

VI

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY ACCOUNTS RELATING TO FORTS ON HOLY ISLAND AND AT THE MOUTH OF THE TYNE 1675 TO 1681/2

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SOME YEARS ago I purchased a number of manuscripts concerning Northumberland. Most of these have since been deposited on loan to the Northumberland County Record Office, among those still in my possession are a series of accounts dealing with Forts on the Northumberland coast in the late 17th Century, they are as follows:

- (1) An account relating to the building of Osborne's Fort on Holy Island 1675-1676 by Mr. Trollop.
- (2) An account of gunpowder used at the Castle of Holy Island and the new Fort called Osborne's Fort between 1679 and 1681.
- (3) An estimate for repairing Clifford's Fort (built at Shields about 1672) blown down by a gale on 2nd. Nov. 1680.
- (4) An estimate of repairs to Clifford's Fort 9th May 1681 and two reports by a mason on the estimates before and after the work was carried out dated 26th August 1681 and 23rd March 1681/2 respectively.

A reference to Clifford's Fort occurs in the Northumberland County History Vol. VIII p. 200 and repairs to Tynemouth Castle in 1682 are mentioned p. 203. From this three references to Forts on the Northumberland coast were found in the Earl of Dartmouth's Manuscripts, Historical Manuscripts Commission 11th Report Appendix Part V pp. 37, 75 and 135.

(a) Letter from James, Duke of York to Colonel George Legge.
13 Nov. (1679) Durham.

"I received yours of the 7 at Norton just as I was a going to take coach for Richmond, and arrived here last night, and was obliged to stay here this day to lett my baggage come up, the wagons not having been able to come through yesterday. I intended to have gone to Newcastel tomorrow but by reason of a great cold the Dutchesse has gott, and that Newcastel is a better place to stay in on Sunday then Morpeth, and then I shall be able to see Tinmouth which otherwise I should not have been able to have done, and this will not hinder me from being at Edinburge on Saturday the 22; there has falen a good deel of snow yesterday in the evening, and it was as hard a frost last night as ever I knew and continus still very cold, and

if theis northerly winds continu I feare I may be at Edinburge before my goods that come by sea. . . .”

The Duke of York was attending the Scottish Parliament, from item 2) below it will be seen that he passed Holy Island in his Yacht on 20th Nov. so it seems unlikely he would reach Leith by the 22nd.

(b) 1682, June 15 and 17. Bath. Col. Sir Edward Villiers to Colonel Legge.

About the repairs to be undertaken at Tynemouth Castle.

Unfortunately these letters are not calendared in the Historical Manuscripts Commission Report. Sir Edward Villiers was Governor of Tynemouth.

1682 June 21. Welbeck. Henry, Duke of Newcastle, to Colonel Legge.

Referring to his previous letter and to matters at Berwick and Tynemouth Castle. “I am very glad you intend to make Berwick a place to be defended, but sure now it doth not deserve the name of a garrison, I think forty men could take it with the assistance of the disaffected persons in the town. I am very ready to make a deputy governor if my cousin Wid(drington) be willing, and would have him had a deputation from me, but he desired to be Lieutenant-governor, and so I desired it of his Majesty for him. I assure you he and my Lord Widdrington has all the profits of governor and of the company, and so I acquainted his royal highness when I had the honour to attend him here.”

(c) 1687 Oct. 15. Holy Island, near Berwick upon Tweed.

William Selby and Gilbert Orde to Lord Dartmouth.

As bailiffs of the Corporation desire to make his Lordship sensible of the inconveniences sustained by the company of soldiers there quartered, by reason of the poverty and disability of the inhabitants. Ask that twelve beds may be placed in the Castle, so that the poorer sort of inhabitants may be eased, and the soldiers not forced to lie in that cold place upon straw, very slenderly covered. The Governor there, Capt. Throckmorton, of Col. Oglethorp's regiment, would have given an account of the business, but the writers supposed themselves more nearly concerned, and took it upon themselves to write to his lordship.

