



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 J2 [previously I2] (front)

Part 1

[Monday] 22 Feb 1574

[N.B. This Roll pre-dates Part 4 of Roll J1 [previously I1].]

Manor
of Dulwich

Court Barron of Nicholas Calton held the twenty-second day of February 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.

I.2

John Crofft	}	Sworn	Henry Dove	}	Sworn	Robert Bruxby	}	Sworn
Stephen Cowcheman			John Lewes			Henry Huscroft		
Christopher Curson			Walter Boone			Thomas Ferynge		
John Mathewe			Richard Shott			William Kyppyng		

Surrender

Fine 12d
[purely nominal]

Fealty

John Dove, gentleman, came into the presence of Thomas Becke, Steward of the aforesaid manor, in this open court, the day and year above-stated, and surrendered into the lord's hands, by the hands of the Steward, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, all his customary tenements within the jurisdiction of this court, namely Five messuages or cottages, One Hundred acres of land, meadow, wood, by estimation more or less, to which the same John was admitted tenant as is shown in the court rolls of the aforesaid manor, to the benefit and use of John ap Thomas and his heirs in perpetuity, To whom the lord by his aforesaid steward conceded seisin thereof, To have and to hold all the premises to himself and his heirs of the lord by the rod, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, by the rent and services thereof hitherto owed and by law accustomed, who gave the lord as a fine for having such estate and entry therein as appears in the heading. And the same John ap Thomas made fealty to the lord, And he was admitted tenant thereof.

Death of a tenant

The Homage present at this court that Henry Knight, who while he lived held to himself and his heirs of the lord of this manor, by the rod, according to the custom of this same manor, two customary messuages or tenements, four acres of land, meadow and pasture appurtenant to the same messuages, within the aforesaid lordship, And that Nicholas Knyght is the son and according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, nearest heir of the aforesaid Henry, and is aged a quarter of a year and no more, And also that the custom of this manor from a time whereof the memory of man runs not to the contrary [i.e. before 6th July 1189] is that not only the person of such heir until

the age of 21 years, but also all his customary tenements coming down from his father or other antecedent of his father's blood, were and remain under the safe custody and wardship of the woman and wife of such deceased tenant, until the aforesaid age of 21 complete years. And further they present that the aforesaid Henry did not die seised of \\\ any other lands or tenements held of the lord of the same manor. [Which suggests that before his death Henry Knight had transferred his other copyholds to trustees.]

A Custom

The Homage present that all customary tenements held of the same manor, from a time whereof the memory of man runs not to the contrary, according to the custom of the same manor the usages are and were that a surrender could be into the hands of at least two customary tenants of the same manor, and that the aforesaid surrender so taken and made in manner and form aforesaid ought to be presented by the aforesaid two tenants at least at the next court to be held after the aforesaid surrender, in open court, unless one of the aforesaid two tenants should die before the aforesaid next court so held, And if it so happens that one of them should die, then he who survives ought to present the aforesaid surrender at the aforesaid next court to be held of the same manor, But the aforesaid custom notwithstanding, one Master With, expert in the law, gave the homage to understand, for its advantage, that one of the aforesaid two tenants is able to present such surrender so taken, And because of his opinion they seek a further day to become more certain in the foregoing. Notwithstanding, afterwards the aforesaid homage unanimously affirmed their customs as above, in the above-stated manner and form.

heriot

X

The Homage further present that if it should chance to happen that any tenant of this manor dies, that the lord of the aforesaid manor should have and take possession of the better[sic, best] beast of that tenant's owning at the time of his death, named a heriot. And that at this present time the lord of the aforesaid manor ought to receive one heriot from the goods and chattels of the aforesaid Henry Knight at the time of his death, for his heriot, at present owed.

