

Wiltshire Record Society

(formerly the Records Branch of the Wiltshire
Archaeological and Natural History Society)

VOLUME 61

God moe

Item this Court doth order that every man shall give away his
 plow and cattle in the 10th Eld. before the 1st day
 of April next bypon paines of 10^s and make m^o default
 to forfeit

Item this Court doth order that none shall by less or Deception bypon
 10^s or more or forfeit in any of their 10^s but till the 10th
 of the year for the bypon paines of 10^s and make m^o default
 to forfeit

Item this Court doth order that every man shall make his bound
 sufficient from the 1st of the 10th and 10^s by the
 first day of May next ensuing and 10^s to 10^s of
 June bypon paines of 10^s and make m^o default to forfeit

Item this Court doth order that within the 10th day of the 10th
 and 10th by the 10th day of the 10th and 10^s by the
 first of August next ensuing or any other manner
 the highway that in the 10th and 10th is insufficient

Item this Court doth order that all the 10th of the 10th shall
 meet on Monday Morning in the 10th for 10^s
 next before the 10th and 10th to take a view
 of the 10th and 10th and within the 10th
 of the 10th by the 10th and 10th bypon paines of 10^s
 and make m^o default to forfeit

Item this Court doth order that every one that is bound in any
 of his parts to the 10th shall pay that as is due to pay to him
 by the 10th of the 10th of May next bypon paines of 10^s
 and make m^o default to forfeit

Item this Court doth order that every man shall make his
 bound before the 10th of the 10th and 10^s by the
 10th of the 10th bypon paines of 10^s

use bene
Affir: H:

Edward J. Canting, of Golds Smith & Jure
 John J. Canting, of Golds Smith & Jure
 James J. Canting, of Golds Smith & Jure

A page of a 17th-century court book, showing the orders made by the court held at Charlton on 20 April 1642. (WSA 88/2/24)

THE COURT RECORDS
OF
BRINKWORTH
AND
CHARLTON
1544 – 1648

EDITED BY

DOUGLAS CROWLEY

CHIPPENHAM

2009

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c/o Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre,
Cocklebury Road, Chippenham SN15 3QN

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PREFACE

The documents edited below are listed and described on pages 5–7 of the introduction to the text. They are part of the archive of the earl of Suffolk and of Berkshire and are kept in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. The Society is very grateful to Lord Suffolk and to Wiltshire and Swindon Archives for making them available.

The editor of the volume expresses his warm thanks to the staff of the Archives Service for help given in the preparation of the edition, and in particular to Mr. Steven Hobbs who reminded him of the interest and detail to be found in the documents. He is especially grateful to Dr. John Chandler for his help, frequently called for and generously and unstintingly given, and for his criticism, friendly, constructive, wise, and often antipodal.

The edition was prepared in the interim between the resignation of one honorary general editor and the appointment of a successor.

C. R. ELINGTON
President, Wiltshire Record Society

ABBREVIATIONS

TNA	The National Archives
<i>VCH</i>	<i>Victoria History of the Counties of England</i>
<i>WANHM</i>	<i>Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine</i>
WRS	Wiltshire Record Society
WSA	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives

INTRODUCTION

BRINKWORTH AND CHARLTON

Brinkworth and Charlton lie in north-west Wiltshire a little east of Malmesbury.¹ In the west part of Charlton parish there are outcrops of Cornbrash, limestone, and clay, which favour arable and pasture; Brinkworth parish and the east part of Charlton parish lie on clay, which most favours pasture.

The settlement in Brinkworth almost certainly lay dispersed in the 16th and 17th centuries. Beside a road which linked Swindon and Malmesbury a church had been built by 1151, and a rectory house and what may have been the demesne farmstead of Brinkworth manor were built near it. Although in the earlier 19th century there was other settlement beside that part of the road, which was called the Street, there remained much dispersed settlement, and many of the buildings then standing along the line of the Street were probably erected after the mid 17th century. Besides Brinkworth the church had as its parish the area of settlement called Grittenham; a watercourse, there called Grittenham brook, was the boundary between the two parts of the parish. The parish had 923 inhabitants in 1801, when c. 800 lived in the Brinkworth part. The number of inhabitants at Brinkworth from the mid 16th century to the earlier 17th can only be speculated upon.

In the 16th century there was perhaps c. 2,500 acres of farmland at Brinkworth, and adjoining the farmland there was perhaps as much as 1,300 acres of uninclosed rough pasture, woody ground, and woodland which was part of Brinkworth manor and lay in the purlieu of Braydon forest.² The farmland included open fields, common pastures, and possibly commonable meadow land. There had probably been a general inclosure by 1573, certainly by 1580. Some common pastures survived the general inclosure and the later inclosure of the purlieu.³ In the early 17th century nearly all the closes at Brinkworth were of less than 15 acres.⁴

The wealth of Brinkworth village was derived from agriculture. There seems to have been little unusual about the farming: the main cash crops were probably wheat and barley, and cattle and sheep were reared.

1 Except where stated information about Brinkworth and Charlton is from *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 13–17, 19–21, 36–40, 44–7.

2 For the purlieu and the inclosure of them, below, Braydon forest.

3 For the general inclosure, below, pp. 118, 153.

4 WSA 88/2/45.

In the 16th and 17th centuries the farmers presumably sold their excess produce and supplied themselves with equipment for their farms and with the everyday needs of themselves and their families and servants at local markets and fairs, the nearest of which were those at Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett. Other than those preparing food or drink for sale, there were then probably few manufacturing tradesmen at Brinkworth. In 1848 there were *c.* 30 farmers and *c.* 28 tradesmen and retailers there.¹ About 1600 there may have been as many farmers, perhaps fewer tradesmen and retailers.

Charlton's land was an early endowment of Malmesbury abbey, which was founded in the mid 7th century.² The village was built, probably by the abbey, perhaps much later than the 7th century, and evidently as a planned settlement. It is a street village. Open fields were laid out around it and there were commonable meadows and common pastures. In the 16th century there was probably *c.* 2,300 acres of farmland, of which 350 acres was imparked mainly in the 1560s or 1570s. Adjoining the farmland there was *c.* 1,900 acres of uninclosed rough pasture, woody ground, and woodland which was part of Charlton manor and lay in the purlieu of Braydon forest; *c.* 400 acres of the manor's land in the purlieu had been imparked by the mid 15th century. In the 16th and 17th centuries the village apparently consisted mainly of farmsteads held by customary tenants. By then farmsteads had been built on isolated sites east of the village, and a new mansion house was built in the new park in the 1560s.

A church had been built at Charlton by the late 12th century. From the later 13th century or earlier to the 19th century it was a daughter of Westport church, but it had its own wardens, from the 17th century or earlier the inhabitants of Charlton had all rights in it, and it was a parish church to those inhabitants.³ The population of the parish was 428 in 1801. As in the case of Brinkworth, the number of inhabitants from the mid 16th century to the earlier 17th can only be speculated upon.

The wealth of Charlton village was derived in ways similar to that of Brinkworth; at Charlton there were also two mills. The open fields were more extensive, perhaps *c.* 1,000 acres. In the 16th and 17th centuries they were being used partly to produce hay and there was a small amount of piecemeal inclosure; in 1616, by which time there had already been inclosure and some of the inclosed land had been imparked, they contained 678 acres. In 1848 there were *c.* 19 farmers and *c.* 10 tradesmen and retailers.⁴ About 1600 there were probably more farmers, perhaps fewer tradesmen.

1 *Post Office Directory of Wiltshire* (1848).

2 *VCH Wiltshire*, iii. 210-11; xiv. 40-1.

3 *Ibid.* xiv. 48-9; WSA D 1/43/1, ff. 24v., 134.

4 *Post Office Directory of Wiltshire* (1848).

BRAYDON FOREST

Brinkworth's land on its north and east sides and Charlton's at its east end lay open to the Crown land called Braydon forest, and the men of both places were accustomed to feed their animals on the Crown land without payment and with little restriction. The north and east parts of Brinkworth's land and the east part of Charlton's were parts of what were called the purlieus of the forest, and in those areas only the Crown had the right to hunt and protect deer. In 1630 that reciprocity ended when, under an Exchequer decree which may or may not have been collusive, the Crown gave up its rights over the purlieus and inclosed the forest. Soon afterwards Brinkworth's and Charlton's parts of the purlieus, which until then had lain open not only to the forest but also to each other and the other parts of the purlieus, were also inclosed. In both cases the lord of the manor took most of the land, improved it, and leased it as farmland. Of Charlton's land 400 acres was allotted to the farmers for use in common and 50 acres was allotted to the cottagers, and of Brinkworth's *c.* 250 acres was allotted to the farmers and 50 acres to the cottagers.¹

THE MANORS

Brinkworth and Charlton manors were parts of Malmesbury abbey's estate in the Middle Ages and passed to the Crown in 1539, when the abbey was suppressed. In 1544 the Crown granted Brinkworth manor to William Stumpe (d. 1552), who was succeeded by his son Sir James. In 1553 Sir James bought Charlton manor, and from then Brinkworth and Charlton descended as two of a group of four manors, the others being Brokenborough and Hankerton. The manors passed on Sir James's death in April 1563 to his daughter Elizabeth (d. 1585), who between her father's death and 2 August 1563 married Henry Knyvett (knighted in 1574, d. 1598). On Sir Henry's death the manors descended to his and Elizabeth's daughter Catherine (d. 1638), the wife of Thomas Howard, Lord Howard (created earl of Suffolk in 1603, d. 1626).² By 1625 they had been settled on the Howards' younger son Thomas (created Baron Howard and Viscount Andover in 1622, earl of Berkshire in 1626, d. 1669). Lord Berkshire was a privy councillor of Charles I; he was imprisoned by parliament and released in 1643.³

Most of Brinkworth's farmland and woodland, and its part of the purlieu of Braydon forest, were the land of Brinkworth manor. In 1578 the demesne was held on lease as a farm, which may not have been much larger than the largest of the copyholds, and in 22 other portions. There were 33 copyholds, one of which consisted of no more than a cottage,

1 *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 20, 45.

2 The manorial descents are from *ibid.* 18, 41; for the marriage in 1563, WSA 88/9/1B.

3 Below, pp. 156, 337; G. E. C[ockayne] and others, *Complete Peerage* (2nd edn.), ii. 150.

with c. 950 acres; one of the copyholds was of 76 acres and one of 73 acres, 19 were of 20-55 acres, and 11 were of less than 20 acres. Four tenants of the manor held by leases for 2,000 years without impeachment of waste, were equivalent to freeholders, and were sometimes called free tenants and sometimes free suitors; two each held two former customary tenements and the other two each held two pastures. About 20 cottagers were tenants of the manor. The rector's estate was a small manor on which there were four tenements.¹ Other land in Brinkworth was not part of Brinkworth manor.² The land of Charlton manor was Charlton's farmland, parks, and woodland and its uninclosed part of the purlieu. In the later 16th century and earlier 17th there may have been no more than 100 acres of demesne outside the parks. The farmland lay mainly in some seven freeholds and in the 31 copyholds which were heriotable. About 1,000 acres of it lay in those copyholds, much less in the freeholds. In the Middle Ages some of the copyholds, smaller than ½ yardland, were rated as Mondaylands, and in the late 16th century there were c. 16 copyholds of which none was heriotable or consisted of more than 5 acres. In the early 17th century one of the 31 copyholds was of 82 acres, one was of 81 acres, and two were each of 74 acres; 17 were of 20-70 acres and 10 were of less than 20 acres. A few tenants had two holdings each. About 23 cottagers were then tenants of the manor. The freeholds included one of c. 96 acres, one of c. 91 acres, and three with a total of 59 acres. The land of one of the other freeholds was held of the freeholder by copyholders and was reputed a manor; those copyholds were apparently small.³ Between the mid 16th century and the mid 17th, in both Brinkworth and Charlton, nearly all the farmland, whether demesne, freehold, leasehold, or copyhold, almost certainly lay in farms of less than 100 acres. Although most of the copyholds and some of the leaseholds included a farmstead, neither they nor the freeholds were necessarily discrete farms. In addition to their land the farmers had the right to feed animals in common. The value of those rights was presumably reduced by the inclosures of 1630 and soon afterwards, but the improvement of the land after the inclosures increased the value of the manors. Besides the freeholds and the 2,000-year leaseholds, whose owners paid small rents, and the land and buildings of the copyholds, which were granted for lives for small rents and entered on the payment of negotiated fines,⁴ the manors included the remaining common pastures and the waste land such as lanes and small greens, and cottages which were built on the waste were deemed parts of the manors.⁵

1 WSA 88/2/42; for the leaseholders called free tenants and free suitors, below, pp. 150, 156-7; for the rector's estate, see also below, p. 96.

2 *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 18-19.

3 WSA 88/2/43; 88/2/45-6.

4 For copyhold tenure, below, manorial business (copyholds).

5 For the waste land, e.g. *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 20; for the cottages, e.g. WSA 88/2/42-3.

THE DOCUMENTS

The documents edited below are the earlier surviving records of the courts held by the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors in respect of each manor. They are to be found in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. The Brinkworth records are extant for the periods 1544-6, 1559-60, 1570-82, and 1625-48; the Charlton records are extant for 1559-60, 1563-5, 1570-86, and 1625-48.¹ Records of the courts held in respect of the two manors later in the 17th century and in the 18th century are kept in the same repository.² It is to be assumed that courts were held in respect of the manors every year and therefore that, except for those mentioned above, the records for all the years between 1544 and 1648 have been lost.

The records of the courts held before 1574 are written on sheets of parchment, several groups of which were sewed together at the head and rolled; the records of the Brinkworth courts were enrolled with those of courts held in respect of other manors, those of Charlton on their own. The enrolled records of both the Brinkworth and Charlton courts for 1559-60 are abbreviated and entitled *estreats*.³ Also enrolled are the records of the courts held in April 1625 for Brinkworth, Charlton, Brokenborough, and Hankerton, the record of each court having been written in an immaculate hand on its own sheet of parchment. The records of the courts held from 1570 were entered in four paper books. One book contains those for Brinkworth and Charlton for 1570-82 with those for Brokenborough and Hankerton for the same period and for Burton Hill manor for the earlier 1570s; the second contains those for Charlton for 1583-6; the third contains those for Brinkworth, Charlton, Brokenborough, and Hankerton for 1625-45, and the fourth those for those four manors for 1646-8. Three of the books lack their covers; the cover of the Charlton book for 1583-6 was made from a parchment deed of 1582.

The records of nearly all the courts held between September 1570 and September 1573 exist in two versions, as do those of the courts held in April 1625. It seems that the book in which the court proceedings of 1570-82 were entered contains the initial record of the courts held in that period, and it may have been written up by a clerk in open court as proceedings unfolded; the handwriting is untidy, and the entries are much abbreviated and not carefully classified. The second versions of the records of the courts of 1570-3 are neatly written on parchment and are enrolled.

1 WSA 88/2/1 (Charlton 1563-5, 1570-3); 88/2/6 (Brinkworth 1544-6); 88/2/7 (Brinkworth 1570-3); 88/2/21 (Brinkworth and Charlton, 1570-82); 88/2/22 (Charlton 1583-6); 88/2/23 (Brinkworth and Charlton, 1625); 88/2/24 (Brinkworth and Charlton, 1625-45); 88/2/25 (Brinkworth and Charlton, 1646-8); 88/2/29 (Brinkworth and Charlton, 1559-60); 88/2/33 (Charlton 1560).

2 WSA 88/2/2-5; 88/2/8-12; 88/2/26-8.

3 For *estreats*, below, procedure (*estreats* and totals).

They are apparently fair-copies, and each of the corresponding records in the book was endorsed with the word engrossed after the entries were made. The reason for fair-copying the records seems obvious, but a large number of entries was made on the draft and omitted from the fair-copy and the reason for that is obscure. The items omitted seem too numerous for the omission to have been caused by carelessness, they come from nearly all classes of business, and most of them seem as relevant to the lord's or the steward's income from the court and to the general proceedings of the court as do those included. A possible explanation is that, between the holding of the court and the drawing up of the fair-copy of the record, there was a delay during which some issues were resolved or became irrelevant or redundant and the entries relating to them were therefore omitted. That explanation is offered with little confidence. No draft of the records of courts held before 1570 is known to survive but, like the fair-copies of 1570-3, the enrolled records of Brinkworth for 1544-6 and of Charlton for 1563-5 may recount less than the full business of the court in those years. The records of both for 1559-60, entitled *estreats*, certainly do so.

Although the appearance of the records in the book in which the court proceedings of 1570-82 were entered did not improve after 1573 it seems that no fair-copy was made between then and 1583. From 1574 the records in the book were no longer endorsed with the word *engrossed*, and after 1573 the only records to exist on enrolled parchment are those of a very few courts held in the 17th century. To judge from its neat and well organized appearance, however, the Charlton court book for 1583-6 was compiled as a fair-copy. It seems that in 1583 a new method of recording the business of the courts was adopted. The old system, which lasted until 1573, of making draft entries in a book while the court was in session, and of making fair-copies on sheets of parchment which were enrolled, was replaced in 1583 by one of making a fair-copy in a book compiled after the court was held and on the basis of notes made at, or bills presented to, the court; from 1574 to 1582 the only record of the court was apparently the initial draft. The new system remained in use in the 17th century. The entries in the court books for 1625-45 and 1646-8 are, for the most part, classified and neatly written and, with the exception of those for April 1625, are almost certainly the only version of the court records.

A court for each of the manors of Brinkworth, Charlton, Brokenborough, and Hankerton was held in the period 12-14 April 1625. They were the first courts to be held in respect of those manors in the reign of Charles I and their proceedings were the first to be recorded in the new book. Perhaps for no reason other than such primacies an additional record was made on sheets of parchment which were enrolled together. In content the enrolled records are virtually identical to the records in the book and, written with care, skill, and style, were evidently intended to

be ornamental. The court for Charlton held shortly before the Restoration, and for both Brinkworth and Charlton the first court held after it, were also recorded on parchment which was rolled.¹ The court book begun in 1625 had been filled by 1645. That begun in 1646 was used, apart from the records of two much later courts for Hankerton, only until the spring of 1648.

The sheets of enrolled parchment are in a generally good condition and the writing on them is generally legible. The paper books are somewhat dog-eared but also generally legible. The edges of some of the pages have been creased or torn or have become worn or fragile; a hole measuring *c.* 3 cm. in diameter in places has been made through the first 50 or so pages of the book for 1625-45, probably by a mouse; some of the writing on the right-hand pages has been lost.

The entries recording the proceedings of the courts were written mostly in Latin. In the 16th century some words or phrases given in Latin were repeated in English and a few entries were wholly in English. The use of English increased. There were more entries in English made in the Charlton court book of 1583-6 than there had been in the court book of 1570-82, and nearly all the court orders recorded in the 17th-century books are in English.

METHOD OF EDITING

The Latin of the documents edited below has been translated to modern English. Artificial consistency has been eschewed and for none of the entries, except those relating to grants or surrenders of copyhold premises, grants of licences, and admittances to copyhold premises, has the text been *précised*.² Grants, surrenders, and admittances are recorded in the documents in Latin words used according to formulae which were adapted to suit the circumstances of the conveyances being made. Below, in the edited versions, the text of such entries has been much abbreviated but has not been re-arranged and remains formulaic. The English of the documents has generally been left in its existing form. Changes to the syntax necessary to convey what was apparently the intended meaning are minor and have been made infrequently. On the other hand, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation have been modernized. It follows that, in the edition, most entries are translations of Latin, a few of which incorporate English words or phrases which appear in the original, and the rest are essentially transcripts of English. In the pages of the edition no distinction between the two has been flagged.

The headings in bold type which precede the edited records of each court, and the details of the court given immediately below them, are abstracted from the headings of the courts in the original. The italic

1 WSA 88/2/2; 88/2/8.

2 For copyhold tenure, below, manorial business (copyholds).

sub-headings are nearly all editorial intrusions, although some echo generic words written in the margin of the original. The main exceptions are the sub-headings under which the 17th-century court orders are entered: most of those have been transcribed from the court books. No distinction between original and intruded sub-headings has been flagged. In order to classify entries under the intruded sub-headings the order in which they were made in the documents has been subjected to a limited re-arrangement for the edition. Many changes to the order have been made in respect of the book for 1570-82, far fewer for the 17th-century court books. The paragraphs of the edition represent the individual entries in the original.

The dates in the headings of courts were given in the original by reference to the day of the month, the month, and the regnal year. The day of the week was sometimes given, and the year of grace was sometimes given in addition to the regnal year. In the edition the dates in the heading are given in a standard form, the day of the month, the month, and the year of grace; the day of the week has been omitted. Dates in a form similar to those in the headings occasionally appear in the text of entries in the original and have been similarly standardized in the edition. Dates in the text are much more frequently indicated by reference to religious festivals or to saints' days, and in the edition such dates have been left as they appear in the original. Except in the case of Christmas and of moveable festivals, the day of the month and the month, as given in the *Handbook of Dates*,¹ have been added in square brackets. All dates in the edition have been expressed according to the year of grace as it is now reckoned. Nearly all expressions of number in the documents are in Latin words or Roman numerals. The words have been translated and the numerals, most frequently used for sums of money or the days of the month, have been converted to Arabic.

Nearly all the people mentioned in the documents are given Latin forenames and English surnames. For the edition the forenames have been translated and a standard form has been adopted for each surname. The form adopted is not always that most frequently used in the documents, and there has been a predisposition to adopt a modern form and a spelling compatible with modern English. Some variants of some surnames are noted in the index. Place names which appear in the text have been given their modern form and spelling. Where the form or spelling in the original is much different from the modern form it is noted in italics within round brackets. The form and spelling of the names of tenements, buildings, watercourses, fields, lanes, and other minor topographical features in Brinkworth and Charlton have been made consistent and, as far as possible, modernized.

1 *Handbook of Dates* (2000 edn.), ed. C. R. Cheney (revised by M. Jones; Royal Historical Society).

Square brackets have been used in the edition to enclose editorial interpolations intended to make the meaning of the original text clearer; such interpolations include the addition of words not in the text, the offer of alternative readings possible from the text, and suggestions that a different reading of the text would be more intelligible to a present-day reader or that a scribe made a mistake. Information not in the text, such as the dates of saints' days and material in a margin or draft, is supplied between square brackets, as are indications of the reasons for a deficiency of the text. When the meaning of a Latin word or phrase is doubtful, or when the context suggests a meaning slightly different from what would otherwise be expected, the word or phrase is given in italics between round brackets.

JURISDICTION

In the Middle Ages it was normal for the lords of manors to hold a court, attended by the tenants, in respect of each of their manors. Many lords also acquired, by grant or prescription, liberties to hold a view of frankpledge, exercise leet jurisdiction, and enforce the assize of bread and of ale. Such matters were usually dealt with at a court held for each hundred by the sheriff, in the course of his tourn, on behalf of the Crown,¹ and each session of a hundred court in which that was done came to be called a tourn. Malmesbury abbey held those liberties and withdrew its men of Brinkworth, Charlton, and other manors from the tourn of Malmesbury hundred which they would otherwise have attended.² Under the liberties the abbey apparently exercised its rights in respect of each of its manors individually,³ and after the Dissolution the Crown included view of frankpledge in respect of the individual manors in its grants of both Brinkworth and Charlton.⁴ By the 16th century it had become generally accepted that view of frankpledge included the other two liberties,⁵ and all three liberties descended with each manor.

Manor Courts

In the Middle Ages manor courts were held by lords to deal with many aspects of what has been called the economic administration of their manors: matters relating to personal unfreedom, labour services, trespasses, and transfers of land came before them. Although the lord could inflict summary punishment a jury was usually empanelled, and it became the

1 e.g. F. Pollock and F.W. Maitland, *History of English Law* (1923 edn.), i. 571, 580–1.

2 *WANHM*, xiii. 116–17; WSA 192/26, ff. 4v.–5, 23, 24v.

3 For Charlton, *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 47.

4 For Brinkworth, WSA 88/1/25; for Charlton, TNA C 66/802, m. 48; C 66/848, m. 16.

5 F. J. C. Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction in England* (Southampton Record Society, 1908), 43–64, 115.

practice for the jury to enquire into manorial and agrarian offences, to declare and interpret the tenurial and agrarian custom of the manor, and to decide matters of fact. It also became accepted that the court, that is the whole body of suitors, could make decisions, reach verdicts, and witness what was done. Civil disputes between suitors came before the courts and the court or the jury delivered judgements, and admittances to customary holdings and surrenders of them were performed in the court and witnessed by it.¹ To prove that an admittance had been witnessed by the court an entry was made on the court roll to record that the lord granted land to a tenant who was to hold it at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor. By the 16th century it had become normal for a copy of such an entry to be given to the tenant, and such customary tenants, who thus had a written title which they would otherwise have lacked, came to be called copyholders.² It follows that, for as long as a lord granted premises according to the custom of the manor, he was obliged to hold a court of the manor, and there were many copyholders at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th and 17th centuries.

View of Frankpledge

The fully developed frankpledge system of the 12th and 13th centuries was a conflation of two obligations, one for men to be grouped into tithings and one for them to find pledges or sureties.³ The existence of tithing groups in the mid 10th century is indicated in the Hundred Ordinance of Edgar⁴ and in the early 11th century in the edict of Ethelred promulgated probably in 1009;⁵ the Hundred Ordinance showed them to have police functions. Athelstan demanded that the kindred of an offender should make him answerable for his crimes,⁶ and Cnut required that a lord should be the guarantor for members of his household. By 1023 it was obligatory for all men to belong to a tithing and to be under adequate surety,⁷ and by the early 12th century the tithing had become associated with surety functions. In the early 12th century all men in every village in the kingdom had to belong to a tithing, the members of which were responsible for pursuing offenders and bringing others and each other to justice: that was the frankpledge system.⁸ In each village in

1 *Select Pleas in Manorial Courts*, ed. F.W. Maitland (Selden Society, ii), pp. xiii–xiv; H. S. Bennett, *Life on the English Manor* (Cambridge, 1965 edn.), 195–221.

2 Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 375–7.

3 For the origins of frankpledge, W. A. Morris, *Frankpledge System* (New York, 1910), 1–41.

4 *English Historical Documents*, i, ed. D. Whitelock (1979 edn.), p. 430.

5 *Ibid.* (1955 edn.), p. 410 n. 2.

6 *Ibid.* (1979 edn.), p. 417.

7 *Ibid.* p. 457.

8 *Select Charters*, ed. W. Stubbs (1942 edn., ed. H. W. C. Davis), p. 127; *English Historical Documents*, ii, ed. D. C. Douglas and G. W. Greenaway (1981 edn.), p. 493; Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 90–7.

some parts of England there were several tithings each with a chief pledge at its head; elsewhere, including Wiltshire, all the men of a village or other area of settlement made up a single tithing with a tithingman at its head.¹ In theory all males over 12 years of age should, by taking an oath, have become members of a tithing; there were some exceptions, notably men of high status.²

Supervision of the frankpledge system in the 12th century was carried out in the hundred court, probably then, as it was later, by the sheriff.³ In the 13th century and later, in respect of some places, it was instead carried out at a hundred court held not by the sheriff but by an enfranchised lord. Other lords withdrew their men from the hundred courts, whether held by a sheriff or privately, and, as Malmesbury abbey apparently did, claimed and established a right to hold a view of frankpledge in respect of individual manors.⁴ Although in the 16th and 17th centuries there remained only vestiges of the frankpledge system⁵ the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors continued to hold a view of frankpledge for each manor.

Leet Jurisdiction

The Assize of Clarendon, which was issued in 1166, provided for four men of each village to present criminals at the hundred court.⁶ The origin of the sheriff's tourn has been attributed to that provision. Afterwards, at his tourn, the sheriff not only supervised the frankpledge system but also heard presentments and punished offenders. In general the matters presented were offences which were described as contrary to the king's peace, which were punishable under common law, and which amounted to less than felony; matters amounting to felony at common law might be enquired into but not determined. The right to hear presentments and punish those who committed minor offences was leet jurisdiction. The lords of manors who held private views of frankpledge imitated the sheriff in his tourn, presided over a tribunal in which matters touching the Crown were presented, and thus exercised leet jurisdiction.⁷

1 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 88–90; *Select Pleas in Manorial Courts*, ed. Maitland, p. xxx.

2 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 69–85.

3 *English Historical Documents*, ii, ed. Douglas and Greenaway, pp. 442, 493; cf. Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 66–8; Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 113–15.

4 For Wiltshire in the later 13th century, *Rotuli Hundredorum* (Record Commission), ii (1), 230–7, 242–81; *Placita de Quo Warranto* (Record Commission), 795–809.

5 Below, frankpledge business.

6 *English Historical Documents*, ii, ed. Douglas and Greenaway, pp. 440–1.

7 Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 44–5, 580–1; *Select Pleas in Manorial Courts*, ed. Maitland, pp. xxxi–xxxiii; Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 65–6, 93.

Treatises, and guides for court keepers, show that by the 14th century a wide variety of offences had come to be presentable under leet jurisdiction. The breaches of the peace could include assault or theft, offences involving violence to persons or property in which the breach was actual, or misuse or neglect of highways, bridges, or watercourses, public nuisances in which the breach was merely technical. In theory only nuisances affecting public land could be dealt with under leet jurisdiction.¹ Minor nuisances affecting private land could be remedied through the manor court by actions for trespass or dealt with there as offences against the lord of the manor or as breaches of the custom of the manor.² The articles of enquiry listed in the medieval treatises and guides indicate that almost anything of a public nature could be presented, and the discrepancies in the lists suggest that practice might vary from place to place.³ By the 15th century leet jurisdiction had come to be associated with courts held for individual manors rather than with the sheriff's tourn. In 1441 the legal jurisdiction of the leet was denied to the tourn by a judicial decision, and a statute promulgated in 1461 required that thereafter all the indictments and presentments brought before the sheriff in his tourn were to be transferred to, and determined by, justices of the peace.⁴ The statute emasculated the tourn but was without prejudice to privately held views of frankpledge in which leet jurisdiction was exercised. Matters were still determined under leet jurisdiction by the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors in the 16th and 17th centuries, and nearly everything which was presented under it then was covered by the medieval articles.

The Assize of Bread and of Ale

In 1266-7 a statute established a relationship between the price of wheat and the assize (the lawful price) of bread, and it established a relationship between the price of wheat, barley, and oats and the assize of ale.⁵ Another statute of that year provided for the punishment of bakers, and of brewers, who had not kept to the assize.⁶ Many enfranchised lords acquired the liberty to enforce the assize and enforced it at the view of frankpledge which they held at a hundred court or for an individual manor.⁷ Enforcement became part of leet jurisdiction, and the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors claimed to be punishing offending bakers and brewers in the 16th and 17th centuries.

1 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 43-64, 96-8.

2 Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 587-9.

3 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 43-64; *Stoneleigh Leger Book*, ed. R. H. Hilton (Dugdale Society, xxiv), 98-100; *Historia et Cartularium Monasterii Sancti Petri Gloucestriae*, ed. W. H. Hart (Rolls Series), ii. 221-2.

4 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 138; *Statutes of the Realm*, ii. 389-90.

5 *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 199-200.

6 *Ibid.* 201-2.

7 e.g. *Rotuli Hundredorum* (Record Commission).

Other Statutory Offences

In the 17th century lawyers recognized a principle that leet jurisdiction did not cover a statutory offence unless the statute expressly allowed it to do so or unless the offence was already punishable under common law when the statute was promulgated.¹ In the Middle Ages, however, some offences in the trade in food and drink were created by statutes which did not mention leet jurisdiction and, whether or not they had formerly been common-law offences, they were nevertheless determined under leet jurisdiction. They included offences under the second statute of 1266–7 which provided for butchers to be punished for selling unwholesome meat, for millers to be punished for taking unfair tolls, for measures to be inspected twice a year, and for those selling through other than standard sealed measures to be punished. They also included offences created by the Statute of Labourers of 1349, under which it became an offence for any baker, brewer, butcher, or other seller of victuals to sell above a reasonable price; the power to enforce the Statute of Labourers was formally added to leet jurisdiction in 1406.² Offences under a statute of 1389–90, which provided for the keeping of greyhounds to be restricted, were also punished under leet jurisdiction.³

From 1523 it was expressly stated in many statutes that the new offences which were created by them were determinable under leet jurisdiction.⁴ The statutes provided, among other things, for hares not to be traced in the snow (1523),⁵ for rook nets to be kept (1532–3),⁶ for archery to be practised and the playing of games to be restricted (1542),⁷ for woollen caps made in England to be worn (1571),⁸ for paupers to be relieved (1535–6),⁹ and for highways to be repaired (from 1555).¹⁰ In giving the right to punish such offences to the lords of manors who held the liberties of view of frankpledge, leet jurisdiction, and the assize of bread and of ale parliament added much to the potential business of the lords' courts, and by the later 16th century the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors had extended his jurisdiction to cover all or some of such statutory offences.

Exercise of Jurisdiction

An ordinance of 1234 restricted the holding of manor courts to no more than once in three weeks. There was apparently no legal requirement that a lord should hold his court every three weeks and, although in the later

1 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 119.

2 Ibid. 115–16, 120; *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 202–3, 307–9.

3 *Statutes of the Realm*, ii. 65; below, p. 114.

4 For a complete list of the statutes, Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 122–30.

5 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 217.

6 Ibid. 425–6.

7 Ibid. 837–41.

8 Ibid. iv. 555.

9 Ibid. iii. 558–62.

10 Ibid. iv. 284–5, 441–3, 620–1, 718–19.

Middle Ages manor courts may have been described as three-weekly and the tenants of a manor as owing suit at a three-weekly court, it is likely that few did.¹ In the early 12th century the view of frankpledge may have been held usually twice a year.² A legal distinction between the holding of a view of frankpledge and the exercise of leet jurisdiction was recognized in the 13th century. In 1217, in the second re-issue of Magna Carta, it was stated that the sheriff should hold his tourn twice a year, after Easter and after Michaelmas, and that ‘visus de franco plegio tunc fiat ad illum terminum Sancti Michaelis sine occasione’.³ The second statement did not expressly prevent a view from being held at another time of the year, but the distinction made between the holding of the tourn and the holding of the view implies that it was expected then that the view would be held only once a year.

The legal distinction between the view and the exercise of leet jurisdiction seems to have been widely ignored in the later Middle Ages and later. In practice the lord of a manor who had the relevant liberty both exercised leet jurisdiction and held the view, and the two became enmeshed. Offences were punished under leet jurisdiction, the assize of bread and of ale was enforced, and the frankpledge system was inspected in a single court held once or twice a year. Such a court was often held with the manor court in a single session,⁴ and that was what was happening at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century and earlier 17th. In those periods the manor court was also held at other times, presumably as convenience dictated. After it became usual for a lord to hold a manor court and to exercise his three liberties in a single session the distinction between the four procedures to be followed, and between different classes of offences, became blurred. At Brinkworth and Charlton in the mid 16th century the procedure of the view, in which vestiges of the frankpledge system could be seen, offences were punished under leet jurisdiction, and brewers and bakers were amerced, remained distinct from that of the manor court, in which private pleas were heard, transfers of copyhold premises were recorded, and agrarian customs were defined or refined. In 1625 and later that distinction was no longer made, and, although some matters were no longer dealt with at all, the others were dealt with in a single procedure regardless of the jurisdiction under which they arose.

THE COURTS

Titles

In guides published in the late 16th century and early 17th, and intended for use by the stewards of manors, the titles court leet and court baron

1 Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, 200.

2 *English Historical Documents*, ii, ed. Douglas and Greenaway, p. 493.

3 *Ibid.* iii, ed. H. Rothwell, p. 337.

4 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 35, 43-60, 77-8; *Stoneleigh Leger Book*, ed. Hilton, 98-100.

were preferred.¹ At Brinkworth and Charlton, however, the title of the combined court held for a view of the vestiges of the frankpledge system to be taken, leet jurisdiction to be exercised, and manorial business to be transacted always began with the words ‘visus franci plegii’. Other words were added to show that the court was also that of the lord of the manor held in respect of his manor. Although more leet business than frankpledge business was transacted the title never included the words ‘curia leta’ or ‘curia lete’. The words ‘curia manerii’ were, however, often replaced by the words ‘curia baronis’. In the 16th century a legal distinction could be made between a court baron, attended by the freeholders of the manor, and a customary court, attended by the copyholders,² but no such distinction was observed at Brinkworth and Charlton. Men there did know which court was which, and they could be consistent in the use of the nomenclature. In the 16th century, even when the courts were combined and met in a single session, the proceedings of the view and the proceedings of the manor court or court baron were sometimes recorded under separate headings,³ and in the 17th century, when the combined court was usually called a view of frankpledge with a manor court, the court held separately to transact copyhold business was usually called a court baron. On the other hand, the neglect of the title court leet and the alternation between the titles court of the manor and court baron implied and reflected nothing in the proceedings which were recorded.

The combined court held at Charlton in September 1563 was called a view of frankpledge with a court of acknowledgement.⁴ It was evidently the first court held after the death of Sir James Stumpe and in the names of his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Henry Knyvett. Its title suggests that all the tenants of the manor attended it and there acknowledged Knyvett as their lord: there is otherwise no evidence of such a general acknowledgement. The combined court held at Brinkworth in September 1625 was called a view of frankpledge with a court baron and a court of survey.⁵ The words court of survey suggest that the assets of the manor were investigated at the court and perhaps that freeholders showed their charters there and copyholders their copies: there is otherwise no evidence of such an investigation.

Timing

To judge from the surviving records the combined view of frankpledge and manor court was held twice a year at Brinkworth in the 1540s. From the 1550s to the 1640s, a period in which the two manors were held by

1 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 37–8.

2 W. S. Holdsworth, *History of English Law*, i (1956, ed. A. L. Goodhart and H. G. Hanbury), 182.

3 e.g. below, pp. 107–10, 255–8, 300–2.

4 Below, p. 245.

5 Below, p. 159.

the same lord as each other, the combined court of Brinkworth, and that of Charlton, were presided over by the same steward as each other and were held with the same frequency as each other. Those courts, and the courts of Brokenborough and Hankerton, were held on four consecutive days, one day for each and not always in the same order. Such records as exist for the 1550s and 1560s show them to have been held twice a year, once in spring and once in autumn. From 1570 or earlier to 1577 they were held, in autumn, once a year, and from 1578 to 1648 they were again held in both the spring and the autumn of each year. In the 16th and 17th centuries the frequency with which the combined courts met was almost certainly at the discretion of the lord of the manor or his steward. Either once a year or twice a year was lawful,¹ and it is not clear why the frequency was reduced between 1565 and 1570 or increased in 1578. There was evidently no less business to be done in the 1570s than in the 1560s, and in 1572 twice at Brinkworth and once at Charlton, in 1573 and 1576 once at Charlton, and in 1575 once at both places a separate manor court was held in addition to the single combined court. A full range of manorial business was done at those courts and, at three of those held at Charlton, some items of frankpledge business and leet business were also done. Moreover, although the Charlton court was very busy in the 1580s, the courts were evidently no busier in 1578 than they had been in 1576 or 1577. Sir Henry Knyvett was the lord, and Griffin Curtis was the steward, at the time of the reduction in frequency which took place between 1565 and 1570 and the increase which took place in 1578, and it is hard to see what they or the tenants had to gain by either change. By holding a second court each year the lord may have sought to increase his income from small routine amerancements, but the level of such amerancements was apparently not set by the lord and it is anyway not certain that they were actually collected.² The steward may have received additional fees by doubling the number of courts but had the work of presiding over the extra ones. The tenants might have preferred to avoid the inconvenience of attending two courts a year but may have found it disadvantageous to delay orders relating to the use of commonable land or the abatement of nuisances. Those propositions work in reverse for the halving of the number of courts. The frequency was reduced, perhaps as an experiment, soon after Knyvett became lord of the manor, and it is possible that after a decade it was generally thought better to reverse the change. The increased business of the 1580s may have made the resumed frequency seem satisfactory, and it is possible that thereafter inertia prevented another change.

Besides those of the 1570s, at which a full range of manorial business was done, meetings of the manor court separate from those of the combined

1 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 79–80.

2 For the setting and collection of amerancements, below, procedure (monetary penalties).

court were infrequent until the 1640s. The Charlton court met on 28 April 1584 after a drift had been taken on that day and less than a month after a combined court had been held.¹ Of its four items of business two arose from the drift, and it is possible that the court was convened at short notice for contentious issues to be discussed. From 1629 to 1639 the manor court met separately four times at Brinkworth and thrice at Charlton, but from 1640 to 1648 there were 11 such meetings at Charlton and nine at Brinkworth. The business done at the separate manor court in the 17th century was nearly always copyhold business of the kind regularly dealt with at the yearly or twice-yearly combined court, and it is never clear why it was necessary to hold a separate manor court. The reason may have been that the lord wished to bring forward his income from fines, that the parties to conveyances of copyhold premises did not normally attend or wish to attend the combined court, or that the parties considered their business to be urgent. How willing a steward was to hold a separate court, which probably amounted to no more than a short business meeting attended by a small group of men, may also have been relevant. In 1629 one was held for each place, between then and 1634 none was held for either, in 1634 two were held for Brinkworth and one for Charlton, between then and 1639 none was held for either, and in 1639 one was held for both. Such a pattern suggests that it was the steward who decided, perhaps taking into account the circumstances of the parties, when a separate court was to meet, and in the 17th century he always appointed a deputy to hold it. The increased frequency of such meetings in the 1640s might perhaps be attributable to urgent fund-raising by the lord of the manor, but there is no direct evidence of that.

Meeting Places

In the court records edited below no hint is given as to where the courts met. By the 16th century it had become the law or custom that the lord of a manor should hold his court at any place on the manor in respect of which he held it,² and it is very likely that the requirement was observed at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century and earlier 17th. The views of frankpledge with the manor courts for those places and Brokenborough and Hankerton were then held on consecutive days, and it is much more likely that the steward was peripatetic than that the body of suitors of each manor took turns to visit the steward in his house or office.

There are many examples, especially from the Middle Ages, of manor courts which were held in the open air, in the hall of the manor house or demesne farmhouse, or in the church.³ In the later 13th century the tenants of Malmesbury abbey at Colerne owed suit at the great cross

1 Below, p. 322; for the drift, below, leet business (strays, forfang, forage).

2 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 80.

3 Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, 203.

of Colerne.¹ Usually later, courts are also known to have met in inns.² Any such meeting place for the 16th- and 17th-century courts of Brinkworth and Charlton is possible, but in each case there is one much more likely. Both places had a church house,³ a building often erected immediately outside the churchyard, held by the parishioners, and used for church ales⁴ and probably for vestry and other meetings, and it would be a surprise if in either place the combined view of frankpledge and manor court were held anywhere else. The meeting place of the separate manor courts seems less obvious. The meeting was almost certainly shorter and attended by fewer people than the combined court and, if it were not held in the church house, could probably have been held in the steward's office or in a room of a larger private house.

Summons

In the records edited below the date of a future court is never referred to in the proceedings of a preceding one. The times of the year at which the combined court was held, about Easter and about Michaelmas, did not change between the 1550s and the 1640s, but the exact date at which a court was to be held was presumably decided on by the steward in the interval between courts and communicated by him to all those obliged or wishing to attend it. How such communication was made is obscure. In one of the late 16th-century guides for stewards it was stated that, because all men living within its jurisdiction were obliged to attend the view of frankpledge, it was not necessary to summon them individually. If the date of a view was proclaimed in church with 15 days notice that was held to be sufficient.⁵ Something more may have been done at Brinkworth and Charlton. Perhaps in addition to such a proclamation the steward may have informed the bailiff, and the bailiff, perhaps sometimes through the reeve or the tithingman as his delegate, may have summoned, orally and individually, the tenants of the manor and those who were known to have business at the court and who were not already tenants. In 1580 the tithingman of Charlton was ordered to summon the tenants and was amerced because he failed to do so.⁶ By some such means the date at which a court was to be held may have become common knowledge locally and have reached the ears of non-tenants, non-churchgoers, or non-residents who were required to attend. In the case of a separate manor court the steward, through the bailiff, may have done no more than give oral notification to those whose copyhold business was to be

1 *Registrum Malmesburiense*, ed. J. S. Brewer and C. T. Martin (Rolls Series), ii. 88.

2 e.g. Calne: *VCH Wiltshire*, xvii. 98; Cricklade: WSA 374/98, presentments.

3 Below, pp. 152, 259.

4 P. Cowley, *Church Houses: their Religious and Social Significance* (London, 1970), 40, 53-70.

5 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 81.

6 Below, p. 301; cf. Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, 202-3.

transacted and an oral summons to enough individual tenants to act as a homage. If the Charlton court met on 28 April 1584 only in response to contention on the morning of that day nothing more than an oral summons would have been possible.

Attendance

In theory all members of a tithing should have attended the view of frankpledge held in respect of the area in which they lived,¹ and in the 16th century at both Brinkworth and Charlton the statement that the tithingman came to the court with his whole tithing acknowledged that. The statement was almost certainly a formulaic expression of principle rather than a carefully assessed description of fact. It is possible that court-silver, given at both places in the 16th and 17th centuries, originated as a payment made in exchange for a concession that the tithingman might attend the view as the representative of all the men in his tithing, who might therefore be absent, but it is more likely that it had a different origin.²

The statement that the tithingman came with his tithing was not made in the 17th century and by then had been replaced by presentments, frequently made, that named men who lived within the jurisdiction of the view of frankpledge had failed to attend the combined courts. Between 1626 and 1633, especially at Brinkworth, such named men were numerous: each of 55 men who lived within the jurisdiction of the Brinkworth court and failed to attend it on 23 September 1629 was amerced 3*d*. Later the number of residents amerced because they were absent was much smaller. It is likely that large-scale absenteeism was the accepted norm and that in the later 1620s the steward attempted, successfully or unsuccessfully, to eliminate or exploit it, rather than that large-scale attendance was the norm and that in the later 1620s the residents attempted, successfully or unsuccessfully, to end it.³ After 1633 the number of residents amerced because they were absent was much smaller: there were never as many as 10 at any court of Brinkworth or Charlton. In practice it is hard to see how a steward could have managed an indoor court attended by half the adult population of either place, and attendance may never have been expected from the old, the infirm, or the destitute. When the numbers were small those amerced as absent residents may have been men of standing who were not tenants; when the numbers were large they evidently included some such men and some tenants.

Also in theory the manor court should have been attended by all the freeholders whose charters expressly showed that they owed suit of court and by all the customary tenants.⁴ At Brinkworth the rector and the

1 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 122–3.

2 Ibid. 123; for court-silver, below, frankpledge business.

3 Cf. below, frankpledge business (court-silver).

4 Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, 199, 201–2.

2,000-year lessees owed suit,¹ and the lord claimed that the seven freeholders of Charlton did so.² In the later 16th century the requirement imposed upon those who owed suit to attend the combined courts seems to have been taken seriously, and the rector of Brinkworth and a few freeholders at Charlton are known to have attended then.³ In the 1570s at Charlton it was made clear that any free tenant who owed suit, was absent, and was not essoined would be amerced,⁴ and by 1576 it had been agreed between the lord of the manor and three of his 2,000-year leaseholders at Brinkworth that each leaseholder would be amerced *2d.* if he failed to attend the combined court.⁵ In 1584 Roger Martin, a clothier of Steeple Ashton who held a freehold estate in Charlton, signed a warrant by which he appointed a husbandman of Charlton to act as his attorney at the courts of Charlton, and a copy of the warrant was entered in the court records.⁶ At Brinkworth in the period 1625-34 there were sometimes as many as 10 men, including the 2,000-year leaseholders, named as free suitors of the combined court, and some of them were amerced for failing to attend it. The lord of the manor was presumably extending a claim for suit to men from whom it had not been claimed in the 16th century, perhaps lessees of demesne land or those whose land had not previously been claimed as part of the manor. The claims ceased in the mid 1630s and were resumed in the mid 1640s. At Charlton, regularly in the period 1635-42, and occasionally thereafter, free tenants continued to be named as suitors of the combined court and some of them were amerced for failing to attend it.

At Brinkworth and Charlton in the later 16th century and earlier 17th the combined courts were probably attended by most of the copyholders whose holdings were heriotable. There were *c.* 32 at Brinkworth and *c.* 29 at Charlton, and at Brinkworth the rector's four tenants attended.⁷ In 1575, on one of the few occasions on which those who were not present at a court were expressly said to be customary tenants, there were three absentees: one was excused because he was sick, one was excused because he was poor, and one was amerced.⁸ In 1579 five of the eight absentees were women: three of the women were essoined, the suit of one was remitted, and one, presumably late, appeared.⁹ There were probably as many as 10 women copyholders at Charlton in 1579¹⁰ and, although no woman is known to have been a juror, it appears that their gender did not excuse women from attending the courts.

1 WSA 88/2/42.

2 Ibid. 88/2/43.

3 e.g. below, pp. 108, 247.

4 e.g. below, p. 256; for essoins, below, this section (procedure in the 17th century).

5 Below, p. 130.

6 Below, pp. 323-4.

7 WSA 88/2/42-3.

8 Below, p. 276.

9 Below, p. 293.

10 Cf. WSA 88/2/43.

The steward, perhaps with a clerk, attended the courts to preside over them and, besides most of the copyholders, a few freeholders or 2,000-year leaseholders probably attended most of them. The jurors, and the officers who made presentments, were usually copyholders.¹ Attendance was apparently required also of those who, if not already tenants, wished to be admitted to copyhold premises, of plaintiffs in civil actions and sometimes defendants, of those required to take an oath on entering office, to affirm allegiance, or to prove ownership of a stray animal, and occasionally of those with a claim to make. It is unlikely that those presented as offenders or ordered to abate nuisances could be compelled to attend the court if they were not tenants or residents, and they could be amerced or threatened with a penalty in their absence. At the combined courts held at Brinkworth and Charlton in September 1577 and September 1637, which have been taken as random examples, there is direct evidence of *c.* 30 men attending the first court of Brinkworth, *c.* 25 the first of Charlton, *c.* 17 the second of Brinkworth, and *c.* 15 the second of Charlton. Without knowing how many tenants and residents attended and played no part in the proceedings which were recorded, and how many offenders attended, it is obviously impossible to know the total number present at any one combined court. In the 1570s and 1580s most of the manor courts held separately may have been nearly as well attended as the combined courts. In the 17th century, however, attendance at such courts was clearly much smaller. The steward or his deputy, perhaps a clerk, a few men (often four) to act as the homage, and those wishing to surrender, or be admitted to, copyhold premises were probably the only people there, and it was probably rare for as many as 10 men to be present.

PROCEDURE

The guides of the late 16th century and earlier 17th recommended to stewards of manors, presumably on the basis of existing practice and of the law as it was then understood, how courts were to be held. In many of their recommendations they echoed a guide for holding the manor court and the view of frankpledge written evidently in the mid 15th century.² They called for the proceedings of a view of frankpledge, referred to as a court leet, to be opened in the morning of the day appointed for the court. The preliminaries, in which the suitors were to answer to their names, absentees to be amerced, and essoins to be heard, were to be conducted by the lord's bailiff and interspersed with his cries of 'O Yea'.³ A jury was to be empanelled and to consist of no fewer than 12 members. The steward was to administer an oath to the jurors, first to the foreman

1 Cf. *ibid.* 88/2/42 and courts held at Brinkworth 17 March and 20 September 1578; for the freeholders, cf. Charlton courts.

2 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 81–3, 86, 131–6; BL Harleian MS. 773, ff. 39–40.

3 For the bailiff, below, officers.

individually and afterwards to the others in groups of three or four, and to charge it to make enquiries and presentments on articles read to it. Each juror was to enquire and present truthfully and in good faith and to keep his own and his companions' counsel. After the jurors were sworn the steward was to invite all in attendance to inform him or the jurors of all wrongs in matters which could be dealt with under leet jurisdiction. Evidence was to be taken from the informants under oath, and the jurors were to be sent out to consider, on the basis of their own knowledge and of information received, whom they should present as offenders. To give time to the jurors to deliberate, to reach their verdicts and put them in writing, and to have their dinner the view was to be adjourned until 2 p.m. In the afternoon each offender, who was allowed no opportunity to deny a verdict, was to be presented to the steward by the jurors, and the steward was to declare each to have been amerced. Afferors were to be appointed from among the jurors and, having taken an oath to act well and truly, were to assess the amount of the penalty imposed on the offenders.¹ Afterwards the retiring officers were to be discharged of their duties, and new officers were to be called and sworn to the dutiful execution of theirs. The view was ended by more 'O Yea's cried by the bailiff.

The combined courts of Brinkworth and of Charlton seem to have been held in general accordance with such recommended procedure, although less so in the 16th century than in the 17th. Some procedures associated with the view of frankpledge as it was held in the Middle Ages were still followed in the 16th century, and both the draft records and the fair copies show that by then the procedure of the view had not been fully integrated with that of the manor court. The 17th-century records, evidently written up after the court was held, show that the two procedures had been fully integrated by then and that, as a result, the procedure of the combined court had become simpler. It is possible that the 17th-century records mask a procedure as complicated as that followed in the 16th century. That possibility is remote and it is much more likely that the procedure of the combined courts was genuinely simplified between 1586 and 1625 in accordance with the recommendations of the guides.

Procedure in the 16th Century

The distinction between the business of the view of frankpledge and that of the manor court was formally recognized in the 16th century. Although the individual items of business were apparently done in no settled order in the combined views and courts as they met in a single session, they were apparently classified afterwards as either view business or manor court business. They are unclassified on most of the draft records of the early 1570s but classified and entered under separate headings on the fair copies which were made for Charlton in the 1560s and for both Brink-

1 For amercement and the afferors, below, this section (monetary penalties); below, officers.

worth and Charlton from 1571 to 1573. The two classes of business were entered under separate headings in the records of the Charlton court held in September 1580 and the Brinkworth court held in March 1581, and the separate procedures of the two courts continued to be observed at the combined Charlton court from 1583 to 1586. Separate manor courts were held for both places in the 1570s and for Charlton in the 1580s.

To judge from the fact that the names of the jurors were listed in the records immediately below the title of the court, to empanel the jury was the first business of the court and was probably carried out in accordance with the recommendations. In holding a view of frankpledge and exercising leet jurisdiction the lord of the manor was representing the Crown, and the jurors were often described as acting on behalf of the queen. The records of the combined court held for Charlton between 1583 and 1586 suggest that the foreman took his oath alone and that the other jurors usually took the oath in small groups. Such adherence to the recommended procedure may not have been practised at other times.¹ The jurors were usually listed in several short columns but there is nothing to suggest that those named in each column were sworn as a group. In the 16th century the number of jurors varied between 21 at Charlton in September 1574 and 12 at Brinkworth in the 1540s and at Charlton in March 1586; it averaged 15. All the jurors were men, evidently copyholders, and presumably of good standing. The jury empanelled at Brinkworth in September 1578 consisted of 17 men, all of whom were among the 32 copyholders of the manor; the other 15 copyholders included 8 women.² Henry Hungerford, a gentleman and a relative of men at the same level of society as the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors,³ was a juror at Charlton between 1563 and 1580, and other men described as gentlemen acted as jurors. Although many of the men were repeatedly jurors the body of jurors was, by accident or design, never the same at any two courts. In the list of jurors the first named was the foreman and it was he who acted at court as the spokesman of the jurors. How the foreman was chosen is obscure. The position did not rotate among the tenants or the jurors and was held by no more than a few men. Such men, including Thomas Shearer at Brinkworth and William Crabbe *alias* Taylor at Charlton, both in the 1570s, held it at several courts in succession and, with interruptions, over long periods; Hugh Waters was the foreman in every combined court held at Charlton from September 1580 to March 1586. The foremen were presumably senior copyholders, of known probity, and trusted by all.⁴

The guide evidently of the mid 15th century outlines a procedure in which articles of enquiry were read to the jurors, afterwards the jurors

1 WSA 88/2/22; for the foreman, below, this paragraph.

2 WSA 88/2/42.

3 For the Hungerfords, R. C. Hoare, *Hungerfordiana* (Shaftesbury, 1823).

4 For Shearer, WSA 88/2/42; for Waters, 88/2/43.

withdrew from the court, and on their return the foreman related their corporate and unanimously agreed presentments for the clerk to record in writing.¹ The procedure was analagous to that followed in the justices' quarter sessions, which in turn was closely analagous to that of the earlier general eyre in pleas of the Crown.² The guides of the late 16th century and earlier 17th recommended it, except that they proposed that the jurors should return with their presentments already in writing.³ There is no evidence that articles were formally read to the jury, or that the jury made written presentments, at either Brinkworth or Charlton in the 16th century, and the lack of classification in the draft records suggests that proceedings there were more casual and haphazard than those recommended in the guides. There is, however, evidence that a court at Brinkworth was adjourned once or twice,⁴ and it is possible that in both places there were regular adjournments in which the jurors deliberated and ate their dinner.

Also in the Middle Ages the procedure at a privately held view of frankpledge might be expected to have mirrored that at the sheriff's tourn. Some authorities state that, at the tourn, the chief pledges or tithingmen should have passed information to a jury of 12 freemen whose duty it was to present offenders formally to the court.⁵ Even in the Middle Ages, however, such a system of double presentment was probably not the procedure most frequently followed at private views of frankpledge whether hundredal or manorial.⁶ There a jury was usually empanelled not to receive information from the chief pledges or tithingmen but to affirm and, if necessary, supplement presentments made to the court by those or other officers.⁷ Sometimes, as in the court of Whorwellsdown hundred in 1262, the tithingmen made presentments in the absence of a jury.⁸ The usual procedure of the Middle Ages, different from what was

1 BL Harleian MS. 773, ff. 39-40.

2 *Crown Pleas in the Wiltshire Eyre*, 1249, ed. C. A. F. Meekings (W.R.S. xvi), 34; *Proceedings before the Justices of the Peace*, ed. B. H. Putnam (Ames Foundation), pp. xcvi-xcix.

3 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 132.

4 Below, p. 153.

5 Such juries are suggested by the Assize of Clarendon: *English Historical Documents*, ii, ed. Douglas and Greenaway, pp. 440-1. For Fleta and Britton, see *Select Pleas in Manorial Courts*, ed. Maitland, p. xxix.

6 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 145-6; *Select Pleas in Manorial Courts*, ed. Maitland, pp. xxxvi-xxxvii, where it is suggested that there were not enough men of free legal status to have made up such a free jury.

7 e.g. *Court Baron*, ed. F. W. Maitland and W. P. Baildon (Selden Society, iv), pp. 97, 140; *Court Rolls of Ingoldmells*, ed. W. O. Massingberd (London, 1902), 255; *Court Rolls of the Manor of Carshalton* (Surrey Record Society, ii), 32; *Court Rolls of the Manor of Bromsgrove and King's Norton*, ed. A. F. C. Baber (Worcestershire Historical Society, 1963), 149-52.

8 *Select Pleas in Manorial Courts*, ed. Maitland, pp. 177-82.

recommended in the later guides, was that followed at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century. The few matters relating to frankpledge, those who had committed offences punishable under leet jurisdiction, those who had breached the assize of bread and of ale, and those who had committed other statutory offences were all presented by the tithingman.¹ The tithingman gave court-silver to the lord of the manor, and it is likely that the young men who took an oath of allegiance were introduced to the court by him.² The presentments of the tithingman were affirmed by the jurors, and the jurors sometimes made additional presentments. The records, especially the drafts, show many exceptions to, and variations in, that procedure. One was that, especially in the 1580s at Charlton, the presentments made by the jurors were instead of, rather than in addition to, those of the tithingman; another was that payments for forfang and forage for stray animals were made in court often without a relevant presentment.³ Moreover, in two ways the procedure of the view was merging with that of the manor court. Matters relating to stray animals, which it may have been an early responsibility of the tithingman to present, were often presented by manorial officers, the hayward and the bailiff. Public nuisances were not presented by the tithingman and, although part of leet business, sometimes presented by the jurors, and not numerous, were usually presented by the homage.⁴ In general, however, despite being casual and haphazard and despite the exceptions and variations and the trend towards merger, the procedure of the medieval view of frankpledge was in some measure still being followed.

The manor court consisted of the lord and his tenants; the tenants were collectively called the homage. The lord was usually represented at the court by his steward, and a group of tenants, empanelled as a jury and sworn, acted as the homage. In the combined courts those empanelled nearly always seem to have been the same men who sat as the jury for the queen, and often they were expressly said to be so. When the men sworn as the homage were listed separately in the records of the combined court, or when, immediately below the heading, they were listed in the records of separately held manor courts, they usually comprised a jury smaller than that empanelled for the queen; and when the manor court met separately to deal with no more than a few items of copyhold business a jury often of no more than four men represented the homage.

An oath, evidently additional to that which they may have taken as jurors for the queen, was taken by the jurors acting as the homage, and the homage was charged to present on articles touching the court baron. There is no more evidence that a list of articles was formally read to the jurors in their capacity as the homage than there is to them in their

- 1 Cf. below, frankpledge business; leet business.
- 2 For court-silver and the oath, below, frankpledge business.
- 3 For stray animals, forfang, and forage, below, leet business.
- 4 For the homage, below, following paragraph.

capacity as jurors for the queen. The homage presumably withdrew, considered what should be presented under various headings, and returned with its presentments. In the 16th century the manor courts of Brinkworth and Charlton, whether held separately or in combination with a view of frankpledge, proceeded in many matters on the presentments of the homage. Regular presentments were made to safeguard the lord's interests and, in agrarian matters and as representatives of all the lord's tenants, the jurors' own.¹ In safeguarding the lord's interests the jurors acting as the homage may have responded to direct enquiries by the steward, but in protecting their own the presentments were presumably initiated by themselves. In some matters, such as the use of commonable land and the existence of nuisances affecting the use of land, the presentments may have been preceded by a long period of consultation and perhaps followed by some acrimony. Many presentments of the homage were followed by orders to ameliorate abuses or to obey new rules, and, even in the absence of a specific and relevant presentment by the homage, the court sometimes gave similar orders to named individuals or to the whole homage. It was rare for business relevant to the manor court to be presented and not be presented by the homage. In 1564 the bailiff presented that a house of Henry Hungerford at Charlton was dilapidated and that timber delivered to Henry, presumably for repairs, had not been used,² and in 1570 the overseers of the fields there presented that sheep taken from a common pasture, where they should not have been feeding, were removed from the pound by their owner without licence.³

When private actions in civil causes were entered and when, in dealing with copyholds, the steward took action on the lord's behalf the manor court proceeded without a presentment.⁴ Each private action was initiated by an individual who pleaded that a financial loss had been wrongfully inflicted on him by another party and demanded that his loss should be made good. In an action in which the plaintiff claimed money which he alleged to be due to him from the defendant he entered a plea of debt on demand. The words 'on demand' were included to demonstrate that the action was a demand in law for the debt, which may not have been payable without a demand. The only occasion on which a plea included the words 'on the case', widely used elsewhere in general actions for the redress of wrongs, was in an action for trespass entered in 1571. In a few actions for trespass entered in the 1580s the plea included the words 'on demand': any reason to copy the wording in pleas of debt is obscure.⁵ It might seem implicit that both the plaintiff and the defendant should be tenants of the manor, and in many actions it seems that they were. In

1 For manorial business, below, manorial business.

2 Below, p. 253.

3 Below, p. 257.

4 For private actions, below, manorial business (actions).

5 T. E. Tomlins, *Law Dictionary*, s.vv. action; demand.

many others they may not have been. For example, the names of the tenants of Brinkworth manor on 14 July 1578 are known,¹ of the 11 parties to actions entered at the Brinkworth court in March and September 1578 only six were tenants in July, and in one action neither the plaintiff nor the defendant was a tenant. Four of the five non-tenants were, however, active at Brinkworth c. 1578 and the fifth was a namesake of a tenant. It seems that the procedure of the manor court was open to non-tenants who as residents attended the view of frankpledge with which it was combined. It was lawful for pleas to be heard and determined in manor courts, but it was considered so only if the claims for recompense or damages were for less than 40s.² In 1573 the court of Charlton ordered a tenant to stay the suit which he had brought against another tenant in a court of Malmesbury hundred, and in 1580 the homage re-affirmed that, in actions for the recovery of less than 40s., it was the custom of the manor that one tenant might sue another in no court but the manor court unless he had a special licence of the lord;³ in 1580 at Brinkworth one copyholder who had entered an action in the court of King's Bench against another was presented as an offender for having done so.⁴ It is not clear whether, at Brinkworth and Charlton, the plaintiff began his action by submitting a written bill in advance or by handing in a bill or making an oral statement in person while the court was in session. Such a bill might have been expensive to draw up, none is known to survive, and none is mentioned in the records edited below: it is perhaps most likely that the court was receptive to oral submissions at a certain point in its proceedings. A pledge for the prosecution was probably unnecessary in a manor court and one was mentioned only twice, each time in an action at Brinkworth in 1574.⁵ A pledge was a man who guaranteed that the plaintiff would prosecute his suit and made himself liable for the defendant's unpaid damages if the case was not proved.⁶ In many actions it appears that nothing was done after a plea was entered: the plea was not continued in a later court and there is no evidence of a defence. It seems that the matter dropped, perhaps because the plaintiff had second thoughts, perhaps because the issue was settled out of court, perhaps because one of the parties died, or perhaps for one of many other possible reasons. In many other actions the defendant was present in court and either admitted or denied liability. When he admitted it the court set the amount in which he should recompense the plaintiff for his loss and sometimes for his court expenses. When he denied it the matter at issue was usually rehearsed and

1 WSA 88/2/42.

2 Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 587; Holdsworth, *History of English Law*, i. 184.

3 Below, pp. 271, 300.

4 Below, p. 150.

5 Below, p. 123.

6 Holdsworth, *History of English Law*, ii (1923 edn.), 106.

the court sometimes found for one of the parties; in many contested actions the issue was, with the consent of the parties, referred for adjudication to the homage or to one man, two men, or four men. In an action at Brinkworth in 1575 a defendant was said to have made law with two hands, and in one at Charlton in 1580 the defendant was said to have failed to do so. At Brinkworth, but not at Charlton, the defendant evidently cleared himself on his own oath and the oath of two supporters.¹ In all private actions the court was the arbiter. At both Brinkworth and Charlton it sometimes licensed parties to end an action by agreement and sometimes ordered money to be paid to end one, and, mainly in the margin, its records include notes about the processes: there are references to the writ *levari facias*, distraint, and execution.

Copyhold business was dealt with by the steward on behalf of the lord of the manor,² and at the courts the main items of such business were for him to grant premises, accept surrenders of premises, and admit tenants to premises. In the Middle Ages it was the custom, in grants and surrenders, for a rod to be handed from the lord to the tenant or from the tenant to the lord to symbolize the land being conveyed,³ and, whether or not a rod was in reality later passed, the post-medieval court rolls of some manors refer to it.⁴ It is highly unlikely that a rod was passed at Brinkworth or Charlton, and the record of the grant of seisin by the rod at Brinkworth in 1647⁵ is probably the exception which proves the rule. Presumably, however, a standard form of words was used by the steward to make a grant or accept a surrender, by an incoming tenant to acknowledge fealty to the lord of the manor, and by the steward to admit the new tenant. For copyhold tenure to be valid such formalities had to be witnessed by the court, and usually the steward or his deputy and the copyholder or his attorney were present in court, conveyed the premises, and observed the formalities. The customs of Charlton manor, agreed and written down in 1672, said that the successor of a tenant who had died seised of premises should claim those premises in court and, when he was admitted to them there, should give *2d.* to the homage for witnessing the admittance.⁶ Occasionally a surrender was performed out of court. Although the customs of 1672 denied the validity of such surrenders, one of them was recorded in 1563 in respect of premises at Charlton⁷ and several were recorded in the period 1632-41 for premises at Brinkworth.⁸ They were evidently

1 Below, pp. 128, 300; cf. Tomlins, *Law Dictionary*, s.v. make.

2 For copyhold business, below, manorial business (copyholds).

3 E. Coke, *Compleat Copyholder* (1735 edn.), ii. 528.

4 e.g. Downton: *WANHM*, lxxiv/lxxv. 152-3.

5 Below, p. 236.

6 WSA 88/2/30; for the custumal, below, manorial business (the custom of the manor).

7 Below, p. 246.

8 For the customs of Brinkworth, below, manorial business (the custom of the manor).

validated by the presentment of the facts of them by the homage in court. In 1565 the homage of Charlton presented that a grant of copyhold premises made out of court was invalid unless it was made public in the court, and the customs of 1672 repeated that precept.¹ Sometimes copyhold premises were surrendered by a married couple who held them jointly, evidently in the wife's right. In such cases the steward held a private interview with the woman while the court was in session and before accepting the surrender, presumably to ensure that the ramifications of the surrender were clear to her and that she was not being unduly influenced by her husband or anyone else. It is almost certain that the terms under which premises were surrendered and granted in the court, and the terms under which tenants were admitted to them there, were agreed in advance, and it is possible that some of the formulaic and sometimes lengthy entries recording such copyhold business were drafted in advance; in many places in the court book for 1570–82 such entries appear at the head of pages, or on separate pages, with other business recorded before and after them. On the other hand, it is possible that the clerk, perhaps taking some details from an existing copy shown in court, wrote the long entries while the court was adjourned. The copies handed to the tenants to prove their right to hold premises were engrossed almost certainly after the court was held. In many cases they were shown in later courts, usually to prove a right to surrender premises or hold them in succession.

In the 16th century there were also some miscellaneous items of manorial business which came before the courts without presentment. The Latin word *pannagium*, translated to pannage, then seems to have meant the practice of feeding animals in the lord's wood. Payments were made for it only in respect of pigs and were small. They are sometimes expressly said to have been made in court, and a note of them as having been made to the reeve by the tenants or by the reeve to the lord was frequently entered among the records. The uncertainty over whether the money passed in court to or from the reeve arises because the Latin word *prepositor* was usually abbreviated and its ending omitted. On most of the few occasions on which the word was written in full its ending suggests that the tenants handed the money to the reeve in court, and in the edition below that has been taken as the normal practice: either way the money passed from the tenants via the reeve, and probably via the bailiff, to the lord. Other matters, such as the appointment of men to view the land of an infant,² an agreement that a trustee might put to his own use money held on behalf of certain children,³ and a claim to the inheritance of a freehold⁴ were dealt with by the court, or by the steward while he presided over the court, occasionally and *ad hoc*.

1 WSA 88/2/30; below, p. 254.

2 Below, p. 149.

3 Below, p. 116.

4 Below, pp. 299, 301, 304.

Procedure in the 17th Century

Between 1586 and 1625 presentment of offences by officers at the combined view of frankpledge and manor court ceased, and some items of business were dropped. By 1625 the theory that all inhabitants attended with the tithingman had been abandoned in favour of the amercement of absent residents, and court-silver was no longer given by the tithingman. The hearing of private pleas had also ceased. Because of the 40s.-rule, and because the steward presiding over a manor court presumably levied a fee when each plea was entered,¹ plaintiffs may have increasingly favoured that held for the hundred as the court in which to make their claims,² but the fact that private actions at Brinkworth and Charlton had completely ceased by 1625 suggests that the procedure of the manor court had been formally closed to them by a decision of the steward or of the homage. Also in 1625 and later payment for pannage was not recorded in the court records. It is not clear whether the tenants had ceased to make payments by 1625 or whether the procedure had changed and, like court-silver, the money was paid out of court and no longer noted in the court records.³ As a result of those changes the procedure of the combined courts in the 17th century accorded more with that recommended in the late 16th- and earlier 17th-century guides.

To judge from the records nearly every combined view of frankpledge and manor court opened its proceedings in the 17th century by hearing excuses for absence called essoins. Some essoins had been heard in the 16th century. At Brinkworth in the 1570s some of the men presented by the tithingman for failing to attend the court were not amerced because they had been essoined.⁴ At Charlton freeholders were essoined in the 1560s and 1570s and residents in the 1580s. Only at Charlton from 1583, however, did essoins become a regular item of business at the combined court. In the 17th century the first item in the records of nearly every court of both Brinkworth and Charlton noted that several named men, and usually that others unnamed, were essoined of common suit. The excuse was never rehearsed in the record. Some of those essoined were men who were often jurors but most were not, and it is possible that those who were not were tenants who were non-resident or incompetent. From 1647 at Charlton and in 1648 at Brinkworth essoins remained as a rubric in the records of the courts but no man was named as having been essoined. There is no record of a payment made by any man essoined, and perhaps to record non-attendance if those absent paid nothing had begun to seem pointless. The customs of 1672 recorded that a copyholder

1 For the payment of fees at a manor court in the 18th century, *WANHM*, lxxiv/lxxv. 157-8.

2 For the Malmesbury hundred courts, *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 6-7.

3 Cf. below, manorial business (the lord's interests); for court-silver, below, frankpledge business.

4 Below, pp. 122, 128, 133-4; for presence at the view, below, frankpledge business.

might be excused attendance on payment of *1 d.*,¹ but there is no evidence of such payments before then.

At each of the combined courts held in the 17th century a single jury was empanelled. It was a combined jury, often said to be for the king and the homage, and, although none was expressly mentioned, a single oath on which he was sworn to present on the articles of the court leet and the court baron was presumably administered by the steward to each juror. The average number of jurors was 15, as it was in the 16th century. The highest number sworn at a court was 19, at Charlton in September 1631 and October 1646, and the lowest was 12, on several occasions at Brinkworth and in April 1633 at Charlton. Also as in the 16th century all the jurors were men, evidently copyholders, and presumably of good standing; they still included men described as gentlemen, and the personnel of the jury was still subject to minor change each year. It remained the case that only a few men acted as foreman: assuming that he, an elder John Beale, and John Beale, gentleman, were the same man John Beale was the foreman in most of the courts held at Brinkworth from 1625 to 1647, as was Francis Waters, gentleman, at most of the Charlton courts in the same period.

In the 17th century the making of presentments by the combined jury, the making of orders by the court, and the taking of actions by the steward on the lord's behalf made up nearly all the business of the combined court. The jury made all the presentments heard by the court, whether the subject of the presentment was frankpledge business, such as the failure of residents to attend the court, leet business, such as assaults, nuisances affecting a highway, breaches of the assize of bread and of ale, or other statutory offences, or manorial business, such as the death of a tenant, the poor condition of a boundary, or the misuse of commonable land.² With new matters to consider the deliberations of the jury may have become more elaborate. In making some of the presentments, such as those of bakers and brewers, the jurors may have been following a routine. In making others, such as stray animals and those guilty of assault, of misusing commonable land, or of causing a nuisance, they may have been acting on common knowledge, the knowledge of perhaps no more than one or two of them, or information passed to them in court by a tenant, perhaps a woman, who was not a juror or not a resident. It may have happened that a man was sworn as a juror because he was known, or claimed, to have knowledge of an unlawful event or a nuisance. In making yet other presentments, such as of copyholders whose buildings were dilapidated or of the death of a tenant, the jurors may have been responding to direct enquiry by the steward.

1 WSA 88/2/30; for the customs, cf. below, manorial business (the custom of the manor).

2 For the business of the courts, below, frankpledge business; leet business; manorial business.

The neat and orderly arrangement of the court records from 1625 does more than the untidy and unclassified nature of the drafts of the 1570s to allow the possibility that, in accordance with the recommendation of the guides, the jury returned from its deliberations and dinner with a written bill listing its presentments. Such a bill might have been drafted by a literate foreman and handed to the clerk for fair-copying as entries in the court book. No such bill is known to survive, there is no direct evidence of such a procedure, and it remains more likely that the jurors made oral, rather than written, presentments.

When an offender was presented he was usually amerced, and when he was presented for causing a nuisance an order, backed by the threat of a penalty, was usually made for the nuisance to be removed. As it did in the 16th the combined court in the 17th century gave orders which were not preceded by a direct and relevant presentment. By 1625 the giving of such orders had become an important part of the court's business, and the orders were recorded in the books under their own heading. Although the orders were nominally orders of the court they were presumably the outcome of proposals by the steward agreed to by the jurors or proposals of the jurors agreed to by the steward. Agreement between the steward and the jurors, and among the jurors, may have been reached with ease or difficulty, and unanimity of opinion among the jurors may not have been essential. Some orders required an individual to do something or to refrain from doing something and some were more general; nearly all were backed by the threat of a penalty.

The steward's actions taken on the lord's behalf in the earlier 17th century were similar to those taken in the 16th century, and the procedure by which they were taken at court also seems to have been unchanged. The steward accepted surrenders, granted premises, admitted tenants, and presumably observed the formalities as he had earlier, and he continued to conduct occasional private interviews with married women. The entries relating to such copyhold business done at the combined courts were neatly made in the court books usually between the presentments of the jury and the court orders; the copies were presumably engrossed afterwards.

Order in Court

It was presumably intended that the proceedings of the courts should be conducted at a measured pace and with an air of solemnity. Nevertheless, in a forum such as the combined view and court, in which contentious issues may have been discussed, money at stake, judgements made, and orders given, dissent was perhaps inevitable, and misbehaviour sometimes disrupted the proceedings at Brinkworth and Charlton. Such disruptions were usually brought about by wanton speech.

How often the disruptions occurred is not certain. Some of the known instances of misbehaviour were noted in the draft records of the early 1570s, presumably immediately after the offending words had been

spoken. Four instances at Brinkworth in 1572–3 were recorded in the draft' and omitted from the fair-copy, and it therefore seems that offences of misbehaviour in court may have been filtered from the records as they were fair-copied and that there was more disruption of the courts than is referred to in the records which survive only as fair-copies.

It was evidently the duty of the steward, as the presiding officer, to quash disorder in court. The offences were not recorded as presentments, and the offenders, perhaps having first been called to order, were apparently amerced arbitrarily by the steward. At Brinkworth in 1573 it seems that the steward found the whole homage, probably the six no doubt senior copyholders then under oath to present on the articles of the court baron, to be in contempt because it would not observe silence;² its members were perhaps arguing among themselves. Most of the offenders at other times were guilty of vain speaking, chattering, or using prohibited, contumelious, dishonourable, or opprobrious words. On an occasion at Brinkworth in 1573 the exact words were 'I defy the mace',³ and in 1579 an offender's reported speech there was that 'if the jury did anything against him they should answer it'.⁴ At Charlton in 1631 a man was simply said to have misbehaved himself in court.⁵ A few of those amerced were jurors, most were not.

Choice of Officers

The records suggest that officers were chosen and sworn in the courts. The notes referring to the choices and the taking of the oaths were usually among the last entries recording the business of the courts. It therefore seems that, as recommended in the guides, the new incumbents took office at or near the end of the court proceedings.

The principal officers were a constable at Brinkworth, a tithingman, a reeve (sometimes called a bailiff), and a hayward at both Brinkworth and Charlton, and overseers of the fields at Charlton.⁶ The office of constable at Brinkworth and those of tithingman and reeve at both places were probably held by copyhold tenants in rotation,⁷ and the so-called choice probably consisted of no more than the nomination of him who was known to be the next in turn. The other offices may not have been held in rotation and a true choice may have been made in court. There is no evidence of how it might have been made: perhaps the way most likely is for a volunteer or volunteers to have come forward after informal discussion among the jurors. Having been nominated or chosen each officer took an oath to execute his office, presumably administered by the steward.

1 Below, pp. 116, 118–19.

3 Below, p. 118.

4 Below, p. 148.

6 For the officers, below, officers.

7 Below, officers.

2 Below, p. 119.

5 Below, p. 362.

Also in accordance with the recommendations the affeerors of the court took their oath at or near the close of business. They were chosen from the jurors and usually included the foreman.¹

Monetary Penalties

At a combined court held in respect of a manor the successful presentment of a minor offence, whether a misdemeanor punishable under leet jurisdiction, a breach of the assize of bread or of ale, or a manorial matter, led to the miscreant being placed at the mercy of the lord of the manor. Such amercement was usually annulled by the imposition of a monetary penalty, which itself came to be called an amercement.² In practice all amercements probably accrued to the lord of the manor: some statutory exceptions are likely to have been ignored.³ It is less clear what part in the fixing of the level of amercements was played by the jurors, who convicted the offenders, the steward, to whom the offenders were presented, and the affeerors, who were appointed and sworn after conviction and presentment. One legal opinion seems to have been that in all cases the level of the monetary penalty was at the discretion of the lord or his agent, that at the manor court it could be moderated, when desirable or necessary, by the affeerors, and that at the view of frankpledge it could not be moderated.⁴ The procedure outlined in a guide of 1641 was for the affeerors to 'tax, assess, and affeer' all the amercements. There were some exceptions: some penalties were statutory, some for failing to obey a court order were set in advance, and the steward might fix the penalty for contempt of court.⁵ In general it seems odd that, if the affeerors fixed the penalties, they were appointed only at the very end of the court proceedings and that in effect offenders would not know what they had to pay until the meeting of the court had ended.

At Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th and 17th centuries penalties were routinely imposed at the combined view of frankpledge and manor court, and orders made by the court were routinely accompanied by a threat that, if the orders were not obeyed, defaulters would forfeit a sum of money. It is nevertheless uncertain whether the steward, the jurors as a body, or the affeerors decided on what the level of the penalties and forfeits should be. In 1672 it was said that it was the custom 'for all amercements, pains, and all orders, which do appertain to the lord's court, to be affeered by the customary tenants'.⁶ It is also uncertain whether the last words of that statement refer to all the customary tenants, to the jurors acting as the homage at court, or to the affeerors chosen

- 1 For the affeerors, below, this section (monetary penalties); below, officers.
- 2 Amercement is discussed in Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, ii, 513.
- 3 Cf. Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 128.
- 4 Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, 218 n. 4.
- 5 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 135-6.
- 6 WSA 88/2/30.

from among the jurors, and it is again uncertain whether, to the men of the time, the verb to affeer meant to set the level of penalties and forfeits or to lower it. Such evidence as there is seems contradictory. In 1582, on an exceptional occasion, the homage of Charlton presented that each tenant who overstocked the open fields should be amerced according to the discretion of the affeerors of the court, and the affeerors set a rate at which the ameracements should be charged.¹ The implication seems to be that the affeerors set the penalties, but that they rarely did so. In the records of several manor courts held separately, in which only copyhold business was done, it was stated at the end that no affeeror was appointed because there was nothing to be affeered.² The implication seems to be that the affeerors who were appointed at most meetings of the courts had a real function to fulfill. At several combined courts held in the 1560s and 1570s ameracements or penalties were reduced by what was described as the court. Three of the offences were statutory, in which cases the court set a lower amercement than that called for in the statute,³ one was that of defying the mace in which the court reduced a 40s.-amercement to 20s.,⁴ and most of the others involved nuisances or misuse of commonable land.⁵ Most of those reductions were noted in the draft records, and it is possible that the court continued to make occasional reductions and that, in writing up the fair-copies made from 1583 and in the earlier 17th century, the clerk overlooked the process by which a reduction was made and entered only the final figure in the record. It is also possible that the lowering of ameracements and penalties in the 1560s and 1570s, which was said to have been carried out by the court, was in fact carried out by the affeerors of the court. The balance of probability is perhaps that, at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century and earlier 17th, the steward set the level of all ameracements and threatened forfeits. The jurors may have proposed the level in matters such as nuisances and the misuse of commonable land, and the affeerors may have occasionally moderated the monetary penalties thus imposed. It is unlikely that, if haggling and wasted effort were to be avoided, a steward would impose one set of ameracements only for the affeerors to substitute a new set, but possible that the affeerors, who were in effect a small committee of senior jurors, from time to time responded to appeals for lower ameracements for statutory offences or for lower penalties in manorial matters.

The perquisites of court, like the payments for pannage, were collected by the reeve.⁶ It is unclear, however, how assiduously the many ameracements and forfeited penalties were collected. If payments were not

1 Below, pp. 309–10.

2 Below, pp. 176, 194, 334, 358.

3 Cf. below, pp. 114, 130, 249; *Statutes of the Realm*, ii. 65; iii. 837–41; iv. 157–8.

4 Below, p. 118.

5 Below, pp. 115, 118, 144, 250, 252.

6 For the reeve, below, officers.

made the lord of the manor might distrain the defaulter or bring an action for debt against him in a higher court. There is no evidence of either course of action being taken by the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton and it was probably rarely taken elsewhere.¹ In most cases at Brinkworth and Charlton amercements were set at a low level and were presumably collectable. Some, such as those imposed on men guilty of assault, may have been collected but others, such as those at a low level routinely imposed on bakers, brewers, butchers, and millers and on free suitors who failed to attend the court may have been recorded out of inertia rather than in expectation of payment and may not have been collected.² It may also be that, because the threat and forfeit of them was so often repeated from court to court, and because they were set at what appears to be a high level, the sums specified as forfeits were not actually collected.

The obligation for a heriot to be paid on the death of, or surrender by, a copyhold tenant,³ and the payment of a fine by a tenant on taking possession of copyhold premises,⁴ were mentioned in the record of surrenders, death, and grants. The collection of the goods or sums of money due was probably the responsibility of the bailiff or the reeve and was not part of the court process.

Corporal Punishment

In the 16th century the combined courts sometimes ordered men and women to undergo corporal punishment. There were stocks at both Brinkworth and Charlton, and in the 1570s and early 1580s they were frequently used, especially at Brinkworth. It was ordered in 1565 that a new pillory should be made at Charlton⁵ and in 1639 that a cucking stool should be set up at Brinkworth,⁶ but there is no other evidence that either was made or used.

Between 1571 and 1582 orders were made at Brinkworth for 18 offenders to be punished by means of the stocks. The offences were minor crimes such as assault, theft of wood, ducks, and apples, hedge breaking, harbouring suspect persons, being a chatterer and a scold, and wandering about at night. The court seems to have inflicted punishment by means of the stocks slightly more readily on women than on men. Of the 18 offenders thus punished eight were women, and in 1581, when the spoiling of wood by three men and three women was presented, each of the men was punished by a penalty of 2s. and each of the women by means of the stocks.⁷ The decision to punish by means of the stocks rather than by a monetary penalty was presumably made because the offender was penniless

1 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 139-40.

2 For the offences, below, frankpledge business; leet business; manorial business.

3 For heriot, below, manorial business (the lord's interests).

4 For fines, below, manorial business (copyholds).

5 Below, p. 255.

6 Below, p. 210.

7 Below, p. 155.

or the offence notorious. In 1584 a man who stole goods from three separate places was punished thus at Charlton because he had no goods or chattels which it was worthwhile to seize,¹ and the same probably applied to the women who were punished thus.

It was apparently the duty of the constable at Brinkworth, and presumably of the tithingman at Charlton, to confine offenders in the stocks as directed by the court, and the object of the court in imposing such a penalty was probably to expose the offender to public contempt. In five instances the time at which the penalty was to be inflicted was specified in the court record. In one it was to be at the time of morning prayer on St. Luke's day, exactly a fortnight after the court met; in two it was to be on the Sunday following the meeting of the court, in one at the time of morning prayer on the following Sunday, and in one for three hours on both Good Friday and the Tuesday after that.²

The times at which the penalty was inflicted were presumably chosen to expose the offenders to maximum public contempt, and punishment by public humiliation was presumably intended to deter the existing offenders and others from future misdeeds. Possibly on each occasion on which an offender was restrained in the stocks something was exhibited to remind the guilty and inform the innocent of the reasons for the restraint. At Charlton in 1564 the woman who was to be restrained in the stocks for three hours on each of two days had stolen two geese, and one of the geese was to be tied up in front of her for the whole six hours.³ In the case of three men restrained in the stocks at Brinkworth in 1572 it was ordered that the constable should place in front of them a notice made up in very large letters to form the words 'thus are we punished for filching, bribery, and as common brawlers and disturbers of the people and neighbours'.⁴

The 17th-century records of the combined courts contain no reference to stocks at either Brinkworth or Charlton, and the courts were then dealing with fewer common-law offences than they had been in the 16th century. Stocks may still have been used summarily by the constable or tithingman or in response to formal orders or requests from officers or justices, but the combined courts in formal session had apparently become disinclined to order corporal punishment.

Estreats and Totals

The word *estreat*, when used as a noun (*extracta*) in the records edited below, seems to mean a payment arising from the proceedings of a court and due to the lord of the manor or a list of such payments. When used as a verb (*extraho*) it seems to mean to use for the purpose of making, or to add to, such a list.

1 Below, p. 323.

3 Below, p. 249.

4 Below, p. 114.

2 Below, pp. 114, 136, 139, 146, 249.

In both the 16th century and the 17th it seems that the procedure was for a list of the payments due to the lord to be drawn up by the steward after a court had met, for the list to be given to the bailiff, for the reeve to collect the money due, and, presumably, for there to be a reconciliation between the bailiff and the reeve. Some of the records of the combined courts of Brinkworth and of Charlton held in the early 1570s were endorsed to show that they had been estreated by the steward, and endorsements on the records of the combined courts held in 1625 give a total of 'fines, issues, and amercements of this court according to an estreat made and delivered to the bailiff'.¹ The perquisites of court were among the moneys which the reeve was required to account for between Michaelmas and Christmas each year,² and in 1584 the office usually described at Charlton as that of reeve was described as that of collector of rents and estreats.³ The bailiff presumably handed the money to an officer higher in the lord's service or to the lord himself. The records of 1559-60 entitled estreats were evidently formal versions of such a list of payments due, and they were apparently drawn up, as abbreviations of the full court records, to omit details of proceedings and to note only items which involved payments to the lord.

Although they were not strictly part of the record of the proceedings a note of the total of the estreats or an unqualified total sum of money was entered at the end of the records of many courts held in the 1570s and 1580s. Except in a few simple cases the totals at the end cannot be reconciled with the sum of the amounts payable for, among other things, court-silver, amercements, pannage, forfang, forfeited penalties, heriots, fines, and reliefs. It is not clear how such totals were arrived at, and in the 17th century they were omitted from the fair-copies of the court records.

FRANKPLEDGE BUSINESS

One feature of the medieval frankpledge system was that every member of a tithing should be present at the view, another was that each member should make a payment to the sheriff or the lord of the manor when the view was held, and a third was that boys, on reaching the age of 12, should become a member of a tithing and take an oath on doing so.⁴ All three gave rise to items of business at the combined view of frankpledge and manor court held at both Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century and earlier 17th. Another feature of the frankpledge system, that the men of the tithing should secure the arrest of offenders and produce them in court,⁵ and an early duty of the head of a tithing to witness the keeping

1 Below, pp. 158, 339.

2 Cf. below, pp. 129, 279.

3 Below, p. 325.

4 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 70-1, 101-2, 122-3.

5 *Ibid.* 90, 96-7.

of stray cattle,¹ also gave rise to presentments and are discussed below under leet business.

Presence at the View

The record of nearly every combined court held at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century includes a statement that the tithingman was present, and it was often said that he had with him his whole tithing. That the tithingman should have been present at the court is axiomatic. In a Wiltshire context, however, the whole tithing equated to all the adult males living in a particular area, and the statement that they were all present seems hollow.² There nevertheless remained vestiges of the tithingman's responsibility to bring inhabitants to the courts. He had, or shared, the duty of summoning tenants to the view, and on 12 of the 20 occasions on which, as noted on the 16th-century court records edited below, residents were presented for failing to attend the court the presentment was made by the tithingman. The statement that the tithingman was present with his whole tithing was not made in the 17th century, but the description of inhabitants who failed to attend the combined courts as living within the manor, within the jurisdiction of the court, within the jurisdiction and sometimes precincts of the view of frankpledge, or within the precincts of the leet³ remained consistent with the theory that all the men of Brinkworth and Charlton should attend their respective courts. Despite the vestiges of the tithingman's responsibility evident in the 16th century and the use of those words in the 17th it seems highly unlikely that ever in the 16th and 17th centuries was more than lip service paid to the medieval principle of attendance at the view.

Court-Silver

In the Middle Ages it was usual for a payment, perhaps most commonly known as tithingpenny, to be made to the sheriff or the lord holding the view. It is most likely to have originated as the payment of a small sum, perhaps typically 1*d.*, made by each member of a tithing present at the view. Despite a suggestion that tithingpenny was paid to defray some or all of the cost of holding the view,⁴ the justification of it seems obscure. If the principle was that each man in attendance should make a payment the amount receivable by the sheriff or the lord would be variable. At Brinkworth and Charlton, and probably nearly everywhere else, by the 16th century the amount receivable had been commuted to a fixed payment to be made by the tithingman on behalf of the whole tithing. It may have suited a lord of a manor to promote or accept such a commutation if the population under his jurisdiction was in decline, as

- 1 Below, leet business (preamble).
- 2 Cf. above, the courts (attendance).
- 3 Cf. above, the courts (attendance).
- 4 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 101–2.

may often have happened in the later Middle Ages, and it may have suited the tithingman to raise a fixed sum as best he might rather than drag unwilling residents to court for the sole purpose of handing money to the lord. The payments by individuals had probably been fixed by custom long before the commutation took place, and the devaluation of the lord's income from the payments caused by the inflation of the mid 16th century would have occurred even without the commutation. At both Brinkworth and Charlton the commuted payment was referred to in Latin as *certus*, presumably in direct reference to the commutation. In the edition below, *certus* has been translated to court-silver, the English words used in the late 16th- and 17th-century surveys to refer to the payment.¹ The commutation had two results. It removed the lord's incentive to demand attendance at court from men who had no immediate part to play in its proceedings and thus contributed to what may have been, over a long period, a transformation of the combined court from a mass gathering of inhabitants to a select meeting of senior residents and copyholders.² It also made it possible for the payment to be apportioned and for an obligation to pay certain portions of it to be attached to copyholds.

At Brinkworth 11s. 5d. was paid as court-silver and at Charlton 9s. 3d. The figures show that, if individual payments had been 1d., at the moment at which they were commuted 137 men were expected to attend the view of frankpledge at Brinkworth and 111 that at Charlton. In the mid 16th century court-silver was paid each time the combined court met, whether once a year or twice. At Brinkworth, however, it was claimed in 1576, by which time courts had been annual for six years or more, that 11s. 5d. was the payment for half a year and that 22s. 10d. should be the payment for a whole year;³ the claim was presumably made by the steward. The tithingman paid 22s. 10d. in 1577,⁴ and from 1578 two courts were held each year and at each autumn meeting he paid that amount for the whole year. At Charlton in 1571, when almost certainly only one combined court was held, an entry in the draft records suggests that the lord wished to double what was paid as court-silver, and the draft record of a manor court held separately in March 1573 claims that the tithingman gave court-silver at that court,⁵ but from 1575 to 1577 no more than 9s. 3d. a year was paid. From 1578 the combined court met twice a year and 9s. 3d. was paid at each meeting. Statements in the records of Charlton courts of 1573 and 1574 refer to court-silver as being paid with the rent:⁶ the statements probably mean that in those years, rather than being handed

1 For the surveys, WSA 88/2/42-6; 88/2/49.

2 Below, character and trends.

3 Below, p. 130.

4 Below, p. 133.

5 Below, pp. 258, 266.

6 Below, pp. 269, 273.

by the tithingman to the steward or the bailiff in court, the 9s. 3d. was paid out of court by the reeve to the lord or his representative with the rent due from the copyholds.

Court-silver was paid at the courts of neither Brinkworth nor Charlton in the 17th century. It appears, however, that the lord of the two manors did not forgo the payments even though they had been devalued by inflation. A survey made in 1578 shows that by then each of the 42 copyhold tenements of Brinkworth manor had been rated to pay 5½d. a year for court-silver, a total of 19s. 3d. Some tenements were paired or grouped: some copyholders were required to pay 11d. and each of those with holdings of over 70 acres had to pay 16½d. One tenement had been halved and two copyholders were required to pay 2¾d. each; one tenement was apparently exempt. Each of the rector's four tenants was required to pay 5½d.¹ The discrepancy between the 21s. 1d. particularized in the survey and the 22s. 10d. paid at the court is at present inexplicable. At Charlton court-silver was rated only on copyholds held directly of the lord of the manor. A survey made in 1590 shows that by then it had been rated on nearly all the heriotable copyholds and on very few of the others. With only three exceptions the holdings were rated in multiples of 3d., two of the smallest each being rated at that sum and three of the largest each at 18d. There were 28 copyholders obliged to pay court-silver. The total amount payable was 18s. 6d.,² which from 1578 was paid half-yearly. In the 17th century court-silver, presumably collected by the reeve and no longer by the tithingman, was no more than an insignificant vestige of the frankpledge system.

