

BODIAM AND ITS LORDS

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Bodiam and Its Lords by Mark Antony Lower

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MARK ANTONY LOWER

**BODIAM AND
ITS LORDS**

0 **S**odium,

and its

Hords,

BY MARK ANTONY LOWER,
M.A., F.S.A.

A NEW EDITION.



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GIFT OF

WILLIAM ENDICOTT, JR.

TO GEORGE CUBITT, ESQUIRE, M.P.,

&c. &c., &c.

DEAR SIR,

I beg permission to dedicate this little book to you as Lord of the Manor and Castle of

Bodiam,

which you most worthily possess; with many thanks for the care which you have manifested in the preservation of the remains of one of the grandest Baronial Abodes of England — a sentiment which will have the sympathy of every lover of Antiquity.

Yours faithfully,

M. A. LOWER.

SEAFORD, *October*, 1870.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

2. The second part covers the process of reconciling bank statements with the company's internal records. It highlights the need to identify and explain any discrepancies between the two sets of records. Regular reconciliation helps in detecting errors or potential fraud early on.

3. The third section addresses the handling of cash transactions. It provides guidelines on how to properly record cash sales and payments, ensuring that the cash flow is accurately reflected in the financial statements.

4. The fourth part discusses the treatment of accruals and deferrals. It explains how to recognize revenue and expenses when they are earned or incurred, regardless of when the cash is actually received or paid.

5. The fifth section covers the preparation of financial statements. It outlines the steps involved in calculating net income, determining the balance sheet, and preparing the cash flow statement. It also provides tips on how to present the information clearly and concisely.

6. The final part of the document offers advice on how to use the financial information to make informed business decisions. It suggests comparing current performance against budgeted figures and industry benchmarks to identify areas for improvement.

BODIAM, AND ITS LORDS.

THE history of Bodiam* begins with the great Norman Survey. The account given of it in Domesday Book is this:—"Osbern holds a hide and three roodlands in Bodeham of this manor, which was always included in the district of Werste, where the hall was situated. Roger has half a hide, and Ralph two roodlands. There is one plough and a half in the demesne, and seven villeins with ten bondmen have four ploughs and a half. The whole value in the time of the Confessor was six pounds; it has since been estimated at six; but it is now appreciated at nine pounds." The manor of Werste, now Ewhurst, was in the rape or territory of the Earl of Eu, a kinsman of the Conqueror, who held it in domain, and consequently Bodiam was immediately dependent upon that great feudal lord. I may remark that the original seat of this eminent personage was at what is now called "La Ville d'Eu" in Normandy—in modern times the fine château of the late King Louis-Philippe,—and that after the Conquest his principal English residence was the Castle of Hastings. His tenants, Osbern, Roger, and Ralph, were probably followers who had fought under his command at Hastings, and who were thus allowed to participate in the spoils of the Norman Conquest. In this and the following century, the possessors of the estate assumed the surname of De Bodeham; and under Henry II., Roger de Bodeham

* The etymology of Bodiam has somewhat puzzled me. The name is evidently antithetical, in some way, to the various "high-hams" in East Sussex, e.g., Higham and Udiham in Salehurst, Northiam, and Petit Higham (now Win-

chelsea.) *High-ham* sufficiently explains itself, as a home or dwelling on somewhat elevated ground. The syllable *Bod* or *Bode* comes most probably from a Saxon proprietor, that having been a recognized proper name.

held the sub-infeudation with four knights' fees, amounting to 2,560 acres, including a park, the name of which is still retained.

In the Chronicle of Battel Abbey there are some rather interesting notices concerning the parish and family of Bodeham. The first relates to the very Osbern, who, as we have seen, was the principal feudatory, here, of the Earl of Eu. The Chronicler states that, "in consequence of the dryness of the soil around Battel Abbey, and the deficiency of well-irrigated meadows, a certain knight of these parts, named Osbern Fitz-Hugh, by the advice of Abbot Gausbert and the monks—with the consent of his Lord, William Earl of Eu, and the confirmation of King William—gave and granted out of his domain thirty acres of meadow, Norman measure, lying in his manor called Bodeham, about seven miles distant, partly of his free donation, and partly by way of sale, he receiving fifty shillings in recompense; and this by his charter he confirmed for ever to the Abbey of Battel, free from all challenge or exaction of his heirs and all other persons, and from every charge whatever." One can scarcely forbear a smile at the mixed character of this transaction. The good Osbern, while desirous of securing the eternal welfare of himself and his family, was by no means inattentive to his worldly interests in thus drawing a balance of two-pounds-ten in his own favour.

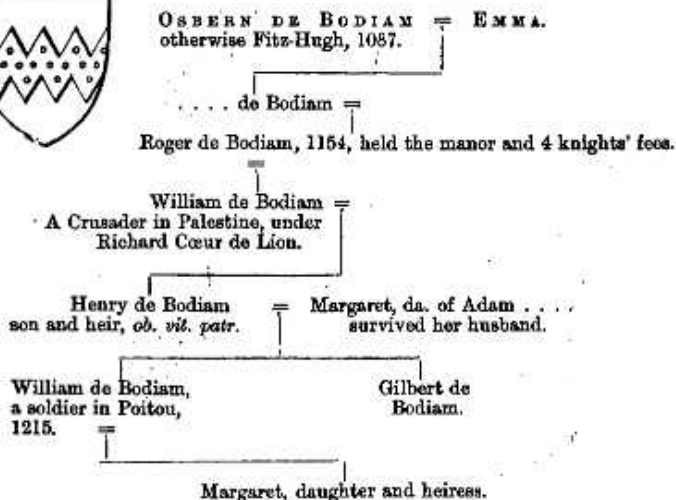
The next mention of Bodiam in the Chronicle refers to the appointment of a bailiff, or keeper of the meadow, on account of its remoteness from the Abbey. The monks of Battel prevailed upon another knight of these parts to give a piece of land upon which to erect a house for the keeper. The name of the knight was Robert Borne, who also conceded to the abbey a right of way through his lands. "The brethren, in acknowledgment of this kindness, and for the sake of evidence hereafter, gave him six shillings and iron leg-harness, which some properly designate greaves (*sex solidos, et caligas ferreas, quas quidam proprie ocreas dicunt*),* by which he might equip one of his brothers for the wars." "Now," adds the Chronicler, "there was a slip

* Lat. edit. p. 132; my Translation, p. 145.

of land lying between the above-mentioned meadow and the recently-acquired keeper's house, which seemed convenient for the brethren, for the purposes of a wharf, on which they might land such things as were brought thither for their use by a vessel (*navigio*). The venerable Abbot Walter [de Lucy] therefore, personally and through his friends, applied to Robert Borne and Ralph his son, and prevailed upon them to give that slip of land as they had done the manse which it adjoined . . . to God and St. Martin, to be quietly held for ever." These transactions took place between the years 1157 and 1171. The latter passage is interesting, as showing that the river Rother was navigable, to this point for a sailing-vessel in the twelfth century.

Emma wife of Osbern de Bodeham (previously called Fitz-Hugh) gave to Battel Abbey land worth six shillings in the manor of Bodiam, and a mill called Sansei near Criuil in Normandy—Robert Earl of Eu, her lord, confirming the gift in the presence of many witnesses.*

There is not, so far as I am aware, any pedigree of the De Bodiams in existence. The following is the best approximation to one that I have been enabled, after much investigation, to arrive at:—



* *Chron. de Bello*, p. 55. *Trans.* p. 60.