* either way, a 'man of straw'

† probably Nicholas Calton's tame lawyer

* two more 'men of straw'

To this court came Robert[or John] Durant* in his own person, and claimed against John ap Thomas† on a plea of land, namely of five tenements, twenty [sic, sixty] acres of land, sixty acres of meadow, sixty acres of pasture, twenty acres of wood, and ten acres of furzes and heath, with appurtenances, in Dulwych aforesaid, within the Jurisdiction of this court. And he applied to pursue his aforesaid claim in the form and nature of the short writ of right at common law in accordance with the custom of the manor, And he found pledges for prosecuting his claim, namely John Doo* and Richard Roo*. And the aforesaid John ap Thomas

appeared in his own person, And upon this the aforesaid John[sic] Durant, in his own person, seeks against the same John ap Thomas the aforesaid five tenements, two hundred acres of land, &c, with appurtenances, in Dulwich aforesaid, within the Jurisdiction of this court, as his right and hereditament, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, And whereof he says that he himself was seised of the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances, in his domain as of fee and right, according to the custom of this manor, in the time of peace in the time of our lady now Queen, taking the profits thereof to the value &c. And that as such he offers his right &c. And the aforesaid John ap Thomas, in his own person, comes and defends the right of the aforesaid John[sic] Durant and the seisin of the same John[sic] Durant, of which seisin &c., and all &c., and whatsoever &c. And he calls to warrant thereto John Dove, who is present here in court in his own person, And freely warrants the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances to him. And upon this the aforesaid Robert[sic] Durant seeks against the same John Dove the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances in the aforesaid form. And whereof he says that he himself was seised of the aforesaid tenements in his domain, as of fee and right, in the time of peace in the time of our lady now Queen, taking the profits thereof to the value &c. And that as such he offers his right &c. And the aforesaid John Dove, tenant by his warranty, defends the right of the aforesaid John[sic] Durant and the seisin of the same John[sic] Durant when &c. And all &c., And whatsoever &c, And especially of the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances as of fee and right &c. And further he calls to warrant thereto William Dalton, who is present here in court in his own person, And freely warrants the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid John Dove. And upon this the aforesaid Robert[sic] Durant seeks against the same William Dalton the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances in the aforesaid form &c. And whereof he says that he himself was seised of the aforesaid five tenements, sixty[sic] acres of land, sixty acres of meadow, sixty acres of pasture, twenty acres of wood, and ten acres of furzes and heath, with appurtenances, in his domain as of fee and right, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, in the time of peace in the time of our lady now Queen, taking the profits thereof to the value &c. And that as such he offers his right &c. And the aforesaid William Dalton, tenant by his warranty, defends the right of the aforesaid Robert[sic] Durant when &c And all &c., And whatsoever &c, And especially of the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances as of fee and right &c. And puts himself upon the homage of the lord ^{of the aforesaid manor,} in the nature of the great Assise of the lady Queen. And he seeks recognition to be made whether he has the greater right to hold the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances to himself and his heirs, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, as tenant thereof by his warranty, or whether the aforesaid John[sic] Durant should have the aforesaid tenements, with appurtenances, as he seeks above &c. And the aforesaid Robert[sic]

Durant seeks licence to confer from that time until the first hour after noon. And he has &c. And afterwards, at the aforesaid hour, the same Robert[sic] Durant returns here in court, in his own person, And the aforesaid William Dalton, solemnly charged, does not return, but vanishes in contempt of the court, and makes default. Therefore it is decided that the aforesaid John[sic] Durant should recover his seisin, against the aforesaid John ap Thomas, of the aforesaid tenements with appurtenances, to hold to himself and his heirs according to the custom of this manor, quit of the aforesaid John ap Thomas and his heirs and of the aforesaid John Dove and William Dalton and his/their heirs, And that the aforesaid John ap Thomas should have the aforesaid land against the aforesaid John Dove, to the value &c., And that the same John Dove should, further, have the aforesaid land against the aforesaid William Dalton, to the value &c. And the aforesaid William Dalton is amerced, &c. Upon which the aforesaid Robert[sic] Durant seeks to be admitted to the premises, by virtue of the aforesaid recovery. To whom, by the steward, the lord ^{of the manor} conceded seisin thereof to him, to hold to himself and his heirs, according to the form of the aforesaid recovery, of the lord, by the rod &c., Rendering therefor to the lord the rent and services hitherto owed and accustomed &c., and he gave the lord as a fine &c, and he made fealty to the lord &c., And he was admitted tenant thereof &c.

