that the ancient contributorie lands, almost growne into obliuion, should be to that end reduced into a conuenient order answerable vnto right and iustice. And likewise (for good direction in yearelie elections of wardens, and other officers, with the accounts, prouision, works, and other such necessities required for perpetuall maintenance of that bridge) obtained an act of parlement in the eighteenth yeare of this queenes reigne, as appeareth in the printed booke of statutes: wherein were manie things ordeined

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for the good ordering of the said bridge, and the officers belonging therevnto. After all which a charge of fiue hundred pounds was of record demanded and leuiued vpon the wardens of the said bridge, for arerages of the stipends of chanterie priests, sometime seruing in the chappell at the east end of the said

Maister
Thomas
Wooten of
Kent esquier
a father and
fauourer of
his countrie.

bridge, to the great damage and ouerthrow of the bridge; had not the said iustice Manwood by his trauell vpon due and lawfull triall at the assizes, deliuered and discharged the bridge of that great demand; as appeareth by record in the court of the exchequer, before the said sir Roger Manwood came to be chiefe baron there. And yet abuse and slackenesse being had in these things, the wardens (notwithstanding that great beneuolence and releefe was at sundrie times and of sundrie persons procured vnto the said bridge, by the carefull and diligent trauell of Thomas Wooten of Bocton Maleherbe of Kent esquier, a deere father and fauourer of his countrie, as well at the times of the elections of the wardens, and the accounts of the officers) were forced to disburse great sums of their owne monie from time to time, to dispatch the needfull charges and works required for the bridge, without anie conuenient allowance of the contributorie persons, at the yearelie elections of the wardens, and without due regard had for order of the said lands, belonging and contributorie to the bridge.

* Sir Roger
Manwood
and maister
William
Lambard
esquier war-
dens of the
said bridge.

For auoiding wherof the said sir Roger Manwood, then and now lord chiefe baron of the exchequer, procured to passe another act of parlement, in the seuen and twentieth yeare of hir maiestie reigne, wherein is further prouision made for the said bridge, as in the printed booke of statutes at large appeareth. By which fullie prouided meanes and by reasonable following the presidents of the works and accounts (written in great * ligear books by the said chiefe baron, and William Lambard esquier, in the yeare next after the said last mentioned act of parlement of the seauen and twentieth of the queenes reigne, they then executing the office of wardens) all needfull reparations be so doone, and prouision before hand so made, as it is now growne out of all controuersie, that the said famous stone bridge of Rochester for euer is like to last according vnto the intent of the first building, and the indowment thereof for the good and beneficiall seruice of the commonwealth. This sir Roger Manwood, hauing had before an other wife issued of the gentlemanlie familie of the Theobalds, is at this daie ioined in marriage with Elisabeth (descended of an ancient and worshipfull familie) the daughter of Iohn Copinger of Alhallowes in the countie of Kent esquier: which Elisabeth, being a woman of such rare modestie and patience, as hir verie enimies must needs confesse the same: occasioned these verses following to be composed touching hir and hir husband the said sir Roger Manwood:

Elisabeth
(daughter of
Iohn Copin-
ger esquier)
second wife
to sir Roger
Manwood,
hir modestie,
&c.

*Scaccarij prothobaro (Manwoode) beatum
Quem faciunt leges, lingua, loquela virum:
Coniuge foelicior tamen es, quae nata Copinger
Egregia est summa foemina digna viro:
Quae viduata thoro Wilkins, coniunctaque Manwood,
Coniugibus coniux est sociata binis.]*

The earle of
Lincolne
deceased.

In the moneth of Ianuarie deceased Edward Fines lord Clinton, earle of Lincolne, and lord admerall of England, knight of the garter, and one of hir maiesties priuie counsell, a man of great yeeres, and seruice, as well by sea as land,

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Finished in Ianuarie 1587, and the 29 of the Queenes
Maiesties reigne, with the full continuation of the
former yeares, at the expenses of Iohn Hari-
son, George Bishop, Rafe Newberie,
Henrie Denham, and Tho-
mas Woodcocke.

AT LONDON

Printed in Aldersgate street at the signe
of the Starre.

Cum priuilegio.

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<This is one of the pieces written by Thin for the second edition of
Holinshed's 'Chronicles'. It gives a well-informed contemporary
account of the benefactions of Sir Roger Manwood, expecially of
his efforts to reorganize the management of Rochester bridge. –
C.F. Aug. 2026.>