Oath of Allegiance

In the Middle Ages boys of 12, by taking an oath on entering a tithing, evidently swore allegiance to the king and bound themselves to good behaviour.³ The form of one as recommended in the later 13th century enjoined boys to shun and expose theft and thieves, to be faithful to the king and their lord, and to obey their lord's bailiff.⁴ In the 16th and 17th centuries an oath of allegiance to the sovereign was administered to men and boys of both Brinkworth and Charlton. In some cases those who took the oath at Brinkworth and Charlton were said to be of full age, presumably 21 or over; in other cases an exact age was given and, when it was, it was in the range 13–20. The youth of many of those who took the oath indicates that the principle of administering it was derived from the frankpledge system. In 1583 two boys of Charlton each aged 13 were said to have been sworn into the assize of the queen for their allegiance:⁵ in that context the word assize seems to have meant the body of those loyal

1 WSA 88/2/42.

2 Ibid. 88/2/43.

3 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 130–1.

4 *Court Baron*, ed. Maitland and Baildon, pp. 76–7.

5 Below, p. 316.

to the queen, bound by oath to obey the law, and trusted to share in enforcing the law and in administering justice. The wording of the oath taken at Brinkworth and Charlton is not known, but the wording of an oath of allegiance to be administered at a view of frankpledge is given in a manual of 1641.¹ That oath had no religious content and, committing the swearer to be a true and faithful servant to the king and to disavow the king's enemies, was political in only the most general of terms. In its effect the oath of allegiance, like the medieval frankpledge oath, may have done little more than to bind young men to good behaviour.

Without knowing how many people lived in a place it is obviously impossible to know how many boys a year reached an age at which they could take the oath of allegiance, and the proportion of boys who took the oath having reached the age is also obscure. In the period 1570-80 the oath was taken by 27 boys and men at Brinkworth, by only 6 at Charlton; in the period 1580-5 it was taken by 17 at Charlton; between 1625 and 1648 it was taken by only 13 at Brinkworth and, including 6 in 1634 and in 1637, by 23 at Charlton. There was clearly no systematic and prolonged attempt to administer the oath to every young man. The difference in the figures for Brinkworth and Charlton suggests that it was administered at the instigation not of the steward but of the tithingman or jurors, whose policy on the issue may have varied from place to place and time to time. The nature of the oath, the fact that it was taken in court, and the likelihood that it was administered at the discretion of the tithingman or jurors suggest that those who took it were not at the top or bottom levels of society but were the sons or other relatives of those, on the middle level, who may have been copyholders, husbandmen, or tradesmen and have attended the combined courts regularly. As the figures show, the practice of taking the oath declined in the earlier 17th century, and only two men or boys, one at Brinkworth and one at Charlton, took it in the 1640s.

LEET BUSINESS

In exercising leet jurisdiction in the 16th century and earlier 17th the lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors, through his steward, dealt with several classes of business. In the frankpledge system it was the duty of tithings to pursue those who offended against common law and to bring them to justice,² and those who were found guilty of assault or other petty crimes were presented at the view of frankpledge by the tithingman or the jurors for the Crown. The offences were misdemeanors. Although a steward had the right to enquire into felonies at common law, a few statutory felonies, and accessory to felony,³ and although the jurors might

1 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 108.

2 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 90-8.

3 Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i, 580-1; Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 94-5, 104-6.

refer to a felony and recognize the lord's right to the felon's chattels, felons were not presented at the view of frankpledge of either Brinkworth or Charlton. To authorize men to retain stray animals which they had found was an early duty of the head of a tithing,¹ in Wiltshire's case the tithingman, and the courts heard presentments by the tithingman and others that strays had been taken and, sometimes, successfully claimed by their owners. On two occasions the lord's right to waifs was recognized. The courts heard that public nuisances had been caused, and those who had caused them were punished and ordered to amend them. The lord of the manors assumed the right to enforce the assize of bread and of ale and exercised it in his courts, and he also punished those who committed offences created by certain statutes promulgated in the 16th century and, in a few cases, by earlier statutes.

Assaults

The presentment of the perpetrators of assaults was normal in the courts of both Brinkworth and Charlton until c. 1630; the offences described in the records as *affrays* (*affraiam fecit*) are taken to have been assaults. In the 16th century the presentments at Brinkworth were usually made by the tithingman and occasionally by the jurors, at Charlton usually by the jurors and occasionally by the tithingman. In the 17th century all the presentments were made by the combined jurors at both places. At Brinkworth 3 cases of assault were dealt with in the period 1544–6, 19 in the period 1570–81, and 21 in the period 1625–33; at Charlton 30 cases were dealt with in the period 1570–86 and 2 in the period 1625–30. In addition 1 case was dealt with at Brinkworth in 1560, 1 there in 1635 and in 1638, and 1 at Charlton in 1641. The lack of presentments at Charlton in the period 1563–5 and occasionally in other years there and at Brinkworth may simply reflect a lack of assaults perpetrated in those years, but it is clear that from the later 1620s at Charlton and the later 1630s at Brinkworth assaults were neglected by the combined courts. Thereafter the perpetrators of assaults at Brinkworth and Charlton were presumably taken before the justices as, under the statute of 1461, such offenders in most other places already were.²

All those found guilty of assault and presented at the combined courts of Brinkworth and of Charlton were men, and all but three of their victims were men; in some cases men were found guilty of assaulting each other. The exceptions include a woman who at Brinkworth in 1630 claimed that the man who assaulted her had wanted to rape her.³ The perpetrators of the assaults included gentlemen: in 1575 the vicar of Hankerton was amerced at Charlton for an assault,⁴ and in 1626 John Ayliffe, presumably

1 *English Historical Documents*, i, ed. Whitelock (1979 edn.), p. 430.

2 For the statute, above, jurisdiction (leet jurisdiction).

3 Below, p. 179.

4 Below, p. 278.

he who was then the lord of Grittenham manor or his grandson and namesake who was the lord of it from 1643, and Robert Fortey, a clerk, was each amerced at Brinkworth for an assault.¹ Other offenders included men who were evidently jurors. Fortey assaulted the tithingman of Brinkworth, and in 1628 the tithingman there was assaulted in the middle of the night;² on the other hand, the constable of Brinkworth was amerced in 1633 for an assault.³ In some assaults blood was shed and in some a weapon was used; if the weapon had any value, such as the dagger worth 12*d.* at Charlton in 1573 and the dagger worth 12*d.* at Brinkworth in 1579,⁴ it was forfeited to the lord. A monetary penalty was imposed on most of those amerced for having perpetrated an assault; occasionally it was ordered that an offender should be confined in the stocks.

Other Petty Crimes

Those who had committed minor crimes, other than assault, were sometimes presented at the combined courts of Brinkworth and of Charlton. At Brinkworth there were 13 presentments in the 1570s and two in the 1630s; at Charlton there was one presentment in 1564 and there were four in the 1580s. Presumably offenders at Brinkworth in the 1540s and Charlton in the 1570s, and usually at both places in the 17th century, were taken to other tribunals. In the 16th century all the presentments were made by the jurors for the Crown; in the 17th century both were made by the combined jurors. It was evidently at the discretion of the jurors, rather than of the steward, the tithingman, or, at Brinkworth, the constable, that the offenders were punished there. It has to be assumed that petty crimes were committed in Charlton in the 1570s and at both places in the 1620s, and it is not clear why those who committed them were not presented at the combined courts as were those who perpetrated assaults in those periods.

Most of those punished by the courts for having committed petty crimes had stolen; apples, wood, ducks, and geese were among the items stolen. Three women were presented as scolds and one as a hedge breaker;⁵ in 1578 a woman was presented at Brinkworth for harbouring suspect persons and in 1582 two men were presented separately at Charlton for harbouring suspect women.⁶ At Brinkworth in 1579 three men were punished for having been vagrants by night and having been caught in the garden and orchard of one of the jurors.⁷ At Charlton in 1584 a man was presented for having a ladder and hedge wood in suspicious circumstances.⁸ In 1572 the jurors at Brinkworth presented that a group of men

1 Below, pp. 162, 164; for the Ayliffes, *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 19.

2 Below, p. 170.

3 Below, p. 191.

4 Below, pp. 147, 269.

5 Below, pp. 128, 136, 139.

6 Below, pp. 139, 309.

7 Below, p. 146.

8 Below, p. 320.

had assembled riotously, broken into a house, and removed a buck: those presented were probably not common criminals but adherents of a party in a dispute over the buck or the right to kill it.¹ In 1632 a man was presented at Brinkworth as a drunkard,² and in 1637 Thomas Looker was presented there as a night walker, a haunter of alehouses, and a swearer. Despite being described as lewd and idle, not employing himself in a lawful calling, not having done one day's work in six months, and having no living to maintain himself and his family Looker was amerced 20s.³ Most of those who committed petty crimes, although not the drunkard, Looker, or those who removed the buck, were punished by means of the stocks. It is not clear whether, in the 17th century, few petty criminals were presented because the stocks were no longer used or whether the stocks were not used because few petty criminals were presented.

Felons' Chattels

Under a statute of 1323–4 the king had the right to take the goods of felons, and the right was explicitly or implicitly granted to the lords of manors who exercised leet jurisdiction.⁴ Wherever the felon may have lived, and wherever he may have been arrested, the chattels were probably those which lay in the lord's area of jurisdiction at the time of the arrest. The right to take them was mentioned on only two occasions in the records edited below. In 1546 the jurors for the Crown at Brinkworth presented those who had such goods in hand, and in 1579 presented him who held such goods which had been taken for the lord and had removed them from the manor.⁵

Strays, Forfang, Forage

A farm animal which had no known owner because it was not recognized or marked, or because it bore a mark which was not recognized, might be taken as a stray into the keeping of a man who was not its owner evidently in two main ways. It may have been found as it wandered or it may have been among the animals which were discovered to have been wrongfully allowed to feed on common pastures. Such a discovery was most likely to have been made at a drift, an occasion on which all the animals on a common pasture were simultaneously driven to a particular place to be inspected. The common pastures of Charlton were driven periodically, at times chosen by the bailiff, the hayward, or the tithingman, and animals interloping among those which the tenants of the manor had a right to feed there were taken as strays into the keeping of a tenant who

1 Below, pp. 114–15.

2 Below, p. 189.

3 Below, p. 204.

4 Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 583; Tomlins, *Law Dictionary*, s.vv. felons' goods.

5 Below, pp. 101, 143.

was present on the occasion. A similar procedure was probably followed at Brinkworth.¹ Animals with a known owner which were taken to the common pound, usually because by keeping them on a particular pasture the owner was overstocking it or because they were trespassing or causing damage, were not regarded as strays. The conduct which led to them being impounded and the events which led to their release were manorial business rather than leet business. At the drift taken at Charlton on 28 April 1584 the animals were driven to the village street, where the sheep were restrained by hurdles. One owner of sheep, evidently in defiance of the lord's officers, rescued his own sheep and by doing so released all the others, and he was amerced at the court held later on that day. His offence was apparently reconsidered and was afterwards treated as a breach of the pound, for which he was presented at the following court: his penalty was increased from 6s. 8d. to 40s.²

Matters relating to stray animals, with which the heads of tithings had long been concerned,³ became presentable at the view of frankpledge and were among articles of enquiry of courts leet.⁴ At Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century and earlier 17th such matters were dealt with at the combined courts as leet business, and in the 16th century most of the presentments concerning strays were made by the tithingman. The rest of such presentments were made in the 16th century by the hayward, the bailiff, the jurors for the Crown, at Brinkworth by the constable, and at Charlton once by the homage. In the 17th century all the presentments were made by the combined jurors.

A presentment made at the combined courts that a stray animal had been taken into keeping usually included a note that it had entered the manor and gave details of what kind of animal it was, what colour it was, how, if at all, it had been marked by its owner, when it had been taken, what its value was, and whom the keeper was. It is possible that an animal belonging to a tenant might wander unmarked on the manor, might not be recognized by the other tenants or reclaimed, and might therefore be presented as a stray. A sheep taken as a stray by a juror of Charlton before Christmas in 1570 apparently belonged to another juror who, in June 1571, summarily took it from him. At the court held in 1572 a question was raised whether that sheep should be regarded as a stray,⁵ and in general it was evidently assumed that an animal whose owner was unknown when it was taken had entered the manor from outside. Cattle, sheep, and horses were, predictably, the animals most frequently taken. Many were young, and the documents often fail to indicate their gender.

1 Below, pp. 150, 322, 331, 377, 388, 396.

2 Below, pp. 322, 324.

3 Above, this section.

4 e.g. Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 60, 108-9; *Stoneleigh Leger Book*, ed. Hilton, 100.

5 Below, pp. 261, 263.

The Latin word abbreviated to *iuvenec'* could refer to a bullock, whether a young bull or a castrated bull, or to a heifer and, in the edition below, the alternatives are offered. The English word steer is sometimes used in the documents. The Latin word abbreviated to *pull'* often referred to a young horse: when the context indicates the gender of the animal *pull'* has been translated to colt or filly, otherwise to foal. Most of the colours or natural markings of the animals were what might be expected. Sheep were white or black and cattle were usually red or brown. Some cattle were described as red-, brown-, or black-tagged; the word tagged, which is sometimes spelt taggled in the documents, refers to the appearance of white or a distinctive colour at the tip of an animal's tail.¹ The colour of horses was more varied and included grey, bay, black, dun, fallow, flaxen, roan, and skewbald; a bay Flanders mare was taken as a stray at Brinkworth in 1571 and a skewbald-sorrel foal in 1577.² Markings put on by the owners were referred to in several presentments made in the period 1630–2 and included clipped ears and branded marks on buttocks; three bullocks and a horse were each said to bear a halfpenny mark. A record was made of the date at which nearly every stray animal was taken, and a value was placed on nearly every one. The date was important because the time allowed by the law or custom for an owner to reclaim a stray was limited, and the value was relevant because, if a stray was not returned to its owner, the value of it, or a proportion of the value, was payable to the lord of the manor.³ The presentments often referred to several animals having been taken on a single day and to animals having been taken on successive days; although animals may have wandered as a small herd or flock or on successive days it is more likely that such days were those on which the common pastures were driven. The keepers of strays were named perhaps to protect them from accusations of dishonesty and presumably to define who was responsible for the strays should the owners reclaim them or should a payment in respect of them fall due to the lord. Sometimes it was presented that several animals were in the keeping of one man: in some cases the man was the hayward and in some the animals may have been taken at a drift. Sometimes the lord was named as the keeper: the strays may have been taken in his park or were perhaps being kept by his bailiff.

In some entries in the records edited below reference is made to a statute under which matters concerning strays were regulated. The earliest reference was made in 1563 and the latest in 1647.⁴ The statute referred to has not been identified. In a legal manual published in 1620 it is explained that the law required stray cattle to be kept in an open place, so that their owner might see them, and information about them to be cried at the

1 For the word tagged, *Oxford English Dictionary* (1989 edn.).

2 Below, pp. 108, 133.

3 For the time limit and payments to the lord, below, this section.

4 Below, pp. 246, 412.

three nearest market towns; the lord of the manor on which they were found would own them if they had not been reclaimed within a year and a day.¹ An entry for Charlton in 1563 refers to proclamation at a market and in a church and two for Brinkworth in 1626 refer to three proclamations made on three separate days.² Some presentments at the combined courts suggest that animals were indeed regarded as strays until a year and a day after the three proclamations. At Brinkworth in 1639, however, it was presented that it was the custom of the manor that strays taken within the manor should be kept by the tenants 'until they be yeared',³ implying that the year started from when the animals were taken rather than from when they were proclaimed, and many presentments refer simply to strays having been kept for a year and a day. It may be that neither the law nor the custom was followed to the letter.

If a stray had not been claimed the ownership of it was changed after the statutory or customary year and a day. The procedure at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century is uncertain. At Charlton in 1583 and 1585 it was presented that the ownership of a stray had passed to the lord of the manor.⁴ On the other hand, between 1560 and 1580 there were instances at both Brinkworth and Charlton in which it seems that a monetary payment equal to the value of the animal was made to the lord and, by implication, that the ownership passed to the keeper, and such a practice in respect of animals worth less than 3s. 4d. was said in 1672 to be the custom.⁵ At Brinkworth in 1625 and later it was declared that, if a stray was not returned to its owner, by the custom of the manor half its value was due to the lord,⁶ and from 1626 the valuation was usually stated to have been made for the lord. At Charlton the same custom was declared in 1629⁷ and the statements were made there from 1631. The declarations implied that the keeper became the owner of the animal and that in return he made the prescribed payment to the lord, and that was evidently the procedure in the 1630s and 1640s. Whether the declarations introduced new custom is less certain. Before then the regular valuation of strays would have been pointless if nothing could have accrued to anyone but the keeper, but for a tenant to keep an animal for a year and then to hand the full value of it to the lord would appear to have been inequitable and very likely to have minimized the taking and retention of strays. It may be that a sharing of the spoils between the lord and the tenant had been customary long before the 1620s, and it possibly had its origin or

1 *Court Leet Records of the Manor of Manchester*, ed. J. P. Earwaker (Manchester, 1884), i, p. xiv.

2 Below, pp. 162, 165, 246.

3 Below, p. 212.

4 Below, pp. 315, 326.

5 WSA 88/2/30.

6 Below, p. 157.

7 Below, p. 357.

justification in a clause of the Hundred Ordinance of the mid 10th century which could perhaps be interpreted to mean that half the value of stray cattle should be given to the lord of the land on which they were taken.¹

If a man wished to recover a stray animal within the statutory or customary year and a day he had to prove that he was the rightful owner, and in the 16th-century records edited below reference is often made to that being done. Proof took the form of an oath taken by the owner himself or by some other or others on his behalf. Occasionally an owner was supported by witnesses. In the 16th century the oaths were evidently taken in open court. The wording of the oath has not survived. The addresses of the owners, who could not be expected to be residents of Brinkworth or Charlton, were sometimes given. Most of the villages and towns named as addresses lay nearby and some, such as Ham, Liddington, Calne, Sudeley, and Stonehouse, were more distant; it cannot be inferred that the animals had strayed from the places in which the owners lived. The oath was taken as often by another on the owner's behalf as by the owner himself, and some owners apparently employed agents to recover their animals. In 1577 two men of Ashton Keynes proved the ownership of five foals, with four owners, which had been taken at Brinkworth as strays, and another man proved the ownership of three animals each with a different owner.² If a stray was taken by a claimant who had not proved ownership the lord could demand the full value of the animal.³ In the 17th century the recovery of strays was not usually referred to in the court records, a fact of which the most likely explanation is that the oath was taken out of court. Ownership still had to be proved. At Brinkworth in 1625 a man who appeared in court to claim his stray mare was told to provide proof of ownership at the following court and failed to do so,⁴ and at a court of Charlton held in 1626 it was ordered that the ownership of stray cattle which had already been handed to claimants should be proved at the following court.⁵ Marginal notes in the records referring to possession of strays having been delivered and to there being no need for an entry relating to a stray to be escheated also imply that proof of ownership continued to be given. By the earlier 17th century the status of the lord's bailiff had possibly been raised,⁶ and it may be that in that period he accepted proof of ownership out of court and authorized the return of stray animals to their owners.

The owner of a stray successfully reclaimed was obliged to make a payment to the lord of the manor on which the stray had been taken and kept. At Brinkworth and Charlton that payment was called forfang until

1 *English Historical Documents*, i, ed. Whitelock (1979 edn.), p. 430.

2 Below, p. 133.

3 Below, pp. 137, 140.

4 Below, pp. 157, 160.

5 Below, p. 345.

6 Below, officers.

1574, forage thereafter. By the 1540s it had evidently become fixed by custom, and in every case at both places it was set at 4*d.* for each animal taken back. The original justification of it was presumably that the lord should be recompensed for the resources of the manor consumed by the stray while it remained on it. That again seems hard on the tenant who kept the animal and whose own animals might otherwise have consumed the resources. It is implied in the records that in the 16th century the payments were made in court immediately after the oath to prove ownership had been taken, and it is sometimes clear that they reached the lord by way of the bailiff or the reeve. The records of the courts held in the earlier 17th century contain no reference to the payments and, if in that period the bailiff accepted proof of ownership out of court, he probably accepted forage at the same time.

Waifs

Although the legal definition of a waif seems to have been that it was an item of stolen property abandoned by the thief, the word was possibly used for any property deserted by its owner.¹ The lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors assumed the right to take waifs and exercised it in 1578, when the jurors for the Crown at Brinkworth presented that a bay gelding was held as a waif for him, and in 1581, when it was recorded there that money and saddles were handed as waifs to him.² It is possible that the right was exercised on many other occasions without a presentment at the court.

Public Nuisances

In legal theory those causing nuisances on or affecting any of the king's highways or waterways, or bridges which carried a highway over a watercourse, should have been presented by the jurors for the Crown under leet jurisdiction. Those causing nuisances on the lord of the manor's land, whether demesne, freehold, copyhold, or waste and whether several or commonable, should have been presented by the homage in the manor court.³ In practice, however, the difference between public and private nuisances was seldom observed. It may not always have been obvious whether a nuisance was public and therefore presentable by the jurors or private and therefore presentable by the homage; the jurors for the Crown and the homage were usually the same body of men, and the recording of some offences as presentments of the jurors and of some as presentments of the homage was probably casual and haphazard. For example, at a court held at Brinkworth in 1579 and entitled a view of frankpledge with the court of the manor, the same 13 men were the jurors for the queen and for the homage: as the jurors for the queen they presented that a

1 Tomlins, *Law Dictionary*, s.v. waifs; cf. *Oxford English Dictionary* (1989 edn.).

2 Below, pp. 137, 156.

3 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 96-8; cf. above, jurisdiction (leet jurisdiction).

footpath and a stile had been stopped to the annoyance of the inhabitants of Little Somerford, and as the homage that the church way had been made foundurous to the annoyance of those passing.¹ In the 17th century all such presentments were made by the combined jury. Having heard a presentment that a nuisance had been caused the court usually made an order, backed by the threat of a penalty, for it to be rectified, and the court often made an order for a man to avoid making a specified nuisance, or for a man to rectify a specified nuisance, without having heard a relevant presentment.

At the combined courts of Brinkworth and of Charlton in the 16th century and earlier 17th there were two main ways in which attempts were made to maintain the highways, by dealing with nuisances *ad hoc* and by punishing offences created by Acts of 1555 and later. The *ad hoc* cases were not numerous, especially in the 16th century. In 1578 it was presented that the highway at Brinkworth had been damaged by the removal of broad stones from a causeway and that at Charlton wood-piles and dung-mixens had been made on the highway;² in a flurry of presentments at Charlton in the period 1584–6 it was presented that the highway had been turned away from its right course, that a pit had been dug in it, that dung-mixens had again been made on it, and that in a certain place it had been ploughed over. Presentments in 1641–2 seem to indicate that a highway across Lamma down at Charlton had been diverted, that the highway on its new course was insufficient, and that the man responsible for that state of affairs should either improve the new way or restore the old.³ Also in the 1640s several orders were made to remove obstructions from highways, and at Charlton in the period 1646–8 it was thrice ordered that sand should not be dug within 20 feet of the highway, presumably to prevent it from being undermined.⁴ In 1575 a general order was made at Charlton that ditches running beside the highways should be scoured,⁵ and in the 17th century the most frequently made *ad hoc* orders relating to highways were for ditches beside them to be scoured and for encroachments on them to be removed. Nuisances such as unscoured ditches and encroachments on the lord's waste were, however, as much manorial business as leet business.⁶ Statutory offences relating to highways are discussed below.

There was no major waterway or bridge in Brinkworth or Charlton and the presentments, which were frequently made, that men had failed to maintain watercourses and bridges probably related to drainage ditches or small brooks beside or across fields and to small bridges over such

1 Below, pp. 143–4.

2 Below, pp. 137, 289.

3 Below, pp. 320, 323, 336, 396, 398, 401.

4 For the sand, below, pp. 410, 413, 416.

5 Below, p. 279.

6 For nuisances in general, below, manorial business (general nuisances).

watercourses. Neglect of such ditches, brooks, and bridges, even though there may have been a public right of way over a bridge, was not leet business, and general orders made in 1583 and 1641 to scour a stream flowing through Charlton were probably made to improve the drainage of agricultural land rather than to eradicate public nuisances.¹ An exception may have been the order made at Charlton in 1573 that carcasses should not be thrown into watercourses or allowed to lie in them.²

Bread and Ale

The lord of Brinkworth and Charlton manors assumed the right to punish those who sold bread if they failed to observe the assize of bread and those who sold ale if they failed to observe the assize of ale. That right was exercised as part of leet jurisdiction, and in the 16th century offenders were usually presented by the tithingman or the jurors for the Crown. At Brinkworth in 1578 officers called overseers of the assize of bread and of ale were chosen.³ It seems unlikely that they were expected to weigh bread and taste ale⁴ and likely that their intended function was to report to the tithingman, jurors, or court which bakers and brewers should be presented for failing to observe the assize. There is no record of such officers being appointed at Brinkworth or Charlton on any other occasion in the 16th century or early 17th. Men and women who failed to observe the assize were presented at most of the combined courts of which the records are edited below, and in the 17th century they were presented by the combined jurors.

The statute which established the assize of bread created an offence of selling bread which was overpriced⁵ and, although their bread was only twice expressly said to be so,⁶ it was evidently for that offence which those described as bakers were amerced at Brinkworth and Charlton. It was usually said that those amerced were bakers who had broken the assize and sometimes simply that they were bakers. One or possibly two of the bakers who were regularly amerced at Charlton in the 1570s and 1580s, and who otherwise played no part in the proceedings of the court, were said to be of Malmesbury, and it may be that they baked at Malmesbury and carried their bread to Charlton for sale. Although the bakers may themselves have baked the bread which they offered for sale they were amerced theoretically because they sold it and not because they had baked it. All the bakers presumably baked bread for human consumption and four were expressly said to do so.⁷ The ameracements,

1 Below, pp. 314, 396.

2 Below, p. 268.

3 Below, p. 142.

4 For weights of bread and tasters of ale, below, officers.

5 *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 199–200.

6 Below, pp. 303, 308.

7 For the four, below, pp. 326, 330, 352.

from 1*d.* to 8*d.*, were low and the presentments leading to them were superficial. In 1578 the court at Brinkworth made an order which, although not couched in clear terms, was evidently intended to prohibit the regrating of bread,¹ but in general the courts were almost certainly not trying to control the trade in bread or to regulate the weight or price of bread. They seem to have been doing no more than to pay lip service to the assize while routinely levying small annual or biannual payments which were in effect licences to sell bread. At the courts for which there are records the number of bakers making such payments declined. At Brinkworth there were 17 ameracements at the five combined courts held in the period 1544–6, 19 at the 16 held 1570–81, and none at those held in 1625 and later. At Charlton there were six ameracements at the four courts held 1563–5, 38 at the 22 held 1570–86, 11 at the 14 held 1625–31, and none thereafter. The reasons for the decline are not obvious, especially because it has to be assumed that inhabitants of Brinkworth and Charlton continued to buy bread and because the ameracement of those selling ale continued. Perhaps bread for sale was no longer baked at either place or brought to either place from outside, or perhaps to run after peripatetic bakers for paltry ameracements had begun to seem pointless.

The statute which established the assize of ale created an offence of selling overpriced ale,² and another 13th-century statute created an offence of selling through measures which were prohibited because they had not been sealed to show that they conformed to a standard.³ Men and women said to have committed both offences were amerced at Brinkworth and Charlton. At Charlton offenders were amerced in nearly all the combined courts of which the records are edited below, at Brinkworth in nearly all the courts until 1629 and in most of them thereafter. Until the mid 1570s the offenders were usually called brewers (*brasiatores*), from the mid 1570s tipplers (*tipulatores*), and in the mid 17th century often victuallers (*victulatores*). At Brinkworth in 1625 one of the tipplers was described as a wine seller.⁴ At both places there were usually two or three offenders amerced at each court, sometimes only one, and sometimes as many as five. Sometimes, especially in the late 1570s and early 1580s, their offences were not described: they were simply said to be tipplers and to have been amerced. At other times the offenders were said to have broken the assize, sold ale at an excessive profit (*excessivo lucro*), sold ale through prohibited measures (*per mensuras illicitas*), or indulged in more than one of those practices. Ameracements, ranging from 1*d.* to 6*d.*, were low. Those amerced, whether called brewers, tipplers, or victuallers, were probably selling ale which they had brewed themselves, and some were probably in business as alehouse keepers.⁵ Some were amerced regularly over long periods, in

1 Below, p. 138.

2 *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 199–200.

3 *Ibid.* 202–3.

4 Below, p. 158.

5 Cf. below, p. 249.

one case 23 years or more. On two occasions, in 1564 and 1572, the combined court at Charlton evidently ordered that ale should be sold at a price which it had set.¹ Despite those orders there was apparently no more genuine or prolonged attempt to control the price of ale than there was to control that of bread. Those amerced for selling ale were, like bakers, in effect paying a token fee for licence to trade on the manor. In the period 1636-45 no amercement was made at most of the combined courts held at Brinkworth: the reasons for that are obscure and regular amercements were resumed in 1646. The amercement of those selling ale went on longer than the amercement of those selling bread. That may have been because brewers, tipplers, and victuallers both brewed and sold their ale at Brinkworth or Charlton and that no ale was brought to either place from outside by peripatetic brewers.

Although the enforcement of the assize of ale was evidently a hollow exercise several orders intended to regulate the trade in ale were made in the combined courts of Charlton in the period 1563-71. In 1563 every brewer was forbidden to sell within the manor more ale than he could produce at one brewing a month,² in 1564 the day or days on which a brewer might sell ale were restricted,³ also in 1564 two brewers were amerced for having broken an order of the court by selling ale at the time of the clerk's ale,⁴ in 1565 the court ordered that none but the parish clerk might sell ale between Easter and Pentecost,⁵ and in 1571 it was ordered that none should sell ale at the church house without the licence of the parishioners.⁶ Such orders, some of which were evidently intended to avoid a reduction in the income of the incumbent and the parishioners, were made as part of manorial rather than leet business.

An Act of 1551-2 required all who kept alehouses to give a bond, and nominate sureties, to a justice of the peace; to sell ale or keep an alehouse without thus obtaining the licence of a justice became an offence.⁷ The court of a manor, even one in which leet jurisdiction was exercised, could neither grant, revoke, nor deny such a licence, but twice in the later 16th century and six times in the earlier 17th those who sold ale without a licence were amerced at the courts of Brinkworth and Charlton. The offenders were punished under the statutory provisions rather than as part of the enforcement of the assize of ale, and some of the amercements, at 20s. and much higher than those imposed nominally for failing to observe the assize, equated to the statutory penalty.

Butchers and Millers

Two late 13th-century statutes required that butchers should be punished for selling unwholesome meat, and one of the statutes required that the

1 Below, pp. 249, 263.

3 Below, p. 249.

5 Below, p. 255.

7 *Statutes of the Realm*, iv. 157-8.

2 Below, p. 248.

4 Below, p. 252.

6 Below, p. 259.

tolls taken by millers should be fair.¹ The Statute of Labourers, promulgated in 1349, also required that butchers and others should sell victuals at a reasonable price, and from 1406, if not earlier, the lords of manors who exercised leet jurisdiction had the right to punish those selling victuals otherwise.² Butchers were presented as part of leet business in the combined courts of both Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century and earlier 17th, and millers were presented at Charlton; there was no mill at Brinkworth.³

All the butchers known to have been presented in the court of Brinkworth in the 16th century were presented by the tithingman, those in the court of Charlton by the tithingman or the jurors for the queen. In the 17th century the combined jurors made all the presentments. The offences committed by butchers were described as taking too much profit from selling their meat, as behaving badly in the exercise of their mystery, or as something similar. In the record of both the courts held at Brinkworth in 1625 a marginal note beside the report of a butcher presented for behaving badly (*malefecit*) described his offence as misfeasance.⁴ In only one case, at Charlton in 1585, was a butcher amerced for selling unwholesome food.⁵ All the offences were punished by amercements which, usually 3*d.* and never exceeding 6*d.*, were small. As in the cases of the bakers and the brewers it seems that the description of the offences was a hollow exercise and that, lip service having been paid to the statutes, each butcher was in effect paying a token fee to sell meat on the manor. At Brinkworth two or three butchers were amerced at most of the combined courts held in the 1540s, one at four courts held in the 1570s, and one at many of the courts held between 1625 and 1648; at Charlton none was amerced before 1577, one was amerced at eight of the courts held between 1577 and 1586, one was amerced at many of the courts held between 1625 and 1645, and none was amerced after 1645. A John Moody, possibly an elder succeeded by a younger, was a butcher at Brinkworth 1625–37, and George Hughes was the butcher at Charlton 1625–45. It is likely that they were slaughterers, butchers, and retailers of meat in their respective localities.

A watermill at Charlton was worked from 1563 or earlier to 1583 or later by James Weeks, and in the earlier 17th century it was worked by Richard Hodges and, from 1626 to 1645 or later, by his relict Alice Hodges. A second mill there in the earlier 17th century was a windmill; it was worked by Anthony Chamberlain until 1635, when it may have gone out of use.⁶ Weeks and his predecessors were presented at most of the

1 Ibid. i. 201–3.

2 Ibid. 307–9; above, jurisdiction (other statutory offences).

3 Cf. *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 21.

4 Below, pp. 158–9.

5 Below, p. 326.

6 WSA 88/2/34; 88/2/43; 88/2/46; cf. below, pp. 246, 311, 340, 344, 408.

combined courts held between 1559 and 1583, on nearly every occasion by the tithingman. Richard or Alice Hodges and Anthony Chamberlain were presented by the combined jurors at every court held from 1625 to 1635, and Alice was similarly presented at nearly every court from 1635 to 1645. In the 16th century the millers' offences were described as having taken too much toll or as having taken toll at an excessive profit, descriptions which presumably meant that the millers had overcharged their customers; in the 17th century the offences were sometimes described thus and sometimes as having behaved badly in the exercise of their mystery, a description which presumably meant that they had overcharged by deception. As in the cases of bakers, brewers, and butchers it seems that the descriptions were made as a way of paying lip service to a statute and that the amercements, which were low, were equivalent to licence fees to trade on the manor as millers.

Other Statutory Offences

At both Brinkworth and Charlton men and women were punished, and orders were made, under the terms of statutes other than those under which bakers, brewers, butchers, and millers were amerced, and some statutes expressly permitted stewards, as they presided over a court leet, to punish offenders against their provisions.¹ It is not certain why presentments and orders were made under the terms of only some relevant statutes at only some particular times in only some particular places. At Brinkworth and Charlton it is likely that presentments and amercements to punish, and orders to prohibit, activities which could have done little harm to the jurors and their peers were instigated by the lord of the manor or his steward, and that those to punish and prohibit activities which could have harmed them were instigated by the jurors themselves.

Most of the statutory offences which came before the courts of Brinkworth and Charlton probably at the instigation of the lord or his steward were created by an Act of 1542. The Act required the inhabitants of every place to make butts and practise archery and it debarred husbandmen, labourers, and servants from playing certain games, including bowls; if the butts were lacking for three months the inhabitants were to forfeit 20s. between them.² On several occasions in the 1570s, and at no other time, the jurors or tithingman of Brinkworth and Charlton presented men who had played bowls unlawfully; at Brinkworth there were 17 offenders in 1571 and 1574, 15 in 1576.³ Unless bowls was a fad of the 1570s it seems that the steward usually turned a blind eye to it. At Charlton it was presented in 1576 and 1578 that the butts needed repair, and in April 1579 Philip Underhill was appointed to keep them in good repair for the rest of his life; Underhill had died by September 1579, when it

1 Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 122-30.

2 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 837-41.

3 Below, pp. 108, 124, 130.

was presented that the butts had been in decay for two months.¹ The presentments of the 1570s suggest that, by then, the provisions of the Act of 1542 had not become a dead letter at Brinkworth and Charlton, where the lord of the manor is known to have had a special interest in the defence of the realm.² In the earlier 17th century the courts continued to order that the butts should be repaired. At Brinkworth such an order was made once a year, at the spring court, from 1625 to 1642 and at Charlton once a year from 1632 to 1635. The order to repair the butts at Brinkworth in 1625 evidently required that a circular enclosure should be made around them and thus suggests that the steward did then intend them to be restored,³ but thereafter the annual and increasingly stereotyped presentments that the butts were in decay suggests prolonged neglect and universal indifference much more compellingly than close supervision. Although the court of Brinkworth set a monetary penalty for not repairing the butts it is not clear who was liable to pay it and there is no evidence that it was exacted.

Offenders against the provisions of four other statutes were presented at Brinkworth in the 1570s. An Act of 1532–3 required places with 10 households or more to provide themselves with a net for the purpose of destroying choughs, rooks, and crows; the net was to be inspected by the steward in court. The provisions of the Act lasted only 10 years, but that relating to the net was revived in 1566.⁴ In 1571 the jurors for the queen at Brinkworth presented that the tenants had not provided a net, in 1573 the homage acknowledged that it had never had one, and in 1574 the jurors presented that they still lacked one.⁵ In 1573 the jurors for the queen at Charlton presented that they too lacked a rook net.⁶ In 1572 the jurors of Brinkworth presented two men who had hunted hares and rabbits with greyhounds, a practice which, because they did not have lands valued at 40s., was contrary to a statute of 1389–90.⁷ In 1579 the homage presented the same men and another who all kept greyhounds and traced hares in the snow with them, a practice which was contrary to a statute of 1523; a fourth man then traced hares in the snow.⁸ Also in 1579 the constable of Brinkworth presented that the inhabitants there failed to comply with a statute of 1571 which required most people to wear, on Sundays and holy days, woollen caps made in England.⁹ Those presentments of the 1570s were probably made at the instigation of the

1 Below, pp. 280, 288, 293, 296.

2 Cf. *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 47.

3 Below, p. 159.

4 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 425–6; iv. 498.

5 Below, pp. 108, 119, 123–4.

6 Below, p. 269.

7 *Statutes of the Realm*, ii. 65; below, p. 114.

8 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 217; below, p. 144.

9 *Statutes of the Realm*, iv. 555; below, p. 146.

lord of the manor or the steward. If the tenants had felt the need for a rook net they would presumably have provided themselves with one rather than have waited for the jurors to present them for not doing so. The jurors may have felt disadvantaged when those without land worth 40s. (not much land in 1572) hunted with greyhounds, when probably they all had land worth 40s. and thus the right to hunt with dogs, and they may have felt similarly disadvantaged when hares were traced in the snow. They and other tenants may have welcomed the presentment of those who hunted with dogs unlawfully, but the knowledge of the statutes of 1389-90 and 1523, and the instigation of the presentments, are likely to have come from the steward. Likewise the constable who presented the inhabitants of Brinkworth for not wearing caps is very likely to have been prompted by the steward.

The provisions of three statutes, offences against which might have had a direct effect on the affairs and wealth of the jurors and their peers, gave rise to business at the combined courts of Brinkworth and of Charlton. The statutes concerned vagabonds, paupers, and highways, and the presentments and orders made at the courts and arising from them are likely to have been instigated by the jurors themselves.

An Act of 1530-1 required that vagabonds and idle persons should be arrested by a constable, taken by the constable to a justice of the peace, and whipped on the order of the justice. It provided for each place to be penalized if that procedure was not followed. The Act was confirmed for the second time in 1562-3,¹ and in 1564, presumably to avoid a penalty in the future, the court of Charlton ordered all the tenants of the manor to lead to the constable any vagabond or suspect they happened to come upon.² The Act did not require the presentment of vagabonds at courts leet and, whether or not its provisions were scrupulously observed, the order made in 1564 is the only business in the court records edited below to have arisen from it. The reference to a constable of Charlton is one of two made in 1564: they are the only two such references in those records and may represent a mistake.³

An Act of 1535-6 required the churchwardens or two other men of each parish to collect voluntary contributions of money from parishioners and to use the money to relieve the impotent poor and to keep the able-bodied in work. One of 1551-2 obliged each parish to choose two collectors and distributors, later called overseers of the poor, yearly in Whitsun week, and one of 1572 made contributions to poor relief compulsory.⁴ Most parishes later set a poor rate. The combined courts of Brinkworth and of Charlton played no direct part in organizing and implementing poor relief. On the other hand, the men who presented at them as jurors for the Crown, as the homage, or as a combined jury are

1 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 328-32; iv. 115-17, 411.

2 Below, p. 252.

3 Cf. below, officers.

4 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 558-62; iv. 131-2, 590-8.

all likely to have been ratepayers and thus to have played a large part in paying for it, and, probably at their instigation, from the 1570s the courts heard presentments and made orders apparently intended to minimize the poor rate. The paupers whom the statutes made a parish liable to relieve were those who had been born in it and those who had been sent back to it because it was the place in which they had last lived for three years.¹ To reduce its liability a parish might seek to deny that paupers had been born in it, and it might try to prevent those thought likely to become paupers from living in it for three years or from bearing a child in it. An order, given at Brinkworth in 1634, that a mound at what was called the lower end of Braydon marsh should be mended to save the parish harmless may have been made to re-affirm the parish boundary and forestall claims by squatters to have been born in the parish,² and an order, given there in 1648, that the jurors themselves should pull down any cottage built without the consent of the lord's tenants and of the homage may have been made to remove squatters or prevent squatting.³ The courts of Brinkworth and Charlton frequently ordered the expulsion of men, women, and children evidently to prevent them from becoming a potential charge on the parish. The courts could order expulsions by treating incomers, whether lodgers or occupants of a whole house, as undertenants of copyhold premises of which the subletting had not been licensed by the lord of the manor. In 1576 it was ordered in both courts that no tenant should have an undertenant in his house, and that existing undertenants should be removed, unless the lord granted a special licence.⁴ Such a licence was granted at Charlton in 1578.⁵ At Brinkworth the order was repeated in 1578, and in 1577 and 1579 penalties were forfeited by those who had unlicensed undertenants.⁶ At Charlton the order was repeated in 1579, when it was made clear that its object was to prevent children becoming a charge on the parish, and in 1584 and 1586 the court ordered that, before any man received an undertenant, he should give security to indemnify the parish against the potential cost of expelling him or her or, presumably, relieving his or her child newly born in the parish. Orders to remove named undertenants from Charlton were made in 1584.⁷ Between 1625 and 1648 orders to remove named undertenants, or to give security to the parish, were frequently made at both Brinkworth and Charlton, and each of those who failed to obey an order forfeited a monetary penalty. The undertenants were usually called inmates then and were sometimes expressly said to be newcomers to the parish or to be strangers; most were

1 *Ibid.* iv. 115–17.

2 *Below*, p. 197.

3 *Below*, p. 242.

4 *Below*, pp. 131, 281.

5 *Below*, p. 288.

6 *Below*, pp. 134, 138, 147.

7 *Below*, pp. 294, 325, 336.

probably lodgers. The combined jury at the court held at Brinkworth in April 1626 made a general order that all inmates should be expelled unless security was given to indemnify the parish if they became a charge on it.¹ At Charlton in 1629 a man was amerced because he allowed a pregnant woman to come to his house, give birth to a child there, and to leave without the child, thus exposing the parish to the risk of having to maintain the child.² Even if they were not strangers to their host the expulsion of men, women, and children was compulsory. At Brinkworth a man was ordered to eject his mother and a child from his house in 1640, a woman was ordered to eject her daughter and grandchildren in 1644, and in 1648 a man was ordered to eject his parents or give security to the parish.³ At Charlton in 1634, when the jurors made four presentments that inmates had been accepted, a man was ordered to eject his mother.⁴ In some cases, moreover, the period of grace was short: the woman of Brinkworth was given a fortnight to eject her relatives in 1644 and others were given no more than 10 days. In some cases it was longer: the receivers of the four inmates at Charlton in 1634 were given about five weeks to eject them, and in 1648 the Brinkworth man was given five months to eject his parents. In 1646 Emme Webb of Charlton was given 10 days to eject a woman undertenant or forfeit 40s. She did not eject her and in 1647 and 1648 the order was repeated.⁵ The case raises the question whether such orders were usually ignored but, since individual orders were not usually repeated, it is more likely that they were usually obeyed and that Emme Webb's case was exceptional.

An Act of 1555 required that each parish should make a yearly appointment of two overseers of the highways and that its constable and its churchwardens should name four days on which, in each year, the parishioners were to work for eight hours on mending the highways; a highway was defined as a way leading to a market town. Neglect of those requirements was expressly punishable by a steward in a court leet. That Act was continued and amended by one of 1562-3, elaborated on by one of 1575-6, and again continued by one of 1584-5.⁶ The Acts allowed the overseers to receive the monetary penalties imposed on those who did not work and to spend it on the highways, and many parishes later levied a rate for the repair of its highways. Both Brinkworth and Charlton appointed overseers. In 1565 Charlton's were appointed at a court held there;⁷ Brinkworth's were impleaded for debt at a court held in 1578.⁸ It

1 Below, p. 163.

2 Below, p. 355.

3 Below, pp. 213, 232, 239.

4 Below, p. 372.

5 Below, pp. 410, 413, 415.

6 *Statutes of the Realm*, iv. 284-5, 441-3, 620-1, 718-19.

7 Below, p. 255.

8 Below, p. 138.

is likely that nearly all the jurors of both Brinkworth and Charlton were both economically active and ratepayers and, if so, that they would have wanted the highways to be well maintained and the money raised from them by the overseers to be wisely spent and conscientiously accounted for. The jurors made presentments of men who had not worked on the highways or had refused to contribute to repairs and of overseers who had neglected the highways or had not submitted proper accounts, all presumably at their own instigation. A landholder who refused to work on the highways was presented at Charlton in 1576,¹ and in 1585 the court nominated four overseers and required them to levy a rate and to survey the faults in the highways and notify the court of them at its next meeting;² otherwise such presentments were made in the 1630s and 1640s, and they were frequent. At a court held at Brinkworth in April 1631 the inhabitants were presented for refusing to mend the highways in the previous year; the same court gave the outgoing overseers three weeks to submit accounts, and hand over unspent money, to the incoming overseers, and it ordered all the inhabitants to do any work required of them on the roads which was in arrears and to do all the work required of them in the coming year.³ In 1632 there were six men there who refused to work on the highways, there were seven there in 1642,⁴ and there were nine at Charlton in 1642.⁵ In nearly every case in the 1630s and 1640s each offender was amerced or was threatened with a monetary penalty if he or she failed to obey the order of the court. In those ways, by making presentments and threats, the jurors could make their complaints about how the highways were maintained and how their money was spent. How effective such actions were is obscure.

MANORIAL BUSINESS

In the 16th century and earlier 17th the main strands of manorial business were to hear private actions, to safeguard the lord's interests, to witness and record surrenders and grants of copyholds, admittances to copyholds, exchanges of copyhold land, and grants of licences to copyholders, to regulate (whether by reference to custom or *ad hoc*) the use of land in common, to reduce the incidence of general nuisances, and to resolve doubts which arose in any aspect of such business. Private actions were not part of the business in the 17th century.

The Custom of the Manor

In the court records of both Brinkworth and Charlton there are many references to the custom of the manor. The customs of a manor, however

1 Below, p. 280.

2 Below, p. 329.

3 Below, pp. 181–2.

5 Below, p. 402.

4 Below, pp. 185, 225.

they might have evolved, were a body of rules to govern behaviour in certain aspects of life on that particular manor. Potentially every manor had different customs from every other, and the customs became long established. In accordance with them much land was held of the lords of manors and most of it, obviously called customary land, came to be held by copy of court roll. Also in accordance with them services were performed for the lord, the lord's obligations to his tenants were met, commonable land was cultivated or used as meadow or pasture, courts and offices were held, and other matters were dealt with. Whether the customs were recorded in writing or only in the minds of men they were capable of being added to, discarded, refined, or varied.¹ At Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th and 17th centuries it seems that, when in a particular matter the homage said what the custom was, it is as likely that it was making a new rule as reinforcing an old one.

In 1564 the manor court of Charlton ordered the tenants to prepare a written custumal,² and there are three written custumals among the records of Brinkworth, Brokenborough, Charlton, and Hankerton manors. One for Charlton was agreed between Lord Berkshire and his tenants at a court held on 16 September 1672³ and one for Brokenborough was agreed at a court held on 7 October 1672.⁴ The record of the Brokenborough court exists⁵ but not that of the Charlton court. In the heading of the third custumal no date was given and a space was left; afterwards the word Brinkworth was written in the space.⁶ All three were written in English. That for Charlton consists of 39 articles. That for Brinkworth consists of 30 articles, all of which are very similar to articles in that for Charlton. It is likely that the 30 articles were written before the 39, although perhaps not in 1564. The custumals record rules governing many aspects of copyhold tenure,⁷ rights to timber,⁸ subletting,⁹ and various other matters. The nine extra articles in that for Charlton are unexceptional. Neither custumal describes rules governing the use of commonable land. Obviously one was based upon the other, and probably that was based on an earlier one. In non-agrarian matters the customs in all those four manors held by Sir Henry Knyvett and the earls of Berkshire were in essence probably the same. In agrarian matters the circumstances of each manor were unique, and the customs relating to such matters may have

1 For legal aspects of the custom of the manor, Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 361-83.

2 Below, p. 252.

3 WSA 88/2/30.

4 Ibid. 88/2/31.

5 Ibid. 88/2/26.

6 Ibid. 88/9/1C.

7 Cf. below, this section (copyholds).

8 Cf. below, this section (the lord's interests).

9 Cf. below, this section (commonable land).

been subject to frequent variation as the circumstances changed, may have been less relevant to the lord and his steward than the other customs, and were not written down.

Actions

At the courts of Brinkworth 40 private actions were entered in the period 1570–81; at those of Charlton 28 were entered in the period 1570–86, most in the 1580s. Of the 68 actions 35 were for debt, 28 were for trespass, 3 were described as *quare*, 1 was for detinue, and 1 concerned an exchange. In nearly every action the plaintiff set a monetary value on his loss, but in only 29 actions are the circumstances in which he claimed to have sustained the loss rehearsed in the records of the courts, and the rehearsal was usually very brief.

Debts were allegedly incurred by failure to repay loans or to make agreed payments for livestock or, in two actions, for wool.¹ The circumstances of an action at Charlton in 1586 may have been more complicated than most of the others. In that case Agnes Underhill gave 5s. 4d. to Richard Davies to pay for wood to be used by John Davies and his wife, and she accepted from John's wife the lower part of a petticoat as a pledge for the repayment of that sum to her. The pledge was given without the consent of John, who claimed 13s. 4d. from Agnes as the value of the lower part of the petticoat. The court ruled that Agnes should keep the petticoat, pay 5s. to John, and forego the 5s. 4d.²

The trespasses of which the details were rehearsed involved injury to or death of animals and damage to grass or crops. It was alleged at Brinkworth in 1571 that, with a staff, a man had broken the shins of a foal, in 1572 that pigs and other animals had damaged 6 acres of wheat, in 1574 that the lopping of a tree had caused the death of a cow, and in 1578 that a dog had killed a steer. The allegation made in 1572 was countered by a claim that the plaintiff's animals had damaged the defendant's grass in 1566–7.³ It was alleged at Charlton in 1571 that a close had been entered and hay wrongfully carried away, in 1572 that abuse of a colt had caused it to die, in 1577 that a cart-load of geese had been wrongfully carried away, and in 1583 that grass and wheat had been spoiled by animals; in 1581 two cases involved the killing of pigs by dogs.⁴

It is not clear how the allegations made in the three actions called *quare* differed from those in actions for trespass. In the two at Brinkworth, in both of which Adam Archard complained against George Jones, it was alleged that a ewe was wrongfully led away and that grass had been trampled on.⁵ The one at Charlton was more complicated. Richard Davies

1 For the wool, below, pp. 128, 335.

2 Below, p. 335.

3 Below, pp. 110, 115, 123, 139.

4 Below, pp. 260, 264, 286, 307, 319.

5 Below, p. 112.

complained that Richard Gleed had wrongfully taken a mare and a foal away from him, and the two disputed the ownership of the animals; the issue was resolved by witnesses who deposed that Gleed had given the mare to Davies to settle a debt.¹ In the action for detinue it was alleged that a large pan had been wrongfully withheld for 14 years.² An action in which Richard Gleed was the plaintiff and Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith the defendant concerned an exchange, presumably of land, and was in April 1585 committed to arbiters, two for each party; the issue had not been resolved by March 1586.³

The buying and selling of livestock, the preservation of livestock, grass, and crops, and minor money lending and deferred payment were fundamental in a rural economy, and the business which gave rise to the allegations of debt and trespass probably arose in everyday life at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 1570s and 1580s. The courts there heard the allegations and the claims for damages. There was a procedure by which the issues which brought them about could be discussed by third parties and, when appropriate, damages assessed, and it was sufficiently simple, easy, cost-effective, and attractive to be used by some who were not tenants of the manor.⁴ The issues were real, to the parties concerned were no doubt serious, and were capable of being resolved in the courts.

The Lord's Interests

A wide variety of business which came before the combined courts and the separately held manor courts was evidently brought there to safeguard the lord's interests. The courts punished neglect of tenurial obligations to attend them, punished neglect or misuse of the lord's property, and published reports that income was due to the lord as a result of specific events which had taken place.

At most courts of Charlton the freeholders who were absent and not represented by an attorney or essoined were presented and amerced. At Brinkworth in the 16th century some of the 2,000-year leaseholders made the prescribed payment when they were absent from court but the only freeholder, the rector, was usually present. At Charlton, and at Brinkworth in the 17th century, those who were said to be free suitors and were presented because they were absent were presumably freeholders whose charters were supposed to show that they owed suit of court.⁵ In the 16th century the homage usually made the presentments; the combined jury made them in the 17th. The only presentments noted in the records edited below of men and women expressly said to be customary tenants and to be absent from court were four made at Charlton in the 1570s and

1 Below, p. 310.

2 Below, p. 110.

3 Below, pp. 329, 335.

4 For the procedure, above, procedure (procedure in the 16th century).

5 Cf. above, the courts (attendance).

1580s and one made there in 1645.¹ If land had been alienated from Brinkworth manor or Charlton manor long before the later 16th century the lord of those manors probably knew little of what obligations to attend his courts appeared on the deeds by which it was held. Some of the free suitors who were amerced were men of much status. They included Sir Robert Long (d. 1581) of South Wraxall and his successors,² Thomas Warneford of Sevenhampton, the lord of Cloatley manor in Hankerton parish,³ and Thomas Estcourt (d. 1599) of Shipton Moyne (Glos.).⁴ Such men, and probably many of the other freeholders, may have been as indifferent to any obligation to attend the courts of Brinkworth or Charlton accepted by them when their deeds were sealed as the lord of those manors was ignorant of it; the appointment of an attorney by Roger Martin was almost certainly exceptional.⁵ The freeholders are also likely to have been indifferent to the ameracements, which were of a few pence, whether or not they were collected. In general, the enforcement of tenurial obligations to attend the courts was apparently a hollow exercise and of little importance. In the earlier 17th century it gradually ceased.

Those who misused or neglected the lord's property were usually presented by the homage in the 16th century and were presented by the combined jurors in the 17th. The lord's property consisted of the soil and the wastes of the manor, the demesne, including the woodland, and the buildings on copyhold land.

Presentments relating to the soil and the wastes were made much more frequently at Brinkworth than at Charlton. There were many presentments that land described as the lord's waste or the lord's common had been encroached on. In some cases a building had been erected or a garden taken in. In 1630 a court at Brinkworth ordered that a cottage built on the waste should be pulled down unless the lord of the manor would allow it to remain standing,⁶ and a court at Charlton in 1636 ordered those who had built or extended what were apparently farmyards on the common to remove them.⁷ In other cases pits had been dug; those called water pits referred to at Brinkworth in 1580 were perhaps ponds from which cattle might drink.⁸ Many of the presentments arose from activities which were equivalent to the causing of public nuisances and were probably of as much concern to the jurors as to the lord.⁹ Encroachments on the waste at Brinkworth in 1638 and 1643 caused the highway to be straitened,¹⁰

1 Below, pp. 276, 280, 293, 305, 408.

2 For Long, *VCH Wiltshire*, vii. 22.

3 *Ibid.* xiv. 97; *Wiltshire Pedigrees* (Harleian Society, cv/cvi), 207.

4 *VCH Gloucestershire*, xi. 250–1.

5 For the appointment, below, pp. 323–4.

6 Below, p. 180.

7 Below, p. 377.

8 Below, p. 150.

9 Cf. above, leet business (public nuisances); below, this section (general nuisances).

10 Below, pp. 207, 228.

and in 1564 the court at Charlton ordered the removal of a stile which had been erected on the lord's soil at Perry green.¹ At Brinkworth in 1625 a committee to consist of the lord's bailiff and three of the jurors was appointed to examine, and estimate the size of, an encroachment on the waste.² The lord's soil was defended in other ways. In 1629 the court at Brinkworth ordered the replacement of marks, which had been washed away, between the meadow land of Brinkworth and Grittenham.³ In 1643 the same court heard that a sluice in the stream which divided Brinkworth and Grittenham manors had caused the water to erode the soil on the Brinkworth side and deposit it on the Grittenham side; it ordered that the sluice should be removed.⁴

Most of those presented because they had misused the demesne had felled trees or had damaged woodland in other ways. Timber trees which stood on copyholds were regarded as part of the demesne: in 1578 the tenants of Brinkworth nevertheless agreed to set an ash, elm, or oak about every 50 ft. in new live hedges which they were to plant.⁵ The customs of 1672, which were evidently observed earlier, record that only the lord had the right to fell such trees. The copyholders were entitled to starved trees, windfalls, tops, and shrouds, and to underwood, thorns, maples, hazels, and willows, but they were prohibited from selling them.⁶ The felling of an elm without licence on a customary holding was presented at Charlton in 1581,⁷ and an elm, the felling of which was presented at Brinkworth in 1634, had probably stood on customary land.⁸ The offence at Charlton was pardoned and the offender was allowed to use the tree to repair buildings on his copyholding.⁹ At Brinkworth a woman who had damaged the lord's wood was presented in 1544 and six people who had damaged the lord's wood growing on the common were presented in 1581.¹⁰ In 1578 the court of Brinkworth ordered that, without licence, no tenant might enter the lord's woodland to cut wood with a bill, hatchet, or other edge tool, although it was permitted to use a crook to pull down rotten boughs.¹¹

Three presentments concerning the waste or demesne may have arisen from mistakes, disputes, or doubts. The felling by a woodward of 100 oaks or more in Brinkworth wood, the lord of Brinkworth manor's part of the woodland called Braydon, was presented in 1570.¹² The wrongful mowing of a part of Lot mead which was probably demesne land was

1 Below, p. 252.

2 Below, p. 160.

3 Below, pp. 172-3.

4 Below, p. 230.

5 Below, p. 138.

6 WSA 88/2/30; cf. *ibid.* 88/2/44.

7 Below, p. 303.

8 Below, p. 197.

9 Below, p. 306.

10 Below, pp. 96, 155.

11 Below, p. 138.

12 Below, p. 106.

presented at Charlton in 1579.¹ The destruction, at the command of the lord of Grittenham manor, of an almshouse built on the waste of Brinkworth manor was presented in 1630,² and in 1632 the Brinkworth court proposed that the lord's bailiff should assign a site for it.³ Another presentment which probably arose from a dispute was made by the homage of Brinkworth in 1580: it was recalled that between 1552 and 1563 an elder Thomas Shearer gave false evidence at Salisbury assizes and that as a result rights to feed animals in common on Brinkworth marsh were lost by the lord and gained by the lord of Grittenham manor.⁴

Copyhold land, including the buildings on it, belonged to the lord of the manor and reverted to him at the end of the period for which his tenants might hold it.⁵ The tenants were obliged to maintain the buildings which were standing when they entered on the land and, at his own expense and as often as necessary, the lord was obliged to provide timber for structural repairs and for new doors and windows. To repair their buildings, and without charge, copyholders were permitted to use sand dug from common pasture and stone quarried from the copyhold land held by him whose building was to be repaired.⁶ Those who allowed their buildings to fall into decay were frequently presented by the homages of Brinkworth and Charlton, and an order to repair each dilapidated building was usually made. The buildings included the principal dwelling houses, sometimes called mansion houses, and outbuildings such as kitchens, barns, oxbouses, and a cowhouse. At Charlton in 1564, at both places in 1574, at Brinkworth again in 1578, and at Charlton again in 1579 general orders were made for copyholders to repair all their houses and other buildings. When the order was repeated at Brinkworth two overseers were appointed to view dilapidations and, at each future court, to present the tenants who were to blame.⁷ Elsewhere in Wiltshire it was apparently the practice for the lord to assign timber for repairs to buildings on copyholds only after the manor court had heard a presentment that repairs were necessary.⁸ That was apparently not the case at Brinkworth and Charlton. Although, when a copyholder was presented for failing to maintain a building, it was sometimes said that the lord's bailiff was to allow sufficient timber for repairs, it is clear that timber was sometimes delivered beforehand. At Charlton in 1564 and at Brinkworth in 1634 and 1646 timber assigned and delivered for repairs was not used promptly; in one case it was allowed to rot and in another it was wrongfully carried away.⁹ The copyholder of Brinkworth who was presented in 1632 for misappropriating the branches

1 Below, p. 296.

2 Below, this section (doubts and disputes); below, p. 180.

3 Below, p. 188.

4 Below, p. 152.

5 Below, this section (copyholds).

6 WSA 88/2/30.

7 For the orders, below, pp. 124, 138, 250–1, 274, 294.

8 WSA 490/1187.

9 Below, pp. 195, 234, 253.

and tops of a tree had converted to his own use those parts of a tree which had been felled on a copyhold not his own and which had been delivered to him to repair his house.¹ The cost of repairs was occasionally estimated; at Charlton in 1570 it was said that £3 would hardly pay for the repair of a house and 40s. for that of another.² There was also an occasional dispute. The lord refused to provide timber to rebuild a house at Brinkworth which had been destroyed by fire, the tenant refused to rebuild the house without the lord's timber, and long afterwards, in 1625, Jane Foscott, the relict of the tenant's son and herself the tenant, still refused to rebuild it.³ The presentment of those whose copyhold buildings needed repair was a regular item of manorial business in the later 16th century and earlier 17th. In an unusual twist, however, Jane Foscott, a widow, presumably she who refused to rebuild at Brinkworth, was presented at the court of Charlton in 1627 because she allowed a house to be built on a copyhold close on which there had previously been no building.⁴

Of the events which took place occasionally, which were presented in the courts of the manor, and which gave rise to payments to the lord the most frequent, and the most profitable to the lord, were the death of customary tenants and the surrender of customary holdings. At most of the combined courts, and in some of the manor courts held separately, the homage presented that one copyholder or more had died in possession of a customary holding or had surrendered the possession of a customary holding, and in most cases that a payment called a heriot had fallen due to the lord on the death or surrender. To explain the origin of the heriot it has been suggested that it symbolized the return of arms given to a man by his lord, the return of stock given with the land when the lord first granted it, the legal theory that all the chattels of a serf belonged to his lord, or a payment made on behalf of the deceased to allow the free disposition of his other possessions.⁵ The custom at Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th and 17th centuries was that a heriot was payable on the death of, or a surrender by, each tenant in possession, including each woman who held for her widowhood as the relict of a tenant who had died in possession. One was not payable on the death of, or a surrender by, a tenant in reversion, and small copyholds, such as cottages or small areas of land with no building on them, and small portions of otherwise undivided copyholds, were also not heriotable.⁶ In most places a heriot took the form of the deceased's best beast or chattel,⁷ and it did so at Brinkworth and Charlton. In those places the best beast was usually an ox

1 Below, p. 185.

2 Below, p. 257.

3 Below, pp. 157-8.

4 Below, pp. 348-9.

5 Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 317.

6 Cf. WSA 88/2/30.

7 e.g. Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, 144.

or a cow, occasionally a horse. The animal was delivered to the lord's bailiff, and the court usually noted its value; valuations ranged between 26s. 8d. and £7. The lord sometimes remitted the heriot, and occasionally in the records a note of a heriot is absent when the circumstances of a surrender suggest that one would have been payable; the absence may have been caused by a clerk's oversight, but it is more likely to have been caused by the compounding of the heriot with the entry fine payable on the regrant of the premises which had been surrendered. Especially if, as was apparently the case at Brinkworth and Charlton, the lord had no demesne farm in hand,¹ the inefficiency of a system in which a beast was transferred from a man who would have to pay to replace it to a man who could only gain by selling it may have been increasingly acknowledged, and increasingly the records refer not to an animal and only to a value. It seems that increasingly money, instead of an animal, was handed to the bailiff in the name of heriot, and when copyhold premises were granted in the 17th century it was often recorded that in future the heriot in respect of the holding would be a certain sum of money. That new system had the advantage that, when a copyhold was divided, the heriot could be apportioned. It appears that few customary tenants who died in possession of a holding lacked an animal. As the best possession of those who did the lord took items such as a malt quern worth 5s. in 1586, a brass cauldron worth 17s. and a flock bed worth 13s. 4d. in 1626, a featherbed, a cupboard, and a bedstead worth a total of £4 5s. in 1631, and two copper pots worth 20s. in 1646.² At Brinkworth in 1578 there were c. 32 customary tenants whose holdings were heriotable; some holdings had grown by the amalgamation of two or three smaller ones, in those cases two or three heriots were due on death or surrender, and a total of 43 heriots were payable.³ At Charlton in 1590 there were 29 customary tenants whose holdings were heriotable, and a total of 31 heriots were payable.⁴ The evidence of the court records is that in an average year 2–3 copyholders died in possession or surrendered possession and that the lord's income from heriots was on average c. £8 a year. Although such a sum was no doubt worthwhile, the lord derived a much larger income from the two manors in other ways, and the commutation of heriots to fixed monetary payments written into the grants of copyhold premises exposed them to long-term devaluation through inflation.

Among the few obligations attached to land of the manor held by free tenants was the payment called a relief, which in theory fell due on the death of every freeholder.⁵ The payment was mentioned only five

1 For the demesnes, above, the manors.

2 Below, pp. 162, 164, 183, 233, 335.

3 WSA 88/2/42.

4 Ibid. 88/2/43.

5 For reliefs, Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, i. 308–12; Tomlins, *Law Dictionary*, s.v. relief.

times in the court records edited below, each time in those of the later 16th century for Charlton. On four occasions it was said to have fallen due on death and on one occasion on a conveyance. The claim for a relief on the conveyance of a freehold was presumably by analogy with the Crown's right to a payment from a tenant for a licence to alienate land held in chief. The relief was equal to the annual rent in three cases, double it in two. None of the payments exceeded 10s., the payment in respect of the freehold of Sir Henry Long (d. 1556) was made three years after his death,¹ and it is clear that to hear presentments that freeholders had died or conveyed their estates was neither an important nor a regular part of manorial business.

In transacting manorial business the courts served the lord's interests in several other minor ways. Payment for pannage for pigs, an item of business which came before the courts without presentment, was recorded at the autumn courts held in the 16th century. At Brinkworth it was made by customary tenants of the manor, and by the rector's tenants, at the rate of 1*d.* for a hog over a year old and ½*d.* for a piglet (called a shot) under that age; nothing was payable for a boar or a sow.² At Charlton payments were made at the same rate, except that for hogs over a year old 1*d.* was paid for each year of its age and, on one occasion only, 1*d.* was paid for each sow and each boar.³ Many of the tenants made payments, at Brinkworth 22 in 1545 and 1546 and 35 in 1578, at Charlton 16 in 1570, 17 in 1572, and 21 in 1578.⁴ Individual payments ranged between 1*d.* and 13*d.*, and total payments between 22*d.* at Charlton in 1559 and 13s. 7*d.* at Brinkworth in 1581.⁵ On average the totals were higher at Brinkworth than at Charlton. Although the lord's woods in the purlieu of Braydon forest remained open to the tenants of the two manors until shortly after 1630⁶ there is no reference to pannage in the records of the courts held in 1625 and later.⁷ In 1573 the court at Brinkworth heard a presentment that two men had not made customary payments which were due to the lord's farmer, and it heard similar presentments in 1574.⁸ When Charlton manor belonged to Malmesbury abbey the obligation to take one cart-load of wood each year from Charlton's part of the purlieu of Braydon forest to Malmesbury was attached to a customary holding, and in 1572 the homage at Charlton presented that the service was worth 12*d.*, implied that it had been commuted, and presented that the payment was four years in arrears; the payment of the 12*d.* was recorded in 1573.

1 Below, pp. 244, 256, 286, 306, 316.

2 WSA 88/2/42.

3 Ibid. 88/2/43.

4 Below, pp. 97, 100, 140, 257, 265, 291.

5 Below, pp. 156, 244.

6 Above, Braydon forest.

7 Cf. above, procedure (procedure in the 17th century).

8 Below, pp. 119, 124.

The notional destination of the wood was later changed to Charlton.¹ In the 1570s and in 1583 the Charlton court ordered that, according to former custom, 12 cows and a bull of the lord or his farmer should feed, in each field that was breached, for 12 hours before the tenants' beasts,² and in 1585 the homage presented that it had heard evidence that 4*d.* a year more rent should be paid for one of the copyholds there than was recorded on a survey.³

Copyholds

By the 16th century the tenure of land granted by a lord of a manor and held at his will according to the custom of the manor had become based on the record made of the grant in the court roll or court book of the manor. A copy of the entry recording the grant, and with it a valid title to the premises granted, was given to the tenant, and the tenure was called copyhold.⁴ At Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th and 17th centuries the possession of copyhold premises was usually granted by the lord to one person. Sometimes the grant was for the life of the grantee alone; in most cases, however, it was for the life of the grantee and for the life of one or two others named in the grant as successors to the grantee. Such grants were called grants in possession. When the life of only one person was named in the grant the premises would revert, under the terms of the grant, to the lord of the manor at that person's death. Much more frequently, when the terms of the grant permitted them to be held in succession by the two or three people named in the grant, the premises would be held first by the grantee, at whose death they would pass to the second person named, at whose death they would pass to the third. If the second person died before the grantee the premises would pass to the third at the death of the grantee; they would revert to the lord as soon as all three lives had ended. The transfer of the premises from a grantee or a grantee's successor back to the lord, or from one person named in the grant to another named in it, was, however, delayed if a male tenant who died in possession had a wife at the time of his death. In such a case the relict held the premises until, on her death, they passed to the lord or to the next surviving nominee.

On the making of a grant in possession a fine, sometimes called an entry fine, was paid to the lord, who admitted the grantee to the premises. The grantee performed an act of fealty to the lord and became liable to pay a yearly rent. In the 16th and 17th centuries rents were low, having apparently been fixed by custom before the mid 16th-century inflation. Fines, however, were variable, the level of them apparently being the subject of negotiation between the lord and his prospective tenant.

1 WSA 88/2/46; below, pp. 264, 271, 413.

2 Below, pp. 273-4, 287, 317.

3 Below, p. 331.

4 There are many legal treatises relating to copyhold: e.g. E. Coke, *Compleat Copyholder*; C. Watkins, *Treatise on Copyholds*; Tomlins, *Law Dictionary*, s.v. copyhold.

A tenant in possession might, in his lifetime and if he wished, return his copyhold premises to the lord by performing an act of surrender. Such a surrender may sometimes have been unconditional. Much more often it was almost certainly part of an agreed course of action arranged in advance between the lord and the tenant in possession. In the records edited below there is an example of a surrender to a use formally expressed¹ and there are several examples of a surrender being made on an expressed condition that the premises surrendered would be re-granted on specified terms; each was followed by a re-grant made according to the terms of the surrender,² and nearly all the other surrenders were also followed by an immediate re-grant on terms which were almost certainly those requested by the tenant who surrendered the premises. The re-grant need not have been made to him who surrendered the premises. Such surrenders and re-grants enabled the tenant in possession to convey the premises to a successor, whether previously nominated or not, or to substitute the person or persons who were to succeed him with a new person or new persons. They were probably made mostly to replace a previously nominated successor who had died, to effect a new family settlement, or to give security to a lender. Unless, as happened increasingly in the 18th century, the lord wished to bring copyhold land in hand with a view to re-letting it at rack rent, surrenders and re-grants on agreed terms were acceptable to him because not only was a heriot paid on the surrender but a new variable fine was paid on the re-grant.

In addition to accepting surrenders of premises on agreed terms and re-granting them on those terms, the lord of the manor also granted copyhold premises in reversion. The essence of a grant in reversion was that, on surrender by the tenant in possession and by his surviving successor or successors nominated in the previous grant, or on the death of the last tenant in possession or on forfeiture or surrender by him, the premises would revert not to the lord but to the new grantee. It follows that, if copyhold premises had been granted in reversion, they could not be the subject of a re-grant following a surrender. A grant in reversion, like a grant in possession, was usually made to one person to be held for life by him and for life in turn by a named successor or two named successors. The reversion and afterwards the possession of the premises were to pass, on death, forfeiture, or surrender, to the survivor or survivors of those named in the grant of the reversion in the order in which they were named. As in the case of the possession of the premises, and for similar reasons, the reversion might be surrendered on terms agreed with the lord and re-granted. A heriot was not paid on such a surrender, but a variable fine was paid on the re-grant.

A copyholder might forfeit his premises if, subject to the custom of the manor, he did something incompatible with the relationship in

1 Below, p. 109.

2 e.g. below, pp. 109, 120.

which he stood to the lord of the manor or refused to comply with the terms of the grant to him.¹ Forfeiture was rare, and only twice in the records edited below are copyhold premises said to have been forfeited. The copyholder said to have given false evidence at Salisbury assizes against the lord of the manor forfeited his holding at Brinkworth,² and in 1559 a widow forfeited holdings there because she failed to claim them within a year and a day after her husband's death. By his grace, and on a special condition, the lord of the manor annulled that forfeiture by the widow.³ On two occasions, when a tenant sued another tenant in the court of Malmesbury hundred and when the elm was felled in 1581, the court and the steward may have discussed whether the offender should forfeit his holding, and on a third, when a copyholder sublet, forfeiture was threatened, but it appears that on none of the occasions were premises forfeited.⁴

In addition to grants of the premises, in possession or in reversion, the lord also granted licences to sublet. The custom of both Brinkworth and Charlton manors forbade copyholders to sublet their premises for any period exceeding a year and a day and imposed other restrictions on subletting.⁵ The lord, however, frequently licensed copyholders to put in place as an undertenant anyone they wished, to substitute that undertenant with any other, and to sublet for periods exceeding a year and a day; he did so notwithstanding the custom of the manor.

The two customals, that for Charlton dated 1672, and that undated and possibly an earlier one for Brinkworth, laid down rules on how copyholds were granted and succeeded to. They embody a *quasi* case-law of conveyancing in the two manor courts, and it is clear from the records edited below that many of the rules were in force in the 16th century and earlier 17th. The following are examples of the rules. If a grantee paid the whole entry fine himself he could, by a new grant to him following a surrender, cut off the right to succeed him enjoyed by those whose lives were the second or third named in the first grant. On the other hand, if two or three contributed to the entry fine and were both or all named in the grant, they were both or all deemed to be grantees and none of them could defeat the title of the other or others by a surrender. The court records show that grants to threesomes were unexceptional. A reversion might not be granted in reversion: none is known to have been. If a copyhold were granted to a man who wished his child or children to succeed him in turn the name or names of the child or children must be included for the grant to be effective; if in the engrossment a blank or blanks were left to be filled in later the grant would be void. If a woman

1 Watkins, *Treatise on Copyholds* (1826 edn.), 499–544.

2 Below, p. 152.

3 Below, p. 102.

4 Below, pp. 300, 303, 398.

5 Cf. below, this section (commonable land).

copyholder took a husband she would remain the tenant without any diminution of her rights and, contrary to a form of words used to record grants, the customs ruled that an unchaste widow should retain possession of the copyhold premises held by her husband at his death. The loss of a copy by misfortune would not take away the rights of those named in it. Other rules gave rights to executors and protected those of infants. All were designed, or at least tended, to clarify and make predictable the costs and benefits of copyhold tenure to both the lord and his tenants.¹

The granting of copyholds for life to three people in succession, variable entry fines, the acceptance of voluntary surrenders to agreed uses and the making of re-grants to perform those uses, the granting of premises in reversion to three people in succession, the granting of licences to sublet, and the existence of clear rules embodied in custom gave to copyhold tenure a subtlety, sophistication, and flexibility which historians have perhaps underestimated. The lord's interest was protected by the negotiability of the fine, the level of which may have been determined by factors such as the agricultural value of the land and the desirability of the buildings on it, the length of time that had elapsed and the number of lives that had ended since the last fine was paid, the ages of survivors whose lives were named in the preceding grant, and the ages of people to be named in the new grant and thus the time likely to pass before another fine might have to be paid. A lord in urgent need of money might offer re-grants with fines set at a level to attract surrenders from tenants who were the second or third in possession under a previous grant, or he might offer grants in reversion on terms attractive to long-term investors in land; a lord with sufficient capital and an ambition to bring copyhold land in hand so as to grant it on short leases at rack rent might re-grant copyholds or grant reversions of copyholds only if very high fines were paid. A good tenant might be helped by a low fine, a bad tenant penalized by a high fine. For the tenant or prospective tenant copyhold tenure as it was in the 16th and 17th centuries provided opportunities to make and alter family settlements and, probably, to offer their holdings as collateral security. If an eldest son who had been nominated to succeed his father as the tenant in possession of a copyhold was not a farmer and perhaps prospered in another walk of life he may nevertheless have retained the holding after his father's death and have sublet it, and from such a situation it was a short step to one in which the tenant in possession and his two successors, and the tenant in reversion and his two successors, were investors in landed property rather than small-scale farmers. The flexibility of copyhold tenure was enhanced by the freedom with which holdings could be divided and land exchanged. Land or buildings could be detached from one holding and added to another by means of a surrender and a re-grant in each of which they were specified, provided that agreed adjustments were made to the rents and heriots payable to the lord and

1 WSA 88/2/30.

that an entry fine was successfully negotiated, and there are many examples of the possession of land of equal value being exchanged between tenant and tenant and between the lord of the manor and his tenants. There were probably an infinite number of different circumstances in which copyhold premises were granted, surrendered, re-granted, or granted in reversion and, although the grants and surrenders were recorded in words used according to formulae, the words and formulae could be adapted to effect any intention, and special conditions affecting the tenure or the use of the land or buildings could be added.

Much land in Brinkworth and Charlton was held by copy in the 16th century and earlier 17th and the court rolls and books record the dealings in it. The immediate motives of those accepting grants of it or surrendering it are not expressly stated, but the dealings are clearly those of men and women, probably already of some standing, investing for the future prosperity of themselves and their families.

Commonable Land

Although there had been a general inclosure at Brinkworth by 1573 or 1580,¹ parts of the open fields at Charlton had been inclosed by the earlier 17th century,² and the purlieu of Braydon forest were inclosed soon after 1630,³ there remained much land at Brinkworth and Charlton used in common. At Brinkworth there remained a 200-acre pasture called the Marsh on which sheep were fed, small greens and wide lanes were used as common pastures, and Brinkworth common, c. 250 acres, was allotted to the copyholders and freeholders at the inclosure of the purlieu and used in common.⁴ In the early 17th century at Charlton there was 678 acres of open-field land, a small amount of which was apparently used as meadow land assigned in portions to the tenants each year by lot; the Moor, 20 acres, the Heath, 30 acres, and the Inner down, 10 acres, were common pastures. In addition there were lanes and waste ground grazed in common, and the 400 acres of pasture allotted to the copyholders and freeholders at the inclosure of the purlieu was used in common.⁵

The way in which commonable land was used was dictated by custom, and those who used it in a way which contravened custom might be presented in the combined court or the manor court. In the 16th century the presentments were usually made by the homage and sometimes by the bailiff, in the 17th century only by the combined jurors. In addition the court might make orders to overturn or vary existing custom or to introduce new rules; the variations and new rules might be *ad hoc* and temporary but most were general and apparently intended to be permanent.

1 Below, pp. 118, 153.

2 *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 45.

3 Above, Braydon forest.

4 *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 20; WSA 88/2/44.

5 *VCH Wiltshire*, xiv. 44–5; WSA 88/2/43; 88/2/46.

For example, at Brinkworth in 1634 an order was made that cattle feeding in the lanes should be restricted to that part of them against which the ground of their owners abutted; the order was repeated in 1637 and 1638.¹ The orders were usually backed by penalties for failing to obey them. At both Brinkworth and Charlton most of those who offended by misusing commonable land had overstocked the open fields or common pastures or had allowed sheep or beasts to feed where or when they should not have fed, and most of the orders concerned the feeding of animals. In 1628 two men were given 24 hours to remove many horses from a common pasture in Brinkworth.² Both courts determined how beasts feeding on the commonable land should be marked,³ and the Charlton court laid down how the cost of paying wages to a mole catcher was to be shared.⁴ A few orders written in the court records were there marked void:⁵ it is not clear whether they never came into force or whether they were in force temporarily and marked void when rescinded.

At Charlton, where open-field cultivation lasted longer than at Brinkworth, the court not only made orders to control the cultivation and pasturing of the open fields but also concerned itself with boundaries within them. It made orders that the homage, some part of it, or those, called fieldmen, who held land in the open fields should set merestones where necessary between the strips in the fields. It also ordered the homage to survey the boundaries between lands and to settle disputes arising from exchanges of lands. In 1638 and 1643 it ordered the fieldmen to make a general inspection of the defaults in the fields.⁶ The court likewise concerned itself with the boundaries around the common pastures. In 1639 it ordered that the boundaries which the common pastures of Charlton shared with Garsdon should be amended and, to pay for the work and the carriage of materials, it appointed the jury to levy a rate among those entitled to feed animals in the pastures.⁷ Similar orders to raise money for repairs to the boundaries of the common pastures were made again in 1639, in 1641, and in 1647.⁸

As part of the general management of commonable land by the manor court a pair of overseers of the commons was appointed at Brinkworth in 1636⁹ and overseers of the fields were sometimes appointed at Charlton.¹⁰ Offences at Charlton were sometimes recorded as presentments of the overseers and sometimes, while overseers were in office, there was presumably a system of double presentment under which the

1 Below, pp. 195, 204, 207.

2 Below, p. 170.

3 Below, pp. 201, 317, 376, 388.

4 Below, pp. 300, 304.

5 Below, p. 310.

6 Below, pp. 384, 405.

7 Below, p. 387.

8 Below, pp. 390, 396, 413-14.

9 Below, p. 201.

10 Below, officers, where the functions of the overseers are discussed.

overseers passed information to the homage, the bailiff, or the combined jurors to present to the court.

Animals found to be feeding where they ought not to be were to be impounded, and they were presumably to remain in the pound until claimed by their owner, who might be amerced or liable to pay damages. The animals were to be impounded whether they were found on land in severalty or on commonable land, and the homage, in managing the commonable land, by extension concerned itself with the pound. To be useful the pound had to be in good repair, and the homage sometimes presented that it was not so and that the lord of the manor should maintain it at his own expense. It also had to be respected, and the homage often presented that it had been unlawfully broken open and that animals had been unlawfully removed from it.

Also by extension as part of the management of the commonable land the homage presented those who sublet copyhold premises in a way which was contrary to the custom of the manor, and it likewise presented those who caused general nuisances.¹ In the 1570s the custom at both Brinkworth and Charlton dictated that, without the lord's licence, no subletting might be for a period exceeding a year and a day. At Brinkworth no stranger should be an undertenant unless no tenant of Brinkworth manor would accept the undertenancy at a reasonable rent; to be a stranger presumably meant to hold no land directly of the lord of the manor and to live away from the manor. At Charlton subletting to anyone but a tenant of the manor was prohibited unless a special licence had been granted in advance by the lord.² The customs prohibiting unlicensed subletting may have evolved to reduce the risk that buildings would become dilapidated and the lord's interests thus harmed³ and to prevent the introduction of husbandmen who would not understand or respect the customs and rules governing the use of commonable land. In the late 16th century and earlier 17th most presentments that copyholders had sublet premises without licence were probably made as attempts to reduce the risk that the parish would have to relieve paupers and their children,⁴ but the homage may still have made some of them to make commonable land easier to manage.

Some copyholders with rights to feed animals in the common pastures in effect sublet those rights by substituting animals of others for animals of their own. The practice was sometimes called joisting in, and it was prohibited by orders made at Charlton in 1578, 1579, and 1641⁵ and at Brinkworth in 1644.⁶ The substitute animals were sometimes called

1 General nuisances are discussed below, this section.

2 Below, pp. 138, 281, 286–7.

3 The lord's interests are discussed above, this section.

4 Cf. above, leet jurisdiction (other statutory offences).

5 Below, pp. 292, 294, 396.

6 Below, p. 231.

joistments. The prohibitions were presumably intended to reduce the difficulty of managing the common pastures and to deter overstocking, and the homage often presented men who had allowed the animals of others to feed on the commons. In 1645, for example, a copyholder of Charlton was amerced £5 for overstocking the commons with more than 200 joisted-in sheep.¹ The courts also prohibited copyholders from subletting their rights to feed animals in the common pastures while retaining their land. At Brinkworth in the 1630s the court amerced a man for failing to obey its order not to sublet his common feeding rights separately from his land,² and in 1636 the Charlton court ordered that feeding rights in common pastures might be sublet only to those who held feeding rights of their own in them.³ At other times the Charlton court was slightly more relaxed. In 1583 it ordered that the right to feed an animal on a common pasture might be sublet to a stranger, but only if no inhabitant of the parish would give 12*d.* or more for it.⁴ In 1648, concerned that strangers might overstock the common pastures, it forbade tenants to sublet their rights of common to strangers; the order, however, was for one year and for no longer if the tenants disliked it.⁵

Many nuisances, such as unscoured ditches and defective boundaries, whether caused on public land, commonable land, or several land, could impede the cultivation of open fields or the use of commonable pastures. The perpetrators of them were often presented.⁶

The manor court, mainly through presentments made by the homage, enforced, varied, and refined the customs regulating the use of the commonable land, but it did not impede inclosure of it. An order that pathways and driftways should be stopped was evidently made by the homage of Brinkworth as part of an inclosure award and was confirmed by the court in 1573,⁷ and in 1579 the homage asked the court to reaffirm all the orders concerning inclosure.⁸ At Charlton in 1572 the court ordered each man to inclose his land in an open field, in 1583 it ordered that holdings in the open fields should be consolidated as larger parcels, and in 1637, 1641, and 1647 it ordered that closes should be made in another open field.⁹ The first four of those orders were apparently not carried out, but the inclosure of a new park in the 1570s and of a new rabbit warren in the 1580s were effected partly by exchanges recorded in the court rolls and court books,¹⁰ and piecemeal inclosure of the open fields was recognized and apparently not discouraged.¹¹

1 Below, p. 408.

3 Below, p. 377.

5 Below, p. 416.

7 Below, p. 118.

8 Below, p. 147.

9 Below, pp. 262, 318, 382, 398, 413.

10 e.g. below, pp. 270, 276-7, 282, 314, 316.

11 e.g. below, p. 377.

2 Below, pp. 201-2.

4 Below, p. 317.

6 Below, this section.

General Nuisances

Presentments were frequently made at Brinkworth and Charlton in order to reduce the incidence of nuisances. The nuisances can be classified as those affecting public land,¹ those affecting the lord's interests,² those affecting commonable land,³ and those detracting in a general way from convenient and profitable use of the land and from good order, safety, and high standards in everyday life. The lines between the classes cannot be easily drawn and, however they could be classified, in the 16th century more nuisances were presented by the homage than by the jurors for the Crown; in the 17th century all the presentments were made by the combined jurors.

The courts dealt with a wide variety of nuisances which, in a general way, affected the use of the land. They heard many presentments and made many orders about boundaries, the hedges, ditches, banks, fences, and walls which made them, and the gates which stood in them. The word mound, frequently used in the records, seems to have meant a boundary, or a bank, hedge, or fence which made one. There were many presentments about watercourses and bridges, including some about throcks and grips, and many about lanes, about ways less than highways, about driftways, about footpaths and the stiles which they crossed, and about rights of way. Most of the orders were for named men and women to amend specified nuisances. For example, stiles were said to have been wrongfully set up, taken down, or moved and those responsible were ordered to make amends, footpaths were said to have been wrongfully stopped or used, and orders were made to fill pits. All such presentments and orders were *ad hoc*. Many other orders were general. At Charlton in 1563 it was ordered that each tenant should make and repair his hedges, ditches, and mounds around three open fields,⁴ at Brinkworth in 1574 each tenant was ordered to repair, amend, or scour all his hedges, ditches, gates, bridges, ways, mounds, and fences,⁵ and at Charlton in 1583 each man, presumably each man holding land bounded or crossed by it, was ordered to scour a certain watercourse between two named points and to make it 8 feet wide.⁶ Sometimes the homage was ordered to inspect a nuisance or an alleged nuisance and to take or order remedial action. For example, in 1573 the homage of Brinkworth was ordered to view and to turn a watercourse.⁷ Usually, however, inspections by the homage were ordered as a prelude to the resolution of a dispute or uncertainty rather than the amelioration of a nuisance.⁸

Nuisances related less closely to agriculture and more to general good order included those caused by earth left in the street at Charlton

1 Cf. above, leet business (public nuisances).

2 Cf. above, this section.

4 Below, pp. 247–8.

6 Below, p. 314.

8 Cf. below, this section (doubts and disputes).

3 Cf. above, this section.

5 Below, p. 124.

7 Below, pp. 120–1.

and by an open quarry and an open pit.¹ Some orders, such as those placing restrictions on unringed pigs² and on bitches in season,³ that prohibiting the placing of carcasses in streams,⁴ and that prohibiting the carrying of fires out of houses at night,⁵ were like bylaws in towns.

Presentments and orders intended to reduce the incidence of nuisances were made throughout the period for which the court records edited below are extant. In the second court for which there is a record, that for Brinkworth in January 1545, men were presented for not having made a stile, mounds, and a watercourse, and a man was presented for not having scoured a ditch;⁶ at the last, that for Brinkworth held in September 1648, men were presented because they had not scoured ditches and had not removed a gate, and a man was ordered to scour a ditch which was a nuisance to travellers.⁷ Two typical courts in the interim were those held at Charlton in September 1585 and at Brinkworth in September 1630. At the first a man was presented for preventing the use of a right of way and another man was presented for encroaching on a way, the order against the carrying of fire was repeated, a general order was made for the repair of mounds, hedges, and ditches around an open field, and *ad hoc* orders were made for a common way to be amended, mounds to be made, and a stile to be set up in a processional way.⁸ At the second a woman was presented for denying a right of way through her barton and *ad hoc* orders were made for a hedge to be cut and a ditch scoured, a stile to be set up, a ditch to be scoured and a throck laid, a third ditch to be scoured, a way to be amended and banks thrown up so that travellers might pass, and a gate to be repaired.⁹ The presentment of nuisances did not become stereotyped, and to receive them was a large part of the business of the courts in the 16th century and earlier 17th.

Doubts and Disputes

In most aspects of manorial business matters of doubt sometimes arose. There might be doubts over what rights the lord had in respect of his neighbours or tenants and, in respect of copyhold tenure and the use of commonable land, over what the customs of the manor were and how they should be interpreted. Simple disputes arose from inclosure or exchange of land, over boundaries, and over who should occupy a particular plot of land or rectify a public or private nuisance. Various other matters required clarification. The courts often referred doubts, disputes, and uncertainties to the homage for resolution and required it to view nuisances

1 Below, pp. 356-7, 383, 398.

2 e.g. below, pp. 318, 353-4.

3 Below, p. 294.

4 Below, p. 268.

5 Below, p. 317.

6 Below, p. 97.

7 Below, pp. 240-2.

8 Below, pp. 330-1.

9 Below, p. 180.

and disputed lands. In the matters referred to them the men of the homage had the power to take decisions and, through the court, to make orders.

At Charlton in 1585 a question arose where the boundary of Charlton and Hankerton ran in the vicinity of the Down lane, and evidence of events of the earlier 1520s was taken to show that it followed a watercourse called Lox brook; the homage presented that the Down lane was a queen's highway and part of the manor, and it presented the boundaries of Charlton, including Lox brook, as a matter of record.¹ Sir Henry Knyvett was the lord of both Charlton and Hankerton manors and the question was therefore not a dispute between neighbouring lords, but it reveals how, by the actions of the homage, doubt about the extent of a manor could be resolved in the manor court. The question was not rehearsed in the records of the Hankerton court. The woodward who felled 100 oaks claimed by the lord of Brinkworth manor may have been acting for the Crown as owner of Braydon forest or for the lord of another manor and a boundary dispute may have lain at the heart of the matter, which came before the Brinkworth court in 1570.² Likewise, a dispute over the boundary between Brinkworth manor and Grittenham manor may have been implied by the presentment in 1630 that the lord of Grittenham manor had ordered the destruction of the almshouse built by the churchwardens and overseers of Brinkworth parish on what was said to be the land of Brinkworth manor.³ The lord of Grittenham's objection to the building was probably that it was erected on his soil and not on the lord of Brinkworth's although, Grittenham lying in Brinkworth parish, it may have been that he was unwilling to fund generous provision for paupers of Brinkworth through his rates; he was anyway amerced in the Brinkworth court.

There are several examples of the homage resolving, or being asked to resolve, disputes, or matters in doubt, between the lord and his free tenants. Doubt about the holdings of the rector of Brinkworth may have been removed at the court of Brinkworth in 1544 when it was presented that the rector was a free tenant of Brinkworth manor in respect of four tenements there which had been given to Brinkworth church since the Statute of Mortmain was enacted.⁴ In 1580 the homage of Brinkworth removed any doubt about the church house there by presenting that it was held by the parishioners, that the churchwardens had the deeds, and that a rent of 6*d.* was paid to the lord of the manor for it.⁵ Several disputes between the lord and his free tenants came before the Charlton court. One concerned a tree standing on the boundary of Anthony Martin's freehold land in 1565,⁶ one concerned 1½ acre which in 1573 Giles Roberts occupied and claimed as part of his freehold,⁷ and one concerned

1 Below, pp. 326–7.

3 Below, p. 180.

5 Below, p. 152.

7 Below, p. 271.

2 Below, p. 106.

4 Below, p. 96.

6 Below, p. 255.

land near Charlton church of which some was claimed by the lord and some by Sir Robert Long as part of his freehold in 1579;¹ in 1574 the homage confessed itself completely ignorant who had the better right to the 1½ acre.²

Doubts over the content and exact meaning of the customs of the manor may have been what prompted the manor court of Charlton in 1564 to order the tenants to prepare a written customal.³ In some cases concerning custom, such as the confirmation that a grant of copyhold premises made out of court was void unless afterwards made public in the court,⁴ the issues were simple and probably uncontentious. A knottier problem arose in 1573: if a copyhold in possession were held by A and B for life in succession and the reversion after the death of A, but not after the death of B, were granted to C, and if A were to die before B, would the reversion be extinguished by the death of A or would C enter on the premises after the death of B?⁵ The problem may have concerned Hugh Waters's copyhold, which John Waters held in reversion: in 1575 the homage said that it had never seen the like of Hugh's copy (or perhaps John's).⁶ In 1642 the combined jury of Brinkworth presented that by the custom of the manor a copyhold tenant in possession, or the executor of a copyholder who died in possession, was free to remove from the farmhouse on the holding all the fittings which were not pinned or nailed to the timber of the house and none of those which were.⁷ The courts also heard presentments and made orders which clarified the customs of the manors in the use of commonable land. In 1576 the homage of Charlton presented what the custom was in relation to the cutting of furze on the Inner down,⁸ in 1578 the homage of Brinkworth presented what the custom was governing the use of the Lammas meadow there,⁹ and in 1637 the court of Charlton ordered that the custom relating to the opening of the Lammas down should be observed.¹⁰

Disputes or uncertainties over inclosure, exchange, or occupation of land were routinely referred to the homage, as were boundary disputes of all sorts, and the parties concerned were required to accept the homage's verdict. For example, at Brinkworth in 1572 the court ordered the homage to fix the boundaries between parcels of demesne land held by two separate tenants, and in 1573 one of the tenants forfeited a penalty because he refused to accept the homage's judgement or to obey its order.¹¹ In 1580

1 Below, p. 297.

2 Below, p. 274.

3 Below, p. 252; for this paragraph, cf. above, this section (the custom of the manor).

4 Below, p. 254.

5 Below, p. 271.

6 Below, p. 279.

7 Below, p. 225.

8 Below, p. 283.

9 Below, p. 141.

10 Below, p. 380.

11 WSA 88/2/42; below, pp. 116, 119.

the homage apparently suspected, or had been informed, that too much land had been allotted to John London at the general inclosure, and it presented that, if by measurement the allotment was found to be too much, London should give up the excess.¹ In 1631–2 the homage viewed a gate about which there was a dispute between two tenants and ordered one of them to repair it and to avoid a nuisance by laying a throck through which water could pass.² In 1640 a panel of jurors was ordered to decide whether trees growing on the shore of a ditch were lawfully felled in the process of making boundary mounds.³ At Charlton in 1573 each of two tenants was found by the homage to be occupying a strip of open-field land which was rightfully appurtenant to another's holding, in 1581 a dispute arising from an exchange of land between two tenants was referred to the homage and settled by agreement, and in 1583 the homage held special meetings to end disputes and uncertainties arising from exchanges of land.⁴ The homage was not omniscient. In 1578 a long dispute concerning a stile and a right of way was referred to that of Charlton and, although the homage found that there was no public right of way, it declared itself ignorant of whether one tenant had a right of way across another's close.⁵

Other matters to come before the courts included the terms of a trust under which money was to be paid to the children of a man who in 1572 was probably a deceased tenant of Brinkworth,⁶ and in 1580 the appointment of men to value the land of a minor and replace the existing tenant with him who would pay the highest rent.⁷ Perhaps not least, in 1645 the jurymen of Brinkworth reminded the farmer that it was the custom of the manor for him to provide them with their dinner on the court day.⁸

COMMITTEES

Manorial business, in addition to that consisting of actions referred to adjudicators,⁹ was sometimes committed to small groups of men for consideration or resolution. Such committees consisted of between two and six men, usually members of the homage. Matters concerning boundaries, encroachment on the lord's waste, and exchanges of land were referred to them. At Charlton members of committees were also called upon to make *ad hoc* decisions about the use of commonable land. In 1578 a committee was asked to judge the abatement of the number of

1 Below, p. 153.

3 Below, pp. 214, 216.

4 Below, pp. 266–7, 308, 314, 316; and cf. p. 322.

5 Below, p. 288.

6 Below, p. 116.

8 Below, p. 232.

9 Cf. above, procedure (procedure in the 16th century).

2 Below, pp. 184–5.

7 Below, p. 149.

beasts feeding in the Hay field to be suffered by those who inclosed land there,¹ and in April 1636 a committee was asked to judge how many cattle each man had kept in the previous winter so that it might be known who had overstocked the common pasture in the following summer.² A court held at Charlton in 1583 nominated a committee of four to ensure that beasts feeding in common were properly marked, one of three to oversee the feeding of sheep in the wheat field, and one of four to set merestones in the open fields.³

OFFICERS

The frankpledge system and the presentment of offenders under leet jurisdiction and statute required local officers. Such officers included a tithingman, a constable, weighers of bread, and tasters of ale and, if the lord of a manor held a view of frankpledge and exercised leet jurisdiction, they were usually nominated in his view of frankpledge. The management of manors on which there were open fields and copyhold tenants required other officers. Such officers included a steward and a bailiff, who were usually paid agents of the lord, and a hayward and a reeve, who were usually drawn from the tenantry and, although sometimes rewarded or compensated, were usually unsalaried;⁴ the officers drawn from the tenantry were usually nominated in the court of the manor.