After which aforesaid recovery had been executed and finished, the aforesaid Robert[sic] in open court surrendered the aforesaid tenements named in the aforesaid recovery to the benefit and use of Nicholas Calton and his heirs in perpetuity, to which said surrender so taken and made, the aforesaid Nicholas Calton, then lord of the aforesaid manor, present in court, agreed to consent, and took, by receipt of a small rod in his hands, to have to himself and his heirs, forever.

Heriot

John Hunt comes in open court, and acknowledges his owing one cow, called a heriot, owed to the lord in consideration of a certain surrender made into the hands of two tenants of the aforesaid manor, to the use of Robert With, an expert lawyer, which befalls to the lord for each surrender made by any tenant of the manor, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor.

Surrender

The Homage present that Samuel Dove, outside the court, surrendered into the hands of Christopher Curson and Walter Boone one acre of customary land, with appurtenances, to which the same Samuel was admitted tenant, as appears in the rolls of the court of the aforesaid manor, To the benefit and use of William Dalton [who has reappeared!], his heirs and assigns in perpetuity, To whom the lord, by his aforesaid Steward, conceded seisin thereof, To have and to hold the aforesaid acre of customary land, with appurtenances, to himself and his heirs, of the lord, by the rod, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, by the rent and

*Walter Boane
Tenant in right
of His Wife [the
former Agnes
Henley]*

[blank] services thereof hitherto owed and by law accustomed, Who gave the lord as a fine for having such estate and entry therein as appears on his head. And the same William Dalton made fealty to the lord, and was admitted tenant thereof.

[End of J2 [previously I2] (front). J2 [previously I2] (back) follows below :]

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

Part 2 *[Monday] 10 May 1574*

Dulwich View of Frank pledge with court Barron of Nicholas Calton, held on the tenth day of the month of May, in the sixteenth Year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland, &c.

Thomas Oodde c-----		Robert Brouxsby c-----		Robert Mathew c-----	
Christopher Curson		Henry Dove		Thomas Longe	
John Lewes	Sworn	Henry Huscroft	Sworn	John Shott	Sworn
John Heathe		Richard Shott		Giles Abecke c-----	
Walter Boone c-----		Henry Hunter c-----			
2d		2d		2d	

The Homage present that William Manninge, John Manninge, Walter Brasy, and Thomas Salter, are co-residents and inhabitants within the jurisdiction of this Lete, and owe suit at the same, and make default. Therefore they are amerced, as appears over their heads.

30s

The Homage present that Nicholas Calton, gentleman, has newly made a ditch at the place called Howlettes grene, in the high way, to the damage and nuisance of those going towards the church and of other lawful people of the lady Queen for the public way to the market. Therefore he is amerced [!], as appears on his head.

The Homage present that Thomas Longe has not cleansed his ditch From the field called Peryfelde to the place called Ashepolle end. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy, as appears on his head, namely 12d for each rod.

The Homage present that, before the feast of All Saints next to come, John Mathew should cleanse his ditch from his stable towards Grenestret, containing by estimation 12 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before the aforesaid feast of All Saints next to come, William Kyppyngge should clean his ditch From Mathewe's ditch downwards, containing by estimation 12 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before the aforesaid feast of All Saints next to come, William Dalton should clean his ditch from Kippinge's ditch downwards, containing by estimation 12 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : o----- 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before the aforesaid feast of All Saints next to come, John Webster should clean his ditch From Dalton's ditch downwards to the common Sewer, containing by estimation 30 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : o----- 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before the aforesaid feast of All Saints next to come, John Mathew should clean his ditch from Ashpolle end, containing by estimation 20 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : o----- 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that before the aforesaid feast of All Saints next to come Adrian Lorden, gentleman, should cleanse his ditch from Ashpolle end, containing by estimation 20 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : o----- 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before ^{the aforesaid} feast of All Saints next to come, Stephen Couchman should cleanse his ditch at Ashpolle, containing by estimation 8 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : o----- 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before ^{the aforesaid} feast of All Saints next to come, William Maninge should cleanse his ditch at Kenelles, containing by estimation 20 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each

not
Rod \wedge cleansed : o----- 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before the aforesaid feast of All Saints next to come, the same William Maninge should cleanse his ditch at Howlettes grene, containing by estimation 40 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : o----- 12d.

