



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

A CUSTUMAL OF NEW ROMNEY.

BY F. WILLIAM COCK, M.D., F.S.A.

THANKS to the kind offices of our late President, Sir Reginald Tower, we have received for permanent loan to our Library from Mr. and Mrs. Mackeson-Sandback and Captain H. R. Mackeson, a mid-sixteenth century MS. of the Custumal of New Romney. The careful restoration of the binding by the binders to the British Museum we also owe to him. The book is a valuable one, a good specimen of the law scrivener's art of the period with small coloured capitals throughout. It was translated from the Latin copy in London, from the original granted by Henry VI, by John Forsett for Symon Padyham, a bailiff of New Romney. Forsett being the Common Clerk of the town, or as we now term it Town Clerk.

The book is bound in calf, very much worn, small folio in size with panels formed on each cover by a roller with scroll pattern ornament of the period. It consists of 110 pages of fine paper having the well-known water mark of the hand with star on the forefinger, *vide* Heawood's list in *The Library* for 1929-1930. Size of paper 11.3 inches by 8. The leaves are stitched into an early printed vellum fragment.

At the end are several pages in good Elizabethan law-hand of notes by Judge Manwood on the Custumal of Sandwich, also the baptisms of William Southland's children, and stating that this book was to be given to the William Southland whose baptism is there noted. Also at the end there are two four-lined poems and divers scribblings.

The dates given are 1559 for the translation, 1564 on the title page as giving the ownership then to Symon Padyam, and 1583 the date of purchase by William Southland.

There are pedigrees of the Southland family in the visitations of 1619, 1663-8, and in Berry. The family seems to have migrated to Ickham and the last entries in Berry are

of late seventeenth century date. The name does not appear in Musgrave's *Obituaries*.

I have made a rough register of the book as follows :—

Page 1. The Custumal of the Cinque Ports.

below :

but now owned by Thomas Southland.

Page 2, at top :

Wrytten Ano Dmi 1564

Written by John Forsett late Coṃon Clerke
of Newe Romney at the charges of Symon
Padyham late Bayliff of Newe Romney afore-
sayd and for the use of the Sayde Symon
Añō Dm̄i 1564

Symon Padyam owner of this booke

Then follows William Southland's ownership statement :

“As from the daie of oṛ Lord God 1583
William Southland is owner of thys book both
(i.e. bought) and paid for.”

This inscription is repeated several times in the book.

Page 55. Confirmation by Elizabeth of Inspeximus by Mary who is described as “Defender of the Faith on erthe of the Church of Englande & of Ireland Supreme head.” Also that of Edward VI in the same wording. The whole being endorsed in a charmingly ornamented E with crown and Tudor rose. At the foot of page 74 “God save Queene Elizabeth” and then in large red letters done with a brush or split quill :

“Translated out of latten in Englishe for all
the ports by John fforsett añō d̄m̄i M.CCCCC
LIX”— and copyed out for Symon Padyam
añō d̄m̄i MDL Xiiij.”

Page 107. List of baptisms of William Southland's children. In top left corner a note of his writing it June 27th, 1585.

“*John Southland* bap. 24. Sep 1570 in the
parish church of Hope all Saints. (The now
ruined church between Old and New Romney.)

Mary Southland bap^d 21 Sep^r 1572 in the parish church of New Romney.

Elizabeth Southland bap^d 17th April 1573 in the parish church of New Romney.

William Southland bap. 18th Oct^r 1578 in the parish church of New Romney.

and unto the said William Southland I do geve this Booke

Marget Southland baptized 26. Dec^r 1580 in Parish Church of New Romney.

P. me. Willy^m Southland "

Pages 87-91. Five pages in good Elizabethan law-hand of notes on the Custumal of Sandwich by Mr. Justice Manwood.

Page 108. The end fly leaf. There are two four-line verses.

Page 109. 1580. Notes of purchase and scribblings.

Pages 86, 92 to 104, and 106, blank.