In the earlier Middle Ages the surety and police duties of a tithing were done, in areas where there were several tithings in a village, under the direction of the chief pledges; in areas, including Wiltshire, where a tithing consisted of all the men of a village or other area of settlement, they were done under the direction of the tithingman.⁵ The Statute of Winchester and other medieval legislation had the effect of removing police duties from the chief pledges and concentrating them in the hands of an officer called a constable. The constable had to deal with misdemeanors in which an actual breach of the peace had occurred by pursuing and arresting offenders and investigating the offences,⁶ and he probably had the right to distrain and attach; in the 16th century, instead of taking the surety of a miscreant himself, he was required to conduct the miscreant to a justice of the peace to give surety. The constable did not, however, make presentments at a private view of frankpledge in which leet jurisdiction was exercised:⁷ that remained the duty of the

1 Below, p. 288.

2 Below, p. 376.

3 Below, pp. 317-18.

4 For the manorial officers, Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, 157-81.

5 Morris, *Frankpledge System*, 90, 105.

6 For the constable in the Middle Ages, see e.g. H. M. Cam, 'Shire Officials: Coroners, Constables, and Bailiffs', *English Government at Work*, ed. J. F. Willard, W. A. Morris, and W. H. Dunham Jr. (Medieval Academy of America, lxvi), 169-71.

7 W. Lambard, 'Duties of Constables', *Eirenarcha* (1599 edn.), 10-53.

chief pledges or the tithingman. In Wiltshire in the Middle Ages police duties were already in the hands of a single officer, the tithingman, and in some places there that situation continued, no constable was appointed, and the tithingman acted as a constable.¹ In other places in Wiltshire a constable was appointed and the duties of the tithingman were consequently much reduced. In the 16th and 17th centuries there were at Brinkworth both a constable and a tithingman; at Charlton there was only a tithingman. The reasons for the difference are not obvious. There was a constable at Brinkworth in 1545² but, the extant records of Malmesbury abbey being few, for how long before then there had been one is obscure. The only obviously different local circumstance was that, although its church was dependent on Westport's, Charlton was in effect a parish consisting of a single tithing whereas Brinkworth parish included two tithings, Brinkworth and Grittenham.³ It is possible that the lord of Grittenham manor was content to see the police functions of the Grittenham tithingman transferred to a tenant of Brinkworth manor nominated as constable at the Brinkworth court, but it seems equally possible that the difference arose from nothing more than rational or irrational local preference. In the Middle Ages, and in towns after the Middle Ages, weighers of bread and tasters of ale were officers frequently appointed to fulfill the functions implied by their titles. When the lord of a manor had the liberty to enforce the assize of bread and of ale the weighers and the tasters were probably appointed at his court and took information about bakers and brewers back to it; they may have presented offenders themselves or, in a system of double presentment, have passed the information to the jurors to enable the jury to make the presentments.⁴ By the 16th century the presentment of breaches of the assizes at Brinkworth and Charlton had become a hollow exercise and apparently weighers and tasters were not usually appointed. The choice of two men as overseers of the assize of bread and of ale at Brinkworth in 1578⁵ is the only reference to such officers in the records edited below. Medieval legislation implied the appointment of officers to oversee the quality and price of other foodstuffs and of goods, and an Act of 1532–3 expressly permitted the lords of markets to appoint searchers and sealers of leather.⁶ Such officers were active mainly in towns⁷ and were presumably not normally needed at Brinkworth and Charlton. The

1 Cf. *Quarter Sessions and Assizes, 1736*, ed. J. P. M. Fowle (W.R.S. xi); *Minutes of Proceedings in Sessions*, ed. H. C. Johnson (W.R.S. iv), 71–3, 75, 83.

2 Below, p. 97; for the question of a constable at Charlton, above, leet jurisdiction (other statutory offences).

3 For Grittenham as a tithing, *Minutes of Proceedings in Sessions* (W.R.S. iv), 31, 43.

4 Cf. Hearnshaw, *Leet Jurisdiction*, 91–2.

5 Below, p. 142.

6 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 417–19.

7 For officers at Downton, Ramsbury, Amesbury, Great Bedwyn, and Calne, *VCH Wiltshire*, xi. 44; xii. 41; xv. 49; xvi. 42; xvii. 97.

Act of 1532-3 required leather sold in a market to bear the mark of a seal,¹ and the choice of two sealers, presumably of leather, was recorded at Charlton in 1626.² That record is the only reference to such officers at either place and is difficult to account for; perhaps the word *consignatores* was used in error.

In the mid and later 16th century and the earlier 17th the constable and the tithingman between them at Brinkworth and the tithingman at Charlton did the police duties of the constable, which by then had been well defined, and dealt with the vestiges of the frankpledge system. The tithingman fulfilled more functions in the 16th century than in the 17th. As vestiges of the frankpledge system he gave court-silver to the lord in court, presented absentees, and possibly introduced the young men who took the oath of allegiance; he had probably himself collected the contributions to the court-silver.³ Under leet jurisdiction he presented those who were guilty of assault, bakers, brewers, tipplers, butchers, and at Charlton millers, that stray animals had been received, and at Brinkworth those who had played bowls unlawfully.⁴ Sometimes it was recorded that the taking of stray animals was presented by a man or men other than the tithingman and sometimes that presentments usually made by the tithingman were made by the jurors, and generally it seems that presentment by the tithingman was in decline in the later 16th century. In the 17th century, when even the vestiges of the frankpledge system had all but disappeared, the tithingman made no presentment to the courts. The most onerous of the burdens carried by constables and tithingmen were probably the police duties: not only had the constable or tithingman to investigate local crimes and arrest local criminals⁵ but, under a statute of 1530-1, he had to arrest vagabonds and idle persons and take them to a justice of the peace.⁶ The responsibility of the tithingman to report animals which had been received as strays may also have been onerous. When from time to time a drift of the common pastures was undertaken the tithingman shared with the hayward and the bailiff the duty of summoning men to it and probably the duty of leading it;⁷ animals which should not have been fed on the common pastures, and which were found there at the drift, may have been among those which, at the court, the tithingman presented as strays.

The officers who dealt with the business of the manor and were frequently mentioned in the court records of Brinkworth and Charlton

1 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 417-19.

2 Below, p. 343.

3 Above, frankpledge business.

4 Above, leet business (assaults; strays, forfang, forage; bread and ale; butchers and millers; other statutory offences).

5 Lambard, 'Duties of Constables', *Eirenarcha*, 11-18.

6 *Statutes of the Realm*, iii. 328-32.

7 Below, pp. 331, 377, 388, 396.

were the steward, the reeve, the hayward, and the bailiff. The steward, as an agent of the lord, presided over the courts, presumably negotiated the terms on which copyholds were granted, and formally conveyed premises to the tenants. In the later 16th century he was Griffin Curtis, from 1625 or earlier to 1645 John Platt, and from 1646 Henry Stephens; Platt sometimes and Stephens once were replaced by deputies. The duties of the reeve seem to have been primarily fiscal. He was sometimes described as the lord's receiver and sometimes as his rent collector,¹ and it is likely that, with the exception of heriots and entry fines, and before the 17th century of court-silver, all payments made by the tenants to the lord passed through his hands. Such payments included those for pannage, the small rents paid annually for copyholds, and amercements imposed by the courts. In 1575, at both Brinkworth and Charlton, the reeve was ordered to render his account between Michaelmas and Christmas each year.² The reeve made no presentment to the court. The hayward's duties seem to have been related primarily to the use of commonable land. It was probably his responsibility to see that farmers were aware of, and observed, the rules governing the use of the open fields and commonable pasture and, if in response to changes in conditions or piecemeal inclosure the rules on what, when, and where to sow in the open fields and to depasture on the commons were flexible and annually variable, that responsibility may have been burdensome to discharge. At Charlton in 1636 it was ordered that wages should be paid to the hayward with money raised by a rate,³ but usually the hayward may have been unpaid. At the courts of both Brinkworth and Charlton in the 16th century the hayward sometimes made presentments concerning stray animals and at Charlton, like the tithingman, he summoned men to the drifts.⁴ For Brinkworth, where the amount of commonable land was much reduced in the later 16th century, there is little evidence of a hayward thereafter. A beadle, probably a hayward under another name, was appointed in 1625,⁵ but no other hayward or beadle is known to have held office there in the 17th century. In the 16th century the lord probably had a separate bailiff on each of Brinkworth and Charlton manors, and the bailiff, whose status may not have been much above that of the reeve and the hayward, acted for the lord in various ways. He dealt with issues concerning the lord's right to forfang, perhaps kept stray animals, made presentments at the courts about stray animals and occasionally about dilapidated buildings, represented the lord's interests when a building was erected on his soil or animals were secured in the pound, took in hand land surrendered to the lord, received animals or goods rendered as heriots and orders to make distraints

1 Below, pp. 257, 308, 315, 319, 332.

2 Below, pp. 129, 279.

3 Below, pp. 376–7.

4 For the drifts, below, pp. 331, 377, 388, 396.

5 Below, p. 158.

on freeholders who had not done fealty to the lord, and shared in summoning men to the drifts.¹ In the 17th century, when the bailiff's status may have been higher, the lord probably had one bailiff to represent his interests on all his four manors near Malmesbury. At Brinkworth in 1625 Mr. Alright, the bailiff, was involved in settling a boundary dispute between a freeholder and a copyholder and in deciding where a stile should stand,² and in 1632 Mr. Hall, the bailiff, was asked to assign a place, presumably on the lord's soil, as the site of an almshouse;³ the bailiff was often referred to as the lord's bailiff and, except for making presentments at court, performed functions similar to those performed by the 16th-century bailiff. In the periods 1625-8 and 1632-5 there was also a separate officer called a bailiff nominated at the court of Brinkworth and of Charlton. In those periods, however, the title bailiff was evidently conferred on him as a temporary substitute for the title reeve, and it was not used for such an officer at other times.

The tithingman, the reeve (including when called a bailiff), and at Brinkworth the constable were usually said in the court records to have been chosen (*electi sunt*). It is highly unlikely that the choice was ever an outcome of democratic election. On being admitted to heriotable copyhold premises the tenant probably accepted an obligation to observe an implied condition that he would serve as an officer. The obligation to serve may thus have been attached to holdings, and a tenant may have been chosen to fill an office simply because it was his turn. There is direct evidence that at Charlton the offices of tithingman and reeve were attached to holdings,⁴ and, probably at both Brinkworth and Charlton, in the later 17th century they passed in the order in which the bread was received at holy communion.⁵ Those offices at Brinkworth and Charlton, and that of constable at Brinkworth, were probably served by the copyhold tenants in rotation and, if so, that would explain why occasionally a man was chosen simultaneously for more than one office. The choice of every officer in every year is not recorded, but it is clear that an office was usually held for a year and then left. The choice was usually noted in the records of the autumn courts, sometimes it was noted, or the serving officers were named, in the records of the spring courts, and in the 1580s it appears that in some years at Charlton the tithingman and the reeve were in office for only six months. The choice of the hayward was recorded less frequently and less regularly than that of the constable at Brinkworth and the tithingman and the reeve on both manors. It is possible that the office was not attached to holdings and did not pass in rotation; it may have been filled by volunteers and held for periods longer than a year, and

1 For the drifts, below, pp. 331, 377, 388, 396.

2 Below, pp. 158, 161.

3 Below, p. 188.

4 Below, p. 410.

5 WSA 88/2/30.

the occasional payment of wages to a hayward suggests that inducements might be needed before the office was filled.¹ Copyhold premises were held by women and, if it was attached to holdings and passed in rotation, the obligation to serve as tithingman, constable, and reeve would sometimes have reached a woman. There is no evidence of a female officer at Brinkworth and none of a female tithingman at Charlton, but a woman was chosen as the reeve at Charlton thrice in the 1570s and once in the 1630s. A male deputy filled the office instead of the woman in 1571 and 1574, but there is no reason to suppose that the woman did not serve in 1573 and 1639.² At Charlton in 1646 it was ordered that one widow, who held the living the turn of which it was to provide the tithingman, and another widow, who held the living the turn of which it was to provide the reeve, should each provide a man to fill the relevant office.³ It is likely, especially because there is no evidence of a female officer at Brinkworth, that, as the obligation to fill an office passed, female copyholders were usually omitted from the sequence, and the occasions on which a woman may have served as the reeve at Charlton or was required to find a deputy were probably exceptional. The obligation to serve as an officer sometimes fell on men who were described as gentlemen and were presumably copyholders. In 1628 a gentleman was chosen as the constable of Brinkworth and another as the tithingman of Charlton.⁴ In general each officer was evidently required to swear that he would execute his office faithfully, and the oath was usually taken in the court. There were occasionally difficulties. In 1577 a man chosen as the tithingman of Charlton receded from the court without licence and another was chosen as tithingman; the man chosen as the reeve of Charlton in 1627 and ordered to take the oath at the following court, and the man chosen as the constable of Brinkworth in 1630 and ordered to take the oath within a week, may not have been in court when chosen; in 1631 the Brinkworth tithingman ordered to take the oath in front of a justice of the peace within a fortnight may have been absent or recalcitrant when chosen.⁵

Other officers were chosen, mainly at Charlton, to oversee the use of commonable land. Four overseers of the fields were chosen at Charlton in 1563 to prevent overstocking of the fields, men held that office there in 1570, and in 1574 and 1575 four men were again sworn to check on and report any overstocking of the fields.⁶ In 1576 and 1579 four men were sworn as overseers of the hedges, commons, and fields of Charlton.⁷ Thereafter the officers were called overseers of the fields, usually held

1 For the payments, below, pp. 271, 376–7, 409.

2 Below, pp. 261, 271, 274, 390.

3 Below, p. 410.

4 Below, pp. 171, 354.

5 Below, pp. 180, 184, 287, 349.

6 Below, pp. 248, 257, 274, 279.

7 Below, pp. 284, 297.

office in pairs, and were chosen and sworn at several meetings of the court held in the 1580s and from 1625. They were chosen at the spring court as often as at the autumn court and were probably appointed for no longer than a year. It is not clear what the functions of, or the need for, such overseers were when a hayward was in office. It is possible that their main concerns were with the feeding of animals in the fields, piecemeal inclosure, and the outer boundaries of the fields and that, while they were in office, the hayward oversaw cultivation and the boundaries between strips in the fields: the advancing of such a possibility is speculative. A pair of overseers of the commons in office at Brinkworth in 1636 was evidently obliged to expose breaches of the rule that none might feed more cattle on the common pastures in summer than he could keep on his several lands in winter; the overseers may have been appointed *ad hoc* and for no more than one summer.¹ At each of Brinkworth and Charlton in 1625 two men were sworn at the court to mark cattle, presumably all the cattle rightfully feeding on the commonable land of the manor including the part of it in the purlieu of Braydon forest.² Although in 1636 the Brinkworth court ordered that officers to mark cattle should be nominated,³ no officer with such a single duty is known to have been appointed before or after 1625. The choice of two overseers of highways is noted in the record of a court held at Charlton on 26 March 1565.⁴ An Act of 1555 required two overseers for each parish to be appointed in Easter week⁵ (beginning 22 April in 1565), and such overseers were usually appointed by the parish. Many reasons for the appearance of the appointment in the court records could be suggested: perhaps the best suggestion is that before 1565 the parish had not appointed overseers and that the steward of the manor resolved that, if the parish would not, the manor would. The choice of overseers of highways in the court was not repeated.

At or near the end of the record of most courts the names of the affeerors were given and it was noted that they had taken an oath. There were usually two affeerors, sometimes three.⁶ They were men of the jury and usually the foreman and the second named, and sometimes the third named, in the list of jurors. At some meetings of the manor court, when no monetary penalty was imposed, no affeeror was sworn.

CHARACTER AND TRENDS

Between the mid 16th century and the mid 17th the character of the courts held at Brinkworth and Charlton gradually changed. In each class

1 Below, p. 201.

2 Below, pp. 158, 339.

3 Below, p. 201.

4 Below, p. 255.

5 *Statutes of the Realm*, iv. 284-5.

6 For the functions of the affeerors, above, the courts (monetary penalties).

of business done by the combined view of frankpledge and court of the manor one item or more was dropped. From the frankpledge business, of which there was anyway no more than vestiges, it was the payment of court-silver; from the leet business it was the presentment of those guilty of assaults and of other petty crimes; from the manorial business it was the private actions and payments for pannage for pigs. Unless the records are deceptive, at the same time as the variety of business was being reduced the steward simplified the procedure of the courts. He allowed or compelled a single body of jurors to make all the presentments heard by the court, and presentments by individual officers such as the tithingman, the bailiff, and the hayward ceased. That change in procedure was accompanied by a slow reduction in the number of jurors empanelled at each court, and the records give the impression that the overall number in attendance at the court also declined. The meetings of the combined courts evidently became more streamlined and more purposeful, and the pattern of holding the courts twice in each year, once in spring and once in autumn, became settled.

Although some items of business were dropped by the courts those which continued were important. Copyhold premises, whether in possession or reversion, continued to be granted and surrendered in court, and would be as long as copyhold tenure survived. The courts continued to oversee the management and regulation of commonable land and, by hearing presentments and making orders, they continually attempted to reduce the incidence of nuisances affecting land, other property, and rights. Some new business was of direct concern to the jurors. The court began to trespass on parochial business by hearing presentments and making orders relating to issues which affected or might affect how much money was to be raised by rates to relieve the poor or maintain the highways and how it was to be used. In the 16th century the courts apparently retained characteristics of a mass meeting and a criminal court; by the mid 17th century they had lost some of those and had acquired some of the characteristics of a business meeting held to protect the interests of local farmers.

Between the 1540s and the 1640s the courts of Brinkworth and Charlton were obviously a signal part of life in those places. Men attended them, business was done at them, and the record of them was written up; they were clearly not moribund. It is, however, difficult to gauge how much effect they had on everyday life. In some matters they had no jurisdiction at all. Religious observance and private morals were matters for church courts, and the relief of the poor and the maintenance of the highways were matters for the vestry, which appointed the overseers of the poor and the overseers of the highways. The jurors, through the courts, could raise issues, but they could not control the policy of the vestry or the day-to-day activities of the overseers. In other matters the courts did have jurisdiction but their proceedings were evidently hollow, in particular

those leading to the amercement of bakers, brewers, butchers, and millers. In many matters the proceedings ostensibly had more force, but it is not clear how many amercements and forfeited penalties were collected and therefore how many offenders were effectively punished and how many orders are likely to have been obeyed. On the other hand, although it was necessary to hold a manor court to do copyhold business, custom notwithstanding the lord of the manors and the steward had no obligation to hold a view of frankpledge and to exercise leet jurisdiction, and if the courts achieved nothing it would not be clear why they did so. The assumption must be that throughout the period in question the activities of the courts served a useful purpose in the eyes of those directing them. The lord gained because copyhold business was done for him, his interests were served in other ways, and he presumably received an income from the amercements. The steward presumably took a fee for holding the courts and possibly fees arising from some of the business. Those who gained most from the courts, however, were probably the customary tenants from whom the jurors were drawn. Twice a year the courts gave the jurors the opportunity to discuss matters of common concern and to manage and regulate their working and living environment.

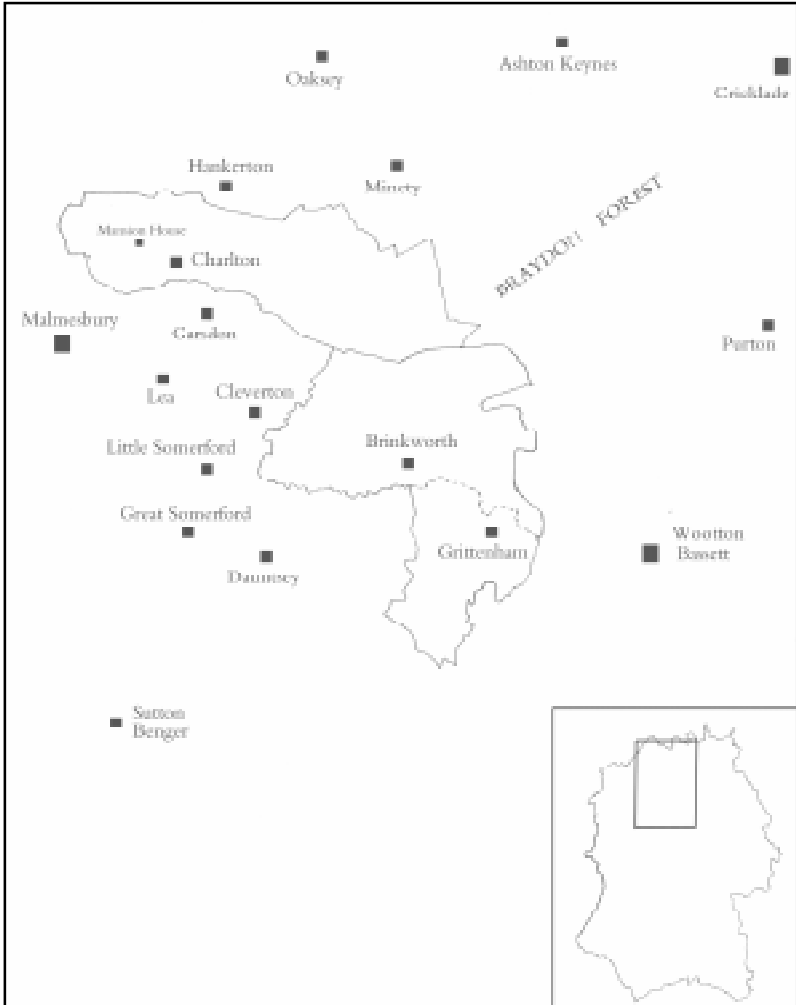
Compared with the courts held in respect of other Wiltshire manors those of Brinkworth and Charlton were busy, active, and vigorous, and a wider range of business came before them; those of Brokenborough and Hankerton were similar. If busy, active, and vigorous courts were a source of gain to all concerned with them, however, an explanation is called for as to why those of the four manors of the Knyvetts and Howards had those characteristics to a greater degree than those of other manors. Inertia was no doubt a factor: that was how the courts of Brinkworth and Charlton behaved, everybody gained, so why change? The pattern of landholding and, if it was as it seems to have been, the pattern of farms probably favoured such behaviour. The copyholds were numerous: in 1578 there were 32 at Brinkworth totalling c. 950 acres and ranging between 76 acres and 7 acres,¹ and, excluding those of 5 acres and less, in the early 17th century there were 30 at Charlton totalling 1,032 acres and ranging between 82 acres and 6 acres.² At neither place was there a large demesne farm, there is no evidence that the size of the farms was much different from the size of the holdings, and, even after Braydon forest and its purlieu were inclosed, the farmers continued to use land in common. Despite the doubts about the collection of monetary penalties the courts were probably effective in righting wrongs, and for a large tenantry with small farms the collective power to make and vary rules, to settle disputes, and to resolve uncertainties was valuable. The tenants of Brinkworth and Charlton manors, perhaps unlike those of most other manors, apparently did value that power, and they took advantage of it. In 1637 the tenants of Charlton

1 WSA 88/2/42.

2 Ibid. 88/2/46.

manor wished to rate (i.e. to set a stint of animals to be fed in respect of each holding) the 400-acre pasture assigned to them by the lord of the manor to replace their feeding rights in the purlieu when, soon after 1630, the purlieus were inclosed. Before they did so they evidently considered that the agreement under which the assignment was made should be entered among the records of the court. They reminded the lord that he had promised that it would be, and the promise was immediately honoured.¹ In the later 16th century and the earlier 17th the farmers of Brinkworth and Charlton clearly valued the courts, saw them in a positive light, and played a full part in them. The fact that they did so seems to have been the main reason that the courts flourished there beyond what in other places may have been seen as the span of their useful life; and the fact that the courts flourished and that many of their records have survived enables historians to see and to understand the working and everyday life of Brinkworth and Charlton more clearly than they can those of other places.

1 Below, p. 382; for the inclosure of the purlieu, above, Braydon forest.



BRINKWORTH

88/2/6

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 10 June 1544

Essoins

None.

Jurors

Thomas Waldron, gentleman, Thomas Shearer, John Richman, Walter Waite, Ralph Norborne, Walter Norborne, John Henley, William Foscott, Walter Mills, John Beale, Geoffrey Osborne, John Colls.

Oath of allegiance

Robert Bright and Robert Webb are sworn to the king in the assize.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes and, by virtue of his office, presents 11s. 5d. for court-silver on this day, as it appears in the precedents, and it is delivered to the reeve.

Other presentments of the tithingman

That Catherine Shearer, Christopher Brown, Nicholas Taylor, and Robert Attwilliams are common brewers and sold ale with non-standard cups and other prohibited measures not sealed. Each amerced, 2d.

That Michael Barn and William Bushell are common butchers, sold meat too highly priced, and broke the assize. Each amerced, 2d.

That Robert Rich (amerced, 6d.), William Penn (4d.), and William Berryman (4d.) are bakers and broke the assize. Each amerced.

That John Brownsill assaulted Thomas Taylor. Amerced, 3d.

That Thomas Taylor assaulted John Brownsill. Amerced, 4d.

That John Tucker, Anthony Williams, and Thomas Stockham were not present at the court. Each amerced, 2d.

That a pig worth 8d., arriving as a stray at the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle [21 December], remains in the keeping of Christopher Brown.

That otherwise all is well on this day.

Affirmation

The jurors say on their oath that all the things presented above are true, and they affirm them.

Presentment of the jurors

That otherwise all is well on this day.

Presentments of the homage

That Margery Pinnell, a widow, who held two tenements with the appurtenances, has died; heriots, an ox worth 20s. and a cow worth 13s. 4d.

That Michael Thorne overstocked the tenants' common with his beasts. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

That Thomase Lewin did damage in the lord's wood without his licence. Amerced, 12*d*.

That there be four tenements lying within the lordship of Brinkworth [and they] do belong to the church of Brinkworth, which be of the yearly value of ... [*MS. blank*]. [That property] was given to the church since the Statute of Mortmain was made, and further they present that the tenements are held of the lord there.

Total of this court

5*s*. 4*d*.

Affeerors

Thomas Shearer, John Richman.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 7 January 1545

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of William Stumpe, gentleman.

Essoins

None.

Jurors

Thomas Waldron, gentleman, Thomas Shearer, John Richman, Walter Waite, Ralph Norborne, Geoffrey Wallis, William Foscott, John Colls, John Henley, John Beale, Walter Norborne, Thomas Griffith

Oath of allegiance

John Beale was sworn to the king in the assize.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes and presents 11*s*. 5*d*. for court-silver, as it appears in the precedents.

Other presentments of the tithingman

That three pigs worth 4*s*., which arrived as strays at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle [30 November], remain in the keeping of John Colls.

That a bullock [or heifer] worth 8*s*., arriving as a stray at the same feast, remains in the keeping of Catherine Shearer.

That a boar [or sow or beast] worth 3*s*. 4*d*., arriving as a stray at the same feast, remains in the keeping of John Richman.

That Catherine Shearer (amerced, 4*d*.), Nicholas Taylor (4*d*.), and Robert Attwilliams (2*d*.) are common brewers and broke the assize. Each amerced.

That Robert Rich, William Berryman, and Thomas Cutler are common bakers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 8*d*.

That otherwise all is well on this day.

Affirmation

The jurors say on their oath that all the things presented above are true, and they affirm them.

Presentments of the jurors

That Walter Mills would not make his stile in Broad croft as he was required to in an order [made] at the last [court]. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

That John Warne and John and Richard Barn have not made their mounds in Glazelands as they were required to in an order [made] at the last [court]. Each amerced, 6s. 8d.

That Thomas Shearer and Walter Norborne have not made their mounds in the West field as they were required to in an order [made] at the last [court]. Each amerced, 6s. 8d.

That John Warne (amerced, 2s.), John Griffith (12d.), and Richard Barn (2s.) would not catch any beasts called joistments in the East field as they were required to in an order [made] at the last [court]. Each amerced.

That Richard Shearer overstocked the tenants' common with his beasts. Amerced, 13s. 4d.

That Richard Barn has not scoured his ditch at Bakers beside the king's highway as he was required to in an order [made] at the last [court]. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

That Christopher Franklin would not sufficiently make the watercourse called the Brook beside Rushgrove meads as far as a bridge called Long bridge. Amerced, 10s.

Pannage

Thomas Shearer (1d.), Richard Webb (2d.), William Foscott (2d.), Thomas Henley (4d.), Roger Mediens (4d.), Geoffrey Osborne (1d.), Walter Mills (2d.), Robert Attwilliams (3½d.), Walter Norborne (4d.), Maurice Shearer (1d.), Nicholas Messiter (1d.), John Walker (2d.), John Colls (5d.), Robert Beale (6d.), John Henley (4d.), John Richman (4d.), Thomas Taylor (4d.), Joan Barn (3d.), Michael Thorne (13d.), Walter Waite (4½d.), Ralph Norborne (8d.), and Richard Barn (12d.) give [the amounts stated] to the lord for pannage of pigs.

Forfang

Christopher Brown gives 4d. to the lord for the forfang for a white horse worth 5s. which remains in his keeping.

Michael Fry lawfully proved [ownership of] a grey mare which remains in his keeping [and gives 4d. to the lord for the forfang].

John Warne lawfully proved a white mare which remains in the keeping of Christopher Brown to be his rightful property and gives 4d. to the lord for the forfang.

Total of this court

£4 17s. 10d.

Officers

Thomas Taylor was chosen as reeve, Thomas Henley as tithingman, Ralph Norborne as constable, Richard Barn as hayward.

Affeerors

Ralph Norborne, Geoffrey Wallis, John Colls.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 29 May 1545

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of William Stumpe, gentleman.

Essoins

None.

Jurors

Thomas Waldron, gentleman, Thomas Shearer, John Richman, Ralph Norborne, Walter Waite, John Beale, John Colls, Geoffrey Wallis, John Henley, Geoffrey Osborne, Richard Webb, John Pinnell.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes and gives 11s. 5d. to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Catherine Shearer (amerced, 4d.), Walter Norborne (2d.), and Nicholas Taylor (2d.) are common brewers and broke the assize. Each amerced.

That Thomas Scutter (amerced, 4d.) and William Berryman (6d.) are common bakers and broke the assize. Each amerced.

That Michael Barn (amerced, 2d.), William Bushell (2d.), and Thomas Stockham (1d.) are common butchers and sold meat too highly priced by taking profit excessively. Each amerced.

That otherwise all is well on this day.

Affirmation

The jurors say on their oath that all the things presented above by the tithingman are true, and they affirm them.

Presentments of the jurors

That a dun mare worth 5s., arriving as a stray at the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June], remains in the keeping of Catherine Shearer.

That a bay mare worth 5s., arriving as a stray at the same feast, remains in the keeping of Geoffrey Wallis.

That a black male foal worth 4s., which arrived as a stray at the same feast, remains in the keeping of Richard Webb.

That otherwise all is well on this day.

Presentment of the homage

That all is well on this day.

Admittances

By the lord's licence Roger Mediens was admitted as tenant of a message with the appurtenances, once in John Smith's tenure, to be held at will. He did fealty.

Thomas Griffith surrendered a message called Player's and a message called Millward's, with the appurtenances; heriot, ... [MS. blank]. Geoffrey Wallis asks for licence to be admitted as tenant of the premises by virtue of a copy dated 12 October 1529. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Total of this court

13s. 2d.

Affeerors

Ralph Norborne, John Henley, John Colls.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 4 January 1546

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of William Stumpe, gentleman.

Essoins

None.

Jurors

Thomas Waldron, gentleman, Thomas Shearer, Walter Waite, Ralph Norborne, William Foscott, Robert Golding, Geoffrey Wallis, John Henley, John Beale, Geoffrey Osborne, John Pinnell, Roger Mediens.

Oath of allegiance

Walter White Williams and Richard Bushell were sworn to the king in the assize.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes and, by virtue of the office, gives 11s. 5d. to the lord for court-silver on this day, as it appears in the precedents.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Catherine Shearer (amerced, 2d.), Elizabeth Taylor (1d.), and John Smith (1d.) are common brewers and broke [the assize]. Each amerced.

That John Pinnell (amerced, 2d.), Maurice Shearer (2d.), Thomas Cutler (4d.), William Pinnell (1d.), and Michael Hole (1d.) are common bakers and broke [the assize]. Each amerced.

That Thomas Pope and Thomas Stockham are butchers and sold meat [unlawfully] by taking profit excessively. Each amerced, 1d.

That John Haskins, Francis Bushell, John Smith, John Skull, William Brook, and Humphrey Beale were not present at the court. Each amerced, 1d.

That John Griffith assaulted John Pope. Amerced 3d.

That a bullock [or heifer] worth 6s. 8d., arriving as a stray at the feast of All Saints [1 November], remained over a year in the keeping of Walter Waite.

That a fallow ox worth 13s. 4d., arriving as a stray at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle [30 November], remains in the keeping of William Stumpe.

That otherwise all is well.

Affirmation

The jurors present on their oath that all the things presented above by the tithingman are true, and they affirm them.

Pannage

John Walker (3½*d.*), Nicholas Messiter (1*d.*), Michael Thorne (2*d.*), John Colls (7*d.*), William Pinnell (1*d.*), Roger Mediens (8*d.*), John Pinnell (2*d.*), Thomas Taylor (4*d.*), Richard Barn (1*d.*), Richard Foscott (6*d.*), Andrew Barn (2*d.*), Thomas Bushell (1*d.*), Ralph Norborne (5*d.*), Thomas Henley (3*d.*), John Henley (3*d.*), Walter Norborne (7*d.*), William Taylor (2*d.*), Robert White Williams (3*d.*), Geoffrey Osborne (4*d.*), Walter Mills (1*d.*), Robert Beale (2½*d.*), and Maurice Shearer (1*d.*) give [the amounts stated] to the lord for pannage of pigs.

Presentment of the homage

That Walter Norborne and Robert White Williams have not ringed their pigs as they were required to in an order [made] at the last [court]. Each amerced, 3*s.* 4*d.*

Total of this court

26*s.* 2*d.*

Officers

Ralph Norborne was chosen as reeve, Geoffrey Wallis as constable, Maurice Shearer as tithingman.

Affeerors

Ralph Norborne, Thomas Shearer, John Warne.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 9 March 1546

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of William Stumpe, gentleman.

Essoins

None.

Jurors

Thomas Shearer, Ralph Norborne, William Foscott, John Beale, Richard Webb, Roger Mediens, Thomas Henley, Walter Waite, John Golding, John Pinnell, William Fry, Walter Norborne.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes and presents 11*s.* 5*d.* for court-silver on this day.

Other presentments of the tithingman

That a bay mare with a foal, worth 4*s.*, arriving as a stray on 4 January last, remains in the keeping of John Walker.

That William Bushell and Thomas Stockham are butchers and sold meat [unlawfully] by taking profit excessively. Each amerced, 2*d.*

That Catherine Shearer (amerced, 3*d.*), John Smith (2*d.*), and Nicholas Taylor (2*d.*) are brewers and broke the assize. Each amerced.

That William Pinnell (amerced, 1*d.*), Maurice Shearer (2*d.*), John Pinnell (2*d.*), and Thomas Taylor (1*d.*) are bakers and broke the assize. Each amerced.

That three pigs worth 4s. have passed a year as strays and remain in the keeping of John Colls.

That a cow or a heifer worth 8s. has passed a year as a stray and remains in the keeping of Catherine Shearer.

That a boar [*or sow or beast*] worth 3s. 4*d.* has passed a year as a stray and remains in the keeping of John Richman.

That a dun mare worth 5s. has passed a year as a stray and remains in the keeping of Catherine Shearer.

That a bay mare worth 5s. has passed a year as a stray and remains in the keeping of Geoffrey Wallis.

That a black male foal worth 4s. has passed a year as a stray and remains in the keeping of Richard Webb.

That a bullock [*or heifer*] worth 6s. 8*d.* has passed a year as a stray and remains in the keeping of Walter Waite.

That otherwise all is well on this day.

Affirmation

The jurors say on their oath that all the things presented above are true, and they affirm them.

Presentment of the jurors

That John Pinnell had in his keeping 15s. of silver cash and a haycock worth 20*d.*, and John Bradley had in his keeping a haycock worth 20*d.*, of the goods and chattels lately of Richard Prior who was convicted of felony.

Presentment of the homage

That Robert White Williams, who held a tenement with its appurtenances, has died since the last [court]; heriot, a cow.

Total of this court

67s. 2*d.*

Affeerors

Walter Waite, Ralph Norborne.

88/2/29

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with Manor Court held there on 23 March 1559

Court-silver

On this day, 11s. 5*d.*

Amercements

From John Davies and Florence Colls, because they are common brewers and broke the assize, 3*d.* each.

From John Richman, because he overstocked the common there with his sheep contrary to an order of the court [and] has forfeited the penalty, 20s.

From John Skull, because he felled an oak worth 4*d.* on his tenement contrary to a custom, 2s.

Presentments of the homage

That John Golding, who held a messuage with its appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 36s. 8d. delivered to Richard Smith. John's son Ralph, by his attorney William Fry, claims to hold the premises by virtue of a copy. Fealty is deferred.

That John Beck, who held a messuage with land, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth 53s. 4d. delivered to Richard Smith. John's son Richard claims to hold the premises for life by a copy dated 20 February 1555. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Total of this view with the court

£6 3s. 11d.

Estreat from the Manor Court held there on 29 May 1559*Memorandum*

Joan Norborne, a widow, [?]lately] the wife of Ralph Norborne, has not come to claim her widow's estate in four messuages within a year and a day, [as she should have] according to a custom of the manor; therefore she has forfeited her widow's estate. The lord, however, by his grace, granted her widow's estate to Joan under the following condition: that before her death she should pay the four oxen worth £10 which ought to be paid for heriot after her death and deliver them to Richard Smith. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Total

£10.

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with Manor Court held there on 23 September 1559*Court-silver*

On this day, 11s. 5d.

Amercements

John Smith and Florence Colls are common brewers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 2d.

John Pinnell is a common baker and broke the assize. Amerced, 2d.

Margaret Norborne and Joan Henley have not repaired their tenements. Each of them has forfeited the penalty, 3s. 4d.

Pannage

From pannage of pigs in this year, 11s. 7½d.

Heriot

30s. for the value of a heifer, a heriot delivered to Richard Smith after the death of William Cale in Gloucestershire.

Total of this view with the court

£3 11s. 0½d.

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with [Manor] Court held there on 11 April 1560

Court-silver

On this day, 11s. 5d.

Amercements

From John Pinnell, because he is a common baker and broke the assize, 3d.

From William Bushell, because he is a common butcher, 2d.

From Florence Colls, John Smith, and Thomas Peasegrove, because they are common brewers, 2d. each.

From Thomas Beale, because he assaulted John Brook against the peace and drew blood, 9d.

From John Mitchell, gentleman, the farmer of Grittenham, because he overstocked the lord's common with his cattle contrary to an order of the court and has forfeited the penalty, 40s.

From Nicholas Messiter, because he kept and supported Margaret Elms, a woman of bad behaviour, contrary to an order of the court and has forfeited the penalty, 40s. [*altered to*: remitted by the lord].

John Richman (remitted), Walter Brown (remitted), Nicholas Messiter (remitted), Agnes Griffith (remitted), and William Skinner (20s.) are common trespassers in the common with their cattle contrary to an order of the court. Each of them has forfeited the penalty, 20s.

[From] John Richman, Joan Norborne, a younger Thomas Beale, and Thomas Pinnell, because they overstocked the fields in the Windmill field [and] each of them has forfeited the penalty, 20s. The whole amount is remitted.

Fines

From Thomas Beale a fine of £10 for having the reversion of three messuages, called Parker's, Hore House, and Phelps, with all their appurtenances, now in the tenure of his mother Margaret Beale. [The premises] are to be held for life [successively] by Thomas and his sons Christopher and Geoffrey after [Margaret's] death, [or] on surrender [or forfeiture by her], for the rent and the other [services]. Thomas gives the fine for having that estate. Fealty is deferred.

From Michael Fry £5 for his fine, for the heriot on the surrender by John Richman of a messuage called Freeman's or Selwyn's, with all its appurtenances, and for 4 acres of pasture called Parker's furlong beside Haregrove. [The premises] are to be held for life successively by Michael and his sons William and John for the rent and the other [services]. Michael did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

From Robert Waite a fine of £10 for having the reversion of a messuage and 1 yardland called Sealy's Place, with its appurtenances, now in the tenure of his father Thomas. [The premises] are to be held for life [successively] by Robert and his sister Jane for the rent and the other [services]. Robert gives the fine for having that estate. Fealty is deferred.

From Thomas Waite, on his surrender of a messuage and 1 yardland, with its appurtenances, a fine of £10 for [those premises] to be held for life successively by him, his son Robert, and his daughter Jane for the rent and the other [services]. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

From John Baron [otherwise Norborne] £30 for his fine for having the reversion of a messuage called Slade House, with all the [arable] land, meadow, pasture, and appurtenances, now in the tenure of Margaret Norborne, a widow. [The premises] are to be held for life [successively] by John, his [*deleted*: brother] William Baron, and his sister Isabel after [Margaret's] death [or on surrender or forfeiture by her] for the rent and the other [services]. John gives the fine for [having] that estate. Fealty is deferred.

Total of this view with the court

£78 13s. 1d.

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with Manor Court held there on 10 October 1560

Court-silver

On this day, 11s. 5d.

Amercements

From John Pinnell, because he is a common baker and broke the assize, 3d.

From Florence Colls, John Smith, and Thomas Peasegrove, because they are common brewers and broke the assize, 3d. each.

From Thomas Parker, because he is a common trespasser in the common with his piglets, 2s. Remitted.

From Thomas Taylor, because he misbehaved in court, troubling the court with prohibited words, 12d.

Pannage

From pannage of pigs in this year, 10s. 7d.

Total of this view with the court

26s.

88/2/7

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 26 September 1570

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen

Thomas Shearer, Richard Webb, John Shearer, Thomas Davies *alias* Taylor, Geoffrey Wallis, William Beale, John Smith, Thomas Henley, John

Skull, William Skinner, Walter Arnold, Michael Thorne, Robert Golding, Richard Beck, John Walker, Ralph Golding, Michael Fry, Thomas Beale, John Hayward.

Court-silver

William Heale, the tithingman, comes and gives 11s. 5d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Ralph Golding and John Curtis assaulted one another, and Ralph shed blood from John's head with a ball worth 1d. Ralph is amerced, and the ball was forfeited to the lord; John is amerced, 9d.

That John Smith (amerced, 3d.), Edmund Heale (3d.), and John Webb (2d.) are brewers and broke the assize of ale. Each amerced.

That John Shearer, George Jones, and Agnes Pinnell are bakers and broke the assizes. Each amerced, 3d.

Forfang

John Tipper proved on his oath the ownership of a white sheep called a hog; the forfang paid in the court, 4d.

Presentments of the hayward (John Mills)

That a black wether worth 2s. 4d. came as a stray about the feast of St. James the Apostle [25 July] last and remains in the keeping of Christopher Nicholls.

That a fallow calf worth 2s. came as a stray about 14 August last and remains in the keeping of Richard Beck.

Oath of allegiance

William Walker, of full age, was sworn to the queen.

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things [presented] above by the officers to be true.

Presentment of the jurors

That otherwise all is well.

Homage

Thomas Shearer, Geoffrey Wallis, William Beale, John Skull, Thomas Henley, and John Walker, sworn on the articles of the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit to this court, and appeared.

That Elizabeth Mills, who held for her widowhood a messuage called Baldwin's and a toft called Stephen's, with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, 2 cows worth £4. Richard Webb claims to hold the premises for the life [of himself] and his sons Richard and Walter by virtue of a copy dated 8 June 1542. The lord granted seisin to him, he did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That Elizabeth Mills, who held for her widowhood a messuage called Churchman's, a close lying near it containing about 10 acres, and 10 acres of arable land lying in the fields, with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 40s. John Henley claims to hold

the premises by virtue of a copy dated 28 May 1551. The lord granted seisin to him. [The premises] are to be held for life successively by John and his daughter Agnes for the rent and services formerly due. John did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Nicholas Thorne, a woodward, felled at least 100 oaks in Brinkworth's woods, a place in Braydon forest appurtenant to the manor.

That a younger Thomas Beale felled an elm. Amerced, *2d*.

[*The following additional presentment is recorded on what is apparently the last page of a draft of the record of this court entered in WSA 88/2/21; cf. note preceding the court following this.*]

That the way between John Skull and the rector was used in the customary manner, and the grass lies in the rector's land.

Actions

John Mills complains against Thomas Penn in a plea of debt on demand for 2s. 8s.

William Fry complains against Thomas Penn in a plea of debt on demand for 8s.

Pannage of pigs

Paid among the tenants in this year, 10s. 4d.

John Philips (amerced, 10d.), John Brook (8d.), Joan Norborne (5d.), John Curtis (7d.), William Bushell (8d.), William Skull (10d.), and John Henley (7d.) are not payers of pannage. Each amerced.

Orders

That Michael Thorne and Joan Norborne, a widow, should each make their gate leading to their closes in the West field before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of each one offending [to forfeit] 3s. 4d.

That John Philips should scour his ditch at Howell's before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Thomas Lewin should put up and make a gate and a stile at Broad mead so that he might preserve the close of William Heale, leading to that meadow, from further damage, before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day], on pain of 3s. 4d.

That Elizabeth Foscott, a widow, should from time to time repair and amend her boundary in the Leigh field lying between John Philips and herself, on pain of 5s.

Officers

Ralph Golding was chosen as tithingman, Thomas Taylor as constable, and Richard Webb as reeve.

Affeerors

Thomas Henley, John Skull.

Estreated by Griffin Curtis, the steward.

[*The court records in WSA 88/2/7 are fair copies. An undivided draft of the records of the two following courts exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the view of frankpledge with the court of the*

manor; for 88/2/21, below, pp. 121–58. All the entries in these fair copies appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. On the other hand, some entries in the draft do not appear in these fair copies, and in this edition such entries, preceded here by an asterisk, have been added at the end of the relevant category of entries as fair-copied.]

View of Frankpledge held there on 25 September 1571

Jurors for the queen

Robert Golding, Thomas Shearer, Thomas Taylor, Thomas Henley, Richard Webb, John Smith, William Beale, Michael Fry, John Skull, William Skinner, William Heale, Walter Arnold, Thomas Beale, Richard Beck, John Hayward, John Henley, John Walker.

Court-silver

Ralph Golding, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 11s. 5d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Smith, Edmund Heale, and John Shearer are brewers and broke the assize [*draft*: sold ale at an excessive profit]. Each amerced, 6d.

That George Jones and John Shearer are bakers and broke the assize of bread. Each amerced, 6d.

That Nicholas Bath assaulted Humphrey Wake, and drew his blood with a fist. Amerced, 6d.

Presentments of the hayward (John Mills)

That a white ewe worth 16d. came as a stray at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle [30 November] and remains in the keeping of John Mills.

That a dun foal worth 2s. 4d., taken as a stray at the feast of the Holy Cross [3 May or 14 September], remains in the keeping of Baldwin Smith.

*That a black sheep worth 16d., taken as a stray at the feast of All Saints [1 November], remains in the keeping of John Davies.

*That a white sheep worth 16d., taken as a stray at the feast of Epiphany [6 January], remains in the keeping of William Beale.

*That a pig worth 2s., taken as a stray at the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June], remains in the keeping of John Davies.

*That a white sheep and a white lamb worth 3s., taken as strays at the feast of [St.] Thomas Beckett [29 December], remain in the keeping of Thomas Henley.

*That a white sheep worth 16d., taken as a stray at the same feast, remains in the keeping of John Mills.

*That a white ewe worth 14d., taken as a stray at Christmas, remains in the keeping of John Bleek.

*That two white ewes worth 2s. 4d., taken as strays at the feast of St. Thomas Beckett [29 December], remain in the keeping of William Thorne.

*That a black wether worth 2s. 4d., a stray [kept] over a year, remains in the keeping of Christopher Nicholls.

*That a white wether worth 20*d.* arrived as a stray in Rogation week and remains in the keeping of William Clark.

*That a bay Flanders mare worth 10*s.*, taken as a stray on 1 August, remains in the keeping of a younger John Davies.

*That a white sheep worth 10*d.*, taken as a stray on 1 August, remains in the keeping of John Jeffrey.

*That a white sheep worth 8*d.*, taken as a stray at the same feast, remains in the keeping of John Mills.

Forfang

From Henry Richman for the forfang of a wether which he delivered out of court to Henry Chever [*draft:* of Calne], the owner of it, 4*d.*

Oath of allegiance

Michael Fry and Walter Foscott, of full age, were sworn to the queen.

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentments of the jurors

That Robert Golding, Thomas Shearer, William Beale, Thomas Henley, [*draft:* Thomas Taylor, Richard Webb, John Smith, Michael Fry, John Skull, William Skinner, William Heale, Walter Arnold, Thomas Beale, Richard Beck, John Hayward, John Henley, and John Walter] played at bowls, a prohibited game, contrary to a term of a statute proclaimed on that subject. Each amerced, 4*d.*

That none of the tenants has or provides a net for taking crows and rooks, [as the tenants should do] according to a term of a statute. Each amerced.

*That Michael Thorne has not yet made his gate leading to West field, [as he should have] according to an order and penalty set in the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20*s.*

Court Baron held there on 25 September 1571

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit of this court, and appeared.

Homage

Robert Golding, Thomas Henley, Richard Webb, William Beale, John Skull, Richard Beck, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Michael Thorne, who lately held a messuage called Wingood's, formerly in John Henley's tenure, with its appurtenances, has died since

the last court; heriot, a cow worth 40s. Michael's son William claims to hold the premises by virtue of a copy dated 4 April 1549 and asks to be admitted as tenant. He did fealty and was admitted.

That Joan Norborne, who, a widow, lately the wife of Ralph Norborne, deceased, held messuages called Goreway's or Cooper's, Bird's, and Hay's [*rectius* Lacy's], with their appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, three oxen worth £9. Ralph's daughter Agnes claims to hold the premises by virtue of a copy dated 20 October 1536 and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted.

That, by virtue of a copy dated 12 October 1548, William Davies *alias* Taylor asks to be admitted as tenant of a tenement or messuage called Sabin's, a close or pasture with an orchard attached to the tenement or messuage, 6 acres of arable land in the West field, 1½ acre of meadow there, a piece of meadow lying in a meadow called Pewking, 12 acres of arable land in the Windmill field, and 4 acres in the Ramps, [all] lately in the tenure of Ralph Norborne, deceased. He did fealty and was admitted.

Grants

William Smith surrendered the reversion of a messuage called Bagg's [or Badge's], of a close of pasture containing about 8 acres attached to the messuage, and of 1 acre of meadow lying in the east Leigh, [all] lately in Ralph Norborne's tenure and now in the tenure of Margaret Norborne, a widow, for her widowhood, to the use of Thomas Jeffrey on condition that the lord would re-grant the premises to Thomas; heriot, nothing because it is a reversion. Thomas took the reversion. The premises are to be held for life by him immediately after Margaret's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for all the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. Thomas gives £5 to the lord for an entry fine. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

An elder Thomas Shearer surrendered the estate which he and his brother, an elder Richard Shearer, have by virtue of a copy dated 26 April 1533 in the reversion of a messuage called Sibyl's and of a messuage called Pingill's, with the [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to them, [all] now in Elizabeth Reeve's tenure, on condition that the lord would re-grant Sibyl's to Richard's son Thomas, to [that] Thomas's daughter Alice, and to Robert Beale. Thomas took the reversion of Sibyl's. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, Alice, and Robert, the son of a younger William Beale, immediately after Elizabeth's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for all the rent and services formerly due. Thomas gives £50 to the lord for an entry fine. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

John, the son of an elder Thomas Shearer, took the reversion of a messuage called Pacy's or Heale House, with the [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to it, now in Thomas's tenure. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his brother Thomas immediately after the death of the elder Thomas and of Richard [*draft*: an elder Richard, the elder Thomas's brother], or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for all

the rent and services formerly due. John gives nothing to the lord for an entry fine because the elder Thomas surrendered a messuage called Sibyl's, which he held in reversion [on the death, surrender, or forfeiture] of Elizabeth Estcourt, now the wife of Robert Reeve. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Actions

William Bushell complains against Geoffrey Wallis in a plea of detinue. He alleges that for the last 14 years Geoffrey has wrongfully withheld from him a pan containing 2 bushells and worth 20s.

Hugh Dean complains against William Beale, Robert Beale, and Thomas Merivale in a plea of trespass on the case for 20s. in that, a foal of Hugh's being at West Field close, about the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August] the defendants struck the foal's shins with a staff in such a way that the shins were broken, to Hugh's great loss.

Orders

It was ordered, with the assent of all the tenants, that none of them should have let out his tenement or any part of it or its common [pasture rights] to any stranger; but those [holding] in reversion [are] to have the first grant and to give as much as any tenant would give, on pain of each man offending to forfeit £5.

It was ordered, and agreed among all the tenants, that none of them should have let out [his] common for sheep unless the sheep are of his own mark and under his own control, on pain of 40s.

*That Thomas Bleek should make and maintain his mounds in the ash season between himself and Thomas Taylor, on pain of 10s.

Pannage of pigs

11s. paid in this year.

Trees bought from the lord by tenants at Brinkworth woods

Richard Beck 2, John Skull 2, John White, the rector, 2, Walter Arnold 1, Thomas Taylor 2, William Skinner [*draft*: William Skinner's kinsman] 8, [*draft*: John Causton of Cricklade 2, William Norris of Cricklade 1].

Officers

Henry Richman was chosen as constable, George Jones as tithingman, Richard Beck as reeve.

Affeerors

Thomas Shearer, Thomas Davies.

[A *draft* of the record of the following court exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the court of the manor'. All the entries in this fair copy appear in the *draft*; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the *draft* which do not appear in this fair copy are preceded here by an asterisk.]

Court Baron held there on 24 January 1572

The court baron of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Homage

Thomas Shearer, Geoffrey Wallis, William Beale, John Skull, Thomas Henley, Michael Fry, Walter Arnold, John Henley, William Thorne, Ralph Golding, William Taylor, William Skinner, John Davies, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant and owes suit of this court.

That William Taylor's house is in decay for lack of timber. He asks for timber to repair it and has a day to repair and rebuild it within the next year, on pain of 20s.

That Robert Reeve's house called Sibyl's is extremely ruinous, and a penalty was appointed for him to repair it within the next year, on pain of 40s.

*That, as soon as John Davies had taken two mares, and a gelding, of Thomas Wraxley and had impounded them in the common pound, Thomas, through his servants, broke the pound by force and arms, took out the mares and the gelding, and led them off. Amerced.

Grants

William Barnes took, by virtue of a warrant of Henry Knyvett, the lord of the manor, dated 17 January 1572, the reversion of a tenement called Slade House, with the appurtenances, now in the tenure of Margaret Norborne, a widow. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his brother John, and his sister Margery Barnes immediately after Margaret's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for all the rent and services formerly due [*draft*: and for heriot]. William, John, and Margery give £30 to the lord for an entry fine, paying £10 [now], £10 at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [25 March: Lady day] next, and £10 on Margaret's death. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

A licence was given to Robert Reeve and his wife Elizabeth to make and appoint Adam Archard their undertenant in a messuage or tenement called Pingill's, with the appurtenances, for Elizabeth's life. Robert and Elizabeth granted the premises, except for two parts of the house and the backside, to Adam. The premises are to be held by Adam and his assigns from the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [25 March: Lady day] next for Elizabeth's life, paying £5 13s. 4d. at four terms of the year in equal portions to Robert. Robert will exonerate Adam from the rent owed to the lord of the manor for the premises and maintain the [two] parts of the building at his own expense. They give nothing to the lord for a fine for having this licence.

Penalty

That no man should allow his rams to feed in the commons with the ewes from the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August: Lammas] to the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas], on pain of each man offending [to forfeit] 3s. 4d. in a single year.

Actions

Adam Archard complains against George Jones in a plea *quare*. [He alleges that] George, at Brinkworth, found, took, and led away a ewe worth 6s., [one] of his possessions, at a loss of 6s. to Adam.

*Adam Archard complains against George Jones in a plea *quare*, in that on 3 January 1572 George broke [into] his close at Brinkworth called Rams hill and with walking feet trampled down the grass lately growing there, to his loss of 20s.

Affeerors

None.

Estreated by Griffin Curtis, the steward.

Court Baron held there on 3 April 1572

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Homage

Geoffrey Wallis, Thomas Taylor, Thomas Shearer, Thomas Henley, John Shearer, John Smith, William Heale, William Beale, John Henley, Ralph Golding, William Thorne, John Hayward, William Taylor, Thomas Beale, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentment of the homage

That Geoffrey Wallis broke the lord's pound and took and led from it a mare from the possessions of Thomas Taylor. Amerced.

Grants

A younger William Beale took the reversion of a messuage called Norris's, with its [arable] land, meadow, and pasture, now in the tenure of Margaret Norborne, a widow. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Robert and Geoffrey immediately after Margaret's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for all the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. William gives £50 to the lord for an entry fine. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due]. The lord licensed William, Robert, and Geoffrey to have, make, and substitute an undertenant or undertenants as often as they please, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

An elder John Beale, the son of Humphrey Beale, deceased, took the reversion of a messuage called Alford's, with the [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to it, now in the tenure of Alice Beale, a widow, his mother. The premises are to be held for life successively by John and his brothers Humphrey and a younger John immediately after the death of Alice and of Edith, the wife of John Phipps, or on surrender or forfeiture by them. The elder John gives £6 13s. 4d. to the lord for an entry fine. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due. It is provided that henceforward the elder John should not surrender or forfeit his estate in the

premises in any way that a loss could touch Humphrey and the younger John in the reversion.

Penalty

That George Jones should scour the watercourse at the West field before the next feast of the Holy Cross [3 May], on pain of 20s.

Affeerors

William Beale, Richard Beck.

Estreated by me, Griffin Curtis, the steward.

[An undivided draft of the records of the two following courts exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the view of frankpledge with the court baron'. Nearly all the entries in this fair copy appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the draft which do not appear in this fair copy, preceded here by an asterisk, have been added at the end of the relevant category of entries as fair-copied.]

View of Frankpledge held there on 4 October 1572

Jurors

Robert Golding, Thomas Shearer, Thomas Taylor, Richard Webb, John Smith, William Taylor, William Thorne, Ralph Golding, John Shearer, William Beale, Michael Fry, John Skull, William Skinner, William Heale, Walter Arnold, Thomas Beale, John Hayward, John Henley, John Walker.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes with his whole tithing and gives 11s. 5d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman [draft: presentments of the jurors]

That John Bleek assaulted Thomas Parker. Amerced, 8d.

That John Kirkham sold ale without the licence of a justice contrary to a term of a statute.

*That John Brook assaulted Thomas Fenn. Amerced, 6d.

Oath of allegiance

Christopher Beale, Geoffrey Beale, and John Beale, of full age, were sworn to the queen. [Draft: each paid 1d.]

Presentments of the hayward (John Mills)

That a sheep and a lamb worth 2s. came within the lordship as strays at the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [2 February] [and remained] in the keeping of Thomas Beale. They were delivered to Richard Sawyer on the oath of John Henley; 4d. for the forfang.

*That a ewe worth 16d. came as a stray at the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne. [Margin: over a year]

*That a chilver-lamb worth 12d. came as a stray at the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August] last [and remains] in the keeping of John Mills.

[*Margin*: over a year]

*That a bay colt horse worth 5s. came as a stray at the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [8 September] [and remains] in the keeping of Thomas Beale. [*Margin*: forfang, 4d.]

That a ewe worth 20d. came as a stray on 1 October [and remains] in the keeping of Richard Elms. [*Margin*: over a year]

That three sheep, each worth 16d., came as strays on 1 October last [*rectius* before last] [and remain] in the keeping of John Mills. [*Margin*: over a year]

*That a ewe worth 14d. arrived as a stray at the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] last [*rectius* before last] [and remains] in the keeping of John Mills. [*Margin*: over a year]

**Forfang*

*William Fleming, on his oath, proves [ownership of] a bay foal taken as a stray at the feast of St. Peter in the 13th year of Elizabeth's reign [?1 August 1571] [and] in the keeping of a younger John Smith; 4d. for the forfang fell due.

*Walter Morton of Sudeley, on his oath, proves ownership of a skewbald foal taken as a stray at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of St. John the Baptist [29 August] [and] in the keeping of Bartholomew Richman; 4d. for the forfang fell due.

*Robert Adams of Chelworth, on his oath, proves that a sheep taken as a stray at the feast of the Circumcision [1 January] last [and] in the keeping of John Skull, is a possession of John Saunders of Wolson [?Woolstone]; forfang [*deleted*: 4d.].

*Andrew Brewer of Wootton, on his oath, proves that a bay foal worth 2s., taken as a stray about the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] last [and] in the keeping of Bartholomew Richman, is his possession; [*deleted*: 4d.] for the forfang fell due.

Affirmation

The jurors come and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentments of the jurors

That John Matthew stole wood in William Brunsdon's close, and that John Kirkham [*draft*: *alias* Curtis] stole some ducks. The penalty was appointed that the constable should punish them [by securing them] in the stocks for three hours on the next feast day [*draft*: of St. Luke (18 October), or any other feast day,] at the time of divine prayer [*draft*: until the middle of divine prayer], on pain of 40s.; and he should fix in very large letters placed in front of them for the whole time 'thus are we punished for filching, bribery, and as common brawlers and disturbers of the people and neighbours'.

That George Jones and William Beale, not having land [valued] at 40s., keep greyhounds and destroy hares and rabbits contrary to a term of a statute. They have forfeited the penalty, 40s.; assessed by the court at 10s.

That on 20 July 1572 Henry Richman, Edward Chambers, James Martin, Thomas Wrestley [*draft*: an elder Thomas Wrexley *alias* Wrestley],

[*draft*: a younger Thomas Wrestley,] and Bernard Hayter riotously assembled at Brinkworth, and about the first hour in the night [*draft*: about the first hour before noon] they broke into and entered the house of John Smith there and took and removed a buck, to the disinheritance of Henry Knyvett, esquire, the lord of the manor, and to John's great loss.

Court Baron held there on 4 October 1572

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Homage

Thomas Shearer, William Beale, John Skull, Michael Fry, Walter Arnold, John Henley, William Thorne, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit of this court, and appeared [*draft*: refuses to appear on this day; amerced, 6*d.*, for contempt of fee].

*That William Fry is a resident and was not present. Amerced, 4*d.*

That, as soon as William Richman had taken John Frith's cow, [which was] doing damage, and had wished to confine it in the pound, John [wrongfully] recovered it. John is amerced, 12*d.*

That Thomas Bleek has forfeited the penalty, 20*s.*, because he has not made his hedges at the Breach, as he was ordered to. [The penalty] is assessed by the court at 3*s.* 4*d.*

Actions

Thomas Taylor complains against John Bleek in a plea of trespass to his loss of 20*s.* He says that, at the feast of Pentecost last, John, with his various pigs and beasts, trampled down and consumed his close called the Breach sown with wheat, containing 6 acres of wheat or corn, to his loss of 20*s.*; and so he brings suit. John says that he is not guilty, was prepared to defend, and asks that [the matter] should be examined by the homage, and Thomas asks likewise. The homage says that Thomas sustained a loss [valued] at 3*s.* 4*d.* which he should recover with expenses [*draft*: 6*d.* expenses, 3*s.* 10*d.* in all], to be paid at Christmas next, or [that John] should forfeit 6*s.* 8*d.* [*draft*: 7*s.* 8*d.*] [*Margin of draft*: execution will be made]

*John Bleek complains against Thomas Taylor in a plea of trespass, to his loss of 36*s.* 8*d.* He says that Thomas, by reason of broken down fencing in the Breach in 1566-7, with his beasts, cows, pigs, and sheep, consumed and trampled down his close and the grass growing in it. Thomas says that he is not to blame and asks that the matter should be enquired into by the homage. The homage says that he is not to blame. John amerced, 3*d.*, and he goes *sine die*.

*Thomas Haskins complains against William Fry in a plea of debt on demand for 6s., half the value of a bullock [or heifer] [worth] 12s.

*William Goreway complains against Richard Beck in a plea of trespass, to his loss of 5s. [*Margin*: licence (to agree)]

*The cause between Henry Richman and Thomas Beale stands over.

*John Henley disputed in prohibited words in court concerning a fine he should pay for holding over a plea for 3s. 4d. with William Goreway, and he will be judged by the will of God. Amerced, 6d.

Agreement between the lord and John Lewin

Whereas one John Lewin of Long Compton stood bound to Henry Knyvett, esquire, lord of this manor, in a sum of money on condition that, if John did pay to the children of Thomas Waite certain sums of money at their age of discretion or marriage, and if any of them do die before that time, the survivor of them [is] to enjoy that part; nevertheless it is agreed by the consent of the court that John may have to his own use all and every such sums of money and the part of any child that shall happen to die before he or she shall come to the full age of 20 years and [remain] unmarried.

Penalties

That the homage should view the fences and boundaries between Nicholas Messiter and John Brook at Glazeland by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next and assign to each of them what is rightfully his, on pain of each man offending [to forfeit] 20s. [*Draft*: John Brook does not wish to stand to the order of the homage; he has forfeited 20s.]

*That [the homage should similarly view the boundaries] between William Thorne and John Lewin by the same day on the same pain.

Officers

William Beale was chosen as constable, Thomas Beale as tithingman, George Jones as reeve.

Affeerors

Thomas Shearer, William Skinner.

**Total estreats of this [and the preceding] court*

27s. 9d. (forfeited penalties 23s. 4d., forfang 8d., ameracements 3s. 9d.) made and delivered to William Pitcher, and 16d. for forfang; for strays not entered that be over-yearred, as appears at the court held there on 25 September 1571, 29s. 4d.

[*An undivided draft of the records of the two following courts exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the view of frankpledge with the court of the manor'. All the entries in these fair copies appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the draft which do not appear in these fair copies, preceded here by an asterisk, have been added at the end of the relevant category of entries as fair-copied.*]

View of Frankpledge held there on 1 September 1573*Jurors*

Thomas Shearer, John Skull, Thomas Henley, John Shearer, William Heale, William Thorne, John Davies, Thomas Beale, William Beale, William Skinner, Walter Arnold, John Hayward, George Jones, Richard Beck, John Henley.

Court-silver

Thomas Beale, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 11s. 5d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Smith and Edmund Heale are brewers and sold ale at an excessive profit [*draft*: and broke the assize of ale]. Each amerced, 6d.

That Thomas Smith is a butcher and sold meat at an excessive profit. Amerced, 6d.

That George Jones and John Shearer are bakers and broke the assize of bread, Each amerced, 6d.

That Edmund Heale and John Mills are resident within the manor and did not appear but were absent [*draft*: on this day], in contempt of the court. Each amerced, 3d.

*That otherwise all is well and beautiful (*pulchre*).

Presentments of the bailiff (John Smith)

That a black-grey foal worth 15s., taken as a stray on 7 August last, remains in the keeping of John Shearer.

That a grey foal worth 3s., taken as a stray on the same day, remains in the keeping of John Shearer.

That a black foal worth 20d., taken as a stray on the same day, remains in the keeping of John Mills [*draft*: Beale (*deleted*: Mills)].

That a black foal worth 8s., taken as a stray on the same day, remains in the keeping of William Jeffrey.

Forfang

From the bailiff for the forfang for a mare and a foal [*draft*: two foals], which William Brown of Hankerton proved to be his on his own oath and [which were] delivered [to him], 8d.

Presentments of the jurors

That William Shearer and Richard Waite broke into and entered William Beale's orchard and stole 1½ bushel of apples to William Beale's great loss; each amerced, 12d. Also that Thomas Smith stole wood, viz. fencing (*sepes*), of John Wells; amerced, 12d. [*draft*: and he was ordered not to do such a thing (*sic uti*) thereafter, on pain of 3s. 4d.]. The constable was ordered to punish William Shearer, Richard, and Thomas by means of the stocks, on pain of 40s.

That William Shearer and Richard Shearer [*?rectius* Waite] lead disorderly and suspect lives in the manner of troublemakers, as in the carrying off of the apples of neighbours in their orchards and in many other evil deeds (*fascinatorum*), to the great loss of the inhabitants. Each amerced, 12d.,

and they [the jurors] seek [an order] against them for keeping the peace.

*That Thomas Lewin, with his chattering and verbosity, disturbs the court from settling various causes, setting a bad example to others there. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

*That henceforward no inhabitant should use any other pathway or driftway across the land of any tenant, except only to take possession of a path which has been appointed by the homage to be made into his inclosure, on pain to forfeit 20s.

*That Richard Shearer disturbs the court with contumelious and dishonourable words, viz. 'I defy the mace', being charged to present on his oath as he was ordered to by the steward, setting a bad example to the other tenants there. Amerced, 40s., and assessed by the court at 20s.

Court Baron held there on 1 September 1573

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Essoins of free tenants

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit of this court, and appeared.

Homage

Thomas Shearer, William Beale, John Skull, William Thorne, Walter Arnold, John Henley, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Michael Fry, who held a messuage called Freeman's or Selwyn's, with a curtilage, a garden, and an orchard and the appurtenances, and a close called Home mead, a close called Over leaze, and a close called Stock mead, [all] by a copy dated 1 October 1568, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 40s. [*draft*: delivered to the lord]. Michael's relict Christine claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted for as long as she lived alone and chaste. [*In the draft this item is recorded as a presentment of the jurors through Thomas Shearer, the foreman.*]

That Richard Webb, who held a messuage called Baldwin's and a toft called Stephen's, with their appurtenances, by a copy dated 8 June 1542, has died since the last court; heriot, two cows worth £5 [*draft*: delivered to the lord]. Richard's relict Joan claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted for as long as she lived alone and chaste.

That Ralph Golding let out his common [pasture right] appurtenant to his tenement contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20s., assessed by the court at 6s. 8d., and was ordered not to let out his common to anyone but only to one who lives on his tenement, on pain of 20s.

That Thomas Lewin is accustomed to take his beasts in and out of the common to the great loss of all the tenants there. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

That Richard Shearer overstocks the common with his beasts to the great loss of all the tenants there. Amerced, 6s. 8d., and [it was ordered that] he is not to do so thereafter, on pain of 40s.

That Robert Reeve allows his house to be extremely ruinous. Amerced, 12d., and ordered to make all necessary repairs before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June], on pain of 40s. Likewise John Philips and Joan Webb. Each amerced, 12d., and ordered to repair before the same feast, on pain of 20s. [*Draft*: that John Philips allows his mansion house to be extremely ruinous by a failure of the roof, to the disinheritance of the lord; that Joan Webb allows her oxhouse to be extremely ruinous]

That Ralph Golding and John Lewin refused to pay their customary money which they should pay to the farmer. Each amerced, [*draft*: 6d.,] and [it was ordered that] they should pay before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That William Webb used a way at West field where he should have no way, to the great loss of the tenants there. Amerced, [*draft*: 3s. 4d.,] and ordered to make amends, to use [the way] no longer, but henceforward to use only the lower way, on pain of 20s.

*That William Webb should also scour his ditch between Haregrove and Thomas Taylor's land, and make his hedges there, before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day], on pain of 10s. [*In the draft the preceding 8 items are recorded as presentments of the jurors.*]

*The homage acknowledged that it did not have the rook net for destroying their crows and rooks [as it should have] according to a term of a statute. It and the whole tithing are amerced, 2s. It presents that up to now it had never had any such net. It was ordered to prepare a rook net before the next court, on pain to forfeit 10s.

*That James Skull assaulted John Norton with his fists. Amerced, 12d. *At this point, the steward being in full court in the execution of his office, the whole homage disturbs the court with its various pleadings and will not observe silence. [It is] in contempt of court. Amerced, 40s.

*That John Lewin should make his hedges and ditches as the homage appointed, before Christmas, on pain of 40s.

*That John Brook refused to obey an order of the homage and to stand to their judgement, as the homage required in an order [made] in the last court, for placing the boundaries (*bundas*) and baulks (*limites*) between him and Nicholas Messiter at Glazeland. He has forfeited the penalty, 20s.

*That a ewe worth 16d., a stray over a year, [remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

*That a lamb worth 12d., a stray over a year, remains in the keeping of John Mills.

*That three sheep, each worth 16d., strays over a year, [remain] in the

keeping of John Mills.

*That a ewe worth 14*d.*, a stray over a year, [remains] in the keeping of John Mills.

*That a ewe worth 20*d.*, a stray over a year, [remains] in the keeping of Richard Elms.

**Forfang*

*From the bailiff for the forfang for a sheep which Richard Smith, on the oath of John Henley, proved [to be his] and [which] was delivered, 4*d.*

*From the bailiff for the forfang for a foal in the keeping of Thomas Beale, 4*d.*

*From the bailiff for the forfang for a mare and a foal which William Brown of Hankerton, on his oath, proved to be his and [which] were delivered, 8*d.* paid in court.

**Actions*

*Joan Webb, a widow, lately the wife of Richard Webb, deceased, and Richard's executrix, complains against Thomas Taylor in a plea of debt on demand for 29*s.* 11*d.* It is to be settled at the judgement of Thomas Shearer and Richard Beck for the complainant and of John Skull and Thomas Beale for the defendant; to be determined before the next court.

*Thomas Shearer complains against Marion Barn, a widow, in a plea of trespass, to his loss of 10*s.* It is to be settled at the judgement of John Smith and Richard Beck; to be determined before the next court.

*Edmund [or Edward] Wallis complains against George Jones in a plea of trespass, to his loss of 7*s.*

Grant

Thomas, the son of Richard Shearer, surrendered the reversion of a messuage called Sibyl's, with the [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to it, now in Robert Reeve's tenure in the right of his wife Elizabeth for her life by virtue of a copy dated 25 April 1533, on condition that the lord would re-grant the premises to Thomas and his son Thomas. The elder Thomas took the reversion. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and the younger Thomas immediately after Elizabeth's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 26*s.* 8*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. The elder Thomas gives £50 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Penalties

That, before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas], the homage should view a boundary between Thomas Taylor and George Jones [in a place] called Stock mead at Windmill field and, after the view, he who should make and maintain it, [as decided] by the order of the homage, should make it sufficient before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day], on pain to forfeit 40*s.*

That the homage should view a watercourse in a close of Elizabeth Foscott, a widow, called the Ham and turn it where it seems fit to them, before Christmas next, on pain of 20*s.* John Philips should allow the water

there to have its course and observe the judgement and order made by the homage, on pain of 20s.

Pannage of pigs

7s. 2d. [draft: 7s. 4d.] paid in this year.

Officers

John Skull was chosen as constable, William Thorne as tithingman.

Affeerors

John Skull, Thomas Henley.

Estreated by Griffin Curtis, the steward.

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View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 25 September 1571

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 107–10*]

Manor Court held there on 24 January 1572

The court of the manor held in the names of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 110–12*]

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 4 October 1572

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 113–16*]

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 1 September 1573

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 117–21*]

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 20 September 1574

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth, held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

Jurors for the queen

Thomas Shearer, John Skull, Thomas Henley, John Shearer, William Heale, John Davies, Thomas Beale, William Beale, William Skinner, Walter Arnold, George Jones, Richard Beck, John Henley, John Walker, Ralph Golding.

Court-silver

William Thorne, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 11s. 5d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Henry Hunt is a common butcher and sold meat at an excessive profit. Amerced, 6d.

That John Davies, William Fry, and Edmund Heale are brewers and sold ale at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 6d.

That Agnes Pinnell, a widow, is a common baker and broke the assize of bread. Amerced, 6d.

That William Henley, Robert Beale, . . . [*MS. blank*] Bennett, Richard Morse, Thomas Smith, John Beale (essoined), William Taylor, Michael Pinnell (essoined), and Walter Read are residents within the manor and were not present on this day; those who are not essoined are amerced, 3d.

Presentments of the hayward (John Mills)

That a red heifer worth 6s. 8d., taken as a stray at the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] last, remains in the keeping of Thomas Jeffrey.

That a black wether worth 6d. has come within the manor as a stray since the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] last and remains in the keeping of John Skull.

That a white ewe worth 18d. has arrived within the manor as a stray since Christmas last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Henley.

That a white wether worth 18d. has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle [21 December] last and remains in the keeping of John Skull.

That a black wether worth 2s. has arrived within the manor as a stray since 7 September last and remains in the keeping of Henry Richman.

That a roan foal worth 13s. 4d. has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of Pentecost last and remains in the keeping of John Shearer.

That a grey foal worth 4s. has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of Pentecost last and remains in the keeping of William Clark. [*Margin: over a year*]

Forfang

From Philip Walter for the forfang for a heifer worth 6s. 8d., which Thomas Walter and John Simons proved on their oath to be a possession of his, 4d. paid to the bailiff in court; delivered.

From John Smith, the bailiff, for the forfang for a black-grey foal worth 15s., which John Henley proves on his oath to be a possession of William Jacob, 4d.; delivered.

From the bailiff for the forfang for a grey foal worth 3s., which John Shearer proved on his oath to be a possession of William Boulton, 4d.; delivered.

From the bailiff for the forfang for a red bullock, which Richard Bear proves on his oath to be his possession, 4d.

Actions

A younger William Beale complains against William Skinner in a plea of trespass, to the value of 13s. 4d.; licence [to agree]. [*Margin*: discharged]

A younger William Beale complains against Thomas Jeffrey in a plea of debt on demand for 10s.; licence [to agree].

John Skull complains against Henry Davies *alias* Smith in a plea of trespass, to the value of 39s., for the death of a cow of his by reason of the lopping of a tree; damages assessed at 3s. 4d. to be paid at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day] next.

John Skull complains against John Lewin in a plea of debt on demand for 3s. 6d. for arrears of rent.

William Webb complains against Thomas Jeffrey in a plea of trespass, to the value of 20s.; pledge for the prosecution, Richard Beck. It is committed to the judgement of John Skull for the defendant and to John Davies for the plaintiff. [*Margin*: distraint is made; discharged]

William Webb complains against Walter Read in a plea of trespass, to the value of 20s.; pledge for the prosecution, Richard Beck. [*Margin*: let a distraint be made]

John Hand complains against Elizabeth Foscott, a widow, in a plea of trespass, to the value of 5s. [*Margin*: let a distraint be made]

Richard Beck complains against Elizabeth Reeve in a plea of trespass, to the value of 5s.; licence [to agree].

Thomas Jeffrey complains against Richard Beck in a plea of trespass, to the value of 20s.; licence [to agree].

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentments of the jurors

That Henry Pinnell assaulted Ralph Golding. Amerced, 9d.

That Ralph Golding assaulted William Thorne and, with a cudgell of no value, drew his blood. Amerced, 10d.

That Ralph Golding assaulted John Skull and drew his blood. Amerced, 10d.

That they have not prepared a rook net for destroying crows and

rooks, as they were required to in an order [made] at the last court and contrary to a term of a statute. All the inhabitants have forfeited the penalty, 10s.

That John Lewin refused to pay his customary money which he should pay to the farmer. He has forfeited the penalty, 6s. 8d.

That Thomas Davies refused to pay his customary money to the farmer. Amerced, 2s.

That an elder John Davies, a younger John Davies, John Shearer, William Thorne, Henry Richman, Geoffrey Clark, William Clark, John Bleek, William Fry, a younger William Beale, William Heale, Thomas Shearer, George Jones, Thomas Henley, Geoffrey Webb, John Curtis, and William Webb played at bowls, a prohibited game. Each amerced, 4d.

Officers

William Beale was chosen as tithingman, Robert Reeve as reeve, John Walker as hayward.

Penalties

That the homage should view a hedge called Glazeland on Sunday next and, after viewing it, put an end to a dispute between Nicholas Messiter and John Brook, on pain of 20s.; and that Nicholas and John should stand to the decision of the homage, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That John Shearer should repair and amend his hedges and ditches between Geoffrey Wallis and himself at Windmill hill before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20s.; and so to observe [that order] from time to time.

That thereafter an elder William Beale should make and allow a driftway through his leaze at Haregrove hill for Christine Fry and Alice Golding, who rightfully and by custom ought to have [one], on pain of 20s.

That William Beale should make and amend his gates and hedges at Thomas Davies's Haregroves before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That each tenant, for his part, should repair, amend, and scour all his houses, buildings, hedges, ditches, gates, bridges, ways, mounds, and fences before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day] next, on pain of each man [offending] to forfeit 6s. 8d.; and so to observe [that order] from time to time, on pain of 10s.

Homage

Thomas Shearer, John Skull, Thomas Henley, John Shearer, William Heale, William Beale, John Davies, William Skinner, Walter Arnold, John Henley, John Walker, Ralph Golding, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit to this court, and appeared on this day.

That Robert Golding, who held by copy a tenement with the appur-

tenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 40s. Robert's relict Alice claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That John Curtis of Brinkworth took a sheep of another man and sold it to a stranger. Amerced.

That Thomas Lewin unlawfully recovered his beasts while they were being led away to the pound by William Thorne for doing damage. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

That Thomas Lewin unlawfully recovered his beasts when William Beakley took them while they were doing damage to him and was about to lead [them] to the pound, in contempt of the lord. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

That a younger Richard Shearer trespassed with his beasts [which were] feeding on Margaret Norborne's grass. Amerced, 4d.

That Thomas Bleek, who held by indenture a pasture called the Breach, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth £3, paid and delivered.

That John Lewin has not repaired his hedges and ditches in the West field as he was required to in an order. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s., [and the order] is continued.

That George Jones did not make and maintain the boundaries between him and Thomas Taylor, according to a judgement set out by the homage, as he was required to in an order. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s., but the homage says that he was licensed by the lord.

That William Webb still used a way at West field contrary to an order appointed at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20s., and was ordered to use [it] no more, on pain of 40s.

Amercement

John Philips, in full court, uses vain oaths and vain-speaking. Amerced, 4d.

Oath of allegiance

John Barnes, of full age, was sworn to the queen.

Pannage of pigs

5s. 9½d. paid in court.

Affeerors

William Heale, Thomas Shearer, Walter Arnold.

Court Baron held there on 9 June 1575

The court baron of the manor of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

Homage

Thomas Shearer, John Shearer, William Heale, William Beale, John Henley, William Skinner, Walter Arnold, John Walker, Richard Beck, William Thorne, Thomas Beale, John Skull, Thomas Henley, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit to this court, and appeared.

That Ralph Golding, who held by copy a messuage called Player's, a close called Home close containing about 8 acres, a close in the Over West field containing about 7 acres, a close called Ramps containing about 6 acres, a meadow called Sloughsburg containing about 4 acres, a close of meadow called Hudd's croft containing about 3 acres, and a close called Red hill containing about 6 acres, has died since the last court; heriot, a mare worth 40s. The premises are now in the lord's hand.

That Geoffrey Wallis, who, by a copy dated 28 May 1551, held for life successively to himself and to an elder Edmund and a younger Edmund, sons of his brother, two messuages, called Player's and Millward's, with their appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, two cows worth £6 13s. 4d. The elder Edmund claims to hold the premises for life by virtue of the copy. His claim having been considered by the court he did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Geoffrey Osborne, who held by copy a cottage called Cossiver's Sheephouse, with a garden, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Geoffrey's relict Edith claims to hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Richard Shearer and Alice Lewin, a widow, overstocked the common with their beasts contrary to an order of the court. Each of them has forfeited 20s.

That William Barnes, who held by indenture various lands within the manor, has died since the last court.

Actions

Geoffrey Webb complains against Henry Hunt in a plea of debt on demand for 25s. 8d. for horse purchase. [*Margin*: discharged]

Geoffrey Webb complains against Henry Hunt in a plea of debt on demand for 9s. 7d. for pigs. [*Margin*: discharged]

Orders

That thereafter no tenant should allow any beasts of his to go, and to feed, at large in the lanes of Windmill field and West field untethered, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That Edmund Wallis should supply Constance Lock's needs for her life, on pain of 40s.

That thereafter John Pinnell should use his way across Thomas Shearer's close as far as Hudd's croft in the Windmill field as William Fry lately used it.

Grants

George, the son of Thomas Pinnell of Grittenham, took a messuage called Player's, a close called Home close containing about 8 acres, and a close in the Over West field containing about 7 acres, [all] lately in the tenure of Ralph Golding, deceased. All the premises lie in Brinkworth and are part of the customary land of the manor. They are to be held for

life successively by George, his brother Ralph, and his sister Alice Pinnell for a yearly rent of 7s. 1½*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. George, Ralph, and Alice give £80 to the lord for an entry fine. George did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The lord licensed George, Ralph, and Alice to make and substitute an undertenant in the premises and any part of them for their life without forfeiture.

John Pinnell took a close of meadow called Hudd's croft containing about 3 acres, a meadow called Sloughsburg containing about 2½ acres, a close called Red hill containing about 6 acres, and a close called Ramps containing about 6 acres, [all] lately in the tenure of Ralph Golding, deceased. All the premises lie in Brinkworth and are part of the customary land of the manor. They are to be held for life successively by John and his sons George and Henry for a yearly rent of 7s. 1½*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. John gives £80 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The lord licensed John, George, and Henry to make and substitute an undertenant in the premises and any part of them for their life without forfeiture.

Isabel, the wife of John Philips, took, with her husband's assent, two messuages or tenements, called Hart's and Howell's, with all the [arable] land, meadows, feedings, pastures, and commons appurtenant to them, now in John's occupation. The premises are to be held for life successively by her and her sons John Barnes and Geoffrey Barnes for the rent and services formerly due and for two heriots. Isabel, John, and Geoffrey give £13 6s. 8*d.* to the lord for an entry fine, and Isabel did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The lord licensed Isabel, John, and Geoffrey to make and substitute an undertenant or undertenants in the premises or any part of them without forfeiture. It was provided that, if Isabel should outlive her husband, she would enjoy the premises only for her widowhood, the custom of the manor and the above grant notwithstanding.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 20 September 1575

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Shearer, John Shearer, William Heale, William Beale, John Henley, William Skinner, Walter Arnold, John Walker, Richard Beck, William Thorne, Thomas Beale, John Skull, Thomas Henley, John Pinnell, Edmund Wallis, George Pinnell.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant for the glebe land, owes suit to this court baron, and appeared.

Action

Edmund Pannell complains against John Skull in a plea of debt on demand for 16s. 6d. for wool; John made law with two hands [supporters].

Court-silver

William Beale, the tithingman, comes and gives 11s. 5d. for court-silver for the common fine.

Presentments of the tithingman

[That] William Walker (essoined), Geoffrey Clark (appeared), Walter Foscott (essoined), James Skull (essoined), William Barnes (amerced, 2d.), Richard Pinnell (essoined), John Curtis (essoined), and Henry Hunt (amerced 2d.) are residents and were not present at this court.

That John Davies, William Fry, and Edmund Heale are tipplers and sold ale. Each amerced, 3d.

That Henry Hunt is a butcher. Amerced, 3d.

That Ambrose White is a baker and broke the assize of bread. Amerced, 3d.

That William Beale, John Shearer, Henry Richman, William Heale, and George Jones played at bowls, a prohibited game. Each amerced, 6d.

That Walter Foscott assaulted George Pinnell. Amerced, 9d.

That John Curtis assaulted a younger John Davies and drew blood, as he accepted from the account of many people. Amerced 12d.

Oath of allegiance

Geoffrey Clark, aged 13, and William Beale, aged 17, were sworn to the queen.

Presentments of the hayward (John Walker)

That a white ewe worth 16d. has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of Pentecost last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Henley.

That a black wether worth 12d. has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of St. James the Apostle [25 July] last and remains in the keeping of John Smith *alias* Davies.

That a white pig called a hog, worth 8d. and now dead, arrived within the manor as a stray after Christmas [and remains] in the keeping of William Skull.

That a red heifer worth 10s. has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of St. Martin [11 November] last and remains in the keeping of Robert Reeve. At this court Robert, on his oath, proved [it] to be a possession of Richard Bath of Purton; 4d. for forage fell due, paid by Robert Reeve, the reeve.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That Alice Beale, a widow, is a chatterer and a common scold to the annoyance and bad example of the neighbours. She is to be placed in the stocks.

That John Osborne leads a suspect life, setting a bad example to the inhabitants.

That William Webb still used a way at West field contrary to an order appointed at the last court. He has forfeited 40s.

That Geoffrey Clark has not repaired his hedges at Lipgate but has allowed [them] to be ruinous. He has forfeited the penalty, 10s. Also that he felled a tree there. And that, from the time of which the memory of man to the contrary does not exist, each man living on his tenement always paid to repair those [hedges].

That John Lewin has not repaired his hedges and ditches between himself and William Thorne at West field nor made hedges where he rightfully should. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s., and he was ordered to make [hedges] in the right place before the feast of [St.] Philip and [St.] James the Apostles [1 May] next, on pain of £3.

That the inhabitants of Grittenham should not have a common way over Richard Beck's land except by his licence, as was shown in evidence through John Tucker and William Bushell.

Orders and penalties

That each reeve shall yield to the lord of this manor a full account of his yearly profits of [i.e. from] the manor within a quarter of a year after Michaelmas [29 September] every year, on pain of £10.

That, before Christmas next, John Lewin should make and repair Waite's Lane so that it [might] be sufficient for a wain to go [along it], on pain of 40s.

That, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, the homage should view a way between Thomas Hayward and William Beale, and it should be used as was appointed by the homage; on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That from henceforth John Hand shall not annoy Robert Reeve with his hogs nor in the house, on pain of 10s.

Strays remaining over a year and a day

From Thomas Henley for a white ewe worth 18d.

From William Clark for a grey foal worth 4s.

From Henry Richman for a black wether worth 2s.

From John Shearer for a roan foal worth 13s. 4d.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 4d. paid to William Pitcher in court.

Officers

George Jones was chosen as constable, William Clark as tithingman, Edmund Wallis as reeve, John Winkworth as hayward.

Affeerors

William Heale, John Henley.

Total of the estreats

£6 os. 14d.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 18 September 1576

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry

Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Henley, William Beale, Thomas Beale, Thomas Shearer, William Heale, William Thorne, Walter Arnold, John Henley, John Skull, John Pinnell, Richard Beck, John Walker, George Pinnell, John Shearer, William Skinner.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit to this court baron, and appears.

Action

Elizabeth Reeve complains against Adam Archard in a plea of debt on demand for 30s.

Oath of allegiance

Maurice Foscott, aged 16, and William Dobbs, aged 15, were sworn to the queen.

Court-silver

William Clark, the tithingman, comes and gives 11s. 5d. for court-silver on this day for half a year, and 22s. 10d. for the whole year.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Thomas Smith, John Smith, Richard Beck, William Fry, and Edmund Heale are tipplers and sold ale at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 6d.

That Richard Beck and Ambrose White are bakers and broke the assize of bread. Each amerced, 4d.

That Walter Foscott assaulted, and made an affray on, William Walker, setting a bad example to the inhabitants. Amerced 3s. 4d.

That William Thorne, Thomas Henley, William Heale, John Matthew, Thomas Shearer, a younger William Beale, William Taylor, William Skull, John Winkworth, Walter Foscott, Geoffrey the son of John Pinnell, Ambrose White, Christopher Beale, John Shearer, and John Curtis played at bowls, a prohibited game, contrary to a term of a statute [*margin*: 33 Henry VIII c. 9]. Each of them has incurred the penalty contained in the statute, assessed at 12d. each.

That John Barnes, Thomas Pollard, and a younger Geoffrey Pinnell are residents and were not present [in court]. Each amerced, 2d.

Presentment of the jurors [for the queen]

All well.

Presentments of the homage, sworn on the articles of the court baron.

That Henry Richman (2d.), Thomas Taylor (appeared), and William Richman (2d.) are tenants by indenture and owe suit to the court baron. He who was not present [in court] will by agreement pay 2d. to the lord for each occasion.

That John Lewin, a tenant by indenture, owes suit to this court and, if he was not present, is amerced. Amerced, 6d.

That Henry Richman erected and built a building, about 10 luggs long and about 3 luggs wide, on the lord's soil at Glazeland to the disinheritation of the lord. The bailiff and the homage were ordered to take [the building] into the lord's hand.

That William Webb still used a way at West field contrary to an order of the court appointed at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s.

That Henry Smith has Thomas Pollard [as] an undertenant and a stranger; and a penalty was appointed that no man should have any undertenant in their houses after the feast of Easter next without the lord's licence, and that each should remove his undertenant unless he has the lord's special licence, on pain of each man offending [to forfeit] 20s.

That John Pinnell allowed his beasts to go, and to feed, in the lanes of Windmill field and West field untethered, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20s.

Orders and penalties

That thereafter no tenant should allow any forester to kill does in the pastures of Brinkworth manor, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 3s. 4d.

