

Orford's Turbulent Bailiff

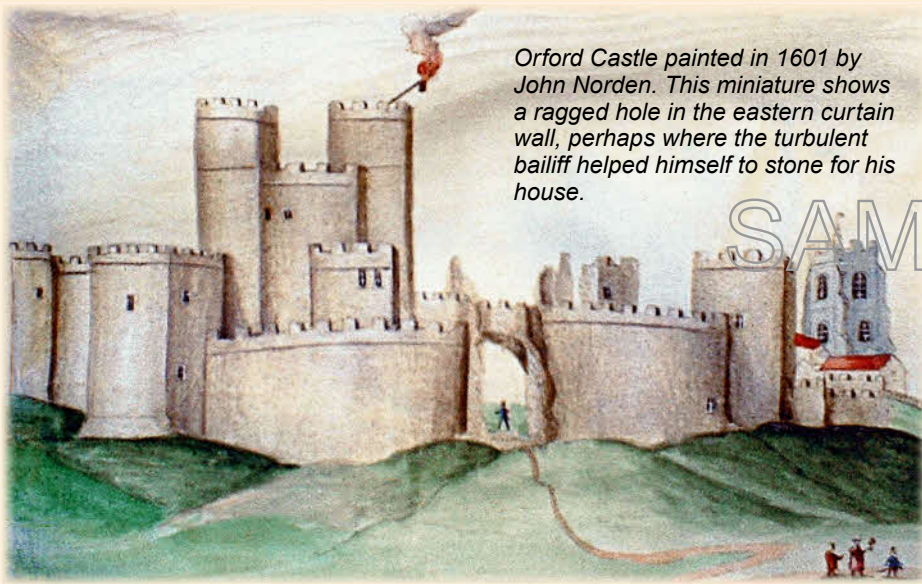
SAMPLE

Chapter 10

This tale concerns the only town in the Sandlings Triangle. Orford developed around a new castle, completed in 1171 to command a fine anchorage. The inhabitants were subsequently granted a charter and this encouraged an independent spirit. In the time of Henry VIII the high-handed Lord Willoughby tried to control the river and run the town as his manor. Feelings ran high in 1540 when he allowed his bailiff, Thomas Spicer, to behave outrageously. The intensive grazing of 2,000 sheep deprived the townsfolk of pasturage.

During the 16th century the mouth of the River Ore changed dramatically. Vessels on fixed moorings precipitated disputes, and information from law-suits adds to the picture of coastline-change revealed by contemporary maps.

As elsewhere in the country, fine nets were used to trap undersized fish. Acts passed in Parliament in 1488, 1491 and 1558 attempted to ameliorate the decline in fish stocks – something all too familiar today.



Orford Castle painted in 1601 by John Norden. This miniature shows a ragged hole in the eastern curtain wall, perhaps where the turbulent bailiff helped himself to stone for his house.

SAMPLE