



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 1903.

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 N21 [This Roll was previously named YY.]

Roll N21 [previously YY] (front)

Part 1 [Tuesday] 29 May 1685 [This repeats, almost *verbatim*, Roll N20 [previously Y], part 2.]

YYr

Manor of
Dulwich
1685



Special Court Baron there held on the twenty-ninth day of May in the first year of the reign of king James the second, by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, &c., in the presence of Lancelot Johnson esquire, Steward there.

The Homage : Robert Tompson Esquire; Anthony Bennet;
Rachel Bennet ---- Sworn

The Homage present upon their Oath that John Hearthway of the parish of Saint Saviour's, Southwarke, plumber, one of the customary tenants of this Manor, who held to himself and his heirs, according to the custom of this Manor, one messuage or tenement and an adjacent customary orchard, in English '*an orchard*', in Dulwich aforesaid, in the county of Surrey, next to the house and orchard of the Master, Warden and Fellows, Brothers, Sisters and Scholars of the College of Dulwich, now or late in the tenure of Bathsheba Shephard, widow, on the west part, and the Common of Dulwich, within the Manor of Dulwich, on the north part, and one Close of land to the same messuage and adjacent orchard, containing by estimation two acres, be they more or less, on the twenty-second day of October last past surrendered into the hands of the Lords of the aforesaid Manor, by the hands of the Steward, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, all his customary lands and tenements held of this Manor, to the benefit and use of his last Will in writing, and that on the same day he made his last Will in writing, and by the same devised the aforesaid tenements and lands to his nephew George Righton and to his heirs, and afterwards died. **Now** to this Court came the aforesaid George Righton, and humbly sought to be admitted tenant to the aforesaid premises To whom the Lords of the aforesaid Manor, by their aforesaid Steward, conceded seisin thereof by the rod, to have and to hold the

£12
fine

aforesaid premises to the aforesaid George Righton and to his heirs, by the rent, services and customs thereof hitherto owed and by law accustomed, and he gave the Lords, for a fine, as appears in the heading, and he was admitted tenant thereof, and he made fealty to the Lords.

Examined by *L. Johnson* Steward there.

Part 2

[Thursday] 15 April 1686

Manor of Dulwich

1686 :

Court View of Frankpledge, with Court baron, there held on the fifteenth day of April, in the second Year of the reign of king James the second, by the grace of God **king** of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith &c., in the presence of Lancelot Johnson esquire, Steward there.

Jurors for the Lord King

John Siston
Grevill Lewis
John Bowden
John Starkey
Thomas Cranwell
Robert Budder
Thomas Wrench
John Hamond
Edward Stone

Sworn

John Watkins
William Merrill
John Rosington
John Scrivener
John Perry
William Hicks
Robert Marksted
William Marlo
Edward Terry
Thomas Frisby

The Jurors elected :

John Scrivener constable
Robert Maxwell headborough
William Merrill headborough
Avery Hawthorne Aleconner

The Jurors present that William Page of Lambeth encroached two-and-a-half feet in length and width upon the Manor of Dulwich, therefore it is ordered that he shall remove [i.e.rectify] the encroachment before the twenty-sixth of August next, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords 20s.

Also, they present that William Page of Lambeth aforesaid obstructed the common way leading to Greenstead[sic] green from Dulwich hill. Therefore it is ordered that he shall remove the obstruction before the twenty-sixth of August next, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords 20s.

Examined by 
Steward there

Part 3

[Thursday] 21 April 1687

Manor of Dulwich

1687 :

Court View of Frankpledge with Court baron, there held on the twenty-first day of April in the third Year of the reign of king James the second, by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith &c., in the presence of Lancelot Johnson esquire, Steward there.

Jurors for the Lord King	}	John Siston	} Sworn	John Perry	} Sworn
		Grevill Lewis		John Rossington	
		John Starkey		Edward Payne	
		John Bowden		Daniel Wood	
		Thomas Cranwell		Thomas Osborne	
		John Watkins		John Hamond	
		Thomas Wrench		Edmund Terry	
		William Hix		Richard Perry	
		Robert Budder		William Marlow	
		Favor Barrett			

The aforesaid Jurors elected :
Thomas Cranwell constable
William Marlow headborough
John Hamond headborough
Robert Austyn Aleconner

Also, they present that [Edward] Harwood, gent., Philip Cane, William Marlow, owe suit of this Court, and make default. Therefore they are amerced, as appears on their heads. [which is not the case]

Also, they present that George Righton, gent., encroached upon the common way of Dulwich, by placing posts and palings there; therefore it is ordered that he shall remove the aforesaid encroachment before the feast of the nativity of the lord [i.e. Christmas], under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords 40s.