- (1) A perticuler Acco^t of moneys paid & accompted for to maj^r Danyell Collingwood for building his Ma^{ties} fort called Osbournes fort in ye Holy Island by order of the r^t hono^{ble} S^r Thomas Chechley major generall of his Ma^{ties} ordnance & the principall officers of that office.

			li
Aprill	2 ^d 1675	Rec ^d of M ^r James Walkden of Newcastle	20 — —
	8 th	Of Mr Richard Winlow of Barwicke	80 — —
May	29 th 1675	Charged a bill of Exchange on Maj ^r Collingwood for 200 ^{li} payable to M ^r Robert Brough att the Feathers in Milkstreet London of which Bill Major Collingwood paid	150 — —
May	19 th 1676	Of M ^r Winlow	20 — —
June	26 th 1676	Of M ^r William Browne of the Holy Island	100 — —
July	4 th 1676	Of M ^r Winlow	10 — —
		More for moneys pd. to M ^r Geo. Thomson	3 — —

Moneys allowed for Dales	2 — —
Rec. of M ^r Carney	1 — —
More to be allowed Maj ^r Collingwood for old stones rent of his quarries way leave; rent of a close & moneys paid by him in fees.	90 — —
Summa	476 — —
Rec ^d by Major Collingwood (as by accot) from the hono ^{ble} office.	649 14 —
res'ing due to me	173 14 —

(Endorsed) Trollop's accompt
what payd.

(2) An Accompte of whatt expense of powder And of whatt gunns hath beene fired And by whose orders in the castle of Holy Island & the new forth called Ossburnes forth since the last returne to the Tower bye ther order May the 29th day 1679

As followeth

Imprmis—first fired on the 29th day May 1679 beinge the King's restoration day and birthday
15 guns fiteene gunns by Captaine William Collingwood then Governor
his order

Itt more fired to salute the Commissioners for disbanding the forces that laye heare
7 July the sixt day 1679 bye the same order seaven gunnes;

Itt more fired when his Grace the Duke of Munmoth went bye heare from Scotland
for London to entertaine the nobles that did accompany his Grace and
came in heare after his Grace's departure beinge Munday the eleaventh
day of July aboute six aclocke att night; The Honorable Lord Rosseth
then chancelor of Scotland; Lord Haddington his sonn; The Earle of
Humbye; And My Lord Morton with other persons of quallytye who
in all stayed that night and the next day till twellfe aclocke who was entertained
fired after this noble mannor bye Collonell Danniell Collingwoodes owne order
was then Governor & in person himselfe (As followeth) att ther first entring
185 gu. Ossburnes forth the whole line one & twenty gunns att there first entrance
of the castle tenn gunns :: at there entringe the upper batterye tenn gunns:
More att supper nyne gunnes; att his Majestyes helth drinkeinge eleaven
gunnes; in other helthes drinkeinge first seaven gunns; then more after
supper; nyne gunns; then seaven; then five; then seaven; then five; then
five; then seaven; then five and soe ended that night.

Itt more the next morneinge att dinner first five gunns then seaven then three then
one & one & one all with ball att markes upon wagons; then fiteene then
nyneteene; And then fiteene & soe ended This is a true accompte as far
as my memory would serve me att that tyme butt I doe think that the
accompte might be more; butt I am sure noe less; the totall of all the
gunns fired then was in all 185 gunns.

- Itt. More fired to entertaine Captaine Ralph Widdrington Governor of Berwicke
first five gunnes then seaven; then five; then three; then one & one with
29 shott; then seaven att his goeing away in all twenty nyne gunnes July
the eighteenth day 1679; bye the Governors owne order
- Itt. More fired to salute one M^r Blackett a master of a vessell came in heare. And
1 us three gunns & wee gave him a gunn July the 25th 1679 bye the deputy
governors order;
- Itt more fired to salute Sir Ralph Delavall and his Ladye and other persons of
quallytye that came with them; in Ossburnes forth seaven gunns in the
21 castle nyne more with balle five in all twenty and one gunns August the
first day 1679 bye the Governors owne order;
- Itt more fired on the fifft day of Novembr beinge Gunn-powder treason day; thirteene
13 gunnes bye the deputy Governors order 1679;
- Itt more fired to salute his highness the Duke of Yorke as he wentt bye us into
Scotland Novembt ye 20th day 1679; tow roundes of gunnes in the old
63 castle and one rounde in Osburnes forth sixty and three gunnes in all bye
the Deputy Governors order.
- Itt more fired to salute a Virginia shipp that came in heare Decembr the 15 1679
3 three gunnes bye the same order
- Itt more fired att the drinkeinge his Majestys hilth and his highness the Duke of
Yorkes his hilth with one Mr. Mitchell one of his highness his sarvanttes
17 that came in here bye the same order seaventeene gunnes January the 9
day 1679
- Itt more fired to entertaine Captaine Starlinge when he came with orders to disband
this companye that was then here and other officers that was with him
3 gave him three gunnes by Captaine William Collingwoods order then
deputy Governor January the 16 day 1679
- Itt more fired on the 18th day of ffebruary 1679 to salute his highness the Duke
of Yorke in his Yoate as he went bye this castle first a whole round in
the castle and another rounde in Osburnes forth being of each twenty &
53 one gunnes, and then after his highness his yoate saluted us with three
gunnes wee gave him eleaven gunnes more; in all fifty and three gunnes
by the master gunners order then commandeing the castle.
- Itt more fired to salute the Cleavaland yoate that came in heare by contrary windes
with his highnes the Duke of Yorkes attendant Captain Davis Commander
8 first five gunnes & more three gunnes ffebbr. the 19 1679 bye the master
gunners order
- Itt more fired on St. Georges day beinge the Kings Coronation day Aprill the 23
11 1680 eleaven gunnes by the above order
- Itt more fired att the goeing out of Captain Collingwood for London May the 26th
3 day three gunnes bye the same order 1680
- Itt more fired on the 29 day of May beinge the Kings birth & restoration day;
13 thirteene gunnes by the same order 1680
- Itt more fired septembr the 27 day 1680 to salute Capt Francis Collingwood, Ensigne