That thereafter Thomas Hayward and Alice Beale should use the lower way in the lower lane and that, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, they should remove their gates up to (*usque*) the lane, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, the homage should view the churchpates [*rectius* church pales] and allot to everyone as it seems suitable to them, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

Grants

John, the son of Thomas Dobbs, deceased, surrendered the reversion of a tenement called Paine's with a barn, a garden, and an orchard and of four closes of pasture and meadow adjoining the tenement and containing about 12 acres, [all] which are now in Agnes Dobbs's tenure for her widowhood, and his copy made in respect of the premises and dated 19 April 1557, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord, through Griffin Curtis, esquire, his steward, granted the reversion to Richard Dirham. The premises are to be held for life successively by Richard and Agnes's sons Richard Dobbs and William Dobbs immediately after Agnes's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of £4 and for all the other services formerly due. Richard Dirham and Richard and William Dobbs give £22 to the lord as a fine for having that estate and are admitted as tenants in reversion. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

William Knyvett, gentleman, took the reversion of a messuage called Player's and of a messuage called Millward's, with all the land and hereditaments appurtenant to them, which are now in the tenure of an elder Edmund Wallis. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his wife Anthonia, and their daughter Catherine Knyvett immediately

after the death of Edmund and of a younger Edmund Wallis for all the rent and services formerly due. William gives £30 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, remitted by the lord in consideration of consanguinity. He was admitted as tenant in reversion. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

Presentments of the constable (George Jones)

That a dun foal worth 13s. 4d. arrived within the manor as a stray on 14 September last and remains in the keeping of George Jones.

That a red mare worth 5s. has arrived as a stray since 14 September last [and remains] in the keeping of Baldwin Smith.

That a black foal worth 3s. 4d. has arrived as a stray since the same day [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

That a flaxen foal valued at 6s. 8d. has arrived as a stray since the same day and remains in the keeping of John Beale.

That a grey foal worth 5s. has arrived as a stray since the same day and remains in the keeping of William Clark.

That a bay foal worth 4s. has arrived as a stray since the same day and remains in the keeping of William Clark.

That a grey foal worth 3s. 4d. has arrived as a stray since the same day [and remains] in the keeping of John Beale.

That a grey foal worth 4s. has arrived as a stray since the same day [and remains] in the keeping of Humphrey Jones.

That a black foal worth 4s. has arrived as a stray since the same day [and remains] in the keeping of John Witt.

That two foals, one dun [and] worth 4s. and the other black [and] worth 4s., have arrived as strays since the same day [and remain] in the keeping of Alice Beale.

That a red mare worth 20s. has arrived as a stray since the same day [and remains] in the keeping of Robert Slingsby, gentleman.

That a red-marked bullock worth 5s. remained as a stray over a year and a day in the keeping of John Winkworth and died.

Strays

From Thomas Henley for a white ewe worth 16d., a stray over a year and a day.

From John Smith *alias* Davies for a black wether worth 12d., a stray over a year and a day.

From William Skull for a dead hog worth 8d.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 8½d. paid by Edmund Wallis, the reeve.

Officers

Thomas Henley was sworn as constable; Richard Beck was chosen as tithingman; John Hayward was sworn as reeve.

Affeerors

Thomas Shearer, William Thorne.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 25 September 1577

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Shearer, William Beale, Thomas Beale, William Heale, William Thorne, George Pinnell, Walter Arnold, John Skull, John Walker, William Skinner, Thomas Henley, Edmund Wallis, John Shearer, George Jones.

Action

Thomas Pinnell complains against Edmund Wallis in a plea of debt on demand for 3*s.* 2*d.* [*Margin*: discharged]

Forage

Thomas Smith of Crudwell proved a bay foal valued at 4*s.*, in the keeping of William Clark as a stray, to be his property; 4*d.* for forage fell due.

John Driver of Estcott [?Eastcott] proved a skewbald-sorrel foal, taken as a stray since the last court, to be his property; 4*d.* for forage fell due.

John Hayward and Maurice Bennett, both of Ashton Keynes, proved, on their own oath, a dun foal worth 3*s.* 4*d.*, taken as a stray [and] in the keeping of George Jones, to be John's property; a dun foal in the keeping of Alice Beale to be George Bennett's property; a black foal in the keeping of Alice Beale to be the property of Edward Ferris, gentleman; an iron-grey foal in the keeping of John Beale to be the property of John Nicholls of Ashton Keynes; a black foal in the keeping of John Witt to be the property of Edward Ferris, gentleman. For each foal 4*d.* for forage fell due.

Geoffrey Pinnell proved a grey foal, [a stray] in the keeping of William Clark, to be the property of John Maskelyne of Lydiard Tregoze; a grey foal, [a stray] in the keeping of Humphrey Jones, to be John's property. For each foal 4*d.* for forage fell due.

George Jones proved a red mare, [a stray] in the keeping of Baldwin Smith, to be the property of Thomas Whiting; a flaxen foal, [a stray] in the keeping of John Beale, to be the property of William Beale of Ham; a grey foal, in the keeping of William Thorne as a stray, to be the property of Maurice Bennett of Ashton Keynes. In each case 4*d.* for forage fell due.

Court-silver

Richard Beck, the tithingman, comes and gives 22*s.* 10*d.* for court-silver on this day for the whole year.

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Davies and Richard Beck are tipplers. Each amerced, 6*d.*

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 6*d.*

That Thomas Matthew is a butcher. Amerced, 4*d.*

That Thomas Bowdley, John Henley, Geoffrey Pinnell, a younger William Beale, Nicholas Pinnell, Roger Limbrick, and Richard Elms are

residents [and were not present]. Each is essoined.

Presentments of the bailiff (George Jones)

That a red-tagged bullock [or heifer] worth 10s., taken as a stray on 15 July last, [remains] in the keeping of Geoffrey Pinnell.

That a red steer worth 8s., taken as a stray since that day, [remains] in the keeping of Geoffrey Pinnell.

That a wan-red bullock [or heifer] worth 10s., taken as a stray since 20 October last, [remains] in the keeping of John Skull.

That a black gelding worth 13s. 4d., taken as a stray since 26 October last, [remains] in the keeping of John Philips.

That a black mare worth 16s., taken as a stray on 6 February last, [remains] in the keeping of John Brook.

Oath of allegiance

John Barnes, aged 14, Michael Fry, aged 16, Richard Barnes, aged 14, and Geoffrey Henley, aged 14, were sworn to the queen.

Tenants by indenture

Henry Richman, Thomas Taylor (appeared), and William Richman are tenants by indenture and owe suit to this court, and he who was not present should pay, by agreement, 2d. to the lord for each occasion; John Lewin, a tenant by indenture, owes suit of court and, if he was not present, is amerced: amerced, 6d.

Affirmation

The jurors come and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentment of the jurors [for the queen]

That otherwise all is well.

Presentments of the homage

That William Skinner overstocked the common with his beasts contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10s.

That Clement Cribbard brought his beasts into the common within the manor, where he should have no [right of] common. Amerced, 20s.

That John Pinnell, through his servants, used a way in Glazeland over William Thorne's land contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 12d.

That John Curtis has Robert James as his undertenant in his house without the lord's licence previously obtained. He has forfeited the penalty, 12d.

That a younger William Beale, a tenant of the lord, used a way at West field over the land of Thomas Tiler and John London contrary to an order made on that matter. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s.

That John Skull and Thomas Hayward, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, shall make the way broad enough in the Church lane that [people] then may travel with sack and pack, on pain of 20s.

That John Henley should repair his hedges and ditches between Edmund Heale and himself before the feast of Easter next, on pain of 10s.

Pannage of pigs

5s. 1½d. paid in court.

Grants

William Knyvett, gentleman, took the reversion of a messuage called Player's and of a messuage called Millward's, with all the land and hereditaments appurtenant to them, all which are now in the tenure of an elder Edmund Wallis by copy. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his daughter Catherine Knyvett, and his son Anthony immediately after the death of Edmund and of a younger Edmund Wallis, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for all the rent and services formerly due. William gives £30 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, remitted by the lord in consideration of consanguinity. He was admitted as tenant in reversion, but fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Margaret Norborne, a widow, who holds for her widowhood a tenement called Bagg's [or Badge's] with its appurtenances, now in Thomas Jeffrey's occupation, surrendered her estate in the premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, Margaret's best farm animal. Thomas, the tenant in reversion, asks to be admitted to the messuage, a close of pasture adjoining it containing about 8 acres, and 1 acre of meadow lying in the east Leigh, by virtue of a copy made for him and dated 25 September 1571. With the lord's assent he did fealty and was admitted as tenant. John Barnes took the reversion of the messuage, of the close, and of the 1 acre of meadow, [all] now in Thomas's tenure for life. The premises are to be held by him for life immediately after Thomas's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for all the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. John gives £13 6s. 8d. to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

Thomas Hayward surrendered a messuage with the appurtenances, a tenement or toft called Worth with its appurtenances, and all the estate in them which he holds by virtue of a copy dated 21 February 1555, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, Thomas's two best farm animals. Thomas took, as of new, a chief messuage called Iles, a close called Home close, a close of pasture called Church croft, a little meadow near the three bridges, a close of meadow in the Windmill field, and 1 acre of meadow in Broad mead, [all] now in his occupation and being a half of his customary land surrendered at this court. The premises are to be held for life successively by Thomas, his son John, and his daughter Alice Hayward for all the rent and services formerly due. Thomas gives nothing to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. John Hayward took a close of pasture called Worth, a close of pasture called North croft, a close of meadow in the West field, and a piece of meadow in Wood close, [all] now or lately in the occupation of his father Thomas and being a half of Thomas's customary land surrendered at this court. The premises are to be held for life successively by John, Thomas, and Alice for all the rent and services formerly due. John gives 40s. to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The lord granted to him that it was permitted to him and all others claiming through him to make Thomas his undertenant and

that, for Thomas's life, Thomas might occupy all the premises granted to John without forfeiture.

Officers

Geoffrey Clark was chosen as constable, George Pinnell as tithingman, William Thorne as reeve.

Order

That Edmund Wallis's wife and ... [*MS. blank*] should undergo the punishment of the stocks next Sunday because each is a common scold and disturber of the queen's peace to the great annoyance of the inhabitants.

Affeerors

Thomas Shearer, John Skull.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 17 March 1578

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Shearer, William Beale, William Heale, William Thorne, Walter Arnold, John Pinnell, John Skull, John Walker, William Skinner, Thomas Henley, Edmund Wallis, Thomas Beale, Richard Beck, John Henley, John Hayward, John Shearer, John Philips.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant and owes suit to this court.

Court-silver

George Pinnell, the tithingman, comes and says that court-silver for the whole year was always paid at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] in each year for the lord's use.

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Smith, Richard Beck, and William Fry are tipplers. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 3*d*.

Presentments of the bailiff (George Jones)

That a black gelding worth 13*s*. 4*d*. has remained within the manor as a stray over a year and a day in the keeping of John Philips.

That a black mare worth 16*s*. has remained within the manor as a stray over a year and a day in the keeping of John Brook.

That a red foal worth 4*s*., taken as a stray on 4 May last, [remains] in the keeping of Richard Butler.

That a red bullock worth 4*s*., taken as a stray on 24 December last, [remains] in the keeping of Richard Beck.

That a bay mare worth 20*s*., taken as a stray on 28 January last, [remains] in the keeping of George Jones.

That a red steer worth 12s., taken as a stray on 17 December last, [remains] in the keeping of John Skull.

That a brown steer worth 20s., taken as a stray on 3 January last, [remains] in the keeping of John Skull.

Stray

A day was given to John Skull to cause William Hyett of Stonehouse to prove, at the next court, a wan-red bullock [or heifer] worth 10s., taken here as a stray, to be his [*i.e.* William's] property, or to pay 10s. to the lord for the stray.

Presentments of the jurors for the queen

That William Richman stopped up a stile at Spashnam's corner, where there ought, and is accustomed, to be a footpath, to the great annoyance of those passing. Amerced, 20s., and he was ordered thereafter to allow [the stile] to be open, on pain of 40s.

That a bay gelding taken within the manor as a waif remains, for the lord's use, in the hands of George Jones.

That Robert Barrett took and carried away some broad stones out of the causeway, to the harm of the king's highway. Amerced, 12d.

That Thomas Jeffrey, Richard Elms, Richard Pinnell, William Ferris, William Player, Thomas Pollard, Baldwin Morley, and John Curtis are residents within [the jurisdiction of] this view of frankpledge and did not appear on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

Presentments of the homage

That Henry Richman (*2d.*), Thomas Taylor (appeared), and William Richman (appeared) are tenants by indenture and owe suit to this court, and he who was not present should pay, by agreement, *2d.* to the lord on each occasion. John Lewin is also a tenant by indenture and owes suit to this court; if he were not present he would be amerced, but he appeared.

That Maud Colls, a widow, who held a messuage and $\frac{1}{2}$ yardland called Witt's, with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a mare worth £3 delivered to the lord's stock. William Clark and his wife Joan claim in Joan's right the reversion of the premises for Joan's life. Because it is now doubted whether a parcel of land lying in the Leigh rightfully pertains to William and Joan by virtue of the copy, their admittance and fealty are respited until to the next court. [*Added later:* they say that it is part of the copy]

That John Curtis unlawfully recovered his beasts from George Pinnell when George wished to impound them for [causing] damage. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

That John Curtis has Robert James as his undertenant contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20s. It is remitted.

That George Jones allowed the stile in West field to be extremely ruinous. Amerced, 2s., and he was ordered to amend [it] before the feast of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 10s.

That, more than was right, Henry Richman used a driftway with all

his beasts in and over the several land of William Thorne lying in Glazeland and there did much damage to William on various occasions and at various times.

Action

George Pinnell complains against George Pinnell and John Walker, the overseers of the [high]ways, in a plea of debt on demand for 4s. 4d. [*Margin*: discharged]

Orders and penalties

That thereafter no man should receive any undertenant in their houses without a special licence of the lord previously obtained, on pain to forfeit 20s.

That henceforth no customary tenant should let out his customary land or any part of it to a stranger unless he [the stranger] is a tenant of the lord of the manor. And that first [a] view [should] be taken by four indifferent tenants of such parcel of ground so determined to be let by any customary tenant, and by them [it is] to be appraised what the true yearly value thereof is or shall be worth; and then, if no such tenant will give that sum for such ground, that it shall and may be lawful to such tenant to let and grant his parcel of copyhold ground to any stranger so [i.e. provided] that it be not above a year and [a] day or against the custom of the manor; on pain of each man [offending] to forfeit 40s.

That each man, tenants of the rector as much as of any others whatsoever, who should pay for pannage of pigs, should pay in each year according to the portion of the pannage due from him, on pain of 10s.

That each tenant should repair all his houses and buildings before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 20s. Richard Pinnell and John Hayward were chosen to oversee from time to time all the dilapidated tenements, houses, and buildings within the manor and to present all the offences of the tenants in this matter at each court, on pain of 20s.

It was agreed that each tenant shall plant all their dead hedges with quickfrith and shall set within every third lug one elm, ash, or oak at times convenient.

That no tenant shall at any time enter the lord's woods of this manor with any bill, hatchet, or edge tool to the intent to cut any wood or thorns there growing, other than with a crook to pull down any rotten boughs, except he has [the] licence of the lord's woodward; on pain to forfeit every such tool and wood.

That none shall take [any] of a baker's bread to sell again of any other person than such as are appointed therefore [i.e. for that purpose] by this court, on pain of 10s.

Affeerors

William Heale, John Walker.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 20 September 1578

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Shearer, William Beale, William Heale, William Thorne, Walter Arnold, John Pinnell, John Walker, William Skinner, Thomas Henley, Edmund Wallis, Thomas Beale, Richard Beck, John Henley, John Hayward, John Shearer, John Philips, Thomas Jeffrey.

Oath of allegiance

Geoffrey Skull, aged 14, Maurice Skull, aged 13, Walter Clark, aged 15, William Barnes, and John Look were sworn to the queen.

Court-silver

George Pinnell, the tithingman, comes and gives 22s. 6d. for court-silver for this year.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That John Smith, Richard Beck, and William Fry are tipplers. Each amerced, 4d.

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 4d.

That the wife of Henry Smith is a common hedge breaker, viz. Thomas Hayward's and Anthony Gearing's. She is to undergo the punishment of the stocks.

That Agnes Twiniho received and harboured persons unknown and extremely suspect. She is to undergo the punishment of the stocks on Sunday next.

That William Henley and John Beale are residents and were not present. Each amerced, 3d.

Actions

William Skull complains against Robert Barrett in a plea of debt on demand for 30s. 6d., and in a plea of debt on demand for 10s.

Thomas Taylor complains against John Pinnell in a plea of trespass, to the value of 26s. 8d., for killing a steer with his dog. John denies it, and on this was sworn.

Walter Read complains against Edmund Wallis in a plea of debt on demand for 12d. Edmund comes and ... [*MS. blank*].

John Skull complains against Thomas Matthew in a plea of debt on demand for 6s. 4d. for a calf bought from him. Thomas acknowledges the debt. Execution will be made, with expenses of 6d.

Presentments of the bailiff (George Jones)

That a red heifer bullock worth 8s., taken as a stray on 2 May last, [remains] in the keeping of John Skull.

That a black mare worth 16s., taken as a stray at the feast of All Saints [1 November] last, [remains] in the keeping of Christopher Nicholls.

That a red-tagged bullock [or heifer] worth 10s. has remained as a

stray over a year and a day in the keeping of Geoffrey Pinnell.

Forage

William Hyett of Stonehouse proved a wan-red bullock [or heifer] worth 10s., taken as a stray, to be his property; 4d. for forage fell due; paid.

Richard Powell of Purton, on his oath, proved a brown bullock [or heifer] worth 20s., taken as a stray on 3 January last [and] in the keeping of John Skull, to be his property; 4d. for forage fell due; paid.

John Pollard of Lee [?Lea or Leigh] proved a red mare worth 13s. 4d., taken as a stray, to be the property of William Coles of Liddington; 4d. for forage fell due; paid.

Pannage of pigs

11s. 8½d. paid to the reeve (Agnes Pinnell, a widow, 1d., Margaret Norborne 3½d., John Skull 9d., Richard Webb 6d., an elder William Beale 6½d., Thomas Beale 7d., William Thorne 3d., Walter Arnold 3d., George Jones 3d., John Brook 4d., John Pinnell 7d., William Heale 2d., Richard Beck 8½d., William Clark 5½d., John Henley 3d., John Walker 1d., John Philips 2d., Nicholas Messiter 10d., Thomas Jeffrey 4d., Christopher Nicholls 1½d., George Pinnell 3d., Thomas Skinner 2d., Christine Fry 4d., William Beale 1d., Elizabeth Foscott 1½d., William Foscott 1d., Alice Beale 8½d., Agnes Dobbs 3d., Thomas Shearer 12d., John Mills ½d., William Bailey ½d., Walter Clark 1½d., John Hand 8½d., Thomas Hayward 5d., Thomas Henley 4d.).

Grant

The lord granted a licence to John Henley, a customary tenant, to let out to Walter Clark the half of his tenement in which John now lives and it now stands divided, a backside lying near it, and a close of meadow called Stock mead, from the date of this court for John's life, without forfeiture for this cause.

Admittance

William Clark and his wife Joan, one of the daughters of John Colls, claim to be admitted as tenants of a messuage and ½ yardland called Witt's for Joan's life by virtue of a copy dated 20 February 1555. The lord questions whether a parcel of [arable] land lying in the Leigh, lately occupied with the messuage, rightfully pertains to William and Joan by virtue of that copy or to the lord of the manor. William and Joan were admitted as tenants and did fealty. [*Margin*: the doubt is resolved; [the parcel] rightfully pertains to William by virtue of the copy]

Presentments of the homage

That William Skinner overstocked the common of Braydon because he let out [his] tenement and common [rights] and afterwards fed his beasts there, contrary to an order of the court. Amerced, 10s.

That John Philips overstocked the common of Braydon with his beasts because he keeps more beasts [there] in summer than he maintains in winter. Amerced, 3s.

That Alice Beale overstocked the common there. Amerced, 3s.

That George Pithouse overstocked the common there with his sheep. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

That John Skull overstocked the common there with 20 beasts. Amerced 10s.

That Thomas Bowdley overstocked the common there with two foals. Amerced, 2s.

That William Fry overstocked the common there with three beasts. Amerced, 2s.

That Humphrey Richman overstocked the common there with beasts. Amerced, 2s.

That John Bailey overstocked the common there with two beasts. Amerced, 12d.

That John Skull encroached on a parcel of waste lying near his tenement. Amerced, 10s., and he was ordered to restore it before the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 40s.

That Agnes Pinnell let out part of her customary land to Richard Shearer, who is not a tenant of the manor, contrary to an order of the court. She forfeits the penalty, 40s.

That the custom of the manor is that all Lammas meads of the manor ought to be hained at the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady St. Mary the Virgin [25 March: Lady day], and [it is the custom] to cut the crop, carry [it], and rid the same [meads] by Lammas day [1 August] every year.

That William Richman has still stopped a stile at Spashnam's corner where there ought, and is accustomed, to be a footpath, to the great annoyance of those passing and contrary to an order of the court. He forfeits the penalty, 40s., and he was ordered not to do so thereafter, on a pain.

That John Skull tore out and uprooted some live hedges growing within his land. Amerced, 40s.

That John Skull has not amended the way in the Church lane as he is required to in an order. He has forfeited the penalty.

That John Philips let out a close called Glazeland to ... [MS. blank] Colston of Siddington, who is not a tenant of this manor, contrary to an order of the court. He forfeits the penalty, 40s.

Orders

That thereafter no tenant should have more beasts to go, and to feed, in the common of Braydon in summer than he maintains in winter on the holding in respect of which he claims [right of] common there, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 10s. for each beast and 12d. for each sheep.

That no man might be a keeper of beasts in Braydon who is [rectius is not] an inhabitant of the manor, on pain of 10s. [Margin: pain for guiders]

That John Skull should render a reasonable account to his neighbours of all arrears and claims of the parishioners being in his hands, at Brinkworth church on the Friday next after the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle

[21 September] next, on pain of 20s.

Officers

Walter Arnold was chosen as constable, Edmund Wallis as tithingman, John Pinnell as reeve, Thomas Jeffrey as hayward; Thomas Taylor and Thomas Henley were chosen as overseers of the assize of bread and of ale.

Amercement

William Beale withdrew from the court without licence. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

Affeerors

Thomas Shearer, William Thorne.

Estreats

£12 7s. 8d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 31 March 1579

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

[Jurors for the queen and for the homage]

Thomas Shearer, Thomas Henley, Walter Arnold, John Walker, John Henley, William Beale, George Pinnell, Thomas Beale, John Philips, William Clark, John Hayward, William Heale, John Shearer.

Forage

William Bailey of Little Somerford proved a white ewe, taken as a stray [and] in the keeping of Thomas Shearer, to be the property of Giles Driver; 4d. for forage fell due, paid to Francis Bradshaw.

Thomas Wigmore proved a fallow steer bullock, taken as a stray, to be the property of Eleanor Cove of Oaksey; 4d. for forage fell due, paid to Francis Bradshaw.

Court-silver

Edmund Wallis, the tithingman, comes and [?says that he] gives court-silver on the day of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas].

Presentments of the tithingman

That Florence Smith, a widow, and Richard Beck are tipplers. Each amerced, 4d.

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 4d.

Presentments of [the bailiff] (George Jones)

That a bay gelding colt valued at 20s. was taken as a stray on 29 October last [and remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a red steer worth 20s. arrived as a stray on 8 December last [and remains] in the keeping of George Jones.

That a bay foal worth 12d. arrived as a stray on 8 December last [and remains] in the keeping of John Beale.

That a white wether worth 4s. arrived as a stray on 14 December last

[and remains] in the keeping of Richard Webb.

That a brown steer arrived as a stray on 24 December last [and remains] in the keeping of William Beale.

That a red steer worth 4s. arrived as a stray on 24 December last [and remains] in the keeping of Thomas Shearer.

That a black heifer worth 3s. 4d. arrived as a stray on 24 December last [and remains] in the keeping of Thomas Shearer.

That a red heifer worth 8s. arrived as a stray on 2 May last [and remains] in the keeping of John Shearer.

That a black ewe worth 4s. arrived as a stray on 8 June last [and remains] in the keeping of Richard Webb.

That a white ewe worth 2s. arrived as a stray on the day of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day] last, [and remains] in the keeping of Thomas Hayward.

That a white boar worth 2s. 6d. arrived as a stray on 3 February last [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

That a black mare worth 8s. arrived as a stray on 1 March last [and remains] in the keeping of Robert Watts.

That a bay foal worth 8s. arrived as a stray on 1 March last [and remains] in the keeping of John Gilbert.

Stray

From Richard Beck for the value of a red bullock [or heifer] worth 4s. remaining over a year and a day as a stray in his keeping.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That Thomas Bowdley is a resident within the manor and was not present at this view of frankpledge. Amerced, 4d.

That Thomas Glead assaulted, and made an affray on, Agnes Ball with his fist. Amerced, 9d.

That John Beale, the son of Alice Beale, assaulted Gillian Gregory. He is to be punished by means of the stocks.

That John Curtis feloniously took four geese from the possessions of an unknown man.

That William Richman took away from this manor the goods and chattels of John Curtis, which had been seized for the lord's use as the goods of a felon.

That William Richman still stopped a footpath and the stile at Spashnam's corner to the great annoyance of the inhabitants of Little Somerford as of many others passing there, as, from the evidence and oath of John Sealy, John Jones, and John Alway, [?] of Little Somerford, it appears very fully to this court that there ought, and is accustomed, to be a footpath and a stile there. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s., and he was ordered not to do so thereafter, on pain of £5.

Grants

The lord granted a licence to John Shearer, a customary tenant, to let at farm a close of pasture lying in the Nether West field containing about 10 acres, part of the customary land now in John's tenure, to Thomas

Davies *alias* Taylor [and] his executors and assigns from the date of this court for the next six years without forfeiture.

Margaret Thorne, a daughter of William Thorne, took the reversion of a messuage called Wingood's, and of land appurtenant to it, now in William's tenure for life by copy. The premises are to be held for life by her immediately after William's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of 7s. 7d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. William, on Margaret's behalf, gives £10 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited [until the reversion falls due].
Presentments of the homage

That William Skinner, who held a messuage or tenement called Foster's with two closes lying near the messuage [and] containing about 5 acres, 1 acre of arable in Ride hill, a ridge shooting on Low's bridge, a headland in Staine mead, 1 acre of arable land shooting on Stock mead, and two small pieces of meadow in Stock mead, and who held a tenement and pasture called Gilling's and 5 acres appurtenant to it, has died since the last court; two heriots, valued at £6 13s. 4d. William's relict Agnes Skinner claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted.

That Richard Webb, a younger William Beale, and George Jones keep greyhounds in their possession within the manor and, by night with those dogs, did trace and kill hares in the snow, contrary to a term of a statute. Each amerced, 2s. 6d.

That John Pinnell did trace a hare in the snow, contrary to a term of a statute. Amerced, 18d.

That Alice Beale made the Church way founderous in the Slough, to the annoyance of those passing. Amerced, 6d.

That the customary tenants of the manor may let out any part of their customary land for a year without a licence of the lord previously obtained.

That Geoffrey Pinnell has occupied a ground, a parcel of the copyhold of George Jones, from year to year about the space of five years, that William Thorne did occupy the ground the year before, and that John Frith did occupy it the half year next before that.

That John Skull has not reformed his ditch, which he was commanded [to] according to the right course, according to the order. He has forfeited the penalty, but it is assessed by the court at 3s. 4d.

That John Skull has not reformed his bank in the Church lane. Amerced 3s. 4d.

Orders

That George Jones should make and repair a bridge in Munbreach before the feast of Easter next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That Margaret Norborne should make a stile at Home close, where it was accustomed to be, before the feast of Easter next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That William Barnes should repair the hedges, boundaries, and ditches in Glazeland between his land and Henry Richman's before the feast of

the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 10s.

That Robert Reeve should allow to his wife Elizabeth 28s. 4d., part of Adam Archard's rent, in each quarter of the year during her life, and that Elizabeth should live in his house there, on pain to forfeit 40s. to the lord.

Sum total of this court besides fines and heriot

£3 15s. 5d.

Affëerors

John Henley, William Beale.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 3 September 1579

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Shearer, Thomas Henley, Walter Arnold, John Walker, John Henley, William Beale, George Pinnell, Thomas Beale, John Philips, William Clark, John Hayward, John Skull, William Heale, Richard Beck, John Shearer.

Actions

Thomas Haskins complains against John Mills in a plea of debt on demand for 29s. John acknowledges the debt. Execution will be made, with expenses of 10d.

Thomas Haskins complains against John Mills in a plea of debt on demand for 21s. 6d. John acknowledges the debt. Execution will be made, with expenses of 8d.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit to this court, and appeared.

Court-silver

Edmund Wallis, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 22s. 6d. for court-silver at this court.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Florence Smith, a widow, and Richard Beck are tipplers. Each amerced, 3d.

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 3d.

Presentments of the bailiff (William Thorne)

That two bay foals worth 12s. arrived within the manor as strays [and remain] in the keeping of John Gilbert.

That a white sheep worth 18d. has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Fry.

That a grey foal worth 2s. has arrived as a stray since the feast of the

Invention of the Cross [3 May] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Clark.

That a black lamb worth 2s., taken as a stray since the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] last, [remains] in the keeping of John Hull.

That a black gelding worth 8s., taken as a stray since the feast of St. James the Apostle [25 July] last, [remains] in the keeping of Walter Beade [*?rectius* Beale].

That a grey mare worth 12s. has arrived as a stray since the feast of St. James the Apostle [25 July] [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

Strays

From Richard Webb for the value of a sheep, a stray over a year and a day, 4s.

From Thomas Shearer for the value of a ewe, 4s.

From John Skull for the value of a wether, a stray over a year, 2s.

From an elder William Beale for the value of a bullock [*or* heifer], a stray over a year, 4s.

From Thomas Shearer for the value of a bullock [*or* heifer], a stray over a year, 4s.

From Thomas Shearer for the value of a heifer, a stray over a year, 3s. 4d.

From Geoffrey Webb for the value of a foal, a stray over a year, 20s.

From Joan Beale for the value of a foal, a stray over a year.

From George Jones for the value of a bullock [*or* heifer], a stray over a year, 10s.

Oath of allegiance

John Moody, Richard Dobbs, Humphrey Beale, Maurice Heale, and Thomas Lewin, of full age, were sworn to the queen.

Presentment of the constable (Walter Arnold)

That no juror, nor tenant or inhabitant, has not put on [*?rectius* has put on] caps on Sundays and festivals and has not observed [*?rectius* has observed] a term contained in the statute for wearing caps; therefore from the inhabitants is appointed [a penalty], 20s. [*Margin*: contrary to the statute of 13 Elizabeth, c. 19]

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That John Winkworth, William Player, John Robins, Baldwin Morley, Thomas Pollard, Henry Smith, William Barnes, and Ambrose White are residents within [the jurisdiction of] this view of frankpledge and were not present at this court. Each amerced, 3d.

That Robert James, John Beale, and Thomas Beale were vagrants by night and were caught in the garden and orchard of John Henley. Each one is to undergo the judgement of the stocks during the time of morning prayer next Sunday.

That Maurice Foscott assaulted George Venewe with a dagger. Amerced, 12*d.*, and the dagger was forfeited to the lord.

That Humphrey Jones assaulted, and made an affray on, William Thorne and drew his blood with a staff, and that, George Pinnell, the tithingman, calling him to the queen's muster, [Humphrey] called him rascal and scab; and that likewise Humphrey abused William Thorne and Thomas Henley with many evil words, and that he is a common disturber and quarreller. He is to undergo the punishment of the stocks.

Grant

John Osborne took the reversion of a cottage called the Cossiver's Sheepphouse, with the appurtenances, now in the tenure of Edith Osborne, a widow, for her widowhood. The premises are to be held for life by him immediately after Edith's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 2*s.* and all the services formerly due. John gives 40*s.* to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Pannage of pigs

10*s.* 2*d.* paid to John Pinnell, the reeve.

Presentments of the homage

That Margaret Norborne has Humphrey Jones and his wife as her undertenants in her houses without the lord's licence previously obtained, contrary to an order of the court. She has forfeited the penalty, 20*s.*

That Elizabeth Foscott has let forth part of her copyhold ground to John Skull for certain years without the lord's licence.

That George Jones has let forth a parcel of his customary ground to John White, parson there, for certain years without the lord's licence. It was confessed by John that the agreement between him and George was [that], if Mr. Wells would suffer him to have the tithes, [for] so long George should have his tithes of him and [for] so long he should have of George that parcel of ground.

That by our custom we can let forth no part of our copyhold land but for one whole year and a day without the lord's licence.

That every customary tenant who shall let his copyhold, or any part thereof, after the end of every year must by the custom of the manor enter into the ground so let and drive such cattle, there being, out of the ground or, otherwise, if there be no cattle there, to resume the ground into his hands by taking possession of it before [a] good and sufficient witness, except [if] he has [a] special licence of the lord.

That a younger William Beale overstocked the common with sheep beyond the rate, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20*s.*

They ask that the order concerning the hedges and boundaries between Thomas Beale and John Pinnell, and all the other [orders] concerning inclosures, should stand in their validity, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20*s.*

That Robert Reeve has not paid to his wife Elizabeth 28*s.* 4*d.* in each

quarter of a year from Adam Archard's rent, [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s., but it is respited with the lord's assent.

Amercement

A younger William Beale used opprobrious words in court by saying that 'if the jury did anything against him they should answer it'. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

Orders

That Thomas Skull and Joan Skull should repair their hedges and boundaries in the Butt hay before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That, if any tenant overstocked the common, each tenant seeing more beasts feeding there than the order requires should immediately impound them and thereupon give notice to the lord's bailiff, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

Officers

Thomas Beale was chosen as constable, Walter Clark as tithingman, William Heale as reeve, Walter Read as hayward.

Affeerors

John Walker, John Philips.

Total, besides a stray

£9 12s. 2d.

Addendum

Grant

William Clark took the reversion of a messuage, with three closes of pasture, a meadow, and ½ yardland appurtenant to it, now in his tenure in the right of his wife Joan for her life by copy. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Geoffrey and Richard immediately after the death of Joan and her sister Jane Colls, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for all the services formerly due and for heriot. William gives 40 marks to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 25 March 1580

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

William Beale, Thomas Shearer, Thomas Henley, Walter Arnold, John Walker, John Henley, George Pinnell, John Philips, John Hayward, Thomas Jeffrey, John Skull, William Heale, Richard Beck, Edmund Wallis, Robert Reeve, George Jones.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit to this court, and appeared.

Presentments of the tithingman (Walter Clark)

That Florence Smith and Richard Beck are tipplers. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 3*d.*

Presentments of the bailiff (William Thorne)

That two white wethers each worth 3*s.* 4*d.* have been taken as strays since 4 October last [and remain] in the keeping of Thomas Davies *alias* Taylor.

That two white wethers each worth 20*d.*, taken as strays since 25 October last, [remain] in the keeping of William Thorne.

That a white ewe worth 12*d.*, taken as a stray on 7 December last, [remains] in the keeping of Thomas Jeffrey.

That a white ram worth 10*d.*, taken as a stray on 7 December last, [remains] in the keeping of Thomas Shearer.

That a white ram worth 18*d.*, taken as a stray on 20 December last, [remains] in the keeping of John Walker.

That a white ewe and a black wether each worth 2*s.*, taken as strays on 30 December last, [remain] in the keeping of Richard Webb.

That a white wether worth 2*s.*, taken as a stray on 30 December last, [remains] in the keeping of Walter Read. [*Margin*: it was stolen, by oath]

That a hogling sheep worth 8*d.*, taken as a stray on 8 November last, [remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

Strays kept over a year and a day

From Richard Webb for a black ewe, 4*s.*

From Thomas Hayward for the value of a white chilver hogling, 2*s.*

From William Thorne for the value of a white boar, 2*s.* 6*d.*

From Thomas Smith on behalf of John Gilbert for the value of a bay foal, 8*s.*

From William Fry for the value of a white sheep, 18*d.*

From William Clark for the value of a grey foal remaining as a stray over a year and a day at the feast of the Invention of the Cross [3 May] next, 2*s.*

From William Thorne for the value of a black lamb, 8*d.*

Forage

... [*MS. blank*] White of Crudwell proved a bay gelding and a grey mare, taken as strays, to be his property; 8*d.* for forage fell due to the lord, paid [to] William Thorne.

Appointment

Thomas Henley, Thomas Beale, John Henley, and Walter Arnold are appointed to view the land of Thomas Lewin, being within [i.e. under] age, and to tax what it is worth yearly; and he that will give most to the use of the infant shall be taken [as tenant], and that David Lewin be discharged of the occupation of the land.

Actions

Christopher Beale complains against Edmund Wallis in a plea of debt on demand for 6s. 8d.; Edmund acknowledges the debt, to be paid at the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next; and, if he defaults in the payment, he should pay 10s. at the next court. [*Margin*: discharged]

Christopher Beale complains against William Wrorst in a plea of debt on demand for 20d.; William acknowledges the debt; discharged.

John Mills complains against Agnes Skinner, the executor of the last will and testament of William Skinner, deceased, in a plea of debt on demand for 2s.; John states the case for his payment; Agnes comes, and it is agreed that she should pay 20d. to John. [*Margin*: discharged]

Grant

The lord granted a licence to William Clark, a customary tenant in the right of his wife Joan, to let out his close in Windmill field and his close in West field to anyone he wished for the next two years from the date of this court without forfeiture.

Presentment of the jurors [for the queen]

All well.

Presentments of the homage

That the wife of William Beale the younger did sell two of Richard Pinnell's geese by her negligence, and he made some of his neighbours acquainted therewith presently.

That Henry Richman, Thomas Davies *alias* Taylor, William Latiwere, and John Barksby, freeholders, have made divers water pits against their grounds in the common on the lord's soil.

That Baldwin Morley, Richard Odam, and Thomas Pollard made footpaths, previously not used, in and over the land of William Beale, one of the customary tenants of the manor, to his loss. Each amerced, 4d.

That a younger Thomas Beale encroached in making his ditch on the lord's soil at Phelps and Hore House. Amerced, 20d. The homage was ordered to view the encroachment; they should determine how the ditch should be made, and Thomas should stand to their judgement, before the feast of the Invention of the Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 10s.

That Alice Beale, a widow, and a younger William Beale made and dug water pits in the common on the lord's soil without the lord's licence. Each amerced, 12d.

That William Beale the younger has grubbed up a quick hollow hedge in his Cow leaze and a quickfrith hedge of 4 lugs in the mead. [Amerced,] 3s. 4d.

That Walter Arnold did trouble the drift. Amerced, 6d.

That Thomas Shearer has entered an action in the King's Bench against William Thorne contrary to our custom.

That John Barksby, Thomas Davies *alias* Taylor, John Morse, Philip Darter, David Lewin, Henry Richman, Nicholas Pinnell, Bartholomew Fowler, and Anthony Gearing did throw and pull down ditches lately made at Kingborough green, in the possession of George Allen, on the

lord's soil of this manor.

That Thomas Skull and Joan Skull have not repaired their hedges and boundaries around the Butt hay as they were required to in an order [made] at the last court. Each of them has forfeited 10s., and they were ordered to repair their hedges and boundaries before the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, on pain of each of them [offending to forfeit] 20s.

Affeerors

Walter Arnold, John Philips.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 21 September 1580

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Beale, William Heale, John Hayward, John Pinnell, John Henley, Richard Beck, George Jones, George Pinnell, John Shearer, John Philips, John Walker, Robert Reeve, Thomas Jeffrey.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant, owes suit to this court, and appeared.

Presentments of the bailiff (William Thorne)

That a grey foal worth 5s. has come as a stray since the feast of Holy Trinity last [and remained] in the keeping of Thomas Taylor. William Orchard of Poulton proved [it to be in his] ownership; 4d. for forage fell due.

That a white ewe worth 8d. arrived as a stray at the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

That a white ewe worth 2s. arrived as a stray at the feast of St. James the Apostle [25 July] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

That a white lamb worth 8d. arrived as a stray at the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle [24 August] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

Forage

It was proved that two wethers in the keeping of Thomas Davies *alias* Taylor and two other wethers in the keeping of William Thorne, taken as strays, are the property of ... [MS. blank] Baker of Oaksey; 8d. for forage fell due to the lord.

Stray

From William Thorne for the value of a hogling sheep, a stray [kept] over a year, 8d.

Court-silver

Walter Clark, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives

22s. 6d. for court-silver at this court.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Florence Smith, a widow (amerced, 3d.), and Richard Speak (amerced, 4d.) are tippers.

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 4d.

Oath of allegiance

William Oven and Robert Beale were sworn to the queen.

Pannage of pigs

11s. 6d. paid to William Heale, the reeve.

Presentment of the constable (Thomas Beale)

All well.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

All well.

That Thomas Pinnell is a resident and was not present. Amerced, 4d.

That Henry Richman (appeared), Thomas Taylor (appeared), John Lewin (essoined), and William Richman (2d.) are tenants by indenture and owe suit to this court, and they who were not present should pay 2d. to the lord for each occasion.

Officers

An elder William Beale was sworn into the office of constable, John Philips of tithingman; George Pinnell was chosen as reeve.

Action

Thomas Smith complains against Thomas Pinnell in a plea of debt on demand for 5s. [*Margin*: a distraint is made]

Presentments of the homage

That Thomas Henley, who by a copy dated 20 October 1536 held a mesuage called Wisdom's and a mesuage called Waterhold's, each with its appurtenances, and two parcels of demesne land called Frutters and Sheep croft, has died since the last court; three heriots, valued at £7, paid. Thomas's relict Margery Henley claims to hold the premises for her widowhood. The lord granted seisin to her, she did fealty, and she was admitted as tenant for as long as she lived alone and chaste.

That the parishioners do hold the church house in Brinkworth as their predecessors have done time out of mind, paying to the lord 6d. yearly; the deeds whereof do remain in the hands of Thomas Pinnell of Grittenham, one of the churchwardens.

That, on evidence given, Thomas Shearer the elder did forfeit his copyhold, and that it was presented as a forfeiture in the time of Sir James Stumpe, the lord; and the cause was for that he gave false evidence on his oath against the lord at assizes at Salisbury without any process served, whereby the lord lost his right of common in Brinkworth marsh, and thereby the farm of Grittenham had [right of] common there.

That Thomas Ball, tenant to Thomas Richman, a freeholder, has taken in a pit and garden ground, part of the common, being the lord's soil.

That Thomas Glead, tenant to Thomas Richman, a freeholder, has set up a cottage on the lord's common.

That Thomas Skull and Joan Skull have not made the hedges and boundaries around the Butt hay as they were required to in an order. They have forfeited the penalty, 10s. each, and were ordered to amend and repair the boundaries before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20s.

That John London ought to have so much ground in quantity as did belong to him before the general inclosure and, if upon measure thereof it shall be found that there is any ground overplus in quantity, that the same overplus does belong to the lord of this manor.

Grant

An elder Thomas Shearer and his brother, an elder Richard Shearer, surrendered a messuage or tenement called Pacy's or Heale House, with all the [arable] land, meadow, feedings, and pasture appurtenant to it, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. Also, Thomas's son John surrendered the estate which he and his brother Thomas have in the premises by virtue of a copy dated 25 September 1571; that copy is to be cancelled. John took the premises, and the lord granted seisin to him. [The premises] are to be held for life successively by John, his father Thomas, and his brother Thomas for a yearly rent of 5s. 2d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. John gives £10 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Orders and penalties

That Alice Beale, a widow, [should repair] her hedges and boundaries near Walter Arnold's house before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day] next, on pain of 10s.

That Edmund Wallis should repair his hedges and boundaries at Millward's before Christmas next, on pain of 10s.

That William Barnes should repair the hedges and boundaries lying near the common before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle [21 December] next, on pain of 40s.

Amercements

Robert Reeve did not attend this court in the second adjournment, but came much too late. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

Thomas Jeffrey did not come at all to this court in the second adjournment, and did not attend as he was ordered to. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

Affeerors

John Hayward, John Walker.

Total of the estreats

£20 6s. 9d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 21 March 1581

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Thomas Beale, William Heale, John Hayward, Walter Arnold, John Skull, John Pinnell, an elder John Shearer, John Henley, George Jones, George Pinnell, John Walker, Robert Reeve, a younger John Shearer, Thomas Jeffrey.

Free tenant

John White, clerk, the rector, is a free tenant and owes suit to this court.

Presentments of the bailiff (William Thorne)

That William Orchard of Poulton proved ownership of a grey foal in the keeping of Thomas Taylor as a stray; 4*d.* for forage fell due to the lord.

That William Hughes of Wootton Bassett, on his own oath, proved a wether taken as a stray at Christmas last [and] in the keeping of William Thorne, to be his property; 4*d.* for forage fell due to the lord, paid to William Thorne.

That a white ewe worth 16*d.* has arrived as a stray since the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist [18 October] last [and remains] in the keeping of Thomas Jeffrey.

That a white ewe worth 16*d.* arrived as a stray at the feast of All Saints [1 November] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Fry.

That a pig worth 20*d.* arrived as a stray at the feast of St. Martin [11 November] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Thorne.

Strays [kept] over a year and a day

From Thomas Jeffrey for the value of a white ewe worth 12*d.*

From Thomas Shearer for the value of a ram worth 10*d.*

From Richard Webb for the value of a ewe worth 2*s.* and of a wether worth 2*s.*

Presentments of the tithingman (John Philips)

That Thomas Skull and Hugh Matthew assaulted, and made an affray, on John Brook and drew his blood. Each amerced, 3*s.* 4*d.*

That John Curtis assaulted, and made an affray on, Walter Palmer. Amerced, 12*d.*

That the same John assaulted, and made an affray on, Robert James. Amerced, 12*d.*

That John Gibbs assaulted, and made an affray, on John Brook. Amerced, 2*s.* 6*d.*

That Richard Beck and Florence Smith, a widow, are tipplers. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Ambrose White is a baker. Amerced, 3*d.*

Oath of allegiance

Geoffrey Barnes, of full age, was sworn to the queen.

Court Baron held there on the same day [21 March 1581]*Grant*

The lord granted a licence to a younger John Shearer, a customary

tenant, to let out his customary land and any part of it to any person he wished from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] last for the next six years without forfeiture, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

Presentments of the homage

That a barn and buildings of John Philips, William Thorne, John Shearer, Richard Webb, and William Beale are in decay for lack of repair. They were ordered to repair the houses and buildings before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That Richard Shearer overstocked the common with his beasts. Amerced, 5s., and he was ordered not to do so thereafter, on pain of 10s.

That William Stichall was accustomed to inchase and outchase [i.e. to drive his cattle in and out of a common pasture]. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

That John Pope (amerced, 3s. 4d.), Robert Watts (12d.), Walter Read (2s.), John Colls (12d.), John Beale (12d.), Henry Smith (2s.), John Winkworth (12d.), William Player (12d.), and Ambrose White (12d.) were accustomed to place, and to feed, beasts in the common, where rightfully they should have no [right of] common because [the sites of] their buildings are newly inclosed out of the common. Each amerced.

That Maud Bushell (to be punished by means of the stocks), Emme Barker (stocks), Thomas Skull (amerced, 2s.) and his wife (stocks), John Matthew (2s.), and Hugh Matthew (2s.) are spoilers of the lord's wood growing in the common. Each is amerced.

Penalty

That thereafter no inhabitant should be a common hedge breaker, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

Actions

Christopher Beale complains against Alice Beale, a widow, in a plea of debt on demand for 10s. 8d. Alice acknowledges a debt of 10s. 2d. Execution will be made, with 12d. for expenses and costs.

Christopher Beale complains against Bartholomew Richman in a plea of debt on demand for 11s. 3d. [*Margin*: a distraint is made]

Affeerors

John Skull, William Heale.

[View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on] 26 October 1581

[Jurors for the queen and for the homage]

An elder William Beale, constable, John Philips, tithingman, a younger Thomas Beale, William Heale, John Hayward, Walter Arnold, John Skull, John Pinnell, John Henley, George Jones, George Pinnell, John Walker, a younger John Shearer, William Clark, Thomas Jeffrey.

Strays [kept] over a year and a day

From Thomas Jeffrey for the value of a ewe, a stray [kept] over a year and a day at the feast of St. Luke [18 October] last, 16*d*.

From William Thorne for the value of a ewe, 8*d*.

From that William for the value of another ewe, 2*s*.

Court-silver

John Philips, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 22*s*. 6*d*. to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Pannage of pigs

13*s*. 7*d*., paid to George Pinnell, the reeve.

Verdict

By a view taken by the tenants aforesaid [?the jurors] the day and year aforesaid [?26 October 1581] they say that the lower stile and hedge from him to a maple by the stage of William Beale the younger in the Ramps is the mound of that William, and the oak growing against the same [?stage] is Mistress Mompesson's tree, and from the maple against the stage down to the lake there and the river is Mistress Mompesson's mound.

Claim

John the son of Andrew Barnes, deceased, in front of the tenants claims to have his right in tenements, with the appurtenances, now in John Philips's tenure.

Waifs

William Thorne, in front of the tenants, delivered to John Mills 9*s*. and two saddles, which were taken possession of by him, to the lord's use as waifs.

Total of the estreats

40*s*. 1*d*.

88/2/23

[*The court records in WSA 88/2/23 are fair copies. A draft of the record of the following court exists in WSA 88/2/24; for 88/2/24, below, pp. 159–242. There are only a few differences between this fair copy and the draft. The more significant are noted here between square brackets.*]

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 11 April 1625

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Thomas, Viscount Andover, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Weeks, John Weeks, William Hunt, John Walker, William Looker, and John Barnes are essoined of common [suit].

Free tenants [draft: suitors]

Robert Drew, esquire, Henry Richman, gentleman, Anthony Davies

alias Taylor, Edward Hutchins, clerk, John Still, esquire.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, William Barnes, Richard Dirham, George Shearer, Thomas Birch, William Skull, Michael Fry, Robert Ponting, William Lewin, John Colls, Francis Richman, William Beale, an elder John Fry, Thomas Lewin, William the son of Walter Clark.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Robert Drew, esquire, John Still, esquire, and Henry Richman, gentleman, are free suitors of this court and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 6*d.*

That the butts are in decay for lack of repair, through the default of all the inhabitants within the manor. The inhabitants are amerced, nothing, because remitted. It was ordered that the butts should be repaired and amended by the inhabitants before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 20*s.*

That a younger Anthony Barnes made an affray on, and shed the blood of, Thomas Buckland. Amerced, nothing, because ... [*MS. blank*].

That Walter Foscott made a similar affray, and a breach of the king's peace, on Thomas Kite, a newcomer. Amerced, 9*d.*

That a mansion house and a barn of Margery Pinnell, a widow, and another house of hers at a place called Bakers Bridge, are in decay and want repair through her default. Amerced; and it was ordered that she should repair them, or cause them to be repaired, before the next court, sufficient timber for the repair to be allowed by the lord's bailiff, on pain of 40*s.*

That a barn of Alice Skull, a widow, was similarly in disrepair. It was ordered that she should repair it before the next court, sufficient timber for the repair to be allowed by the lord's bailiff, on pain of 40*s.*

That the timber of a barn of ... [*MS. blank*] Young, a widow, is in decay for lack of thatch. Amerced; and it was ordered that the barn should be amended and roofed before the next court, sufficient timber for the repair and for the rafters to be allowed by the lord's bailiff, on pain of £5.

That a bay mare valued at 13*s.* 4*d.* came within the manor as a stray on 3 November last and remains in the keeping of a younger John Beale; by the custom of the manor 6*s.* 8*d.*, half the value, is due to the lord.

That a sheep valued at 16*d.* came within the manor as a stray on 4 November last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Buckland; 8*d.*, half the 16*d.*, is due to the lord.

That a grey mare valued at 16*s.* came within the manor as a stray on 1 January and remains in the keeping of William the son of Walter Clark; 8*s.*, half the 16*s.*, is due to the lord. Afterwards John Bath comes to this court and claims the mare as his property; he was given a day until the next court to prove ownership of the mare.

That, long since, Elizabeth Foscott, deceased, was a customary tenant of this manor who had her house casually burned down with fire, and

[she] was in her time by the then jury presented and in open court pained to re-edify it. She was conformable to do so provided [that] the lord would provide timber, which was denied. Since her decease Walter Foscott, her son, tenant in reversion, succeeded her in the tenement according to our custom. He died also, leaving his wife Jane Foscott to enjoy her widow's estate in the tenement, and in all her time she has sufficiently repaired all such buildings [that] she found standing on the tenement at the death of her late husband; but she refuses to repair or re-edify the house so burned down long before her husband's time.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his reckoning (*ration*). Amerced, 3d. [*Margin: misfeasance*]

That Grace Davies is a common wine seller and broke the assize. Amerced, 3d.

That Susan Skull is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3d.

Oath of allegiance

Thomas Hayward, Geoffrey Pinnell, Ralph Heale, and Thomas Panter are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Orders

That the widow Hayward do sufficiently repair her bound and bank against the Church lane from the three bridges throughout to her gate so that travellers may safely pass that way, and this to be done before 22 April next, under the pain of 40s.

That John Beck do make a sufficient bound, where his stile stood, to keep cattle out of the Church lane, before 22nd of this instant April, under the pain of 20s.

That, with the consent of the parties, John Beale, William Barnes, Richard Dirham, George Shearer, William Skull, and Michael Fry, being of the homage, together with Mr. Alright, the lord's bailiff, do take a view of a certain mound between the lands of Margaret Pinnell, widow, a free tenant of the manor, and Thomas Birch, a copyholder, and appoint and set down where the bound shall be set, before the feast of Pentecost next, under the pain of everyone of the homage making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.; and of either of Margaret or Thomas making default of being there present, and to stand to the direction by the homage then to be made and set down, to forfeit 20s. And that Mr. Alright may have reasonable warning of the day.

Officers

Vincent Smith and Thomas Henley [were] appointed and sworn to mark all the common cattle feeding in the common of the manor or in Braydon forest for this year following. Constable, Thomas Lewin; tithingman, Richard Dobbs; beadle, Michael Fry.

Affeerors

John Beale, William Barnes, Richard Dirham.

Fines, issues, and amerccements of this court according to an estreat made and delivered to the bailiff

18s. 4d.

88/2/24

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 11 April [1625]

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Thomas, Viscount Andover, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

[*For the record of the court, immediately above*]

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 19 September 1625

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron and court of survey, of Thomas, Viscount Andover, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Weeks, John Walker, Geoffrey Henley, and others are essoined.

Free suitors

Robert Drew, esquire, Henry Richman, gentleman, Anthony Davies *alias* Taylor, Edward Hutchins, clerk, John Still, esquire.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Richard Dirham, Thomas Birch, William Barnes, Michael Fry, Robert Ponting, George Shearer, Thomas Lewin, John Colls, William Beale, an elder John Fry, John Bleek, William Skull, William Lewin, Anthony Fry, Francis Richman, William Henley.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That the butts are in decay for lack of repair through the default of all the inhabitants of the manor. The inhabitants are amerced, nothing because it is remitted. It was ordered that the butts should be repaired and amended by the inhabitants before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [2 February] next, and that, thus amended, they should have been encircled by a sufficient hedge before that feast, on pain of 40s.

That Robert Drew, esquire, John Still, esquire, and Henry Richman are free suitors of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 2*d.*, according to an agreement contained in their indentures.

That Baldwin ... made an affray on, and shed the blood of, John Amerced, 6*d.* [*MS. holed*]

That William Clark *alias* ... carried away the stones for amending the king's highway and did no other ... to the ways, but entirely neglected them for the past year. Amerced, 4*s.* 6*d.* [*MS. holed*]

That an elder John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d.* [*Margin: misfeasance*]

That Grace Davies, a widow, is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d.*

That Susan Skull, a widow, is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That a tenement of Alice Henley, a widow, at a place called Lipgate, within the manor, is in decay for lack of repair. Amerced, nothing because it is remitted. It was ordered that she should repair her tenement before Christmas next, sufficient timber for the repair being allowed by the lord's bailiff, on pain of 40s.

That the timber of a barn of William Clark *alias* Patey is in decay for lack of thatch. Amerced, 12*d*., and it was ordered that the barn should be roofed before Christmas on pain of 40s.

That Margery Pinnell, a widow, has not amended or repaired her mansion house and her barn, nor a house at Bakers Bridge, [as she should have] according to an order of the last court. She has forfeited the penalty contained in that order, sc. 40s. It was ordered, by the grace of the court, that, if she would repair her house and barn, or would cause them to be repaired, before the feast of the Annunciation [25 March: Lady day] next, the penalty thus forfeited would be remitted.

That Alice Skull, a widow, has not amended or repaired her barn [as she should have] according to an order of the last court. She has forfeited the penalty contained in that order, sc. . . . It was ordered, by the grace of the court, that, if she would repair her barn within the next month, the penalty thus forfeited would be remitted. [*MS. torn*]

That . . . [*MS. blank*] Young, a widow, has not amended or roofed her barn [as she should have] according to an order of the last court. She has forfeited the penalty contained in that order, sc. £5. It was ordered, by the grace of the court, that, if she would repair and roof her barn within the next month, the penalty thus forfeited by her would be remitted.

That John Heale encroached on the lord's waste, the encroachment containing 4 lugs. Amerced, 5s. It was ordered that he should remove the encroachment before Christmas next, on pain of £5.

That Geoffrey Barnes encroached on the lord's waste. Amerced, 6*d*. It was ordered that Michael Fry, John Fry, and William Lewin, with the lord's bailiff, should view the encroachment before the next court and consider its size, on pain of each of them offending to forfeit 10s.

That a white ewe and a white lamb worth 6s. came within the manor as strays on 10 June last and remain in the keeping of William Barnes; 3s., half the value, is due to the lord. [*Margin*: not to be estreated until the year be out]

That a bay foal worth 30s. came within the manor as a stray on 7 July last and remains in the keeping of John Beale; 15s., half the value, is due to the lord.

Memorandum

John Bath did not appear at the court, according to an order of the court, [to prove] the proprietorship of a mare, to which he made a claim at the last court. [*MS. holed*]

Oath of allegiance

Adam Beale is sworn to the king for his allegiance.

Orders made at the court

That Francis Richman, Thomas Clark, Margaret Pinnell, widow, and John Winter do repair their bounds between Broad mead and Richard Clark's ground before Candlemas [2 February] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit for such default 20s.

That the widow Hayward and Richard Clark do likewise repair their bounds in the same place by the same time under the like pain of either of them making default.

That the widow Hayward do cut her hedge and scour her ditch at her Windmill hill field gate [so] that the water may pass, and this to be done before Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, under the pain of 20s.

That no man shall put any cattle into the field lands except [if] they keep or tie them at the end of their grounds, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit for every such default 10s.

That the widow Hayward do repair and amend her bank against the Church lane from the three bridges to her gate so that travellers may pass that way, and this to be done before Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, under the pain of 10s.

That every man do amend and steen the way against his own ground from Thomas Birch's West field gate to the field lane gate at Richard Clark's before Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That, whereas Anthony Fry has of late removed a stile in a certain ground of his from the place where it anciently stood, on a view of that place to be taken by Mr. Alright, the lord's bailiff, Anthony shall again remove and set the stile in the place where it formerly stood, or in such other place as Mr. Alright shall appoint, on pain of 20s.

Officers

Francis Richman was chosen as constable for this year, William Beale as tithingman, Robert Ponting as bailiff.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 20 April 1626

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Weeks, John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, John Burchall, a younger William Beale, Nicholas Ponting, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Robert Drew, esquire, Edward Hutchins, clerk, William Shearer, John Still, esquire, Anthony Davies.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Thomas Birch, William Barnes, Michael Fry, George Shearer, Thomas Lewin, John Colls, William Lewin, Anthony Fry, Francis Richman, William Henley, John Beck, Thomas Smith, Anthony Barnes.

Presentments of the jurors [and homage]

That Robert Drew, esquire, John Still, esquire, and William Shearer are free suitors of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 6*d*.

That Nicholas Pinnell, George Stephens, Maurice Beale, William Heale, Francis Beale, William Pinnell, John Heale, a younger William Matthew, William Skull, William Hayward, William Clark, William Lewin, Thomas Darter, William Darter, Philip Darter, Henry Dixon, William Avery, a younger Thomas Sutton, and William Sutton are residents, live within the precincts of this leet, and did not appear on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That an elder John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Grace Davies and Susan Skull are common tipplers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Ayliffe, gentleman, made an affray on, and shed the blood of, John Beck. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Thomas Walker, who held a tenement, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow valued at £4 6*s*. 8*d*. Thomas's relict Alice should hold for her widowhood the premises of which he died seised. She claims to hold them for her widowhood, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That Henry Pinnell, who held a tenement, has died since the last court; heriot, a brass cauldron valued at 17*s*. Henry's relict Jane should hold the tenement for her widowhood. She comes to court, refused to pay and hand over the heriot, and was not admitted. [*Note: see in the next court*]

That a white wether came within the manor as a stray on 4 April last and remains in the keeping of Michael Fry for proclamation; it was valued [for the lord] at 4*s*.

That a pig came within the manor as a stray on 13 November 1625 and remains in the keeping of Thomas Buckland; it was valued for the lord at 2*s*.

That a bay mare came within the manor as a stray on 3 November 1624, and it remained in the keeping of a younger John Beale for more than a year and a day after three proclamations made on three separate days according to a term of a statute; it was valued at 13*s*. 4*d*., of which half, 6*s*. 8*d*., is due to the lord.

That Norris's, a mansion house of William Beale, is in decay for lack of repair.

That Henry Dixon and his wife Jane received William Avery to live in their house as an undertenant or inmate. They have forfeited £5. [*Entry marked with a cross*]

That Thomas Buckland received Henry Wheeler to live in his house as an undertenant or inmate. He has forfeited £5. [*Entry marked with a cross*]

That ... [*MS. blank*] Morse allowed Thomas Walker to live within the precincts of this leet as an undertenant or inmate. He has forfeited £5.

That Edith Fry, a widow, received Robert Phelps to live in her house as an undertenant or inmate. She has forfeited £5.

That William Clark *alias* Patey received John Butler to live within his house in the manor as an undertenant or inmate. He has forfeited £5.

That an elder William Beale allowed George Stephens, a newcomer and a stranger, to live in his tenement within the manor as an undertenant or inmate. He has forfeited £5.

That a barn of Anthony Fry is in decay through lack of repair.

That William Clark *alias* Patey has not repaired and amended his barn [as he should have] according to an order of the court made previously. He has forfeited the penalty contained in the order, 40s. It was again ordered that it should be repaired and amended, before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 20s.

That Anthony Fry has not allowed his stile [to be set] in the place appointed according to an order made at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty appointed, 20s.

Grant

William Hawkins, who holds by copy a messuage with the appurtenances called Churchman's, a close called Home close, a close called West close, a [close] called New leaze, a close called Parsonage close, a [close] called Leigh close, a piece of meadow called Wyverne heal, [and] 1 acre of meadow lying under Foscott's hedge, surrendered the premises, and the copy, so that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, £3 which was paid for the lord's use. A proclamation was made whether anyone [claimed the premises]. Nobody came [to claim them]. The lord granted the premises to Robert Stamford, to be held for life successively by him, Robert the son of Robert Norris of Wroughton, and Thomas the son of Thomas George of Wroughton for a yearly rent of 12s. 0½d., for £3 for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Robert Stamford gave £17 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Robert Norris and Thomas George is respited. [*MS. holed*]

An order for the removing of inmates

It is ordered that all and every person who has taken in any inmate or undertenant within the jurisdiction and precinct of this law day shall again remove such inmate or undertenant, so taken in, before the feast of Pentecost next, or give security to save the parish harmless of and from any charge or burden that may arise or happen by reason thereof; and such security to be given before that feast of Pentecost, on pain of everyone who shall make default to forfeit £5.

Affeerors

George Shearer, John Beale.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 25 September [1626]

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Weeks, Richard Weeks, Daniel Weeks, John B... [*MS. torn*], Anthony Smith, John Smith, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Robert Drew, esquire, Edward Hutchins, clerk, William Shearer, John Still, esquire, Thomas Walter, Anthony Davies *alias* Taylor.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Richard Dirham, Thomas Birch, William Barnes, Michael Fry, Robert Ponting, William Clark, William Lewin, Thomas Lewin, William Beale, John Bleek, William Skull, Francis Richman, William Henley, John Beck, Thomas Buckland, Thomas Smith.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Robert Drew, esquire, William Shearer, John Still, esquire, and Thomas Walter are free tenants, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 2*d*.

That Nicholas Keinton, Nicholas Pinnell, John Heale, Walter Matthew, Richard Matthew, Anthony Barnes, William Skull, Nicholas Read, Anthony Player, Thomas Wallis, Hugh Fry, Arthur Weeks, Philip Darter, Thomas Darter, and Thomas Parish are residents, live within the manor, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 4*d*.

That an elder John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Grace Davies, a widow, is a common tippler, sold ale through prohibited measures, and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Susan Skull, a widow, is a common tippler, sold ale through prohibited measures, and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Robert Fortey, clerk, made an affray on, and shed the blood of, William Beale, the present tithingman. Amerced, 2*s*.

That a younger William Matthew made an affray on Robert Phelps. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Allen, a parishioner of Dauntsey, made an affray on, and shed the blood of, John Walker, of this parish. Amerced, 2*s*.

That John Shearer, who held a message, a close of meadow called Parker's containing about 6 acres, a close of meadow called Parker's mead containing about 4 acres, and a toft called Parker's barton containing about ½ acre, has died since the last court; heriot, a flock bed valued at 13*s*. 4*d*. John's relict Agnes should hold the premises for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted as tenant for her widowhood, did fealty, and was admitted.

That Edith Fry, a widow, broke and violated an order of the last court concerning the receiving and harbouring of undertenants and inmates. She has forfeited the penalty contained therein, £5.

That ... [MS. *blank*] Morse similarly broke that order. He has forfeited £5.

That a grey colt came within the manor as a stray on 15 June last and remains in the keeping of William Clark; it was valued for the lord at 10s.

That a black heifer aged a year or thereabouts came within the manor as a stray on 15 June last and remains in the keeping of John Beale; it was valued for the lord at 3s. 4d.

That a ewe and a lamb came within the manor as strays on 10 July 1625 and remained in the keeping of William Barnes for a year and a day after three proclamations, made on three separate days according to a term of a statute; they were valued for the lord at 3s. 4d.

Admittance

Jane Pinnell, a widow, the relict of Henry Pinnell, asks to be admitted as tenant for her widowhood to a close called Hudd's croft containing about 3 acres, a meadow called Sloughsburg containing about 2½ acres, a close called Red hill containing about 6 acres, and a close called Ramps containing about 6 acres, of [all of] which Henry died seised. The death of Henry was presented at the last court. Jane pays to the lord the heriot due for the premises, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Orders made at this court

That Anthony Fry's stile, heretofore ordered to be removed and not as yet performed, be removed before the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next, on pain of £2.

That Geoffrey Barnes and Henry Dixon do scour their ditches against Cuckoos Lane from one end to the other before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20s. for either of them making default.

That Thomas Taylor do cut up his hedge at the upper end of Stock mead before Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain of 20s.

That the widow Hayward and the widow Skull do cut their hedges and pare their banks throughout the Church lane before the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] next, on pain of 20s.

That the widow Skull and John Beck do repair their bounds at the upper end of the Church lane before Christmas next [so] that cattle may be kept out of the lane there, on pain of 10s.

That Richard Clark do cut up his hedge and scour his ditch at the upper end of the hill before Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain of 10s.

Officers

William Barnes was chosen as constable, Thomas Smith as tithingman, Francis Shearer as bailiff (not sworn).

Affeerors

John Beale, Thomas Birch, Thomas Lewin.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 5 April 1627

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Weeks, John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, William Burchall, John Burchall, John Dirham, William Beale, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Edward Hutchins, clerk, William Clark, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, Anthony Davies *alias* Taylor.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Richard Dirham, Thomas Birch, Robert Stamford, William Barnes, Michael Fry, Robert Ponting, William Lewin, Thomas Lewin, William Beale, Francis Richman, William Henley, Thomas Buckland, George Shearer.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, William Clark, and Thomas Walter are free suitors, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Looker, William Skull, William Oven, Edward Oven, Geoffrey Barnes, Humphrey Beale, Anthony Messiter, Thomas Darter, William Darter, and Philip Darter are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Grace Davies and Susan Skull are common tippers. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That there was an affray between Thomas Smith and Ismael Longdwell, and Thomas shed Ismael's blood. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Thomas Smith by main force took a colt from Ismael Longdwell, and unlawfully recovered [it], as Thomas [*rectius* Ismael] was leading it towards the common pound. Amerced, 5*s*.

That Richard Matthew made an affray on, and shed the blood of, Michael Fry and George Fry. Amerced [*MS. holed*]

The butts want repair It was ordered that they should be repaired before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain [*MS. holed*]

That William Beale, a customary tenant, who held a messuage called Norris's and the [arable] land, tenements, meadow, feedings, and pasture appurtenant to it, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth £3 10*s*. William's wife Anne should hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Christine Hayward, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; two heriots, two cows valued at £6. The tenement of which she died seised has fallen into the lord's hand.

That a stray pig has remained in the keeping of Thomas Buckland for more than a year and a day after three proclamations made according to a term of a statute; 2s., half the value, is due to the lord.

That Anthony Fry has not removed his stile [as he should have] according to an order made in the last court. He has forfeited the penalty appointed in that order, 40s.

Orders made at this court

That Anthony Fry do remove his stile, formerly ordered to be removed, before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] next, on pain of 40s.

That the widow Beale do remove her gate at the upper end of Haregrove hill, and set it where formerly it stood, before Whitsuntide, next on pain of 10s.

That Geoffrey Barnes do scour the trench in his ground in the Leigh field, within one month now next coming, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That none shall put any cattle into the field lanes except [if] they keep or tie them at the end of their grounds, on pain for everyone breaking this order to forfeit 6s. 8d.

That Anthony Fry and William Clark do amend the way at Anthony Fry's gate at the West field before St. James's tide [25 July] next, on pain of either making default to forfeit 20s.

Affeerors

John Beale, Richard Dirham, George Shearer.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 10 September 1627

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held [in front of] John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, Nicholas Ponting, John Bur[chall], William Burchall, John Walker, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Edward Hutchins, clerk, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, Anthony Davies *alias* Taylor.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, Michael Fry, George Shearer, William Barnes, an elder William Clark, Francis Richman, Richard Dirham, William Henley, Geoffrey Henley, William Beale, Anthony Fry, William Lewin, a younger William Clark.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, William Clark, and Thomas Walter, free suitors, did not appear at this court. Each amerced, 3d.

That Thomas Looker, William Skull, William Oven, Edward Oven, Geoffrey Barnes, Humphrey Beale, Anthony Messiter, Thomas Darter, William Darter, and Philip Darter are resident within the manor and did not appear on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That an elder John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Grace Davies and Susan Skull are common tipplers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That William Clark *alias* Patey made an affray on, and shed the blood of, George Shearer. Amerced, 12*d*.

That Anthony Fry has not moved his stile [as he should have] according to an order made at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 40*s*.

That ... [MS. *blank*] Beale, a widow, has not moved her gate at Haregrove hill [as she should have] according to an order made at the last court. She has forfeited 10*s*.

That Geoffrey Barnes has not scoured his ditch in the Leigh field [as he should have] according to an order made at the last court. He has forfeited 6*s*. 8*d*.

Grants

Geoffrey Henley, his wife Elizabeth, and their son William took the reversion of two messuages, called Wisdom's and Waterhold's, with all the [arable] lands, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to them, now in the tenure of Alice Henley, a widow, Geoffrey's mother. The premises are to be held for life successively by Geoffrey, Elizabeth, and William after Alice's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 14*s*. 2*d*., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. They give £180 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty and admittance are respited until [the reversion falls due].

A younger John Fry, Michael Fry's son, took the reversion of a message called Freeman's or Selwyn's, with a curtilage, a garden, and an orchard lying near it, and with the appurtenances, and of a close called Home mead, a close called Over leaze, and a close called Stock mead, [all] now in Michael's tenure. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and by Anthony and Michael, the sons of his brother Anthony, for a yearly rent of 6*s*. 6*d*., 5½*d*. for court-silver, 4*d*. for mead-silver, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. John gives £80 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty and admittance are respited until [the reversion falls due]. The lord granted that, if within the next five years John would pay or cause to be paid 40*s*. to the lord and surrender his estate thus granted, the lord would re-grant the premises to him and two others nominated by him in place of [the younger] Anthony and [the younger] Michael, to be held for life successively by John and his nominees on the same terms as the above grant, provided that that Anthony and that Michael were then living. The lord licensed the grantees to let out the premises or any part of them to any suitable tenant or tenants.

An order made at this court

That Robert Waite, gentleman, do place a convenient stile and a bridge at Perry close for Margery Pinnell, widow, to go to her ground called Bakers in the place where anciently it has been accustomed [to stand], before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

Officers

Michael Fry was chosen as constable for the following year, John Smith as tithingman, Thomas Birch as bailiff.

Affeerors

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 April 1628

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Weeks, William Burchall, John Burchall, John Dirham, Richard Barnes, Robert Stamford, William Clark, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Edward Hutchins, clerk, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, Anthony Davies.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Thomas Lewin, George Shearer, William Barnes, Thomas Birch, Michael Fry, Richard Dirham, William Henley, John Beck, an elder William Beale, William Lewin, an elder William Clark, Thomas Buckland, John Colls, a younger William Beale, George Stephens.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, and Anthony Davies are free suitors, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That a younger Thomas Lewin, a younger Geoffrey Barnes, and a younger William Heale are resident within the manor, owe suit to this court, and did not appear on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That an elder John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3d.

That Baldwin Smith and Susan Skull, a widow, are common tipplers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3d.

That Richard Clark, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth £4 5s. paid now to the lord's use. Richard's wife Agnes Clark should hold for her widowhood the land and tenements of which he died seised. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Thomas Looker felled an elm growing on the waste of the lord of the manor. Amerced, 12*d*.

Oath of allegiance

Thomas Sutton and William Heale are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Orders made at this court

That the butts be sufficiently repaired and amended before Whitsuntide next, under pain of 10*s*.

That David Fletcher and William Looker shall take away their mangy horses forth from the common within one day next following, on pain of 10*s*.

Affeerors

Thomas Lewin, George Shearer, William Barnes.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 September 1628

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Free suitors

John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Edward Hutchins, clerk, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, Anthony Davies.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, William Barnes, John Beck, Geoffrey Henley, Richard Dirham, Thomas Buckland, William Lewin, William Beale, William Henley, Robert Waite, Robert Ponting, George Stephens, Geoffrey Skull, John Fry.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Grace Davies and Susan Skull, a widow, are common sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That, about the middle of the night on 3 August last, within the jurisdiction of this court, William Day of Smithcot assaulted, and made an affray on, Thomas Smith, the tithingman, contrary to the king's peace and to the serious harm of Thomas. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Michael Fry, who held a message called Freeman's or Selwyn's, with a curtilage, a garden, and an orchard lying near it, and with the appurtenances, and a close called Home mead, a close called Over leaze, and a close called Stock mead, has died since the last court; heriot, a colt worth £3 paid to the lord's use. John Fry is the next taker of the premises by virtue of a copy dated 10 September 1627. He asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That William Clark placed and fed his cows in the field lane contrary to an order of the court. Amerced, 4*d*.

That a bay foal came within the manor as a stray on 25 June last, was proclaimed according to the law, and now remains in the keeping of William Skull; it was valued for the lord at 15*s*.

That a female sheep and a lamb came within the manor as strays on 8 July last, were proclaimed according to the law, and now remain in the keeping of William Skull; they were valued for the lord at 4*s*.

That a bay mare came within the manor as a stray on the 14th day of this instant September, was proclaimed according to the law, and remains in the keeping of Thomas Nicholls; it was valued for the lord at 16*s*.

That a black colt (*equulus*) came within the manor as a stray on the same 14 September, was proclaimed according to the law, and remains in the keeping of Thomas Nicholls; it was valued for the lord at 16*s*.

Orders made at this court

That Margery Pinnell, widow, shall scour her ditch from Mr. Stratton's leaze to the lane [called] the Church way by Henry Waite's, and also her ditch on the other side of the lane from Mr. Waite's ground to Bakers Bridge, before Christmas next, on pain to forfeit 20*s*.

That Thomas Walter and William Shearer shall cut up their hedges and scour their ditches against the lane that leads to Berry Street, on pain [of] either of them to forfeit 20*s*.

That Robert Stamford shall cut up his hedge and scour his ditch in the West field between his ground and the ground of John Fry there, and set a sufficient gate at the entrance to his ground, before Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain of 20*s*.

That no kine shall be kept or depastured in the field lane, on pain of 40*s*.

Officers

Robert Waite, gentleman, was chosen as constable for the coming year, a younger Anthony Barnes as tithingman, Thomas Smith as bailiff.

Affeerors

Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, Thomas [*rectius* William] Barnes.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 14 April 1629

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Weeks, John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, Richard Waite, Richard Dirham, John Hunt, Thomas Henley, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Tobias Cripps, clerk, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, Anthony Davies.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, gentleman, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, William Barnes, Geoffrey Henley, William Henley, Robert Ponting, George Shearer, Anthony Fry, John Fry, Francis Richman, Thomas Smith, William Beale, John Dirham.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Beale, John Walker, Thomas Looker, John Skull, Richard Matthew, Theophilus Matthew, William Matthew, William Matthew, saddler, Thomas Clark, Geoffrey Pinnell, William Oven, tailor, William Clark *alias* Patey, John Shearer, Anthony Taylor, Geoffrey Beale, Clement Bleek, Anthony Player, Anthony Barnes, Geoffrey Barnes, John Beale, David Fletcher, Robert Fletcher, Anthony Fletcher, Thomas Nicholls, William Darter, Philip Tweeny, Henry Dixon, Thomas Darter, Robert Weeks, a younger Thomas Sutton, William Sutton, Anthony Beale, and Richard Morse are residents living and remaining within the precincts and jurisdiction of this view of frankpledge, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 2*d*.

That there was an affray between William Beale and John Heale. Each amerced, 2*s*. 6*d*.

That the butts are in decay. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 5*s*.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull are common tipplers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Robert Stamford, a customary tenant, who held by copy a messuage called Churchman's and various closes of land and [various] tenements, with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, Robert's best farm animal, a mare worth £3, delivered to the lord's bailiff. Robert's relict Margaret should hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That a mare valued at 20*s*. came within the manor as a stray, was taken on 13 January last, and was delivered to the keeping of Henry Hayward for proclamation.

That two sheep valued at 8*s*. came within the manor as strays, were taken on 25 January last, and were delivered to the keeping of William Skull for proclamation according to the law.

That Thomas Buckland encroached on the lord's waste near his mansion house. Amerced, 12*d*. It was ordered that he should abandon it (*idem exponat*) and make amends before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That a younger John Beale encroached on the lord's waste near his mansion house. Amerced, 12*d*. It was ordered that he should abandon it (*idem exponat*) and make amends before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That the marks between the land of the lord of the manor and the

inheritance of John Ayliffe, esquire, in John Beale's meadow called Webb's mead have been removed by the water. It was ordered that, within the next seven days, the homage should take a view and set new marks there in the former places, on pain, to each man making default, of 6s. 8d.

That the marks in various places in the meadow called Broad mead have been removed by the water, both between the lord's tenants and between them and the free tenants. It was ordered that, within the next seven days, the homage should take a view and set new marks there in the former places for the purpose of distinguishing the lands there, on pain, to each man [making default], of 6s. 8d.

That the watercourse between the holdings of William Clark and Anthony Fry in the West field is in decay and should be repaired by William. It was ordered that he should repair it, and place a stile as he should do, before 1 May next, on pain of 10s.

Grant

Thomas, the son of Francis Nicholls, claims the reversion of a messuage called Churchman's, of a close lying near it containing about 10 acres, and of 10 acres of arable land in the fields [and] appurtenant to the messuage, and surrendered it with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because he is not a tenant in possession. The lord granted the premises to Thomas Smith, to be held, when the reversion falls due, for life successively by him and his son Francis for a yearly rent of £10, for his best farm animal for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Thomas Smith gives £20 to the lord for a fine. Fealty and admittance are respited until [the reversion falls due].

Affeerors

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 September 1629

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, William Burchall, Richard Dirham, John Dirham, Ralph Pinnell, John Walker, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free tenants

John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Tobias Cripps, clerk, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, Anthony Davies.

Jurors for the king and the homage

William Barnes, an elder Thomas Lewin, an elder William Skull, George Stephens, William Beale, an elder John Fry, a younger John Fry, Thomas Birch, Thomas Smith, John Colls, Robert Ponting, Thomas

Buckland, Geoffrey Henley.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Tobias Cripps, clerk, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, and Anthony Davies are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Shearer, William Beale, Thomas Walter, William Heale, Francis Beale, Thomas Henley, William Pinnell, William Barnes, John Heale, Richard Pinnell, Giles Arch, Anthony Fry, Geoffrey Skull, Thomas Looker, John Beck, William Samson, Thomas Bowdley, Hugh Matthew, Thomas Matthew, Theophilus Matthew, Walter Matthew, William Matthew, an elder William Matthew, John Peacock, an elder John Smith, William Clark, Geoffrey Pinnell, William Hayward, John Hayward, George Beale, Oliver Beale, Robert Beale, William Oven, tailor, William Clark, Edward Hawkins, Thomas Parish, a younger John Moody, Robert Waite, Henry Hayward, Robert Davies, George Bleek, David Fletcher, Anthony Fletcher, Nicholas Read, Anthony Player, Clement Bleek, Anthony Davies, Thomas Nicholls, Henry Dixon, John Barnes, Robert Weeks, Thomas Darter, Robert Maskelyne, Anthony Beale, and a younger Humphrey Beale are residents, remain within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody, Grace Davies, and Susan Skull are common tipplers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*. [*Moody, usually presented as a butcher, was recorded as a tippler presumably by mistake.*]

That there was an affray, and a shedding of blood, between Anthony Taylor and David Fletcher. Each amerced, 20*d*.

That Richard Spencer and Robert Phelps [behaved] likewise. Each amerced, 20*d*.

That Francis Shearer allowed his mare to go, and to feed, at large in the field lane contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That a bullock valued at 6*s*. 8*d*., a year old or thereabouts, came within the manor as a stray on 24 June last and remains in the keeping of Anthony Richman, gentleman.

That a foal valued at 6*s*. 8*d*. came within the manor as a stray on the same 24 June and remains in the keeping of Thomas Looker. [*Margin: possession delivered*]

That two female sheep and two lambs valued at 6*s*. came within the manor as strays on 27 June last and remain in the keeping of George Shearer.
Surrender

Thomas Smith and his wife Mary, she being examined alone and in secret by the steward, surrendered a close of [arable] land or pasture called Stock mead, part of a tenement called Churchman's, now in their tenure and occupation, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because it was remitted. The rent for Churchman's is divided, and the remainder of it is charged with £5 a year.

Grant

The lord granted to Francis Skull, his brother William, and his sister Mary Skull the reversion of a messuage, a garden, and an orchard, with a curtilage lying near it, [all] called Taylor's, of a close called Home close containing about 3 acres, of a close called East Leigh containing about 1½ acre, and of a close called Puttessugg containing about 1½ acre. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of Alice Walker, a widow, now the tenant for her widowhood, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 7s. 6d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Francis gives £60 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The lord grants that at any time within the next two years, for a payment of £3 and the surrender of the estate now granted, he would re-grant the premises to Francis and two other persons nominated by Francis in place of William and Mary, provided that William and Mary were then living. Fealty and admittance are respited until [the reversion falls due]. [*Margin:* at a court held 14 September 1630 Francis paid £3 to the lord and nominated his wife Margaret and his daughter Anne in place of William and Mary]

Orders made at this court

That Mr. Anthony Richman and Robert Waite shall shear their banks and cut their hedges in the lane between their grounds by Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain to forfeit either of them 20s.

That Mr. Thomas Hungerford shall cut the hedge and scour the ditch at Wood close next [to] the lane there, and that Margaret Beale shall cut her hedge and scour her ditch at Hill croft, by Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain to either of them of 10s.

That Vincent Clark shall mend the lake in the lower lane against his West field by Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain of 10s.

That Francis Shearer shall cut his hedge and scour his ditch at the Worthy furlong between him and John Fry by Our Lady day [25 March] next, on pain of 10s.

Officers

Francis Shearer was chosen as constable, Anthony Beale as tithingman, Anthony Barnes as reeve.

Affeerors

William Barnes, Thomas Lewin, William Skull.

Manor Court held there on 29 September 1629

The court of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by John Poole, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the chief steward.

Essoins

None on this day.

Homage

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, Thomas Smith.

Surrender

William Clark *alias* Patey and William Smith and his wife Anne, the sister of William Clark *alias* Patey, she being examined alone and in secret, surrendered a close called the West field and a close called Stock mead, parts of the customary land now in William Clark *alias* Patey's tenure or occupation, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

Affeerors

None because there was nothing to be afeered.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 7 April 1630

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, William Burchall, Richard Dirham, a younger Thomas Lewin, Edward Lewin, Anthony Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

John Still, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Tobias Cripps, clerk, William Clark, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer, Anthony Davies, Richard Spencer.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin, William Skull, William Beale, Thomas Birch, Thomas Smith, John Colls, Francis Richman, Robert Ponting, Thomas Buckland, Geoffrey Henley, George Shearer, Thomas Day, George Stephens.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Robert Drew, esquire, John Still, clerk, Tobias Cripps, clerk, an elder William Clark, Anthony Taylor, and Richard Spencer are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Nicholas Pinnell, Hugh Matthew, Theophilus Matthew, a younger William Matthew, William Oven, John Pinnell, William Osborne, a younger Richard Spencer, Nicholas Read, Thomas Lewin, David Fletcher, Anthony Fletcher, Clement Bleek, Anthony Player, Arthur Weeks, Thomas Pinnell, Thomas Brook, John Barnes, Robert Weeks, and Francis Beale are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to the court, and were not present. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts are in decay. It was ordered and ordained that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10*s*.

That a young horse came within the manor as a stray on 17 January last and remains in the keeping of Richard Spencer; it was valued for the lord at 15*s*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 27 February last and

remains in the keeping of Arthur Weeks; it was valued for the lord at 2s.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 27 February last and remains in the keeping of Arthur Weeks; it was valued for the lord at 1s. 6d.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 8 February last and remains in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 8d.

That a younger Thomas Lewin made an affray on, and shed the blood of, Geoffrey Maskelyne. Amerced 9d.

Grants

The lord granted a licence to Jane Foscott, a widow, to let out all or any part of her customary tenement, which she holds for her widowhood, to any suitable person or persons she please during her widowhood.

The lord granted a licence to John Beck, a customary tenant, to let out all or any part of his tenement to any suitable person or persons he please for a term of 12 years, provided that he would give security to pay £3 for heriot when it falls due.

Pains and orders of this court

That Nicholas Ponting shall repair and amend his house, which he has suffered to fall into decay, before the next law day to be held for this manor, on pain of 40s.

That Anthony Fry and his son Henry shall set the stile, by them removed, in Anthony's home ground, in the place where it was formerly ordered to stand and did stand, before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of £4.

That Thomas Hungerford, gentleman, and the widow Skull shall amend their banks on each side of the Church lane by the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 20s.

That Anthony Fry shall amend and repair his barn, which he has suffered to run into decay, by the next court, on pain of 5s.

That the widow Beale shall build up her oxhouse, which was thrown down by the violence of the wind, by the next court, on pain of 20s.

That the widow Henley shall again set up her house at Lipgate, which she has there taken down, by the next court, on pain of 40s.

That Baldwin Davies and William Henley shall scour their ditches within Lipgate by Midsummer day [24 June] next, so as passengers may conveniently pass there, on pain of 10s.

That John Beale shall remove his undertenant, or give security to save the parish harmless for his abiding there, by Midsummer day [24 June] next, on pain of 40s.

Affeerors

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 14 September 1630

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, Richard Dirham, John Walker, William Skull, William Matthew, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Robert Drew, esquire, John Still, clerk, Tobias Cripps, clerk, Anthony Richman, gentleman, an elder William Clark, Anthony Taylor, Richard Spencer, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walter, William Shearer.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, George Shearer, Thomas Birch, Anthony Fry, Geoffrey Henley, Francis Richman, William Beale, William Henley, John Fry, Thomas Smith, Robert Ponting, Thomas Buckland, William Lewin.

Grants

Francis Skull surrendered the reversion of a customary messuage, a garden, and an orchard, with a curtilage lying near it, [all] called Taylor's, of a close called Home close containing about 3 acres, of a close called East Leigh containing about 1½ acre, and of a close called Puttessugg containing about 1½ acre, [all] previously granted for life successively to him, his brother William, and his sister Mary Skull to be held immediately after the death of Alice Walker, a widow, then and now the tenant of the premises for her widowhood, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 7s. 6d. and on a fine of £60 paid by Francis. He surrendered the premises, and the copy previously made, with the intention that the lord would re-grant the reversion to him, his wife Margaret, and their daughter Anne; heriot, nothing because he is not a tenant in possession. The lord granted the reversion to Francis, Margaret, and Anne. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after Alice's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for the yearly rent of 7s. 6d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Francis gives £3 to the lord as a fine for having that estate and was admitted as tenant in reversion, but his fealty is respited [until the reversion falls due].

The lord granted to William Henley of Brinkworth, and to his sons William and Thomas, the reversion of a messuage called Player's, of a close called Home close containing about 8 acres, and of a close in the Over West field containing about 7 acres, with the appurtenances, [all] now in the occupation of Alice Henley, a widow, the mother of the elder William, for her life by virtue of a copy dated 9 June 1575 made for Alice's brothers George Pinnell and Ralph Pinnell and for her. The premises are to be held for life successively by the elder William, the younger William, and Thomas from Alice's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 7s. 1½d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder William gives £160 to the lord as a fine for having that estate and was admitted as tenant in reversion, but his fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due]. The lord licensed him, the younger William, and Thomas to make and substitute an undertenant in the premises and any part of them during their life without forfeiture.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Drew, esquire, John Still, clerk, Anthony Richman, gentleman, an elder William Clark, Anthony Taylor, and Richard Spencer are free suitors of this manor, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Nicholas Pinnell, Thomas Walker, John Heale, Anthony Fry, John Beck, William Matthew, William Samson, William Heale, Thomas Bowdley, Hugh Matthew, Walter Matthew, Richard Matthew, Theophilus Matthew, George Beale, William Wallis, Robert Phelps, William Patey *alias* Clark, Henry Hayward, Robert Davies, Richard Lewin, John Clark, Anthony Barnes, David Fletcher, Anthony Fletcher, George Bleek, Henry Dixon, Thomas Pinnell, Francis Beale, Richard Osiph, and Robert Ponting are residents and living within the jurisdiction of this view of frankpledge, owe suit to this court, were not present on this day, and did not appear. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That a black mare with a branding-iron mark (*signo ferreo*) in the near buttock came within the manor as a stray on 23 June last and remains in the keeping of Anthony Beale; it was valued for the lord at 10*s*.

That a black-tagged heifer clipped in the right ear came within the manor as a stray on 23 June last and remains in the keeping of Richard Rutter; it was valued for the lord at 15*s*.

That a brown steer clipped in the left ear came within the manor as a stray on 23 June last and remains in the keeping of Henry Richman; it was valued for the lord at 6*s*. 8*d*.

That a brown heifer clipped in the left ear came within the manor as a stray on 23 June last and remains in the keeping of Henry Richman; it was valued for the lord at 6*s*. 8*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull, a widow, are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Pinnell made an affray on, and drew the blood of, Thomas Smith. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Thomas Darter assaulted Joyce Lewin and wished to rape her, as she attests. Amerced, 5*s*.

That two female sheep and two lambs, which came within the manor as strays on 27 June 1629, remained in the keeping of George Shearer for more than a year and a day after three proclamations made according to the law in this regard. The ownership of them is changed and 3*s*., half the value of them, accrued to the lord according to the custom of the manor.

That a bullock, which came within the manor as a stray on 24 June 1629, remained in the keeping of Anthony Richman, gentleman, for the same period after three proclamations. The ownership is changed and 3*s*. 4*d*., half the value, fell due to the lord according to the custom of the manor.

That Anthony Player sold ale without a licence. Amerced, 20*s*.

That John Berry, by the command of John Ayliffe, gentleman, cast down, destroyed, and threw to the ground a cottage built by the churchwardens, and the overseers of the poor, of Brinkworth parish on the waste of the lord of this manor for an almshouse. John Ayliffe is amerced, 40s.

That ... [*MS. blank*] Walker, a widow, is unwilling for George Stephens to pass through her barton as far as the tenement lately built by him, which way he had used for 50 years and more.

Pains and orders of this court

That the widow Foscott shall cut up her hedge and scour the ditch between her ham and Robert Ponting's mead by Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Thomas Day do set a stile out of his West field into Anthony Fry's ground in the place where formerly it stood, and mend the way in his ground, by St. Luke's tide [18 October] next, on pain of 10s.

That Vincent Clark do scour his ditch in the West field and lay a throck in the lake over against his ground by Michaelmas [29 September] next, on pain of 10s.

That William Shearer do scour his ditch in the lower side of Haregrove against Vincent Clark's ground by Michaelmas [29 September] next, on pain of 10s.

That Mr. Thomas Hungerford and the widow Skull do amend the way in the Church lane and throw up their banks, [so] that travellers may pass, by Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain to either of 20s.

That Margery Pinnell, a widow, do avoid [i.e. eject] her inmates John Willis and his wife Mary by Michaelmas [29 September] next, on pain of 40s.

That William Barnes and William Patey *alias* Clark do repair and amend the Lip gate to keep cattle out of the field lane by Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That William Pinnell do pull down the cottage by him erected on the lord's waste by Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, 'unless my lord be pleased it may stand', on pain of £10.

Officers

Richard Spencer was chosen as constable and ordered to receive his oath for executing that office for the coming year within the next seven days, on pain of £5. Thomas Buckland was chosen as tithingman, Francis Richman, gentleman, as reeve.

Affeerors

John Beale, George Shearer.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 13 April 1631

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Walker, John Heale, Edward Hawkins, Thomas Tocknell, William Darter, John Barnes, and others are essoined.

Free suitors

Robert Drew, esquire, John Still, clerk, Tobias Cripps, clerk, Anthony Richman, gentleman, an elder William Clark, Anthony Taylor, Richard Spencer, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walker, William Shearer.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, George Shearer, William Beale, Thomas Birch, John Fry, Thomas Smith, Geoffrey Henley, William Henley, Geoffrey Pinnell, John Beck, Anthony Beale, Thomas Day.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Walker, John Heale, Edward Hawkins, Ralph Barnes, Thomas Tocknell, George Bleek, William Darter, Philip Tweeny, John Barnes, and Thomas Beale are resident within the jurisdiction of this view of frankpledge, owe suit to this court, and were not present. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the inhabitants of the parish refused, and neglected, to amend the king's highways within the parish for the last year. It was ordered that they should repair them before 3 May next, on pain of 20*s*.

That John Waite made an affray on, and shed the blood of, William Clark. Amerced, 12*d*.

That William Clark made an affray on, and shed the blood of, John Waite. Amerced, 12*d*.

That Anthony Barnes made an affray on John Skull. Amerced, 9*d*.

That two sheep came within the manor as strays on 26 January last and were committed to the keeping of William Skull; they were valued for the lord at 3*s*. 6*d*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 2 February last and was committed to the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 1*s*. 8*d*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 2 February last and was committed to the keeping of Thomas Clark; it was valued for the lord at 10*d*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 20 February last and was committed to the keeping of Thomas Birch; it was valued for the lord at 1*s*. 4*d*.

That the butts want repairs, and it was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10*s*.

That Baldwin Davies broke the pound and, without licence, took his impounded mare out of the pound. Amerced, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That William Skull, who held lands in the manor by indenture, has died since the last court; by agreement 6*s*. 8*d*. fell due to the lord.

That Jane Foscott, a widow, has not cut her hedge nor scoured her ditch [as she should have] according to an order of the court. She has forfeited the penalty according to the former order, 10*s*.

That Margery Pinnell, a widow, has not removed John Willis and his wife from her house [as she should have] according to an order of the court. She has forfeited 40s.

That Thomas Day has not set a stile between himself and Anthony Fry in the West field [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited 10s.

That William Heale received into his house John Williams and John Wiltshire to live as undertenants or inmates. It was ordered that he should remove them before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] next, on pain to forfeit 40s.

