



The following document is part of a Dulwich Society project to digitise, transcribe and translate the Dulwich Manorial Court Rolls. They begin in 1333 and continue, with some breaks, to 1908.

A typical Manor Court Roll starts with apologies for absence and fines for non-attendance without excuse, followed by a list of local tenants serving on the manor jury, or 'Homage'. The 'Court Leet' or 'View of Frankpledge' dealt with minor offences, disputes between neighbours, and such matters as failing to keep ditches clear. The early Rolls list those with goods worth more than 30 pence, and those keeping pigs (and how many they kept). The 'Court Baron' dealt with property transactions and inheritance matters. Sometimes the functions of the two Courts, almost invariably held one after the other on the same day, overlapped. In time, the 'Court Leet' became increasingly less important.

For more details and links to images of the rolls and other documents please go to <https://www.dulwichsociety.com/courtrolls/>

Text in **red**, apart from modern notes by the transcriber, indicates text missing from, or entirely illegible in, the original Roll. Text in various shades of **grey** indicates text which, in the original Roll, is to a greater or lesser extent difficult to decipher. Otherwise, all contemporaneous text is in **black**, except for presumed later additions which are indicated in **brown** or **blue**.

Roll I3 [previously G3] (front)

G.3.

Part 1 *[Tuesday] 17 March 1556*

**Manor ¶ View of Frank pledge with** Court of Margaret Calton, Widow, Lady of the aforesaid Manor, held there on Tuesday the 17th day of March in of Dulwyche the second & Third regnal years of Philip & Mary, by the grace of god King & Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem, & Ireland, defender of the faith, Prince of Spain & Sicily, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Milan, Burgundy & Brabant, Count of Hapsburg, Flanders, & Tyrol.

Excuses None at this Court.

Common  
Fine } cc **Inquisition** Taken for the Lord King & Lady Queen, by the Oath of John Croft, Henry Knyght, William Godderd, John Webbester, Walter Dove,  
4s Walter Symondes, John Beckett, Humphrey Bone, Thomas Awode, John Lewys, Richard Brase, John Dove junior, John Holmes, Christopher  
Cursone, Richard Cole, & Thomas Harres, who say & present that they gave the lord[sic] as the common fine, always at this day, for themselves  
& their tithings, As appears in the Heading.

Strays c— 8s cc **And that** four sheep, in the Bailiff's custody, worth 6s 8d, besides One pig, in the Bailiff's custody, worth 16d, arrived within this Lordship One whole year ago & More, & were proclaimed abroad & in the market according to the custom of the Queen of England, And no-one came to claim, Therefore it is ordered to seize <sup>them</sup> to the Use of the Lady [of the Manor].

Penalty Pending cc **And that** Roger Hamond & his Wife are gossips, & disturb the peace of the Lords King & Queen among their neighbours, Therefore they are ordered to move, & live outside this Lordship, before the Feast of Saint Michael Archangel next, penalty : 40s.  
that

Penalty Pending cc **And** <sup>^</sup> John Dove has 30 perches of ditch against Grenestrete, noisome to the High Way there & a nuisance to the populace of the Lords King & Queen passing by there. Therefore the same John Is ordered to Scour the aforesaid 30 perches of ditch, before the Feast of the Nativity of saint John the Baptist next, penalty : 10s.

Sworn tithingmen <sup>cc</sup> To this Court & View come John ApHowelle, Henry Hunt, Henry Bateman, & William Sharprowe, & are Sworn into the tithing of the lords King & Queen.

Election of officers <sup>cc</sup> They elected To the office of Constable there Thomas Woode, & he was Sworn to exercise the aforesaid office &c.  
And to the office of Head pledges there, Stephen Salle & John Becatt, & they were Sworn to exercise that office.

## Now of the Court

Default of suit <sup>cc</sup> And that Henry Draper, gent, owes suit of this Court, & at this day makes default. Therefore he is in the mercy of the lady, as appears in the <sup>c-12d</sup> Heading.

Fealty <sup>cc</sup> To this Court Came Henry Knyght, & made fealty to the Lady for One Tenement with a Curtilege, & four-and-a-half acres of freehold land lying in the Field called Canelcroft.