Examined by  Steward there

Part 4 [Thursday] 21 May 1688

Manor of
Dulwich
1688 .

Court View of Frankpledge with Court baron, there held on the twenty-first day of May in the fifth [sic, fourth] year of the reign of king James [III], king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, and in the Year of the Lord 1688[changed from 1689], in the presence of Lancelot Johnson Esquire, Steward there.

Jurors for the Lord King : John Siston, John Bowden, Thomas Wrench, John Starkey, John Watkins, Thomas Cranwell, Edmund Terrey, Thomas Osborn, John Scrivener, Robert Bowden [sic, ?Budder], Richard Perry, Edward Stone, John Perry, John Hamond, John Russell[sic, ?Rossington], William Cade, Thomas Frisby, William Jeaves

The Jurors for the Lord King elected : Edmund Terry constable sworn William Jeaves aleconner
Thomam Osburne headborough } sworn
Edward Stone headborough } sworn

The Jurors present upon their oath that George Righton, one of the customary tenants of this Manor, encroached upon the common way of the aforesaid Manor, by placing certain palings, in English 'pales', in front of his mansion house, by three feet in width and forty feet in length. Therefore it is ordered that the aforesaid encroachment shall be removed before the twenty-fourth day of June next ensuing, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords £5.

Also, it is ordered that Philip Caine shall scour twenty rods, in English 'roddes of ditching', hard by the Claylane in front of the College, and that he shall mend the footbridge and the cartbridge, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords one shilling for each and every rod not scoured before the twenty-fourth day of June next ensuing.

Also, it is ordered that Grivell Lewis shall place a paling, in English 'a rayle', in front of the pond, in English 'pond', hard by his house, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords 10 shillings.

Also, it is ordered that William Jeaves shall scour sixteen rods of land, in English 'ditching', from the gate leading to his house and to the 'vacerram' [usually 'paling'], in English 'the stile', in his Close towards [Thomas] Osburn, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords one shilling for each and every rod not scoured before the aforesaid day.

At this Court Grevill Lewis, William Merryll, James Ireland, & Willam Hix, Make default; therefore they are amerced, as appears on their heads.

Examined by  Steward there

End of N21 [previously YY] (front). N21 [previously YY] (back) follows below :]

1685/89

Part 5

[Thursday] 20 April 1689

YYV

K 30

Manor of
Dulwich }

1689 Court view of frankpledge, with Court baron, there held on the twentieth day of April in the first year of the reign of king William and queen Mary, of England, **Scotland**, France and Ireland, &c., and in the Year of the Lord 1689, in the presence of Lancelot Johnson esquire, Steward there.

* [and Lady
queen]

The Jurors for the Lord king* : John Siston, John Bowden, John Starkey, Thomas Cranwell, Thomas Wrench, Richard Perry, David Paine, Thomas Frisby, William Cade, Daniel Wood, Thomas Osburne, John Russell, James Ireland, William Marlow, John Hamond, Richard Collins, John Scrivener, Edmund Terry, Philip Cade, Henry Wade, Favor Barrett.

The aforesaid Jurors elected	John Starkey	Constable	} Roger Hamond
	John Russell	sworn	
	William Cade	sworn	
		headboroughs	} Aleconner sworn

The Jurors present that Richard Perry has placed a dung-hill right by the Pond in the common way; therefore it is ordered that he shall remove the dung-hill before the twenty-fifth day of March next ensuing, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords --- 40s.

Also, it is ordered that Philip Caine shall scour twenty rods of ditching, in English '*ditching*', and that he shall repair the footbridge and the cartbridge lying opposite the Claylane, opposite the front of the College, under penalty of forfeiting to the Lords if it is not done before the same time. [penalty not specified]

Also, it is ordered that Thomas Veriar shall scour fifteen rods of ditching, in English '*ditching*', convenient for the running of water to the house of [blank] Davis, widow, the aforesaid ditch lying opposite the Common, from the orchard of widow Davis to the orchard of Richard Perry, under penalty of forfeiting one shilling for each rod of ditching unscoured by the same time.

