



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 N2 [This Roll was previously named T.]

Roll N2 [previously T] (front)

T

Part 1 [Wednesday] 12 May 1647

Manor of Dulwich |
in the County of Surrey |

View of Frank pledge
With Court Baron, there held on
| the twelfth day of May in the twenty-
third Year of the Reign of our lord Charles, now King of England, &c.

Excuses | John Rumsey is excused, through Danielem Scrivener
| John Loyd is excused, through Danielem Scrivener
| Robert Holmes is excused, through Nicholas Bodger
| Valentine Daniell is excused, through Nicholas Bodger

Jurors | Phillip Collins -----
| Richard Wells -----
| Thomas Hammond ----- Sworn
| John Hall -----
| Edmund Cursons -----
| John Kempsall
| Matthew Sheppard
| Daniel Scrivener Sworn
| Henry Collins ----
| John Bodger ---
| William Cope -----
| John Barrett ----
| John Starkey -- Sworn
| Thomas Stepus
| John Redman --

At this Court it is learned by the Homage that Thomas Richardson and his wife Ellen, native [i.e. customary] tenants of this Manor, surrendered three pieces or parcels of land held of this Manor, in the following manner, that is to say: one piece or parcel of land containing by estimation two acres, be it more or less, lying upon land of the College in the occupation of John Barrett or of his assigns towards the north, and

upon land of the said College in the occupation of John Starkye towards the east, and upon land of the College in the occupation of Edward Cursons towards the south and west; one piece and [sic] parcel of land containing by estimation two acres, be it more or less, lying between lands of the said College in the occupation of the said Edward Cursons; And another third piece or parcel of land containing by estimation two acres, be it more or less, lying upon land of the College in the occupation of Robert Dawlman towards the east, and upon land of the aforesaid College in the occupation of Elizabeth [sic, Bethiah] Downer towards the south, and upon land of the said College in the occupation of Thomas Downer partly towards the west and partly towards the north, and upon land of the aforesaid College in the occupation of one William Staples in another part towards the north; into the hands of Edmund Cursons and John Dunn, two of the customary tenants of this Manor, in the presence of George Ridge (in place of the lords' Bailiff), To the benefit and use of Robert Dawlman of Dulwich aforesaid, in the County of Surrey aforesaid, Esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, and to the heirs of the same Robert Dawlman according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor. Which said Robert Dawlman, present here in Court, seeks admission to the aforesaid premises, exactly as in the aforesaid surrender, To the benefit and use of the same Robert and his wife Elizabeth, and to the heirs of the same Robert, and they were admitted as tenants thereof, to hold to the aforesaid Robert and Elizabeth and to the heirs of the aforesaid Robert, at the will of the Lord [sic] according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, And ^{they gave} to the Lords for a fine, And the aforesaid Robert made fealty &c.

And afterwards, namely on the second day of July in the above-written twenty-third year, the aforesaid Thomas Richardson and his wife Ellen came to the Steward of the aforesaid Court, and then the aforesaid Ellen, examined alone in the presence of the same Steward, and acknowledge that neither by emotion, nor coercion, nor undue influence, but by personal and free will, she surrendered the aforesaid lands as aforesaid To the benefit and use above-stated, And the same Thomas and Ellen then, upon the aforesaid examination, surrendered and released into the Lord's [sic] hands by the hands of the aforesaid Steward all their estate, title and interest in the aforesaid

lands to the aforesaid benefit and use, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor.

Thomas Stephus[sic] was elected by the Jurors in the office of Constable for one whole year now next to come, and was sworn in open Court -----

John Hall and John Kempshall were elected by the Jurors in the office of Headboroughs for one whole year next to come, and were sworn in open Court -----

Henry Mathewes was elected by the Jurors in the office of Aleconner for one whole year next to come, and was sworn in open Court -----

Part 2 [Monday] 1 November 1647

Manor of Dulwich ----- | At the Court Baron there held on the first day of November in the twenty-third Year of the Reign of lord Charles, now King of England, &c, and A.D. 1647 :

homagium | Robert Dawlman | Sworn |
| Edmund Cursons |

At this Court it is learned by the homage that, since the last Court and before this Court, Mary, the wife of John Dunn, a native [i.e. customary] tenant of this Manor, of a certain customary message or tenement, with appurtenances, and of certain customary lands held of this Manor, died, thereof seised to herself and her heirs, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, And that John Staples, surviving son of Samuel Staples deceased (which said Samuel was, while he lived, the son of the

aforesaid Mary by John Staples, sometime husband of the same Mary), is the nephew and heir of the aforesaid Mary of the messuage and lands aforesaid, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, Which said John the nephew is within the age of twenty-one years, namely aged six years, and is present here in Court, and by his mother, Frances Staples, widow, as guardian of the same John, seeks that the aforesaid John the nephew be admitted to the aforesaid premises, To which same John, as heir of the aforesaid Mary, by his aforesaid guardian Frances, the Lords, by their Steward, delivered seisin thereof by the rod, to hold to himself and his heirs, at the will of the Lords, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, And gave the Lords for a fine : thirteen pounds ; And for a heriot : forty shillings ; And he was admitted as tenant thereof, but fealty was postponed, &c., on account of the aforesaid minority of the tenant.

*fine £13
heriot 40s*

Part 3 [Thursday] 27 April 1648

Manor of Dulwich | View of Frank pledge With Court Baron, there held on Thursday the twenty-seventh day of April in the twenty-fourth Year of the Reign of lord Charles, now King of England, &c.