Controversy re: customs  
a Further day is given, to change  
<sup>cc</sup> The Homage of this Court, namely John Croft, Henry Knyght, William Godderd, John Webbester, Walter Dove, Walter Symond, & John Dove Junior, customary tenants of the lady of this Manor, & at this day Sworn, for various considerations, to the lady & to her Steward, are moved to enquire for the Lady of the aforesaid Manor what fine, by the custom of this Manor, the Lady has power by right to exact of anyone who ought to be admitted tenant of any customary Tenement of this Manor, & thus charged & Sworn, amongst other things they say & present upon their Oath that the Lady of this Manor & her heirs have had & ought to have after the death of any Customary tenant, and upon any Surrender made by <sup>any</sup> Customary tenant of Any lands or customary Tenements within the aforesaid Manor, before that the heir of the dead tenant, Or he to whose Use any customary tenement would have been surrendered, will have been admitted tenant of that Tenement, for a fine twice as much as the yearly rent due to the lord extends for those lands & Tenements yearly, & not more &c. Upon which, because after their aforesaid Finding was rendered in the aforesaid form, the Steward of this Manor on behalf of the Lady propounded that it manifestly appears, by various Rolls of the Court of the aforesaid Manor which the same Steward was prepared to show to the aforesaid homage, that the Lady by the custom of the aforesaid Manor is rightly & justly able freely to assess, charge & reckon any fine that anyone ought to render to the lady for their admission to the aforesaid Tenement, or <sup>for</sup> having their entry into that customary tenement, at a greater sum than accords with the aforesaid rate of double the rent, & then & there, in open Court, he counselled the aforesaid homage to Revoke their aforesaid Finding, which the aforesaid homage

refused to do. However, by the Court's grace, a further day is given to the same Jurors, until the next Court held within the aforesaid Lordship, with the intention that the aforesaid homage meanwhile might be advised whether they should change that Finding, or in other words, upon their Oath to this Court in that respect, in short, they should Confirm it, Or not.

m  
3 Heriots c-- £4 cc The Homage present that the Lady of this Manor ought to have, after the Death of Henry Knyght, three Heriots for his customary lands & Tenements lying & being within this Lordship, each of them worth 26s 8d, which were seised to the benefit of the said lady, & c.

Profits of land c-- cc Thomas Woode, in the Steward's presence, Surrendered into the lady's Hands all his Customary lands & Tenements lying & being within this Lordship, with the intention that the Lady might regrant the aforesaid lands & Tenements to the aforesaid Thomas & his wife Elizabeth, & the heirs of the said Thomas, And because he does not Come to claim or to take out of the lady's Hands, Therefore he is ordered to answer to the lady for the profits, until, & c.

Total of this View, with the Court c----- £4 13s

Part 2 *[Thursday] 30 Sept 1557*

Dulwyche ¶ View of Frank pledge held there on Thursday, namely the Last day of September in the Fourth & fifth regnal year of Philip & Mary, by the grace of god *King & queen* of England, <sup>Spain,</sup> France, and Both of Sicily, Jerusalem, & Ireland, defenders of the faith, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, Milan, & Brabant, Count of Hapsburg, Flanders & Tyrol.

Excuses cc Henry Huscroft & William Henley are Excused from Common [suit], by payment of a penny, & c.

Common }  
Fine } 4s Inquisition Taken for the Lord King & Lady Queen by the Oath of Walter Symond, Thomas Woode, John Dove, Walter Dove, Henry Hunt, Stephen Sare, Richard Wright, Robert Brokesby, John Hethe, Richard Taylor, Henry Neckytt, Thomas Croft, Edward Casynghurst, Humphrey Bone, John Badger, & Christopher Cursone, Who say that they gave the lady as the Common fine, always at this day, for themselves & their tithingmen, As appears in the heading.

default of  
inhabitants } 8d

**And that** Robert Westlyne & George Thomas are inhabitants & Residents within this View, & at this day have made default,  
Therefore Each of them is amerced to the lady : 4d.

Penalty Pending

Henry Knyght **Is Ordered** to scour his ditch in Croxtidlane sufficiently, before the Feast of Easter next to come, under penalty of forfeiting to  
the Lady for each perch : 4d.