Also, it is ordered that John Watkins shall scour eighteen rods of ditching lying against the back part of the College, under penalty of one shilling for each rod undone ad the same time.

Also, it is ordered that Thomas Osborne shall scour sixty rods of ditch opposite Greenstreet green, under penalty of forfeiting one shilling for each rod of ditch undone at the same time.

Also, they present that the aforesaid Thomas Osborne placed a dung-hill opposite The Crooked Billet, to the annoyance of the neighbours; therefore it is ordered that he shall remove the aforesaid dung-hill before the aforesaid time, under penalty of 40s.

Also, it is ordered that John Bowden shall remove his dung-hill in front of Churchfeild stile, under penalty of 40s if it is not done before the aforesaid time.

Also, it is ordered that Thomas Cranwell shall remove his dung-hill next to the pound, in English '*the Pound*', under penalty of forfeiting 40s if it is not done before the same time.

Now follows of the Court baron.

The Homage : Robert Tompson Esquire; John Cowper; Mary Cowper; sworn

The Homage present, upon their oath, that on the first day of June in the third year of the reign of king James the second &c., and in the Year of the Lord 1687, George Righton, gent., one of the customary tenants of this Manor, surrendered into the hands of the Lords of the aforesaid Manor, by the rod, by the

Surrender
of George
Righton

hands of the Steward, by the rod, all that his customary messuage or tenement and orchard, lying in Dulwich, next to the house and orchard of the Master, Warden, and Fellows of the College of Dulwich, now or late in the tenure of Bathsheba Shepherd, and one customary close of land adjoining the aforesaid house, containing two acres by estimation, to the benefit and use of James Cutler of London, painter-stainer, of his heirs and assigns, under the condition that if the aforesaid George Righton, his executors or administrators, pay, or cause to be paid to the aforesaid James Cutler, his heirs or assigns, ^{the sum of three pounds on the second day of September then next ensuing} ~~the sum of~~ ^{one hundred and} ~~three pounds~~ upon the second day of June which will be in the year of the Lord one thousand six hundred and eighty eight, that then the present surrender shall be void and of no force, otherwise it shall stand in full force and effect.

And they further say that the aforesaid sum of one hundred and three pounds was not paid according to the form of the aforesaid condition; therefore the first proclamation is made that James Cutler shall come and be admitted.

To this Court came Elizabeth Cowper, ^{widow,} and John Cowper, customary tenants of the aforesaid Manor, and in open Court, sitting as a Court, surrendered into the hands of the Lords of the aforesaid Manor, by the hands of the Steward, by the rod, all that their customary messuage or tenement, with appurtenances, divided in two tenements, of which one is in the tenure or occupation of Richard Perry, and the other is now empty, and four customary acres, by estimation, in two parcels, in English 'Closes', lying in Dulwich aforesaid (to which the aforesaid Elizabeth was admitted tenant for the term of her life, remainder to the aforesaid John Cowper and his heirs) To the benefit and use of Robert Faireman, of the parish of Saint Saviour's, Surrey, brewer, and his wife Mary, for the term of their lives and that of the longer liver of them, and afterwards to the benefit and use of the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them; and the aforesaid Robert and Mary, present here in Court, humbly sought that the aforesaid Robert Faireman and May should be admitted tenants to the aforesaid

Admission
of Robert
Faireman
and his
wife.

Fine:
£10. 5s

Y²

messuage and lands; Upon which the Lords of the aforesaid Manor, in open Court, by their aforesaid Steward, delivered to the aforesaid Robert Faireman and his wife Mary Faireman seisin of the aforesaid messuage and lands, ^{by the rod,} to have and to hold to the same Robert and Mary for the term of their lives and that of the survivor of them, and afterwards to the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them, at the will of the Lords, according to the custom of the aforesaid Manor, by the rent, services, and customs thereof hitherto owed and by law accustomed, and they gave to the Lords, for a fine, as appears in the heading, and they were admitted as tenants thereof, but fealty was postponed.

At this Court licence was granted to Robert Faireman and his wife Mary, to demise to farm all their customary tenements and lands held of this Manor, to any person or persons, for the term of twenty years from the date of this Court, saving always to the Lords all escheats and other advantages thereof, besides those emerging due to crimes; and they gave to the Lords for the aforesaid licence as appears

in the headings [?missing]

Examined by  Steward
there

[End of Roll N21 [previously YY].]