It is Ordered by the aforesaid homage that, before the aforesaid feast of All Saints next to come, [blank] Wryght should cleanse their ditch at Morkynes ditch, containing by estimation 40 Rods, under penalty of forfeiting for each Rod not cleansed : c----- 12d.

The Homage present that Giles Becke allowed one pig to go unringed at large upon the lord's common, contrary to the old ordinance and custom of the same manor. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy.

The aforesaid Homage present that John Dally allowed one piglet to go unringed at large upon the lord's Common, contrary to the old ordinance and custom of the same manor. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy.

The Homage present that William Maninge allowed two pigs to go unringed at large upon the lord's common, contrary to the old ordinance and custom of this manor. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy.

The Homage present that Robert Nelson allowed one pig to go unringed at large upon the lord's common, contrary to the old ordinance and custom of the same manor. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy.

The Homage present that Christopher Curson allowed one pig to go unringed at large upon the Lord's common, contrary to the old ordinance and custom of the same manor. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy.

The Homage present that one stray foal coloured brown bay, worth six shillings and eight pence, is in the custody of William Dalton.

2d

2d

The Homage present that John Badger and Robert Broksby sold drink contrary to the victualling assize. Therefore they are in the lord's mercy, as appears over their heads.

The Homage present that William Dalton wrenched wool from a sheep's back to the value of two pence.

present

The Homage \wedge that the aforesaid William Dalton and his wife Jane received From Nicholas Spilsted, servant of one aforesaid, John Mathew of Dulwich \wedge wheat and oats to the amount of four parts of a peck or more, more or less, and other of the goods and chattels of the same John Mathew and others, to the value of o----- 10d.

The Homage present that the said wife of the aforesaid William Dalton milked the cows of others without their licence, to the value of o----- 4d.

The Homage present that around the feast of the Nativity of the Lord last past, the same William Dalton feloniously took and carried away half a peck of wheat of the goods of one John Woodfall[sic], lately of Dulwich, gentleman, to the value of o----- 20d

15d

The Homage present that the same William Dalton threatened the constable and other officers of the lady Queen, when they searched the house of the aforesaid William on account of his entertaining unknown robbers. Therefore he is amerced, as appears on his head.

3s 4d

The Homage present that the same William Dalton obliged, and procured, the servants of others to steal and take whatever they could from their masters, and to bring them to the same William Dalton, And if their masters saw that theft and dismissed them, the aforesaid William Dalton and his wife took them in and guarded them for as long as they pleased. In such manner, they took in a servant, lately of Thomas Swayne, gentleman, keeping a crossbow, for which crime the aforesaid Thomas had expelled him from him. Therefore he is amerced, as appears on his head.

3s 4d

The Homage present that the same William Dalton keeps a disorderly house in his dwelling. For example, he had three children, born of harlots, two of whom his wife suckled, who died within a quarter of a year after their birth. And

he gives unmarried men and women licence to spend the night and lay over in his house. Therefore he is amerced, as appears over his head.

The Homage present that William Steivinson holds the demesne lands of the aforesaid manor ^{12d} Andsells ^{sheepskin furs [*'les fures lanes'*]} ^[sic] ^ outside the limits & bounds of the aforesaid manor. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy, as appears over his head.

The Homage

The Homage at the court there, held on the tenth day of May in the above-stated sixteenth Year of Queen Elizabeth

The Homage present that Matthew Draper, gentleman, and John Webster, are tenants of this manor and owe suit at the court baron of the same manor, and make default. Therefore they are amerced, as appears over their heads. ^{3s 4d} ^{4d}

The Homage present that Richard Wright, tenant of this manor, has died since the last court, seised of one tenement [and] fifteen acres of customary land, held of the lord of this manor, by virtue of which befalls to the lord one heriot, namely one cow, and that Katherine, Elizabeth, Agnes, Mary, and Ellen Wryght are the daughters and nearest heirs of the said Richard Wright, according to the custom of this manor.

Assessors { Richard Shott
Thomas Ode

[End of Roll J2 [previously I2].]