5 Love & severall other officers that came to the castle five gunnes bye the same order
 Itt more fired on Gunpowder treason day Novembr Novembr the fiftt day 1680
 9 nyne gunnes bye the same order
 Itt more fired on St Georges day beinge the Kinges birth & restoration day Aprill
 11 the 23rd day 1681 (SIC) eleaven gunnes bye the same order
 Itt more fired the 29 day of May 1681 eleaven gunnes being the Kinges birth and
 11 restoration day bye the same order
 Itt more fired July the 10th day 1681 to caves three shippes to come ashore that
 3 would not pay there accknowledgment to the thre gunnes with ball by
 Mr. Brownes order the Master Gunner.
 Itt more fired to receive our Noble Governor the ritt Honorable Sir John Fenewicke
 Knt & Barront July the 25 day 1681 first att his entrin the castle nyne
 21 gunnes, more att his goeing away again from the castle nyne gunnes more
 att his takeinge possession of Osburnes fforth three gunnes in all one and
 twenty gunnes
 Itt more fired to salute Captaine George Collingwood first five gunnes and more
 8 three in all eight gunnes July the the 27 day 1681
 The number of all the gunnes fired is five hundred and fowerteene gunnes which we
 compute the expence of powder to come to twenty and five barrells of powder and
 halfe a barrell. Wee had in charge att the last returne of expence of powder into
 the office twenty eight barrells and a halfe of powder soe that there is butt in store
 now three barrells This is a true expence and accompt in wittness our handes the
 tenth day of August Anno Dm. 1681

Will. Browne
 Thomas Hillinghall
 Adam Bell
 Henry Bullyvantt
 John Crispe

Novembr 30th 1680

- (3) An Estimate of the Charge of Repaireing the Battlements and Armory of
 Cliffords Forte Att Tynmouth which were blowne down the 2^d Novemb
 1680 vizt.

Impris.	For thre little new webbs of lead neere 7 cwt.	li	s	d
	For Sodder	04	16	—
	For two Plumbers and Labourers for takeing up & straightning of the old lead & laying downe againe them and the new and alsoe carriage from Newcastle	01	01	6
	This is workeman like done	02	11	00

To repaire the north Isle of this Armory broken downe by the fall of the Batlement that is for new sparres lathes and nayles lyme and sand slates and tyles & workeman- shipp cost	02 —
For new walling of both sides of the Batlem ^{ts} foure foote high with bricke being in length 38 yards that is brick lyme and sand and workmanshipp	10 12 6
For a stone cape for this Batlem ^{ts} with some peeres to strengthen the Batlem ^{ts}	08 11 —
	<hr/>
In all	29 12 —
More for topping of three chymneys	01 11 —
	<hr/>
	31 03 —

(A duplicate account headed)

A Noate of the Repaire of the Lead and battlement of the Armoury which was
blowne downe y^e 2^d of this instant November the 30th 1680.

May 9th 1681

(4) A Perticular of Severall Repaires that are requisite and Necessary to bee
forthwith done Att Cliffords fforte which are as followeth vizt.

