



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**.

Dulwiche  
H.2.

View of Frank pledge, with the Court, of the Manor of Margaret Calton, Widow, there held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April in the Fourth year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France & Ireland, defender of the faith, & c.

Excuses

John Webster is excused from his Common Suit of Court at this day, by his son, Henry Webster.



~~Death of a tenant~~

**Who say** upon their Oath that Robert Draper, who held freely of the lady, by charter, One messuage & 10 acres of land, with appurtenances, called Amhyll, by rent of c---11½d yearly, & One tenement called Reigates, containing seven acres of land, by rent of c--- 13½d & one pound of Cumin yearly, And One other tenement & eight acres of land lying in a field called Lytle Apse, by rent of 16 pence yearly, Has closed his last day, after whose death Mathew Draper is his son & nearest heir, & of full age, who is now present in Court, and seeks to be admitted to the aforesaid lands & tenements, And he is accepted as tenant thereof, And he gave the lady for Relief, as appears in the heading, And he made fealty to the lady &c.

Relief c--- 3s 5d  
& 1 lb of cumin.

[slip attached in 1982,  
but not in 2020 :]

**Likewise the jurors** present that the said Robert Draper, who held of the lady to himself & his heirs, by Copy of the Court, Seven acres of land lying in three parcels, by rent of 2s 4d yearly, & three acres of land next to Gascoignes pytte, by rent of 13d yearly, and likewise 4 acres of land lying in the Apse, by rent of 16d yearly,

Draper	for 14 acres of land yearly rent 3s 4d Fine c----- 20s
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heriots c---2  
c--- £3 6s 8d.

Fine c---- 20s

died seised thereof, after whose death there befalls to the lady for, & in the name of, two heriots c-- £3 6s 8d, And they say that Mathew Draper is his son, & heir, & of full age, And, present here in Court, he seeks to be admitted to the aforesaid lands, with appurtenances, To whom the lady, by her Steward, conceded seisin thereof, to have and to hold to himself & his heirs, by the rod, according to the custom of the manor, and by the rent, customs & services thereof hitherto owed & accustomed, And he gave the lady as a fine for his having such entry therein, as appears in the heading, And he made fealty to the Lady, And he was admitted tenant thereof, & so on.

Fine for a licence  
c----- [blank]

**To this Court** came John Dove junior, in this open Court, & sought from the lady of this Manor licence to let, or to demise to farm, to a certain Walter Symons, One tenement there called Morkyns, One croft containing by estimation three acres of arable land, two closes called Norcroftes containing by estimation 12 acres, One other close called Lyttle Nappes containing by estimation five acres, & One Close called Stonye Nappes containing by estimation five-and-a-half acres of land, from the feast of saint Michael Archangel last past before the date of this View-with-Court of the aforesaid Manor, until the end & term of Twenty-One years, To which said John Dove junior the Lady, from her special grace, Conceded licence to let, or demise, the aforesaid tenement, & the rest of the premises, to the aforesaid Walter, for the aforesaid term of years. And he gave as a fine for so having such licence thereof, as appears in the heading.

Fine c-----15s

**To this Court** came Henry Henley, in his own person, and took from the Lady of this Manor, in open Court there, One tenement & 15 acres of land, of which One acre is called Wattes crofte, with appurtenances, within the aforesaid Manor, To Whom the lady, by her Steward, conceded seisin thereof, To Have & to hold the aforesaid tenement & fifteen acres of land, with appurtenances, to the aforesaid Henry Henley & his heirs, by the rod, at the will of the lady, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, Rendering therefor yearly to the lady, & her heirs, five shillings yearly, And all other burdens, customs & services thereof hitherto owed & accustomed, And he gave the lady as a fine for his having such entry therein as appears in the heading, And he made fealty to the lady, And he was admitted tenant therein .

**To this same Court** came Thomas Wode, and took from the Lady of this Manor, in open Court, eleven acres of

for 15 acres of land  
Henley yearly rent c--5s  
Fine c-----15s

land lying at Howlettes bridge, & two acres of land there called Lyttle Myddlefelde, with appurtenances, within the aforesaid lordship, To whom the lady, by her Steward, conceded seisin thereof, To Have & to hold to the aforesaid Thomas Wode, & his wife Elizabeth, and the heirs of the same Thomas, by the rod, at the will of the lady, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, Rendering therefor yearly to the Lady, & her heirs, five shillings & eight pence, And there befalls to the lady for the aforesaid lands One bull coloured red, as a heriot, worth 20s, And likewise as a fine for so having such estate therein, as appears in the heading, And he[sic] made fealty to the lady, And he[sic] was admitted tenant therein.

for 13 acres of land  
 Wode yearly rent c—5s 8d  
 Fine c-----20s  
 heriot c-- 20s  
 Fine c---- 20s

