



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 J1 [previously I1] (front)

Part 1

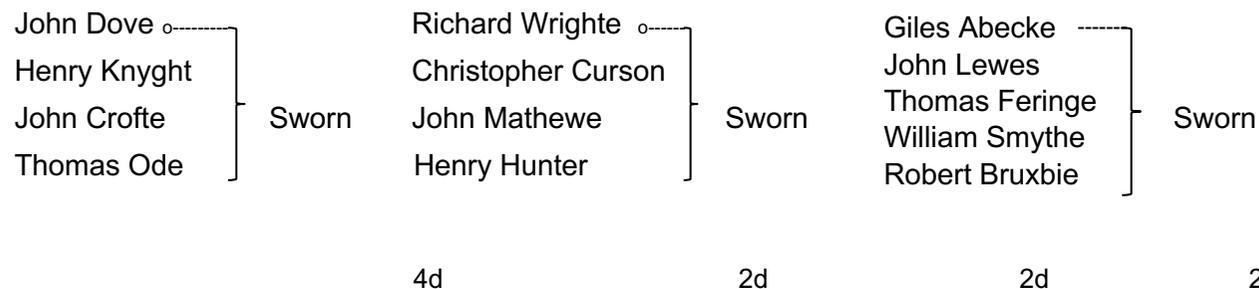
[Wednesday] 22 Oct 1572

Manor of Dulwich

View of Frank pledge with Court barron of Nicholas Calton, there held on Wednesday, namely the twenty-second day of October in the Fourteenth Year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith, &c.

I.1

Excuses Daniell[*sic*, Samuel] Dove ; John Webster ; Michael Newett ; Alexander Sely.



The Homage present that Matthew Draper, gentleman ; John Badgerson ; Robert Badgerson ; John Dally ; Thomas Swayne, are tenants of this Manor, and make default ; therefore they are amerced, as appears over their heads.

The Homage present that three white sheep came as strays within this lordship, of which two are called '*Wether shepe*' and the other is called '*a Ramme*', worth 6s 8d, and now remain in the hands and possession of one Christopher Curson, one sheep called '*a Weather shepe*' will be proclaimed and[*sic*, on] a day at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary next to come, and the other two on the Thursday in Pentecost week next to come.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid Homage that Thomas Longe will have cleaned his ditch between his house and Ashpole end, next to come, containing by estimation thirty rods, before the feast of Saints Philip and James \wedge under penalty of forfeiting c-----30s.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid Homage that William Dalton will have cleaned his ditch called Newlandes Ditch, containing by estimation fourteen Rods, before the aforesaid day, under penalty of forfeiting c-----14s.

Likewise it is Ordered by the aforesaid Homage that William Kippinge will have cleaned his ditch called Newlandes, containing by estimation four rods, and that he should make the same ditch four feet in width and in depth three feet, before the aforesaid day, under penalty of forfeiting c-----4s.

Likewise it is ordered that John Mathewe will have cleaned his ditch called Newlandes, **containing by estimation ten rods**, in the aforesaid width and depth, before the aforesaid day, under penalty of forfeiting c-----10s.

Likewise it is ordered that Richard Shott will have cleaned his ditch called The Acre, **containing by estimation ten rods**, and that he should make the same ditch in the aforesaid width and depth, before the aforesaid day, under penalty of forfeiting c-----10s.

The Homage find that Guy Hunt was a tenant of the Lord of this manor.

Assessors { John Dove
Christopher
~~John~~ Curson

Dulwich

Court barron of Nicholas Calton, held there on the sixteenth day of the month of February in the fifteenth Year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

Suitors
who appeared

John Crofte	Henry Knighte c
John Dove	Richard Wright
Thomas Ode	Thomas Longe
Walter Bone	Christopher Custons