That Richard Dirham, a customary tenant, who held a tenement with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a mare worth £4, which was delivered to the bailiff for the lord's use. Richard's wife Joan should hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Pains and orders of this court

That before 3 May next Francis Richman and Daniel Weeks, the overseers of the highways for the last year, should render to John Beale and John Fry, the overseers for this year, a particular and a true account with respect to all the inhabitants of the manor: when and how those inhabitants performed their works to repair the highways and which of them made default, and what sums of money Francis and Daniel received for the purpose of repairing the highways and how they spent them on repairs. Also that Francis and Daniel should deliver the money remaining in their hands to the present overseers, on pain of each of them making default to forfeit £5. Also that all the inhabitants, on a request made [by] John Beale and John Fry, should do and perform all their works and services in arrears [and] not done by reason of the last (*propter ultimum*) [?default], together with their works and services in this year as the law demands and as the overseers shall appoint, on pain of each inhabitant making default to forfeit 20s. [*Added*: amercement, 10s.]

That none do put any horse, sheep, or rudder beast in the field lanes unless he keep or tie them at the end of his own grounds, on pain of 5s. apiece.

That Anthony Fry is to set up his gate in the West field before Ascension day, on pain of 10s.

That Thomas Day is to set up a stile in the same field before Ascension day, on pain of 20s.

Affeerors

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Day.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 15 September 1631

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of

Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Walker, Robert Ponting, and others are essoined.

Free suitors

Robert Drew, esquire, John Still, clerk, Tobias Cripps, clerk, Anthony Richman, gentleman, an elder William Clark, Anthony Taylor, Richard Spencer, Edmund Stratton, Thomas Walker, William Shearer.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, William Barnes, William Beale, Geoffrey Henley, William Henley, Baldwin Davies, George Shearer, Francis Richman, Anthony Fry, John Dirham, Robert Ponting, Thomas Day, Anthony Beale, Thomas Smith, John Beck.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Nicholas Pinnell, William Beale, Anne Beale, a widow, Nicholas Ponting, George Stephens, John Heale, William Heale, an elder John Skull, a younger John Skull, Thomas Bowdley, William Samson, William Skull, Thomas Clark, William Shearer, Robert Davies, Thomas Tocknell, Anthony Barnes, John Barnes, and John Wiltshire are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That William Clark, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; three heriots, a featherbed, a cupboard, and a bedstead worth [in all] £4 5*s*. William's relict Anne should hold for her widowhood the land and tenements of which he died seised. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Henry Fry has not performed his service in amending the highway, neither in the last year nor in this. He has forfeited 20*s*.

That Baldwin Davies is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That William Heale has forfeited the penalty of 40*s*., imposed on him in the last court, because he has not removed John Williams whom he lately received [as] an undertenant [or] inmate.

That a red bullock with a halfpenny mark under the left ear remains as a stray in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 16*s*.

That a black bullock with a halfpenny mark under the left ear remains as a stray in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 16*s*.

That a black-tagged bullock with a halfpenny mark under both ears remains as a stray in the same keeping; it was valued for the lord at 16*s*.

That a young horse, iron-grey with a halfpenny mark under the left ear and clips under the right ear, remains as a stray in the keeping of Thomas Sutton; it was valued for the lord at 4*s*.

That a black mare clipped under the right ear remains [as a stray] in the keeping of Thomas Sutton; it was valued for the lord at 6s.

That a white female sheep came within the manor as a stray on 19 June and remains in the keeping of Anthony Matthew; it was valued for the lord at 2s.

That a white lamb remains [as a stray] in the keeping of Anthony Matthew; it was valued for the lord at 18d.

That a white female sheep a year old came within the manor as a stray on 22 June; it was valued for the lord at 3s.

That a white female sheep a year old came within the manor as a stray on 22 June; it was valued for the lord at 2s.

Orders made at this court

That Margaret Beale, widow, and Thomas Taylor shall cut up and scour their hedges and ditches between Haregrove hill and Stock mead before the next court, on pain of 10s. apiece.

That Francis Shearer shall cut up his hedge and scour his ditch at the lower end of Ash Lane before the next court, on pain of 10s.

That Vincent Clark shall lay a throck at the upper end of the West field before the next court, on pain of 10s.

That the homage, or the most part of them, shall view the gate in the West [field] between Anthony Fry and Thomas Day and make an order for the repairing of it before Michaelmas [29 September].

That Daniel Weeks shall repair to some justice [of the peace] to take his oath of tithingman before Michaelmas [29 September], on pain of 50s.

Oath of allegiance

Francis Matthew and Henry Matthew are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Officers

An elder William Clark was chosen as constable for the coming year, Daniel Weeks as tithingman, William Beale as reeve.

Affeerors

John Beale, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 6 April 1632

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

William Burchall, John Walker, William Hayward, Thomas Hayward, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Tobias Cripps, clerk, John Drew, esquire, William Shearer, John Still, Anthony Taylor, Thomas Taylor.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, an elder Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, John Beck, Thomas Birch, Francis Richman, Thomas Day, Anthony Fry, Thomas Smith, Geoffrey Henley, Anthony Beale, John Fry, Baldwin Davies, a younger Thomas Lewin, William Beale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Drew, esquire, William Shearer, and John Still are free suitors, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts want repairs. A day is given for repair.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 6 January last and remains in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 2*s*.

That a heifer came within the manor as a stray on 19 February last and remains in the keeping of John Dobbs; it was valued for the lord at 10*s*.

That Henry Fry, Anthony Richman, Anthony Fry, Anne Clark, a widow, Anthony Barnes, and Margery Pinnell, a widow, refused to contribute towards the repair of the king's highways, and have not done their works towards the repair of them. Each amerced, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That John Heale, to whom a tree growing on the tenement of ... [*MS. blank*] Stamford, a widow, was delivered by the lord's bailiff for repairing his house, took, carried off, and converted to his own use the tops and branches of the tree, contrary to the custom of the manor. Amerced, 12*d*.

That Thomas Taylor broke an order made by the last court for the cutting of hedges and the scouring of ditches at the upper end of Stock mead. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in that order, 10*s*., and it was ordered that he should cut the hedge and scour the ditch within the next six months, on pain of 20*s*.

That Francis Shearer, who has not cut the hedge, and scoured the ditch, at the lower end of Ash Lane, has forfeited the penalty imposed by the last court, 10*s*., and it was ordered that he should cut the hedge and scour the ditch within the next six months, on pain of 20*s*.

That Vincent Clark has forfeited the penalty imposed by the last court because he did not lay a throck for the passage of the waters at the upper end of West field, 10*s*., and it was ordered that he should lay the throck before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 20*s*.

That, whereas the homage was ordered by the court to view the gate in contention between Anthony Fry and Thomas Day, it took the view and adjudges that Anthony should repair the gate and make it passable by laying a throck for the passage of the waters. It was ordered that Anthony should do that within the next six months, on pain of 20*s*.

Grants

Richard Dobbs surrendered the reversion of a tenement called Paine's, with a barn, a garden, and an orchard, and of four closes of pasture and meadow attached to the tenement [and] containing about 12 acres, [all]

now in the tenure of Joan Dirham, a widow, together with the copy made formerly, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, a bullock [or heifer], the best farm animal, on account of which a composition was made with the lord. The lord granted the reversion to John Dirham. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his brother Richard, and John Clark, the son of his sister Elizabeth, immediately after Joan's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of £4 and for all the other services formerly due. John Dirham gives £90 to the lord as a fine for having that estate and was admitted as tenant in reversion. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord agreed to allow John Dirham, at any time within the next four years, to change any of the three lives then in being, provided that he should pay, or cause to be paid, £3 for such a change of any life.

The lord granted to William, Edward, and George, the sons of an elder John Beale of Brinkworth, the reversion of a messuage, tenement, or toft called Baldwin's with the appurtenances, of a toft called Stephen's with the appurtenances, once in John's tenure or occupation, of a lane called Webb's Lane, and of all the customary lands and tenements once in John Webb's tenure or occupation (except, and reserved [to the lord], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between Robert Ponting's land south and west, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, and Braydon marsh east), all which premises are now in that John Beale's tenure or occupation for life by virtue of a copy formerly made for him. The premises are to be held for life successively by William, Edward, and George after that John Beale's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of 10s. 6d., for 6d. for mead-silver, 11d. for court-silver, and the usual churchscots, for suit of court, for two heriots, and, by agreement, for no other burden, rent, or service. William, Edward, and George gave £200 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Their fealty and admittance is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord licensed William, Edward, and George henceforward from time to time to let out all the premises or any part of them to any person or persons for a term of 90 years or less if William, Edward, and George should live so long, to substitute any suitable person or persons as their undertenant or undertenants, and to live away from the manor and the premises, any custom of the manor or challenge or restriction of the lord to the contrary notwithstanding. He also licensed them to destroy and cut down whatever hedges exist on or about the premises, to throw down, fill up, and level whatever ditches exist there, to inclose the lane and lay it to the close called Stephen's hay, to destroy and cut down all the trees called maples and withies, of which there might be a great many, and whatever other trees not exceeding 12 inches in circumference at the foot [were] growing in or beside the hedges and ditches to be destroyed, to carry away, sell, and convert to their own use the trees thus to be destroyed and cut down, and to cart away, sell, and convert to their own use the fuel, thorns, loppings, toppings, and shrouds of whatever trees growing on the premises are to be lopped or shrouded,

any custom of the manor or challenge or restriction of the lord to the contrary notwithstanding.

The lord granted to William, Edward, and George, the sons of an elder John Beale of Brinkworth, the reversion of a messuage or tenement called Bagg's or Badge's with the appurtenances, of a close of pasture lying near the messuage containing about 8 acres, of 1 acre of meadow in the east Leigh, of all the tenements, meadows, feedings, and common pastures appurtenant to the messuage or tenement, and of all the lands and tenements once in Thomas Jeffrey's tenure or occupation and now in John's for life by virtue of a copy previously made for him, except, and reserved [to the lord], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between the land of ... [MS. blank] Foscott, a widow, south and west, Robert Ponting's land north, and Braydon marsh east. The premises are to be held for life successively by William, Edward, and George immediately after John's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of 5s. 3½d., for 2d. for mead-silver, 5½d. for court-silver, and the usual churchscots, for suit of court, for a heriot, and, by agreement, for no other burden, rent, or service. William, Edward, and George gave £100 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Their fealty and admittance is respited until the reversion falls due. *On terms similar to those in the preceding grant the lord licensed the grantees to let out the premises, to live away from the manor, to destroy hedges [and ditches], to cut down trees, and to have the trees which were cut down and the loppings and shrouds of the other trees on the premises.*

Anne Beale, a widow, formerly the wife of William Beale, deceased, a customary tenant of the manor while he lived, who holds for her widowhood a messuage called Norris's, with the [arable] land, meadow, and pasture, surrendered the premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, her best farm animal, for which a composition was made with the lord. The lord granted the premises to an elder John Beale of Brinkworth, to be held for life by him for the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. John gives £60 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty. The lord licensed him to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

The lord granted to George, Edward, and John, the sons of an elder John Beale of Brinkworth, the reversion of 1 acre of land lying in the Leigh field between Robert Ponting's land south and west, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, and Braydon marsh east; the acre of land is part of a customary tenement called Baldwin's. Also [the lord granted to them] the reversion of 1 acre of land lying in the Leigh field between the land of ... [MS. blank] Foscott, a widow, south and west, Robert Ponting's land north, and Braydon marsh east; the acre of land is part of a customary tenement called [Bagg's or] Badge's. Also [the lord granted to them] the reversion of 1 acre of land lying in the Leigh field between the land of ... [MS. blank] Stamford, a widow, south, the land of Alice Henley, a widow,

north, Robert Ponting's land east, and Nicholas Ponting's land west; the acre is part of a customary tenement called Norris's. Those 3 acres are now in the elder John's tenure or occupation for life through several copies made for him. They are to be held for life successively by George, Edward, and the younger John immediately after the elder John's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of 3*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and, by composition, for no heriot. George, Edward, and the younger John give £20 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Their fealty and admittance is respited until [the reversion falls due]. The lord licensed them to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as they please, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

Orders

That Margery Pinnell and Thomas Walker shall scour up their ditches in the upper end of Berry Street Lane before Whitsuntide next, on pain of 5*s.*

That Baldwin Davies and Alice Henley, widow, shall scour up their ditches at Lipgate before Whitsuntide next, on pain of 5*s.*

Reference

It is referred by the court to Mr. Hall, the lord's bailiff, for the assigning of a place for the erecting of an almshouse.

Affeerors

John Beale, an elder Thomas Lewin, William Barnes.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 2 October 1632

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Walker, a younger John Moody, Robert Davies, William Lewin, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

John Drew, esquire, Tobias Cripps, clerk, John Still.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin, George Shearer, Geoffrey Henley, John Beck, Thomas Birch, Anthony Fry, John Fry, a younger Thomas Lewin, Thomas Smith, Anthony Beale, William Beale, John Colls.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Drew, esquire, and John Still are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 4*d.*

That Richard Rutter, Thomas Smith, John Smith, Anthony Fry, William Matthew, saddler, John Skull, tailor, John Hayward, Henry Hayward, Thomas Tocknell, John Wiltshire, and William Buckland are

resident within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Robert Beale made an affray on Thomas Smith. Amerced, 9*d*.

That Thomas Smith made an affray on Robert Beale. Amerced, 9*d*.

That an elder John Moody, a younger John Moody, and Humphrey Weeks are common victuallers [*margin*: butchers] and behaved badly in the exercise of their occupation. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull, a widow, are common victuallers [*margin*: tipplers] and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Heale sold ale without a licence. Amerced, 5*s*.

That William Matthew is a common drunkard. Amerced.

That a sheep with a pitch mark came within the manor as a stray on 1 June last and remains in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 2*s*.

That a sheep with a pitch mark on its right flank came within the manor as a stray on 1 June last and remains in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 2*s*.

That a ram with a red mark came within the manor as a stray on 21 June last and remains in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued at 2*s*.

That a female sheep and a lamb came within the manor as strays on 21 June last and remain in the keeping of Thomas Clark; they were valued for the lord at 2*s*.

That a female sheep came within the manor as a stray on 5 September last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Lewin; it was valued at 2*s*. 6*d*.

That a grey foal came within the manor as a stray on 31 September [*sic*] last and remains in the keeping of William Clark; it was valued for the lord at £1 5*s*.

That, out of court, Jane Foscott, a widow, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage or tenement, lately in her tenure, all the [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to it, and her copy by which she held it; a heriot fell due to the lord but he, out of his free volition, remitted it.

Grants

The lord granted to Joan, the wife of John Hall, a messuage called Veld with the homestall, a close lying near it containing about 7 acres, a close called Leigh close containing about 7 acres, a close called the Cow leaze or the Summer leaze containing about 8 acres, two closes in the Leigh field containing about 13 acres, a close called Hilly close containing about 4 acres, a close lying near it containing about 11 acres, and a close of meadow called Brook mead containing about 3 acres, all of which were lately in the tenure of Jane Foscott, a widow, for her widowhood and were lately surrendered by her. The premises are to be held for life by Joan for a yearly rent of 14*s*. 5*d*., 5½*d*. for court-silver, 4*d*. for mead-silver, for all the other services formerly due, and, for heriot, her husband's best farm animal. John gives £40 to the lord as a fine for that estate to be

had. Joan was admitted as tenant but fealty is respited. The lord licensed John and Joan to let out the premises, or any part of them, for Joan's life or a shorter term to any suitable tenant or tenants.

The lord granted to John Hall, his servant, the reversion of *the premises granted above to John's wife Joan*. The premises are to be held for life successively by John, his son Bartholomew, and his daughter Elizabeth after Joan's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 14s. 10d., 5½d. for court-silver, 4d. for mead-silver, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. John gives £350 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty and admittance is respited until [the reversion falls due]. The lord granted that if, within the next seven years, John would pay, or cause to be paid, £5 to the lord and surrender his estate in the premises [held] by virtue of this grant, he would re-grant the premises to him and to two others nominated by him in place of Bartholomew and Elizabeth, to be held for life successively according to the terms of the above grant, provided that Bartholomew and Elizabeth were then living. The lord licensed John to let out the premises or any part of them, when the reversion has fallen due, for John's life or a shorter period to any suitable tenant or tenants.

The lord granted to John Fry and his daughters Joan and Mary Fry a messuage called Freeman's or Selwyn's, with a curtilage, a garden, and an orchard lying near it, and with the appurtenances, and a close called Home mead, a close called Over leaze, and a close called Stock mead, all which were lately in the tenure of Michael Fry, deceased. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 6s. 6d., 5½d. for court-silver, 4d. for mead-silver, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. John gives ... [*MS. illegible*] to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The lord licensed John, Joan, and Mary to let out the premises, or any part of them, for the term thus granted, to any suitable tenant or tenants.

Orders

That Thomas Taylor shall twig his hedge at the upper end of Stock mead and the lower end of Stubb close, on pain of 10s.

That Francis Shearer shall twig his hedge at Ash Lane, on pain of 10s.

That the widow Stamford shall mend her gate at the upper end of the West field between John Fry and herself, on pain of 10s.

That Robert Davies shall lay a sufficient bridge at the stile between the widow Clark and himself, on pain of 10s.

That everyone who do put in cattle into the field lanes shall tie or keep them at their own grounds' ends, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

Oath of allegiance

Francis Clark, Henry Young, and Anthony Fry are sworn to the king for allegiance.

Officers

Francis Richman was chosen as constable, John Weeks as tithingman, Geoffrey Henley as bailiff.

Affeerors

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 26 April 1633

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Ralph Pinnell, Philip Darter, William Barner, William Heale, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

William Barnes, Geoffrey Henley, John Beck, Thomas Birch, Anthony Fry, John Fry, a younger Thomas Lewin, Thomas Smith, Anthony Beale, an elder William Beale, an elder Thomas Lewin, a younger William Beale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That William Still, Thomas Hungerford, the lord Waldron, Edward Stratton, Anthony Richman, Richard Spencer, and William Shearer are free tenants, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Beale, William Beale, John Skull, Francis Skull, William Walker, William Edwards, John Heale, Robert Phelps, Edward Hawkins, William Samson, George Matthew, William Oven, Francis Clark, Henry Fry, and Richard Pinnell are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 2*d*.

That Francis Richman, being the constable, made an affray on an elder Anthony Fry. Amerced, 2*s*. 6*d*.

That the butts are in decay, but a day was given for repairing them before Pentecost next.

That John Ayliffe, gentleman, and Francis Richman, being overseers of the highways, had a sufficient sum of money in their hands for repairing the highways but put that sum in places where none was [at] work and neglected that which pertained to their office. Each amerced, 20*s*.

That, since the last court, Thomas Taylor has died seised of a parcel of land called Ipcrat; nothing fell due to the lord.

That two sheep came within the manor as strays on 5 January and remain in the keeping of Margery Pinnell; they were valued for the lord at 5*s*.

That Francis Richman has not repaired his boundaries between Mill hays and Anthony Fry's orchard. It was ordered that he should repair them before Pentecost next, on pain of 20*s*.

That Baldwin Davies has not scoured his ditch beside the lane within Lipgate. It was ordered that he should scour it before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June], on pain of 10*s*.

That William Matthew dug up, and encroached on, the highway in the Slough.

That an elder John Moody, a younger John Moody, and Humphrey Weeks are butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of their occupation. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull are sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Geoffrey Barnes did not repair his stiles in the Windmill fields. It was ordered that he should repair them, and place bridges which men may pass over, before Pentecost next, on pain of 6*s*. 8*d*.

Affeerors

William Barnes, an elder Thomas Lewin, Robert Ponting.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 25 September 1633

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

A younger Thomas Lewin, Alice Henley, a widow, William Beale, John Smith, William Hayward, a younger Thomas Hayward, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Shearer, an elder Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, an elder John Peacock, Anthony Fry, Geoffrey Henley, Baldwin Davies, an elder William Clark, John Beck, Vincent Clark, Thomas Smith, a younger William Clark, an elder Thomas Hayward, Geoffrey Skull.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas [*rectius* Tobias] Cripps, clerk, John Still, clerk, and John Drew, esquire, are free suitors within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day, but the lord, through his steward, has remitted the ameracements.

That John Weeks, Daniel Weeks, William Anthonies, George Shearer, Thomas Walter, John Beale, Geoffrey Maskelyne, John Looker, Richard Barnes, John Heale, William Skull, Hugh Matthew, and Richard Matthew are residents, living within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day, but the lord, through his steward, has remitted the ameracements.

That Francis Richman made an affray on Thomas Smith. Amerced, 2*s*. 6*d*.

That Francis Richman had money for repairing the king's highway and gave no account of it.

That an elder John Moody, a younger John Moody, Humphrey Weeks, Susan Skull, and Baldwin Davies are common victuallers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That a house of the widow Henley at Lipgate wants repair. It was

ordered that she should repair it before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [25 March: Lady day] next, on pain of 20s.

That a house of the widow Clark wants repair. It was ordered that she should repair it before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [25 March: Lady day], on pain of 20s.

That Richard Davies will give no security for saving the parish harmless from those whom he has accepted as inmates and undertenants. He has forfeited the penalty, 6s. 8d.

That there are many who refuse to pay according to the rate made for repairing the highways. Each of them refusing is amerced, 3s. 4d.

That Margaret Beale has not scoured her ditch at the lower end of the Home close. It was ordered that she should scour it before Christmas next, on pain of 10s.

Officers

Thomas Birch was chosen as constable, William Day as tithingman, a younger Thomas Lewin as bailiff.

Affeerors

Francis Shearer, an elder Thomas Lewin, William Barnes.

Court Baron held there on 2 January 1634

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by Giles Bird, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward

Homage

Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, John Beck, William Beale, George Shearer, John Dirham, Anthony Fry, William Burchall.

Grants

Margaret Beale, a widow, and Geoffrey Beale, who hold for life by copy a messuage, with an orchard and a garden, and various [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to the messuage, surrendered the premises, and the copy formerly made [for them], with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. Margaret took from the lord a close called the Upper West field, part of the premises surrendered. The close is to be held for life by her for a yearly rent of 8d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. She gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

The lord granted to John Weeks the reversion of a close called the Upper West field, now in the tenure of Margaret Beale, a widow, for her life. The close is to be held for life successively by him, Daniel Weeks, and Richard the son of Roger Weeks immediately after Margaret's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 8d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. The fealty and admittance of him, Daniel, and Richard are respited until the reversion falls due.

The lord granted to John Weeks a messuage with an orchard and a garden lying near it and with the appurtenances, a close called the Home close, a close called Haregrove hill, a close called the Upper Moor, and a close called Hill croft, being parts of the meadow and pasture appurtenant to the messuage and previously surrendered by Margaret Beale and Geoffrey Beale. The premises are to be held for life successively by John, Daniel Weeks, and Richard the son of Roger Weeks for a yearly rent of 26s., for two heriots, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Daniel and Richard are respited.

Affeerors

None, because nothing to be affeered.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 11 April 1634

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Baldwin Davies, John Shearer, John Wiltshire, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, Geoffrey Henley, William Beale, Francis Richman, John Weeks, Anthony Fry, John Beck, Thomas Smith, Robert Ponting.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Francis Shearer, Thomas Buckland, Henry Dixon, and Alice Taylor, a widow, refused to contribute towards the repair of the king's highways, and they have not done their work on the repair of them. Each amerced, 10s.

That Baldwin Davies has not scoured his ditch beside the lane within Lipgate [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10s.

That Geoffrey Barnes has not repaired his stiles in the Windmill field [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 6s. 8d.

That the butts want repairs. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10s.

That a foal came within the manor as a stray on 25 June last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Looker; it was valued at 6s. 8d.

That a foal came within the manor as a stray on 25 June last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Buckland; it was valued for the lord at 2s. 6d.

That two sheep came within the manor as strays, were proclaimed according to the law, and now remain in the keeping of Margery Pinnell, a widow; they were valued for the lord at 5s.

That Margaret Beale, a widow, and Geoffrey Beale, customary tenants, have died since the last court; two heriots, two kine worth £5 13s. 4d. which were delivered to the lord's bailiff for the lord's use.

That Anthony Fry has not bestowed the timber which was allowed in [the] repairing of his house, but suffers it to rot and [to] run into decay. We order that he do use the timber in and about the repairing of the house between this and the next court.

Orders of the court

That Thomas Smith and John Dobbs, overseers of the king's highways, shall give an account to the inhabitants [of] what sum of money they have collected and how they have disposed thereof in [the] performance of their office, by Thursday next, on pain [of] each of them making default to forfeit ... [*MS. blank*].

That Richard Davies, who has intruded himself with his family to inhabit within the parish, shall depart with his family, or give good security to discharge the parish of his family, by May day next, on pain [of] making default to forfeit £10.

That Baldwin Davies shall cleanse and scour his ditch within his gate by the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 20s.

That Geoffrey Barnes shall repair his stiles in the Windmill fields in convenient time, and twig up his hedge in that field next [to] the lane, by May day next, on pain of 13s. 4d.

That none shall put in any cattle to feed in the field lanes but such as they keep or tie at the end of their own grounds, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 40s.

That John Weeks and all others that have ground in Broad mead shall scour their ditches and make sufficient bounds at the upper end of that mead by May day next, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 5s.

That John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin, and Thomas Birch shall view the bounds between Geoffrey Skull and Jane Taylor and see which of them ought to make the same.

Affeerors

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin.

Court Baron held there on 29 May 1634

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

An elder Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, George Shearer, Thomas Birch, John Weeks, Thomas Smith, a younger Thomas Lewin.

Grant

Agnes Clark, a widow, who held for her widowhood a messuage called Goreway's or Cooper's, a messuage called Bird's, and a messuage called Lacy's, each with its appurtenances, appeared in court, as did Anne Smith who held the reversion of the premises, and they surrendered the premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. William Smith took the messuage called Goreway's or Cooper's and the messuage called Lacy's, each with its appurtenances, except, and reserved [to the lord], a close of meadow or pasture called Stock mead and a close of meadow or pasture called the West field. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Henry and William for a yearly rent of £5, for all the other services formerly due, and for £10 for three heriots on the death of each tenant in possession. The lord licensed the elder William to let out the premises for the next 7 years. The elder William gave £270 to the lord for an entry fine. It was agreed that Agnes should have for her widowhood the outhouse called the kitchen, and another place in which she placed her fuel, both being part of the premises. If it happened that Agnes should live elsewhere [those parts of] the premises would revert to the use of the elder William. The elder William did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty and admittance of his sons Henry and William is respited.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 24 September 1634

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

William Clark, Thomas Wallis, Philip Darter, Anthony Fry, Francis Richman, Ralph Ody, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

William Barnes, an elder Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, Anthony Fry, John Beck, Thomas Smith, an elder William Beale, a younger Thomas Lewin, Geoffrey Henley, John Weeks, Robert Ponting, John Dobbs, a younger William Beale, Anthony Beale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Drew, esquire, John Still, clerk, and Anthony Richman, gentleman, are free suitors of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull are common victuallers, sold ale through prohibited measures, and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*s*. [*?rectius 3d.*]

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his occupation. Amerced, 3*d*.

That a filly came within the manor as a stray on 5 April last and

remains in the keeping of John Sutton; it was valued for the lord at 3s. 4d.

That a bullock came within the manor as a stray on 1 June last and remains in the keeping of Francis Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 6s. 8d.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 14 July last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Lewin; it was valued for the lord at 1s. 8d.

That Susan Skull cast down an elm without the lord's licence.

That Margery Henley and Baldwin Davies have not scoured their ditches [as they should have] according to an order of the court.

Grant

William Smith, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage called Goreway's or Cooper's, a messuage called Bird's, and a messuage called Lacy's, each with its appurtenances, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises, except, and reserved [to the lord], a close of meadow or pasture called Stock mead and a close of meadow or pasture called West field, to John Stratton, gentleman, Robert Stratton, and Thomas Stratton, sons of Rebecca Stratton, a widow. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of £5, for £10 for three heriots at the death of each tenant in possession, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate and was admitted as tenant, but his fealty is respited because he is under age. The fealty and admittance of Robert and Thomas are respited because they are under age. The lord licensed John to let out the premises to any suitable tenant or tenants.

Orders of the court

That Geoffrey Barnes and Henry Dixon shall scour their ditches against Cuckoos Lane before Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Thomas Walter, William Shearer, and Margery Pinnell shall scour up their ditches both sides of Berry Street Lane between this [court] and Christmas, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That William Beale shall cut up his hedges against the lane in the West field before Candlemas [2 February], on pain of 5s.

That Alice Taylor shall cut up her hedge at the upper end of Stock mead and the lower end of the Stubb leaze by Candlemas [2 February], on pain of 5s.

That Thomas Hayward shall set a post at the lane gate against his home close by Allhollantide [All Hallows: 1 November], on pain of 6s. 8d.

That the mound at the further end of Braydon marsh shall be sufficiently mended for the saving [of] the parish harmless.

Officers

George Shearer was chosen as constable, William Edwards as tithingman, John Weeks as bailiff.

Affeerors

William Barnes, an elder Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 3 April 1635

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Ralph Ody, Joan Skull, a widow, Francis Richman, Anthony Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin, George Shearer, Robert Ponting, Thomas Birch, John Beck, Geoffrey Henley, John Fry, William Beale, John Dirham, Anthony Beale, John Weeks.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Geoffrey Maskelyne, Robert Phelps, John Skull, David Fletcher, John Browning, and Robert Davies are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts want repair. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10*s*.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull, a widow, are common victuallers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his occupation. Amerced, 3*d*.

That the king's highways are in decay. It was ordered that all inhabitants within the manor should submit themselves to such a rate as the overseers of the highways shall impose, on pain of 20*s*.

That Geoffrey Barnes and Henry Dixon have forfeited the several penalty, 10*s*., because they have not scoured their ditches.

That Thomas Walter and William Shearer have forfeited the several penalties, 6*s*. 8*d*., because they have not scoured their ditches.

That ... [*MS. blank*] Stamford, a widow, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, £3. Robert Norris is the next taker and should be admitted. He asks to be admitted, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That a barn of John Fry is in decay. It was ordered that John should have sufficient trees for repairing it.

That many inhabitants of the manor have received strangers in their tenements and have given no security for saving the parish harmless. It was ordered that all the inhabitants who have accepted such strangers should give sufficient security, on pain of £5 for each such offence.

Admittance

John Stratton, gentleman, who at the last court was admitted as the tenant of lands and tenements within the manor, did fealty.

Oath of allegiance

William Skull is sworn to the king for allegiance.

Officer

Tithingman, William Edwards.

Order of the court

That Mr. Stratton shall have his way to his ground called Glassnell's through Anthony Webb's grounds, paying 1s. every year according to the ancient usage.

Affeerors

John Beale, William Barnes, Thomas Lewin.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 September 1635

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Francis Richman, William Lewin, John Fry, William Clark, John Brown, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

William Barnes, an elder Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, John Beck, a younger Thomas Lewin, Geoffrey Pinnell, John Weeks, Robert Ponting, Anthony Beale, John Dirham, Thomas Smith, William Beale, Robert Norris.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Looker, Thomas Smith, Robert Hawkins, Thomas Clark, Anthony Fry, Richard Pinnell, William Osborne, Thomas Buckland, and Francis Beale are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull, a widow, are common victuallers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3d.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3d.

That Anthony Barnes made an affray on Thomas Arch and Anthony Taylor. Amerced, 3s. 3d.

That Francis Richman, Anthony Fry, mercer, Francis Shearer, and an elder Anthony Fry refused to contribute towards the repair of the king's highways, and they have not done their works in the repair of them. Each amerced, 20s.

That a mare with a foal valued at 10s. came within the manor as a stray on 23 July last and remains in the keeping of Geoffrey Maskelyne.

That a foal valued at 10s. came within the manor as a stray on 23 July last and remains in the keeping of Geoffrey Maskelyne.

That a grey foal valued at 3s. 4s. came within the manor as a stray on 23 July last and remains in the keeping of Geoffrey Maskelyne.

That the jury do all consent to the removing and placing of a stile out of Thomas Smith's ground into Slough Lane, which was done by consent of the parish.

Orders of the court

That Alice Skull, widow, and Mr. Hungerford shall scour up their ditches and cut up their hedges on both sides of the lane below the pound by Allhallantide [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Thomas Birch, Thomas Clark, and Alice Skull shall cut up their hedges and 'showre' [*?rectius* scour] their ditches at Wiltshire's acre by Allhallan day [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Mr. Cripps shall scour up Wyverne heal by Allhallan day [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That there shall be a way over a place called Glisborowe to a ground called North croft.

That John Beale shall scour up his ditch over against Margery Pinnell by Allhallan day [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Mr. Stratton shall scour up Long Lacy's ditch by Allhallan day [All Hallows: 1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

Officers

John Weeks was chosen as constable for the coming year, Thomas Machin as tithingman, Geoffrey Pinnell as bailiff.

Affeerors

William Barnes, an elder Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 22 April 1636

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Ponting, a younger Thomas Lewin, William Walker, William Hurlbatt, Henry Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, George Shearer, Thomas Lewin, William Barnes, John Beck, Thomas Birch, Francis Richman, Geoffrey Henley, Francis Skull, Robert Ponting, Anthony Beale, John Fry, Thomas Smith.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Walter King, Thomas Looker, Robert Phelps, William Clark, Anthony Barnes, and Ralph Ody are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts are in decay. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 20s.

That Alice Skull, a widow, broke an order [of the court] because she would not repair her boundary at Wiltshire's acre. She has forfeited the penalty, 10s.

That a heifer came within the manor as a stray on 14 December last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Sutton; it was valued for the lord at 5s.

That a red bull came within the manor as a stray on 27 December last and remains in the keeping of William Beale; it was valued for the lord at 6s.

That Thomas Machin and Henry Dixon have not scoured their ditches in Cuckoos Lane. It was ordered that they should scour them before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10s. each.

That a barn of Anthony Fry is in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that he should repair it before the next court, on pain of 20s.

That William Beale, clerk, would not repair his boundaries below himself and Alice Henley, a widow, in Haregrove. It was ordered that he should repair them before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10s.

Orders of the court

That none [*rectius* each] who ought to have common within the commons of Brinkworth shall feed no more cattle of all sorts this summer within the commons than every [*rectius* each] one may winter on each one's living in several, as shall be adjudged by the overseers for that purpose, and that no man shall let their living and their common [rights] asunder; on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 40s.

That everyone shall mark their cattle of all sorts with their town iron, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 40s.

That no man shall put forth cattle into the common who have no right of common there, that there shall be a town mark provided, and officers nominated, to mark the cattle, and that whatsoever commonable cattle shall be found there unmarked [are] to be impounded as trespassers.

That Francis Skull, who has formerly filled up a pit near his dwelling house on the lord's waste, shall cleanse and scour it and make it sufficient, where it is or elsewhere convenient, by Michaelmas [29 September] next, on pain of 40s.

Officers

Thomas Machin, tithingman; Francis Richman and Geoffrey Henley [were chosen as] overseers of the commons.

Affeerors

John Beale, George Shearer, Thomas Lewin.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 21 October 1636

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Dirham, Anthony Fry, Thomas Wallis, William Lewin, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, William Barnes, an elder Thomas Lewin, Geoffrey Pinnell,

Francis Richman, a younger Thomas Lewin, Thomas Smith, John Fry, Anthony Beale, George Shearer, John Dirham, Robert Norris, Geoffrey Henley, Thomas Buckland.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Francis Skull, Henry White, Robert Davies, an elder William Clark, John Browning, Anthony Taylor, John Barnes, and Henry Fry are resident, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the pound is in decay for lack of repair, and that it should be repaired at the cost of the lord of the manor.

That a ewe and a lamb came within the manor as strays on 26 June last and remain in the keeping of George Shearer; they were valued for the lord at 3*s*. 4*d*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 3 July last and remains in the keeping of Anthony Beale; it was valued for the lord at 1*s*. 8*d*.

That a lamb came within the manor as a stray on 12 August last and remains in the keeping of John Stratton; it was valued for the lord at 1*s*.

That a heifer came within the manor as a stray ... [*MS. blank*] and remains in the keeping of Thomas Sutton; it was valued for the lord at 5*s*.

That the king's highway leading from Breach ford to the gate lying near Tetbury way is in decay for lack of repair. It should be repaired by the officers of the lord of the manor.

That a house of Margery Pinnell, a widow, at Bakers Bridge is in decay. It was ordered that it should be amended before the next court, on pain of 40*s*.

That Anthony Taylor broke an order made by the last court for [*?rectius* by] letting his common [pasture rights separately] from his living. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 40*s*.

That William Shearer overstocked the common contrary to an order of the court. Amerced, 40*s*.

That the lane leading out of Wallis green into Longbridge Street is in decay. It was ordered that Henry White and Baldwin Davies should amend it before the feast of St. Martin [11 November] next, on pain of 20*s*.

That John Stratton's boundaries are in decay between Bridge hays and John Weeks. It was ordered that he should amend [them] before the feast of St. Martin [11 November] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That John Brown broke an order made by the last court for [*?rectius* by] putting his cattle into the common and not marking them. Amerced, 40*s*.

That a house of Anthony Fry is in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that he should repair it before the next court, on pain of £5.

That a ditch of Margery Pinnell, a widow, is in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that she should amend [it] before the next court, on pain of 20*s*.

Likewise Thomas Walter, on pain of 20*s*.

That Baldwin Davies and Susan Skull, a widow, are common tipplers

and sellers of ale, and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

Grants

Jane Pinnell, a widow, a customary tenant, surrendered a close called Sloughsburg containing about 2½ acres and a close called Red hill containing about 6 acres with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the closes to John Weeks, his son John, and John the son of Thomas Sealy. The closes are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 3*s*. 6¾*d*., for 40*s*. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John Weeks gives an agreed fine [*interlineated*: £100] to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of the younger John Weeks and of John Sealy is respited. The lord granted that if, within the next seven years, the elder John Weeks would surrender the premises he would re-grant them for life successively to him and to one or two others nominated by him in place of his son John or/and John Sealy, provided that the younger John Weeks and John Sealy were then living.

The lord granted to John Weeks, his son John, and John the son of Thomas Sealy the reversion of a close called Hudd's croft containing about 3 acres and of a close called Ramps containing about 6 acres, which lands are part of a customary tenement now in the tenure or occupation of Jane Pinnell, a widow. The closes are to be held for life successively by them immediately after Jane's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 3*s*. 6¾*d*., for all the other services formerly due, and for 40*s*. for heriot. The elder John Weeks gives £60 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but the fealty and admittance of him, the younger John Weeks, and John Sealy is respited until [the reversion falls due]. The lord granted that if, within the next seven years, the elder John Weeks would surrender the premises he would re-grant them for life successively to him, and to one or two others nominated by him in place of his son John or/and John Sealy, provided that the younger John Weeks and John Sealy were then living.

Oath of allegiance

William Shearer is sworn for the king for allegiance.

Officers

Robert Ponting was chosen as constable for the coming year, Richard Dirham as tithingman, Robert Norris as reeve.

Affeerors

John Beale, William Barnes, an elder Robert [*rectius* Thomas] Lewin.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 13 April 1637

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Daniel Weeks, John Walter, an elder Thomas Hayward, William Lewin, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Thomas Lewin, John Weeks, Thomas Birch, Anthony Fry, Thomas Smith, John Beck, Anthony Barnes, John Fry, Anthony Beale, a younger Thomas Lewin, John Dirham, William Beale, Francis Skull.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That William Edwards, Thomas Looker, Robert Phelps, Thomas Birch, William Hayward, a younger Thomas Hayward, Susan Skull, a widow, Ralph Ody, an elder Richard Lewin, a younger Richard Lewin, William Millard, Thomas Buckland, and William Buckland are resident, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Fry broke an order made by the last court because he would not repair his barn. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, £5.

That Margery Pinnell, a widow, broke an order made by the last court because she would not repair her house at Bakers Bridge. She has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 40*s*.

That Thomas Looker is a common night walker, a common alehouse haunter, a common swearer, [and] a lewd and idle fellow not employing himself in any lawful calling, nor doing one day's work in six months together, and having no living to maintain himself and his family. Amerced, 20*s*.

That Baldwin Davies is a common tippler and seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of that mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts want repair. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 40*s*.

That a heifer came within the manor as a stray and remains in the keeping of Thomas Sutton; it was valued for the lord at 5*s*.

That a bull came within the manor as a stray and remains in the keeping of William Beale for a year and a day; it was valued for the lord at 6*s*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 6 January last and remains in the keeping of John Dirham; it was valued for the lord at 1*s*.

That William Beale and John Browning, being waymen for this last year, have not performed their office as they ought to have done; neither have they given any account thereof. Each amerced, 20*s*.

Orders made at this court

That William Beale and John Browning shall give up their account by the next court, on pain of 40*s*.

That none shall turn their cattle loose in the field lanes, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20*s*.

Officer

Thomas Smith was chosen as constable.

Affeerors

Thomas Lewin, John Weeks, Thomas Birch.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 27 September 1637

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Dirham, Ralph Ody, Geoffrey Henley, Walter King, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

An elder John Beale, George Shearer, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Birch, Anthony Beale, John Weeks, Geoffrey Pinnell, John Beck, William Beale, Robert Norris, an elder William Clark, George Stephens, [a younger] William Beale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Looker, William Edwards, John Smith, an elder Anthony Fry, a younger Anthony Fry, Robert Davies, and Richard Pinnell are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That a ewe and a lamb came within the manor as strays on 17 June last and remain in the keeping of Francis Skull; they were valued for the lord at 2*s*. 6*d*.

That a grey gelding colt came within the manor as a stray on 31 May last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Clark; it was valued for the lord at 13*s*. 4*d*.

That Baldwin Davies broke the common pound Amerced, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That the gate called Lipgate gate is in decay through lack of repair by John Stratton and William Barnes, who should repair it. It was ordered that John and William should repair the gate before the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next, on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 10*s*.

That Geoffrey Barnes allowed his hedge in the Windmill field and the upper lane to grow and overhang the way there, causing a nuisance. It was ordered that he should cut the hedge before Christmas next, on pain of 10*s*.

That Thomas Hayward allowed his hedge in the Church lane to grow and overhang the way there, causing a nuisance. It was ordered that he should cut it before Christmas next, on pain of 10*s*.

That Baldwin Davies and John Heale are common victuallers and each of them sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Moody is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

Grant

The lord granted to Thomas the son of Thomas Lewin and to Joyce Lewin and Alice Lewin, the daughters of the younger Thomas, the reversion of a messuage called Foster's, with a garden, an orchard, and a curtilage lying near it, and of a close of pasture called Home close, a close of pasture called Down croft, a close of pasture called Gilling's, a close called Combe close, and all the [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to the messuage, [all] now in the elder Thomas's tenure or occupation for life. The premises are to be held for life successively by the younger Thomas, Joyce, and Alice immediately after the elder Thomas's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of ... [MS. blank], for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The younger Thomas gives £80 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Officers

John Stratton was chosen as constable for the coming year, John Brown as tithingman, John Dirham as reeve.

Affeerors

An elder John Beale, George Shearer.

Memorandum

That on 28 September 1637 an elder John Beale of Brinkworth, a customary tenant, out of court surrendered a messuage or tenement called [Bagg's or] Badge's with the appurtenances, except, and reserved [to him], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; a heriot fell due to the lord but is remitted.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 29 March 1638

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

William Burchall, John Burchall, Francis Richman, William Lewin, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, Thomas Birch, Geoffrey Henley, Anthony Fry, Anthony Barnes, Anthony Beale, William Beale, Thomas Smith, John Fry, Robert Ponting, John Beck, a younger William Beale, a younger Thomas Lewin.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Walker, Thomas Knapp, Henry Hayward, Geoffrey Skull, George Bleek, Nicholas Read, and Thomas Buckland are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That two sheep came within the manor as strays on 28 December 1637 and remain in the keeping of John Dirham; they were valued for the lord at 6s.

That Geoffrey Pinnell made an affray on, and shed the blood of, William Beale. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

That the butts want repair. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That John Beale, a customary tenant, since the last court, in the presence of the lord, [and] out of court, surrendered a messuage or tenement called [Bagg's or] Badge's and all the [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to it, except, and reserved [to him], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field; a heriot fell due to the lord, but he, out of his free volition, remitted it to John. John's son William should hold the messuage or tenement for life according to the tenor of a copy. He asks to be admitted, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That John Stratton made a nuisance on the king's highway. Amerced, 12d., and it was ordered that he should amend it immediately, on pain of 10s.

That Thomas Pinnell, for encroaching on the lord's wastes by [the] taking in of a garden plot and [the] laying of it to [the] freehold of Rebecca Stratton, a widow, is amerced, 10s.; he is ordered to lay it open by the next court, on pain of £5.

That a barn of John Weeks is in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that he should make amends before the next court, on pain of 40s.

That a barn of Anthony Fry has fallen down through lack of repair. It was ordered that he should make amends before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] next, on pain of 40s.

That Francis Richman has not amended his boundaries below Broad mead and the widow Clark's Windmill field. It was ordered that he should amend those boundaries before 4 April next, on pain of 20s.

Orders of the court

That Richard Matthew do pull down so much of his house [as was] by him erected on the lord's wastes to the straitening of the king's highway, before the next court, on pain of £5.

We continue our order that no man [may] depasture any manner of cattle in the field lanes unless he tie or keep them at the end of his own grounds, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That John Weeks shall set up a stile in the ancient place in the Lower Moor by Whitsuntide, on pain of 20s.

Affeerors

John Beale, Thomas Birch, Geoffrey Henley.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 27 September 1638

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of

Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Arthur Weeks, George Stephens, Francis Skull, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, Anthony Fry, John Dirham, Thomas Lewin, a younger William Beale, George Shearer, an elder William Beale, John Fry, John Beck, Thomas Smith, Anthony Beale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Walter King, Geoffrey Skull, an elder William Clark, a younger William Clark, Anthony Fleming, John Barnes, and Robert Maskelyne are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies, Susan Skull, a widow, and Eleanor Heale, a widow, are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Francis Smith is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Ody overstocked the common contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 40*s*.

That Henry Buckland overstocked the common contrary to an order of the court. Amerced, 40*s*.

That Anthony Taylor broke an order of the court for [*rectius* by] letting his common [pasture rights separately] from his living. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 40*s*.

That William Barnes, who held by copy a tenement with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; a heriot fell due to the lord. William, his eldest son, is the next taker and should be admitted. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Surrenders

Geoffrey Skull, who held by copy the reversion of a message called Tregole's, with a garden, an orchard, and a curtilage lying near it and with the appurtenances, and of a close of pasture called Home close, a close of pasture called [the] Acre, a close called Nether close, a close called Red hill, a close called Church croft, and a close of meadow called Church croft, surrendered those premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

Thomas George of Wroughton, who held by copy the reversion of a message called Churchman's, with the appurtenances, and of a close called Home close, a close called West close, a close called New leaze, a close called Parsonage close, a close called Leigh close, a piece of meadow called Wyverne heal, and 1 acre of meadow lying under Foscott's hedge, surrendered the premises with the intention that the lord might grant them as he wished.

Grant

The lord granted to John Stratton, gentleman, and his brothers Thomas Stratton and Robert Stratton, gentlemen, a messuage called Player's and a messuage called Millward's, each with its appurtenances, [both of] which Francis Richman lately held in the right of his recently deceased wife Elizabeth. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 20s., for all the other services formerly due, and for two heriots, the best animals or goods. John gives £900 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and Robert is respited.

Orders of the court

We continue our former order that no [*rectius* every] person having right of common in our commons on the lord's wastes shall not surcharge our commons by depasturing therein of a greater number of commonable cattle than he may or can reasonably winter in his or her closes of pasture and meadow grounds lying in several, and for which grounds of pasture or meadow they rightfully claim their common.

That John Beale, John Weeks, Anthony Fry, John Dirham, Thomas Lewin, and George Shearer shall view the encroachments of Christopher Nicholls, Joan Skull, William Skull, and William Pinnell on the lord's wastes by the next court, and set out what is their right from the rest.

Officers

George Shearer was chosen as constable for the coming year, Henry White as tithingman, John Fry as reeve.

Affeerors

John Beale, John Weeks, Anthony Fry.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 18 April 1639

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Anthony Fleming, John Dirham, Daniel Weeks, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

An elder John Beale, John Weeks, Anthony Fry, John Dirham, an elder Thomas Lewin, a younger Thomas Lewin, an elder William Beale, a younger William Beale, George Shearer, John Fry, John Beck, Thomas Smith, Francis Skull, John Walker.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That the butts are in decay. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10s.

That a wether came within the manor as a stray on 21 June last and

remains in the keeping of John Walker; it was valued for the lord at 3s. 4d.

That a foal came within the manor as a stray on 7 October last and remains in the keeping of Francis Pinnell; it was valued for the lord at 13s. 4d.

Grant

The lord granted to Margaret, the wife of William Beale, and to her sons Richard Beale and Tobias Beale, the reversion of a messuage called Tregole's, with a garden, an orchard, and a curtilage lying near it and with the appurtenances, and of a close of pasture called Home close, a close of pasture called the Acre lying under a hedge there, a close called Nether close, a close called Church croft, and a close of meadow called Church-croft mead. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of Alice Skull, a widow, who holds them for her widowhood, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for the yearly rent, for the other services formerly due, and for heriot. William gives an agreed fine to the lord for that estate to be had, but the fealty and admittance of Margaret, Richard, and Tobias is respited until the reversion falls due.

Orders of the court

That, before May day next, an elder John Beale, John Weeks, Anthony Fry, and John Dirham shall view the plots of meadow in Broad mead between John Stratton and Thomas Lewin and set out where the marks and merestones ought to be set for the dividing of the same, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

That there shall be a cucking stool set up by Whitsuntide next, on pain of 20s.

That, by May day next, an elder John Beale, George Shearer, an elder Thomas Lewin, John Vincent, and a younger Thomas Lewin shall view the lands of the earl of Berkshire and the lands of John Ewe, which do lie in a close of meadow in the Leigh field, and set out where the marks and merestones ought to be set up for the distinguishing of the same, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.

That Richard Spencer shall lay open the land which he has gotten by encroaching on the lord's wastes and fill it up again forthwith, on pain of 10s.

Affeerors

An elder John Beale, John Weeks.

Court Baron held there on 27 June 1639

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Stratton, gentleman, William Beale, Thomas Smith, Baldwin Davies, an elder Thomas Lewin, George Shearer.

Grants

The lord granted to Robert, Samuel, and John, the sons of Simon Oateridge of Garsdon, a messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances, three closes of pasture and a meadow lying near the messuage, and a close called Windmill field, all which are a customary tenement and lands lately in the tenure or occupation of Agnes Clark, a widow. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 12s. 6d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. On Robert Oateridge's behalf Robert Jenner, esquire, gives £650 to the lord as a fine for that estate to be had, but the fealty and admittance of Robert Oateridge, Samuel, and John is respited. The lord licensed Robert Oateridge, Samuel, and John to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as they please, the custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding.

The lord granted to Robert Clark of Widhill, his brother William, and Robert the son of Simon Oateridge of Garsdon a close of pasture called the West field containing 8 acres, a close called the Windmill hill close containing 4 acres, and 1 acre of meadow lying in Broad mead. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for 20s. for the yearly rent and the heriot and for all the other services formerly due. On Robert Clark's behalf Robert Jenner, esquire, gives £250 to the lord as a fine for that estate to be had, but the fealty and admittance of Robert Clark, William, and Robert Oateridge is respited. The lord licensed Robert Clark, William, and Robert Oateridge to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as they please, the custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 3 October 1639

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Francis Smith, Thomas Birch, Thomas Clark, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

An elder Thomas Lewin, John Weeks, John Fry, John Beck, a younger Thomas Lewin, John Dirham, William Beale, Thomas Smith, Thomas Buckland, Anthony Barnes, Robert Norris, Robert Maskelyne, George Stephens.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Francis Smith, Thomas Clark, Henry Waite, William Sutton, a younger Thomas Sutton, George Sutton, and Henry Hayward are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That Anne Clark, a widow, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, a kettle valued for the lord at 20s.

That Alice Walker, a widow, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, a fallow cow valued for the lord at £4. Francis Skull is the next taker by virtue of a copy formerly made of the reversion. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That a grey foal came within the manor as a stray on 16 September last and remains in the keeping of John Beale; it was valued for the lord at £1 6s. 8d.

That a grey foal came within the manor as a stray on 16 September last and remains in the keeping of John Beale; it was valued for the lord at 20s.

That a bay foal came within the manor as a stray on 23 September last and remains in the keeping of John Dirham; it was valued for the lord at 30s.

That our custom is that all strays taken within the manor should remain in the custody of the lord's tenants until they be yeared [?kept for a year] if they be not challenged.

That Margery Pinnell and Thomas Walker [?*rectius* Walter] have not scoured their ditches in Berry Street Lane. It was ordered that they should scour them before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 10s.

That a house of Alice Henley is in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that it should be amended before Christmas next, on pain of 40s.
Oath of allegiance

Thomas Darter and Anthony Buckland are sworn to the king for allegiance.

Order of the court

That Walter Matthew shall throw open the encroachment he made on the king's highway, by the feast of All Saints [1 November], next on pain of 10s.

Officers

John Beale was chosen as constable for the coming year, William Clark as tithingman, Francis Skull as reeve.

Affeerors

An elder Thomas Lewin, John Weeks.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 18 April 1640

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Daniel Weeks, Henry Buckland, Thomas Walker, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, John Fry, Francis Skull, John Beck, Thomas Buckland, Nicholas Ponting, John Dirham, Anthony Fry, a younger William Beale, Thomas Smith, George Stephens, an elder William Beale, Robert Norris, John Walker.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That George Shearer, William Heale, Thomas Darter, a younger John Clark, Richard Spencer, John Barnes, Anthony Humber, Thomas Humber, and Henry White are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts are in decay. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 20*s*.

That Thomas Walter broke an order made by the last court because he did not scour his ditch in Berry Street Lane. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*.

That Anthony Webb accepted his mother and a child as inmates. It was ordered that he should eject them from his house before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 40*s*.

That John Barnes accepted John Hurlbatt as an inmate. It was ordered that he should eject him from his house immediately, on pain of 40*s*.

That Richard Showell accepted a little child as an inmate into his family. It was ordered that he should eject the child from his house immediately, on pain of 40*s*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 13 February last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Lewin; it was valued for the lord at 3*s*.

That Walter Matthew broke an order made at the last court for [*rectius* by] not throwing open his garden hedge, which he lately added to his first inclosure on the highway. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

Grants

Margaret Beale, a widow, a customary tenant, surrendered a close called the Upper West field with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord re-granted it to her. It is to be held for life by Margaret for a yearly rent of 8*d*., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. She gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

John Weeks, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage, with an orchard and a garden lying near it, a close called the Home close, a close called Haregrove hill, a close called the Upper Moor, and a close called Hill croft, parcels of the meadows and pasture appurtenant to the messuage, and his copy previously made, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, . . . [*MS. blank*]. The lord re-granted the premises to him. They are to be held for life successively by John, his son John, and his daughter Margaret Weeks for a yearly rent of 26*s*., for two heriots, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as

tenant. The fealty and admittance of the younger John and of Margaret is respited.

John Weeks, a customary tenant, surrendered the reversion of a close called the Upper West field, of which Margaret Beale, a widow, is the tenant for life, with the copy made for him, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the close to John. It is to be held for life successively by him, his son John, and his daughter Margaret Weeks immediately after Margaret Beale's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 8*d.* and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. The fealty and admittance of him, the younger John, and Margaret Weeks is respited until the reversion falls due.

John Stratton, a customary tenant, surrendered a close of pasture called Long Lacy's containing about 2 acres with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the close to John Clark and his sons William and John. It is to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 12*d.*, for 12*d.* for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John gives 30*s.* to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of William and the younger John is respited.

John Stratton, a customary tenant, surrendered two closes of meadow and pasture called Round Lacy's containing about 2½ acres with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the closes to John's brothers Robert and Thomas and to John. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 2*s.*, for 2*s.* for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Robert gives 30*s.* to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and John is respited.

Orders made at this court

That Alice Henley, a widow, shall amend her house at Lipgate and repair it sufficiently by the next court, on pain of £5.

That Elizabeth Penn, a widow, shall set up her gate in her home close where it stood before in the ancient roadway, by Whitsuntide next, on pain of 10*s.*

That Walter Matthew shall throw open so much of his garden as he has lately added to his first proportion by encroaching on the king's highway, by Whitsuntide next, on pain of 20*s.*

That John Beale, John Beck, an elder William Beale, John Dirham, and John Vincent shall view the lands between the earl of Berkshire and John Ewe to distinguish the difference as near as may be, by the 20th day of this month, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 6*s.* 8*d.*

That the same jurors shall the same day view the mounds between the widow Dirham and William Burchall, on pain of each man [making default to forfeit] 6*s.* 8*d.*

Officers

Constable, John Beale; tithingman, William Clark.

Affeerors

John Beale, John Weeks, John Fry.

Court Baron held there on 12 August 1640

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Beale, William Barnes, John Weeks, Francis Skull, an elder William Beale, George Shearer, John Beck, John Dirham, Thomas Smith.

Grants

An elder John Beale and his son George surrendered a messuage, with [arable] lands, meadow, and pasture, called Norris's and their copy by which they held it, except, and reserved [to them], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between the land of ... [MS. *blank*] Stamford, a widow, south, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, Robert Ponting's land east, and Nicholas Ponting's land west, so that the lord might do as he wished; heriot [unspecified]. The homage presents that, out of court, a younger John Beale and Edward Beale, sons of the elder John Beale, surrendered that tenement, which they claim in reversion [on the death] of the elder John Beale, and their copy by which they held it, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, ... [MS. *blank*]. The lord granted the premises to Daniel Weeks. They are to be held for life successively by him, his daughter Margaret Weeks, and Isaac Lewin of Garsdon for a yearly rent of 9s. 6d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. Daniel gives £20 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Margaret and Isaac is respited.

The lord granted to Henry Pinnell, clerk, the reversion of a messuage, with [arable] land, meadow, and pasture, called Norris's, except, and reserved [to the lord], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between the land of ... [MS. *blank*] Stamford, a widow, south, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, Robert Ponting's land east, and Nicholas Ponting's land west. The premises are to be held for life by Henry immediately after the death of Daniel Weeks, Margaret Weeks, and Isaac Lewin, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for a yearly rent, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. Daniel Weeks [*rectius* Henry Pinnell] gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. Fealty and admittance is respited until [the reversion falls due].

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 25 September 1640

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of

Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Wallis, Robert Davies, William Hurlbatt, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

An elder John Beale, Daniel Weeks, Robert Ponting, Robert Norris, George Shearer, Francis Skull, an elder William Beale, John Beck, Thomas Smith, John Weeks, John Fry, John Walker, William Clark, Thomas Buckland, Anthony Barnes.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Robert Phelps, John Barnes, Geoffrey Maskelyne, an elder Richard Lewin, and a younger Richard Lewin are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Lewin, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; two heriots, worth £9, were paid to the lord's bailiff. Thomas's son Thomas is the next taker, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That those of the jury who were ordered to view the mounds between William Burchall and Joan Dirham, a widow, and the trees cut down by Joan in the making of her mounds, [considered whether Joan] might lawfully have cut down the trees growing on the shore of her ditch and [have] converted them to her own use; but forasmuch as she had made her mounds and afterwards cut them down she was a trespasser to William.

That William Edwards, John Clark, and the widow Bird have not cut their hedges nor scoured their ditches in the upper lane in the field. It was ordered that they should amend those boundaries before Christmas next, on pain of each of them who made default [to forfeit] 10*s*.

That Thomas Stratton has not cut his hedge nor scoured his ditch between himself and John Ewe and Geoffrey Barnes. It was ordered that he should amend the hedge and ditch before 1 February next, on pain of 20*s*.

That Thomas Birch, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, worth 5*s*. Edith Birch, a widow, lately Thomas's wife, is the next taker for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That John Beale, senior, and his sons John, George, and Edward have formerly surrendered a copyhold messuage called Norris's, 1 acre excepted, and that the lord, at a court held for that purpose, has re-granted the same to Daniel Weeks for life in possession, to Daniel's daughter Margaret Weeks and to Isaac Lewin in possession, and to Henry Pinnell, clerk, in reversion. It is ordered that the jury shall view the wainscot and all other things there now remaining in the messuage and, at the next court, present what part thereof is to be removed by [the elder] John Beale, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10*s*.

That Alice Henley, a widow, broke an order of the court because she has not repaired her house at Lipgate. She has forfeited the penalty provided

for in the order, £5, and it was ordered that she should repair the house, and a barn at the house where she now lives, before 1 February next, on pain of 20s.

That Thomas Walker [*?rectius* Walter] broke an order of the court because he has not scoured his ditch in Berry Street. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10s., and it was ordered that he should scour the ditch before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20s.

Orders of the court

That an elder Thomas Hayward and Alice Skull, a widow, shall twig up their hedges and cast up their banks in the lane leading from the pound to the three bridges, by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of each of them [offending to forfeit] 5s.

That Thomas Hayward shall make a sufficient mound at the upper end of the Church lane from the gate of Thomas Clark's mound, by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 5s.

Officers

John Fry was chosen as constable for the coming year, Ralph Norris as tithingman, Daniel Weeks as reeve.

Court Baron held there on 22 October 1640

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Stratton, gentleman, Francis Skull, Thomas Lewin, William Clark, Thomas Buckland, John Dirham, Thomas Smith, Anthony Fry, Baldwin Davies, Robert Clark.

Grant

The lord granted to Robert Jenner, esquire, the reversion of a messuage or tenement and an orchard and a garden appurtenant to it, and of a close of pasture lying near it called the Home close containing about 8 acres, a close of pasture called Windmill field containing about 15 acres, and a close of pasture called the West field containing about 10 acres, all which premises Edith Birch, a widow, now holds for her widowhood. The premises are to be held for life successively by Robert, Robert Clark, and Daniel, the son of Simon Oateridge of Garsdon, immediately after Edith's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 4s. 1d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Robert Jenner gives £460 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The fealty and admittance of that Robert, Robert Clark, and Daniel is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord licensed them to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as they please, any custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding.

Court Baron held there on 28 October 1640

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Beck, William Beale, Thomas Smith, John Fry, George Shearer, Robert Norris, Thomas Buckland, John Dirham.

Grants

An elder John Beale and his son George surrendered a messuage, tenement, or toft called Baldwin's, a toft called Stephen's, and a lane called Webb's Lane, all the [arable] lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pasture, and common [rights] appurtenant to the messuage, tenement, or toft, and their copy by which they hold the premises, except, and reserved [to them], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between Robert Ponting's land south and west, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, and Braydon marsh east, so that the lord might do as he wished. The homage presents that, out of court, John's sons William and Edward surrendered the premises, all their estate in the reversion, and the copy previously made for them in reversion, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. Heriot, . . . [*MS. blank*]. The lord granted the premises to John's daughter Margery Beale. They are to be held for life by her for a yearly rent of 8s. 4d., for 6d. for mead-silver, 11d. for court-silver, and the usual churchscots, for suit of court, and for two heriots. Margery gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The lord licensed her, henceforward from time to time for her life, to let out the premises or any part of them to any person or persons for a term of 90 years or less, if she should live so long, to substitute any suitable person or persons as her undertenant or undertenants, and to live away from the manor and the premises, any custom of the manor or challenge or restriction of the lord to the contrary notwithstanding. He also licensed her to destroy and cut down whatever hedges exist on or about the premises, to throw down, fill up, and level whatever ditches exist there, to inclose the lane and lay it to the close called Stephen's hay, to destroy and cut down all the trees called maples and withies, of which there might be a great many, and whatever other trees not exceeding 12 inches in circumference at the foot [were] growing in or beside the hedges or ditches to be destroyed, to carry away, sell, and convert to her own use the trees thus to be destroyed and cut down, and to cart away, sell, and convert to her own use the fuel, thorns, loppings, toppings, and shrowds of whatever trees growing on the premises during the life of Hugh Fry, Jane Fry, and George Beale are to be lopped or shrouded, any custom of the manor or challenge or restriction of the lord to the contrary notwithstanding.

An elder John Beale and his son George surrendered a messuage or tenement called Bagg's or Badge's, a close of pasture lying near it containing about 8 acres, 1 acre of meadow in the east Leigh, all the [arable]

lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, and common [rights] appurtenant to the message or tenement, and their copy by which they hold the premises, except, and reserved [to them], 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between the land of ... [MS. blank] Foscott, a widow, south and west, Robert Ponting's land north, and Braydon marsh east, so that the lord might do as he wished. The homage presents that, out of court, John's sons William and Edward surrendered the tenement, their estate in the reversion of the premises, and the copy by which they hold the premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, ... [MS. blank]. The lord granted the premises to John's daughter Margery Beale. They are to be held for life by her for a yearly rent of 5s. 3½d., 5½d. for mead-silver, and the usual churchscots, for suit of court, for a heriot, and, by agreement, for no other burden, rent, or service. Margery gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. *On terms similar to those in the preceding grant the lord licensed Margery to let out the premises, to live away from the manor, to destroy hedges and ditches, to cut down trees, and to have the trees which were cut down and the loppings and shrouds of the other trees growing on the premises during her life.*

The lord granted to Hugh Fry, Jane Fry, and George, the son of an elder John Beale of Brinkworth, the reversion of *the premises named in the preceding grant* and of all the customary lands in Brinkworth lately in John's tenure or occupation, *with the exception named in the preceding grant.* The premises, all of which were lately in John's tenure or occupation, are to be held for life successively by Hugh, Jane, and George on the death of John's daughter Margery Beale, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for *the rent and services named in the preceding grant.* Hugh gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. Fealty and admittance is respited until the reversion falls due. *The lord granted to Hugh, Jane, and George the same licences as in the preceding grant to Margery, except that their lives were named instead of hers.*

The lord granted to George and John, sons of an elder John Beale, and to the elder John's daughter Jane the reversion of two closes, called Hill croft and Wyverne heal, part of the land of Thomas Birch, lately deceased. The closes are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of Edith Birch, a widow, who holds them for her widowhood, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 1s., for nothing for heriot because it is not heriotable, and for all the other services formerly due. George gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant [in reversion], but the fealty and admittance of the younger John and of Jane is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Court Baron held there on 8 February 1641

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

An elder John Beale, George Shearer, John Beck, Hugh Fry.

Surrender

Edith Birch, a widow, surrendered the estate which she holds for her widowhood in two closes of meadow or pasture, called Hill croft and Wyverne heal, part of the land of Thomas Birch, lately deceased, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 5 May 1641

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

William Burchall, Thomas Wallis, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

An elder John Beale, Daniel Weeks, John Dirham, George Shearer, John Weeks, William Beale, Francis Skull, John Fry, Anthony Barnes, Thomas Smith, Robert Maskelyne, Anthony Fry, Hugh Fry, John Beck, John Walker, Thomas Lewin, Thomas Buckland, William Edwards.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Robert Hawkins, Thomas Clark, Richard Spencer, William Hurlbatt, William Simkins, Henry Buckland, and Anthony Fleming are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts are in decay. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10*s*.

That a barn of John Weeks is in decay for lack of repair. It was ordered that it should be amended before the next court, on pain of 40*s*.

That the lower lane in the West field is much overgrown with bushes without the shore of the ditch, and the ditches do want scouring, so that it is not passable. It is ordered that everyone who has mounds in the lane shall sufficiently cut up and scour their hedges and ditches before the feast day of Pentecost next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit for every lug not amended 12*d*., and John Fry, John Weeks, John Beck, Francis Skull, Robert Norris, and Anthony Fry are appointed viewers of the defaults.

That a barn of Alice Henley, a widow, is in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that it should be amended before the next court, on pain of 40*s*.

That Thomas Walter broke an order made by the last court because he did not scour his ditch in Berry Street Lane. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*. It was ordered that the ditch should be repaired before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 20*s*.

Order

That Thomas Hayward and William Wallis shall view the landmarks in Broad mead between John Stratton and Thomas Lewin forthwith and give notice to the homage how they ought to stand indifferent between them, on pain of 3s. 4d.

Surrenders

George Beale surrendered two closes, called Hill croft and Wyverne heal, part of the land of Thomas Birch, lately deceased, and his copy by which he holds them, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

John Beck, who held by copy a close of pasture lying in the Slough containing about 3 acres, surrendered the close with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

Grants

An elder John Beale and his son George surrendered 3 acres of meadow lying in the Leigh field and butted and bounded as follows: 1 acre between Robert Ponting's land south and west, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, and Braydon marsh east, which acre is part of a customary holding called Baldwin's; 1 acre between the land of ... [*MS. blank*] Foscott, a widow, south and west, Robert Ponting's land north, and Braydon marsh east, which acre is part of a customary holding called [Bagg's or] Badge's; 1 acre between the land of ... [*MS. blank*] Stamford, a widow, south, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, Robert Ponting's land east, and Nicholas Ponting's land west, which acre is part of a customary holding called Norris's. They also surrendered the copy [*or copies*] by which they hold the premises. The homage presents that, out of court, John's sons John and Edward surrendered the premises, their estate in reversion in the premises, and the copy [*or copies*] previously made for them in reversion, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot ... [*MS. blank*]. The lord granted the premises, and the closes called Hill croft and Wyverne heal, part of the land of Thomas Birch, lately deceased, to the elder John. They are to be held for life by him for a yearly rent of 1s. 9d., for 2s. 6d. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. He gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. The lord licensed him to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as he please, the custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

The lord granted to George and John, sons of an elder John Beale of Brinkworth, and to the elder John's daughter Jane the reversion of 3 acres of meadow lying in the Leigh field, *butted and bounded, and parts of the holdings, as described in the preceding grant*, and of closes called Hill croft and Wyverne heal, part of the land of Thomas Birch, lately deceased. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of the elder John, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of 1s. 9d., for 2s. 6d. for heriot, and for all the other services

formerly due. George gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. The fealty and admittance of him, the younger John, and Jane is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord licensed them to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as they please, any custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding.

The lord granted to William Fry, the son of Margaret Fry, the reversion of a messuage or tenement called Wingood's and of lands appurtenant to it, except, and reserved [to the lord], a close called the West field containing about 5 acres, all of which were lately in William Thorne's tenure or occupation and are now in Anthony Fry's in the right of his wife Margaret. The premises are to be held for life successively by William Fry and his sons William and John immediately after Margaret's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 5s. 1d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder William Fry gives £150 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The fealty and admittance of him, the younger William, and John is respited until the reversion falls due.

The lord granted to Anthony Fry, the son of Margaret Fry, and to William and John, the sons of William Fry, a close called the West field containing about 5 acres. The close is to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 2s. 6d., for 6d. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. They give an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. Anthony did fealty and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of the younger William and John is respited.

Thomas Smith and his wife Mary, she being examined alone and in secret, surrendered a messuage called Churchman's, a close of pasture lying near it containing about 10 acres, and a close lying in the Ramps containing about 1 acre with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted those premises, and a close of pasture lying in the Slough and containing about 3 acres, part of John Beck's land, to Mary. All the premises are to be held for life successively by her, Thomas, and Thomas's son Francis for a yearly rent of £5 1s. 6d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Mary gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and Francis is respited.

Admittance

An elder Anthony Fry and his wife Margaret, she being examined alone and in secret, surrendered a close of pasture called the West field containing about 5 acres, a close of pasture called Glazeland containing about 3 acres, and a close called the Lower leaze containing about 5 acres, all of which are part of the lands of a messuage or tenement called Wingood's, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The jurors present that William Fry is the next taker of Glazeland and the Lower leaze. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Affeerors

John Beale, Daniel Weeks, John Dirham.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 30 September 1641

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Cook, a younger William Beale, Hugh Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Weeks, an elder William Beale, an elder Anthony Fry, William Clark, Philip Darter, Thomas Buckland, John Dirham, George Shearer, Robert Maskelyne, Baldwin Davies, Thomas Smith, Francis Skull, John Beck.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Stratton, George Bleek, Anthony Barnes, Richard Spencer, Anthony Fleming, Thomas Wallis, Thomas Clark, and Richard Showell are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies, Susan Skull, and Richard Showell are common victuallers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That William Skull and Francis Smith are common butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of their mystery. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That William Shearer overstocked the common contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 40*s*.

That Thomas Lewin did likewise. He has forfeited the penalty, 40*s*.

That Sibyl Walter broke an order of the court because she did not scour her ditch in Berry Street Lane. She has forfeited the penalty, 20*s*.

Orders of the court

That Mrs. Bird shall cut up her hedge belonging to the furlong, and likewise her hedge between Custom mead [and] a ground of John Stratton called West field, by Christmas day next, on pain of 10*s*.

That everyone who has mounds insufficient in the field lanes, Custom mead, Windmill field, and Ash Lane shall cut up their hedges and scour their ditches before Christmas next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10*s*.

That Robert Drew, esquire, and Rebecca Stratton, a widow, shall twig up their hedges on each side of a narrow lane called Waite's Lane by Christmas next, on pain of 10*s*.

That Sibyl Walter shall scour up her ditch in Berry Street Lane before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 40*s*.

That Geoffrey Barnes shall scour his ditch between Anthony Player's and Gaskin's by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That William Pinnell shall forthwith fill up and make plain [i.e. level] a pit which he made and [which] was hurtful to passengers, on pain of 10*s*.

Officers

Francis Skull was chosen as constable for the coming year, John Walker as tithingman, John Stratton as reeve.

[Affeerors]

John Weeks, an elder William Beale.

Court Baron held there on 18 November 1641

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Beck, John Dirham, John Weeks, Hugh Fry, Thomas Buckland.

Grant

John Stratton, a customary tenant, surrendered a close of meadow or pasture called Munbreach containing about 4 acres, part of his customary lands, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted it to Francis Skull, his son Thomas, and his daughter Magdalen Skull. It is to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 2s., for 2s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Francis gives £5 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and Magdalen is respited.

Surrender

Francis Skull, a customary tenant, surrendered a close of meadow or pasture called Puttessugg containing about 2 acres with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 18 April 1642

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Henry Buckland, Anthony Buckland, William Hurlbatt, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

An elder John Beale, George Shearer, an elder Anthony Fry, John Beck, Francis Skull, an elder William Beale, Thomas Buckland, Robert Maskelyne, Philip Darter, William Edwards, William Clark, a younger Anthony Fry, Thomas Wallis.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Stratton, Robert Ponting, Thomas Hatchet, Richard Ody, Geoffrey Ody, and Geoffrey Maskelyne are residents, living within the

manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the butts want repair. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10*s*.

That Daniel Weeks, George Shearer, Hugh Fry, Alice Skull, William Pinnell, William Lewin, and Francis Clark each refused to contribute towards the repair of the king's highways and have not done their works towards the repair of them. Each amerced, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That any customary tenant in possession may at any time during his life remove, translate, dispose of, and convert to his own use the wainscot, glass, or any other thing by him or his predecessors set up in the copyhold messuage at their proper costs and charges for their necessary use or to beautify the messuage, without leave or licence of the lord. And that the executor of any such tenant dying in possession may likewise, without leave or licence of the lord or next reversioner, lawfully take and convert to his own use all such wainscot, glass, or other thing so set up by the testator or his predecessors for his or their necessary uses or to beautify the messuage as aforesaid, which shall be free without pinning or nailing to the lord's timber at the time of the death of the testator; and that, for such as have been found at the time of the death of the testator to be either pinned or nailed to the lord's timber, [they] have been ever left to the censure of the law. And always so observed by our custom [in which] the memory of man is not to the contrary.

That Joan Bird, a widow, broke an order made by the last court because she did not cut her hedge appurtenant to the furlong. She has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*.

That Geoffrey Barnes broke an order of the court because he did not scour his ditch between Anthony Player's and Gaskin's. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*.

That a house and barn of . . . [*MS. blank*] Henley, a widow, are in decay for lack of repair. It was ordered that they should be amended before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 40*s*.

Affeerors

John Beale, George Shearer.

View of frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 6 October 1642

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Hayward, John Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Daniel Weeks, John Beck, Francis Skull, Anthony Fry, William Beale,

William Edwards, Richard Ody, William Day, Philip Darter, Thomas Buckland, Thomas Wallis, William Clark, John Walker, Anthony Fleming.
Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Stratton, gentleman, Hugh Fry, Thomas Henley, William Heale, Thomas Bowdley, Richard Spencer, an elder John Clark, John Fry, an elder Richard Lewin, a younger Richard Lewin, and John Vincent are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the message or tenement of Alice Henley, a widow, and a barn and other houses appurtenant to the message, are in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that Alice and her daughter Elizabeth Henley should contribute to the repair of the message and houses before the next court, on pain of each of them [offending to forfeit] 40*s*.

That George Bleek, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot ... [*unspecified*].

That two sheep came within the manor as strays on 29 June last and remain in the keeping of the lord's bailiff; they were valued for the lord at 3*s*.

That a white mare came within the manor as a stray on 14 June last and remains in the keeping of the lord's bailiff; it was valued for the lord at 20*s*.

That a brown heifer came within the manor as a stray on 14 June last and remains in the keeping of the lord's bailiff; it was valued for the lord at 13*s*. 4*d*.

Orders of the court

That, whereas John Beale has encroached on the common at the end of his house, he shall lay it open again by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of £3.

That Simon Oateridge shall cut up his hedges in Ash Lane on both sides and amend it sufficiently by St. Andrew's tide [30 November] next, on pain of 20*s*.

Oath of allegiance

Vincent Clark is sworn to the king for allegiance.

Officers

Richard Ody was chosen as constable for the coming year, Richard Lewin as tithingman, John Weeks as reeve.

Affeerors

Daniel Weeks, John Beck.

Court Baron held there on 22 October 1642

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Weeks, John Beck, Anthony Fry, Francis Skull, Robert Ponting, Baldwin Davies.

Grants

Daniel Weeks and Henry Pinnell, clerk, customary tenants, surrendered a messuage, with [arable] land, meadow, and pasture, called Norris's and their copy by which they hold it, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, ... [*MS. blank*]. The lord granted the premises to Roger Weeks. They are to be held for life successively by him, his son Richard, and Stephen, the son of Philip Lawrence of Marlborough, for a yearly rent of 9s. 6d., for the best cow for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Roger gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Richard and Stephen is respited.

The lord granted to Martha, the wife of Philip Lawrence of Marlborough, the reversion of a messuage, with [arable] land, meadow, and pasture, called Norris's. The premises are to be held for life by her immediately after the death of Roger Weeks, Richard Weeks, and Stephen Lawrence, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for all the services formerly due and for the best cow for heriot. Roger gives an agreed fine to the lord for that estate to be had. Fealty and admittance is respited until [the reversion falls due].

John Weeks, a customary tenant, surrendered a close called Sloughsburg containing about 2½ acres, a close called Red hill containing about 6 acres, and his copy by which he holds them, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted those closes and 1 acre of meadow called Puttesugg to John. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his son John, and John Sealy for a yearly rent of 4s. 2¾d., for 40s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John Weeks gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of the younger John Weeks and of John Sealy is respited. The lord granted that, if within the next year the elder John Weeks would surrender the premises, he would regrant them for life successively to him and to one or two others nominated by him in place of the younger John Weeks and/or John Sealy, provided that the younger John Weeks and John Sealy were then living.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 6 April 1643

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Henley, William Clark, Anthony Fleming, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, Hugh Fry, Robert Ponting, Thomas Lewin,

John Beck, Nicholas Ponting, Robert Norris, an elder Anthony Fry, a younger Anthony Fry, John Fry, George Shearer, John Walker.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Robert Jenner, esquire, Robert Drew, esquire, Edward Stratton, gentleman, and Geoffrey Pinnell are free suitors of the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Catherine, the wife of Thomas Looker, accepted Anthony Dowers and his wife as inmates. It was ordered that she should eject them before 10 April next, on pain of 40*s*.

That Anne Hayward, a widow, accepted Walter Townsend as an inmate. It was ordered that she should eject him before 10 April next, on pain of 40*s*.

Orders of the court

That, whereas John Brook has encroached on the lord's wastes in Oxhays Lane to the straitening of the king's highway, he shall level it by the 20th of this month, on pain of 40*s*.

That, whereas Geoffrey Barnes and his tenant Thomas Cook have suffered their hedges and ditches between themselves and Robert Ponting in the Leigh field to be insufficient, the same be forthwith amended and set in good repair, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10*s*.

That the homage shall view the marks of Mr. John Stratton and Thomas Lewin in Broad mead and set them in their due order by the 20th day of this month, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 3*s*. 4*d*.

That no man shall feed more cattle on any [of] the lord's wastes of any kind whatsoever in the summer than he can reasonably winter on the several he shall hold by which he claims his common [right], on pain of 40*s*.; the breach of which pain to be censured by the jury or the major part of them.

Officer

A younger John Clark of Clitchbury (*Clitchborough*) was chosen as tithingman for the coming year.

Affeerors

John Beale, John Weeks.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 11 October 1643

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Henry Buckland, Anthony Buckland, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, Roger Weeks, Robert Ponting, John Beck,

Hugh Fry, Robert Norris, George Shearer, Francis Skull, Thomas Buckland, an elder Anthony Fry, William Beale, an elder William Clark, Anthony Barnes, John Walker, a younger Anthony Fry.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That William Edwards, William Reeve, John Ponting, a younger Anthony Fry, John Peacock, William Smithen, Richard Spencer, Francis Spencer, Geoffrey Maskelyne, William Simkins, Thomas Darter, and Thomas Hatchet are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies, Susan Skull, and Richard Showell are common victuallers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That William Skull and Francis Smith are common butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of their mystery. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Henley, a widow, a customary tenant, who held a messuage called Wisdom's and Waterhold's and a messuage called Lipgate House, each with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; three heriots, valued at £4 10*s.*, were paid to the lord's bailiff. Elizabeth Henley, a widow, is the next taker in reversion for life of the messuage called Wisdom's and Waterhold's; she did fealty and was admitted as tenant. William Henley is the next taker in reversion for life of the messuage called Lipgate House; he was admitted as tenant, but fealty is respited because he is under age.

That Geoffrey Barnes broke an order made at the last court because he does not amend his hedge and ditch in the Leigh field. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s.*, and it was ordered that he should amend the hedge and ditch before Christmas next, on pain of 20*s.*

Grants

John Weeks, a customary tenant, surrendered a close called Sloughsburg containing about 2½ acres, a close called Red hill containing about 6 acres, 1 acre of meadow called Puttessugg, and his copy previously granted to him by which he holds the premises, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, as agreed with the lord. The lord granted the premises to John. They are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Richard and John for a yearly rent of 4*s.* 2¾*d.*, for 40*s.* for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Richard and the younger John is respited.

John Weeks, a customary tenant in reversion, surrendered the estate which he has in reversion after the death of Jane Pinnell, a widow, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, in a close called Hudd's croft containing about 3 acres and a close called Ramps containing about 6 acres, and the copy previously granted to him by which he holds the premises, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to John. They are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Richard and John immediately after Jane's death, or on surrender or

forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 3s. 6¾d., for 40s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, but the fealty and admittance of him, Richard, and the younger John is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Orders of the court

That, whereas William Beale, deceased, did in his lifetime, by consent of Mr. Arthur Ayliffe, erect and set up a sluice in the river which divided the inheritance of the earl of Berkshire and [that of] Sir George Ayliffe, by reason of which sluice the waters wear out and destroy the banks on the inheritance of the earl of Berkshire and do add to the inheritance of Sir George Ayliffe, now William's brother George, who took on him[self] the administration of his [*i.e.* William's] goods, by virtue of which it is conceived that the timber of the sluice belongs [to him], is ordered to remove and take away the same by Lammas day [1 August] next, on pain of £5.

That William Barnes, gentleman, shall make his mounds and hang up his gate at the Leigh lane by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

Officers

Hugh Fry was chosen as constable for the coming year, John Smith as tithingman, Thomas Lewin as reeve.

Affeerors

John Beale, John Weeks.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 12 April 1644

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Buckland, Henry Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, Robert Ponting, Francis Skull, Thomas Lewin, William Beale, John Beck, Anthony Fry, John Dirham, an elder Thomas Hayward, William Clark, John Walker, William Edwards.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That George Shearer, Geoffrey Maskelyne, Nicholas Ponting, William Barnes, Thomas Clark, Robert Norris, Giles Arch, Thomas Arch, Anthony Spencer, a younger William Buckland, Henry Buckland, Anthony Buckland, William Simkins, and John Fry are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That Daniel Weeks overstocked the common contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 40s.

That Thomas Knapp, for the same thing, has forfeited the penalty,
40s.

That Thomas Buckland, for the same thing, has forfeited the penalty,
40s.

That Thomas Buckland, for the same thing, has forfeited the penalty,
40s.

That four sheep came within the manor as strays on 4 January last and remain in the keeping of Hugh Fry; they were valued for the lord at 8s.

That a bay foal came within the manor as a stray on 12 January last and remains in the keeping of George Shearer; it was valued for the lord at 3s. 4d.

Orders of the court

That Mr. Drew shall amend and make his mounds sufficient between himself and Eleanor Waite, by 1 May next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That the former order concerning the overcharging of our commons shall stand, that from henceforth none claiming right of common in the lord's waste do or shall at any one time in the summer depasture and feed any more or greater number of cattle of any kind or sort whatsoever on the common than he may, observing the course, reasonably winter on the lands which he holds in several and in his own possession [in respect of] which he claims his right of common, and that such cattle be his or their own proper goods and cattle [*rectius* chattels] and marked with his or their own mark and not [be] other men's joisted in; on pain of everyone making default [to forfeit] 40s.

Affeerors

John Beale, John Weeks, Robert Ponting.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 5 October 1644

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Matthew, John Arch, John Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, Thomas Lewin, Robert Ponting, William Beale, Robert Norris, George Shearer, Francis Skull, Hugh Fry, Anthony Fry, John Dirham, William Clark, Thomas Buckland, Philip Darter.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Stratton, Roger Weeks, Thomas Knapp, Robert Davies, John Ody, William Lewin, Richard Spencer, Henry Clark, William

Simkins, and William Hurlbatt are residents, living within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Beck, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, valued at 13*s*. 4*d*. John's wife Joyce should be admitted for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That Baldwin Davies, Richard Showell, and Susan Skull, a widow, are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Francis Smith and William Skull are common butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of their mystery. Each amerced, 3*d*.

Order of the court

That, whereas Edith Birch has received her daughter Agnes and her children into her house as inmates, she shall remove and avoid them by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of £5.

Officers

Thomas Stratton was chosen as constable for the coming year, John Shearer as tithingman, Hugh Fry as reeve.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 9 April 1645

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, John Dirham, Thomas Lewin, William Beale, Anthony Fry, John Smith, John Arch, Richard Osiph, Thomas Buckland, [?another] John Smith, Francis Smith.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That a black cow came within the manor as a stray on 20 December last and remains in the keeping of John Beale; it was valued for the lord at 5*s*.

That George Shearer broke an order of the court for [?rectius by] joisting in other men's sheep into our commons. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 40*s*.

Orders of the court

That Mr. Drew shall amend and make sufficient his bounds between himself and Eleanor Waite before Whitsuntide next, on pain of 20*s*.

That, whereas the farmer has, contrary to our custom, neglected the providing of a dinner for the jury, he shall from time to time provide the jury [with] a dinner on the court day, on pain of 20*s*.

That the widow Birch shall sufficiently amend and repair her house before the next court, on pain of 40*s*.

Officers

Thomas Stratton was chosen as constable, John Shearer as tithingman.

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View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 9 October 1646

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Stratton, Geoffrey Ody, William Edwards, Robert Ponting, a younger Anthony Fry, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

John Stratton, gentleman, John Drew, gentleman, Edward Stratton, William Still, clerk, John Browning, Edward Sumner, and the rector of Brinkworth church are free suitors of the court and owe suit.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, Thomas Lewin, George Shearer, Francis Skull, William Beale, Hugh Fry, an elder Anthony Fry, John Walker, John Dirham, Thomas Hayward, Henry Clark.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Drew, gentleman, Edward Stratton, and William Still, clerk, are free suitors, owe suit of court, and were not present. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Francis Smith and William Skull are common butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of the mystery. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Baldwin Davies, Susan Skull, a widow, and Richard Showell are common tippers of ale and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That two sheep came within the manor as strays on 26 June last and remain in the keeping of John Shearer; they were valued for the lord at 5*s*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 5 August last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Buckland; it was valued for the lord at 3*s*.

That Margery Pinnell, a widow, who held a tenement and customary [arable] land, meadow, and pasture for her widowhood, has died since the last court; two heriots, two copper (*aeneas*) pots worth 20*s*., were delivered to the bailiff for the lord's use. Baldwin Davies is the next taker in reversion and should enjoy the premises for life. He asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That John Ewe broke an order made by the last court because he did not remove an undertenant. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

Mary Smith for the same, 10*s*.

That Thomas Knapp overstocked the common with sheep contrary to an order made previously. He has forfeited the penalty, 5*s*.

That Robert Maskelyne overstocked the commons with sheep contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 5*s*.

Pains and orders

That Thomas Stratton do make his hedge and ditch sufficient between his ground and William Barnes's ground before the next court, on pain of 6s. 8d.

Whereas, contrary to the custom of the manor, Francis Pinnell has carried away doors, window leaves, and timber assigned for reparations from the copyhold messuage late in the possession of Widow Pinnell, his mother, he [should] restore and deliver back the things by him so carried away, to be employed for the uses they were appointed [to], before St. Martin's day [11 November] next, on pain of £10.

Officers

William Beale was chosen as constable, Francis Spencer as tithingman, John Fry as reeve.

Affeerors

John Beale, John Weeks, John Dirham.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 22 October 1647

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

George Shearer, Geoffrey Ody, William Burchall, Nicholas Ponting, William Walker, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Beale, John Weeks, Thomas Lewin, Robert Ponting, William Beale, Richard Weeks, Hugh Fry, John Fry, Robert Norris, Francis Skull, John Dirham, John Walker, Thomas Buckland.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That ... [*MS. blank*] Drew, gentleman, Edward Stratton, gentleman, the rector of Brinkworth church, John Stratton, gentleman, Edward Sumner, gentleman, John Browning, and John Still, gentleman, are free suitors of the court and were not present. Each amerced, 3d.

That Francis Smith and William Skull are common butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of the mystery. Each amerced, 3d.

That Baldwin Davies and Richard Showell are common tipplers of ale and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3d.

That a ewe and a lamb worth 5s. came within the manor as strays on 5 June last and remain in the keeping of George Shearer.

That a ewe and a lamb worth 5s. came within the manor as strays on 30 June last and remain in the keeping of John Dobbs.

That a sheep worth 2s. 6d. came within the manor as a stray and has remained over a year, and it is in the keeping of George Shearer.

That Joyce Beck, a widow, has died since the last court; heriot, one

worth 10s. Joyce's daughter Mary Beck is the next taker in reversion and should enjoy for life the tenement and land lately in Joyce's occupation. She asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That Margaret Beale, a widow, who held a tenement and customary land, has died since the last court; heriot, a ... [*MS. blank*] worth 20s. John Weeks is the next taker in reversion and should enjoy the premises for life. He asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

Pains and orders

That the highway in Cuckoos Lane is in default for want of digging and cleansing the ditches on both sides, and we do order that Mr. Gardner and Geoffrey Barnes, who hold the grounds on both sides of the lane, do sufficiently cleanse their ditches there before 1 December next, on pain of 10s. apiece.

That William Barnes and William Beale do dig and cleanse their ditches and repair their hedges on both sides of the lane leading into the Leigh field, and make up the gate at the upper end of the lane by Twelvetide [Epiphany: 6 January] next, on pain of 20s. apiece.

That John Stratton and William Barnes do sufficiently repair the bounds and the gate, at Lipgate, leading into the Windmill field before Christmas day next, on pain of 10s.

That no person shall keep upon the wastes and commons any more cattle of any kind whatsoever, other or more than [those which] he, she, or they can reasonably and well maintain and feed in winter as well as in summer on the lands, and with the fodder grown or growing on the lands, for which they claim their right of common and which they have actually in their possession at the time when they shall take the benefit of the common; on pain of forfeiture of 40s. for every offence to be committed at any time hereafter until a stint be agreed on or this order revoked in the court.

Officers

John Fry was chosen as constable, Henry Young as tithingman, William Edwards as reeve.

Grants

Robert Oateridge surrendered a messuage or tenement with the appurtenances, three closes and a meadow lying near it, and a close called Windmill field, [all] lately in the tenure or occupation of Agnes Clark, a widow; and Robert Clark of Widhill surrendered a close of pasture called West field containing 8 acres, a close called the Windmill hill close containing 4 acres, and 1 acre of meadow lying in Broad mead, [all] lately in Agnes's tenure or occupation and previously appurtenant to the messuage. The lord granted all the premises to Robert Oateridge, to be held for life successively by him and his brothers Samuel and John for a yearly rent of ... [*MS. blank*] and for all the other services formerly due; each will give the best beast for heriot when it falls due. By virtue of an agreement previously made between them Robert Oateridge gives £3 to the lord for an entry fine, did

fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of Samuel and John is respited.

Whereas at a court held at Brinkworth on 27 September 1638 Thomas George of Wroughton surrendered the reversion of a messuage called Churchman's, and of a close called Home close, a close called West close, a close called New leaze, a close called Parsonage close, a close called Leigh close, 1 acre of meadow called Wyverne heal, and 1 acre of meadow lying under Foscott's hedge, [all] then and now in Robert Norris's tenure, at this court Robert surrendered the premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises, except the acre of meadow lying under Foscott's hedge, to Robert, to be held for life successively by him and his sons William and Richard for a yearly rent of 12s. 0½*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and for £3 in cash for heriot. Robert gives £42 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of William and Richard is respited.

William Edwards took from the lord 1 acre of meadow lying under Foscott's hedge, lately appurtenant to the messuage and customary land of Robert Norris of Brinkworth and in the lord's hand by reason of the surrender previously made by Robert and by Thomas George of Wroughton. The lord granted seisin by the rod to him. The land is to be held for life successively by William and his sons Edward and William for a yearly rent of 4*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and for 2s. 6*d.* for heriot. The elder William gives £3 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of Edward and the younger William is respited.

Henry Smith and his wife Alice, she being examined alone, surrendered the reversion of a messuage called Fletcher's, of three closes of pasture lying near [the messuage] containing about 8 acres, and of 4 parcels of [arable] land called ridges in Windmill field, [all] lately in John Beck's tenure, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the reversion to an elder William Edwards. [The premises are] to be held for life successively by him and his sons Edward and William immediately after the death of Mary Beck, spinster, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 2s. 8½*d.*, for 5½*d.* in money called court-silver, 2*d.* in money called mead-silver, and two hens and a cock, and for all the other services formerly due; each will give for heriot according to custom when it falls due. The elder William gives £50 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but fealty is respited because he is a tenant in reversion.

John Stratton, gentleman, surrendered a messuage called Goreway's or Cooper's, a close called Home close, a close of meadow called Brook Breach, two closes called Round Ramps and Long Ramps, and a close called Glazeland with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Richard Aldridge, to be held for life successively by him, Susan, the wife of Henry Hammond, clerk, and

Henry's and Susan's son Henry for a yearly rent of £3 12s., for all the other services formerly due, and for £6 13s. 4d. in cash for heriot. Richard, Susan, and the younger Henry give £34 to the lord for an entry fine. Richard did fealty and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of Susan and the younger Henry is respited.

John Stratton, gentleman, surrendered a decayed messuage with a close called Bridge hays, and a close called Clark's Townsend lease, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to an elder John Weeks of Brinkworth, to be held for life successively by him and his sons Richard and John for a yearly rent of 28s., for all the other services formerly due, and for £3 6s. 8d. in cash for heriot. The elder John Weeks gives £16 to the lord as a fine for having that estate and did fealty, but the fealty of Richard and the younger John Weeks is respited.

Affeerors

John Beale, John Weeks, Thomas Lewin.

Court Baron held there on 29 October 1647

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire.

Homage

John Beale, Robert Ponting, John Weeks, William Beale, Baldwin Davies, George Shearer.

Grants

John Stratton, gentleman, surrendered a messuage or tenement called Player's, a close called the Home ground, a close called Millward's, and three closes of pasture and a close of meadow [all] called the Ramps with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to John Hibbert, to be held for life successively by him and his sons Robert and Henry for a yearly rent of 7s. and for all the other services formerly due; each will give the best farm animal for heriot. John Hibbert gives £20 to the lord as a fine for having that estate and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Robert and Henry is respited.