For eight new axletrees fflower of them for twenty fflower pounder carriages and fflower for fflower culvering to dismount these gunns and then axle them with spikes and sturrups and mending the other iron worke needfull and finding all with workemanshipp will amount to the summe of	14 00 00 (9 10 00)
To mend all the Cape of the Brestwall now pulled downe by unrrouely people in the night tyme it conteyning in length neere forty yards and to point all the rest of this wall with lyme and sand & some new stone will amount to the some of	25 00 00 (4 15 00)
To lay a new forty thick fflagge under the carrage (wheeles) where now broake in the Plattforme will cost	3 10 00 (3 10 00)
To make fast all the bricces round aboute all the fforte wall which was most of it pulled downe with the great croude of people when his Royall highness was there & to ffinde new bricces lyme & sand & workemanshipp will amo ^t to the summe of	45 00 00 (3 15 00)
To mend the capeing of the two cazmatts (which are fallen) with lyme sand and bricces & workemanshipp will amo ^t to	4 10 0 (4 10 0)
To mend the leads and all the slateing and the batlement round the tower that is for lead, sodder, slates, lyme sand & workemanshipp will amo ^t to	8 00 00 (4 06 08)

To cast a way the sand & make a graft as formerly to keepe people from coming over the wall which must be done twice this yeare with six new shovells will amount to

3 10 0
(3 10 0)

For six barrells of Stockholme tarr & six brushes will amo^t to ye some of

7 16 00
(4 16 00)

For a new white gynn rope wth mending y^e gynn the rope being fforty ffathome in length will amo^t to

1 11 6
(2 18 04)

£112 17 6

(Sume is

£ 41 11 00)

(A duplicate estimate on a separate sheet headed as shown below, the estimates are different, in most cases being smaller, the second estimate is shown in brackets in the above account)

“May the 9th An^o 1681 Cliffords Fort

A noate or estimate of some repaires there by the order of the officers of the Ordnce as followeth.”

August the 26th day 1681. A vei^w taken off Cliffords fort by John Rowell mason.

Wheareoff I finde Mr Troloppe estimation is very reasonable If he do it substantially for I finde such defects in parte of the worke that no man can do it affter thease rates to make it sufficient As ffor the axle trees and theas things nesessary for them and the stockholme tar and the rope for the gin thease things I am not grounded in but as I am informed the charge wilbe very reasonable that are exprest in the inclosed paper.

As for the capeing of the breast wall theire hath beane a failing in the shortnese of the stones at the first for they haveing six in projecture and some of them but fourteane inches broad that they cannot (hing) of themselves so that they should be cramped with iron one to another or else in my judgment they wilbe slideing of.

As for the platforme theire is a greate faileing in the flaging for five yards broad all the whole lenth of the wall wheare the carriage should run for the flags being so thin and very tender that they cannot beare the burden of the wheales so that wheare the carryages stand most of them are shrunke and satled in so much that no man can make it suficient with such a number of flags as are exprest in the inclosed paper.

As for makeing ffast all the capeing of the brick walls round about the forte it be don substantially it will require more charge then are exprest in the paper.

As for the two cazmeats if they be sufficiently don it will require so much charge as are exprest in the paper.

As for the leads they have beane too thin cast at the first and the have beane too narrow laid so that wheare the lead are but anything settled the wet runs over at the sides and by reason of its thinnes it doth crack in severall places and for the slateing that are broken and makeing fail the bricks of the battlements of the tower if they

all be don substantially they will require the charge that are expressed in the inclosed paper.

As ffor casting a graft before the breast wall twice this yeare and for six new shovells the charge wilbe very reasonable if it be well don.

And this are the Judgmt
of John Rowell.

March the 23 day 1681/2 A veiw taken off the Repaires of his Ma^{ty} ffort at Clifford by John Rowell mason that are lately don by Mr. Trollop.

Wheareof I finde all the worke now to be finished the carriages are mounted and the axle trees are made good saveing two, the one stands on props and the other is broken And there are two or thre of the frames off the carryages in danger off ffalling ffor want of iron hoopes and bolts to girdle them aboute And ffor the capeing of the breast wall it is ffinished and lyes as it did att my last veiw wheareof you have my Judgmt in it And ffor the fflags in the platforme that weare broke and satled sheare the carriage wheales stood there are twenty carriage wheals raised with new fflags and lyeth a litle higher then the other flags in the platforme and may diserne the price that is menconed in his estemate

And ffor makeing all the bricks rounde aboute the forte wall fast it is finished as it was at my last veiw wheare off you have my Judgment in it.

As ffor the capeing of the two cazements now both sides are ffinished and yow have my Judgmt in them.

And ffor the leads and the slateing and the battelmts round aboute the tower they are ffinished but not as I expected theise for the charge may be 3^{li} 10^s

And ffor the graft before the breast wall it is almost filed up.

And for the gin rope and the hand spades and shovells and the gin there is care taken off them.

John Rowell.