* these are 'men of straw', and fictional

To this court came Arnold Hunt, and claimed against Richard Wyth, esquire, Matthew Draper[, gentleman] and John Hunt, yeoman, on a plea of land, namely concerning ten acres of customary pasture, with appurtenances, in Dulwiche, within the jurisdiction of this court, and he declared his intention to pursue his claim in the form and nature of the lady Queen's writ at common law of 'mort d'ancestor', according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, and he found pledges for pursuing his claim, namely John Dent* & Richard Gent*, and asked for process to be issued to him therein against the aforesaid Richard Withe, Matthew Draper, and John Hunt, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, and it was conceded to him, therefore, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, Henry Huscrofte, bailiff of the aforesaid manor and administrator of the aforesaid court, is ordered to summon, by good summoners, the aforesaid Richard Wythe, Matthew Draper, and John Hunt, that they be in the presence of the Steward of the aforesaid manor at the next court of the aforesaid manor, to be held at the aforesaid[?] manor-house, to answer to the aforesaid Arnold Hunt regarding the aforesaid plea, and the same day is given to the aforesaid Arnold Hunt, at which day the aforesaid Henry Huscrofte will retain the aforesaid mandate in the following form of service, namely

By virtue of this order directed to me, I did summon the aforesaid Richard Wright[sic, should be Wythe, Wyth, or Withe], Matthew Draper, and John Hunt, just as this order in itself demands and requires.

Response of Henry Huscroft, bailiff there

* two more 'men of straw'

Summoners

Richard Den*
John Fen*



And upon this the aforesaid Arnold, by his attorney [blank] Cardiffe, sought against Richard Wyth, esquire, Matthew Draper[, gent.], and John Hunt, the aforesaid ten acres of customary land, with appurtenances, in Dulwich, held of the lord of this manor and of his manor of Dulwich, at the will of the lord according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, of which Guy Hunt, grandfather of the aforesaid Arnold, whose heir he is, was seised in his domain as of fee, at the will of the lord according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, on the day that he died &c. And that he is regarded as such, and from a time whereof the memory of man runs not to the contrary, it was regarded as the custom within the aforesaid manor that whenever any person was seised in domain as of fee at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, of any messuages, lands or tenements, with appurtenances, held of the same manor, at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, and he had two or more sons, and of such estate died seised of the same, that the aforesaid messuages, lands and tenements, with appurtenances, descended by the law of inheritance, and from a time whereof the memory of man runs not to the contrary, by the custom of the manor they descended, and were accustomed to descend, to the youngest son of that person who died seised in the aforesaid form, to have and to hold the same lands and tenements to the same youngest son and his heirs, at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, and whereof he says that the aforesaid Guy the grandfather &c. was seised of the aforesaid ten acres of land, with appurtenances, in his domain, as of fee, in the time of peace, in the time of the Lord Henry, lately King of England, the Eighth after the conquest, taking therefrom profits to the value of &c., and from the said Guy himself the right descends, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, to the same Arnold, as kinsman and heir of the aforesaid Guy, namely as the youngest son of William Hunt, the youngest son of the aforesaid Guy Hunt, &c, of whom, &c, and therefore he puts forward his suit, &c.

Part 3

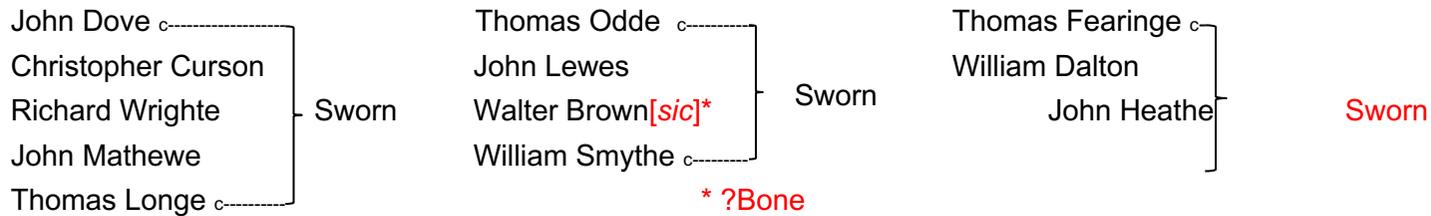
[Monday] 13 Apr 1573

Dulwich

View of Frank pledge with Court barron of Nicholas Calton, held there on the 13th day of April in the fifteenth year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

Excuses

Christopher Crofte, Henry Knight, John Daly, Richard Farrant, Thomas Eston, John Crofte, Richard Tuckey, were excused.