John Stratton surrendered a close called Wallis's Townsend close containing about 9 acres, a close called Lincraft's mead containing about 3 acres, a close called the Ash close, 2 acres of meadow in Broad mead, a close called West field, and the profit of the grass and hay of a parcel of meadow in Pewking mead one year in two with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to John, to be held for life successively by him, his son John, and his brother Thomas for a yearly rent of 13s. and for all the other services formerly due; each will give the best farm animal for heriot. The elder John gives £25 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of the younger John and of Thomas is respited.

Court Baron held there on 11 March 1648

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

Francis Skull, Robert Norris, Thomas Buckland, Geoffrey Clark, Francis Smith.

Grant

The lord granted to Henry Young the reversion of a messuage called Churchman's, of a close of pasture lying near the messuage containing about 10 acres, and of a close lying in the Ramps containing about 1 acre, [all] now in the tenure or occupation of Mary Smith, a widow. The premises are to be held for life by him immediately after the death of Mary or [*rectius* and] her son Francis Smith, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for a yearly rent of £5 1s. 6d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Henry gives £12 to the lord for an entry fine, but fealty and admittance are respited until [the reversion falls due].

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 26 April 1648

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Weeks, Richard Aldridge, John Fry, John Dirham, Robert Ponting, Thomas Lewin, William Edwards, William Beale, Hugh Fry, Robert Norris, Anthony Fry, Thomas Buckland, Geoffrey Clark, Henry Clark.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Francis Smith and William Skull are common butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of the occupation. Each amerced, 3d.

That Baldwin Davies and Richard Showell are common tipplers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3d.

That the common pound is not sufficient through the neglect of the lord's bailiff. Amerced, 3d.

That a sheep and a lamb came within the manor as strays on 3 June and remain in the keeping of John Dirham; half the value fell due to the lord, 5s.

That a sheep and a lamb worth 5s. came within the manor as strays on 2 June and remain in the keeping of George Shearer.

Pains and orders

We present Justinian Smith for taking in his father and mother and not giving the parish security for their discharge; we do therefore order him to remove them before Michaelmas [29 September] next or give the parish security to discharge them, or else to forfeit 10s.

We present William Fry for taking an inmate and not giving the parish security for their discharge; we do therefore order him to remove him before Michaelmas [29 September] next or give security to the parish, on pain of £5.

We present Robert Maskelyne for joisting in sheep into our common contrary to a former order; he has forfeited 3s. 4d.

We present that the pain is forfeited between Mr. Gardner and Geoffrey Barnes for not scouring their ditches in Cuckoos Lane to the great hindrance of passengers, and [they] have forfeited each of them 10s.

We present that John Rice has not removed his gate, [as he should have] according to our former presentment, and has forfeited 10s.

We present that William Barnes has broken the pain for not making his bound in the upper end of the Tie lane, and has forfeited 6d.

We present [that] an elder William Darter does encroach on the highway to the hindrance of passengers; William Tweeny for encroaching on the highway; Thomas Pinnell does encroach on the lord's waste and lay it to another lord's land; Anthony Webb has made an encroachment on the lord's waste; Christopher Nicholls has made an encroachment on the lord's waste; William Humber does encroach on the lord's waste; John Beale has made an encroachment on the lord's waste; George Shearer has made an encroachment on the lord's waste; Walter Matthew for encroaching on the king's highway. We do order all these encroachments to be laid back again before Michaelmas day [29 September] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

Officers

John Fry was chosen as constable for the next year, Henry Young as tithingman, William Edwards as reeve.

Affeerors

John Weeks, Thomas Lewin.

Court Baron held there on 16 August 1648

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

Richard Aldridge, William Beale, George Shearer, Hugh Fry.

Grants

The lord granted to William Shearer, Robert Shearer, and Tobias Shearer the reversion of a messuage or tenement called Sibyl's with the gardens, orchard, kitchen garden (*hortus*), and croft lying near it, [all] containing about 5 acres, and of a close containing about 4 acres, a close called Hill close containing about 8 acres, and a meadow containing about 1½ acre. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of George Shearer, [their] father, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of £4, for 5½*d.* for money called court-silver, 4*d.* for mead-silver, and two hens and a cock, and for all the other services formerly due; each will give for heriot according to the custom when it falls due. William, Robert, and Tobias give £100 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but fealty and admittance are respited until [the reversion falls due].

The lord granted a licence to George Shearer to let out a messuage called Sibyl's, with all the closes, [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to it, or any part of it, for his life to any suitable tenant, any custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 15 September 1648

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

[Jurors for the king and the homage]

John Weeks, Thomas Lewin, Richard Aldridge, Francis Skull, John Dirham, William Edwards, Baldwin Davies, Robert Ponting, Hugh Fry, Robert Norris, John Fry, William Beale, Geoffrey Clark, John Shearer.

Presentments of [the jurors and homage]

That Francis Smith and William Skull are common butchers and behaved badly in the exercise of the occupation. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Baldwin Davies and Richard Showell are common tipplers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That the common pound is insufficient through the default of the lord's bailiff. He was ordered to amend [it by] 1 November next, on pain of 5*s.*

That a lamb worth 5*s.* came within the manor as a stray on 30 June and has remained in the keeping of John Dirham for over a year.

That a sheep and a lamb worth 5*s.* came within the manor as strays on 2 June and have remained in the keeping of George Shearer for over a year.

That the penalty [has been] forfeited in [the case of] ... [*MS. blank*]

Gardner and Geoffrey Barnes because they did not scour the ditches in Cuckoos Lane, causing past loss.

That John Jones has not removed a gate [as he should have] according to a previous order.

That Henry Bloxham overstocked the common. Amerced, 10s.

That Nicholas Ponting has died since the last court, and that his wife should be admitted as tenant for her widowhood.

That Hugh Fry removes himself from all juries.

That Baldwin Davies and Thomas Wallis were not discharging [their] office in the repair of the public ways. It was ordered that they should make amends before the feast of All Saints [1 November], on pain of 20s.

That Justinian Smith has not given security to save the parish from loss in removing his father and mother. It was ordered that he should give security or remove them before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas], on pain of £3.

Grants

Francis Skull surrendered a close containing 1 acre lying in the Leigh field, between Robert Ponting's land north and William Barnes's land south [and] near the tenement called Foscott's, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the close to Nicholas Ponting, his brother John, and Thomas Shepherd of Charlote. It is to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 18*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and for 3*s.* 4*d.* for heriot. Nicholas gives £3 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of John and Thomas is respited.

Hugh Fry surrendered the reversion of a messuage, tenement, or toft called Baldwin's with the appurtenances, of a messuage called Stephen's with the appurtenances, and of a lane called Webb's Lane, except 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between Robert Ponting's land south and west, the land of Alice Henley, a widow, north, and Braydon marsh east; he also surrendered the reversion of a messuage or tenement called [Bagg's or] Badge's with the appurtenances, of a close of pasture containing about 8 acres appurtenant to the mesuage, and of 1 acre of meadow in the east Leigh, except 1 acre lying in the Leigh field between the land of ... [*MS. blank*] Foscott, a widow, south and west, Robert Ponting's lands north, and Braydon marsh east. All those premises were lately in John Beale's tenure and are now in Hugh's in the right of his wife Margery. [Hugh surrendered his estate] with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the reversion to Hugh and his sons Hugh and John. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after Margery's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for, in respect of Baldwin's, Stephen's, and Webb's lane, a yearly rent of 8*s.* 4*d.*, for 6*d.* for mead-silver, 11*d.* for court-silver, and the usual churchscots, for suit of court, and for two heriots, and, in respect of [Bagg's or] Badge's, the appurtenant close, and the acre in the east Leigh, for a yearly rent of 5*s.* 3½*d.*, for 2*d.* for mead silver, 5½*d.* for court silver, and the usual churchscots,

for suit of court, for a heriot, and, by agreement, for no other burden or service. The elder Hugh gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate and was admitted as tenant in reversion, but fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due]. The lord licensed Hugh and his sons Hugh and John, henceforward from time to time, to let out the premises or any part of them to any suitable person for a term of 90 years or less if they should live so long, and to live away from the manor and the premises, any custom of the manor or restriction of the lord to the contrary notwithstanding. He also licensed them to destroy and cut down whatever hedges exist on or about the premises and to inclose the lane or to lay it to a close called Stephen's hay, to destroy and cut down any kind of hedges, all the trees called maples and withies, of which there might be a great many, and whatever other trees not exceeding 12 inches in circumference at the foot which might be or might grow in or beside the hedges or ditches to be destroyed and cut down, to carry those trees away and to sell them and convert them to their own use, and to cart away, sell, and convert to their own use the fuel, thorns, loppings, topplings, and shreadings of whatever trees growing on the premises during their life are to be lopped or shredded, any custom of the manor or restriction of the lord to the contrary notwithstanding.

Pains and orders

That William Henley scour up his ditch within Lipgate because it is a great annoyance to travellers, by 1 November next, on pain of 5s.

That most of [those responsible for] the encroachments on the lord's waste presented at the last court have forfeited their pain, and we order them to amend the faults before the feast of All Saints' day [1 November] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 2s. 6d.

That, if any of our inhabitants do erect any cottage without the consent of the lord's tenants and the homage, the jury with one consent go and throw it down, on pain of everyone [of the jury] refusing [to do so] to forfeit 10s.

That, if any of the jury shall refuse to drive the common on occasion, [he] shall forfeit for every default, without lawful excuse, 5s.

Officers

John Fry was chosen as constable, Henry Young as tithingman, William Edwards as reeve.

CHARLTON

88/2/29

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with [Manor] Court held there on 21 March 1559

Court-silver

On this day, 9s. 3d.

Amercements

From William Brown, because he is a common brewer and broke the assize, 2d.

From Robert Powell, because he is a common baker and broke the assize, 2d.

From John Davies, because he is a miller and took toll excessively, 2d.

From the tithing, because they did not make the gate at the Down gate; they have forfeited the penalty, 5s.

Presentments

That Sir Anthony Hungerford, who held a messuage with its appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow valued by the homage at 46s. 8d. [*Margin*: delivered to Richard Smith; acquitted here because it was charged on the last account, as it appears in that account] Sir Anthony's wife Lady Dorothy, through Henry Stanley, her attorney, claims to hold the premises for her widowhood. She was admitted as tenant, but fealty is deferred until the next court.

That Henry Chatterton, who held a messuage with its appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a horse worth £3, remaining in the keeping of Agnes Chatterton, Henry's wife.

That Thomas Hellier, who held a messuage and ½ yardland, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth 40s. delivered to Richard Smith. Agnes Hellier claims to hold the premises for her widowhood for the rent and the other [services]. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Total of this view with the court

£8 os. 17d.

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with [Manor] Court held there on 21 September 1559

Court-silver

On this day, 9s. 3d.

Amercements

From Robert Powell, because he is a common baker and broke the assize, 6d.

Ellen Davies is a common miller and took toll excessively, 2*d*.

From William Brown, because he is a common brewer and broke the assize, 2*d*.

Grant

Thomas Scholes surrendered the reversion of a messuage and 1 Mondayland called Wiss's and of a toft and 1 yardland called Pyke's, [all] now in the tenure of Elizabeth Davies, a widow, to the use of Robert Davies. Robert took the reversion. [The premises] are to be held for life by him after Elizabeth's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her. He gives 40*s*. to the lord as a fine for having that estate, paid into the lord's hand. Fealty is deferred.

Pannage

From pannage of pigs in this year, 22*d*.

Presentment

That Lady Dorothy Hungerford, a widow, who held a messuage with its appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow valued at 36*s*. 8*d*. delivered to Richard Smith.

Relief

After the death of Sir Henry Long, 5*s*.

Penalty forfeited

Thomas Scriven William Palmer, Thomas Waters, John Smith, and Thomas Allis fed their cattle in the fields contrary to an order of the court. Each amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

Total of this view with the court

£3 13*s*. 7*d*.

88/2/33

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with Manor Court held there on 9 April 1560

The view [of frankpledge], with the court of the manor, of Sir James Stumpe.

Court-silver

From the tithing on this day, 9*s*. 3*d*.

Amercements

From Robert Powell, John Grove, and Margaret Ponting, because they are common bakers and broke the assize, 2*d*. each.

From Ellen Davies, because she is a common miller and took toll excessively, 2*d*.

Strays

From John Waters, for a bullock [or heifer] which arrived as a stray and [remained] over a year, 4*s*.

From John Smith, for a foal which arrived as a stray and [remained] over a year, 8*d*.

Heriot

From Richard Smith for an ox worth 46s. 8d. for heriot after the death of William Palmer.

Total of this view with the court

£3 0s. 15d.

Estreats from the View [of Frankpledge] with Manor Court held there on 12 October 1560

Court-silver

On this day, 9s. 3d.

Amercements

From Robert Powell, John Grove, and Margaret Ponting, because they are common bakers and broke the assize, 2d. each.

From Thomas Witt, because he was not present at the court, 2d.

From William Brown and Thomas Baker, because they are brewers and sold ale without a licence, 2d. each.

Stray

From Roger Nicholas for a sheep [kept] over a year, 2s. 8d.

Pannage

For pannage of pigs in this year, 2s.

Total of this view with the court

14s. 11d., the charge of William Crabbe, the reeve this year.

88/2/1

View of Frankpledge with Acknowledgement Court held there on 15 September 1563

The view of frankpledge, with the court of acknowledgement, of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir James Stumpe, deceased, held in her right in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

Jurors for the queen

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, William Taylor, Richard Glead, John Foscott, John Smith, Richard Foscott, Hugh Waters, Thomas Allis, John Taylor, Roger Nicholas, James Weeks, John Palmer, Philip Walter, Anthony Palmer, John Woodshaw, John Allis, John Haskins, Thomas Wastfield, Robert Davies, John Cooper.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman.

That John Simons is a brewer and broke the assize of ale. Amerced, 3d.

That Robert Powell is a baker and did not observe the assize of bread. Amerced, 3*d*.

That James Weeks is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 3*d*.

Presentment of the hayward

That a bay mare worth 8*s.*, arriving as a stray at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of [St.] John the Baptist [29 August], remains in the keeping of Richard Smith, the bailiff. It was ordered to proclaim [it] in market and church according to a term of a statute.

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentment of the jurors

That otherwise is all well.

Admittances

Benet Chatterton asks to be admitted as tenant of a cottage and a pasture [together] called Woodward's, with the appurtenances, by virtue of a copy dated 18 September 1544. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Alice Bailey, a widow, lately the wife of Robert Bailey, by a copy dated 20 October 1538 holds for her widowhood for herself and her son John Woodshaw a message and ½ yardland called Selwyn's and a toft and 1 yardland called Cornwall's. On this day, viz. 17 September, at Cowfold outside this manor and in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward, and William Taylor, Richard Glead, Roger Nicholas, John Foscott, Robert Davies, John Allis, Richard Foscott, and Thomas Wastfield, tenants and the homage of this manor, she surrendered the premises to the use of John Woodshaw; heriot, a cow worth 26*s.* 8*d*. John was admitted as tenant.

Grants

Benet Chatterton, gentleman, took a message and a close [together] called Hubbard's, and a toft, 1 yardland, and 28 acres of arable land in the West field, 18 acres of arable land in the East field, and all the other [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to the message and the toft, [all] lately in the tenure or occupation of his brother John, deceased. The premises are to be held for life successively by Benet and his brothers William and Aldham for all the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. Benet gives £20 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. It was provided that he, William, and Aldham should not serve, nor wear the livery of, anyone except the lord of this manor without the licence of the lord previously granted, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

Benet Chatterton took a cottage and a pasture [together] called Woodward's, containing about ½ acre, and 21 acres of arable land in the East field and 7 acres of arable land in the West field, with all the other [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to the cottage, [all] lately in the tenure or occupation of his brother John, deceased. The premises are to be held for life successively by Benet and his brothers

William and Aldham for all the rent and services formerly due. Benet gives £10 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. It was provided as in the previous grant.

Hugh, the son of an elder John Foscott, took the reversion of a messuage and ½ yardland, and of the tithes of it, [both] now or lately in John's tenure or occupation. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and by Robert and Richard, also sons of John, immediately after the death of John and his brother Richard, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for a yearly rent of 8s. 2½d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. Hugh gives £20 to the lord for an entry fine. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

William, the son of Thomas Wastfield, took the reversion of a messuage and ½ yardland called Pratt's, and of the tithes of it, [both] now or lately in Thomas's tenure or occupation. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his brother John immediately after the death of Thomas and of John, their uncle, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for a yearly rent of 5s. 3d. and of 12d. for the tithes, for all the services formerly due, and for heriot. William gives £4 for an entry fine. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

Robert Davies took a messuage and 1 Mondayland called Wiss's, a toft and 1 yardland called Pyke's, a close of pasture, and all the other tenements, [arable] land, feeding, and pasture now or lately in his tenure. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his brother Richard for all the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. Robert gives £13 6s. 6d. to the lord for an entry fine, of which £4 is paid by Richard. Robert did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Homage

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, William Taylor, Richard Glead, John Foscott, John Smith, Hugh Waters, John Taylor, John Palmer, Philip Walter, Anthony Palmer, John Woodshaw, Roger Nicholas, John Haskins, Robert Davies, Thomas Wastfield, sworn on the articles of the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), John Richman (appeared), Anthony Martin (appeared), Giles Roberts (appeared), and John Harris (appeared) are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and those who did not appear and were not essoined were amerced.

That, touching John Chatterton's copy, they say nothing at the present time because, as they say, it has not happened similarly in their days. Concerning the custom of the manor in this matter they affirm this: that the custom is, and was from such time [as there was] the memory of man, such that the next taker of each copyhold should enjoy and hold it, and they ask to have respite until the next [court] to determine this ambiguity, and it was granted to them.

That each tenant, for his part, should make and repair his hedges, ditches, and mounds around the stubble field before the next court, on pain of each man [offending] to forfeit 20s.

That none of them should keep his sheep in the stubble field before the feast of All Saints [1 November], on pain of each man [offending] to forfeit 20s.

That none of them should allow his sheep to go, and to feed, in the West field and Grandon after the feast of All Saints [1 November], on pain of each man [offending] to forfeit 20s.

That each man, for his part, should make and repair his hedges, ditches, and mounds around the West field and Grandon field before the feast of St. Luke [18 October], on pain of each [offending] to forfeit 20s.

That at this [court] Richard Gleed, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, and Thomas Allis were chosen as overseers of the fields [so] that no man might overstock the fields with their beasts beyond their stint, on pain to forfeit to the overseers 6*d.* for each 20 sheep and 1*d.* for each beast. If the [boundaries of] the fields were not repaired as ordered above, by the day mentioned above, the overseers should appoint other people to repair them, and the overseers are permitted to distrain by their possessions those who made default in repairing the fields. The overseers should execute [their] office diligently in [those] matters, on pain of 20s.

That no brewer should sell ale within the manor besides [that of] one brewing a month, and [this order] should be observed through the whole year every year, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 20s.

Orders

That thereafter no man should feed any kind of beasts in the common fields in any year until the grain and the hay have been carried away, on pain of each offending to forfeit 6*s.* 8*d.*

The homage was ordered to view 1 acre of arable land at Banbury hill now in dispute between John Scriven, a tenant of Thomas Mallard, gentleman, and John Atwaters, a tenant of this manor, before 1 October next, and to present here, and to certify at the next court, to which of them the acre by right belongs, on pain of 10*s.* The homage, after viewing the acre, says on its oath that it belongs by right, and through good and lawful testimony, to John Scriven.

The homage was ordered to view land now in controversy between Giles Roberts, a free tenant of the manor, and Agnes Hellier, a widow, at [the] Down and Banbury before the same day [1 October next], on the same pain [10*s.*].

Pannage of pigs

2*s.* 6*d.* [paid] among the tenants in this year.

Estreated by me, Griffin Curtis, the steward.

View of Frankpledge held there on 27 March 1564

Jurors for the queen

John Foscott, William Crabbe, James Weeks, Hugh Waters, Richard Gleed, Thomas Allis, John Taylor, William Church, Robert Davies, John

Palmer, Anthony Palmer, John Woodshaw, Roger Nicholas.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes with his whole tithing and on this day gives 9s. 4d. for court-silver which, from the ancient time [in] which the memory of man to the contrary does not exist, he collects by means of his office [and which is] paid annually on the charges and accounts of the reeve through the 'holy loss'.

Presentments of the tithingman

That two white ram hogs worth 12d., arriving as strays at Christmas, remain in the keeping of Thomas Roberts.

That William Brown, Richard Davies, and Richard Matcham are brewers and broke the assize of ale. Each amerced, 3d.

That James Weeks is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 3d.

That Robert Powell, David Gwyn, and Margaret Ponting are bakers and broke the assize of bread. Each amerced, 3d.

Affirmation

The jurors come and present on their oath all the things specified above, and presented by the tithingman, to be true.

Other presentments of the jurors

That on 10 October 1563 Joyce Roberts, a spinster, lately of Charlton, found, and by force and arms took and carried away, two geese worth 8d. from the possessions of Joan Baker, a widow, at Charlton, contrary to the queen's peace. Joyce is condemned by the court to undergo the punishment of the stocks on Friday next and on the Tuesday in Easter week next from the eighth hour of the day before noon until the eleventh hour, and the constable was ordered to do this and to carry out the punishment now due, on pain to forfeit 40s. Also that one of the geese should be tied up in front of Joyce for that time, on the same pain.

That William Brown sold ale without a licence contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, and it is assessed by the court at 20d.

That Richard Matcham sold ale in a tavern (*cauponabat*) beyond the day appointed to him. Amerced, 6d. And they [William and Richard] were ordered, for their tipping time, that a quart of best drink [should be sold] for 1d., on pain to forfeit, for each offence, 12d.

Court Baron held there on the same day [27 March 1564]

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir James Stumpe, deceased, held in her right.

Homage

John Foscott, William Crabbe, James Weeks, Hugh Waters, Richard Gleed, Thomas Allis, John Taylor, William Church, Robert Davies, John

Palmer, Anthony Palmer, John Woodshaw, Roger Nicholas.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), Henry Richman (appeared), Anthony Martin (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), and John Harris are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and those who have not appeared and were not essoined are amerced.

That Richard Smith holds a messuage or cottage with 10 acres of arable land and 3 fardels of land dispersed in all the fields there, by what grant and for what rent they are completely ignorant; and that Richard holds premises there of the lord by indenture for a term of years (so he says).

That Richard Smith has not yet made his mounds at the New ditch as he was required to in an order [made] at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 6s. 8d., and it is assessed by the court at 2s.

That Richard Smith allowed his sheep [to feed] in the wheat field called Grandon, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited [the penalty,] 6s. 8d., and it is assessed by the court at 12d.

That Giles Roberts and the vicar have not yet made their mounds at Hankerton hedge as they were required to in an order [made] at the last court. Each of them has forfeited [the penalty,] 6s. 8d., and it is assessed by the court at 2s.

That Giles Roberts has not yet restored an encroachment made by him on customary land of the manor in the tenure of Richard Wye, gentleman, or his assigns, [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 6s. 8d.

That Henry Hungerford, gentleman, has a day until the feast of All Saints [1 November] for repairing his buildings, on pain to forfeit £5.

Orders

That, on the Tuesday in Easter week next, all the tenants should view a half acre of land in the West field at Dednam now in dispute between Benet Chatterton and John Taylor of Pucklands [*rectius* Buckland], restore the half acre to which of them it rightfully pertains to, and certify at the next court, on pain to each of them [offending] to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, on the Tuesday in Easter week next, the homage should view the land now in dispute between Robert Long, esquire, and Richard Smith and [between] the vicar and Richard Wye, on pain to forfeit 10s.

That each tenant should remove and drive out his sheep from the Moor and Perry green on the day and feast of the Holy Cross [3 May or 14 September] until the breach of the fields, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 20s.

That each of them, for his part, should repair all his mounds and hedges about the Hay, where it seems necessary, on Low Sunday next, on pain to each of them [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

That henceforth no man should sell, fell, or carry away any bushes or heath in the common fields or anywhere else (*aliquis alius*), except on his own land, on pain to forfeit for each offence 6s. 8d.

That all the tenants should make and repair all their houses, buildings,

gates, bridges, hedges, and ditches before the next court, on pain to each man [offending] to forfeit 20s.

Affeerors

John Taylor, Richard Glead.

View of Frankpledge held there on 18 September 1564

Jurors for the queen

John Taylor, Richard Glead, John Foscott, John Smith, Anthony Palmer, Roger Nicholas, John Palmer, John Haskins, Philip Walter, Thomas Allis, John Woodshaw, Robert Davies, James Weeks, William Church, Edward Strange.

Court-silver

John Allis, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 4d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Simons (essoined) and Henry Hayward (essoined) are residents and do not appear at this [court]. Each amerced.

That John Allis, Walter Gitter, and Thomas Panter are brewers and sold ale at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 3d.

That Robert Powell is a baker and broke the assize of bread. Amerced, 3d.

That a ram worth 12d. came as a stray at the feast of Pentecost and remains in the keeping of Henry, a tenant of Mr. Wye.

That a white sheep worth 16d., taken as a stray at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of [St.] John the Baptist [29 August], remains in the keeping of John Foscott.

That a bay mare worth 8s., a stray and [kept for] over a year at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of [St.] John the Baptist [29 August], remains in the keeping of Richard Smith.

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and present all the things presented above to be true.

Other presentment of the jurors

That Mary Morgan, a widow, has not scoured a watercourse at Frashays, as she was required to in an order [made] at a preceding court, to the great harm of all the tenants there. She has forfeited the penalty, 20s., and she was ordered to scour the watercourse before the feast of All Saints [1 November], on pain of 40s.

Court Baron held there on the same day [18 September 1564]

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, held in her right.

Homage

John Taylor, Richard Glead, John Foscott, John Smith, Anthony Palmer, Roger Nicholas, John Palmer, Philip Walter, Thomas Allis, John Woodshaw, Robert Davies, James Weeks, William Church, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (amerced, 4*d.*), Thomas Wye, esquire (4*d.*), William Stumpe, gentleman (4*d.*), Henry Richman (appeared), Anthony Martin (4*d.*), Giles Roberts (4*d.*), John Harris (appeared), and Mary Mallard (4*d.*) are free tenants, and those who have not appeared and were not essoined are amerced.

That Robert Long, gentleman, who held by copy a cottage with the appurtenances called Bailey's Breach has died; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable unless it appears [so] by his copy; therefore enquire.

That Agnes Hellier, a widow, and Anthony Smith overstocked the common called the West field at the breach [of the field] with their beasts beyond their due number, 'viz. half in half', contrary to an order of the court. They have each forfeited the penalty, 6*s.* 8*d.*, and it is assessed by the court at 12*d.* each.

That William Yate has not yet made his hedges and mounds at Hicks hays between himself and Margery Duck, a widow, as he was required to in an order [made] at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20*s.*, and he was ordered to make his hedges and mounds before the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next, on pain to forfeit 6*s.* 8*d.*

That Simon Stout and John Allis brewed and sold ale at the time of the clerk's ale, contrary to an order of the court. They have forfeited 10*s.*, and it is assessed by the court at 6*d.* each.

Orders

That all the tenants should make a custumal, viz. a customary roll, and record [it] in writing, before the next court, on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 40*s.*

That each of them, for his part, if henceforward they should happen to come upon any such persons within the manor, should lead mendacious vagabonds or suspect persons to the constable there for the punishment declared and provided for according to a term of a statute in that case, on pain both to the constable and to each tenant refusing to do this to forfeit 40*s.*

That Roger Nicholas should move his stile, which he has erected and placed on the lord's soil called Perry green since the last court, on pain to forfeit 3*s.* 4*d.*

That each tenant, for his part, should remove his beasts from the White field before the feast of St. Luke [18 October], and make all his hedges, gates, and inclosures appurtenant to that field, and so well to keep [them] from time to time, on pain to forfeit 20*s.*

That, at the next court, Giles Roberts should show his evidence by which he should by right hold land at Den furlong, viz. the half acre

which Agnes Hellier claims to be appurtenant to [her] customary tenure, on pain to forfeit the half acre into the lord's hand.

That Mr. Wye, gentleman, and his tenant, and Thomas Waters, ... [MS. blank] Poole, gentleman, and John Taylor should make and repair their houses, being extremely ruinous, before the next court, on pain to forfeit 40s.

Presentments of the bailiff (Richard Smith)

That a house of Henry Hungerford, esquire, is extremely ruinous through lack of repair, and that he has not yet repaired that house [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited 10s.

That [Henry Hungerford] has not employed the timber delivered to him as he was required to in an order [made] at the last court. He has forfeited [the penalty], as above.

Pannage of pigs

2s. paid among the tenants in this year.

Affeerors

John Taylor, Richard Glead.

View of Frankpledge held there on 26 March 1565

Jurors for the queen

William Crabbe, Richard Glead, John Taylor, John Foscott, Roger Nicholas, John Palmer, John Smith, William Church, Anthony Palmer, Philip Walter, Thomas Allis, Hugh Waters, John Haskins, Robert Davies.

Court-silver

James Weeks, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That William Brown is a brewer and sold ale at an excessive profit. Amerced, 3d.

That a red bullock [or heifer] worth 10s., taken as a stray on the Tuesday after Christmas, remains in the keeping of John Sealy.

That a bullock [or heifer] worth 4s., taken as a stray on the same day, remains in the keeping of Robert Winning.

That John Allis is a brewer and sold ale at an excessive profit. Amerced, 3d.

That Robert Powell is a baker and broke the assize of bread. Amerced, 3d.

That Henry Hungerford, gentleman, John Woodshaw, a younger Thomas Walter, and William Foscott were not present on this day and did not appear. Each amerced, 3d.

That James Weeks is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 3d.

Order

All the tenants were ordered that henceforward none of them should

keep beasts in the grain fields before the breach of those fields, on pain of 20s.

Court Baron held there on the same day [26 March 1565]

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, held in her right.

Homage

William Crabbe, Richard Glead, John Taylor, John Foscott, Roger Nicholas, John Palmer, John Smith, William Church, Anthony Palmer, Philip Walter, Thomas Allis, John Haskins, Robert Davies, sworn and charged on the articles of the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (amerced, 4*d.*), Thomas Wye, esquire (4*d.*), William Stumpe, gentleman (4*d.*), Henry Richman (appeared), Anthony Martin (4*d.*), Giles Roberts (appeared), John Harris (appeared), and Mary Mallard (4*d.*) are free suitors and owe suit of this court, and those who did not appear and were not essoined are amerced.

That the custom of the manor is and, from a time of which the memory of man does not exist to the contrary, was such that each copy made out of the court of the manor, and never afterwards made public in the court, is void and of no effect.

That William Francis, who held by copy a messuage and ½ yardland, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth 40s. John Glead claims to hold the premises by virtue of a copy dated 12 June 1541 and asks to be admitted as tenant. He did fealty and was admitted.

Admittance

William Long, gentleman, asks to be admitted as tenant of a close of pasture, called Bailey's Breach, by virtue of a copy shown in court. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Grant

Richard Davies took the reversion of a messuage, of 1 yardland called Boughton's, and of a parcel of land called Hares, [all] now in the tenure of Margery Duck, a widow. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his brothers Robert and John immediately after Margery's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 13*s.* 11*d.* and for all the other [services]. Richard gives £26 13*s.* 4*d.* to the lord for an entry fine. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due. It was provided that neither Richard, Robert, nor John, being the tenant in possession of the premises for his life, would wear the livery of anyone, nor be retained in the service of anyone, without the special licence of the lord of this manor previously obtained, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

Orders

All the tenants of the manor were ordered that each of them, for his

part, should have made his hedges and ditches between the Heath and Grantham [*?rectius* Grandon] before the next Sunday after the date of this court, on pain to each of them [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

That no man should sell ale from Easter day until the feast of the holy Pentecost, except the clerk of the parish church, on pain of each acting to the contrary to forfeit 6s. 8d.

That all the tenants and inhabitants should assemble at the same time and make a pillory and set [it] within the manor in the certain place [determined] by ancient custom, on pain of each man refusing, at the request or requisition of the tithingman, to undergo the penalty, 3s. 4d.

That, on the Tuesday in the holy days of Easter, the homage should view a certain tree being and growing between the lord's soil and the soil of Anthony Martin, gentleman, on pain of 6s. 8d.

Officers

John Sealy and John Palmer were chosen as overseers of the public ways.

Affeerors

Richard Gleed, John Foscott.

Estreated by me, Griffin Curtis, the steward.

[The court records in WSA 88/2/1 are fair copies. An undivided draft of the records of the two following courts exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the view of frankpledge with the court of the manor'; for 88/2/21, below, pp. 271–311. All the entries in these fair copies appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. On the other hand, some entries in the draft do not appear in these fair copies, and in this edition such entries, preceded here by an asterisk, have been added at the end of the relevant category of entries as fair-copied.]

View of Frankpledge held there on 29 September 1570

Jurors for the queen

John Evans, John Allis, James Weeks, Anthony Palmer, John Sealy, an elder John Gleed, Roger Nicholas, John Haskins, Thomas Waters, John Woodshaw, an elder John Palmer, John Smith, a younger John Gleed.

Court-silver

Thomas Allis, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Walter Gitter is a brewer [*draft*: a common tippler] and sold ale [*draft*: and bread] at an excessive profit. Amerced, 4d.

That James Weeks is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 4d.

That Robert Powell and John Grove are bakers [*draft*: common bakers of bread] and broke the assize. Each amerced, 4*d*.

That a white wether worth 16*d*., having come within the lordship as a stray since the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June], remains in the keeping of John Evans.

*That Robert Davies (essoined), ... [*MS. blank*] Colls (essoined), John Browning (essoined), Hugh Waters (essoined), John Simons's servant (essoined), Thomas Smith (essoined), Justinian Smith (essoined), Edmund [*or Edward*] Smith (essoined), Robert Winning (essoined), Giles Roberts (essoined), Simon Mopson (essoined), Mary [*or Margery*] Mollier, a widow (essoined), Margery Duck, a widow (amerced, 2*d*.), John Colt, Robert Davies, Thomas Davies (3*d*.), J..., and T... Bate (3*d*.) [*MS. illegible*] are resident within the lordship and were not present at this view.

*That a black wether worth 16*d*., which has come within the lordship as a stray since the feast of the *Nat'* of [St.] John the Baptist [24 June *or* 29 August], remains in the keeping of John Foscott.

*That a white ewe called a chilver sheep, worth 8*d*., which has come within the lordship as a stray since the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June], remains in the keeping of John Sealy.

*That a black ewe worth 13*d*. has come within the lordship as a stray since the feast of Pentecost and remains in the keeping of an elder John Palmer. [*Margin*: dead]

**Presentment of the jurors*

All well.

Court Baron held there on the same day [29 September 1570]

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Homage

John Allis, James Weeks, Roger Nicholas, Anthony Palmer, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), [*draft*: Anthony Martin (dead),] Giles Roberts (essoined), Alice Mallard (essoined), Henry Richman (appeared), and John Harris (appeared) are free tenants [*draft* and *?rectius*: suitors] to this court, and he who is not present and not essoined is amerced.

That Anthony Martin, who held [land] of the lord of this manor freely to himself and his heirs, has died since the last court; relief, 4*s*. 11½*d*. Robert Martin is his son and next heir and should hold the premises, viz. a messuage called Hassard's with its appurtenances, to himself and his heirs for ever rendering 2*s*. 5¾*d*. [a year] to the lord. [*In the draft this item appears as a presentment of the jurors.*]

That a house of Thomas Atwaters is in want of repair, and that £3 would hardly amend it. Thomas is amerced and was ordered to repair the house before the feast of St. James the Apostle [25 July] next, on pain of £3 10s.

*That a house of Henry Hungerford, gentleman, is in want of repair, and that 40s. would not repair it. He was ordered as Thomas Atwaters was, on pain of 40s.

*That Benet Chatterton similarly allows a house [to be dilapidated]. Amerced, and he was ordered as Thomas Atwaters was, on pain of 40s.

*That Nicholas Matcham should repair his house, the roof as much as other repairs, before that feast of St. James [25 July], on pain of 40s.

**Presentment of the overseers of the fields*

That Richard Matcham overstocked the common with more of his sheep than he should, the overseers led them to the lord's pound, and Richard took (*habuit*) them out of the pound without licence. Amerced, 4d. *Grant*

Philip Underhill, John the son of Richard Smith, and Walter the son of John Underhill took a cottage called Hort's with a close of pasture lying near it called Home close, a close lying beside Grandon, 1½ acre of arable land in the East field, 1 acre of arable land in the West field, and ½ acre of arable land in the Grandon field, [all] now or lately in Thomas Walter's tenure or occupation. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for all the rent and services formerly due. They give nothing to the lord for an entry fine. Philip did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of John Smith and Walter Underhill is respited.

Claim

Francis Wye, gentleman, claims, on the death of his brother Richard Wye, esquire, [and] by virtue of a copy dated 23 October 1533, to hold to himself and his brother John the two messuages called Lock's and Hort's after the death of Alice Cannop, a widow, who holds the premises for her widowhood. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Order

That the tenants should view and circumscribe the metes and mounds [*draft*: boundaries] in Lot mead, and in all the other necessary places, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next [*draft*: between the feast of All Saints and Epiphany (6 January) next], on pain of each man offending [to forfeit] 6s. 8d. [*draft*: to the lord]

Pannage of pigs

3s. paid in this year [*draft*: from James Weeks 3d., an elder John Palmer 1d., Anthony Palmer 1d., Thomas Allis 1d., John Glead 4d., John Woodshaw 2d., John Smith 2d., John Foscott 1d., Thomas Hayward 2d., Thomas Waters 2d., Robert Davies 2d., William Taylor 5d., John Davies 2d., Margery Duck, a widow, 1d., Simon Mopson 3d., Thomas Alexander].

Officers

Anthony Palmer was chosen as tithingman, John Woodshaw as reeve [*draft*: as receiver of the lord's money].

Affeerors

John Evans, John Allis.

[A undivided draft of the records of the two following courts exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the view of frankpledge with the court of the manor'. Nearly all the entries in these fair copies appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the draft which do not appear in these fair copies, preceded here by an asterisk, have been added at the end of the relevant category of entries as fair-copied.]

View of Frankpledge held there on 27 September 1571*Jurors [for the queen]*

William Taylor, Hugh Waters, John Allis, James Weeks, John Foscott, Philip Underhill, John Smith, John Cooper, Roger Nicholas, Robert Davies, Thomas Waters, John Woodshaw, an elder John Palmer, Thomas Allis, Richard Matcham.

Court-silver

Anthony Palmer, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. [*draft*: 18s. 8d.] for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That William Walter and William Brown are brewers and broke the assize [*draft*: sold ale at an excessive profit]. Each amerced, 6d.

That William [*rectius* Robert] Powell and Robert [*rectius* John] Grove are bakers and broke the assize of bread. Each amerced, 6d.

That three pigs worth 3s. 8d. have come as strays since Christmas last and remain in the keeping of James Weeks.

*That a younger John Palmer and Richard Batten played at (*cum*) bowls, a prohibited game, contrary to a term of a statute. Each amerced.

*That a black wether worth 12d., a stray over a year, remains in the keeping of Agnes James, a widow.

*That a mare worth 5s., a stray over a year, [remains] in the keeping of Richard Matcham.

*That two sheep worth 2s. arrived as strays at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of [St.] John the Baptist [29 August] [and remained] in the keeping of John Foscott; one died, and the other was delivered to the servant of Cecil of Braydon.

*That a sheep worth 8d. taken as a stray at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of [St.] John the Baptist [29 August] remained in the keeping of John Foscott. [*Margin*: delivered to Giles Roberts of this vill]

*That a pig worth 14d., a stray over a year, remains in the keeping of John Smith.

*That a black sheep worth 16d., a stray over a year, remains in the keeping of John Foscott.

*That a sheep worth 8*d.*, a stray over a year, [remains] in the keeping of Roger Nicholas.

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentments of the jurors

That otherwise all is well.

That John Smith assaulted William Welshman. Amerced, 6*d.* [*In the draft this item appears as a presentment of the homage.*]

Order

That thereafter no man should sell ale at the church house without the licence of the parishioners, on pain of 40*s.*

Court Baron held there on the same day [27 September 1571]

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Free tenants

Robert Long, esquire (amerced, 12*d.*), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), Robert Martin (essoined), Alice Mallard (essoined), Henry Richman (appeared), and Giles Roberts (appeared) are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and he who was not present and is not essoined is amerced.

Homage

John Allis, Philip Underhill, James Weeks, Anthony Palmer, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That John Sealy, who held by a copy dated 3 April 1566 a cottage called Bailey's Breach with a curtilage containing 6 acres, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is a cottage. John's relict Joan Sealy claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted.

That an elder John Gleed, who by a copy not shown held a messuage with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 26*s.* 8*d.* John's relict Joan Gleed claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted.

That a younger John Gleed, who by a copy not shown held two messuages and 2 yardlands, has died since the last court; heriot, two oxen worth £4. John's relict Joan claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted.

That Anthony Smith, an undertenant of Alice Mallard, encroached on the lord's soil at the West field [*draft*: to the disinheritance of the lord], and that Thomas Allis encroached on the lord's soil at the Wallow hedge. Each amerced, 12*d.*, and they were ordered to make amends before the

next court [*draft*: and not to do such a thing (*sic uti*) thereafter], on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 40s.

That Thomas Atwaters and Benet Chatterton have not yet repaired their houses [as they should have] according to an order [made], and to a penalty appointed, in the last court. They have forfeited the penalty, viz. Thomas 20s., Benet 40s.

*That Anthony Smith and John Allis overstock, and allow their beasts to go, and to feed, in the fields of grain, to the serious loss of all the tenants there. Each amerced, 12*d*.

*That Giles Roberts assaulted Richard Davies and drew his blood with a stick. Amerced, 2s.

*That Hugh Waters (amerced, 6*d*.) and John Cooper (4*d*.) assaulted one another and disturbed the queen's peace. Each amerced.

*That Nicholas Matcham has not yet repaired his house, the roof as much as other necessary repairs, [as he should have] according to an order [made], and to a penalty exacted, in the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20s. [*Margin*: deferred until the next court]

Orders

That each tenant who has land at the wheat field and the fallow field should make and repair, for his part, his boundaries there, viz. between the wheat field and the fallow field, before the feast of St. Luke [18 October] in each year, on pain of 10s.

All the tenants were ordered that each of them, for his part, should watch his sheep, or cause them to be watched, while they are going for feeding at the West field or [?rectius* and] until the removal of them, and that they should remove their sheep before the feast of All Saints [1 November], on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 20s.

*That each of them [the tenants], for his part, should make and repair his boundaries between Perry End and Hankerton's gate before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February], and remove his sheep and other remaining beasts from there before that feast, on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 10s.

Actions

John Smith complains against Anthony Smith in a plea of trespass in that, about 10 July 1570, Anthony broke [into] and entered his close called Cugmoor in Charlton and took and carried away two cart-loads [*draft*: stooks (*metas*)] of hay, to his loss of 6s. 8*d*.

*William Philips complains against Joan Glead, a widow, in a plea of debt on demand for 18s.

**Admittance*

Philip Underhill asks to be admitted as tenant of a cottage called Hort's, with a close of pasture [lying near] it called Home close, [a close] lying beside Grandon, 1½ acre of arable land in the East field, 1 acre of arable land in the West field, and ½ acre of arable land in the Grandon field, [all] lately in Thomas Walter's tenure and now in Philip's by virtue of a copy dated 29 September 1570. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Pannage of pigs

3s. 3d. paid to the reeve in this year.

Officer

Thomas Whiting, the deputy of Elizabeth Cannop, was chosen as reeve.

Affeerors

James Weeks, John Foscott.

[A draft of the record of the following court exists in WSA 88/2/21. All the entries in this fair copy appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the draft which do not appear in this fair copy are preceded here by an asterisk.]

Court Baron held there on 23 January 1572

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth [*draft*: held in her right].

Homage

William Taylor, John Palmer, John Woodshaw, Robert Davies, Thomas Waters, John Smith, Thomas Hayward, Richard Matcham, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Philip Underhill, Roger Nicholas, [*draft*: John Foscott,] sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron. *Presentments of the homage*

That Robert Long, esquire (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), Robert Martin, Henry Richman (appeared), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Alice Mallard, a widow (essoined), are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and he who was not present and is not essoined is amerced.

*That, whereas a sheep was taken as a stray before Christmas, Robert Davies, about the feast called Midsummer [24 June], took it out of the keeping of Thomas Allis and drove it away; he wagers law over to whom the sheep belongs.

**Presentments of the ... [office not specified]* (James Weeks)

*That a black bullock worth 7s. 6d. came within the lordship as a stray 14 days before Christmas last [and remained] in the keeping of John Smith. [*Margin*: delivered to Alice Woodruff of Milbourne; forfang, 4d.]

*That a black filly worth 4s. came within the lordship as a stray at the feast of St. Luke [18 October] last [and remains] in the keeping of a younger William Brown.

*That a red bullock worth 6s. 8d. came as a stray 28 days before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] last [and remained] in the keeping of John Woodshaw. [*Margin*: delivered to William Webb of Lydiard through Richard Smith; forfang, 4d.]

Grants

Roger Smith took an empty piece of land containing 1 rood, lying at Glead's moor, for building a house or cottage on. The land is to be held for life successively by him, his son John, and his daughter Agnes for a yearly rent of 16*d.* and for all the other services as the other customary tenants owe [them] for their cottages. Roger gives nothing to the lord for a fine because he will build the house at his own expense. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Walter Gitter took an empty piece of land beside Baynes elm for building a cottage on. The land is to be held for life successively by him and his sons Thomas and Hugh for a yearly rent of 16*d.* and for all the other services as the other customary tenants owe [them] for their cottages. Walter gives nothing as a fine for such an estate because it is a new rent. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Surrender

Benet Chatterton, gentleman, who holds by copy for his life two messuages, with the appurtenances, called Habbard's and Woodward's, in consideration of £50 paid [to him] by the lord of the manor, surrendered the estate which he and his brothers William and Aldham have in the premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord took the premises into his hand through his bailiff and a proclamation thereupon was made in the court.

Order

It was agreed and ordered by the homage, with the assent and consent of the lord of the manor, that each man having land in the common field called the Hay should inclose and separate the part of their lands there with a hedge and ditch; and each man having common [pasture rights] there and no land can inclose some part of their lands in the other field according to the rate and portion of their land [rectius pasture rights] in the Hay.

Affeerors

None on this day.

Estreated by me, Griffin Curtis.

[An undivided draft of the records of the two following courts exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the view of frankpledge with the court baron'. All the entries in these fair copies appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the draft which do not appear in these fair copies, preceded here by an asterisk, have been added at the end of the relevant category of entries as fair-copied.]

View of Frankpledge held there on 2 October 1572*Jurors for the queen*

William Taylor, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Thomas

Hayward, John Smith, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Hugh Waters, John Taylor, John Cooper, Roger Nicholas.

Court-silver

James Weeks, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That he himself is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 3d. [*In the draft this item appears as a presentment of the jurors.*]

That John Webb, Walter Gitter, and John Allis are brewers and sold ale [through] prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3d. [*Draft: a penalty was appointed; brewers should sell in trading outside [their] houses a wine quart for ½d. for best drink and within an ale quart for 1d., on pain of 12d. to each man refusing.*] [*In the draft this item appears as a presentment of the jurors.*]

That a bay filly worth 6s. 8d. has come as a stray since [*draft: came within the lordship as a stray on*] 29 September last and remains with John Pierce. [*Margin of draft: claimed, and delivered to Thomas Rich*]

*That a piglet worth 12d. came as a stray at Christmas last [and remains] in the keeping of Hugh Waters.

*That a wether worth 20d. came as a stray on 2 October in the same year [?1571] [and remains] in the keeping of John Foscott. [*Margin: over a year*]

*That John Smith and William Brown fed their sheep in Grandon contrary to orders of the court. They have forfeited the penalty shown in the preceding court.

Forfang

Robert Looker and Edward Thatch proved on their oath that a red bullock worth 6s. 8d., taken as a stray [*draft: before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel (29 September: Michaelmas) 1571*] [and] in the keeping of John Woodshaw, is a possession of William Webb of Lydiard; the forfang fell due, 4d.

**Quare* concerning Robert Davies for a sheep taken as a stray out of the keeping of Thomas Allis.

*Alice Woodruff, a widow, of Milbourne, proved on the oath of herself and of Thomas Gosmore and John Jakes that a black bullock valued at 7s. 6d., taken as a stray 14 days before Christmas [and] in the keeping of John Smith, is her property; 4d. for the forfang fell due.

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentments of the jurors

That Anthony Smith assaulted John Smith. Amerced, 6d.

*That Robert Powell is a baker and broke the assize. Amerced, 6d.

Court Baron held there on the same day [2 October 1572]

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

***[Essoins]**

Richard Ody, Thomas Walter, John Palmer, Henry Hungerford, Henry Prichell, Thomas S...pe, Richard ...led. [*MS. illegible*]

Homage

William Crabbe, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Thomas Hayward, John Smith, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire [*draft: essoined*], Thomas Wye, esquire [*draft: essoined through Richard Davies*], Robert Martin [*draft: essoined through Haskins*], Henry Richman [*draft: appeared*], Giles Roberts [*draft: appeared*], and Alice Mallard, a widow [*draft: essoined*], are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and he who was not present and is not essoined is amerced.

That Thomas Waters should carry in each year a cart-load of wood from Braydon wood as far as Malmesbury, that [the service] is worth 12*d.* a year, and [that] for four years the arrears not paid to the lord is 4*s.*

***Action**

John Davies complains against Thomas Smith, the father, Thomas Smith, the son, and Anthony Cox in a plea of trespass to his loss of 39*s. 10d.* He complains that, on 3 August 1572, the younger Thomas and Anthony, members of the household, and servants, of the elder Thomas, broke [into] a close of John's at Charlton and chased and drove a bay colt horse worth 39*s. 10d.*, John's property, placing *he...* [*MS. illegible*] called metals under the colt's tail to such an extent that by reason of the driving and chasing the colt died, and he says that he suffered damage and sustained a loss of 39*s. 10d.* The elder Thomas denies that the colt died by reason of the driving of his boys. [*Margin: licence (to agree)*]

Grant

William Walter took a piece of customary land lying in Grandon field containing 1 acre, on which from new he built a mansion house [*deleted from draft: three spaces called bays*]. The house and land are to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and William for a yearly rent of 3*s. 4d.* and for all the other services formerly due. The elder William gives nothing for an entry fine because it is a new rent.

Exchange

Robert Davies surrendered a piece of land called East hay, about 3 acres of pasture, part of his customary holding, in exchange with Henry Knyvett, esquire, the lord of the manor, for another piece of the lord's land called Long close, about 3 acres of pasture. Long close is to be held

for the life of Robert and his brother Richard by such service and for such an estate as Robert holds in his customary lands.

Orders and penalties

That thereafter Agnes Evans should not make any undertenant in her customary holding, on pain of 20s

That each tenant, for his part, should make the part of his inclosure at New ditch and Wallow hedge with a live hedge and a ditch by the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] next, and so should they observe [this order] as often as [necessary], on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

That no man should feed any kinds of beasts in the grain fields [*rectius* field] after it was sown [and] before the grain was carried away, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 20s. John Scriven refuses.

*That each man should make his mounds around Grandon field within the next 14 days, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.; and so they should [continue to] observe [this order].

*That, by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, the homage should view James Weeks's land and Giles Roberts's land appropriated by Roger Nicholas and Anthony Palmer at Middle hill and allot to them what is theirs, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 3s. 4d.

*That an elder Joan Glead, a widow, should make fences in all the places around her house and close before the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] next, on pain of 6s. 8d.; and so she should observe [this order] from time to time.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 5d. paid to [*draft*: Thomas Whiting] the reeve in this year [*draft*: William Taylor 4d., John Palmer 4d., Robert Davies 2d., Thomas Waters 2d., John Allis 1d., Richard Matcham 5d., John Foscott 6d., John Smith 3d., John Woodshaw 3d., Thomas Hayward 3d., Philip Underhill 1d., John Palmer 2d., Thomas Allis 4d., Anthony Palmer 2d., Margery Duck, a widow, 4d., Justinian Smith 6d., Philip Walter 1d.].

Officers

Roger Nicholas was chosen as tithingman, and in his place a younger John Palmer was sworn to execute [the office]; John Allis was chosen as reeve.

Affeerors

William Crabbe, James Weeks, Thomas Hayward.

**Total of the estreats of this [and the preceding] court*

11s. 6d. (pannage 4s. 5d., customary works 4s., amercements 3s. 1d.)

[A draft of the record of the following court exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the court of the manor'. Nearly all the entries in this fair copy appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the draft which do not appear in this fair copy are preceded here by an asterisk.]

Court Baron held there on 28 March 1573

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

Homage

William Taylor, an elder John Palmer, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, John Smith, Anthony Palmer, Robert Davies, Thomas Hayward, Philip Underhill, [*draft*: Richard Matcham, Roger Nicholas, William Walter, Thomas Allis,] John Allis, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

**Court-silver*

The tithingman comes and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

**Presentments of the tithingman*

*That a black filly worth 4s., taken as a stray, passed a year in the keeping of William Brown at the feast of St. Luke [18 October] last.

*That a pig worth 14d., a stray, passed a year in the keeping of John Smith.

*That three pigs worth 3s. 8d., strays, passed a year in the keeping of James Weeks, as in shown in the [record of the] court held on 27 September 1571.

*That a pig worth 12d., a stray, passed a year in the keeping of Hugh Waters at Christmas last.

*That a female sheep worth 14d. came as a stray at the feast of St. Luke [18 October] [and remains] in the keeping of a younger John Palmer.

**Actions*

*James Weeks complains against Thomas Waters in a plea of trespass, to his loss of 6s. 8d.

*James Weeks complains against Thomas Allis in a plea of trespass, to his loss of 6s. 8d.

*James Weeks complains against Robert Davies in a plea of trespass, to his loss of 6s. 8d.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), Robert Martin, William Richman, Giles Roberts, and Alice Mallard [*draft*: , a widow,] are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and he who was not present and is not essoined is amerced.

That an elder Joan Glead, a widow, occupies ½ acre of arable land lying in the Hay above Moor hedge which is rightfully appurtenant to a tenement called Our Lady House now in Edward Smith's tenure. The penalty was appointed that she should allow Edward to occupy the land thereafter, on pain of 40s.

That Giles Roberts unjustly occupies ½ acre of arable land lying in the Hay, in Whitelands, which is rightfully appurtenant to a tenement now in Thomas Allis's tenure, on the oath of John Simons [*draft*: by the testimony of John Waters and the oath of John Simons]. The penalty [was]

appointed that Giles should allow Thomas to enjoy the land thereafter, on pain of 40s.

*That none of them made the fences and mounds around Grandon field by the day appointed in the last court because they did not sow that field with wheat at the time at which they wished to, but they are refraining from sowing the field until the month of March with the pulse; they ask that the penalty be spared, viz. of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d. [*Margin*: the forfeit of the penalty to be spared them when sufficiently proved]

*That Robert Davies fed his sheep in the Moor at the feast called Midsummer [24 June], and they fed there for the whole year contrary to orders of the court. He has forfeited [a penalty].

*That Robert Davies overstocked the Hay, the grass not mown, and placed and had a stint of beasts there contrary to orders of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 6s. 8d.

Grants

Elizabeth Woodward, the wife of Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith, with the assent and consent of her husband, she being examined alone by the steward in full court, surrendered the reversion of a tenement and ½ yardland called Dicott's and of a parcel of land called the Fortlands, all the other land and tenements appurtenant to [Dicott's], and a close called Cromehales, [all] now in the tenure of Agnes Hellier, a widow, [*deleted from the draft*: once in the tenure of Thomas Hellier, Elizabeth's father,] by virtue of a copy [conveying] the reversion dated 24 March 1539, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. Anthony took the reversion. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his and Elizabeth's sons John and Richard immediately after Agnes's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for all the rent and services [*draft*: and for the heriot] formerly due. According to the custom of the manor Elizabeth gives nothing for heriot on the surrender of the reversion. Anthony gives £6 5s. to the lord for an entry fine, of which John and Richard paid a part. Their fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Thomas Allis and Thomas Long surrendered their estate in a tenement and ½ yardland now in Thomas Allis's tenure, and in all the tithes of grain and hay arising from those premises, held by virtue of a copy made for him [?Thomas Allis] [and] dated 14 February 1553, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, as shown afterwards. Thomas Allis took the premises and the tithes. They are to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and Robert for all the rent and services [*draft*: and for the heriot] formerly due. Thomas Allis gives £6 to the lord, as much for an entry fine, of which John and Robert paid a part [*draft*: 3s. 8d.], as for the heriot, remitted on this occasion. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Thomas Walter took an empty piece of land containing 1 rood, at the end of Pink Lane towards the west, for building a cottage there. The land is to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and Thomas for

a yearly rent of 16*d.* beyond all the other services formerly due. The elder Thomas gives nothing for a fine beyond the 8*d.* paid by his sons because it is a new rent. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Penalties

That no man should throw a carcass or other stinking thing in a watercourse, or allow [it to lie there], on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 10*s.*

*That no man should allow his sheep to feed in the Moor after the next 14 days until the breach of the fields, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 6*s.* 8*d.*

*That no man should feed any kind of beasts in Grandon field and the meads, unless on his own lands and in the pits, from the day of this court until the grain has been carried away, on pain of each [offending] to forfeit 20*s.*

Affeerors

None on this day.

**Total of the estreats of this court*

£13 4*s.* 1*d.* delivered to William Pitcher.

[*The following note appears at the beginning of the draft*]

Memorandum: that on 28 March 1573

John Palmer consented to exchange ½ acre in Acreman mead with the lord.

Edward Smith consented to exchange 1 acre of arable in Rudge furlong with the lord.

John Allis consented to exchange 5½ acres of land in Acreman mead and Rudge.

Thomas Waters consented to exchange 10½ acres in Acreman and Rudge.

For consultation, Philip Walter consented similarly, Thomas Hayward consented similarly, James Weeks consented similarly [concerning] 2 acres.

[*An undivided draft of the records of the two following courts exists in WSA 88/2/21 under a heading which begins 'the view of frankpledge with the court of the manor'. All the entries in these fair copies appear in the draft; any significant variation in the wording of an entry is noted here between square brackets. Entries in the draft which do not appear in these fair copies, preceded here by an asterisk, have been added at the end of the relevant category of entries as fair-copied.*]

View of Frankpledge held there on 3 September 1573

Jurors for the queen

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, William Taylor *alias* Crabbe [*draft: Crabbe alias Taylor*], John Foscott, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Thomas

Hayward, John Smith, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Roger Nicholas, James Weeks, Thomas Wastfield.

Court-silver

A younger John Palmer, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day. [*Draft*: it was paid with the rent]

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Webb and Walter Gitter are brewers and sold ale [through] prohibited measures [*draft*: sold at an excessive profit]. Each amerced, 6d.

That Robert Powell is a baker and broke the assize of bread. Amerced, 12d.

That James Weeks is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 6d.

That Robert Down and Richard Player made an affray on, and assaulted, each other. Each amerced, 9d.

That James Weeks assaulted John Palmer and drew his blood with a dagger worth 12d. [which has been] forfeited to the lord. Each amerced, 12d.

That a black lamb worth 12d. [was] taken as a stray at the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] and remains in the keeping of John Smith.

That a piglet worth 12d. and a wether worth 20d., strays, [have been kept] over a year. [*In the draft the following entries appear as presentments of the jurors*: that a piglet worth 12d., a stray over a year, remains in the keeping of Hugh Waters; that a wether worth 20d., a stray over a year, (remains) in the keeping of John Foscott]

Affirmation

The jurors come in full and affirm all the things presented above to be true.

Presentments of the jurors

That they do not have a rook net [as they should have] according to a term of a statute. They and the whole tithing have incurred the statutory penalty, 10s.

That otherwise all is well.

★Amercement

Richard Davies obstinately refused, in the matter (*causa*) of his copy, to show [it] as the other tenants [did], and [he is] in contempt of court. Amerced, £5.

Court Baron held there on the same day [3 September 1573]

The court baron of the manor of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth [*draft*: held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward].

Homage

William Taylor *alias* Crabbe [*draft*: Crabbe *alias* Taylor], John Foscott,

John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Thomas Hayward, John Smith, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Roger Nicholas, James Weeks, Thomas Wastfield, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), Robert Martin (essoined), William Richman (appeared), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Alice Mallard, a widow (essoined), are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and he who was not present and is not essoined is amerced.

That Richard Matcham (12*d.*), Anthony Palmer (6*d.*), Anthony Smith (13*s.* 4*d.*), Joan Glead, a widow (4*d.*), John Scriven (3*s.* 4*d.*), William Walker (4*d.*), Giles Roberts (12*d.*), [and] John Cooper [*draft:* (4*d.*)] did not observe the order made for Grandon field, but allowed their beasts to go, and to feed, there before the grain was carried away [*draft:* causing a serious loss and contrary to the order]. They have forfeited a penalty, as shown.

That Giles Roberts encroached on $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of Thomas Allis's land at Whitelands in the Hay. Amerced, and he was ordered to make amends before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 20*s.*

Exchanges

Edward Smith exchanges with the lord of the manor 1 acre of arable land lying at Rudge furlong for 1 acre of the lord's [*draft:* arable] land lying at Saddlebreach. [The new land] is to be held [*draft:* for life] by Edward and his brothers John and David [*draft:* by indenture] in the [same] way and form as they formerly held the acre placed in exchange.

John Allis exchanges with the lord of the manor 5 acres of arable land lying at Rudge furlong for 5 acres of the lord's arable land, 2 acres of which lie in Littleman's furlong, 1 acre in Water furrows, and 2 acres at Share slade. [The new land] is to be held [*draft:* for life] by John and his sons Stephen and Robert [*draft:* Richard, Stephen, and Robert] by means of such estate and service as they previously held in their customary lands. [*Margin of the draft:* to be held according to two separate copies, one dated 17 March 1562 and the other dated 16 September 1563]

Thomas Waters exchanges with the lord 1 acre of pasture lying at Banbury hill for 1 acre of pasture lying at the furlong called the Withies. [The new land] is to be held by Thomas for his life to such a degree (*tantu*) [as the old was].

A younger Joan Glead, a widow, exchanges with the lord 1 acre of pasture lying on the Furzes down for 1 acre of pasture lying at Woodcroft. [The new land] is to be held by Joan for her widowhood.

Orders

That the homage should view $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land on 'the top the down' now in controversy; they seek respite until the next court, and it was granted.

That no tenant should allow his sheep to go, and to feed, in the wheat field without a keeper, and not at all after the feast of St. Luke [18 October]; and that [they should all] make and amend the mounds and hedges around

that field, before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas], on pain of each man offending [to forfeit] 20s.

That Giles Roberts should make and repair the boundaries (*bundas*) and baulks (*limites*) between his land and Philip Underhill's, before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas], on pain to forfeit 10s.

That Robert Buckland should scour the ditch between Hugh Waters's Furbreach and his own meadow, before Christmas, on pain to forfeit 20s.

That the homage should view 1½ acre of land on the Down now in controversy between the lord of the manor and Giles Roberts, before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February], on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That Anthony Smith should stay his suit, which has been brought against John Smith in the hundred court of Malmesbury, and [should] stand to and obey the order and judgement to be made by the homage in that matter, on pain of 20s.; and he [should] settle by agreement the disputes and controversies between them from the beginning of the world until the day of settlement ordered by the homage.

That the homage should enquire whether by their custom, a copyhold [having been] granted to John and Thomas and one comes and takes the reversion [after the death] of John and not of Thomas, this reversion [would] be good or extinguished by the death of John; and whether they do know any that do hold after two [lives] named in the copy in possession and but one [of those two lives is] named in the [grant of the] reversion; on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 20s.

That each man who holds a carucate should pay to the hayward for his salary one cock of grain, and for each horse or ox [*draft*: sheep] which he has on his carucate he should pay to him one sheaf of wheat, on pain, of each refusing, to forfeit 10s.

Payment

From Thomas Waters for a cart-load of wood, [the carrying of] which [is] part of his customary work, 12*d.*

Pannage of pigs

3*s.* 3*d.* paid to the reeve on this day.

Officers

Thomas Panter was chosen as tithingman, Agnes Hellier, a widow, as reeve, Richard Hughes as hayward.

Affeerors

John Woodshaw, John Palmer.

Estreated by me Griffin Curtis, the steward.

88/2/21

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 29 September 1570

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 255–8*]

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 27 September 1571

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 258–61*]

Court Baron held there on 23 January 1572

The court baron of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, held in her right.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 261–2*]

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 2 October 1572

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, held in the names of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 262–5*]

Manor Court held there on 28 March 1573

The court of the manor held in the names of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 266–8*]

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 3 September 1573

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Henry Knyvett, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

[*For the record of the court, above, pp. 268–71*]

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 24 September 1574

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry

Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth, held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

Jurors for the queen

William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Foscott, Hugh Waters, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Roger Nicholas, John Smith, Richard Haskins, Richard Ody, James Weeks, John Davies, Justinian Smith, William Walter, John Cooper, Richard Davies.

Court-silver

Thomas Panter, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day; paid with the rent.

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Webb, William Walter, and Walter Gitter are brewers and broke the assize of ale. Each amerced, 6d.

That Robert Powell and David Gwyn are bakers and broke the assize of bread. Each amerced, 6d.

That James Weeks is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 6d.

That Hugh Waters and William Strange assaulted each other. Each amerced, 6d.

That Richard Glead assaulted Richard Davies to the disturbance of the queen's peace and setting a bad example to the inhabitants. Amerced, 6d.

Affirmation

The jurors come and present all the things presented above to be true.

Other presentment of the jurors

That otherwise all is well.

Presentments of the homage, sworn on the articles touching the court baron, through William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, their foreman.

That Thomas Wastfield, who lately held by copy a messuage and ½ yardland has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 3s. 4d. delivered to the lord. Thomas's relict Joan claims to hold the premises for her widowhood and asks to be admitted as tenant. She did fealty and was admitted.

That Robert Long, esquire (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), Robert Martin (essoined), William Richman (4d.), Giles Roberts (4d.), and Alice Mallard, a widow (essoined), are free tenants and owe suit of this court, and they who did not appear and were not essoined are amerced.

Orders and penalties

That henceforward no man should cut any thorns anywhere but on his own land, nor should any one of them cut grass growing on the land of anyone but on his own land, on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 10s.

It was agreed that, as was the ancient usage, the lord of the manor should have the first breach and entry of the fields with 12 cows and a bull

from dawn until night, and then the tenants should put in their beasts; and he who acted to the contrary will incur the penalty, 40s.

That no man should have more than (*praeter*) three sheep for 1 acre, and one beast for 2 acres, in the West field, on pain to forfeit 20s.

That, before the feast of All Saints [1 November], the homage should see whether each tenant, for his part, made his inclosure with a live hedge and a ditch at New ditch and Wallow hedge, on pain to forfeit 10s.; and he who defaulted in making the hedges and ditches as stated is to forfeit 10s.

That each of them, for his part, who should make his boundaries and mounds around Wood croft, should make [them] before the feast of All Saints [1 November], on pain of 10s.

That each of them, for his part, should repair all his houses, buildings, boundaries, and mounds in all the necessary places before the next court, on pain of each of them [offending] to forfeit 10s.

Verdict

The homage, according to an order of this court, viewed the land in controversy between the lord of the manor and Giles Roberts; it is completely ignorant of which of the two has the best right to the land but says that Giles has, and had, the occupation of it.

Grant

The lord granted a licence to Philip Walter to have and substitute his son Richard as his undertenant in a close of pasture containing about 3 acres called Hart ridge, now in Richard's tenure, for Philip's life. William Brunson and his wife Alice were satisfied, and agreed, that Richard should enjoy and occupy the premises for Alice's life for a yearly rent of 6s. 8d.

Pannage of pigs

2s. 6d. in this year.

Officers

John Woodshaw, Richard Haskins, Giles Roberts, and a younger John Palmer were chosen as overseers of the fields, Joan Glead, a widow, as reeve and Justinian Smith her deputy, Roger Davies as tithingman.

Affeerors

William Taylor, John Foscott.

Court Baron held there on the same day [24 September 1574]

Grants

John Davies took a tenement or cottage called Woodward's with its appurtenances and now in his tenure. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Thomas and Hugh for a yearly rent of 2s. beyond all the other services formerly due. John gives £3 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Walter Gitter took a small close of pasture, containing about ¼ acre,

lying between Thomas Panter's house east and Roger Nicholas's house west. The close is to be held for life successively by him and his sons Thomas and Hugh for a yearly rent of 2s. beyond all the other services formerly due. Walter gives an entry fine to the lord as is shown in the court roll, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Thomas Long took the reversion of a messuage and $\frac{1}{2}$ yardland called Fren'd's, of a toft called Bowges with the appurtenances, and of two pieces of demesne land and 8 acres of land, [all] now in Richard Matcham's tenure in the right of his wife Margery. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, Joan Broad the daughter of John Broad, and Richard's son William immediately after Margery's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for all the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. Thomas and William give £12 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due. [*Margin*: William paid £3 of the fine]

Robert Gleed took the reversion of a messuage and $\frac{1}{2}$ yardland called Barnes now in the tenure of an elder Joan Gleed. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his brothers William and John immediately after Joan's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for all the rent and services formerly due. Robert gives £9 10s. to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due]. Memorandum: William pays 20s. of the fine.

Surrender

John Allis surrendered $\frac{1}{4}$ acre lying between Thomas Panter's house east and Roger Nicholas's house west, to the use of Walter Gitter.

Court Baron held there on 8 June 1575

The court baron of the manor of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth, held in front of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward.

Homage

William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, John Palmer, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Allis, Thomas Allis, John Smith, James Weeks, William Walter, Thomas Hayward, Robert Davies, Anthony Palmer, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (amerced, 4*d.*), Thomas Wye, esquire (4*d.*), Robert Martin (4*d.*), William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Alice Mallard, a widow (4*d.*), are free tenants, owe suit of court, and were not present at this court.

That an elder Joan Gleed, a widow, who held a messuage and $\frac{1}{2}$ yardland for her widowhood, has died since the last court; heriot, a red cow worth 40s. delivered to the lord. Robert Gleed claims the premises, called Barnes, for the life successively of himself and of William Gleed and John

Gleed by virtue of a copy dated 24 September 1574. His claim was considered by the court. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of William and John is respited.

That Robert Buckland, Giles Roberts, and Thomas Waters have not made their inclosures with a live hedge and a ditch at New ditch and Wallow hedge as they were required to in an order. Each of them has forfeited 10s.

That John Scriven inclosed part of the common and allowed beasts to go, and to feed, there, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited 10s.

That Anthony Smith allowed his four oxen to go, and to feed, in the grain fields, and that Giles Roberts allowed four oxen and a horse to feed there, contrary to an order of the court. Each of them has forfeited 10s.

That William Bard tied a horse in the grain fields, contrary to an order of the court, by reason of the persuasion of Thomas Allis and Giles Roberts. Thomas and Giles each amerced, 6d.

That Philip Walter (ill in bed), John Foscott (amerced, 3d.), and Roger Nicholas (poor) are customary tenants and were not present at this court.

That John Head of Hankerton allowed his pigs to go, and to feed, unringed in the West field. Amerced, 20d.

Order

That thereafter no tenant, except Agnes Harding, should allow his beasts to go, and to feed, in the fields of grain when they have been sown, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

Presentment of the tithingman (Roger Davies)

That a white wether worth 2s. arrived within the manor as a stray at the feast of the Ascension last and remains in the keeping of an elder John Palmer.

Exchanges

Thomas Waters exchanges with the lord of the manor 10½ acres of land lying in Rudge furlong in the West field, part of his customary land, for 5½ acres in the West field (2 acres lying in Saddlebreach, of which 1 acre was lately appurtenant to Anthony Palmer's customary tenement, ½ acre to Richard Matcham's tenement, 1 farndel to John Palmer's, and 1 farndel to Thomas Wastfield's, 2 acres in Woodway, of which 1 acre was appurtenant to Roger Nicholas's tenement, ½ acre to the tenement lately Chatterton's, and ½ acre to Thomas Allis's tenement, ½ acre lying at the Over Water furrows lately Chatterton's, ½ acre in Ryfam lately Chatterton's, and ½ acre of meadow) and 5 acres, lately Chatterton's, in the Middle field (2 acres beside Wallow hedge, ½ acre shooting on the same furlong, ½ acre on Alford's, ½ acre through Blacklands, ½ acre in Blacklands, and 1 acre in the Over Dunie furlong), all which are customary land of the manor.

Robert Gleed exchanges with the lord of the manor 1 acre lying in Rudge furlong in the West field for 1 acre in the East field, all which are part of the customary land of the manor.

Thomas Arnold, the vicar, exchanges with the lord of the manor 1 acre lying in Rudge furlong for 1 acre in the East field ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre, lately Chatterton's, [lying] through Cricklade way, and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, lately Chatterton's, in Nether Blacklands).

Margery Duck, a widow, exchanges with the lord of the manor 13 acres of land lying in Rudge furlong in the West field, part of her customary land, for 3 acres and 3 farndels in Slat furlong ($1\frac{1}{2}$ acre lately appurtenant to Joan Glead's tenement, 1 acre to John Woodshaw's, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Robert Davies's, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Anthony Palmer's, 1 farndel to that lately Chatterton's), $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres lying in Saddlebreach ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre appurtenant to Richard Matcham's tenement, 1 acre to Joan Glead's, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to John Palmer's, and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to John Woodshaw's), $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Oat furlong (1 acre appurtenant to Robert Davies's tenement, 1 acre to John Smith's, and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to that lately Chatterton's), 3 acres lying in Little South hill (2 acres lately appurtenant to Chatterton's tenement, and 1 acre to John Allis's tenement called Hobbs), $\frac{1}{2}$ acre on the east side of Share slade lately appurtenant to Robert Davies's tenement, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre lying in Cirencester way (1 acre lately [appurtenant] to John Woodshaw's tenement, and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Roger Nicholas's), and 1 acre of meadow in Share slade lately appurtenant to the farm, all which are customary land of the manor.

Thomas Hayward exchanges with the lord of the manor 7 acres of arable land, and 1 acre of meadow, lying in Rudge furlong in the West field for 1 acre in Rowmoor in the East field lately [appurtenant] to Chatterton's tenement, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Grandon in the West field lately Chatterton's abutting on Philip Underhill's hedge, 1 farndel [lying] through Wallow hedge lately Chatterton's, 1 acre in Over Water furrows lately Palmer's, 2 acres in Ryfam lately Chatterton's, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Share slade lately Chatterton's, 1 acre in Little South hill lately John Palmer's, 2 farndels abutting on Huckwell (one lately Chatterton's and the other Robert Buckland's), 1 acre in Oat furlong lately Buckland's, and 1 acre in Long heal lately Chatterton's; and in consideration of his tithe arising from Rudge furlong he shall have the tithes of the meadows of Giles Roberts and John Scriven lying in the West field.

Philip Walter exchanges [with the lord of the manor] $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Rudge furlong in the West field for another $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres, viz. 1 acre in Slat furlong lately appurtenant to Chatterton's tenement, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre beside Saddlebreach lately Blacklands, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Long heal lately appurtenant to the tenement of Henry Hungerford, gentleman, 2 farndels in Eastland Cugmoor (one [appurtenant] to Chatterton's tenement and the other to John Palmer's), 2 farndels on the west side of Woodway lately Chatterton's, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Over Slat furlong lately Anthony Palmer's, 1 farndel in Nether Slat furlong lately Blacklands, and 1 farndel in Little South hill lately Chatterton's. [$\frac{1}{2}$ acre omitted from the list]

Grant

Richard Witt took $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of arable land, lately newly inclosed, lying in Grandon field beside King's pool, lately in the tenure of a younger

Joan Glead, a widow. The land is to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and Richard for a yearly rent of 2s. and for all the other services formerly due. Richard gives 10s. to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Affeerors

John Smith, James Weeks.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 23 September 1575

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen

John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Hugh Waters, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Foscott, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Thomas Hayward, Richard Haskins, James Weeks, John Davies, Justinian Smith, William Walter, Richard Davies, Robert Glead.

Court-silver

Roger Davies, the tithingman, comes and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver for the common fine.

Presentments of the tithingman

That John Webb and Walter Gitter are brewers and sold ale at an excessive profit. Amerced.

That James Weeks is a miller and took toll at an excessive profit. Amerced, 3d.

That William Ewen, William Palmer, John Grimer, William Grimer, John Smith, William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, John Scriven, and Roger Nicholas are resident within the manor. Each essoined.

That a white wether worth 2s., taken as a stray within the manor since the feast of Pentecost last, remains in the keeping of John Palmer.

That a white wether worth 16d., taken as a stray within the manor since the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February] last, remains in the keeping of Anthony Woodward.

That Robert Powell, William Walter, and Agnes Brown, a widow, are bakers. Each amerced, 4d.

Presentment of the jurors

That the vicar of Hankerton assaulted Anthony Woodward and drew his blood with a rake. Amerced, 9d.

Homage

John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Foscott, John Allis, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, with others, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire, Thomas Wye, esquire (amerced, 4d.),

Robert Martin (essoined), William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Alice Mallard, a widow (essoined), are free tenants and owe suit to this court. Each amerced, 3*d*.

Touching the question appertaining to Hugh Waters's copy, that is in the reversion of John Waters, we find that it was taken in the court but not according to our custom, for we cannot find the like copy that ever took place in our court.

Orders and penalties

That, with the assent of the tenants, each man, for his part, should repair his hedges, boundaries, and fences around the wheat field before the feast of St. Edward [?18 March] next, on pain of each offending to forfeit 6*s*. 8*d*.

That no man should allow his sheep to go, and to feed, in the wheat field without a keeper until the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, and afterwards that he should not allow any sheep to feed there, on pain of each offending [to forfeit] 6*s*. 8*d*.

That each tenant, for his part, should scour the ditches lying along the queen's highways in any part of the manor from time to time as often as it might be necessary, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 6*s*. 8*d*.

That each man, for his part, should repair the hedges and boundaries around the Hay field before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February] next, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 20*s*.

That each reeve shall yield his full account of, and pay to the lord of the manor, the rents and [the] perquisites of courts of the manor, wherewith he shall be charged, within a quarter of a year after Michaelmas [29 September] every year, on pain of £10.

That the homage should view all the encroachments in the common fields and allot to each man his land, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 3*s*. 4*d*.

Pannage of pigs

3*s*. 1½*d*. paid to William Pitcher.

Officers

William Walter was chosen as tithingman, Robert Buckland as reeve, William Brown as hayward; Robert Davies, William Brunsdon, Richard Matcham, and John Scriven were sworn to oversee the overstocking of the fields and to inform at the next court.

Total of this court

15*s*. 5½*d*.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 20 September 1576

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen

William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Hugh Waters, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, Edward Strange, John Foscott, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Thomas Hayward, Richard Haskins, Justinian Smith, James Weeks, Robert Gleed, John Smith.

Oath of allegiance

Thomas Evans, aged 15, Richard Hughes, aged 16, John Hughes, aged 20, and Christopher Davies, aged 20, were sworn to the queen.

Court-silver

William Walter, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3*d.* for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Agnes Brown, William Walter, and Walter Gitter are tipplers and sold ale at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That two red bullocks [*or* heifers] worth 13s. 4*d.* have arrived within the manor as strays since 14 June last. Thomas Telling of Ashton Keynes, on his oath, proved them to be his property; 8*d.* for forage fell due to the lord, paid to John Palmer, the reeve.

That three bullocks [*or* heifers] each worth 6s. have arrived within the manor as strays since 14 June last.

Presentments of the jurors

That the butts have been ruinous for the last month, contrary to a term of a statute. The inhabitants have forfeited [a penalty].

That William Grimer assaulted, and made an affray on, William Haines. Amerced, 9*d.*

That William Grimer, having a carucate of land within the manor, was in default in not working on the queen's highways in this year. He has forfeited the penalty [appointed] in the statute.

That Robert Powell of Malmesbury and William Grove are bakers there and broke the assize of bread. Each amerced, 4*d.*

That Robert Ewen (essoined), John Browning (amerced, 2*d.*), and Thomas Pierce (essoined) are residents and were not present at this view of frankpledge.

Homage

William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Philip Underhill, John Foscott, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Thomas Hayward, James Weeks, Robert Gleed, John Smith, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

Presentments of the homage

That Robert Long, esquire (amerced, 6*d.*), Thomas Wye, esquire (6*d.*), Robert Martin (essoined), William Richman (appeared), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Alice Mallard, a widow (essoined), are free tenants and owe suit to this court.

That Henry Hungerford, esquire, is a customary tenant [and owes suit to this court]. [*Interlineated*: essoined, in their service]

That John Palmer overstocked the common of Braydon by taking

joistments, contrary to an order of the court. Amerced by the homage, 3s. 4d.

That Thomas Arnold, the vicar, and Joan Glead, a widow, have not made their hedges at the Hay before the appointed day, [as they should have] according to an order of the court. They have forfeited the penalty, 6s. 8d.

That Anthony Smith and William Brunsdon overstocked the Hay, contrary to an order of the court. Each amerced, 3s. 4d.

That Justinian Smith, Richard Davies, Robert Buckland, and William Grimer allowed their pigs to go at large unringed. Each amerced, 3d.

That there was a stile before Hugh Waters's house by the space of 40 years to their knowledge, [and] now [it has been] taken [down] and stopped by Thomas Smith. A penalty was appointed that thereafter Thomas should allow the way there by the ancient usage, on pain of 10s. [Note: this pain is void]

That Anthony Smith shall leave the end of the ridge in Home field unsown, which he eared, on pain of 10s.

Orders and penalties

That a quickset hedge and a ditch [ought] to be made by all the tenants having land from Banbury gate to the hedge of Christopher Cooper, that a highway [should] be kept there, and every tenant [ought] to stand to the order of their landlord in this matter, on pain [of] every one of them offending to forfeit 40s.

That no tenant should allow any beast or sheep to go, and to feed, in the wheat field after the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

All the ancient orders to stand except that made touching the Hay.

That each man, for his part, from time to time, should have a mole catcher for the taking of moles in their several closes within the manor, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 3s. 4d.

That the tenants of Hankerton should make the gate called Banbury gate and should maintain it from time to time, on pain of 10s.

That, without licence, none [should] suffer any to leaze [i.e. glean] any corn on another's land until it be carried away, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That the tenants should repair the Eastburg before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 40s., on condition that the timber would be delivered to them.

That each man having undertenants in his houses, or who lets out any of his customary land to anyone, should show at the next court by what warrant he does so; and that then none of them thereafter should have an undertenant without the lord's licence previously obtained, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 10s.

Grants

Justinian Smith took from the lord, through Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward, 7 acres of arable land lying in the Home field, part of the

customary land of the manor, now in his tenure. The land is to be held for life successively by him and his daughters Elizabeth Smith and Catherine Smith for a yearly rent of 2s. 6d. and for all the services formerly due. Justinian gives £7 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Thomas Haskins took from the lord, through Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward, a cottage, with the appurtenances, and ½ acre lying near it, lately inclosed, lying in Grandon field, [and] now in his tenure. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his wife Isabel, and his son Thomas for a yearly rent of 2s. and for all the services formerly due. The elder Thomas gives 20s. to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Robert Down took from the lord, through Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward, the reversion of a tenement and ½ yardland, part of the customary land of the manor, which Agnes Evans, a widow, now holds for life and [which is] now in his occupation, except, [and reserved] to the lord and his heirs, a paddock lying near the backside of the lord's mansion house in Charlton. The premises are to be held for life successively by Robert, his son Robert, and his daughter Isabel Down immediately after the death of Agnes and of the elder Robert's wife Catherine, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for a yearly rent of 6s. 4d. and for all the other services formerly due. The elder Robert gives £23 10s. to the lord as a fine for having that estate and was admitted as tenant in reversion. Fealty is respited until the reversion falls due.

Richard Avery took a cottage, lately built, lying at the Heath gate, now in his occupation. The cottage is to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and Nicholas for a yearly rent of 12d. and for suit of court. Richard gives 12d. to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Thomas Stumpe took 1 acre of arable land lying in Hay field, 1½ acre of meadow in West field, and a quillet of meadow called Lot mead, [all] lately in Benet Chatterton's tenure. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his daughters Elizabeth Stumpe and Alice Stumpe for a yearly rent of 2s. and for the services formerly due. Thomas gives ... [MS. blank] to the lord as a fine for having estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Exchanges

James Weeks has, granted to him by the lord, 2½ acres lying in the Hay for 2½ acres, part of his customary land, lying in Rudge furlong.

Agnes Evans exchanges with the lord 2 acres and 1 farndel in West field and, in place of them, has 2 acres and 1 farndel in the Home field.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 1d. paid to the reeve.

Officers

William Walter was chosen as tithingman, Anthony Palmer as reeve, William Walter as hayward.

Amercement

Anthony Smith and Hugh Waters used vain-speaking and chattering words in court, in contempt of the court. Each amerced, 3s. 4d.

Affeerors

John Foscott, Philip Underhill.

Court Baron held there on 17 December 1576

The court baron of the manor of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Homage

William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Richard Matcham, Philip Underhill, John Foscott, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, James Weeks, John Davies, John Smith.

Presentment of the homage

That, after the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August: Lammas] last, Justinian Smith cut down and carried away many furzes lately growing at Inner down which, according to the custom of the manor, pertain each year to the tenants from that feast to the feast of the Purification [2 February]; and that Justinian uses the premises as part of the free tenement of William Stumpe, gentleman. Amerced, 2s.

Grant

Francis Bradshaw, gentleman, took a tenement, with an orchard and a garden lying near [it], and various closes of pasture and meadow containing about 24 acres, all which premises are part of the customary land of the manor, lie within the new park of Charlton, and [were] lately in John Davies's occupation. The lord granted seisin to him. The premises are to be held for life successively by Francis and his wife Mary for a yearly rent of 13s. 5d. and for all the other services formerly due. Francis, in consideration of his good and faithful service hitherto devoted to the lord, gives nothing to the lord as a fine for having that estate. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. It was provided that, if henceforward Sir Henry Knyvett or his wife Lady Elizabeth, or their heirs or assigns, should grant for life successively to Francis and Mary such and so ample an estate in another tenement and [other] land, meadow, and pasture anywhere and of as much yearly value and of such quality and quantity as the premises now granted, then Francis and Mary and the longer liver of them would surrender the premises now granted into the hand of the lord for the time being, and this grant would be void.

Penalties

That thereafter Justinian Smith, from the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August: Lammas] to the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February] in each year, should not cut down or carry away any furzes growing at Inner down, on pain of 20s.

That the tenants should view in like manner all the encroachments in the common fields, and fix merestones in all the necessary places there, before the feast of Epiphany [6 January] next, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 3s. 4d.

Officers

Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Richard Haskins, and John Woodshaw were sworn as overseers of the hedges, commons, and fields, and of the all orders made hitherto, and [it was ordered] that they should present offences at the next court.

Total

2s.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 27 September 1577

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, John Woodshaw, John Palmer, Philip Underhill, John Foscott, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Thomas Hayward, James Weeks, William Crabbe, John Davies, Robert Gleed, John Smith, Justinian Smith.

Court-silver

William Walter, the tithingman, comes and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver.

Presentments of the tithingman

That William Walter, Agnes Brown, and Walter Gitter are tipplers. Each amerced, 6d.

That Philip Davies is a butcher. Amerced, 4d.

That William Grove, Robert Powell, and David Gwyn are bakers. Each amerced, 6d.

That Philip Davies (essoined), Hugh Waters (amerced, 12d.), John Waters (essoined), Thomas Haskins (essoined), John Stout (essoined), ... [*reading uncertain*: ?John] Allis (3d.), John Nicholls (essoined), and Thomas Waters (6d.) are resident within the manor and were not present. Amerced.

That a white sheep worth 20d. remained within the manor [as a stray] over a year and a day in the keeping of Simon Mopson.

Grants

Thomas Taylor *alias* Crabbe and his brother John Taylor surrendered the reversion of a messuage and 1 yardland and ½ Mondayland [all] called Crabbe's, viz. a pasture containing about 12 acres of land, 8 acres of arable in the East field, 7 acres of arable in the West field, and half of [a] Lot mead in the fields, [held] by virtue of a copy made for them in reversion dated 14 February 1552, with the intention that the lord might do as

he wished. William Taylor *alias* Crabbe and Marion Taylor, a widow, his sister, surrendered their estate in the premises [held] by virtue of a copy dated 14 October 1515 with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, William's best farm animal. [*Margin*: the heriot is not paid, but remitted until William's death] Thomas took a tenement, lately in Benet Chatterton's tenure, with all the closes appurtenant to it and with 17 acres of arable land lately appurtenant to the tenement called Crabbe's now in the occupation of his father William. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his brother John, and his father for a yearly rent of 14s. and for all the other services formerly due for Crabbe's. Thomas gives nothing to the lord as a fine for having that estate because [land] was exchanged with the lord. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. Memorandum: it is agreed that William's best beast shall be seized and appraised to the lord's use, and the same [is] to be answered [for] to the lord on William's death.

Thomas Stumpe took a recently built cottage with the backside appurtenant to it [and] now inclosed, 1 acre of arable land lying in Hay field, 1½ acre of meadow in West field, and a quillet of meadow called Lot mead, [all] now in his occupation. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his wife Agnes, and their daughter Alice Stumpe for a yearly rent of 2s. and for all the other services formerly due. Thomas gives nothing to the lord for a fine because it is now remitted by the lord. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

John Davies took 2 acres of arable land in East field, and 1 acre in Grandon field, now in his occupation. The land is to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and William for a yearly rent of 16d. and for the other services formerly due. John gives nothing to the lord for a fine, [which is] now remitted. The elder John did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Surrender

John Palmer and his wife Margery, and Thomas Stumpe and his wife Agnes, surrendered Margery's and Agnes's estate, held by virtue of a copy dated 21 September 1559, in the reversion of a close of pasture called Alford's, containing about 2 acres, and of 30½ acres of arable land lying in the common fields (1½ acre in Grandon field, 15 acres in the East field, 14 acres in the West field), [all] now in Roger Nicholas's tenure for life by a copy, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

Grant

John Palmer took the reversion of a close of pasture called Alford's, containing about 2 acres, of 19½ acres of arable land in the Home field, of 12½ acres in the West field, and of 1½ acre in the Grandon field, [all] now in Roger Nicholas's occupation for life by copy. The premises are to be held for life successively by John, his wife Margery, and Elizabeth Stumpe the daughter of Thomas Stumpe immediately after Roger's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for all the rent and services formerly due. John gives nothing to the lord for a fine, [which is] now remitted for

various reasons. Fealty is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Memorandum

It is agreed between John Palmer and Thomas Stumpe that, whereas Roger Nicholas has paid to John Palmer 40s. for naming Elizabeth Stumpe in his [?John's] copy, if John do alter the names in that copy then he [is] to pay to Elizabeth 40s.; the which [names] he must not alter except [that] he has a child by Margery, now his wife.

Action

Richard Witt complains against Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith in a plea of trespass to the value of 10s. [He alleges that] Anthony entered on his land and took and carried away a cart-load of geese from his possessions. Anthony does not deny the trespass. The damages are assessed at 6s. 8d. by the judgement of the court.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 9½d. paid to Anthony Palmer, the reeve.

Presentments of the jurors for the queen

That John Smith assaulted John Palmer. Amerced, 9d.

That John Palmer assaulted John Smith. Amerced, 9d.

That William Haskins assaulted, and made an affray on, William Sealy. Amerced, 9d.

That William Sealy assaulted William Haskins. Amerced, 9d.

Presentments of the homage

That Philip Walter, who held a messuage and ½ yardland called Coll's, and a parcel of the land of a Mondayland called Zertrugg's, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth 53s. 4d. Philip's daughter Alice should hold the premises for life by a copy dated 7 October 1529. William Brunston, her husband, and Alice herself ask to be admitted in her right. They did fealty and were admitted as tenants. The lord granted a licence to them that Richard Walter might occupy a recently built tenement and the close around it, 3 acres of land in the East field, and 3 acres in the West field, [*margin*: and common for 10 sheep in the fields,] [all] part of their customary land, for Alice's life, without forfeiture, and paying 6s. 8d. a year to William.

That Giles Roberts overstocked the common fields with his beasts, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 20s.

That Robert Martin, who held a tenement and various lands freely to himself and his heirs by a yearly rent of 2s. 5¾d., by fealty, and by suit of court, has died since the last court; relief, 2s. 5¾d. His brother Roger is his heir. The bailiff was ordered to distrain Roger to do fealty.

That Richard Witt allowed his children to leaze [i.e. glean] in the corn fields on Anthony Smith's land before the corn was carried thence, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 3s. 4d.

Touching the end of the ridge in Home field claimed by Anthony Smith, we find that we know not who has [the] right thereto, and therefore it should be the lord's land in possession.

A day was given to the homage until the next court to enquire whether Thomas Waters let out his customary land, or any part of it, to Hugh

Waters for over a year and a day without the lord's licence, which the homage says is contrary to the custom of the manor.

Penalties

That thereafter Thomas Waters or any other customary tenant should not let out any part of his customary land to anyone not a tenant of the manor, without a special licence of the lord previously acquired, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 40s.

That, from sunrise to sunset on the same day, the tenants should not place their beasts in the breach field, at the time of the breach of the fields, before the lord's beasts are feeding there, on pain of 20s.

That each tenant should make his hedges and fences around Hay field before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February] next, on pain of 40s.

Amercement

That Anthony Smith used vain-speaking in court to the disturbance of the court; his fine for contempt, 2s. 6d.

Officers

John Scriven, chosen as tithingman, withdrew from the court without licence in contempt of the court; the fine for the contempt, 10s. John Palmer was sworn as reeve, John Palmer as tithingman.

Affeerors

John Woodshaw, Philip Underhill.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 20 March 1578

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

John Palmer, John Foscott, Philip Underhill, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, John Woodshaw, Robert Davies, Justinian Smith, Thomas Hayward, James Weeks, John Davies, Robert Gleed, John Smith, William Walter, Richard Matcham, William Brunson.

Free tenants

Robert Long, esquire (amerced, 12d.), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), Alice Mallard, a widow (essoined), and Roger Martin (essoined) are free tenants who owe suit to this court.

Court-silver

John Palmer, the tithingman, comes and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver for half a year.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Agnes Brown, Walter Gitter, and William Walter are tipplers. Each amerced, 4d.

That Philip Davies is a butcher. Amerced, 4*d*.

That William Grove and Robert Powell are bakers. Each amerced, 4*d*.

That a black gelding worth 26*s*. 8*d*., taken as a stray since the feast of St. Luke [18 October] last, [remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a bay mare worth 10*s*., taken as a stray since the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February] last, [remains] in the lord's keeping.

That two foals, one bay and the other black and each worth 20*s*., taken as strays since the feast of St. Martin [11 November] last, [remain] in the lord's keeping.

Grants

The lord gave a licence to Robert Down to let out his arable land lying in the common fields to Richard Davies for 10 years from the date of this court without forfeiture; Robert gives a quarter of oats to the lord.

The lord gave a licence to Thomas Hayward to make John Davies his undertenant in his house from the date of this court for Thomas's life without forfeiture.

Presentment of the jurors for the queen

That the inhabitants have not repaired their butts for four months, contrary to a term of a statute. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

Presentments of the homage

That Anthony Smith allowed his beasts to go, and to feed, in the Hay field after it was several, viz. after the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February] last, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 40*s*.

It was ordered that each man who made an inclosure in the Hay or fallow field shall be adjudged by four indifferent men for the abatement of their number of beasts there, and otherwise to stand to the old order; and that the four men do end it before the Hay be broken, on pain of 20*s*. The indifferent persons appointed for this year are William Crabbe, Thomas Smith, John Palmer, and John Foscott.

That, whereas controversy and strife have long depended between Hugh Waters and Thomas Smith touching a stile and way over a ground called Phelps Breach, we find [that] there is no way to mill, market, or church there; and, to our knowledge, Thomas Taylor was the farthest [ago] that held that ground and he had a stile there, but whether or no he made him [*rectius* it] we know not, and we know not whether any man can claim any way there or not otherwise than on suffrance; and for any other way commodious to the Breach, it is known to all men there that the common of Braydon adjoins 'within a piece of butt's length'.