Penalty Pending

Thomas Tuder **Is Ordered** to scour his ditch in the said lane, containing by estimation five perches, sufficiently, before the Feast of  
Pentecost next to come, penalty : 20d.

X fine for having lib-  
erty of Commons } 23d

**To this View** came not only the aforesaid Jurors, but also Thomas  Tether, Henry Neckytt, Henry Olyver, John Beckytt,  
William Bone, William Daltone, Richard Brasey, & Thomas Daltone, And Each of them gave the Lady namely One penny for having liberty,  
with their pigs & Cattle, to graze upon the Common of the lady of this Manor of Dulwyche, to the value of 2s 6d & Above, according to  
the custom & ordinance there, of ancient Usage & c.

[End of I3 [previously G3] (front). I3 [previously G3] (back) follows below.]

Roll I3 [previously G3] (back) *[Thursday] 30 Sept 1557 (continued)*

G 3 v

Election of officers cc **They Elected** to the office of Constable there, Walter Symond, & he was sworn to exercise the aforesaid office in all things, just as &c.  
And to the office of Head pledges there, Robert Brokesby & Christopher Cursone, & they were sworn to &c.  
And [to] the office of Taster of ale there, Edward Casyngherst, & he was sworn &c.

[Gap of c.4 lines]

first proclamation cc **At this Court** is made the first proclamation if Thomas Wodde wishes to claim certain customary lands & Tenements within this Lordship,  
Let him come & be heard. And because he does not Come, Therefore it is ordered & c.

cc **Since At** the last Court it was presented by the homage of that Court then in being, upon their Oath, that the Lady of this Manor & her heirs have had & ought to have after the Death of any customary tenant, and upon each Surrender <sup>made</sup> by any Customary tenant of any customary lands or Tenements within the aforesaid Manor, before the heir of the dead tenant, Or he to whose Use any Customary Tenement would have been surrendered will have been admitted tenant of that Tenement, for a fine twice as much as the yearly rent due to the lord extends for those lands & Tenements yearly, & not more, as in the same Court fully appears. Upon which at that same Court that homage then had a day until this Court so that they might meanwhile be Advised, such that at this Court they might revise that verdict, in other words that they might affirm it, or not, as in the Roll of that Court fully appears. Now to this Court come John Croft, Henry Knyght, William Godder, John Webbyster, Walter Dove, Walter Symond, & John Dove junior, who were of the aforesaid homage of the aforesaid last Court, & thereupon various previous rolls of the Court of this Manor, held in the Times of the reigns of various earlier Monarchs, were read & shown to the aforesaid homage by Richard Forsett, gentleman, of the lady's learned counsel, on the Lady's behalf, in that open Court, by which it appears that several times greater fines were paid upon the admissions of various customary tenants into various customary Tenements, before that admission, than equalled double the rent as is allowed for those customary Tenements, And besides, a certain Henry Hunt in open Court here acknowledged that he had had to pay to the  then lady of this Manor a greater fine for customary lands for himself than equalled the aforesaid rate before he could be admitted tenant. Upon which the question is asked of the aforesaid Tenants who, at the Last Court, upon their Oath, made the <sup>aforesaid</sup> presentment in the aforesaid form, & of each of them, if he or any of them, if he or they wish, or any of them wishes. to revoke & nullify the aforesaid presentment so made by them, or in other words to agree to rectify the Truth. However, the same Tenants still showed no sufficient cause by which they have been justly moved so to do, nor when questioned thereon were they able to show one, in that open Court they obstinately refused so to do, & each of them refused, and in short they perversely affirmed their aforesaid presentment so falsely made at the Last Court, as True when it had been false, as seems clear enough to the Steward of this Court, they have affirmed & each of them has affirmed upon their Oath taken by them previously in that respect / And so in that respect they voluntarily made a false Oath, whereby each of the aforesaid John Croft, Henry Knyght, William Godder, John Webbyster, Walter Dove, Walter Symond, & John Dove, by the custom of this Manor, forfeits to the lady all their customary Tenements of this Manor / Which the Bailiff of this Manor & the Administrator of this Court are ordered to seize into the lady's hands, and to keep them in their hands in respect of the aforesaid forfeiture.