Three servants were sworn to be true subjects of the said Lady Queen, whose names follow, namely

- John Bogerson
- John Eston
- Richard Eston

Defaults

The Homage presents that Matthew Draper, gentleman, John Webster, Thomas Swayne, Richard and William (servants of Master Wodsalle's), Edward the servant of Master Sollye, make default, therefore they are in the lord's mercy, as appears over their heads.

They present that John Bedell and Simon Bedell led their cows upon the commons of this manor, and there gave them fodder, and the aforesaid John and Simon were tenants of the manor of Penge in the parish of Battersey, therefore they are in the lord's mercy, as &c.

They present also that Richard Johnson, Thomas Wood, John Holden, John Bedell, felled trees ['arbutos', lit. strawberry trees] called 'crabtrees' upon the Commons of this manor, therefore they are in the lord's mercy, as appears on their heads.

It is Ordered by the homage that Alexander Sely will remove his hedge/fence from the lord's land called Woodsere, containing by estimation ten rods, before the feast of Saint John the Baptist next to come, under penalty of forfeiting

It is also Ordered by the aforesaid homage that Henry Hunter should make his ditch from Richard Shott's croft as far as Newlandes, and make it three feet wide and two feet deep, before the feast of All Saints next to come, under penalty of forfeiting

Constables elected :	{ Richard Shott	Headborough :	John Hethe	Assessors :	{ Richard Shott
	{ Henry Dove	Aleconner :	John Lowes		{ Robert Brokesbie

[End of J1 [previously I1] (front). J1 [previously I1] (back) follows below :]

Roll J1 [previously I1] (back) *N.B. This section is later than Roll J2 [previously I2] (back).*

Part 4 *[Tuesday] 13 Oct 1574*

Dulwich

View of Frank pledge with Court barron of Nicholas Calton, gentleman, held there on the thirteenth day of the month of October in the sixteenth year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

John Crofte c-----	}	Sworn	Christopher Curson c-----	}	Sworn	John Lewes c-----	}	Sworn
Thomas Ode			Thomas Longe			Lawrence Austen		
John Mathewe			Walter Bone			William Dalton		
Henry Dove			John Lewes			Richard Mathewe		
			Thomas Fearinge					

John Webster surrendered into the Lord's hands, by the hands of Christopher Curson and William Dalton, tenants of this manor, all tenements, messuages, lands, meadows, pastures, and all his hereditaments whatsoever within the jurisdiction of this Court, to the sole and personal benefit and use of Nicholas Calton, his heirs and assigns, in perpetuity, to have and to hold all and singular the premises to himself and his heirs for ever.

The Homage present that Katherine Wright, daughter and co-heir of Richard Wright, is sixteen years old ;
 Likewise that Elizabeth Wright is ten years old ;
 Likewise that Agnes Wright is seven years old ;
 Likewise that Mary Wright is four years old ;
 Likewise that Ellen Wright is nine months old.

The Homage present that Thomas Eston lives in one and the same house together with one inhabitant of this manor, contrary to the custom and regulation provided and published in that case, therefore he is in the lord's mercy.

They also present Walter Lewes, Robert Nelson, Robert Bager, Richard Ferror, Richard Raymond, Richard Mathewe, for the like, therefore they are in the lord's mercy.

Constable elected : John Mathewe . Sworn
 Headboroughs : { John Shott } Sworn
 { William Kippinge }
 Aleconner : Henry Hunter
 Assessors : { John Mathewe
 { Henry Dove

[End of Roll J1 [previously I1], apart from, at the bottom, upside down :]

14th Year of Queen.
 Elizabeth to [the]
 16th Year
 L.5 1572

Roll from the 14th to the 16th [Years] of Elizabeth, [held]
 by Nicholas Calton

Walter Boan

Roll
 I.1-2