That Richard Hughes disproved in giving evidence in this court in a cause between John Smith and Anthony Smith.

That Thomas Waters has let out part of his copyhold to Hugh Waters, contrary to our custom because he put it out to him for more time than 12 months and a day. Richard Witt deposes that, about Michaelmas last

was twelve months [i.e. at Michaelmas 1576], he was at Thomas's house where he heard a bargain between Thomas and Hugh touching the copyhold of Thomas: and they both agreed that, in consideration [that] Hugh should repair both tenements, discharge the lord of his rents and other duties, and find for Thomas the pasturing of eight kine and 12 bushels of malt, Hugh should enjoy and have the occupation of the rest of the copyhold from year to year during his life, but if Thomas should be desirous at any time to keep a plough thereon then [he is] to have the whole in his hands, and that he should not let it to nobody [?rectius anybody] but Hugh. John Carpenter deposes in all things as Richard has deposed.

That Richard Davies (amerced, 3s. 4d.), Hugh Waters (3s. 4d.), Richard Walter (6d.), Giles Roberts (12d.), Richard Matcham (6d.), and Robert Davies (6d.) made wood-piles and dung-mixens on the queen's highway, and on the lord's soil, in the common of Braydon without licence. Each amerced, and they were ordered to remove [them] before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That Giles Roberts has ditched and hedged up a mere called Hammon's mere lying in Home field. Amerced, 6d. [He] was ordered to remove [the ditch and hedge] before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10s.

That the customary buildings of Henry Hungerford, gentleman, are extremely ruinous, as much in the roofing, timber, and wallplates. Amerced. He was ordered to repair the buildings before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 40s.

That the kitchen and other buildings of Thomas Waters are extremely ruinous. Amerced, 12d. He was ordered to repair [them] before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 10s.

That a building of Joan Gleed, a widow, is ruinous [and] in want of roofing. Amerced, 4d.

Court Baron held there on 10 April 1578

The court baron of the manor of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors

An elder John Palmer, James Weeks, John Woodshaw, Thomas Allis, John Davies, John Foscott, Richard Matcham, Anthony Palmer, John Smith, Robert Davies, Justinian Smith, William Walter, Philip Underhill, William Brunson.

Grant

Thomas Waters, who held for life a messuage or tenement called the Lype with all the land appurtenant to it, a close of pasture in which the

message stands, a close of pasture called Madley's lying near it, $\frac{1}{2}$ yardland, 9 acres of arable land of the demesne land called Fortlands, 1 acre lying in the Hay lately received in exchange for another acre of Fortlands, and a close called Claybreach in Kingershay, and who also held a message called Jeffrey's and 1 yardland and a toft and a close called Hort's, surrendered [all] the premises; Hugh Waters, who claims an estate in reversion in the premises, surrendered it with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriots, two worth $\text{£}4$. Hugh took the message or tenement called the Lype with all the land appurtenant to it, the close in which it stands, Madley's close, the $\frac{1}{2}$ yardland, the 9 acres of demesne, the acre in the Hay, and Claybreach close, and the lord granted seisin to him. Those premises are to be held for life successively by Hugh, his son John, and John's son Hugh for a yearly rent of 17s. 9d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. The lord licensed them to make and put in place an undertenant or undertenants and to let out all the premises, or any part of them, from the date of this court for their life without forfeiture. The elder Hugh and John give $\text{£}40$ to the lord as a fine for having that estate and for the licence. The elder Hugh did fealty and was admitted as tenant. He, John, and the younger Hugh will carry a wagon-load of fuel each year from Braydon as far as the lord's mansion house (*ad hospicium mansionale domini*) at Charlton.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 18 September 1578

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

William Crabbe *alias* Taylor, Philip Underhill, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, Thomas Hayward, James Weeks, Richard Matcham, William Brunson, John Palmer, John Woodshaw, John Davies, John Smith, John Foscott.

Free tenants

Sir Robert Long (amerced, 6d.), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), Alice Mallard, a widow (4d.), and Roger Martin (6d.) are free tenants and owe suit to this court.

Court-silver

John Palmer, the tithingman, comes and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver.
Presentments of the tithingman

That Walter Gitter is a tippler. Amerced, 3d.

That Roger Davies and Christopher Davies are residents [and were absent]. Each amerced, 4d.

That a dun foal worth 3s. 4d., taken as a stray on the feast day of the

Holy Trinity last, [remains] in the keeping of Thomas Stumpe.

That a red heifer worth 5s., taken as a stray on 14 August last, [remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a brown-black heifer worth 5s., taken as a stray on 14 August last, [remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a black heifer worth 8s., a black bullock worth 6s. 8d., a heifer worth 7s., a brown-red heifer worth 6s. 8d., a dark-bay foal worth 2s. 6d., a black foal worth 2s. 6d., two black foals each worth 10s., a black foal worth 6s., two bullocks each worth 8s., and two heifers each worth 8s., taken as strays on 14 August last, [remain] in the lord's keeping.

That a white-grey gelding worth 12s., taken as a stray before the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle [30 November] last, [remains] in the keeping of an elder John Palmer.

That a black gelding worth 26s. 8d., in the lord's keeping, will have remained as a stray over a year and a day at the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next.

That two foals, one bay and the other black, each worth 20s., and in the lord's keeping, will have remained as strays over a year and a day at the feast of St. Martin [11 November] next.

That Roger Nicholas, who held for life by copy a close of pasture called Alford's containing about 2 acres, 19½ acres of land in the Home field, 12½ acres in the West field, and 1½ acre in the Grandon field, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth ... [*MS. blank*]. A younger John Palmer claims the reversion of the land for life successively for himself, his wife Margery, and Thomas Stumpe's daughter Elizabeth Stumpe by virtue of a copy dated 27 September 1577. His claim having been considered by the court, John did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Officers

Richard Matcham was chosen as tithingman; Robert Davies was sworn as reeve.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 10d. paid to John Palmer, the reeve (Anthony Woodward 3d., Hugh Waters 2d., John Davies 1d., Robert Buckland 3d., William Taylor *alias* Crabbe 7d., Philip Underhill 1d., Justinian Smith 4d., James Weeks 2d., Robert Davies 2d., Thomas Hayward 4d., Thomas Allis 3d., Richard Matcham 2d., Thomas Stumpe 1d., John Broad 4d., John Palmer 4d., William Brunson 3d., John Davies 2d., John Smith 2d., John Foscott 3d., Francis Bradshaw 2d., Simon Mopson 2d.)

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That John Woodshaw and Thomas Haskins assaulted, and made an affray on, each other. Each amerced, 9d.

That William Palmer, John Neale, and Simon Mopson played at bowls, a prohibited game. Each amerced 12d.

Presentments of the homage

That William Curtis of Hankerton overstocked the common fields with 60 sheep where he should have no common. Amerced, 10s.

That Joan Glead, a widow, overstocked the common fields with two beasts. Amerced, 7s.

That Giles Roberts has not yet erected a gate at Hammon's mere as he was required to in an order. He has forfeited the penalty, 10s.

That Walter Gale overstocked the common of Braydon with beasts. Amerced, 10s.

That William Palmer overstocked the common with a horse. Amerced, 20d.

That John Everard overstocked the common with eight beasts. Amerced, 6s. 8d.

Penalties

That thereafter no tenant of the manor should take joistments (*agistamenta*) feeding in the common of Braydon, in any way overstock the common or common fields, or be accustomed (*utetur*) to inchase and outchase with his beasts [i.e. to drive his cattle in and out of a common pasture], on pain to forfeit 10s. for each beast however many times (*toiciens quociens*) [an offence might be committed].

That thereafter no man should cut any thorns or heath in Home field, or the other fields, unless on his own land, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That each tenant may allow his beasts to go, and to feed, in the Hay according to the ancient rate until the feast of Epiphany [6 January] next and not beyond, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 40s.

That each man, for his part, should repair his hedges and fences around the grain fields before the feast of St. Edward [18 March] next, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That henceforth no inhabitant of the manor should keep any beast feeding in Braydon [forest] ... [*MS. obscure*], on pain of 40s.

Affeerors

Thomas Allis, James Weeks.

Estreats

£6 14s. 2d. besides heriot.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 2 April 1579

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, Hugh Waters, Philip Underhill, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, James Weeks, William Brunson, an elder John Palmer, a younger John Palmer, John Smith, Robert Glead, John Allis, Justinian Smith.

Free tenants

Sir Robert Long (amerced, 12d.), Thomas Wye, esquire (12d.), William

Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), Alice Mallard, a widow (essoined), and Roger Martin (12*d.*) are free tenants and owe suit to this court.

Customary tenants

Thomas Hayward (essoined), John Davies (essoined), Joan Glead, a widow (essoined), Agnes Evans, a widow (remitted), Margery Duck, a widow (essoined), Joan Wastfield, a widow (essoined), Agnes Hellier, a widow (appeared), and Francis Bradshaw, gentleman (appeared), are customary tenants and owe suit to this court.

Court-silver

Richard Matcham, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9*s.* 3*d.* for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Walter Gitter, John Allis, William Walter, and Roger Smith are tiplers. Each amerced, 4*d.*

That James Weeks is a miller. Amerced, 3*d.*

That a black foal [*changed to bullock or heifer*] worth 8*s.*, taken as a stray on 14 August last, still remains in the lord's keeping.

That a black bullock worth 6*s.* 8*d.*, taken as a stray on 14 August last, still remains in the lord's keeping.

That a red heifer worth 6*s.* 8*d.*, taken as a stray on 14 August last, still remains in the lord's keeping.

That all the other strays named in the last court are delivered to the owners, except a bullock [*or heifer*] which died.

That a red horse worth 13*s.* 4*d.* arrived as a stray on 14 October last [and remains] in the keeping of Thomas Stumpe.

That a dun foal worth 3*s.* 4*d.*, [which arrived] as a stray at the feast of the Holy Trinity last, still remains in the keeping of Thomas Stumpe. [*Margin: died*]

That a grey foal worth 2*s.* 6*d.*, taken as a stray on 14 August last, [remains] in the lord's keeping.

Presentments of the jurors for the queen

That John Carpenter assaulted, and made an affray on, Ambrose Pannell and drew his blood. Amerced.

That ... [*MS. blank*] Harding, a widow, and Thomas Roberts's son are breakers of hedges.

That Anthony Palmer is a breaker of hedges at Wallow hedge and elsewhere. Amerced, 12*d.*

Presentment of the homage

That Thomas Stumpe set his 20 sheep to go, and to feed, in the West field, where he should have no common [right]. He has forfeited the penalty, 6*s.* 8*d.*

Orders and penalties

That thereafter Philip Underhill should keep the butts for archery in all necessary repairs for his life, on pain for each month [that they were unrepaired] to forfeit 6*s.* 8*d.*

That each tenant should repair his houses and buildings in all the necessary places before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 20s.

That no tenant from henceforth shall take any undertenant [so as] to leave any children on the charge of the parish; or [they] themselves [will] be driven to be relieved of them [?to relieve them], on pain to forfeit £10 to the lord.

That none shall keep any bitch assaut but shall in such case tie her up, to the intent [that] no number of dogs may resort together and hurt or kill their sheep or other cattle, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

That each tenant, for his part, should repair his hedges and boundaries around the grain fields before Palm Sunday next, on pain of each [offending] to forfeit 6s. 8d.; and the overseers thereof should be Hugh Waters, John Palmer, and Philip Underhill.

That thereafter no tenant should allow more than two sheep for each acre to go, and to feed, in the common fields, on pain of 4d. for each sheep.

That henceforth no man should take any agistment of sheep, nor should he drive more than the number which he kept for the whole of the last winter, on pain of 20s.

That no tenant should allow more of his beasts to go, and to feed, in the Home field than [he may] according to the rate, one beast for two acres, and that he should sell [his right of] common at 6d. for each beast, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That each man should ring his pigs before Palm Sunday next, and so observe [this order] from time to time, on pain of 12d. for each pig.

That each man placing any of his beasts in the grain fields after the breach of the fields shall mark their beasts feeding there with their own mark, and the hayward should survey offenders, on pain of 6s. 8d. for each beast; and the overseers are Anthony Smith, Richard Haskins, James Weeks, and a younger John Palmer.

Grants

William Brown took a newly built cottage, 1 acre of land lying near it, and a small piece of land for a garden near the river there, [all] lying in the Hay field and the Moor and now in his occupation. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his son John, and his daughter Emme Brown for a yearly rent of 5s. and for all the services formerly due. William is excused a fine in consideration of his service previously given to the lord of the manor. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Thomas Allis took a tenement and ½ yardland, and all the other land appurtenant to the tenement, now in his tenure. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and Robert for a yearly rent of 5s. and for all the other services formerly due. Thomas, John, and Robert give £6 0s. 8d. to the lord as a fine for having that estate. Thomas was admitted as tenant and did fealty.

John Davies surrendered 2 acres of land in East field and 1 acre in Grandon field [held] by virtue of a copy dated 27 September 1577; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. John took the 2 acres of arable land in East field, 1 acre of which lies in the Hay and the other in the Middle field, and the acre in Grandon field, [all] now in his occupation; also [he took] a parcel of pasture called Hort's containing about ½ acre, lying between the land called Spratt's west and the land called Hobbs east, lately in Thomas Waters's tenure and now in John's occupation. The premises are to be held for life successively by John and his sons John and William for a yearly rent of 2s. 4d. and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John gives nothing to the lord for a fine. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Affeerors

Philip Underhill, an elder John Palmer.

Total besides court-silver

13s. 1d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 5 September 1579

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

[Jurors for the queen and for the homage]

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, Hugh Waters, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, James Weeks, William Brunson, an elder John Palmer, a younger John Palmer, Justinian Smith, Robert Glead, John Allis, Thomas Hayward.

Free tenants

Sir Robert Long (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (amerced, 12d.), William Richman (12d.), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Roger Martin (essoined) are free tenants and owe suit to this court.

Action

Thomas Broad complains against John Everard in a plea of debt on demand for 7s.

Court-silver

Richard Matcham, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Walter Gitter, William Walter, and Robert Prior are tipplers. Each amerced, 3d.

That John Alexander and William Grove are bakers. Each amerced, 4d.

That John Wastfield and Christopher Davies assaulted one another. Each amerced, 4d.

Strays remaining over a year and a day: a black foal worth 8s., a black bullock worth 6s. 8d., a fallow-red heifer worth 6s. 8d., a grey foal worth 2s. 6d., a black heifer valued at 8s.

That a white wether worth 2s. 6d. has arrived as a stray since the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle [30 November] last [and remains] in the keeping of William Palmer.

That three black-brown bullocks each worth 8s. arrived as strays on 5 June last [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

That five black steers each worth 10s. arrived as strays on 21 June last [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

That a white wether worth 2s. arrived as a stray on 20 July last [and remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a black wether worth 12d. arrived as a stray on 8 July last [and remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a black bullock and a red heifer each worth 10s. arrived as strays on 6 August last [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

That a black-brown steer worth 20s. arrived as a stray on 17 August last [and remains] in the lord's keeping.

That two grey foals each worth 6s. 8d. arrived as strays on 20 August last [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

Presentments of the homage

That Philip Underhill, who held for life successively to himself, John the son of Richard Smith, and Walter Underhill a cottage called Hort's with a close of pasture lying near it called Home close, a close beside Grandon, 1½ acre of arable land in the East field, 1 acre of land in the West field, and ½ acre of arable land in the Grandon field by virtue of a copy dated 29 September 1570, has died since the last court. [*Margin*: it is said that it is not heriotable because it is a cottage] Agnes Underhill, a widow, asks to hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant for as long as she lived alone and chaste.

That Edward Strange mowed part of Lot mead, about half a cock of hay, which is rightfully appurtenant to the lord of the manor.

That a white pig worth 8d. has arrived as a stray since the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 February] last [and remains] in the keeping of Anthony Smith.

That they ask that the orders formerly made should stand in their strength and effect.

That Anthony Smith allowed his pigs, 10 in number, to go, and to feed, at large unringed after the feast called Palm Sunday, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited 12d. for each pig.

That a house and a building of Robert Buckland are in decay for lack of thatching. Amerced, 2s. 6d. He was ordered to repair his houses before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

Presentment of the jurors [for the queen]

That the inhabitants have allowed their butts to be in decay for the last two months, contrary to a term of a statute. The inhabitants have forfeited

10s. The jurors say that it was by the default of Philip Davies and of Richard Matcham, the tithingman; therefore [the penalty] is imposed on them.

Orders and penalties

That thereafter no tenant should allow any beast of his to go, and to feed, in Grandon field before the grain has been carried off, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That each man, for his part, should repair all his hedges, boundaries, and fences around all the fields from time to time as often as might be necessary, on pain of each offending to forfeit 10s.

That henceforth no man should allow his sheep to go, and to feed, in the stubble field before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 20s.

A day was given to [those of] the homage who live here to assemble with the homage of Sir Robert Long to enquire into how much land near Charlton church, where a dispute now arises, is appurtenant to the lord of the manor and how much to Sir Robert; this before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

Grants

Francis Bradshaw, gentleman, surrendered a tenement, with a garden and an orchard lying near it, and two closes of pasture and meadow containing about 24 acres, all which premises lie near the new park of Charlton and are in his occupation, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. Francis took the premises. They are to be held for life successively by him and his son Henry for a yearly rent of 13s. 5d. and for all the other services formerly due. Francis gives nothing to the lord as a fine for having that estate in consideration of his good and faithful service previously given to the lord of the manor. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Joan Glead, a widow, who held for her widowhood a messuage and 1 yardland called King's, a messuage and 1 yardland called Gagg's, and ½ yardland called Irish's, surrendered all those premises with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriots, two worth £4. Richard, the son of Richard Glead, deceased, claims to hold those premises, which were lately in Joan's occupation, by virtue of a copy dated 23 March 1556. He asks to be admitted for life, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The lord granted a licence to him to make an undertenant in the customary land which he holds and to let out the premises, or any part of them, for the four years following the date of this court without forfeiture.

Pannage of pigs

6s. 1d. paid to Robert Davies, the reeve.

Officers

James Weeks was chosen as reeve, a younger Hugh Waters as tithingman; James Weeks, John Woodshaw, Anthony Smith, and a younger John Palmer were chosen as overseers of the fields and hedges, and [it was ordered] that they should present offences at the next court.

Affeerors

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, Hugh Waters.

Total besides fines and heriot

£3 14s. 5d.

Manor Court held there on 3 October 1579

The court of the manor of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Homage

Hugh Waters, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, James Weeks, William Brunsdon, an elder John Palmer, a younger John Palmer, Robert Gleed, John Allis, Thomas Hayward.

Presentment of the homage

That all is well.

Admittance

Agnes Hellier, a widow, who holds for her widowhood a tenement and ½ yardland called Dicott's, a parcel of land called Fortlands, a close called Cromehales, and various other lands appurtenant to the tenement, surrendered all those premises; heriot, Agnes's best farm animal. Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith claims to hold the premises for life successively to himself and his sons John Woodward and Richard Woodward by virtue of a copy dated 28 March 1573. He asks to be admitted, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 26 March 1580

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Henry Hungerford, gentleman, Hugh Waters, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, James Weeks, William Brunsdon, an elder John Palmer, a younger John Palmer, Robert Gleed, John Smith, Robert Davies, Justinian Smith, John Foscott, Thomas Hayward.

Court-silver

Hugh Waters, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Walter Gitter and William Walter are tipplers. Each amerced, 3d.

That James Weeks is a miller. Amerced, 4d.

That Robert Powell of Malmesbury is a baker and broke the assize of bread. Amerced, 8d.

Strays kept over a year and a day

From Anthony Smith for the value of a white pig, 8*d.*

From William Palmer for the value of a white wether, 2*s.* 6*d.*

Presentments of the hayward (Thomas Stumpe)

That two white sheep, one a ewe and the other a wether, each worth 18*d.* were taken as strays on 3 November last [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

That a black cow worth 8*s.*, taken as a stray on 2 December last, [remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a grey horse worth 5*s.*, taken as a stray on 10 December last, [remains] in the keeping of Francis Bradshaw, gentleman.

That a white ewe worth 12*d.*, taken as a stray since Christmas last, [remains] in the keeping of Richard Davies.

Grant

The lord granted a licence to Agnes Underhill, a widow, to let out a cottage called Hort's, with a close of pasture lying near it called Home close, a close lying beside Grandon, 1½ acre of arable land in the East field, 1 acre in the West field, and ½ acre of land in Grandon field to anyone she wished, so long as he is of good repute and behaviour, at the lord's discretion (*libitum*), for the six years following the date of this court without forfeiture.

Oath of allegiance

Thomas Palmer, aged 16, is sworn to the queen.

Free tenants

Sir Robert Long (amerced, 12*d.*), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Roger Martin (essoined) are free tenant and owe suit to this court.

Dispute

At this court a dispute arises whether the heirs of Alice Mallard should have the land lately in her tenure while she lived or [whether] Sir John Hungerford, who through his attorney claims to hold the premises to himself and his heirs, [should have it]; the homage asks for a day until the next court to enquire into to whom the right of the inheritance of the land pertains.

Presentment of the jurors for the queen

That John Smith assaulted, and made an affray on, William Sealy and drew his blood. Amerced, 9*d.*

Actions

John Avery complains against Thomas Roberts in a plea of debt on demand for 5*s.* Thomas comes, and it was ordered that he should pay 20*d.* and [the cost of] thatching for one day.

Hugh Waters complains against Giles Roberts in a plea of debt on demand for 6*s.* 8*d.* Giles comes, and it was ordered that he should pay 4*s.* to Hugh at the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, and if he defaulted in the payment he should pay 8*s.*

Hugh Waters complains against Leonard Walker in a plea of debt on

demand for 13s. 10d.; and because Leonard does not appear a writ of distraint should be made (*fiet distringas*), to be returned at the next court. [*Margin*: a distraint is made]

John Curtis complains against Giles Roberts in a plea of debt on demand for 19s. 10d. Giles comes and says that John had from him a cart-load of tiles to the value of 2s. 10d.; and for the rest, because he has not made law with two hands [supporters] at this court [to prove] that he owes nothing to John [as he should have] according to an order of the court, he is found liable (*condempnatur*) and execution is made for 17s. with the court expenses, 10d.

Presentments of the homage

That by our custom one tenant may not sue another out of the lord's court without the lord's special licence, the action being under 40s.; and we find that Anthony Smith has sued John Palmer in the hundred court of Malmesbury contrary to our custom, but we never knew any forfeiture taken by any lord of this manor thereupon.

That Giles Roberts has not made his hedges and boundaries at New ditch [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10s.

That, at the time of the breach of the fields, Giles Roberts placed his 16 beasts in the common fields unmarked, contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited 6s. 8d. for each beast.

That Giles Roberts overstocked the common beyond the rate. Amerced, 20s.

That Roger Brown overstocked the common fields at the time of the breach of the fields. Amerced, 20s.

That Giles Roberts did take in beasts of strangers to feed in the common fields, at the breach of the fields, against the order. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

Orders and penalties

That Henry Hungerford, gentleman, Francis Bradshaw, Hugh Waters, and Thomas Smith were chosen to give the orders for Hay field this year; the penalty was appointed that each tenant should observe and stand to their judgement, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

That in this year each man should pay $\frac{1}{4}d.$ for each of his acres in the Home field to a mole catcher, on pain of each offending [to forfeit] 3s. 4d.

That Giles Roberts should make and amend his hedges and boundaries between himself and Agnes Underhill, a widow, near Agnes's house before the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 20s. [*Other entries in the record of the court, if any, are missing.*]

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 September 1580

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE]

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, Robert Davies, James Weeks, William Brunson, an elder John Palmer, a younger John Palmer, Justinian Smith, Robert Gleed, Thomas Hayward, Richard Gleed, John Smith.

Oath of allegiance

Anthony Smith, aged 16, was sworn to the queen.

Presentments of the hayward (Thomas Stumpe)

That a white ewe and a white wether, each worth 18*d.*, have remained as strays over a year and a day in the lord's keeping.

That a brown yearling bullock worth 6*s.* 8*d.*, taken as a stray on 4 May last, [remains] in the lord's keeping.

Forage

From Francis Bradshaw, gentleman, for the forage of a grey horse worth 10*s.*, 4*d.*

Court-silver

Hugh Waters, the tithingman, comes and gives 9*s.* 3*d.* for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Walter Gitter and Henry Pritchett are tiplers. Each amerced, 4*d.*

That William Grove and Robert Powell [are] bakers. Each amerced, 4*d.*

That James Weeks is a miller. Amerced, 4*d.*

Amercement

From Hugh Waters, the tithingman, because he did not summon the tenants to appear at this court as he was ordered to. His fine, 3*s.* 4*d.*

Presentment of the jurors [for the queen]

That all is well.

COURT BARON

Free tenants

Sir Robert Long (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire (essoined), William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Roger Martin (essoined) are free tenants and owe suit of court.

Claim

Sir John Hungerford's claim to the land lately Alice Mallard's is continued.

Grant

John Broad took 2 acres lying together in Littleman's furlong in the Hay field, lying near Perry Green Lane, [and] part of the customary land of the manor. The lord granted seisin to him. The land is to be held for life successively by John, his son Thomas, and his daughter Anne Broad for a yearly rent of 3*s.* 4*d.* and for the services formerly due. John gives £3 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Presentments of the homage

That Joan Wastfield, a widow, who held for her widowhood a message and ½ yardland called Pratt's, has died since the last court; heriot, a red cow worth 40s. delivered to the lord's stock. John, the son of Thomas Wastfield, deceased, claims to hold the premises for life by a copy dated 16 September 1563 and asks to be admitted. The lord granted seisin to him. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Robert Davies, Giles Roberts, and Roger Brown placed more of their beasts in the Hay field than they should [have done] according to the rate allotted to them by Henry Hungerford, gentleman, and the others, contrary to the order appointed at the last court. Each of them has forfeited 6s. 8d.

That Edward Strange and Margery Matcham placed more beasts in the Hay field than they should [have done]. Each amerced, 2s. 6d.

That William Walter allowed his beasts to go, and to feed, in Grandon contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10s.

Orders

That no tenant should allow any of his beasts to go, and to feed, in the Hay field after Wednesday next until ... [*MS. not explicit*], on pain of each man [offending] to forfeit 6s. 8d.; that generally he should not place there more beasts than are to be placed according to his rate this year, on the same pain; and that they shall rid the Hay [field] before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle [21 December] next, on the same pain.

That each tenant should make and repair his hedges and boundaries around the Hay [field] before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, and so to observe [this order] from time to time, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

Pannage of pigs

5s. 6d. paid to James Weeks, the reeve.

Officers

Robert Gleed was sworn into the office of reeve, John Smith of tithingman.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 March 1581

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, James Weeks, William Brunson, an elder John Palmer, a younger John Palmer, Justinian Smith, Robert Gleed, Thomas Hayward, John Wastfield, John Broad.

Free suitors

Sir Robert Long (amerced, 6*d.*), Sir John Hungerford (appeared by his attorney), William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Roger Martin (amerced, 6*d.*) are free tenants and owe suit to this court.

Oath of allegiance

Robert Gleed and John Gleed were sworn to the queen.

Court-silver

John Smith, the tithingman, gives 9*s.* 3*d.* for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Robert Powell and William Grove [?both] of Malmesbury are bakers and sold bread at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 6*d.*

That James Weeks is a miller. [*Deleted:* amerced, 3*d.*]

That Henry Pritchett and Walter Gitter are tipplers and sold ale at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Philip Davies is a butcher. The common fine, 3*d.*

Affirmation

The jurors for the queen come and present all the things presented above to be true.

Other presentments of the jurors for the queen

That Justinian Smith assaulted Edward Strange. Amerced, 3*d.*

That William Gleed (amerced, 12*d.*) and Richard Palmer assaulted, and made an affray on, each other. Each amerced.

Presentments of the homage

That Henry Hungerford, gentleman, who held by a copy dated 28 March 1533 a messuage and 3 Mondaylands called Palmer's, a parcel of land called Foxland, and a parcel of land called Cornwall's land, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 45*s.* Jane Hungerford, a widow, Henry's relict, claims to hold the premises for her widowhood. Her claim was considered by the court, and she did fealty and was admitted as tenant for as long as she lived alone and chaste.

That Thomas Wye, esquire, died seized of land which he held in Charlton by suit of court.

That, without licence, an elder John Palmer, a customary tenant, felled a timber elm growing on his customary land, to the disinheritance of the lord. [*Margin:* the estate to be forfeited, as it is supposed by the steward]

That John Scriven encroached on Robert Buckland's land in Home field above Mallow hedge. Amerced, 12*d.*

That John Stout, John Smith, Robert Davies, William Strange, Richard Haskins, and Anthony Smith did rid all the cattle out of the Hay field before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle [21 December]. Each amerced, 12*d.*

Presentments of the hayward (Thomas Stumpe)

That a black foal worth 20*s.* has arrived within the manor as a stray since 28 February last [and remains] in the keeping of Francis Bradshaw, gentleman.

That a fallow heifer bullock worth 2*s.* 4*d.* has arrived within the manor as a stray since the feast of All Saints [1 November] last [and remains] in the keeping of Richard Winkworth.

That two foals, one black and the other bay, each worth 5s., have arrived within the manor as strays since the two weeks before Easter last [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

That two foals, one dun and the other bay, each worth 2s. 6d., arrived within the manor as strays at the same time [as the black and bay foals] [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

Penalties

That Giles Roberts should make his hedges near John Smith's land before the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 10s.

That each inhabitant should provide a mole catcher for catching moles; and that each should pay a farthing for each acre [which he holds] in the common fields, to be paid to John Woodshaw and a younger John Palmer before the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May] next, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That thereafter no tenant should let out his common in the grain fields, after the breach of those fields, to anyone unless it is to an inhabitant of the parish; and that they should show to the overseers of the fields how much land they hold in the grain fields, before the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August: Lammas] next, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 10s.

Grant

William Head took 8 acres of land, lately inclosed, lying in the Hay, [and] part of the customary land of the manor. [The land] is to be held for life successively by him and his brothers Matthew and Robert for a yearly rent of 2s. and for all the other services formerly due. William gives £8 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Admittance

Sir John Hungerford shows evidence that he held of the lord of the manor, freely to himself and his heirs, by fealty and suit of court, all the land and tenements lately in the tenure of Alice Mallard, a widow, deceased; and through the court here, in the person of John Hinton, he was admitted as tenant.

Exchanges

Memorandum, that at this court an exchange was agreed as follows.

With the assent of the tenants Sir John Hungerford exchanges with Sir Henry Knyvett, the lord of the manor, lands lately in John Scriven's tenure, viz. 2 acres and 1 farndel in Grandon field for 2 acres and 1 farndel in Hay field on Sandy down in the tenure of the [assenting] tenants of the lord, a close containing about 4 acres in the Middle field for 4 acres in Sandy down in Hay field, 1 acre of land in Hay field for 1 acre of land at Sandy down, and 2 acres of meadow in West field near the hopyard for 1½ acre of meadow in the Hay field.

With the assent of the tenants on both sides (*ex utraque parte*) Sir John Hungerford exchanges with Sir Henry Knyvett, the lord of the

manor, land in the tenure of their tenants, viz. 1 acre of land in Hay field in John Smith's tenure for 1 acre of land at Sandy down in Robert Davies's tenure, ½ acre of land in Hay field lately in John Scriven's tenure for ½ acre of land at Sandy down lately in Thomas Allis's tenure, ½ acre and 1 farndel of land in Hay field in John Scriven's tenure for ½ acre and 1 farndel in Sandy down in John Smith's tenure, ½ acre of land in West field in John Scriven's tenure for ½ acre of land in Sandy down in John Smith's tenure, 1 farndel of land in Middle field on Meers hill in John Scriven's tenure for 1 farndel in Smith furlong in Middle field in Richard Haskins's tenure, 2 farndels in Middle field in the tenure of a younger Hugh Waters for ½ acre of land above Long furlong in Middle field in that Hugh's tenure, ... [*subject omitted in MS.*] for ½ acre of land in Middle field in Joan Baker's tenure, 1 acre of land in Middle field in the tenure of a younger Hugh Waters for another acre in Middle field in the tenure of Joan Glead, a widow, and 1 acre of land in Hay field in Hugh's tenure for another acre in Hay field in William Head's tenure.

Action

William Walter complains against John Allis in a plea of debt on demand for 17s. 11d. He claims for cash lent to him [i.e. John]. John acknowledges a debt of 17s. Execution is made against him, with expenses and costs of 10d.

Affeerors

John Woodshaw, William Brunson.

Total of the estreats

£3 6s. 11d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 25 October 1581

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, Robert Davies, Justinian Smith, James Weeks, Richard Glead, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, William Brunson, William Head, an elder John Palmer, a younger John Palmer, Thomas Hayward, John Wastfield, John Broad.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That John Woodshaw is a customary tenant and was not present on this day. Amerced, 4d.

That Roger Smith is a resident within the manor and similarly was not present. Amerced, 3d.

That Robert Powell and William Grove are bakers of bread. Each amerced, 4d.

That Philip Davies is a butcher. Amerced, 4d.

That Walter Gitter, William Walter, and Henry Pritchett are tippers and sell ale at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 4*d.*

Oath of allegiance

Thomas Roberts, Thomas Panter, and Thomas Broad, of full age, were sworn to the queen.

Forage

Thomas Shearer of Dauntsey proved his ownership of a bullock lately in the tenure of Francis Bradshaw; 4*d.* for forage fell due to the lord.

William Cox of Ashton [?Ashton Keynes] proved [his ownership of] a black foal lately in the tenure of that Francis; 4*d.* for forage.

Presentments of the hayward (Thomas Stumpe)

That a red bullock [or heifer] worth 8*s.* came within the manor as a stray about the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August] last [and] remains in the lord's keeping.

That a brown bullock worth 6*s.* 8*d.* has remained as a stray over a year and a day in the lord's keeping.

Court-silver

The tithingman comes with his tithing and gives 9*s.* 3*d.* for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the homage

That Sir Robert Long, who held [land] to himself and his heirs freely from the lord of the manor by fealty, suit of court, and 5*s.* yearly rent, has died since the last court; relief, 10*s.*

That the lord has pardoned [the felling of] an elm, a timber tree, which an elder John Palmer cut down on his customary land; and [that] with the lord's assent, through the advice of Thomas Hayward, he should have the tree for repairing his customary buildings.

That, by the custom of the manor, all the tops of the trees which shall be felled, and might be taken, by the lord on any customary lands should rightfully be appurtenant to the tenant who holds the lands on which the trees were growing.

That John Wells has forfeited a penalty in allowing his sheep to go, and to feed, in the field called the stubble field before the feast of All Saints [1 November], contrary to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty declared, 6*s.* 8*d.*

[*The following entry is deleted*] That Hugh Waters, Thomas Allis, Richard Davies, an elder John Palmer, John Scriven, a younger John Palmer, and John Smith have their sheep going, and feeding, in the wheat field after the feast of St. Luke [18 October], and, because that is contrary to an order of the court made in 1575-6, each of them has forfeited the penalty provided for then, viz. 6*s.* 8*d.* [*Margin:* the order in 1575-6 for the wheat field was only for that year and not beyond]

That William Strange overstocked the common at the breach of the fields with three beasts. Amerced, 2*s.* 6*d.*

That Edward Strange overstocked the common at the breach of the fields with one beast. Amerced, 6*d.*

Actions

Francis Bradshaw, gentleman, complains against an elder Hugh Waters in a plea of trespass on demand for 20s. He claims that John Jenkins, a servant of Hugh, on the 15th day of this present October, with Hugh's dog, did shake three of his pigs whereby two of them died. Hugh asks for a day until the next court for [the matter] to be discussed; it was granted to him. Robert Davies and William Ewen, both sworn, say that they saw Hugh's man, with the dog, to shake pigs on that day out of his master's leaze; but they know not how many, and the pigs presently did run into Richard Haskins's leaze.

Thomas Haskins complains against William Walter in a plea of debt on demand for 9s. 4d. He says that he gave the borrowed sum of money to William at William's request. [*Margin*: a distraint is made]

A younger Hugh Waters complains against John Scriven in a plea of trespass on demand for 4s., in that John, with his dog, did shake his pig, whereof the pig died. John complains against Hugh in a plea of trespass on demand for 6s., in that Hugh's pig was doing damage to him in his barley growing in Smith furlong. With the assent of both parties the issue is committed to the arbitration of Francis Bradshaw and Geoffrey Pinnell who, the dispute having been carefully examined and heard, say and decide that John should give 2s. to Hugh within the next 40 days in consideration of his damages and costs.

Orders and penalties

That each one having hedges or mounds in the hedge between the Vicarage leaze and William Brunsdon's house should repair them before the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] next, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That each one who has land between the conyger wall and Alford's corner should make a watercourse (called a grip) across those lands before the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] next, on pain of each man offending [to forfeit] 10s.

That the homage shall present at the next court whether the estate that Thomas Hayward now has were not obtained by his father William [for himself] and for him [?Thomas] and his [?Thomas's] brother John; and whether William did not pay all the fine of [i.e. from] his own goods for that purpose, yes or no; and whether William, at the time of his death, did hold the 2 acres called Demaynes, now in controversy, by copy or lease.

[That the homage shall present at the next court] how John Palmer the elder does now hold a parcel of ground, 'sometimes away', and what rent he pays for the same.

That all those who shall have sheep going, and feeding, in the wheat field between the feast of St. Luke [18 October] and of All Saints [1 November] should watch and supervise them lest they do damage to the neighbours in the wheat there, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 6s. 8d.

That the homage here and the homage of Hankerton shall meet together the morrow after All Souls' day [i.e. 3 November] next at Dunhill hedge and then and there shall agree for Hankerton's way to their grounds there, or else shall mere out their own ground; on pain of everyone then making default of appearance, 3s. 4d.

That the homage shall, before the feast of Christmas next, view the exchange made between Robert Davies and William Head and, if they cannot indifferently end [a dispute over] the same, then [they are] to judge the value by the year of that land which Davies departed withal [i.e. parted with] at the time of the exchange [being] made and so Head to give him [a rent] for it and take [back] his own again. Recorded with the lord's assent. [*Margin*: Head and Davies are thoroughly agreed, and the homage did agree it, that William Head should pay 20d. yearly to Robert Davies for the ground which he delivered to Robert and which he has back again]

The homage shall, by the same feast, view the exchange between John Woodshaw and Richard Gleed, and he that has the better [is] to recompense the other by their judgement.

Pannage of pigs

6s. 9d. paid here in court to the reeve.

Officers

Giles Roberts was chosen as tithingman, Thomas Allis as rent collector [*margin*: reeve].

Affeerors

James Weeks, John Palmer.

Total of the estreats

£4 12s. 3d.

View of Frankpledge with [Manor] Court held there on 23 May 1582

The view of frankpledge, with the court [of the manor], of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, James Weeks, Richard Gleed, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Allis, William Brunsdon, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, Robert Gleed, William Head, an elder John Palmer, Thomas Hayward, John Wastfield, John Broad.

Court-silver

Giles Roberts, the tithingman, comes and gives 9s. 3d. to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That Robert Powell and William Grove are common bakers and sold bread at an excessive profit. Each amerced, 6d.

That James Weeks is a miller; no fine.

That Walter Gitter is a tippler. [Amerced,] 3*d*.

That Philip Davies is a butcher. [Amerced,] 3*d*.

From Richard Winkworth 2*s*. 4*d*. for the value of a fallow heifer bullock, a stray over a year and a day.

That two wethers called hogs worth 2*s*. 8*d*. have arrived as strays since Christmas last [and remain] in the keeping of Simon Mopson.

That four bullocks worth £3 13*s*. 4*d*. arrived as strays on 20 May last [and remain] in the lord's keeping.

Oath of allegiance

John Weeks, Anthony Palmer, and John Roberts were sworn to the queen.

Presentments of the jurors for the queen

That William Walter and John Allis are unlicensed tipplers.

That Samuel Hitchin has in his house suspect and idle women, to the annoyance of the inhabitants. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*. A day was given to him to remove [them] before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10*s*.

That John Allis likewise harboured suspect women in his house and, because [he is] poor, a day was given for removing them from his house before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 10*s*.

Free tenants

Anthony Hungerford, esquire (essoined), the heirs of Sir Robert Long, deceased, the heirs of Thomas Wye, esquire, deceased, William Richman (essoined), Giles Roberts (appeared), and Roger Martin (essoined) are free tenants and owe suit to this court.

Customary tenants

Justinian Smith, Robert Davies (essoined), a younger John Palmer (essoined).

Presentments of the homage

That Sir John Hungerford, who held land and tenements lately in the tenure of Alice Mallard, deceased, freely to himself and his heirs by fealty and suit of court, has died since the last court. Anthony Hungerford, esquire, is his son and heir. The bailiff was ordered to distraint him against (*erga*) the next court to do fealty.

That Richard Winkworth does keep every man's cattle of Garsdon, Cleverton, and Brinkworth at the doors of the tenants of this manor, to their great damage. Amerced, 2*s*.

That Justinian Smith allowed his pigs to go, and to feed, in the fields where he has no common for pigs, and that, to the loss of the tenants, his pigs were not sufficiently ringed. Amerced, 12*d*.

That in this year many tenants have overstocked the common fields with their sheep because the stint is only two sheep for each acre; and, because the homage does not know the certain number of acres of each tenant there, and the certain number of their sheep feeding there, for the better perfection of that [knowledge] a day was given to each tenant that, before the Tuesday in the week of Pentecost next, he should tell the overseers

of the fields in this year the certain number of acres which each of them now holds there in the fallow fields, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 10s. And it presents, and it was agreed, that each tenant who has overstocked the common fields beyond his rate should be amerced on this occasion according to the discretion of the affeerors of the court: the affeerors assessed that each tenant who overstocked the fields on this occasion should pay 2*d.* for each sheep beyond his rate and 6*d.* for each beast. [*Margin: this order void*]

Orders and penalties

That if any be found or known to break any hedge within this manor [he] shall forfeit for every default [i.e. offence] 3*s.* 4*d.*, and every householder shall pay for every such default of their children or servants.

It was ordered, by the assent of the tenants, that, if any tenant there ... [*MS. torn*] overstocked the common fields with his beasts or sheep beyond the rate, he should forfeit for each occasion viz. 12*d.* for each beast beyond the rate, 4*d.* for each sheep; and this order is extended from year to year, and for their work the overseers of the fields should have from time to time 2*d.* for each 12*d.* due for this offence. [*Margin: void*]

It was ordered that every man shall rid all their horse, beast, and ... pasturing in the Moor by Sunday next; and that the gate ... bounds at King's elm shall be made, every man who has ... any common there for his portion, by this day week in this year; and that ... shall put in any cattle there in the Moors within 10 days after ... shut up; and that after, when the same is used for common, none shall put in above one horse or beast and no sheep ... to continue until the breach of the fields; on pain of ... offending to forfeit 10s. [*MS. torn*] [*Margin: this order void*]

That each tenant, for his part, should make and repair his hedges and boundaries between Canter's piece and [the] conyger wall, and around the field called Grandon, before the feast of Pentecost next; also from William Head's house as far as the vicar's house before Sunday next; on pain of each man offending to forfeit 6*s.* 8*d.*

Action

Richard Davies complains against Richard Gleed in a plea *quare*. [He alleges that] Richard Gleed took, and still unjustly detains, a mare and a foal of his at Charlton, within the jurisdiction [of this court], on 3 November 1581 to his loss of 39*s.* 11*d.* Richard Gleed says that the ownership of the mare pertains to him and that he took [it] as his property. Robert Gleed and Emme Gleed, sworn, depose that in their hearing Richard Gleed, in consideration of 19*s.* 6*d.* that he owed to Richard Davies, did agree that Richard Davies should take the mare for the debt, and that thereupon Richard Davies took and had it accordingly. The homage assessed the damages between Richard Davies and Richard Gleed in the plea at 23*s.* 4*d.*; and by the court [it was assessed that] Richard Davies should have for costs 12*d.* Execution will be made.

Officers

Anthony Palmer was chosen as hayward, Anthony Smith, William

Brunsdon, a younger Richard Brunsdon, and James Weeks as overseers of the fields and commons.

Affeerors

James Weeks, William Brunsdon.

88/2/22

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 9 March 1583

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Essoins

None.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, William Taylor *alias* Crabbe, James Weeks, Richard Glead, Thomas Allis, Justinian Smith, William Brunsdon, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, Robert Glead, Robert Davies, an elder John Palmer, Thomas Hayward, John Wastfield, a younger John Palmer.

Court-silver

Giles Roberts, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and, by ancient custom, gives 9s. 3d. to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the tithingman

That a black wether worth 4s. came within the manor as a stray at the feast of [St.] Peter's Chains [1 August] last [and] remains in the lord's keeping.

That a sheep called a chilver hog worth 3s. came [within the manor as a stray] at the feast of [St.] Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] last [and remains] in the lord's keeping.

That a wether hog worth 2s. 2d. came [within the manor as a stray] at the feast of All Saints [1 November] last [and] remains in the keeping of Thomas Smith.

That a ewe worth 8d. came [within the manor as a stray] at the feast of [St.] Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] last [and] remains in the keeping of a younger John Palmer.

That a wether worth 2s. 6d. came [within the manor as a stray] at the feast of [St.] Mary Magdalen [22 July] last [and remains] in the keeping of John Foscott.

That a grey gelding worth 5s. and a foal worth 2s. 6d. came within the manor as strays at Christmas last [and] remain in the keeping of Richard Winkworth. [*Margin:* the gelding, proved]

Affirmation

The jurors [for the queen] declare on their oath all the things presented above by the officer to be true.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That James Weeks (amerced, 3d.) is a miller, William Walter (3d.) and

Walter Gitter (3*d.*) are tipplers, Philip Davies (3*d.*) is a butcher, Robert Powell (4*d.*) and William Grove (4*d.*) are common bakers of bread. Each amerced.

That Thomas Harding made an affray on John Carpenter. Amerced, 3*d.*

That Richard Allis and Thomas Hush made an affray on each other. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Anthony Woodward and an elder John Scriven made an affray on each other. Each amerced, 3*d.*

All the other things touching the view of frankpledge are well.

Except that two wethers, called hogs, worth 2*s.* 8*d.*, taken as strays, have remained in the keeping of Simon Mopson over a year and a day.

And that a pig worth 18*d.* [has remained as] a stray in the keeping of William Brunsdon over a year and a day.

Forage

With two hands [supporters] Robert Garlick proved two oxen, [which] arrived as strays, to be his property, and he paid forage, 4*d.*, to William Foscott.

George Tompkins, William West, and John Taylor proved a stray bullock [or heifer] to be the property of John Dix of Purton, who paid forage, 4*d.*, to William Foscott.

Presentment of the homage, sworn on the articles touching the court baron.

That Anthony Hungerford, esquire, the heirs of Sir Robert Long, deceased, the heirs of Thomas Wye, esquire, deceased, John Stumpe, gentleman, Thomas Estcourt, esquire, William Richman, Giles Roberts (appeared), and Roger Martin are free suitors of the court and are essoined on this day.

Grants

William Head surrendered a newly built messuage near the Moor, and a newly inclosed close containing about 8 acres lying near it, [both] now in his tenure, with the intention that the lord would regrant them in the way and form written below. William took the premises, and the lord granted seisin to him. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his daughter Mary Head, and his brother Robert for a yearly rent of 2*s.* and for all the other services formerly due. William gives £8 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Thomas Hayward and his brother John surrendered three messuages and 1 yardland called Waters and Pratt's, viz. two closes of pasture containing about 3 acres lying near the messuage called Waters, two closes called Pratt's containing about 1 acre lying near the two messuages called Pratt's, 20 acres of arable land in the West field, 33 acres of arable land in the East field, and 10 acres of arable land in the Home field, [all held] by virtue of a copy dated 14 February 1553, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; that copy is to be cancelled. Thomas took the messuage called Waters, the two closes of pasture lying near it, a newly inclosed close containing about 4 acres lying in Grandon and part of the 10 acres

in the Home field, 17 acres of arable land in the West field, and 34 acres of arable land in the East field, Grandon, and the Hay, and the lord granted seisin to him. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Philip and Ambrose for a yearly rent of 20s., for 18*d.* for court-silver, for all the other services formerly due, and for one heriot. Thomas gives £10 to the lord for an entry fine and for the two heriots due on the surrender. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The lord licensed him to demise and let at farm 2 acres of arable land, lying in any of the above mentioned fields [and] part of the customary land granted, to John for Thomas's life without forfeiture, the custom of the manor notwithstanding. John took the two messuages called Pratt's, the two closes lying near them, 3 acres of arable land in the West field, and 3 acres of arable land in the East field, [all] now in John Davies's occupation, and the lord granted seisin to him. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, Thomas the son of Richard Walter, and Thomas the son of Henry Hayward of Milbourne for a yearly rent of 4*s.* 1*d.*, for nothing for court-silver, but for all the other services formerly due and for one heriot. John Hayward gives nothing to the lord for an entry fine because it was remitted by the lord in consideration of the surrender. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The lord licensed him to make and put in place an undertenant or undertenants in the premises or any part of them for his life without forfeiture, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

An elder John Allis surrendered 4 acres and 3 farndels of arable land, part of the customary tenement in which he now lives, of which 2 acres lie in Den furlong in the Home field, 1½ acre lies in the Hay field above Rowmoor, 1 farndel lies in the Hay field above Hugh Waters's close newly inclosed, and 1 acre lies in the West field above Huckwell, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because it is only part of a customary tenement. Justinian Smith took the land, and the lord granted seisin to him. The land is to be held for life successively by him and his sons Francis and Richard for a yearly rent of 12*d.* and for all the other services formerly due. Justinian gives 20*s.* to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. [*Margin:* this surrendered again at the court held on 7 April 1585, and then taken anew with others]

Orders and penalties

That each tenant who has land lying above Highway's from Wastfield's wall as far as Highway's end, for his part, should amend and repair the gate and mounds at Shawford's within the next six days, on pain of each man offending [to forfeit] 10*s.*; and so from time to time to observe [this order], on the same pain.

That none of the inhabitants of this parish shall at any time hereafter have any pools or pills in Brook mead or the Moor to reach the fish in the same, on pain of each man defending (*defend'*) [*rectius* offending] [to forfeit] 3*s.* 4*d.*; and the householders shall pay the same pain for their children or family offending.

That John Allis should amend his hedges and mounds between himself

and Thomas Haskins at the home ground, before the feast of the Invention of the Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 6s. 8d.

That Giles Roberts allowed [*rectius* should allow] a footpath at Bore's gate according to the old use, custom, and usage, on pain of the forfeiture of 10s.

That Alice Harding should amend and repair all her mounds, hedges, and ditches between herself and John Foscott, before the feast of the Invention of the Cross [3 May], next on pain of the forfeiture of 20s.

That each man, for his part, should scour the watercourse from the Treen bridge in Grandon as far as Broadwater for a distance of 8 feet in width, before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of each offending [to forfeit] 20s.

That each tenant having land in the Home field should pay for each acre there $\frac{1}{4}d.$ to James Weeks and Anthony Smith, or either of them, before the feast of Pentecost next for the salary of a mole catcher, on pain of each man offending to forfeit 10s.

Amercement

A fine was imposed on Richard Davies for his manifest obstinacy in rejecting both the will of the lord and an order of the court touching and concerning an exchange between him and John Woodshaw in the Hay field, to the very great disturbance of the court and as a bad example to the other tenants, 2s. 6d.

Exchanges

At this court the lord has openly agreed to and confirmed all the exchanges heretofore made and thoroughly agreed on, and has given his consent that those exchanges now depending in controversy between Robert Davies and John Woodshaw, between William Brunsdon and Richard Glead, between Robert Davies and Justinian Smith, and between John Woodshaw and Richard Davies, and what recompense Richard Davies shall have for his damages sustained, shall be viewed by the homage before the feast of [St.] Philip and [St.] James [1 May] next; and so then, according to their conscience, [the homage is] to end all those controversies, which end they shall pronounce to those parties [on] the Sunday then next following, and the same to be recorded at the next court; and the party not observing that end shall lose 20s. Recorded with the assent of both parties named above [?in each case].

The lord is further agreed and satisfied that, before the feast of St. Philip and [St.] James [1 May] next, the homage should survey the parrocks, in the new conyger, appurtenant to the customary tenements in the tenure of Robert Davies, Richard Glead, and John Woodshaw, and thus, according to quantity or quality, those parrocks are to be allotted to those parties in respect of any demesne land lying in the common fields; which allotment, to be made thus [and given] in exchange, is [to be] recorded at the next court, will thus be perfected, and should stand for ever. Recorded with the assent of the parties named above.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 9d. now due and paid to the reeve.

Officers

Justinian Smith was chosen as tithingman; Richard Gleed was chosen as rent collector [*margin*: reeve] and sworn to discharge [the office] without fraud.

Affeerors

Hugh Waters, John Foscott.

Total of the estreats of the court

£12 4s. 1d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 29 August 1583

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Essoins

Anthony Smith, Richard Davies, Thomas Taylor, and Henry Pritchett are essoined on this day.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, James Weeks, Richard Gleed, Thomas Allis, William Brunsdon, John Foscott, John Woodshaw, Anthony Palmer, Robert Gleed, an elder John Palmer, John Wastfield, a younger John Palmer, an elder John Davies.

Court-silver

Justinian Smith, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Forage (Vernag)

John Tawney of Ampney Crucis (*Holyrood Amney*) proved a grey gelding worth 5s., a stray and in the keeping of Richard Winkworth, to be his property, and in court he paid forage (*vern*) [?to] Justinian Smith.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That Robert Powell and William Grove are bakers of bread and broke the assize. Each amerced, 6d.

That Philip Davies is a butcher [and that] Walter Gitter and William Walter are tipplers of ale. Each amerced, 3d.

That Thomas Paine (amerced, 12d.) assaulted, and made an affray on, Richard Allis (6d.), and drew blood.

That John Smith and a younger Hugh Waters assaulted each other. Each amerced, 4d.

That a wether worth 2s. 6d., having come within the lordship as a stray at the feast of St. Mary Magdalen [22 July] 1582, and having remained in the keeping of John Foscott for a year and a day after three separate proclamations made according to [a term of a statute], the ownership of it is [vested] in the lord.

That a black wether worth 4s., a stray, [has remained] in the lord's keeping over a year and a day.

That a ewe and a lamb worth 3s. 4d. came as strays on 29 June last [and remain] in the keeping of Robert Gleed.

That all the other things touching this view of frankpledge are well.

Oath of allegiance

James the son of Simon Mopson, and Aldham the son of William Walter, each aged 13, are sworn, and each of them was sworn, into the assize of the queen for their allegiance.

Presentments of the homage, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

That William Stumpe, esquire, who, freely to himself and his heirs for ever [and] of the lord of the manor by fealty, suit of court, and a yearly rent of 8d., held lands called Hicks hays, Mare hays, and the Inner down, has alienated those premises within the last two years to Thomas Estcourt, esquire, [and] his heirs and assigns for ever; relief, 8d. fell due to the lord. It was ordered that Thomas should be summoned [so] that he might be at the next court to do his fealty for the premises.

That Thomas Estcourt, esquire, Anthony Hungerford, esquire, the heirs of Sir Robert Long, deceased (appeared), the heirs of Thomas Wye, esquire, deceased, John Stumpe, esquire, Roger Martin, William Richman, and Giles Roberts (appeared) are free tenants of the manor, and they who were not present on this day in respect of their free suit are amerced.

That, according to an order made at the last court touching the parrocks in the conyger, the homage, then sworn, assembled on 2 April last and allotted to each man for the parrocks in the way and form underwritten, viz. John Woodshaw shall have three lands lying near Huckwell in the West field in lieu of the parrocks that he had in the conyger, Robert Davies shall have 1 half acre at Saddlebreach and 1 farndel or butt near it in lieu of the parrocks that he had in the conyger (but this is respected [i.e. respited]), and Richard Gleed shall have 1 farndel on Long furlong and 1 farndel in the West field lying by Cugmoor in lieu of his parrocks in the conyger.

That, according to an order made at the last court in [the matter of] certain controversies depending between the parties underwritten touching certain imperfect exchanges, the homage, then sworn, assembled on 1 April last and finally settled those disputes, which final settlement they disclosed and published to those parties on the Sunday then next following, and [which] is now enrolled in the following way and form, viz.

Concerning the controversy between Richard Davies and Justinian Smith for ½ acre of land lying in Justinian's leaze: Robert Davies having so much other land of Justinian's, we end and determine that Robert shall content and satisfy his brother Richard for that ½ acre and save and keep Justinian harmless from all trespasses, arrears, damages, and recompenses which Richard shall or may recover against him.

Between Richard Davies and John Woodshaw we agree and determine that Richard shall have the same $\frac{1}{2}$ acre that was appointed [to] him at the first by Hugh Waters and Justinian Smith for that land of his which John has inclosed, and John shall pay to Richard 6s. 8d. for a recompense at or before the next court. [*Margin*: note that Woodshaw tendered the money in the court and did the same to Hugh Waters]

Between Robert Davies and John Woodshaw we agree and determine that John shall have a farndel of Robert's land that lies at the end of Robert's new leaze in the Hay field for that land which he [i.e. Robert] has inclosed of his [i.e. John's], and [that Robert] shall pay to John for recompense 3s. 4d. at or before the next court. [*Note*: end]

That Robert Davies and Giles Roberts have not repaired, each of them for his part, the mounds and gate at Shawford's, [as they should have] according to an order of the court. Each has forfeited the penalty declared and provided for, 10s.

That Alice Harding, a widow, has not repaired her mounds, hedges, and ditches between herself and John Foscott, as she was required to in an order [made] in the last court. She has forfeited the penalty declared and provided for, 20s.

That John Allis has not amended his hedges and mounds between himself and Thomas Haskins, [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty declared and provided for, 6s. 8d.
Orders and penalties

That henceforth no man should place any kind of beasts for feeding (*depavitur*) in the fields, at the breach of the fields, unless they are marked with a common mark or iron at that feeding (*provisur*), on pain to forfeit for each beast thus feeding there and not marked with that iron 2s. 6d.; and that John Woodshaw, Richard Glead, an elder John Palmer, and John Wastfield were chosen and ordained as overseers of those matters (*premissorum*) [and] for presenting offences at the next court or as soon as they have discovered [them].

That inhabitants of the parish, or any one of them, rather than (*priusquam*) a stranger, should have such [common] pasture as was being let at farm if he would give 12d. for each beast; and he who was letting out his common pasture in the fields contrary to this order has forfeited 3s. 4d. for each beast.

That henceforth no inhabitant of the manor should permit any woman to carry any fire out of their houses during the night unless it is enclosed in a bowl (*poculo*) or a jar (*amphora*), on pain of 10s.

That, according to the old use, no man should place any beasts in the fields, at the breach of the fields, before the farmer has placed his beasts there, viz. 12 cows and a bull which shall feed there freely and quietly for 12 hours, on pain of the forfeiture of 40s.; and the farmer, promptly after a warning given to him about the carrying off of the wheat growing there, should place his beasts in the fields without delay.

That no man should place or permit his sheep to go, and to feed, in the fields thus breached, as it is mentioned, before St. Luke's eve [17 October], on pain of the forfeiture of 20s.

That henceforth no man should place any kind of beasts in the fields of the manor at more than the old rate apportioned and used there, viz. one beast for each 2 acres and two sheep for each acre, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That the tenants of the manor have assembled [?*rectius* should assemble] with the free tenants and each of them, as much as in himself is or will have been, should procure that all the lands lying dispersed in the common fields there might be made to lie together (*insimul adiaceantur*) in one piece before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [25 March: Lady day] next, so that each man may maintain and occupy his portion better and more easily.

That the Moor [should] be hained from all foreigners within 10 days after Michaelmas [29 September] next, that there be a gate made between the Heath and the Moor in the accustomed place and continually maintained, that no man do put in or suffer any sheep within the Moor between May day and Michaelmas, and that every man do keep there one horse beast, or else one rother beast, apiece and no more.

That each tenant of the manor, both free and customary, who shall have sheep going, and feeding, in the wheat field after the first sowing of the wheat there, should also have a pastor or a shepherd for driving (*pavitur*) and watching over those sheep, on pain to forfeit 40s.; that each should drive his sheep out of that field each year on St. Luke's eve [17 October], on the same pain; and that Kellam Moulden, Richard Haskins, and a younger John Palmer were chosen as overseers of those matters (*premissorum*) [and] to present offences as soon as they have discovered [them].

That Alice Harding, a widow, should make and repair all her mounds, hedges, and ditches between herself and Simon Mopson before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [25 March: Lady day] next, on pain of the forfeiture of 20s.

That the homage shall view every man's land in the common fields on this side [of] the feast of Michaelmas [29 September] next, on pain of everyone that makes default to lose 20s., and that Hugh Waters, Richard Haskins, Thomas Panter, and James Weeks shall be with the homage at the view; and then these four last named shall set merestones and marks between every man's land, where need does require according to the judgement of the homage, by All Saints [1 November] then next following. And whosoever does afterwards alter or remove those marks shall lose £5.

That each man should ring his pigs, on pain of the forfeiture of 3s. 4d. for each unringed pig found after a warning thereupon given.

Claim

Richard Allis claims to have 1 acre of arable lying in Huckwell in the West field on the surrender of John Allis made at the last court by the

custom of the manor; a day was given to the homage until the next court for making enquiry concerning that custom, and then [it is] to make a true presentment.

Actions

An elder Hugh Waters complains against Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith in a plea of trespass on demand for 3s. 4d. for despoiling his grass growing in Grandon. With the assent of the plaintiff and of the defendant the trespass is committed to the homage, who determine that the defendant should pay 6d. and suit of court [?Hugh's court expenses] to the plaintiff; and he has rendered [that] at present.

An elder Hugh Waters complains against Agnes Underhill, a widow, in a plea of debt on demand for 10s., in that Hugh's wife gave a loan of that amount to Agnes. The debt is proved. [*Margin*: let execution be made]

John Smith complains against Richard Glead in a plea of trespass on demand for 3s. 4d. for despoiling his grass in the Hay field with his beasts. Richard says that, if the land where the trespass is supposed [to have occurred] is appurtenant to John's tenement, then he would indemnify him in that sum. The homage says that [the land] is appurtenant to the plaintiff by an exchange, but they mitigate the damages to 4d. and suit of court [?John's court expenses], which Richard, present here in court, renders.

Edward Strange complains against Richard Glead in a plea of trespass on demand for 6s. for despoiling his wheat in Grandon with his beasts. With the assent of both parties the trespass is committed to Richard Haskins who, present here in court, determines that Richard should pay to Edward one bushel of barley before the next court and the expenses in this suit.

Grant

The lord gave a licence to Richard Glead to demolish a barn, part of his customary tenement called the Moor House, without forfeiture, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

Officers

William Head was chosen as tithingman, John Woodshaw as rent collector [*margin*: reeve].

Pannage of pigs

5s. 4d. due on this day, paid to the reeve in court.

Affeerors

Justinian Smith, James Weeks.

Total of the estreats of the court

£3 12s. 8d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 1 April 1584

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Essoins

[None] on this day.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, Robert Davies, James Weeks, Richard Gleed, Thomas Allis, William Brunsdon, Justinian Smith, Thomas Hayward, John Foscott, Anthony Palmer, Robert Gleed, an elder John Palmer, John Wastfield, a younger John Palmer, an elder John Davies, John Hayward.

Court-silver

William Head, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the bailiff (William Foscott)

That a foal horse worth 3s. 4d. came within the manor as a stray at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] last and remains in the lord's keeping.

That a foal horse worth 3s. 4d. came [within the manor as a stray] at Christmas last and remains in the lord's keeping.

That a black wether worth ... [*MS. blank*] came [within the manor as a stray] at the same feast of Christmas and remains in the lord's keeping.

Affirmation

The jurors [for the queen] come in full and declare and present all the things presented above to be true.

Other presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That William Walter and Walter Gitter are tipplers, Robert Powell and William Grove are bakers. Each amerced, 3d.

That Roger Smith had Hugh Waters's ladder, and old hedge wood, suspiciously. [*Margin: 6d.*]

That Thomas Harding assaulted, and made an affray on, Robert Foscott and drew blood. Amerced, 3s. 4d. Also that Thomas, his mother Alice Harding, and a servant of Alice whose name is not known, unlawfully recovered some pigs of Alice from Robert's keeping. Each amerced, 2s. 6d.

That Anthony Woodward and George Perkins assaulted one another. Each amerced, 3d.

That Thomas Wren assaulted John Scriven. Amerced, 6d.

That Richard Davies encroached on the lord's soil near his house. Amerced, 3d., and he was ordered to make amends before the next court.

That William Walter has turned the queen's highway at the quarry from [its] right [course]. Amerced, 6d.

Presentments of the homage, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

That Thomas Estcourt, esquire (essoined), Anthony Hungerford, esquire (essoined), the heirs of Sir Robert Long, deceased (essoined), Thomas Wye, esquire, John Stumpe, gentleman (essoined), Roger Martin, William Richman (appeared), and Giles Roberts (appeared) are free tenants and owe suit to this court.

That each man who has dung-mixens in the queen's highway should remove them and carry them away before the feast of St. Michael the

Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 10s.

That there is a watercourse [running] from Canter's piece across Down mead as far as Broad mead in decay, and Justinian Smith is ordered to scour it before the feast of the Invention of the Cross [3 May] next, on pain of 10s.

That, at the breach of the fields, John Wells had 37 beasts not marked with the common iron as it was ordered at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 2s. 6d. for each beast, £4 12s. 6d. in all.

That John Wells and Richard Gleed have forfeited the old pain apportioned, viz. with their sheep at more than two sheep for 1 acre; 20s. each.

Action

Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith complains against William Brown in a plea of trespass on demand for 5s.; this controversy is committed to William Head and Richard Haskins.

Orders and penalties

That each man should amend his mounds from Richard Haskins's close as far as Canter's piece before the feast of Easter next, on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 10s.; and so to observe [this order] from time to time, on the same pain.

That John Everard should remove his undertenants from the parish before the feast of St. Philip and [St.] James the Apostles [1 May] next, on pain to forfeit £5.

That Robert Davies and James Weeks should observe the determination of Richard Davies and Thomas Hayward concerning the exchange of 1 acre of Robert's land in Grandon field if the judgement were presented at the next court, and the parties are content that he who does not comply with (*non performat*) that order is to forfeit 20s. to the lord.

That the homage should survey the baulks (*limetas*) and boundaries (*terminos*) of the lands between Giles Roberts and Sir Robert Long in the West field, between Margery Matcham and Sir Robert in the Home field, between the lord of the manor and the heirs of Thomas Wye, deceased, between Thomas Smith and Hugh Waters, and between Hugh and Simon Mopson and appoint (*limetare*) those boundaries, before the feast of Easter next.

Evidence [*margin*: evidence enrolled at the instance of Alice Harding, a widow]

Harry Sealy, labourer, sworn and examined, says that so much of the mounds between Alice Harding and John Foscott as he thought need[ed] to be amended he himself did sufficiently repair and amend before Holy Rood day [14 September] last.

Robert Davies, husbandman, sworn, says that he saw some of it so done indeed and then went to John Foscott, at the request of Thomas Harding, the son of Alice, to have had him to have seen the same, but John would not.

Oath of allegiance

John the son of Anthony Woodward, John the son of Richard Witt, and John the son of Thomas Allis, [all] of full age, were sworn to the queen. [*Margin*: in the assize of the queen]

Note

That at this court William Chatterton claimed an estate but showed no copy.

Affeerors

An elder John Palmer, Thomas Hayward.

Total

£7 6s. 7d.

Court Baron held there on 28 April 1584

The court baron of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth

Essoins

None

Homage

Hugh Waters, an elder John Palmer, John Foscott, Justinian Smith, James Weeks, Thomas Allis, Anthony Palmer, William Brunson, John Smith, Thomas Hayward, Robert Gleed, Richard Gleed, John Hayward, John Broad, Robert Buckland, a younger John Palmer.

Presentments of the homage, sworn and charged on certain articles touching the court.

That Robert Davies and Richard Davies will not observe, and neither one of them has observed, the judgement of the homage touching an exchange between [each one of] them and John Woodshaw, but they utterly reject that order [of the homage]. Each has forfeited the penalty declared and provided for with their assent, 20s.

That John Wells and John Woodshaw overstocked the fields with their sheep at more than the old rate apportioned, viz. at more than two sheep for each acre. Each of them has forfeited the penalty, 20s.

That, at a drift made this present morning by Mr. Wells, Mr. Bradshaw, William Foscott, and others into the street, Justinian Smith came for his sheep and said he would put them out 'and so who would stop them'? And then he put up the hurdle to fetch out his own sheep, and so all the rest were let go. Amerced, 6s. 8d. [*Margin*: this presented to be a pound breach, as shown at the next court]

That William Head used many words in dislike of that drift and denied [i.e. refused] to fetch out his sheep. Amerced, 2s.

Affeerors

John Foscott, William Brunson

Total of the estreats

£4 8s. 8d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 September 1584

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, James Weeks, Robert Davies, an elder John Palmer, Richard Gleed, John Wastfield, Thomas Allis, William Brunsdon, Thomas Hayward, Anthony Palmer, Robert Gleed, a younger John Palmer, an elder John Davies, John Hayward, John Smith, John Broad.

Court-silver

William Head, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. for court-silver on this day.

Oath of allegiance

Robert the son of John Allis, and Thomas Gitter, were sworn to the queen. [*Margin*: in the assize of the queen]

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That William Sealy did take forth of the elder John Scriven's wain house a yoke, a pair of hitches [?hinges], and a staple, from Philip Davies a pair of fetters, and from Thomas Allis a hatchet; and, because he had no goods or chattels which might be worth being seized, he is being punished in the stocks for a day.

That Walter Gitter, William Walter, and John Broad are brewers and sold ale [priced] excessively. Each amerced, 3d.

That Justinian Smith set up a gate on the queen's highway opposite Middle hurst, encroached on that way, and dug a pit in it. Amerced, 12d., and he was ordered to restore it before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day] next, on pain of the forfeiture of £5.

That a sheep hog worth 12d. came within the manor as a stray at the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] last and remains in the keeping of John Smith.

Otherwise, all well.

Presentments of the homage, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

That Anthony Hungerford, esquire (appeared), Thomas Estcourt, esquire, the heirs of Sir Robert Long, the heirs of Thomas Wye, esquire, John Stumpe, gentleman (appeared), Roger Martin (appeared), and Giles Roberts (essoined) are free suitors of this court.

That Roger Martin seeks a licence for making Richard Haskins his attorney for performing his suit [of court], and it is granted to him. He asks for his warrant to be enrolled, and it is enrolled in these words, viz.

Be it known unto all men by these presents that I, Roger Martin of Steeple Ashton in the county of Wiltshire, clothman, have made, ordained,

constituted, and in my place have appointed my well beloved friend Richard Haskins of Charlton in the county aforesaid, husbandman, to be my true and lawful attorney or deputy to be in my stead and place at the court and lawday held always in the manor of Charlton aforesaid, and whatsoever my said attorney or deputy shall do in executing my room or place concerning my suit of court for my land in Charlton aforesaid I do affirm and ratify by these presents; in witness whereof I have caused this letter of attorney to be made and have set to my hand and seal the 22nd day of September 1584.

That William Richman, who, from the lord of the manor, held various lands in Charlton freely to himself and his heirs by fealty and suit of court, has died since the last court; his daughter and heir Joan has married Thomas Trumplin who, in his wife's right, did fealty for William's land and tenements.

That Justinian Smith overstocked the common in the fields with his sheep. He has forfeited the penalty declared and provided for, 20s.

That Justinian Smith, when a general survey of the beasts feeding in the fields was made by the lord's officers and others, broke the pound and allowed those beasts to go at large. Amerced, 40s.

That Giles Roberts has newly inclosed a way at Hammon's mere into his close there. Amerced, 4*d.*, and he was ordered to allow Hugh Waters, a younger John Palmer, and others, who rightfully habituated and resorted to that way, to have and occupy it henceforth, on pain of $\text{£}5$. [*Margin*: he now denies, therefore he has forfeited the penalty]

Action

An elder John Davies complains against Richard Glead in a plea of trespass [*?rectius* debt] on demand for 13*s.* 4*d.* for a pair of tache hooks. Richard admits the trespass [*?rectius* debt]; therefore let [a writ] *Ievari* be made.

Exchanges

At this court an exchange made between the lord of the manor and James Weeks is enrolled, viz. James exchanges 1 acre lying in Rudge furlong in the West field and took for it from the lord 2 acres and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lying in the Hay field which, by the judgement of John Woodshaw and others, is worth in quality no more than that acre. [*Margin*: enrolled at the instance of James Weeks]

James exchanges with the lord [of the manor] 2 acres lying in New leaze in Grandon field and took for it 1 acre and 3 farndels lying in the Middle field.

James exchanges with Richard Moody, esquire, with the assent of his lord obtained previously, 2 acres lying in Ruck hill, and he took for them about 2 acres lying in the Middle field of Milbourne.

James exchanges, with the same assent, 1 acre in the West field with Robert Davies, and he took for it from Robert 1 acre lying in Grandon field.

The lord of the manor exchanges with Margery Matcham, a widow, 1 acre lying at Plashott in the Middle field, and he took for it from Margery 3 farndels, newly inclosed, lying near a close of Agnes Underhill, a widow, in Grandon field and as much of 1 farndel of land opposite a stone in that field as lies on the north side of the queen's highway there.

Orders and penalties

That Roger Brown should remove his undertenants within 14 days after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of the forfeiture of £5.

That Giles Roberts, his brother Thomas, or one of them should remove Thomas Stock and his family from the parish within the next 10 days, on pain to forfeit £5; that henceforth no man should receive an undertenant or undertenants in the parish but that previously he should find security to the parish for removing an undertenant thus received, on the same pain; and that Giles should allow his brother Thomas to have and occupy the tenement in which Thomas [?Stock] now lives according to his [?Thomas Roberts's] right and [as] the premises of Giles, on the same pain.

That William Walter should amend his gate and observe that [order] from time to time, so that on that account Robert Gleed should not incur a loss, on pain of 10s.

Grant

Richard the son of Anthony Palmer took a newly inclosed close, near a close of Agnes Underhill, a widow, in Grandon field containing about 3 farndels, and as much of 1 farndel of land lying opposite a stone in that field as lies on the north side of the queen's highway there, all which premises were lately part of a customary tenement in the tenure of Margery Matcham, a widow, and exchanged by Margery with the lord for 1 acre of land lying at Plashott in the Middle field. The land is to be held for life successively by Richard and his sons John and Arthur for a yearly rent of 12*d.* and for all the other services due. Richard gives 20s. to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of John and Arthur is respited.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 10*d.*

Officers

Robert Davies was chosen as tithingman, an elder Hugh Waters as collector of rents and estreats, John Simons as hayward.

Affeerors

John Smith, Thomas Allis.

Total of the estreats

£3 16s. 2*d.*

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 7 April 1585

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, Justinian Smith, James Weeks, John Foscott, an elder John Palmer, John Smith, Richard Glead, John Westfield, William Head, Thomas Allis, William Brunsdon, Thomas Hayward, Anthony Palmer, Robert Glead, John Woodshaw, a younger John Palmer, an elder John Davies, John Hayward, John Broad.

Court-silver

Robert Davies, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Oath of allegiance

Hugh the son of James Weeks, aged 13, was sworn to the queen for allegiance.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That there is a ewe and a lamb, [together] worth 2s., which came within the manor as strays on 29 June 1583 and have remained in the keeping of Robert Glead for a year and a day after three proclamations; the ownership of them is therefore [vested] in the lord.

Likewise a sheep hog worth 12d. in the keeping of John Smith over a year and a day.

That William Walter and Walter Gitter are brewers and sold ale [priced] excessively. Each amerced, 3d.

That William Grove and Robert Powell are bakers of human bread and broke the assize. Each amerced, 4d.

That Philip Davies is a butcher and sold unwholesome food. Amerced, 3d.

Presentments of the tithingman

That a sheep worth 10d. came within the manor as a stray on 16 November last and remains in the keeping of William Head. [*Note:* stolen]

That a sheep worth 16d. came within the manor as a stray on 5 January last and remains in the keeping of Robert Buckland. [*Note:* dead]

That a sheep worth 20d. came within the manor as a stray on 5 January last and remains in the keeping of Henry Sealy. [*Note:* dead]

That a sheep worth 10d. came within the manor as a stray on 5 January last and remains in the keeping of Anthony Smith. [*Note:* dead]

That a sheep worth 8d. came within the manor as a stray on 2 February last and remains in the keeping of William Walter. [*Note:* dead]

That a brown-bay foal worth 6s. 8d. came within the manor as a stray at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle [30 November] last and remains in the lord's keeping. [*Margin:* over a year and a day]

Evidence for the Down lane

Richard Hughes of Charlton in the county of Wiltshire, husbandman of the age of 80 years or thereabouts, on his oath being sworn, deposes and says that, he being about 17 years of age, upon a hue and cry made after certain thieves that had stolen clothes from Sutton and [were] pursued to the Down lane, [the pursuers] were willed by one Robert Prout, an old man then dwelling in Charlton, that they should not set upon the thieves

until they were through the Down lane [and] over Lox brook for, said he, 'if we take them here in this lane then must we be driven to carry them back to Charlton, and when they are over the water they are then within the tithing of Hankerton'; whereupon they let them pass over the brook and then took the thieves and carried them to Hankerton, where they were received and punished; whereat this deponent was present, saw the forebearing, apprehending, and punishing of the thieves, and further says that one Thomas Hayward of Brinkworth, yet living, was also present at the doing hereof.

Presentments of the homage, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

That Anthony Hungerford, esquire (essoined), Thomas Estcourt, esquire (essoined), the heirs of Sir Robert Long, deceased, the heirs of Thomas Wye, esquire, deceased, John Stumpe, gentleman, Thomas Trumplin (essoined), Roger Martin (appeared by attorney), and Giles Roberts (essoined) are free tenants of this manor and owe suit of court.

That William Strange, Margery Matcham, Robert Allis, John Hughes, an elder John Palmer, John Smith, Henry Tuck, John Browning, Christopher Knight, Robert Glead, and William Walter each had their pigs unringed contrary to an order of the court. They have forfeited the penalty declared and provided for, 3s. 4d. each.

That James Weeks, with the lord's assent previously obtained, since the last court has exchanged with Robert Glead $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land lying in the West field, and for it has taken from Robert $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land lying in Grandon field in a close there newly inclosed by James.

That the Down lane is a queen's highway and part of this manor, as we have accepted as much by the evidence of Richard Hughes as by the boundaries of the manor which we have caused to be enrolled as follows and [which] remain of record in the queen's Exchequer.

A note of the bounds of Charlton: first to Wooborne and so north to Chersditch, from thence east to Pen hill and so to Charnam to the point of Adder slough and then west to Hart oak, from thence to the marsh to Can cross and so to the south side of Buntridge and so to the Gorsey heath, from thence to the point of Elizabeth Cannop's ground and so leaving Smith's hill into Grandon field and so by the bounds of Garsdon to the middle mill, from thence by the bounds of Milbourne to Chestell brook, from thence by the bounds to the north side of Whitchurch marsh, between the fields of Charlton and Milbourne to Huckwell, and so between the fields of Hankerton's new leazes on the bound east to William Brown's Five Acres, and from thence to Canter's piece and by the bounds to Dunhill hedge and by the bounds to Dun hill and so to Sandy hill, from thence to the bounds of Tenden [*margin*: note that the bounds of Tenden are on the farther side of (the) Down lane] and to Lox brook, and from thence to Wooborne.

Grants

John Woodshaw and Alice, now the wife of Richard Erle, [she] with

the assent of her husband and being examined alone by the steward in court, surrendered a messuage or tenement and 1 yardland called Cornwall's now in John's tenure, and all the estate which they have in the premises by reason of a copy dated 20 October 1538, that copy to be cancelled, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, John's best farm animal, which was answered for to the lord as shown afterwards. John took the premises, except, and reserved to the lord and his heirs, 6 acres of arable land lying in the fields. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his sons Thomas and Walter for a yearly rent of 14s. 6d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. John gives £6 13s. 4d. to the lord for an entry fine and for the heriot due on the surrender. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Thomas and Walter is respited.

Joan, now the wife of Thomas Arnold, clerk, with the assent of her husband, took 2 acres of arable land, 1½ acre of which lies in the Hay and ½ acre in the Middle field, which was once part of the customary tenement called Cornwall's in the tenure of John Woodshaw and surrendered by him and Alice Erle. The land is to be held for life successively by Joan and her sons John Cove and William Cove for a yearly rent of 8d. and for all the other [services formerly due]. Joan gives ... [MS. blank] to the lord for a fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of John and William is respited.

An elder John Allis surrendered a messuage or tenement now in his tenure and in which he lives, with all the [arable] lands, meadows, feedings, and pasture appurtenant to it, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, John's best farm animal, which was answered for to the lord as shown afterwards. John received those premises from the lord, except, and reserved to the lord and his heirs and assigns, 4 acres and 3 farndels of arable land lying in the fields, 2 acres of which lie in Den furlong in the Home field, 1½ acre lies in the Hay field above Rowmoor, 1 farndel [lies] in the same field near a close of Hugh Waters newly inclosed, and 1 acre lies in the Home field and was once part of John's short butts at Durnwell. The premises are to be held for life successively by John and his son Robert for a yearly rent of 4s. 9d., for all the other services due, and for heriot. The entry fine, and the heriot due by reason of the surrender, are remitted by the lord in consideration of the exceptions. John did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Robert is respited.

Justinian Smith surrendered 4 acres and 3 farndels of arable land lying in the fields which was once part of the customary tenement in the tenure of an elder John Allis, and all the estate which he and his sons Francis and Richard have in the land by virtue of a copy dated 9 March 1583, that copy to be cancelled, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Justinian took the 4 acres and 3 farndels *described as in the previous entry*. He also took 4 acres of arable land, which was once part of a customary tenement called Cornwall's in John Woodshaw's tenure and surrendered by that

John and Alice Erle at this court, 2 acres of which lies in Den furlong in the Home field near another 2 acres [part of the 4 acres and 3 fardels] there, 1 acre in Slat furlong in the West field, 3 fardels at Wallow hedge in that field, and 1 farndel in that field near the queen's highway which leads to Tetbury. The 8 acres and 3 fardels are to be held for life successively by Justinian, Francis, and Richard for a yearly rent of 2s. 4d. and for all the other services formerly due. Justinian gives 5s. to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Francis and Richard is respited.

Orders and penalties

That no tippler should receive William Sealy in his house at any time, on pain of the forfeiture of 10s. for each occasion.

That John Palmer, Thomas Hayward, John Foscott, and Hugh Cherrington should be overseers of the [high]ways and should tax each man of this manor for the repair of those [high]ways according to a statute, and they should survey defaults and present them at the next court.

That each man, for his part, should scour the ditch between William Head's house and the vicar's house before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of each offending to forfeit 10s.

That each man should ring his pigs, as soon as they are three months old, with a roll ring, on pain of the forfeiture of 4d. for each pig.

Action

The controversy between Richard Gleed, the complainant, and Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith, the defendant, concerning an exchange previously made, is committed to John Woodshaw and a younger John Palmer for Richard and to Justinian Smith and Robert Davies for Anthony. The two Johns, Justinian, and Robert shall determine that controversy before the next court, and then and there shall present [their verdict]. And he who shall not observe that end [to the dispute] shall forfeit 20s. to the lord. Recorded here with their [Richard's and Anthony's] assent. [*Margin:* pain with the assent of the parties]

Affeerors

John Woodshaw, William Head.

Total of the estreats of this court

£9 8s. 8d.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 21 September 1585

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett.

Essoins

Richard Davies, Robert Davies, John Stout are essoined on this day.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, Justinian Smith, James Weeks, John Foscott, an elder John Palmer, John Smith, Richard Glead, John Westfield, William Head, Thomas Allis, William Brunson, Thomas Hayward, Anthony Palmer, Robert Glead, John Woodshaw, a younger John Palmer, an elder John Davies, John Hayward, John Broad.

Court-silver

Robert Davies, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3d. to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Presentments of the jurors [for the queen]

That John Roberts made an affray on Robert Allis in a disturbance of the peace. Amerced, 6d.

That Robert Powell, William Grove, and John Waite are bakers of human bread, that William Walter and Walter Gitter are tipplers, and that they broke the assize of bread and of ale. Each baker amerced, 4d.; each tippler amerced, 2d.

Presentments of the bailiff (William Foscott)

That a white ewe worth 2s. 8d. came within the manor as a stray at the feast of St. Peter's Chains [1 August] last and remains in the keeping of Robert Buckland. [Note: dead]

That a white chilver sheep hog worth 16d. came [within the manor as a stray] at the feast of St. James the Apostle [25 July] last and remains in the keeping of Richard Winkworth. [Note: dead]

That a black mare worth 6s. 8d. came [within the manor as a stray] at the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle [24 August] last and remains in the lord's keeping.

That a bay horse worth 5s. came [within the manor as a stray] at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of St. John the Baptist [29 August] last and remains in the keeping of William Foscott.

Presentments of the homage, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

That Anthony Hungerford, esquire (amerced, 6d.), Thomas Estcourt, esquire (essoined), the heirs of Sir Robert Long, deceased (essoined), John Stumpe, gentleman (essoined), the heirs of Thomas Wye, esquire, deceased (essoined), Thomas Trumplin (essoined), Roger Martin (appeared by attorney), and Giles Roberts (appeared) are free tenants of this court, and he who was not present on this day for his free suit should be amerced.

That Giles Roberts does not allow a younger Hugh Waters and others, who were rightfully accustomed to cross his close at Hammon's mere, to have and occupy that way according to that right and custom, contrary to an order of this court appointed in the court held on 23 September 1584. He has forfeited the penalty declared and provided for, £5.

That Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith is resident within the manor and was not present on this day. Amerced, 4d.

That Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith encroached on the way at Long furlong, Shawford's hill, and Welye mere. Amerced, 12d., and he was

ordered to make amends before the next court, on pain to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, by some evidence which we now heard, there ought to be 4d. a year more paid out of William Brunsdon's [copy]hold than is [recorded] on the survey.

Orders and penalties

That every tenant of this manor shall immediately, on warning given by the bailiff, go to the common drift according to such warning and also shall, on the like warning, help to appraise such strays as shall then be taken, and so take them, according to the ancient custom, into their own keeping, on pain [of] everyone making default to lose 3s. 4d.

That no man should put or allow his sheep to go, and to feed, in the field called the stubble field before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of each offending to forfeit 20s.

The several penalties for the carrying of fire and for the breach of the fields, and the old penalty for the apportionment of beasts according to the number of acres, [all] appointed in the court held on 29 August 1583, are continued in their validity and effect.

A day was given until Christmas to the homage for making enquiry concerning a gate now in controversy between the lord and William Brunsdon. The homage, and each one of them, should go, according to a warning of Hugh Waters, the foreman, to survey the gate and return a verdict, on pain of each man making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That each man, for his part, should make and repair the mounds, hedges, and ditches around the Hay before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary the Virgin [2 February: Candlemas] next, on pain of each offending to forfeit 40s. And that, from that feast of Candlemas next, the Hay [should] be hained and kept for meadow ground to be mown, on pain [of] everyone that shall do the contrary to lose £5.

That John Wells and Giles Roberts, each for [his] part, should amend the common way at Hammon's mere so that it might be sufficient, on pain of each man [offending to forfeit] 20s.

That Giles Roberts should make his mounds between himself and Agnes Underhill, a widow, at Blind Lane before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, and so to observe [this order] from time to time, on pain to forfeit 3s. 4d. A similar pain [is appointed in respect of] Agnes for her mounds there.

That John Scriven should set up a stile in the processional way at the Down lane before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [25 March: Lady day] next, on pain to forfeit 2s. 6d.

Grants

Robert Drew *alias* Lews surrendered a tenement, with a garden and an orchard lying near it, now in his tenure, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Robert's son Humphrey Drew *alias* Lews took the premises. They are to be held for life successively by him, his sister Agnes, and his brother Robert for a yearly rent of 4d. and for all the other services due. Humphrey

gave £3 6s. 8d. to the lord for an entry fine, which was answered for to the lord. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The lord licensed him to let out the premises to his father for his father's life without forfeiture, the custom of the manor, or any order, to the contrary notwithstanding.

An elder John Allis surrendered a messuage or tenement now in his tenure and in which he lives, with all the [arable] lands, meadows, feedings, and pastures appurtenant to it, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, John's best possession, which the lord remitted as shown below. John received the premises, except, and reserved to the lord, his heirs, and his assigns, 1 acre of arable land lying in the Home field, viz. 1 ridge containing about ½ acre lying at Long furlong and a short butts containing about ½ acre lying at Plashott. The premises are to be held for life successively by him and his son Robert for a yearly rent of 4s. 9d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. The entry fine, and the heriot due by reason of the surrender, are remitted by the lord as much in consideration of the above exception as in consideration of the exception of 4 acres and 3 farndels of arable land formerly surrendered by John. John did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Robert is respited.

William Head took from the lord, by the hand of Geoffrey Pinnell, the under-steward, 1 acre of arable land lying in the Home field which was once part of a customary tenement in the tenure of an elder John Allis and surrendered by John on this day, of which 1 ridge containing about ½ acre lies at Long furlong and a short butts containing about ½ acre lies at Plashott; [he also took] 2 farndels of arable land lying in that field now in his own occupation which was once part of a customary tenement called Jeffrey's. The premises are to be held for life successively by William, his daughter Mary, and his brother Robert for a yearly rent of 6d. and for all the other services due. The lord remitted the fine in consideration of service previously done by William. William did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Mary and Robert is respited.

Pannage of pigs

4s. 2d.

Officers

William Walter, in place of Thomas Crabbe, was chosen as tithingman, Justinian Smith as rent collector.

Affeerors

Anthony Palmer, John Hayward.

Total of the estreats of this court

£9 3s. 9d.

Manor Court held there on 21 December 1585

The court of the manor of Sir Henry Knyvett.

Homage

Hugh Waters, Justinian Smith, Robert Davies, John Foscott, an elder John Palmer, John Smith, Richard Gleed, John Westfield, William Head, Thomas Allis, William Brunsdon, Thomas Hayward, Anthony Palmer, Robert Gleed, John Woodshaw, a younger John Palmer, John Hayward, John Broad, Robert Down *alias* Buckland.

Presentment of the homage, sworn and charged on the articles touching the court baron.

That Margery Duck, a widow, who held for her widowhood a messuage and 1 yardland called Boughton's, and a parcel of land called Hares, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox, Margery's best possession, seized and delivered to the lord's bailiff. The premises have been granted in reversion to Richard Davies in the way and form as appears afterwards.

Grants

Thomas Newman took from the lord, by the hand of Geoffrey Pinnell, the deputy of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the chief steward, a messuage or tenement called Jeffrey's lately in the tenure of Thomas Waters, deceased, a close called Home close containing about 6 acres lying near the messuage, a close newly inclosed in Grandon field containing about 33 acres and lying near Home close, and a close newly inclosed called Wood croft containing about 12 acres. The premises are to be held for life successively by Thomas, William the son of John York of Lydiard Millicent, and John the son of John Turk of Lydiard Millicent for a yearly rent of 18s. 5d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. Thomas gave £170 to the lord for an entry fine, which was answered for to the lord. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of William and the younger John Turk is respited.

Richard Davies surrendered a messuage and 1 yardland called Boughton's and a parcel of land called Hares, [all] lately in the tenure of Margery Duck, a widow, deceased, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because the lord remitted the heriot due for that surrender. Richard took from the lord anew, by the hand of Geoffrey Pinnell, the deputy of Griffin Curtis, esquire, the steward, a close called Moor close containing about 4 acres [and] lately in Margery's tenure and part of those premises, 77 acres of [arable] land, pasture, and meadow lying in the fields, also lately in Margery's tenure and part of those premises, 28 acres of which lies in the West field, 39 acres in the Home field, 7 acres in the Hay, 2 acres in the Down, and 1 acre in Grandon, various parcels of meadow called Lot mead lying in the fields, lately appurtenant to the premises and lately in Margery's tenure, all the other [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to the messuage and yardland called Boughton's and the parcel of land called Hares, and a seat (*sisabellam*) in Charlton church [also] appurtenant to those premises, except, and reserved to the lord, his heirs, and assigns, the messuage called Boughton's and the parcel of land called Hares lying near the lord's mansion house in Charlton. The premises, including the seat (*scabella*), are to be

held for life successively by Richard and his daughter Eleanor for a yearly rent of 13s. 11*d.*, for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. Richard gave 40 marks [*margin*: £26 13s. 4*d.*] to the lord for an entry fine, which is answered for to the lord. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant. The fealty of Eleanor is respited. The lord licensed Richard and Eleanor to make and put in place an undertenant or undertenants in the premises or any part of them as often as they please without forfeiture, the custom of the manor, or any order, to the contrary notwithstanding. Given by copy of court roll.

Exchange

On this day an exchange between the lord of the manor and Edward Strange is enrolled, viz. the lord delivered to Edward 1 acre of land lying in the Home field at Long furlong between the land of Richard Haskins and of Thomas Hayward on both sides and took for it from Edward a head acre lying in Grandon [and] abutting on the Heath. Note: a lease of this last recited acre is granted to Edward's son William and William's wife Agnes and daughter Anne; rent, 4s.

To be affeered

Nothing.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 29 March 1586

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Sir Henry Knyvett.

Essoins

Hugh Haskins, Henry Sealy, John Edmunds, Thomas Roberts, Thomas Broad, William Alexander.

Jurors for the queen and for the homage

Hugh Waters, Justinian Smith, James Weeks, an elder John Palmer, Robert Davies, Richard Davies, William Brunsdon, Anthony Palmer, Thomas Hayward, Robert Glead, a younger John Palmer, John Woodshaw.

Forage

Thomas Emmett of Cricklade came and stood by his corporal oath that a black mare worth 6s. 8*d.*, which came within the manor as a stray at the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle [24 August] last [and remained] in the lord's keeping, is his property; he pays forage, 4*d.*

Court-silver

William Walter, the tithingman, comes with his whole tithing and gives 9s. 3*d.* to the lord for court-silver on this day.

Presentment of the tithingman

That a grey foal worth 3s. 4*d.*, having come within the manor as a stray on 28 January last, remains in the keeping of Richard the son of Anthony Palmer.

Actions

John Davies complains against Agnes Underhill, a widow, in a plea of debt on demand for 13s. 4d., for that his wife, without his consent, did deliver to Agnes the lower part of a petticoat to that value. Agnes says that it was mortgaged to her for 5s. 4d., the which [sum] she paid to Richard Davies for a load of wood for John. It is adjudged that Agnes shall pay 5s. more to John on St. James's day [25 July] next and keep the petticoat. Or let [a writ] *levari* be made.

John Everard complains against Richard Allis in a plea of debt on demand for 14s. for 17½ pounds of wool of that value which John sold to Richard. Richard acknowledged the debt, and it was adjudged by the court that he should pay it to John at the feast of the Birth (*natalis*) of St. John the Baptist [29 August] next; in default [a writ] *levari* was granted.

An elder Hugh Waters complains against Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith in a plea of debt on demand for 20s. Anthony acknowledged the debt. A day was given until the feast of the Invention of the Cross [3 May] next for the payment of it; or [a writ] *levari*.

The matter pending between Richard Glead and Anthony Woodward will be brought to an end through arbiters before the feast of Holy Trinity next, which end will be presented to be enrolled at the next court, on pain to forfeit 20s.; and the party not observing that end shall forfeit 20s. to the lord. Recorded here with the assent of all the parties.

Affirmation

The jurors [for the queen] come in full and declare and present on their oath all the things presented above by the officer to be true.

Other presentment of the jurors [for the queen]

That Anthony the son of John Smith assaulted Maurice ... [*MS. blank*], a servant of John Wells. Amerced, 6d.

Presentments of the homage, on the articles of the court baron.

That Anthony Hungerford, esquire (essoined), Thomas Estcourt, esquire (essoined), the heirs of Sir Robert Long, deceased (amerced, 3d.), John Stumpe, gentleman (essoined), the heirs of Thomas Wye, esquire, deceased (essoined), Thomas Trumplin (appeared), Roger Martin ([appeared] by attorney), and Giles Roberts (appeared) are free suitors of the court, and they who were absent are amerced.