**The Homage** there present that Henry Hunte, who held of the lady to himself & his heirs by copy of the Court, One tenement & ten acres of land sometime Bernard John's, and One other tenement with two acres of land there called Walkers crofte, & One parcel of land called Gorye lande containing three acres of land with appurtenances there, has closed his last Day, after whose death there befalls to the lady, for 2 heriots, two bulls worth between them c----£3 10s, And that John Hunte is his son & heir, & of full age, Who now in open Court seeks to be admitted to the aforesaid two tenements, and the aforesaid lands with appurtenances within the aforesaid manor, To whom the lady, by her Steward, conceded seisin thereof, To have & to hold to himself & his heirs, by the rod, at the will of the lady, according to the custom of the Manor. And he Gave the Lady As a fine, for so having such entry therein, as appears in the heading, And he made fealty to the Lady, & he was admitted tenant thereof, And he renders yearly for the aforesaid lands four shillings & eight pence & all other burdens thereof hitherto owed & accustomed <sup>&c</sup>

for fifteen acres  
 Hunte yearly rent c—4s 8d  
 Fine c-----20s

heriots 2 c----£3 10s  
 Fine c----20s

**To this Court** came John Crofte, in his own person, & took from the lady of this Manor, in open Court, One tenement & thirty acres of land sometime Richard Laune's, To whom the lady, by her Steward, conceded seisin thereof, To have & to hold the aforesaid Tenement & 30 acres of land with appurtenances within the aforesaid Manor to the aforesaid John & his heirs, by the rod, at the will of the lady, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, Rendering therefor yearly to the lady & her heirs ten shillings & six pence & all other burdens, rent, customs & services thereof hitherto owed & accustomed. And he gave the lady as a fine for so having such entry therein as appears in the heading. And he made fealty to the lady, And he was admitted tenant therein & c.

for 30 acres of land  
 Crofte yearly rent c—10s 6d  
 Fine c-----26s 8d

Fine c--26s 8d

The Jurors present that they gave the lady as the common fine by the head pledges there at this View as <sup>appears</sup> in the heading & c., And that John Azerine & Walter Bone are aged 12 years & are Sworn into the assize of the lady queen & c. 3s 4d.

Common fine c--4s  
 Sworn into the assize

Likewise they present that William Henley wrongfully & in breach of the peace drew blood from William Browne, so that he broke his head with a 'pugio', in English a dagger. Therefore he is amerced, & the said dagger stays with the Lady to &c.

drawing blood c---3s 4d And they say that Thomas Dawton & John Mathewe made default at this View, Therefore they are separately amerced, as  
ameracements c-----4d &c. And that Thomas Bowmer is a common baker/brewer of bread & ale, and breaks the assize thereof. Therefore he is  
ameracements c-----4d amerced, as appears over &c.

Strays { And they say that One horse coloured red came as a stray within this lordship at the feast of All Saints Last past, And that  
6 ewes, 1 ram, & five lambs came likewise as strays within this lordship on the 10th Day of the month of March, And the  
said horse is appraised at the Value of c--- 9s, & the said Sheep at the Value of c--- 21s. Therefore the bailiff is ordered  
to proclaim in the market-place & church, as, &c.

Liberty of commons c----- 2s 2d  
1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d  
To this View came Christopher Custance, John Becket, John Lewes, John Hunte, Thomas Wode, Thomas Dalton,  
1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d  
Henry Huscrofte, William Dalton, Edmund Newbande, John Kemsall, John Badger, Giles Abecke, John Hethe, John  
1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d  
Smythe, William Kepyn, Thomas Fearynge, Robert Brokesbye, Thomas Bowmer, Richard Wrighte, Thomas Tyther, John  
1d 1d 1d 1d 1d 1d  
Dove, Thomas Hunte, Trislans Harlegys, William Henlay, Walter Symons, & Edward Casyngehyrst, & each of them gave  
the Lady for having liberty of Commons there, of grazing their pigs & cattle, as appears &c.

Ordinances ----- Walter Symondes is ordered to scour his water-ditch leading from a certain tenement called Morkyns as far as Grene  
Strete, containing by estimation 16 perches, before the feast of saint Michael Archangel next, under penalty of forfeiting  
for each perch c---4d. Likewise Thomas Hunte is ordered to scour his ditch leading to the Aspoole ende, Towards  
Besmares Brydge, containing by estimation five acres[sic, perches] of land, before the said feast, & under the aforesaid  
penalty. Likewise the the tenants there are ordered to convene at Bowmer's Howse on Wednesday in Pentecost week,  
between the hours of six & seven before noon of the same day, to take a View of all boundaries within this lordship,  
and to put them in order, under penalty for whomever defaults of forfeiting c-----12d .

Assessors of this Court { John Dove c---  
 &  
 Thomas Wode c----- } Sworn &c c-----

Total of this  
 view with the  
 Court -----

[£13 8s 11d + unrecorded licence fine] Whereof

{ of Relief c----- 3s 5d -----|  
 Heriots c---- £7 16s 8d -----|  
 Fines of land c---- £5 1s 8d -----|  
 Fine for a licence c----  
 Of the common Fine c-- 4s -----|  
 for drawing blood c--- 3s 4d -----|  
 Amercements c----- 8d -----|  
 for licence of Commons c-- 2s 2d ---|

[End of I5 [previously H2] (front). I5 [previously H2] (back) is blank apart from the following :]

Roll I5 [previously H2] (back)

[at the top :]

Dulwyche

Rolls of the Court there in the Fifth Year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. 1562

[and, at the bottom, upside down...]

Rolls from the 3 to the 5 of Elizabeth

[End of Roll I5 [previously H2].]