Excuses | Robert Ballett ; Roger Hamond ; Robert Holmes ; &c.

| | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Jurors | Robert Dawlman | Sworn | Valentine Daniell | Sworn | Thomas Stephus | Sworn |
| | Phillip Collins ----- | | Daniel Scrivener | | Nicholas Bodger | |
| | Thomas Hamond | | Richard Welles ---- | | Henry Mathewes | |
| | John Starkye ----- | | Nicholas Staples | | Thomas Oxleye | |
| | John Hall ----- | | Edmund Cursons -- | | John Ballett | |

Tithingman Edmund Redman, son of Edmund Redman, aged seventeen years, [sworn] in allegiance.

more endorsed

[End of N2 [previously T] (front). N2 [previously T] (back) follows below.]

Roll N2 [previously T] (back)

Tv

Part 3 (continued) *[Thursday] 27 April 1648*

Daniel Scrivener was, by the election of the Jurors, sworn in the office of Constable for one whole year next to come.

Valentine Daniell and Thomas Oxleye were, by the election of the Jurors, sworn in the office of Headboroughs for one whole year next to come.

Thomas Wingfeild was, by the election of the Jurors, sworn in the office of Aleconner for one whole year next to come.

Also, at the Court Baron there held on the first day of November in the twenty-third year of the reign of lord Charles, now King of England, &c., it was presented by the homage that, since the previous Court and before that Court, Mary, the wife of John Dun[sic], native [i.e. customary] tenant of this Manor of a certain messuage or tenement, with appurtenances, and of certain native lands held of this Manor, died, seised thereof to herself and her heirs according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, And that Nicholas Staples, son and heir of the aforesaid Mary (by John Staples, sometime husband of

[in pencil:]

the aforesaid Mary, deceased) according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, was deceased without issue, And that John Staples, surviving son of Samuel Staples (son of the aforesaid Mary, brother of the aforesaid Nicholas, also deceased), aged six years, was the nephew and nearest heir of the aforesaid Mary of the messuage and aforesaid premises. Upon which the aforesaid John Staples, infant, by his mother Frances Staples, was admitted, as appears by the Roll of the Court. Only now, at this Court, came the aforesaid Nicholas Staples, the heir, just as was aforesaid, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor of the messuage and aforesaid premises, Which said Nicholas, being a sailor for several years past, travelled in parts across the seas, and not only by long delay there, but also by the certification of various of the residents in those parts, was falsely supposed to be dead. And he sought that [he] be admitted [to] the messuage and aforesaid premises of which, as was aforesaid, his mother, the aforesaid Mary, died seised. To which same Nicholas, as son and nearest heir of the aforesaid Mary, the Lord by its Steward delivered seisin thereof by the rod, to hold to himself and his heirs at the will of the Lords, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor. And he gave the lords as a fine [blank, ?£13] and for a heriot [blank, ?40s], And he was admitted tenant thereof, And the aforesaid Nicholas made fealty &c.

Also, they present that George ^{10s}Portman, x x x x John ^{10s}Abbot, x x x x Robert ^{5s}Ballett, x x x x x ^{8d}Matthew Sheppard, x x x x x x x x x x And [Thomas] ^{3s 4d} Rand pres
 x x x x x x x x x x, in default of attending this Court, each of them is amerced, as appears over
 amercement their heads.

Also, it is Ordered that John Abbot shall build his bridge, and scour his ditch from the house of Richard Collins as far as the end of the Rayles [i.e. rails] in the High-way, before the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist next to come, and for each rod, in English 'a rodd' of the aforesaid ditch then

under-scoured, he shall pay twelve pence.

Also, it is Ordered that [Bethiah] Downer, widow, shall make an adequate fence against the Common lying next to Lane's pond, before the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist next to come, ^{and} for each rod, in English '*a rodd*', then under-fenced, she shall pay twelve pence.

Also, it is Ordered that Nicholas Mitchell shall fill in the pot-hole, in English '*the hole*', in the high-way next to the entrance to his house, before the feast of Saint John the Baptist next to come, and if he defaults, he shall pay five shillings.

Also, it is agreed concerning the waste, in English '*the waste*' pond, in English '*the pond*', in the east part of John Halle's orchard, that Robert Dawlman shall make adequate bridges, and assiduously make the ditch to be scoured, for the carrying of the waste water of the said pond around the Green, in English '*the Greene*', lying in front of the house of the same Robert Dawlman.

Also, it is Ordered that Richard Perry shall scour the common waterway, in English '*the Common Sewer*', from the south-east corner, in English '*South East Corner*' of the orchard as far as the corner of the Court Meade, And that he shall make a water-gate, in English '*athe Watergate*', at the south-east corner of the orchard, for the carrying of water from the common, before the feast of Saint Michael Archangel next to come, ^{And} for default therein, he shall pay twelve pence.

Also, it is Ordered that [Thomas] Rand shall scour his ditch, from the northern end of the

field of Thomas Stephens[sic] as far as the corner lying against Matthew Sheppard's house, and that he shall make a bridge at the gate going into his field, before the feast of the Nativity of the lord [i.e. Christmas] next to come and, for default therein, he shall pay twelve pence.

Also, they present that Robert Glover, the Bailiff, has not maintained the pound, in English '*the pound*', with gravel, in English '*with Gravell*', to that animals impounded there are muddied and spoiled.

the end. by  Steward there.

[End of Roll N2 [previously T].]