

FURTHER NOTES ON PHIL. SYMONSON,
MAKER OF THE MAP OF KENT DATED 1576—1596.

BY THE HON. H. HANNEN.

IN the short paper on Phil. Symonson's early Map of Kent, which I contributed to the last Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, I had to say that I had failed to obtain any information concerning him. Since then I have, through the kindness of Mr. A. A. Arnold, F.S.A., learnt several particulars about him and his work.

It appears from entries in the Rochester Bridge Warden's accounts, which Mr. Arnold has been good enough to extract for me (the originals of which, by the courtesy of the Bridge Wardens, I have been permitted to examine), that Symonson was appointed "Expenditor,"* Superintendent and Surveyor of the Bridge and Bridge Estates, and was also employed to "plot" several of the latter. He was appointed at Whitsuntide 1592, and held the office until his death on the 30th of September 1598.

The Bridge Wardens still possess three plans of certain of their estates, all, apparently, made by him. They are Nashenden and Little Delce, the Manor of Langdon (near Faversham), and Lands near Dartford. The "plot" of the Warden's estate at Tilbury in Essex, though referred to in the accounts, is not now to be found.

That Symonson was a man of local importance is shewn by the fact that he was Mayor of Rochester for the year 1597-8. He succeeded a Mr. Richard Harlowe as "Expenditor for the Bridge," who was Mayor for the years 1570, 1571, 1573, 1578, 1579 and 1586.

* More particularly an officer appointed to expend or disburse money collected by tax for repairs of sewers; in this case for repairs to Rochester Bridge.

The following are the references to Phil. Symonson and his office that appear in the Bridge Warden's accounts, as extracted by Mr. Arnold :—

Account for the year, from Whitsuntide 1591 to Whitsuntide 1592. (Vol. II.)

[The following is the first reference to Symonson, and is entered on an almost blank page near the end of the account, and in a different hand from what precedes or follows it. Mr. Arnold suggests that it may be very likely in the handwriting of Symonson himself.]

Huc usq. Mr̄ (*sic*) Richardus Harlowe, qui obiit Mortem die Mercurii viz. xxi^{mo} die Februarii Anno domini juxta computacōem Ecclie Anglicanæ 1592 Annoq. regni Dñe Regniæ (*sic*) Elizabethæ nunc tricesimo quinto, et sepultus fuit die Saturni viz. xxiii^{to} die mensis supradicti in Ecclia Cath. Roffen.*

Et Philippus Simonson (*sic*), generosus, predicti Richardi officium expeditoris pro ponte Roffense die et anno ult. suprascriptis in manus suas cœpit ex dono et concessione gardianōr et communitatis Pontis predict.

1592-3. Paid to Phillip Symonson, gentleman, for his fee, due unto him at this present accompt heretofore granted to him for his paynes in Sounding the gullets, and furnishing the Bridge with chalke, the sum of iij^{li} vi^s viij^d

1593-4. (Vol. iii.) Paid to Phillip Symonson, gent., for his fee for his paynes taking about the affairs of the Bridge, the sum of x^{li}

1594-5. [Thomas Fludd and William Lambard, Wardens for the year.] Paid to Phillip Symondson (*sic*), gent., paye master of the Bridge work, for his fee x^{li}

Paid and allowed to the said Phillip Symons (*sic*) for his paynes in plotting ye Manors† of Nashenden and Little Delce in Kent, and for the Manor of East Tilberye in Essex, and for a survey

* There exists no record of his burial in the Cathedral so far as can be ascertained.

† These Manors still belong to the Wardens.

and certificat to be made of the Stadles* in the Coppis wooddes and hedge rows of Nashendyn and Delce aforesaid, to be exhibited at the next generall assembly of the Wardens and Assistants vi^{li} viij^s iij^d

[After the closing of the account and, evidently, an addition made at the time, there is this entry:—]

And at the present Audit it was granted that the said Phillip Symondson (*sic*) shall have for compensation (?) yearlie liii^s iij^d (durante complacito) for marking and surveying the tymber trees and Standels* standing and to be left withyn the coppess woodes and grounds of Nasshendyn and Little Delce, and for exhibiting it (*sic*) at the daye of Audit a declaration of the true estate of them.

1595-6. To M^r Phillip Simonson for his fee due unto him at this present Audit the some of x^{li}

To him moro for his paynes in taking about the over-seeing and looking to the Bridge woodes for the preservation of the Tymber liij^s iij^d

Phillip Symonson, gent., prayeth to be allowed the some of xix^{li} xvij^s ix^d ob., which was in surplusage on the foote of the accompte begynnynng 1593 and endyng 1594, for the which some he hath not since had any allowance by reason the same was not demanded in the last accompte xix^{li} xvij^s ix^d

More for foure loades of Chalk at 5^s the loade, also omitted at the last accompte xx^s

More for horse-hier for Richard Wood, travelling for the Shepey rent iij^s

More for two plots of the Manor of Langdon and the bridge lande in Dartford liij^s iij^d

1596-7. Paid to Phillip Simonson, gent., for his fee due unto him this present Audit x^{li}

To him more for his paynes in over-seeing and looking to the Bridge Woodes for the preservation of the tymber liij^s iij^d

* Stadle : "The root or stump of a tree, that has been felled, left by the wood-cutters for the next crop of underwood to grow from;" "standel," young timber trees that are usually left in the felling of copses." (Wright's E. D. D.)

1597-8. The like two entries for this year x^b
 liij^s iiij^d

1598-9. Paid unto M^{rs} Symonson for the fee due to her said
 husband from the eight day of June 1598 unto the xxxth
 daie of September then next following, on which daie he
 died iiij^h iiij^s iiij^d

I should mention that my statement that "I had not come across a coloured impression of Symonson's Map as mentioned in the original 'Description'" should have had a note attached to it, to the effect that "colour" as used in the "Description" meant only contrast of light and dark, *i.e.*, shading.

It may be noted that a certain Thomas Symondson was Head Master of the Maidstone Grammar School and a member of the Maidstone Common Council in 1585, and it is more than likely that he was a relative of the map maker.