Finding on the  
Lady's behalf

order to Seize

Total of this View c---[blank]

Part 3 *[Friday] 21 July 1559*

Dulwych ¶ **View of Frank pledge** held there on the Friday next before the Feast of saint James the Apostle, in the first regnal year of Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France & Ireland, defender of the faith &c.

Common fine c-4s cc **Inquisition** Taken on the Queen's behalf by the Oath of Henry Hunt, Walter Symond, Thomas Woode, John Dove, Humphrey Bone, Stephen Sare, Richard Wright, Christopher Cursone, John Beckett, Robert Brokesby, John Hethe, Thomas Daltone, Richard Taylour, & John Bradger[sic], Who say & present that they gave the lord[sic] as the common fine, always at this day, for themselves & their tithingmen, As appears in the heading.

Sworn tithingman cc **To** this Court came Nicholas Casyngherst, & was sworn into the tithing of the Lady Queen.

Stray c----12d. cc **And that** One Lamb, coloured White, worth 12d, arrived within this Lordship one whole year & more ago, & No-one <sup>came</sup> ^ to claim it, nor &c, & it remains in the custody of Thomas Theder. Therefore it is ordered to seize it, to the benefit of the lady.

Stray c----- 5s. cc **And that** One foal, coloured black, worth 5s, which arrived within this Lordship three years past, & was delivered to Thomas Wode at the aforesaid price.

cc Thomas Thether **Is Ordered** to scour his ditch called Newland's dyche, containing by estimation 18 perches ; Robert Brokesbye is ordered to scour his ditch, containing 12 perches, at Kenelles ; John Heath to scour his ditch leading From his Tenement as far as Crowchman's

various penalties  
pending containing 16 perches ; John Dove to scour eight perches at Brownynge ; & Richard Wright to scour 14 perches leading from Lane's as far as Lane's pond ; each one sufficiently for his part, before the Feast of Easter next, penalty for Each of them to be forfeited for each perch c--- 4d.

cc **And that** Thomas Oode's Servant Is inhabiting & residing within this View, & at this day makes default. Therefore he is in the Lady's mercy.  
default of tithing c-2d

cc **And that** William Daltone & his wife Jane are of ill-repute & dishonest conversation, to the serious nuisance of the inhabitants of the lady  
penalty pending Queen there. Therefore they are ordered to make amends, & not to do so henceforth, penalty : 20s.

cc **To this** View Came Henry Hunt, Walter Symond, Thomas Oode, John Dove, John Beckytt, Humphrey Bone, Stephen Sare, Richard Wright, John Smythe, Christopher Cursone, Robert Brokesby, John Heathe, Richard Taylor, Thomas Daltone, John Badger, Walter Dove, Edward Casynghurst, Thomas Thether, William Bone, William Daltone, Henry Huscroft, John Casynghurst, John  
fine for having lib- }  
erty of Commons } 2s  
of Commons  
Kempeshale, & William Hendley, & gave the lady, namely for each of them 1d for having liberty ^ for their pigs & Cattle to graze upon the Common of the aforesaid Manor, because Each has pigs & Cattle worth [lit. 'Each pig & Cow be worth'] 2s 6d & More, & not less, according to the ordinance of former Usage, &c.

Election of officers cc **They Elected** Robert Brokesby to the office of Constable there, & he was sworn into the aforesaid office, to exercise & c.  
And, to the office of Head pledges there, Richard Wright & Christopher Cursone, & c.  
And, to the office of Taster of Ale there, John Heath, & he was sworn & c.

**Assessors** Walter Symond & Sworn  
Humphrey Bone

Second proclamation **At this** Court is made the second proclamation, if anyone would wish to Claim certain Customary lands & Tenements within this Lordship which Thomas Wodde Surrendered into the lady's hands, as in the preceding &c, Let him come & be heard. And because no-one Comes to claim nor to take out of the lady's hands, Therefore let him answer to the lady for the profits & c.

Executed  by H[enry] Stukeley Steward

Total of this View c----- [blank]

[End of Roll I3 [previously G3].]