That John Scriven has not set up a stile in the processional way at the Down, [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty declared and provided for, 2s. 6d.

That there is a necessary way across a close of Giles Roberts from Hammon's mere as far as Perry hays, which Giles has denied. Amerced, 6d., and he was ordered henceforth from time to time to allow those who rightfully have a way there to have and occupy it quietly, on pain to forfeit £5.

That John Allis, who held by copy various lands and tenements, has died since the last court; heriot, a malt quern worth 5s., John's best possession, seized for the lord's use. John's relict Margaret Allis, a widow,

should hold all the premises [of which John died seised] for her widowhood. She claims them, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant while she lived alone and chaste. With the lord's assent previously obtained Margaret let out to her son Richard a messuage called Hobbs with a close lying near it, 2 acres in the Hay, 1 acre in the Home field, and 2 acres in the West field, parts of the premises to which she was admitted, for her life for a yearly rent of 6s. 8d.

That the gate, [concerning] which at the last court [a day] was given to the homage for enquiring between the lord and William Brunsdon, is appurtenant to the tenement now in William's tenure.

That Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith (2s.) had six unringed pigs, Thomas Allis (4d.) one, a younger John Scriven (4d.) one, and James Weeks (8d.) two, contrary to an order of the court. They have forfeited 4d. for each pig.

That Anthony Woodward *alias* Smith has ploughed over the queen's highway at Shawford's. Amerced, 3d., and he was ordered to do so no more, on pain of the forfeiture of 20s.

Orders and penalties

That each man, for his part, should repair and amend his mounds, hedges, and ditches all the way round the Home field before Low Sunday next, and so to preserve them from time to time, on pain of each offending to forfeit 20s.

That everyone having undertenants shall be bound to save the parish harmless from them or else shall put them away out of this parish, and that none from henceforth [should] receive any undertenant unless he has found the parish a sufficient discharge to save them harmless, on pain [for] doing the contrary to lose 40s.

That each man should pay for each acre in the Hay and the Home field ¼d. for the destruction of moles, and he should pay half of it 14 days before the feast of the Invention of the Cross [3 May] next and the other half at that feast, on pain to forfeit 3s. 4d.; and that Robert Davies and Richard Gleed were appointed collectors of the payments.

That every man shall amend his mounds about the fallow field by Low Sunday next, then the same field to be hained until Holy Rood day [14 September] next, then to allow 4 acres for every beast that shall be kept there and for every sheep 1 acre, that none shall take in any 'havyers', sheep, or beasts, of any[one] dwelling forth of [i.e. away from] this town, and that John Simons, Richard Palmer, John Woodshaw, and William Brunsdon are appointed overseers hereof.

That none shall mow any grass in the Hay after St. Bartholomew's day [24 August] next, on pain to lose for so doing 3s. 4d.

Lastly, we agree that John Simons shall have 1d. an acre to keep the Hay and the mounds therof. [*Margin*: last order]

Licence

The lord licensed Richard Davies, one of the customary tenants of this manor, to take and carry away all such offal wood as shall be left at

the making or amending of the mounds, hedges, or fences of any [of] his [?Richard's] customary lands, and the same [wood] to burn, spend, or bestow elsewhere at his pleasure from time to time during Richard's life without forfeiture, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

Affeerors

Thomas Hayward, Richard Davies.

Total of the estreats

21s. 5d.

Manor Court held there on 26 July 1586

The court of the manor of Sir Henry Knyvett.

Homage

An elder John Palmer, Robert Davies, Richard Davies, James Weeks, John Smith, William Brunsdon, Richard Gleed, Thomas Hayward, Robert Gleed, a younger John Palmer.

Grants

Richard the son of Anthony Palmer surrendered a tenement newly built by him, a close lying near it containing about 3 farndels newly inclosed in Grandon field near a close of Agnes Underhill, a widow, and so much of 1 farndel of land lying opposite a stone in that field as lies on the north side of the queen's highway there, [all] now in his tenure, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. John Taylor *alias* Crabbe took the tenement and the close lying near it, to be held for life successively by him, his daughter Elizabeth, and Richard the son of his brother Thomas Taylor *alias* Crabbe for a yearly rent of 12d. and for all the other services formerly due. John gave 40s. to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

The same Richard Palmer again took the part of the farndel of land lying on the north side of the queen's highway at the stone, to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and Arthur for a yearly rent of 6d. and for all the other services formerly due. Richard gave nothing to the lord for an entry fine because the lord freely remitted [it] in consideration of the surrender. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

88/2/23

[*The court records in WSA 88/2/23 are fair copies. A draft of the record of the following court exists in WSA 88/2/24; for 88/2/24, below, pp. 339-409. There is no significant difference between this fair copy and the draft.*]

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 14 April 1625

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Thomas, Viscount Andover, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Scales, John Allis, Robert Lea, William Lea, Richard Lea, William Alexander, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, Simon Painter, William Harris, Richard Smith, Anthony Stokes, William Palmer.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, Robert Gleed, Robert Smith, Henry Hole, James Tuck, Robert Allis, Anthony Woodward, Aldham Taylor, Richard Witt, William Alexander, John Brown, John Gale, Thomas Gingell, Henry Colborne, Henry Hayward, John Woodward, John Allis.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Agnes Mopson, a widow, a customary tenant, who held for her life lands within the manor for a yearly rent, has died since the last court; heriot, £4. According to the custom of the manor the lord is to enter on and to hold the fallow and the Stone mead.

That William Lawrence, who held by copy a cottage with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. William's wife Margaret should hold the premises for her widowhood. Mary [*rectius* Margaret] claims to hold the cottage and other premises for her widowhood, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That a sheep worth 3s. 4d. came within the manor as a stray, was proclaimed according to a statute, and remains in the keeping of John Woodward; 20d., half the 3s. 4d., fell due to the lord.

That a black bullock worth 12s. came within the manor as a stray on 20 October last and remains in the keeping of Henry Colborne; 6s., half the 12s., is due to the lord.

That a black yearling foal worth 6s. 8d. came within the manor as a stray on 12 January last and remains in the keeping of Thomas Newman; 3s. 4d., half the 6s. 8d., is due to the lord.

That Nicholas Waters kept his mare in the wheat field contrary to an order of the court made previously. He has forfeited the penalty contained in that order, 10s.

That the mansion house and other buildings of Elizabeth Cherrington, a widow, are in decay for lack of repair. Amerced, 3s. 4d.; and it was ordered that she should repair them before the next court, on pain of £5.

That the mansion house and other buildings of Richard Hodges are extremely ruinous and in decay for lack of repair. Amerced, 5s.; and it was ordered that he should repair them before the next court, on pain of 40s.

That John Waters encroached on the lord's land within the manor and built a wall there. Amerced, 5s.; and it was ordered that he should remove the encroachment and the wall before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 40s.

That Richard Hodges is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Chambers [*rectius* Chamberlain] is a common miller and likewise behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and likewise behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

That the same George is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Woodward is a common baker and behaved badly [in the exercise of his mystery]. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Cherrington is a common baker and likewise behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

Oath of allegiance

Henry Webb and William Webb are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Orders made at this court

That every man having ploughs shall bring their oxen and horses yoked and harnessed in the fields, and so drive them forth again, every day from plough [after ploughing] during this sowing time, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 10*s*.

That no man in the harvest time shall let loose their horses, or tie them, to bait in the meads in the Middle field, nor suffer their plough cattle coming for hay or corn to bait there, on pain of every man making default to forfeit for every such default 5*s*.

We do continue the old orders for the making of the mounds about the whole fields.

Officers

John Gale and John Sealy are chosen [as] markers of the cattle for this year; Edward Ponting and Robert Allis are chosen to be overseers of the fields for this year and are to be sworn at the next court, and then to deliver in a true presentment of what pertains to their office to present. Tithingman, John Head; bailiff, John Woodward.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Robert Glead, Robert Smith.

Fines, issues, and ameracements of this court, according to an estreat made and delivered to the bailiff

£5 16*s*. 1*d*.

88/2/24

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 14 April 1625

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Thomas, Viscount Andover, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

[For the record of the court, see immediately above]

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 23 September 1625

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Thomas, Viscount Andover, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Palmer, Richard Hughes, and Edmund Simons are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, Simon Painter, William Harris, Richard Smith, Anthony Stokes.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, Henry Hole, Robert Allis, Anthony Woodward, Aldham Taylor, Richard Witt, William Alexander, Thomas Gingell, Thomas Hayward, John Allis, John Brown, John Gale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Smith, and Anthony Stokes are free tenants, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 4*d*.

That a younger John Sealy, William Cambridge, William Cove, John Ring, a younger John Brown, Christopher Parsons, Hugh Roberts, George Sutton, John Emylin, Aldham Witt, and a younger Thomas Simons are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 2*d*.

That Alice Walter is a common tippler and behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George ... is a common tippler and broke Amerced, 3*d*.
[MS. holed]

That Anthony Woodward is a common baker and broke the assize. Amerced, [MS. holed]

That Richard Cherrington is a common baker and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Hodges is a common miller and behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Chamberlain is a common miller and behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Cherrington has not appeared at this court baron for giving in sworn evidence touching the death of his mother. Amerced, 6*d*.

That a sheep worth 3*s*. 4*d*. came within the manor as a stray and has remained in the keeping of John Woodward for a year; 20*d*. fell due to

the lord. [*Margin*: not to be estreated]

That two ewes with two lambs [all] worth 10s. came within the manor as strays on 1 July last and remain in the keeping of Richard Woodward. [*Margin*: not to be estreated]

That Christopher Parsons received Michael Bright with his family into his house to live as inmates. It was ordered that he should move them before St. Andrew's day [30 November] next, on pain of 40s.

That Richard Smith received George Weeks, with his wife, as an undertenant. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

That a barn of Catherine Down, a widow, is in decay and wants timber for repairing it.

That Francis Waters wants ... [*MS. blank*] for repairing his house.

That Elizabeth Cherrington has not repaired her mansion house [as she should have] according to an order of the court made previously. She has forfeited the penalty contained in the order, £5.

Orders made at this court

That Richard Smith shall give security to discharge the parish of any burden that may fall hereon by reason of his retaining George Weeks and his wife in his house, before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain to forfeit 40s.

That John Brown, tenant to Richard Talboys, gentleman, shall give security to the parish of Charlton for discharging the parish from any burden that may fall hereon by him or his family, before Michaelmas [29 September] next, on pain to forfeit 40s.

That Samson Broad shall make his mounds between the grounds which he rents of John Everard and [of] Thomas Allis, before St. Thomas's day [21 December] next, on pain of 20s.

That every man shall ... through their own mounds forth of the ... field into the West field and not to p... other men's bounds, on pain to forfeit for every ... offending, 12d. [*MS. holed*]

That all who have arable [land] and meadow in the Middle field shall [meet] together on Monday next before St. Luke's [day] [18 October] by eight o'clock in the morning to set up merestones and fieldmarks between each man's lands, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 10s. [*MS. holed*]

Officers

A younger John Taylor was chosen as tithingman for the following year, Robert Smith as bailiff.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Robert Smith, Henry Hole.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 21 April 1626

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Hughes, Thomas Palmer, Thomas Tomes, John To..., . . . Palmer, George Webb, and others are essoined of common [suit]. [*MS. holed*]

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, Simon Painter, William Harris, Richard Smith, Anthony Stokes.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, Henry Hole, Robert Allis, Aldham Taylor, Richard Witt, William Alexander, John Allis, John Brown, John Gale, Thomas Allis, John Head, Robert Gleed, John Woodward, Anthony Woodward.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Giles Stockwell, John Sealy, Richard Motley, Henry Long, William Webb, Richard Wain, William Freame, William Walter, Francis Newman, Hugh Newman, Richard Smith, William Parsons, Robert Freame, Henry Sealy, Richard Canter, Robert Walter, and William Witt are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Woodward is a common baker and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Cherrington is a common baker and behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Hodges is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Chamberlain is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Christopher Parsons has not removed Michael Bright, his inmate, [as he should have] according to a previous order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty appointed, 40*s*.

That Richard Smith has not given security to save the parish harmless from the burden of George Weeks [as he should have] according to a previous order of the court made on that subject. He has forfeited the penalty appointed, 40*s*.

That a foal has remained in the keeping of Hugh Newman more than a year and a day; it came within the manor as a stray and was valued at 6*s*. 8*d*., of which half, 3*s*. 4*d*., [is] due to the lord.

That a bullock has remained in the keeping of Henry Colborne more than a year and a day; it came within the manor as a stray and was valued at 12*s*., of which 6*s*. [is] due to the lord.

That the pound is in decay for lack of repair. It should be repaired at the expense of the lord of the manor.

That Thomas Edwards received George Weeks as an inmate in his house. It was ordered that he should remove him before the feast of St. Mark [25 April] next, on pain of 40s.

That James Tuck, who held by copy a message or tenement, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth 53s. 4d. Richard Tuck is the next tenant in reversion. He asks to be admitted, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That Thomas Newman, who held by copy a message or tenement with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth £4. Thomas's wife Mary should hold the premises. She claims to hold them, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That John Scriven, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, ... valued at £3. John's wife Alice should hold ... of which he died seised. She asks to be admitted, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant. [MS. holed]

Orders made at this court

That every man shall make his part of the bounds [or mounds], as is agreed on to be made by them, between the hitching field and the other part of the field by 13 April next, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 10s.

That every man who ought to contribute to the making of the gates of the Hay lanes shall join together and have them made and sufficiently hung up, and the bounds likewise made by them, by the last day of April next, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That all the tenants and inhabitants, or some on their behalf, who have land and tillage in the Middle field shall meet together and view the field and set merestones and landmarks where need is, before 25 May next, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

Officers

Ambrose Webb and John Brown were chosen as sealers (*consignatores*) for the following year.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, Henry Hole.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 28 September 1626

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Giles Stockwell, Richard Hughes, Isaac Walter, Robert Knight, Robert Taylor, John Palmer, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry,

gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Richard Smith, Anthony Stokes.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Glead, Aldham Taylor, Robert Smith, John Allis, Richard Witt, John Gale, Henry Hole, Henry Hayward, John Brown, Anthony Woodward, Thomas Allis, Robert Allis, Edmund Knight, Thomas Hayward.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Richard Smith, and Anthony Stokes are free suitors of the manor, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Motley, Christopher Parsons, William Parsons, Richard Canter, Henry Rich, and Leonard Carter are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of the mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Chamberlain is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, [*MS. holed*]

That Alice Walter is a common tippler, [sold] ale through . . . measures, and broke the assize. Amerced, [*MS. holed*]

That Isaac Walter assaulted, and shed the blood of, Philip Player on a day in the feast of Pentecost last. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That the common pound is in decay and should be amended at the expense of the lord of the manor.

That Thomas Gingell, William Alexander, Eleanor Guy, Richard Tuck, Susan Waters, a widow, and John Woodward broke an order made at the last court for making the gates and boundaries at the Hay lanes. Each of them has forfeited the penalty appointed, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That a brown-bay mare valued at £2 13*s*. 4*d*. was taken within the manor as a stray on 2 July last and remains in the keeping of Christopher Tuck.

That two heifers, aged a year or thereabouts and valued at £1 13*s*. 4*d*., came within the manor as strays on 2 July last and have remained in the lord's keeping.

That Elizabeth Glead received in her house William Colls with his wife and family to live as undertenants or inmates. It was ordered that she should remove them before the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next or give security to save the parish harmless, on pain to forfeit £5.

That Richard Smith received Henry Roffe, with his family, to live in his house called Down House as undertenants or inmates. It was ordered that he should remove them before 6 October next or give security to save the parish harmless, on pain of 40*s*.

That a bridge lying between William Strange's land and the land of . . . [*MS. blank*] Newman, a widow, is seriously in decay. It was ordered that

it should be amended by them before the feast of St. Andrew [30 November] next, on pain of 40s. for each one making default.

That a messuage and other tenements of Anthony Woodward are in decay, and that he asks for timber for repairing them to be assigned to him.

That Richard Hodges, who by copy held a messuage and a water mill with the appurtenances, and a close of pasture and 14 acres of [arable] land, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth £3 10s. Richard's relict Alice Hodges should hold the premises for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted as tenant for her widowhood, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Grant

Richard Smith, a customary tenant, surrendered 4 acres of arable land lying in the Home field with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the land to John Hall and his son Bartholomew. It is to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 18*d.* and for all the other services formerly due. John did fealty and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of Bartholomew is respited.

Oath of allegiance

Anthony Woodward, Hugh Waters, Thomas Alexander, Richard Lea, and Edmund Scriven are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Orders made at this court

That it be proved at the next court ... a bullock, taken as a stray within the manor ... day of December last, priced at 13*s.* 4*d.*, and committed [to the] custody of Henry Hole, and a cow, taken as a [stray] on the 12th day of December, priced at 20*s.*, and committed to the custody of William Hellier, were the cattle of the ... to whom they were delivered, on pain for Henry Hole and William Hellier, and either of them, to forfeit 10*s.* [*MS. holed*] [*Margin: proved*]

That, [of] all those who have grounds called the Hay grounds, those that dwell beyond Broadwater [are] to make the Moor gate for the Hay lanes, and they that dwell on the other side of the water [are] to make the other gate for the Hay lanes, by the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next, and so to keep them in good repair, on pain of everyone who refuses to contribute towards the same to forfeit 5*s.*

Officers

Richard Tuck was chosen as tithingman, John Allis as bailiff.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Glead, Aldham Taylor.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 6 April 1627

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Giles Stockwell, Richard Hughes, Thomas Tomes, Edmund Simons,

John Palmer, Robert Gale, William Walter, John Smith, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Richard Smith, Thomas Woodborough.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Glead, Robert Smith, John Allis, John Brown, John Woodward, Thomas Allis, Henry Hole, Robert Allis, Edmund Knight, Thomas Hayward, John Head, Henry Hayward, William Alexander, John Gale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, Henry Parry, gentleman, William Harris, Richard Smith, and Thomas Woodborough are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Sealy, William Colls, Thomas Palmer, Henry Long, John Webb, George Hughes, Richard Wain, John Ring, John Head, a younger John Taylor, a younger John Brown, Christopher Parsons, William Parsons, Robert Freame, William Pannett, Richard Canter, Christopher Tuck, William Elliotts, and Richard Smith are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 2*d*.

That Alice Walter is a common tippler and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the use of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and behaved badly in exercising their mystery. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Susan Waters, a widow, Eleanor Guy, Thomas Gingell, John Woodward, Richard Witt, Aldham Taylor, and William Alexander broke an order made at the last court for making and repairing the Hay lane gate and the boundaries beside it. Each of them has forfeited the penalty contained in the order, 5*s*.

That John Young made an affray on Richard T... . Amerced,
[*MS. holed*]

That Anthony Woodward, who held by copy a messuage called Selwyn's with its appurtenances and other [premises], has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth £4 10*s*. Anthony's relict Alice should hold the premises for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That Joan Cannop, a widow, who held two messuages or tenements with the appurtenances for her widowhood, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow worth £4. That Henry Slifield, gentleman, should hold the premises for life by virtue of a copy previously made to him of the reversion. Henry shows the copy. He asks to be admitted as tenant for life, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Orders made at this court

That Richard Talboys, gentleman, shall scour and cleanse his ditch from the place where the water breaks forth into Pink Lane downward so far as need requires, before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain to forfeit 10s.

That the widow Foscott, that is tenant to the ground called Buntridge, shall scour her ditch in Pink Lane [so] that the water may not run forth into the highway, before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain to forfeit 10s.

That none shall feed, bait, tie, or logger their cattle, as [?likewise] beasts, horses, and sheep, in the Grandon field or any other place at any time in the summer until the corn be carried and the field rid, on pain [of] everyone breaking this order [to forfeit] 3s. 4d.

That Alice Walter, widow, shall make her walls in both her grounds in Grandon higher, where need is, very sufficiently, before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] next, on pain of 5s.

That Elizabeth Glead, widow, shall make and set a stile and bridge between her ground called the Dunhill leaze and Henry Hayward's ground in the Hay, before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] next, on pain of 10s.

That William Lawrence shall make all his bounds and hedges sufficiently, and so keep them from time to time, before St. George's day [23 April] next, on pain to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, at the request of the homage to have a view of the waste at this court informed to be committed on the copyhold land of the widow Foscott, the whole homage shall meet together on Saturday next and take the view of it, and [the homage] shall make a full and perfect presentment at the next court [of] what they shall find; and this under the pain of 20s. for everyone making default.

That Thomas Tomes and Nicholas Waters shall execute the office of overseers of the fields for this next year, on pain of 20s.

Officers

Tithingman, Richard Tuck; bailiff, John Allis.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Glead, John Woodward.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 12 September 1627

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Hodges, Giles Stockwell, Thomas Allis, Richard Collis, Robert Panter, John Merrell, George Webb, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Richard Smith, Thomas Woodborough.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Gleed, Robert Smith, John Allis, John Brown, John Woodward, Thomas Allis, Henry Hole, Robert Allis, Edmund Knight, Thomas Hayward, John Head, Henry Hayward, William Alexander, John Gale, Aldham Taylor, Francis Newman.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and behaved badly in the exercise of their mystery. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter and George Hughes sold ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That John Merrell is a common baker and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Richard Smith, and Thomas Woodborough are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Sealy, William Colls, Richard Motley, John Webb, Richard Wain, Christopher Scriven, John Allis, Thomas Everard, Richard South, John Ring, William Strange, Christopher Parsons, William Parsons, Robert Freame, William Pannett, John Willis, Simon Painter, John Palmer, and an elder John Taylor are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That a black colt valued at 16*s*. came within the manor as a stray on 21 June last and remains in the keeping of Henry Long.

That Richard Talboys, gentleman, has not scoured his ditch in Pink Lane [as he should have] according to an order of the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

That Jane Foscott, a widow, has not scoured her ditch in Pink Lane [as she should have] according to an order of the last court. She has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

That Margaret Lawrence, a widow, who held by copy for her widowhood a cottage, a garden, and a fardel of [arable] land or pasture, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Margaret's son William Lawrence is the next taker and should hold the premises for life. He asks to be admitted, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That Jane Foscott, a widow, who holds for her widowhood a close called Buntrige, being a row lease [i.e. a roofless holding] within the

manor, has allowed a house or tenement to be built on it without the lord's licence.

Fealty

William Strange, who was previously admitted as tenant to a tenement within the manor, did fealty at this court.

Grant

Hugh Waters, gentleman, surrendered the reversion of a messuage or tenement called the Lype, with all the land appurtenant to it, and of a close of pasture in which the messuage stands, a close of pasture called Madley's lying near it, ½ yardland, 9 acres of arable land of the demesne land called Fortlands, 1 acre lying in the Hay lately had in exchange for another acre of Fortlands, and a close called Claybreach in Kingershay, [all] now in the occupation of his mother Susan Waters, a widow, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord re-granted the reversion to Hugh and his son John. The premises are to be held, when the reversion fell due, for life successively by Hugh and John for a yearly rent of 17s. 9d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. The lord licensed them to make and put in place an undertenant or undertenants and to let out all the premises or any part of them, when they were admitted as tenants, without forfeiture. Hugh gives £70 to the lord as a fine for having that estate and for the licence. Fealty and admittance are respited until the reversion falls due. Each year Hugh and John will carry a [wagon-load] of fuel from Braydon as far as the lord's mansion house (*hospitium manconale*) at Charlton. [*MS. holed*]

Orders made at this court

That William Munden shall take his oath to execute the office of reeve of this manor for this year next to come at the next court here to be held, and shall faithfully execute the office from this day until he be so sworn, on pain of 40s.

That no man shall drive his horses or oxen with their cart or wain in any place along or overthwart the causeway from the old park gate to Richard Tuck's gate, on pain of every man breaking this order to forfeit for every time he or they shall do so 3s. 4d.

That every man who has taken in any inmates shall remove them before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next or else procure sufficient pledges for the discharge of the parish, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit 40s.

That whosoever shall take, or intend to take, in any inmate before the next court, he and they shall first bring and give sufficient pledges for the discharge of the parish, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 40s.

Officers

Aldham Taylor was chosen as tithingman, William Munden as bailiff (not sworn).

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Gleed, Robert Smith.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 24 April 1628

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Davies, Thomas Allis, Richard Collis, John Palmer, Edward Ponting, Samuel Saunders, Hugh Smith, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Thomas Woodborough, John Merrell.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Glead, Robert Smith, John Allis, John Brown, John Woodward, Henry Hole, Robert Allis, Edmund Knight, Henry Hayward, Richard Witt, William Alexander, John Gale, Francis Newman, Richard Tuck.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, Thomas Woodborough, and John Merrell are free suitors, owe suit of court, were not present on this day, and did not appear. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Giles Stockwell, John Palmer, Robert Savery, Richard Browning, Richard Lea, Richard Smith, John Smith, Richard Wastfield, William Pannett, Richard Canter, and George Wallis are resident within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That James Powlton is a common baker and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common tippler and seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller, behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery, and took toll excessively. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Anthony Chamberlain is a common miller, behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery, and took toll excessively. Amerced, 3*d*.

That a pig valued at 4*s*. came within the manor as a stray on 3 January last and remains in the keeping of John Woodward.

That William Lawrence has not removed his undertenant or inmate [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited 40*s*. [*Note*: poor]

That the customary messuage lately John Wastfield's is much in decay through lack of repair.

That Elizabeth Knight, a widow, who held for her widowhood a messuage and a garden with a curtilage, and a close of pasture and 6 acres of arable land in the common fields of Charlton, has died since the last

court; heriot, a cow worth £3 paid to the lord's use at this very time. Edmund Knight is the next taker of the premises and should be admitted. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That John Sealy, who by copy held a cottage called Bailey's Breach with a curtilage lying near it containing about 6 acres, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. John's relict Alice Sealy should hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Richard Smith, gentleman, a free tenant, alienated a tenement and two closes of pasture, called Hicks hays and Mare hays, now in the occupation of an elder John Taylor, to John Thorner, gentleman, and his heirs, rendering 6*d.* a year to the lord in rent and suit of court. John Thorner did fealty.

Oath of allegiance

Edward Alexander is sworn to the king for his allegiance.

Orders made at this court

That William Motley shall make his wall sufficient in and about his ground called Highway's by the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] next, on pain to forfeit 10*s.*

That Richard Smith shall make his mounds sufficient between his ground and Richard Witt's ground in the Down by 1 May next, on pain to forfeit 20*s.*

That William Motley and Giles Stockwell shall not bait their horses at any time in any of the corn fields, on pain to forfeit for every time that they shall offend in so doing 3*s.* 4*d.*

That every man shall make his mounds sufficient from Canter's piece, along round by Hankerton's field, and so about the Home field by 3 May next, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 3*s.* 4*d.*

Officers

William Alexander and John Allis were chosen as overseers of the fields.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Gleed, Robert Smith.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 26 September 1628

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Hodges, Giles Stockwell, a younger Henry Long, William Davies, William Walter, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry,

gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Thomas Woodborough, John Merrell.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Aldham Taylor, Robert Smith, Henry Sliffield, gentleman, Henry Hole, John Gale, John Woodward, Robert Glead, Edmund Knight, Richard Tuck, Henry Colborne, John Brown, Henry Hayward, Robert Allis, Richard Witt.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Thomas Woodborough, and John Merrell are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Henry Webb, John Webb, Richard Smith, John Ring, William Parsons, Richard Canter, Robert Freame, William Pannett, Richard Woodward, Richard Brown, Walter Foscott, and Henry Pritchett are resident within the manor, should appear at this court, and were absent. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That James Powlton is a common baker of human bread and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, George Hughes, and John Ring are common sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That a lamb valued at 3*s*. came within the manor as a stray on 26 July last and remains in the keeping of Aldham Taylor.

That a male bullock valued at 20*s*. came within the manor as a stray on 25 June last and remains in the lord's keeping.

That William Motley has not made his wall around his lands called Highway's [as he should have] according to an order of the court made in that matter at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

That John Brown, who held by copy a cottage, 1 acre of [arable] land lying near it, and a small piece of land for a garden near the river, [all] lying in the Hay field and the Moor, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. John's relict Joan Brown should hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Grants

The lord granted a licence to Thomas Howell, a customary tenant, to let out all his customary lands and tenements to any suitable tenant or tenants for seven years, if Thomas should live so long, without challenge or forfeiture, the custom of the manor notwithstanding. Thomas gives nothing to the lord as a fine for having that licence because the lord, by his special grace, at Thomas's request, granted the licence freely.

Alice Sealy, a widow, the relict of John Sealy, a customary tenant of the manor while he lived, who holds for her widowhood a cottage called Bailey's Breach with a curtilage lying near it containing 6 acres, surrendered the premises with the intention that the lord might do as he

wished; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. The lord granted the premises to Alice, to be held for life by her for a yearly rent of 16s. and for all the [other] services formerly due. She gives £8 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

Robert Smith, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage and 1 yardland now in his tenure, viz. a close of pasture containing about 4 acres, a close of pasture containing about 1 acre, 24 acres of arable land in the East field, 20 acres of arable land in the West field and in Grandon, and that part of Blind Lane which is next to the messuage [and] as it is now inclosed. He surrenders his own estate in the premises, that of his sons John and Thomas, and the copy previously made to them, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, his best farm animal, for which a composition was made with the lord. The lord granted to John, Robert, and Thomas various parts of the messuage and of the other premises surrendered, viz. the hall and the bed-chamber above it, two rooms on the west side of the hall, the old barn, the oxhouse, all the arable lands in the Home field otherwise called the East field (except, and reserved [to the lord], 4 acres, of which 2 lie in Long furlong and are known by the name of Long furlong piece, and 2 lie near it and are known by the name of the Seven Butts), all the arable lands in the West field and Grandon field, and a small close of meadow or pasture called Burge close. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 9s. 10d. and for all the other services formerly due. They give 40s. to the lord for a fine, each of them *pro rata*. John was admitted as tenant and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Robert and Thomas is respited.

The lord granted to Robert Smith all the premises surrendered by him and not granted to John Smith, viz. the rest of the messuage and other buildings, the 2 acres of land called Long furlong piece, the 2 acres of land called the Seven Butts, the meadow lying in the field called the Home field otherwise the East field and in the West field and Grandon field, a small close of pasture containing about ½ acre lying at the west end of Long furlong piece, a close of pasture containing about 6 acres in Hay field, a close of pasture called Braydon leaze containing about 8 acres, the part of Blind Lane, and a close of pasture called the Home close with a messuage and a barn newly built on it and with the yard and orchard. The premises are to be held for life successively by Robert and his sons John and Thomas for a yearly rent of 9s. 10d., for £5 for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Robert gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty. The fealty and admittance of John and Thomas is respited. The lord licensed Robert to let out the premises during Robert's life without challenge or forfeiture, the custom of the manor notwithstanding.

Orders made at this court

That every man within the manor respectively shall ring his pig before 2 October next, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 5s.

That the pig shall be kept so ringed from time to time, on pain to

every man who suffers his pig to go unringed for three days to forfeit 12*d.* for every time.

That, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, Nicholas Waters shall remove the wall that annoys the passage of the water, and scour the ditch lying by his house in Perry green, which does much trespass Mr. Long there, on pain of 40*s.*

Officers

David Neale was chosen as bailiff, to be sworn at the next court; Francis Waters, gentleman, was chosen as tithingman for the coming year.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Aldham Taylor, Robert Smith.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 17 April 1629

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

William Davies, a younger Thomas Allis, Richard Collis, Henry Long, John Palmer, Robert Glead, Edward Ponting, Samuel Saunders, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Thomas Woodborough, John Merrell.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, John Woodward, John Allis, Aldham Taylor, William Alexander, John Brown, Richard Witt, John Gale, Richard Tuck, Robert Smith, Henry Hayward, Robert Allis, William Munden, Thomas Hayward, David Neale.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Henry Webb, John Webb, William Walter, Richard Smith, an elder John Taylor, Christopher Parsons, William Parsons, William Harris, Richard Canter, Christopher Tuck *alias* Peddington, William Elliotts, Philip Saunders, Richard Woodward, John Freame, and John Brown are residents, live within the precincts of this view of frankpledge, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That James Powlton is a common baker and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d.*

That George Hughes and Alice Walter, a widow, are common victuallers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That a nag valued at 50*s.* came within the manor as a stray on 16 April last and is in the keeping of Thomas Tomes.

That a younger Henry Hole received a woman in his house, she being a stranger and great with child; and that in that house she bore a son, which Henry still keeps, but he has allowed the woman to go away. Henry is amerced, 10s.

That William Lawrence, who held for life a cottage, a garden, and 1 farndel of [arable] land or pasture lying in the Breach, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. William's relict Grace Lawrence should hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Susan Waters, a widow, who held for her widowhood a messuage or tenement called the Lype, with all the land appurtenant to it, a close of pasture in which the messuage stands, a close of pasture called Madley's lying near it, ½ yardland, 9 acres of arable land of the demesne land called Fortlands, 1 acre lying in the Hay lately received in exchange for another acre of Fortlands, and a close called Claybreach in Kingershay, has died since the last court; heriot, Susan's best farm animal, which is valued at £4, paid to the lord's bailiff. Hugh Waters, gentleman, is the next taker by virtue of a copy formerly made to him of the reversion. Hugh shows the copy and asks to be admitted. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Grant

Robert Glead, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage and ½ yardland called Barnes, which he holds by a copy dated 28 September 1615, with the intention that the lord might grant the premises to Edward Ponting, the next taker by virtue of that copy; heriot, Robert's best farm animal, for which a composition was made with the lord. A proclamation was made whether anyone [else claimed the premises]. Nobody came [to do so]. The lord granted the premises to Edward, to be held for life by him for a yearly rent of 8s. 1d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Edward did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Oath of allegiance

John Shepherd and William Gingell are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Orders and pains made at this court

It is thought fit and so ordered that the order made at the last court concerning the ringing of pigs shall be continued.

That William Strange shall repair, and make sufficient, fences, ditches, and mounds round about his ground adjoining his dwelling house, where needs requires, by 3 May next, on pain to forfeit 10s.

That Samson Broad and Alice Woodward shall each of them scour and cleanse their ditches at the marl pits [so] that the water may take his [rectius its] course into Broadwater, not annoying the highways, by the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June] next, on pain of forfeiting each of them 20s.

That the tenants who are fieldmen shall meet together in the field on 1 May next by 8 o'clock in the morning to set merestones, where need is, between each man's land, on pain to forfeit every man 3s. 4d.

That John Taylor, John Head, and Robert Panter shall fill up the pit in the Moor which they made, or else hedge it round, to save cattle from harm, by 1 May next, on pain to forfeit each of them 5s.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, John Woodward, John Allis.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 26 September 1629

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Giles Stockwell, Robert Savery, Robert Allis, Thomas Allis, Richard Collis, John Palmer, John Smith, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Thomas Woodborough, John Merrell.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, John Allis, John Woodward, Richard Witt, Henry Hole, William Alexander, Aldham Taylor, Richard Tuck, John Brown, Henry Colborne, Henry Hayward, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Gingell, William Munden.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Thomas Woodborough, and John Merrell are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That Henry Webb, Ralph Brown, William Cambridge, Richard Smith, Richard Browning, Christopher Parsons, Richard Canter, Christopher Peddington *alias* Tuck, William Elliotts, Walter Foscott, and Aldham Witt are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, were not present on this day, and did not appear. Each amerced, 3d.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3d.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3d.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3d.

That John Taylor (amerced, 12d.), Robert Panter (6d.), and John Head (6d.) each forfeited the penalty, 5s., because they did not fill and make secure a pit made by them in the Moor [as they should have done] according to an order of the court made in this matter; but the court, ex

gratia, remitted the penalty. Each now only amerced as shown.

That a sheep which came within the manor as a stray remained in the keeping of Aldham Taylor for over a year and a day after three proclamations made in due form of law; according to the custom of the manor half the value of the sheep fell due to the lord, 18*d*.

That a black mare and a foal horse, [together] valued at 30*s.*, came within the manor as strays on 21 June last and remain in the keeping of Richard Witt. [*Margin*: mare dead]

That two heifers valued at £3 came within the manor as strays on 11 July last and remain in the keeping of Thomas Tomes.

That a heifer valued at 23*s.* 4*d.* came within the manor as a stray on 21 June last and remains in the lord's keeping.

That a red bullock valued at £1 13*s.* 4*d.* came within the manor as a stray on 7 September last and remains in the keeping of Samson Broad. [*Margin*: possession delivered]

That a black bullock valued at 20*s.* came within the manor as a stray on the same day and remains in Samson's keeping. [*Margin*: possession delivered]

That a female sheep and a lamb [together] valued at 5*s.* came within the manor as strays on 4 July last and remain in the keeping of William Alexander.

That Elizabeth Haskins, a widow, who held a small tenement with a garden lying near it, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Her sons should hold the tenement for the next year.
Surrender

Henry Slifield, gentleman, surrendered two customary messuages or tenements, now in the tenure or occupation of him or his assigns and lately in the tenure or occupation of Joan Cannop, a widow, deceased, all the [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to them, and the copy by which he holds the premises, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; two heriots fell due to the lord, but the lord by his special grace remitted them to Henry.

Orders made at this court

That Anthony Chamberlain shall throw in his bank and hedge made in the field, by St. Andrew's day [30 November] next, on pain to forfeit 3*s.* 4*d.*

That every man who shovels up earth in the street shall within a fortnight next after[wards] carry the earth away, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 3*s.* 4*d.*

That John Merrell shall throw in his ditch [which] he made in the Lammas down, by All Saints' day [1 November] next, on pain of 10*s.*

Officers

William Parsons was chosen as tithingman for the following year; Richard Tuck *alias* Peddington was chosen as bailiff.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, John Allis.

Manor Court held there on 3 November 1629

The court of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Francis Waters, gentleman, on this occasion the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the chief steward.

Homage

Robert Smith, John Woodward, William Alexander, Edward Ponting, John Allis, Robert Allis, John Brown, Edward [*rectius* Edmund] Knight, Henry Hayward, Francis Newman.

Grant

John Scriven surrendered the reversion of a tenement, with the appurtenances, of which Alice Scriven, a widow, is the tenant for her widowhood, and the copy made to him, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to John Hall and his son Bartholomew. The premises are to be held for life successively by them after Alice's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 10s., for all the other services formerly due, and for £3 for heriot. John gives £10 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The fealty and admittance of both John and Bartholomew is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Affeerors

None, because nothing to be affeered.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 9 April 1630

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Davies, Thomas Allis, Richard Collis, Edward Oliver, William Cove, John Cove, John Taylor, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Thomas Woodborough, John Merrell.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, John Allis, John Woodward, Richard Witt, Henry Hole, William Alexander, Aldham Taylor, John Brown, Thomas Hayward, Robert Allis, Francis Newman, David Neale, John Smith, Edward Ponting.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, William Harris, and Thomas Woodborough are free suitors, owe suit to this

court, were not present on this day, and did not appear. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Richard Munden, John Waters, Henry Webb, John Webb, Hugh Smith, William Walter, William Cambridge, Richard Smith, Robert Panter, William Witt, Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck, a younger Henry Colborne, and Philip Avery are residents and inhabitants within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and now were not present. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Anthony Chamberlain has not thrown down the bank and hedge made by him in the field [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 3*s.* 4*d.*

That John Merrell has not thrown down the bank made by him in the Lammas down [as he should have] according to an order of the court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s.*

That a black heifer valued at 5*s.* came within the manor as a stray on 24 November last and remains in the keeping of Aldham Taylor.

That a wether valued at 6*s.* came within the manor as a stray on 12 March last and remains in the lord's keeping.

That a ewe valued at 4*s.* came within the manor as a stray on 31 October last and remains in the keeping of Hugh Smith.

That Rose Broad, a widow, who held for her widowhood a cottage and 2 acres of land in Littleman's furlong in the Hill field for a yearly rent of 3*s.* 4*d.*, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Samson Broad is the next taker and should be admitted as tenant for life. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Pains and orders of this court

That every man shall make his bounds sufficient from the West field gate to Canter's piece before St. George's day [23 April] next, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 10*s.*

That no man shall bait any kind of cattle in the West field all this summer until the breaking of the field, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 10*s.*

That no man shall feed above two sheep on an acre in the fields and in Grandon field, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit for every sheep overpressing 12*d.*

That the fieldmen shall meet together [on] 7 May next in the Home field to set meres and merestones between every man complaining, [and] for any other cause touching the field, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 3*s.* 4*d.*

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, John Allis.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 17 September 1630

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Edmund Dunch, esquire, Giles Stockwell, John Palmer, Robert Buckland, Thomas Turtle, Robert Walter, Walter Foscott, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Edmund Dunch, esquire, Edmund Warneford, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Thomas Woodborough.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, William Alexander, John Allis, John Woodward, Richard Witt, Henry Hole, John Gale, John Brown, Thomas Hayward, Robert Allis, Francis Newman, David Neale, John Smith, Edward Ponting.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Edmund Warneford, gentleman, William Harris, and Thomas Woodborough are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Robert Savery, James Simons, Richard Smith, John Ring, Henry Sealy, Richard Canter, Thomas Freeman, Thomas Gale, and Simon Painter are residents within the jurisdiction of this view of frankpledge, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of that mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That a foal horse, formerly coming within the manor as a stray with a mare recently dead, remained in the keeping of Richard Witt for over a year and a day after three proclamations made according to the law in this matter. The ownership is changed, and half the value, 5*s.*, was due to the lord.

That a female sheep and a lamb, previously taken within the manor as strays and valued at 5*s.*, remained in the keeping of William Alexander for more than a year and a day after three proclamations made according to the law. The ownership is changed, and half the value, 2*s.* 6*d.*, was due to the lord.

Officers

William Harris was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, Thomas Hayward as reeve.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, William Alexander.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 16 April 1631

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Free suitors

Thomas Warneford, esquire, Richard Robins, gentleman, Henry Parry, gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, Simon Painter, Thomas Woodborough, John Merrell.

Jurors for the king and the homage

John Woodward, Robert Smith, John Allis, John Brown, Richard Witt, Robert Allis, Henry Hole, Thomas Hayward, John Smith, Richard Tuck, Henry Hayward, William Alexander, Edward Ponting, Edmund Knight.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of the mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That a sheep, which came within the manor as a stray on 2 February last [*rectius* 2 February 1630], remained in the keeping of Hugh Smith over a year and a day; it was valued for the lord at 2*s*.

That a foal horse, having come within the manor as a stray on 1 January last [*rectius* 1 January 1630], remained in the keeping of Edward Simons over a year and a day; it was valued for the lord at 6*s*. 8*d*.

That a foal horse, having come within the manor as a stray on 23 June last [*rectius* 23 June 1629], remained in the keeping of Lucy Latton for over a year and a day; it was valued for the lord at £1 10*s*.

That Anne Stumpe, a widow, who held by copy certain lands, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because [the holding] is not heriotable. Gillian Faythorne should hold for her widowhood a parcel of the land containing ½ acre situated under the conyger wall. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Orders and pains

That every man who has sheep in the West field shall keep [watch] them from Michaelmas [29 September] to St. Luke's day [18 October], on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 10*s*.

That every man who has ground between Stumpe's leaze and Hankerton's gate shall scour the grip belonging to him, by Michaelmas

[29 September] next, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit ...
[*MS. torn*]

That every man who has [a] mound from Banbury hill to the West field gate shall repair it, on pain of 10s.

That the Moor shall be hained from sheep before May day, and it shall [so] continue until St. Luke's tide [18 October]; and that no man shall put in above two horses, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 10s.

That no man shall overpress the fields with beasts nor sheep, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 10s.

That every one of us shall meet together on Whit Monday in Charlton church to view the land between Richard Witt and William Alexander, on pain of each man [making default to forfeit] 3s.

That every man who is a contributor to the gate which goes out of the Home field into the Hay lane shall pay their contribution, and that it shall be set up before St. Mark's tide [25 April], on pain of 5s.

That the homage of this court, or the most part of them, shall before Whit Sunday next view the merestones that are set between the freehold land, and the copyhold land, of the widow Guy, and to place them as they ought to be to distinguish the one from the other, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.

Amercement

Giles Stockwell misbehaved himself here in open court and in contempt. Through consideration in the court he was amerced, 40s. [*altered to 10s.*]
Affeerors

John Woodward, Robert Smith, John Allis.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 17 September 1631

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

An elder Thomas Allis, Robert Knight, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, John Woodward, John Allis, Richard Witt, John Brown, Robert Allis, Edmund Knight, Edward Ponting, Thomas Hayward, John Smith, Henry Hole, Richard Tuck, Henry Hayward, Thomas Gingell, Thomas Hole, John Gale, William Alexander, John Taylor.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3d.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That John Merrell is a common baker and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That William Alexander did not come to view certain lands between himself and Richard Witt [as he should have done] according to an order of the court made in that matter at the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 4*s*.

That on 19 June last a brown-tagged heifer and a brown steer, clipped and clearly hollowed in the left ear, came within the manor as strays; they were valued for the lord at 40*s*.

That a fallow foal horse came within [the manor] as a stray on 19 June last and remains in the keeping of John Sealy; it was valued at 13*s*. 4*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of that mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That a steer came within the manor as a stray on 11 August last and remains in the lord's keeping; it was valued at 20*s*.

That Mary Newman, a widow, who held for her widowhood a messuage or tenement called Jeffrey's, a close called Home close containing about 6 acres, a close lately inclosed in Grandon field, a close called Woodcroft containing about 12 acres, and all the land appurtenant to the messuage or tenement, has died since the last court; heriot, her best farm animal, which is valued at £3, paid to the lord's bailiff. Francis Newman is the next taker by virtue of a copy previously made to him of the reversion. Francis shows the copy and asks to be admitted. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Officers

An elder Henry Colborne was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, Francis Newman as reeve.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, John Woodward.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 7 April 1632

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Hush, Giles Stockwell, Thomas Allis, Robert Lea, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Newman, Richard Witt, Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck, John Allis, Henry Hole, William Alexander, John Smith, Robert Smith, John Brown, Edmund Knight, Robert Buckland, Thomas Hayward, Henry Hayward.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Walter, a widow, is a common tippler and a seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common tippler and a seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Catherine Munden, who held a customary tenement for life, has died since the last court; heriot, a ... [*MS. blank*] worth £3 6*s*. 8*d*. which was paid to the bailiff for the lord's use. Robert Down *alias* Buckland is the next taker named in the copy and should hold the tenement for life. He asks to be admitted as tenant, was admitted, and did fealty.

Officers

Edward Ponting and Richard Witt were chosen as overseers of the fields.

Affeerors

Francis Newman, John Gale, Richard Witt.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 5 October 1632

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

A younger Thomas Allis, Robert Knight, Robert Down *alias* Buckland, Edmund Scriven, William Lea, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Francis Newman, Robert Smith, Richard Witt, John Allis, Henry Hole, Robert Buckland, David Neale, Thomas Gingell, John Gale, Thomas Hayward, John Brown, Henry Hayward, Edward Ponting.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers, sold ale through prohibited measures, and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the house of Joan Brown, a widow, in which she lives, is in decay and wants repair.

That Elizabeth Willis, a widow, who held for her widowhood a customary tenement, has died since the last court; heriot, ... [*MS. blank*].

That a sheep valued at 8*s*. came within the manor as a stray on 1 May last and remains in the lord's keeping.

That three foals, viz. a nag and two fillies (*equule*), valued at 30*s*.

came within the manor as strays on 29 June last and remain in the keeping of Bartholomew Hall.

That a grey filly (*equula*) valued at 30s. came within the manor as a stray on 1 July last and remains in the keeping of Bartholomew Hall.

That a wether came within the manor as a stray on 26 May last and remains in the keeping of Bartholomew Hall; it was valued for the lord at 2s. 8d.

That a female sheep came within the manor as a stray on 25 May last and remains in the keeping of Bartholomew Hall; it was valued for the lord at 2s. 6d.

That John Head's cowhouse is in decay and wants repair.

That the butts are in decay. It was ordered that they should be amended very soon.

That, since the last court, Jane Foscott, a widow, surrendered a message or tenement, lately in her tenure or occupation, all the [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to it, and the copy by which she held the premises, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; two heriots fell due to the lord, but he, by his special grace, remitted [them] to Jane.

Grants

The lord granted to an elder Walter Foscott, his son Walter, and his daughter Joan Foscott a message or tenement and all the [arable] land, meadow, feeding, and pasture appurtenant to it, all lately in the tenure of Jane Foscott, a widow, for her widowhood and surrendered by her. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for the rent and services formerly due and for heriot. The elder Walter gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate.

A younger John Davies and William Davies surrendered a message or tenement, a close lying near it called Plumgaston containing about 6 acres, a headland of land in the Home field, and 1 acre in the Hay with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. The lord granted the premises to William's sons Thomas and William, to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 2s. 4d. and for all the other services formerly due. Thomas gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of the younger William is respited.

Orders

That ... [MS. blank] Mopson, a widow, who holds Mr. Talboys's living, shall cleanse and scour the ditch adjoining the highway in Pink Lane where need requires, [so] that it may keep the water to run downwards and not to offend the way; and this to be done by St. Andrew's day [30 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck shall cleanse and scour his ditch between his home grounds that William Medley holds and Thomas Allis's ground, [so] that the water may run the ancient way; and to be done by the feast of All Saints' day [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck shall cleanse and scour his ditch, and make the bounds, between the home ground that William Medley holds and Robert Smith's home ground by the feast of All Saints' day [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That every man shall make his bounds sufficient from Canter's piece, round by Hankerton's field, to the West field gate by 12 October next, and to continue them in repair, on pain of every man making default [to forfeit] 10s.

That Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck and John Taylor shall cleanse and scour their ditches in the north side of the Hay grounds by the feast day of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 5s.

That every man shall keep his pigs one week in the Home field, being hitching after the corn is carried away, and then every man to take them away at the week's end, on pain of 5s.

That John Woodward shall cut his hedges in the Hay lane [so] that men may pass with carts and wains without annoyance, by Candlemas day [2 February] next, on pain of 10s.

That every man who ought to repair the Hay lane gates shall contribute to the making of the same sufficient by the feast of St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of 5s.

Officers

A younger Henry Hole was chosen as tithingman, Henry Hayward as bailiff.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Francis Newman, Robert Smith.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 27 April 1633

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Robert Glead, Christopher Scriven, William Walter, Robert Smith, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Witt, Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck, John Allis, William Alexander, Robert Smith, John Brown, Robert Buckland, Thomas Hayward, Henry Hayward, Edward Ponting, John Gale, Thomas Allis.

Presentments of the jurors

That Thomas Warneford, esquire, John Thorner, gentleman, William Harris, and John Merrell are free suitors, owe suit of court, and were absent on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Collis, Walter Hughes, Walter Gingell, a younger Robert Down, Samuel Saunders, an elder Thomas Long *alias* Hush, a younger Thomas Long *alias* Hush, and John Smith are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were absent on this day. Each amerced, 2*d*.

That Anthony Chamberlain and Alice Hodges are millers and behaved badly in the exercise of their occupation. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victualers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his occupation. Amerced, 3*d*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 6 February last and remains in the keeping of Hugh Smith; it was valued for the lord at 2*s*.

That the butts want repair. It was ordered that they should be repaired before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain for each man making default [to forfeit] 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Nicholas Waters broke an order made [at] the last court because he did not repair his boundaries between Canter's piece and the West field. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

Likewise Samson Broad, 10*s*.

Likewise Eleanor Guy, 10*s*.

Likewise Alice Hodges, 10*s*.

That a house of Thomas Tomes wants repair. It was ordered that Thomas should repair it before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 10*s*.

Grant

The lord granted a licence to Thomas Davies, a customary tenant, to let out a pasture land called Plumgaston to John Palmer from the last feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] before the date of this court for a term of five years from then, in consideration of £20 paid to Thomas by John. Here in court Thomas granted the land to John for that term, and he gives nothing to the lord for a fine for having the licence because the lord, by his special grace, granted it to him freely.

Pains and orders of the court

That everyone who shall bring horses in the time of harvest into the corn field shall tie them, on pain of every[one] making default [to forfeit] 5*s*.

That every man who shall put in any beasts in the field on another man's pasture shall acquaint the overseers with it, on pain of every[one making] default [to forfeit] 5*s*.

Officer

Hugh Smith was chosen as bailiff for the next year.

Affeerors

Richard Witt, Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck, John Allis.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 28 September 1633

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Alice Hodges, a widow, Thomas Hodges, George Walter, Thomas Tomes, Giles Stockwell, Robert Knight, Alice Walter, a widow, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Francis Newman, Richard Witt, John Allis, Robert Buckland, David Neale, Richard Tuck, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Gingell, John Brown, William Alexander, Henry Hayward, Edward Ponting, John Woodward, John Smith.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Henry Webb, gentleman, Richard Webb, gentleman, John Waters, William Waters, Samson Broad, Robert Walter, William Cambridge, Justinian Smith, James Lea, Richard Canter, Walter Foscott, Simon Painter, Henry Pritchett, Henry Slifield, gentleman, Luke Slifield, and William Davies are residents, living within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and behaved badly in the exercise of their occupation. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That a foal came within the manor as a stray on 16 June last and remains in the keeping of a younger Henry Colborne; it was valued for the lord at 10*s*.

That two yearlings came within the manor as strays on 16 June last and remain in the lord's keeping; they were valued for the lord at 26*s*. 8*d*.

That John Waters, the son of the widow Waters, is not sworn to the king for his allegiance.

That Eleanor Guy, a widow, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, now paid to the lord's use. The land and tenements which Eleanor held for her widowhood came into the lord's hand.

Grants

The lord granted to Edward Gale and his wife Grace the reversion of all the lands and tenements which Edward's father John holds by copy for life. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after John's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for the rent, services, and heriot formerly due, and for rendering to the lord two capons a year at the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June]. Edward gives £63 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The lord licensed him to nominate, within the next five years, a child of his in place of Grace, provided that Grace was then living. The fealty and admittance of Edward and Grace are respited until the reversion falls due.

The lord granted to John Turk two closes lying in Broadwater and 2 acres in the Down, [?all of] which were lately in the tenure or occupation of Eleanor Guy, a widow, lately deceased. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, Edith Turk, and a younger Francis Newman for

a yearly rent of 10s., for 20s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives £140 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

Orders of the court

That no man shall logger, tie, or depasture any kind of cattle in the Middle field before the field be quite rid, on pain of every [man] making default to forfeit 20s.

That everyone having bounds between Canter's piece and the West field gate shall make their bounds sufficient by 7 October next, on pain of every [man] making default to forfeit 10s.

That every man shall ring his pigs forthwith, and so to keep them from time to time, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit 2s. 6d.

That Samson Broad shall make his bounds sufficient between him and Richard Witt in the field at Perry End by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, between this [day] and Allhollantide [All Saints' day: 1 November] next, the homage, or the most part of them, shall take [a] view of the stones and meres between the freehold of Mr. Throckmorton and the lord's lands in the mead called the Hay, and, if they find the stones or meres to be altered, that they shall be placed again as they first were placed.

That, if Robert Smith does not by the next court give an account of 18s. 4d. being levied [?from him] for the highways, he shall forfeit 40s.

Officers

Henry Hayward was chosen as tithingman [?to serve] in place of Hugh Waters, gentleman; William Alexander was chosen as bailiff; John Smith and Thomas Tomes were chosen as overseers of the fields.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Francis Newman, Richard Witt.

Court Baron held there on 10 December 1633

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by William Parry, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

John Woodward, John Allis, Robert Allis, John Brown, Edmund Knight, Henry Hayward.

Grant

Thomas Hole, a customary tenant, surrendered a small close called the Upper leaze and a small close lying near that and the land of Anthony Woodward south, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the two closes for life successively to Edward Ponting,

his daughter Edith Ponting, and his wife Susan for a yearly rent of 8s. and for all the other services formerly due. Edward gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Edith and Susan is respited.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 9 April 1634

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Sealy, Thomas ... [*MS. blank*], Robert Freame, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, John Allis, Richard Tuck, John Turk, Thomas Hayward, Edward Ponting, John Gale, Robert Smith, William Harris, Edmund Knight, Richard Scriven, John Brown, Thomas Allis, Robert Lea.

Presentments of the jurors and homage:

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and took toll excessively. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his occupation. Amerced, 3*d*.

That, whereas there was an order made that the tenants should meet to take a view of a parcel of ground lying in a ground which John Turk lately purchased, belonging to and parcel of Mr. Throckmorton's land as it is reported, they have taken [the] view and find a wrong done; and therefore [they] hold it meet to have the parcel of ground measured, and so likewise that land forthwith [*?rectius* for which] it was exchanged.

Grant

Edward Ponting surrendered a small close called the Upper leaze and a small close lying near that and the land of Anthony Woodward south, both previously granted for life successively to him, his daughter Edith Ponting, and his wife Susan for a yearly rent of 8s. and for all the other services formerly due, with the intention that the lord should re-grant the premises to him, his son Thomas, and his daughter Edith Ponting. The lord granted the premises to them, to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 8s. and for all the other services formerly due. Edward gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and Edith is respited because [they are] under age.

Pains and orders of the court

That every man shall make his bounds sufficient from Canter's piece,

round the Middle field, to the West field gate before 1 May next, and so to keep them from time to time, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 10s.

That every man shall ring his pigs forthwith, and so to keep them from time to time, [on pain of] every man making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That Robert Allis shall cleanse and scour his ditch at South hill, lying against the gate of Thomas Allis there, by 1 May next, on pain of making default to forfeit 10s.

That Thomas Ridler and John Hodges shall give up their account of their office of waymen for the last year, by the feast of Pentecost next, on [pain of] each of them making default to forfeit 10s.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Richard Witt.

Court Baron held there on 2 June 1634

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by Giles Bird, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Brown, Edward Ponting, Edmund Knight, John Allis.

Grant

Richard Smith, a customary tenant, surrendered a close called the New lease with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the close for life successively to John Hall and his son Bartholomew for the rent and for all the other services formerly due. John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Bartholomew is respited.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 25 September 1634

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Allis, Francis Newman, John Hodges, George Walter, Thomas Tomes, Richard Day, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Witt, William Alexander, John Gale, John Allis, Richard Tuck, Henry Colborne, Robert Smith, John Brown, Robert Allis, Edmund Knight, Robert Down, John Palmer, Henry Hayward.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Henry Parry, gentleman, John Throckmorton, gentleman, and William Harris are free suitors, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Anthony Chamberlain are common millers and behaved badly in the exercise of their occupation. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That George Hughes and Alice Walter, a widow, are common victuallers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Henry Slifield accepted a newcomer as an inmate. It was ordered that he should eject the newcomer from his house before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20*s.*

That Joan Brown, a widow, accepted a newcomer as an inmate. It was ordered that she should eject the newcomer from her house before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20*s.*

That Walter Foscott accepted his mother as an inmate. It was ordered that he should eject her from his house before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 10*s.*

That Richard Smith accepted a newcomer as an inmate. It was ordered that he should eject the newcomer before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20*s.*

That a foal came within the manor as a stray on 25 June last and remains in the keeping of a younger Henry Colborne; it was valued for the lord at 5*s.*

That the butts want repair. Amerced, 3*d.*

That Walter Foscott sold ale without a licence. Amerced, 20*s.*

That a barn and the outhouse of John Head want repair. It was ordered that they should be amended before 25 March [Lady day] next, on pain of 10*s.*

Grants

An elder Henry Hole, Thomas Hole, and a younger Henry Hole, customary tenants, surrendered a cottage lying in a close of pasture called the Upper leaze and near a place called Stonehill with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the cottage to the younger Henry and his sons Henry and Francis, to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 12*d.*, for 5*s.* for heriot, and for all the services formerly due. The younger Henry gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of the youngest Henry and of Francis are respited.

An elder Henry Hole, Thomas Hole, a younger Henry Hole, and Edward Ponting, customary tenants, surrendered a close of pasture called the Upper leaze and a close of pasture called the Little close, lying near Alice Woodward's fields east and Henry Colborne's land south, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Edward, his son Thomas, and his daughter Edith Ponting, to be held

for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 8s., for 20s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Edward gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas Ponting and Edith are respited.

Oath of allegiance

William Scriven, James Hayward, John Waters, Hugh Parry, Richard Scriven, and John Waters are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Order of the court

That the bounds between Canter's piece and the West field gate shall be repaired by the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.

Officers

John Turk was chosen as tithingman, Robert Buckland *alias* Down as bailiff.

Affeerors

Richard Witt, William Alexander, John Gale.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 4 April 1635

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Willis, Robert Lea, Thomas Shepherd, James Lea, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Witt, William Alexander, John Gale, Robert Smith, Thomas Hayward, John Allis, Richard Tuck, John Brown, Robert Allis, Edward [rectius Edmund] Knight, David Neale, John Palmer, Edward Ponting.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Francis Newman, Richard Smith, Edward Simons, Henry Webb, and John Webb are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That Anthony Chamberlain is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of his occupation. Amerced, 3d.

Likewise Alice Hodges, a widow. Amerced, 3d.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3d.

That Aldham Taylor, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, one valued at £4 10s. Joan Taylor, his wife, should be admitted. She asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That Catherine Palmer, a widow, has died since the last court. Her son John Palmer should be admitted. He asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That Walter Foscott has forfeited the penalty, 10s., because he did not

remove (*deposuit*) his mother, whom he accepted as a newcomer in his house.

That Joan Brown, a widow, has forfeited the penalty, 20s., because she did not remove (*deposuit*) the newcomers whom she accepted in her house.

That the butts are in decay. Amerced, £3.

Admittance

John Throckmorton, gentleman, asks to be admitted as tenant. He was admitted and did fealty.

Orders of the court

That such as bait their cattle in the corn field shall tie them, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 10s.

That such as plough in the corn field shall bring their cattle to some wall or such place out of the field [so] that they do no hurt to others yoked, on pain of 1s.

That every man who has land in either of the fields shall pay for the catching of the wants [i.e. moles] according to the value [of the land which] they have there, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That every man who is a commoner in the common of Braydon shall pay, according to his proportion, for [the] keeping out of strangers' cattle.

That every man who is a contributor to the Hay lane gate shall take a course for the mending thereof, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 1s.

That William Parsons, Henry Colborne, Henry Hayward, and Henry Hole, who have been tithingmen, shall give up their account by May day next, on pain of £1 10s.

Officer

Tithingman, John Turk.

Affeerors

Richard Witt, William Alexander.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 26 September 1635

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Willis, William Walter, William Waters, Francis Smith, John Taylor, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, William Alexander, Edward Ponting, John Allis, Richard Tuck, Robert Smith, John Brown, Edmund Knight, Robert Allis, Henry Hayward, Robert Taylor, John Palmer.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Henry Webb, gentleman, John Webb, gentleman, Richard Smith, Justinian Smith, and William Witt are residents, living within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 4*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 4*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victuallers and sold ale through prohibited measures. [Each] amerced, 4*d*.

That Richard Watts is a common victualler and sold ale without licence. Amerced, 10*s*.

That Thomas Hush and John Woodward have not paid a mole taker for his work in the corn fields [as they should have] according to an order made by the court. Each of them has forfeited the penalty, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Giles Stockwell placed and fed his horses in the corn fields contrary to an order of the court. Amerced, 10*s*.

Likewise John Waters. Amerced, 10*s*.

That a bullock and a heifer valued at £1 3*s*. 4*d*. came within the manor as strays on 24 September last and remain in the keeping of Thomas Tomes.

That two heifers came within the manor as strays on 24 September last and remain in the keeping of Thomas Tomes; they were valued for the lord at £1 6*s*. 8*d*.

Grant

John Allis and Robert Allis, customary tenants, surrendered a tenement and ½ yardland, all the other lands appurtenant to the tenement, and the copy previously made, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to John, his son John, and his daughter Anne Allis. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 5*s*., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of the younger John and of Anne is respited.

Fealty respited

John Waters was previously admitted as tenant to a messuage and ½ yardland called Pratt's, lately in Robert Waters's occupation, but fealty is respited.

Orders made at this court

That every man shall ring his pigs by 1 October next, and so to keep them from time to time, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit 2*s*. 6*d*.

That Richard Witt shall scour his ditch clean down to the land in Grandon [so as] to draw the water forth of the street at Richard Scriven's house, by the feast of St. Luke [18 October] next, on pain of 10*s*.

Officers

John Gale was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, Hugh Waters as reeve, Robert Allis and John Crabbe as overseers of the fields.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, William Alexander.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 23 April 1636

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Samuel Saunders, William Curtis, Thomas Simons, Richard Collis, Thomas Gale, Thomas Grindell, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, John Woodward, William Harris, Edward [?rectius Edmund] Knight, Edward Ponting, John Francombe, Richard Scriven, Robert Smith, Richard Witt, Robert Allis, John Smith, Thomas Hayward, William Alexander, Richard Tuck, Henry Colborne, Robert Buckland, John Allis.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Hill, Henry Webb, gentleman, John Farmer, Thomas Witt, John Merrell, and Richard Pinner are resident within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 4*d*.

That Alice Hodges is a miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 4*d*.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and George Hughes are common victualers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 4*d*.

That George Hughes is a butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 4*d*.

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 3 November last and remains in the keeping of William Witt; it was valued for the lord at 2*s*.

Pains and orders of the court

That no [?rectius every] man who ought to have common within the commons of Charlton shall feed no more cattle of all sorts this summer within the commons than everyone may winter on each one's living in severalty, as shall be adjudged by four indifferent tenants to be chosen for that purpose, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 30*s*.

That Hugh Newman shall be the hayward to oversee the commons until [the] Michaelmas [29 September] court next, and have 2*s*. for his pains weekly during that time.

That everyone shall mark his cattle of all sorts with his several iron pitch mark by May day next, and so to keep them, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10*s*.

That there shall be a rate made by the feast of Pentecost next by the inhabitants of Charlton for the payment of the hayward's wages; and that

whosoever refuses to pay what he is rated to pay, as often as need shall require, shall forfeit 6s.

That Richard Witt, William Cambridge, Richard Canter, Robert Freame, and Richard Cambridge have set up outhouses, wood-piles, rick bartons, and gardens on the commons; and it is ordered that every one of them shall remove and withdraw their several encroachments before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That none shall set or let his pasture to anyone, but feed it himself, unless it be to some of the commoners, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 30s.

That there shall be a drift made, when the hayward and [the] tithingman shall appoint the time, by those that do depasture cattle in the commons, one of every house on sufficient summons, on pain of everyone's default to forfeit 12*d*.

That no man shall pasture any sheep in the Heath nor the Moor until the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20s.

That they that have [land valued at] £20 a year shall pasture in the Moor and [the] Heath two horses or four rother beasts, they that have £10 a year one horse or two rother beasts, they that have but £6 a year and so less one horse beast or one rother beast, and he that has more by the year [is permitted] to pasture more after the said rate and no more, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 30s.

That there shall be two gates hung up at two convenient places to divide the commons before 3 May next; and that whosoever do refuse to pay his part towards the charge thereof, as he shall be rated, shall forfeit 10s.

That the Hay lane gate by the Moor shall be made sufficient by 6 May next, and the stile by [?the same day], on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

That, before Whitsuntide, Richard Scriven, Robert Smith, Robert Allis, and John Woodward shall view the land in the Home field which was lately inclosed by Richard Witt between himself and Hugh Waters, and certify whether there is an encroachment or not, on pain of 10s. apiece.

Officer

John Gale was chosen as tithingman.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, John Woodward.

Court Baron held there on 25 October 1636

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

Robert Smith, Richard Tuck, Richard Witt, Robert Allis, John Allis, Henry Hayward.

Grants

John Turk, a customary tenant, surrendered two closes lying in Broadwater and 2 acres in the Down, [all] which were lately in the tenure or occupation of Eleanor Guy, a widow, lately deceased, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to John and his daughters Edith Turk and Elizabeth Turk. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 10s., for 20s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives £140 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Edith and Elizabeth is respited.

Edward Ponting, a customary tenant, surrendered a close of pasture called the Upper leaze, and a close of pasture called the Little close lying near the fields of Alice Woodward, a widow, east and Henry Colborne's lands south, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Thomas Groom, his daughter Joan Groom, and Richard Shipton. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 8s., for 20s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Thomas gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Joan and Richard is respited.

Edward Ponting, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage and ½ yardland called Barnes with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Edward, his son Thomas, and his daughter Edith Ponting. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 8s. 1d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Edward gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and Edith is respited.

Richard Witt, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage or tenement and 1 yardland called Cornwall's with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Richard and his sons William and Hugh. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 14s. 6d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Richard gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of William and Hugh is respited. The lord licensed Richard, William, and Hugh to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as they please for their life, the custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding.

Presentment of the homage

That Edmund Knight, who held by copy a messuage or tenement with the appurtenances, a garden lying near it and a curtilage, and a close of pasture called Priory hays, has died since the last court; a heriot fell

due. Edmund's relict Margery Knight should hold the premises for her widowhood. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Officers

William Parsons was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, John Turk as reeve.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 14 April 1637

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Tomes, Richard Collis, William Freame, a younger John Palmer, a younger John Smith, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Robert Smith, Thomas Hayward, John Woodward, Richard Witt, Richard Tuck, John Allis, an elder Henry Colborne, William Harris, Henry Hayward, John Brown, Edward Ponting, Robert Buckland, Richard Scriven, John Taylor, Robert Taylor.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Colls, Thomas Gale, Thomas Walter, Thomas Broad, Thomas Tomes, Henry Webb, and James Powlton are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes and Alice Walter are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That the several houses of Alice Scriven, a widow, Thomas Tomes, John Head, and Henry Tuck are in decay through lack of repair. It was ordered that each of them should repair their respective house before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas], on pain of each [offending to forfeit] 40*s*.

That Grace Lawrence, a widow, the customary tenant of a cottage, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Thomas Lawrence should hold the cottage for life. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Grants

William Strange, a customary tenant, surrendered a tenement or cottage called Woodward's, and 1 acre and 1 farndel of land appurtenant to it, lately in his tenure or occupation, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. The lord granted the premises to John Turk. They are to be held for life successively by him and his daughters Edith Turk and Elizabeth Turk for a

yearly rent of 2s. 6d., for nothing for heriot because it is not heriotable, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Edith and Elizabeth is respited.

The lord granted the reversion of a messuage or tenement, of a garden and a curtilage lying near it, of a close of pasture called Priory hays, and of all the [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to the messuage or tenement, [all] now in the tenure or occupation of Margery Knight, a widow, to Christopher, the son of Robert Knight, and to Robert's daughter Anne Knight. The premises are to be held for life successively by Christopher and Anne immediately after Robert's [*rectius* Margery's] death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him [her], for a yearly rent of ... [*MS. blank*] and for all the other services formerly due. Robert gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate.

Orders of the court

That no man shall oppress our fields with sheep, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit for every sheep 1s.

That no man shall tie horses in any of our corn fields after Lammas [1 August] at [by] rope or long cord, except it be by halter or bridle only, whereby they may do hurt to their neighbours, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 10s.

That every man shall pay towards the making of the bounds next [to] Garsdon according to an equal rate made for that purpose, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That the Heath and [the] Moor, from the 18th day of this present April, shall be hained from all cattle until 3 May next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, whereas one Tubb has dug up and stopped a footway in the Lammas down between Hankerton and Charlton, before 1 May next he shall make a sufficient footway, and so keep it, on pain of 30s.

That Tubb shall make and set up a gate between the Lammas down and Hankerton common before 4 May next, on pain of 20s.

That, on Lammas day [1 August] next, Tubb shall lay open the Lammas down according to the custom of our manor, on pain of £5.

Oath of allegiance

John Francombe, William Francombe, Richard Pinneger, William Pannett, Thomas Freame, and Nicholas Waters are sworn to the king for their allegiance.

Affeerors

Robert Smith, Thomas Hayward.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 28 September 1637

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Tomes, Giles Stockwell, Thomas Cove, Richard Pinneger, Richard Lea, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Tuck, Richard Witt, John Woodward, Richard Scriven, Robert Smith, Thomas Allis, John Turk, Thomas Hayward, John Brown, Robert Buckland, Edward Ponting, William Harris, an elder Henry Colborne.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Witt, John Farmer, a younger Henry Hole, Thomas Bleek, and Daniel Taylor are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common tippler and seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 3*d*.

That John Waters, coedriver (?charcoal deriver), did rescue his horses from the hayward when he was going to impound them out of the fields. Amerced, 1*s*.

That John Gale, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; a heriot worth £3 10*s*. fell due to the lord. John's wife ... [*MS. blank*] Gale should hold for her widowhood the premises of which he died seised. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That William Tubb broke an order made at the last court for [*rectius* by] not laying open the Lammas down. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, £5.

That all these names hereunder written do refuse to pay towards the making of the mounds next [to] Garsdon in the Heath according to their proportion, and have broken their pain of 10*s*. apiece provided by a former order, viz. Richard Read, Thomas Walter, William Freame, Richard Smith, Henry Hole, Richard Woodward, John Gale, Bartholomew Hawks, Robert Ridler, Widow Poole, Joan Hall, a widow, John Elliotts, Richard Dobbs, Thomas Gale, John Turk, an elder Henry Colborne, the widow Ridler, John Woodward. Each [to forfeit] 10*s*.

Grant

The lord granted to Hugh Newman a cottage, a garden, and 1 farndel of [arable] land or pasture lying in the Breach. The premises are to be held for life successively by him, his son Thomas, and his daughter Mary Newman for a yearly rent of 2*d*., for nothing for heriot because it is not heriotable, and for all the other services formerly due. Hugh gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and Mary is respited.

Orders of the court

That every man who has land in the Home [field] shall, on 3 October next, meet at the church house by eight o'clock in the morning to divide that field, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 1s.

That the bounds next [to] Garsdon in the Heath shall be railed, and every man who has common there shall pay towards it, on [pain] of every man making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, on the agreement made between Thomas, earl of Berkshire, and his tenants of Charlton for their common in Braydon, their Moor, and [their] Heath, there was a promise that the agreement should be recorded in the court rolls of this manor, which we pray may be done accordingly; after which being performed they desire to rate their common.

That every man found oppressing the field with sheep shall for every sheep forfeit 1s.

That those who have land on each side of Stonehill Lane shall scour up their ditches as far as their ground[s] do go, and we present that the lord of the manor is to repair the rest of the way.

That, on the agreement between Thomas, earl of Berkshire, and his tenants of Charlton, they were to have, besides the Moor and [the] Heath, 400 acres and the cottagers 50 acres.

Officers

John Turk was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, Richard ... [MS. blank] as reeve.

Affeerors

Richard Tuck, Richard Witt.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 30 March 1638

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Collis, an elder Henry Hole, Thomas Cove, John Head, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Newman, an elder Henry Colborne, Edward Ponting, Richard Tuck, John Smith, Richard Scriven, Thomas Hayward, Henry Hayward, Nicholas Waters, John Allis, Richard Witt, Robert Buckland, John Brown, John Woodward.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Broad, Samuel Saunders, John Merrell, and Thomas Gale are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Joan Hall, a widow, who held for her widowhood 4 acres of arable land lying in the Home field, married Giles Bird, gentleman, [and] has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Bartholomew Hall is the next taker of the land by virtue of a copy previously made of the reversion. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Joan Hall, a widow, who held for her widowhood a close called the New leaze, married Giles Bird, gentleman, [and has died] since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Bartholomew Hall is the next taker of the land by virtue of a copy previously made of the reversion. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That a white sheep came within the manor as a stray on ... [*MS. blank*] February and remains in the keeping of Robert Taylor; it was valued for the lord at 3*s. 4d*.

That Joan Brown, a widow, and Bartholomew Hall have not scoured their ditches in Stonehill Lane. It was ordered that they should amend [the ditches] before the feast of Pentecost next, on pain of 40*s*.

That Richard Smith accepted a newcomer as an inmate. It was ordered that he should eject the newcomer or give sufficient pledges to discharge the parish, before 8 April next, on pain of 10*s*.

That John Smith, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, ... [*MS. blank*]. John's wife Alice Smith should hold for her widowhood the cottage and other premises of which he died seised. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Grant

A younger Henry Hole, a customary tenant, surrendered a cottage lying in a close of pasture called the Upper leaze and near a place called Stonehill with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the cottage, the close of pasture, and a close of pasture called the Little close lying near the fields of Alice Woodward, a widow, east and Henry Colborne's lands south, to Thomas Groom, his daughter Joan Groom, and Richard Shipton. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 9*s.*, for 25*s.* for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Thomas and Joan give an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. Thomas was admitted as tenant and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Joan and Richard is respited.

Orders of the court

That Anthony Chambers [*rectius* Chamberlain] shall fill up his quarry by his house at the windmill in the West field, or fence the same, to prevent dangers, by 1 July next, on pain of 6*s. 8d*.

That everyone shall mend their bounds from the West field gate to Canter's piece by 8 April next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3*s. 4d*.

That everyone who do overstock the fields with sheep shall forfeit for every sheep 1s.

That everyone who ought to keep the Hay lane gate next [to] the Moor in reparations shall pay proportionably towards [the] repairing of the same by 1 May next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That everyone of the jury who are fieldmen shall meet at the church house on Whit Tuesday next by eight o'clock in the morning to take a view of such defaults as are in the fields and elsewhere, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That John Neale shall make his bounds between John Francombe's Gorsey ground and his own, by May day next, on pain of 5s.

That everyone who has common shall pay proportionably towards the repairing [of] the bounds between Garsdon and us, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

Affeerors

Francis Newman, an elder Henry Colborne.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 28 September 1638

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

A younger Thomas Allis, John Cove, John Waters, Robert Walter, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, Richard Witt, Edward Ponting, Robert Smith, John Allis, Henry Colborne, Robert Allis, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Allis, Robert Buckland, Henry Hayward, John Smith, Robert Taylor.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and took toll excessively. Amerced, 3d.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3d.

That George Hughes is a common victualler and seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 3d.

That Alice Scriven, a widow, who held by copy for her widowhood a tenement with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, 50s. Bartholomew Hall, gentleman, is the next taker and should hold the premises for life. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Justinian Smith broke the common pound. Amerced, 3s. 4d.

Grant

Samson Broad, a customary tenant, surrendered a house or cottage, 2

acres of land in Littleman's furlong in the Hill field, all the other lands appurtenant to the house or cottage, and the copy previously made, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Samson, his son Thomas, and his daughter Elizabeth Broad. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 3s. 4d. and for all the other services formerly due. Samson gives 40s. to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Thomas and Elizabeth is respited.

Orders of the court

That William Parsons shall make and set up a stile and [a] bridge in the place where the stile first stood leading from Stonehill to the church, by the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 20s.

That Samson Broad shall make his wall higher, where need is, from the lower end of Saddlebreach to South hill, and amend his gate at his ground called South hill, by All Saints' day [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That Alice Walter, a widow, and William Walter shall make their wall higher and sufficient to save every man harmless about their grounds in Grandon field, by the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle [30 November] next, on pain [of] each of them making default to forfeit 10s.

That every man who has not paid William Dick for wanting [i.e. catching moles in] the fields shall pay him, everyone his part, by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain [of] every man making default to forfeit 5s.

That every[one] shall mend their bounds from the West field gate to Canter's piece by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, and make and keep them sufficient from time to time, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

Officers

Henry Hayward [was chosen] as tithingman for the coming year, Samuel Saunders as overseer of the fields, Hugh Smith as hayward.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, Richard Witt.

Court Baron held there on 1 October 1638

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

Francis Newman, Richard Witt, John Brown.

Surrender

Robert Long, clerk, and Humphrey Moody and his wife Anne, who hold by copy for the life of Robert and Anne a messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances, lately in Robert Brain's tenure, surrendered the

premises and the copy previously made, Anne being examined alone and in secret, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

Grant

Anthony Nowell and his wife Anne, who held by copy for Anne's life a cottage and a garden and an orchard lying near it, surrendered the premises and the copy previously made, Anne being examined in court alone and in secret, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. William Avery took the premises. They are to be held for life successively by him and his sons John and Robert for a yearly rent of 1s. 4d. and for all the other services formerly due. William gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of John and Robert is respited.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 20 April 1639

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Gale, Alice Walter, a widow, Thomas Hush, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, Henry Colborne, Robert Smith, Thomas Hayward, Edward Ponting, John Allis, William Harris, Robert Allis, Thomas Hush, Richard Witt, John Woodward, Robert Taylor, Richard Scriven, John Brown.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That a sheep came within the manor as a stray on 5 January last and remains in the keeping of Hugh Newman; it was valued for the lord at 3s. 4d.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3d.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3d.

That George Hughes is a common tippler and seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 3d.

That Margery Hayward, a widow, who held by copy for her widowhood a messuage with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; a heriot worth £5 10s. fell due to the lord and was paid to his bailiff. Thomas Hayward is the next taker and should hold the premises for life. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Robert Down *alias* Buckland, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; a heriot worth £4 fell due to the lord and was paid to his bailiff. Robert's wife Catherine Buckland should hold for her widowhood

the messuage and the other premises of which he died seised. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Grants

The lord granted to John Hodges the reversion of a messuage, of a water mill, and of a close of pasture containing about 1 acre, 7 acres of arable land lying in the fields, 2½ acres in Middle field way, and 2 acres of pasture in the Hay, except, and reserved to the lord, all estate in the park of Charlton. Alice Hodges, a widow, held the premises for her widowhood. They are to be held for life successively by John and his brother Thomas immediately after Alice's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 30s., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives £100 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The fealty and admittance of him and Thomas is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord licensed John, at any time within the next seven years, if he should have a son or daughter, to change [the nomination of] his brother's life and to replace his brother, then living, with his son, paying £10 to the lord, or to replace his brother, then living, with his daughter, paying £5 to the lord.

The lord granted a messuage or tenement with the appurtenances, a close of pasture containing about 3 acres, and 5½ acres of arable land in the Home field to Philip Saunders, John Palmer, and Henry, the son of an elder John Palmer, deceased. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 4s. 9d., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Philip gives £12 10s. to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of John and Henry is respited.

Orders of the court

That the bounds between Charlton commons and Garsdon shall be amended by 1 May next, and that every man having common of pasture in the commons of Braydon, the Heath, and the Moor shall pay, every one his part, in money, as he shall be rated at, for and towards the repairing of those bounds and [the] carriage of stuff to repair them whenever it shall be demanded, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.; and the rate is appointed to be made by the jury for that purpose, and they are to nominate collectors for to gather the money mentioned in the order.

That the Moor and the Heath shall be hained from Monday next [22 April] until 10 May next from horse beasts, rother beasts, and sheep, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.

That no man shall feed and depasture any sheep in the Moor and the Heath from Monday next [22 April] until St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit 20s.

That everyone who has [a] living to the value of [£10-]£20 a year shall depasture but two horse beasts, or one rother beast and one horse beast, in the Moor and the Heath until the feast day of St. Luke [18 October] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20s.; and he

that has £5-£10 a year in [a] living shall feed and depasture one horse beast or one rother beast in the Moor and the Heath during that term and no more, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.; and every man having [a] living in value above £20 a year [is] to feed such and so many cattle as above mentioned in the Moor and [the] Heath during that term after the rate of two beasts to £20 a year and no more, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit for every horse beast and rother beast anyone shall put to depasture in the Moor and [the] Heath contrary to this order 10s.

That every man having common of pasture in the commons of Charlton shall send one [person] of his house to help make a drift of the cattle feeding in those commons, when notice shall be given to them by the hayward or the lord's bailiff, as often as need shall be, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

That everyone shall mark his sheep with his pitch mark, and his horses and rother beasts with his iron mark or pitch mark, by 1 May next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.

That the fieldmen being now of the jury shall all meet in the Home field on 2 May next by 10 o'clock in the forenoon to set merestones, where need shall be found, between neighbour and neighbour, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 2s.

That the homage shall view the lands of my lord of Berkshire and [of] Mr. Throckmorton in a ground in the Hay, which is in the possession of John Turk, and to distinguish and set out the one from the other, and to do it on Whit Monday next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Richard Tuck.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 4 October 1639

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Freame, John Colls, Richard Pinneger, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, Henry Colborne, Richard Witt, Thomas Hayward, John Allis, Nicholas Waters, Thomas Hush, John Woodward, Edward Ponting, John Brown, John Smith, Thomas Hole, Robert Taylor, William Harris.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Thomas Cox, Thomas Heath, John Parker, Henry Dixon, and

Samuel Saunders are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Isaac Walter is a common tippler and seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 6*d*.

That Henry Dixon is a common tippler and seller of ale and broke the assize. Amerced, 12*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That William Witt overstocked the common, contrary to an order of the court, with one horse in the Moor and [the] Heath. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*.

That Richard Hughes overstocked the same common, contrary to the same order, with two rother beasts. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

That Alice Hodges has done likewise. She has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

That Samuel Saunders has done likewise. He has forfeited the penalty, 10*s*.

That Samuel Saunders, William Witt, and Francis Smith broke an order of the court for [*rectius* by] depasturing rother beasts, horse beasts, and sheep in the Moor before the day that it should be broken. Each amerced, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That Joan Brown, a widow, William Tubb, Thomas Bleek, and William Alexander broke an order made by the last court for [*rectius* by] not marking their sheep when they put them out into the commons. Each of them has forfeited the penalty, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That William Tubb broke an order made by the last court for [*rectius* by] suffering his sheep and lambs to feed in the Moor. He has forfeited the penalty, 20*s*.

That William Witt has done likewise. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Mary Medley has done likewise. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That an elder Henry Hole, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, 40*s*. Henry's son Thomas should hold for life a messuage or tenement and the other premises of which he died seised. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That two sheep came within the manor as strays on ... [*MS. blank*] last and remain in the keeping of John Francombe; they were valued for the lord at 9*s*.

Grants

Robert Smith, a customary tenant, surrendered two closes called Braydon closes containing about 10 acres, 4 acres of arable land in the Home field, and 1 acre of meadow with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Robert and his sons Francis and Thomas. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 3*s*. 4*d*., for 3*s*. 4*d*. for heriot, and for all the other services

formerly due. Robert and Francis give an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. Robert was admitted as tenant and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Francis and Thomas is respited.

The lord granted various parcels of the messuage and other premises of which an elder Henry Hole died seised, viz. a hall, a bed chamber within it, and two rooms above it, [all] part of the messuage, an orchard and a garden appurtenant to the messuage, a close called the Home close, a close of meadow called the Long mead, and a close called the Middle leaze, [altogether] containing about 12 acres, to Henry's sons Thomas and Henry. The premises are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 16s., for 40s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder Henry, in his lifetime, gave an agreed fine to the lord for that estate to be had. Thomas did fealty and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of the younger Henry is respited.

Orders made at this court

That the Moor and [the] Heath shall be hained from rother beasts, horse beasts, and sheep at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [25 March: Lady day] next, and so kept hained until 1 May next, and then to be broken, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20s.

That everyone having common of pasture in Braydon common not stinted shall feed his own common [i.e. make use of his own right of common] with his own cattle, and not let his or their common to anyone, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit £5.

That everyone having sheep feeding in the West field shall keep them from eating up the wheat now sown there, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That a rate shall be made by the homage before St. Luke's day [18 October] next to gather up money due to labourers for making and repairing the fences and mounds in and about the commons; and everyone who shall refuse to pay according as he shall be rated shall forfeit 3s. 4d.

That everyone who ought to pay towards the repairing of the Hay lane gate next [to] the Moor shall pay his part to Henry Hayward for the making of the same, as he ought to do, by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That everyone having land in the field shall pay his money to William Dick, the wanter [i.e. mole catcher], as he shall be set to pay; and what is behind for the last year unpaid is to be paid forthwith, and for the next year the one half [should be paid] at the feast of All Saints [1 November] and the other half on 3 May next ensuing, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

Officers

William Avery was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, Alice Hodges, a widow, as reeve.

Court Baron held there on 5 October 1639

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Robert Smith, Richard Tuck, William Witt, John Turk.

Grant

The lord granted the reversion of a messuage or tenement and of two closes of pasture in the West field, a close of meadow in the Home field, a close of pasture in the Hay, and 32 acres of arable land in the fields to Richard, the son of John Lane of Latton, and to John's daughter Jane Lane. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of Jane Tomes, a widow, who holds them for her widowhood, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 5s., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. John and Richard give £60 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but the fealty and admittance of Richard and Jane is respited until the reversion falls due.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 15 April 1640

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Edward Gale, Hugh Newman, Thomas Freame, William Cambridge, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, John Woodward, Henry Colborne, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Hole, Edward Ponting, Richard Witt, John Smith, Robert Allis, Thomas Hush, John Allis, Robert Taylor, John Turk, Henry Hayward.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Samuel Saunders, Aldham Brown, Thomas Witt, John Parker, and Richard Cox are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3d.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and took toll excessively. Amerced, 3d.

That George Hughes, Isaac Walter, and Henry Dixon are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3d.

That Richard Tuck and John Turk broke an order made by the last court for [rectius by] not paying their parts to Henry Hayward for making the Hay lane gate next [to] the Moor. Each of them has forfeited the penalty, 3s. 4d.

That Joan Taylor, a widow, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow valued at £4. Robert Taylor is the next taker by virtue of a copy previously made of the reversion. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That John Brown, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, a cow valued at 50s. John's wife Joan Brown should hold for her widowhood the messuage and other premises of which he died seised. She did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Orders made at this court

That everyone shall hain the Moor and [the] Heath from [i.e. by not] keeping or suffering any of their horse beasts, rother beasts, or sheep to feed in them from this day until 3 May next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 40s.; and none to break that common and keep sheep there until the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas], on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20s.

That everyone shall mark their horses, rother beasts, and sheep with their pitch mark or burnt mark before May day next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That everyone having [a] living to the value of £10 a year shall keep a horse beast or one rother beast in the Moor and [the] Heath only for his own use; but if anyone will keep more than one, then everyone shall feed but one horse beast or two rother beasts on £13 a year and so after that rate, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 40s.

That everyone shall ring their pigs before 18 April next, and so keep them, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That those of the jury who are fieldmen shall meet in the Home field and West field on Tuesday in the Whitsun week next to amend and set merestones between man and man, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

That everyone who shall be summoned by the tithingman or [the] lord's bailiff to come and help drive the commons shall come, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 6s. 8d.

We do appoint the former pain to stand concerning the payment of money for the reparations of the mounds in the commons.

Officer

William Avery, tithingman.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, John Woodward.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 26 September 1640

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Bleek and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Witt, Thomas Hayward, John Woodward, John Smith, Robert Taylor, Thomas Hole, Robert Allis, John Allis, Edward Ponting, William Harris, Henry Hayward, John Turk, an elder Henry Colborne, Richard Tuck, Thomas Groom.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes, Isaac Walter, and Henry Dixon are common victuallers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Davies, Richard Hughes, Richard Willis, Thomas Broad, Mistress Webb, Thomas Allis, James Powlton, William Witt, and Thomas Palmer broke an order of the court for [*rectius* by] not helping to drive the common. Each of them has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 6*s*. 8*d*.

That Thomas Hush *alias* Long, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, one valued at 50*s*. Thomas's son Thomas Hush *alias* Long is the next taker, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

Grants

The lord granted the reversion of a messuage or tenement and of all the [arable] land, meadow, and pasture appurtenant to it, lately in the tenure and possession of John Brown, deceased, to Robert Roberts of Ashton Keynes. The premises are to be held for life by him immediately after the death of Joan Brown, a widow, John's wife, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 7*s*., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Robert gives £30 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but his fealty and admittance is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Richard Peddington *alias* Tuck, a customary tenant, surrendered a messuage or tenement called Underhill's, with the appurtenances, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Richard and his daughter Isabel. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 2*s*. 4*d*., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Richard gives £14 to the lord as a fine for having that estate. The lord licensed him to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as he please during his life, the custom of the manor to the contrary notwithstanding. Richard did fealty and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of Isabel is respited.

Orders of the court

That those men who ought to repair Shawford's gate shall contribute

towards the repairing of it before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, and amend it sufficiently, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That John Waters shall amend and keep his mound next adjoining to Shawford's gate, on pain of 3s. 4d.

That every man who has mounds between Canter's piece and the West field gate next [to] Hankerton shall amend his part before St. Luke's tide [18 October] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That Samson Broad shall scour his ditch at Perry corner [so] that the water may pass, by St. Luke's tide [18 October] next, on pain of 5s.

Officers

Joseph Parry was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, Thomas Hole as reeve.

Affeerors

Richard Witt, Thomas Hayward.

Court Baron held there on 30 October 1640

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Woodward, Thomas Hole, John Turk, Thomas Hush.

Surrender

Henry Hole surrendered the reversion, after the death of his brother Thomas, of a messuage or tenement and of an orchard and a garden lying near it, a close called the Home close, a close of meadow called the Long mead, and a close called the Middle leaze, containing altogether about 12 acres and all in Thomas's tenure or occupation, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished.

Court Baron held there on 24 November 1640

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Woodward, John Webb, gentleman, Henry Long, John Smith, Hugh Smith.

Grant

The lord granted the reversion of a messuage or tenement and an orchard and a garden lying near it, and of a close called the Home close, a close of meadow called the Long mead, and a close called the Middle

leaze, containing altogether about 12 acres and now in Thomas Hole's tenure or occupation, to Simon, Daniel, and Thomas, sons of Simon Oateridge of Garsdon. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of Thomas Hole, who holds them for life, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of 16s., for 40s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder Simon gives £30 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but the fealty and admittance of the younger Simon, of Daniel, and of Thomas Oateridge is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord further granted that if, within the next seven years, the younger Simon were to surrender the premises, the lord would be willing to re-grant them for life successively to three other children of the elder Simon, nominated and appointed by him, in place of the younger Simon, Daniel, and Thomas, provided that the younger Simon, Daniel, and Thomas were then living.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 7 May 1641

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

A younger Richard Brown, James Powlton, John Curtis, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, Richard Tuck, Henry Colborne, John Woodward, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Hole, David Neale, Robert Taylor, Edward Ponting, John Allis, John Turk, Henry Hayward, Robert Allis, John Smith.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Samuel Saunders, Robert Avery, John Parker, and John Heath are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Richard Hughes, Samson Broad, William Alexander, Richard Tuck, John Taylor, and Henry Long, clerk, broke an order made by the last court because they would not repair their boundaries at Wallow hedge and Canter's piece. Each of them has forfeited the penalty, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That John Waters, who was never admitted as tenant to a customary tenement with the appurtenances [and] who was now living and of full age, asks to do his fealty. The lord granted a licence, and [John] did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Robert Roberts, who was never admitted as tenant to a customary tenement with the appurtenances [and] who was now living, asks to do his fealty. The lord granted a licence, and [Robert] did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

Orders of the court

That Richard Tuck shall scour his ditch by his house to draw the water from annoying the highway, by 14 May next, on pain of 5s.

That none shall bait any horse beast in the corn fields after Lammas [1 August] until the breach of the field, but tie their horse to bush or sedge, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20s.

That everyone shall cleanse and scour his part of the brook running through his ground from Broadwater to the bridge at Goldwell, before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That everyone having ditches and ways to their grounds in Grandon Lane, from Avery's house to Francis Newman's leaze, shall scour his ditch and his way at his gate to his ground, by the feast of St. Michael the Archangel [29 September: Michaelmas], on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That the widow Hodges, Richard Scriven, and Samson Broad shall each one of them cleanse and scour his ditch and watercourse at their grounds at the Willows to draw the water out of the highway, by Lammas day [1 August] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That William Tubb shall lay up the ancient highway through the Lammas down before Lammas day [1 August], or else to amend and maintain the way that now is, before Michaelmas day [29 September] next, on pain of 40s.

That everyone who has sheep in the Moor and [the] Heath shall take them away before Sunday next, and that none shall keep, nor suffer, their sheep to feed in the Moor and [the] Heath until St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That the bounds about the Heath and commons shall be made by the commoners by 18 May next, and every[one] who has common [is] to pay towards the same so much money as he shall be rated [at] proportionably, the same being demanded, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.; we appoint Henry Colborne to gather up the monies on the rate made for the repairing of the bounds, and do allow him for his pains 2s.

That none shall take in or keep any sheep, horse beast, or rother beast in the commons but what are their own proper goods, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 40s.

That a drift shall be made as often as the lord's bailiff and tenants shall think fit, and whosoever refuses to help make the drift, having warning, shall forfeit 3s. 4d.

That none shall take in any inmates, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 40s.

That those who ought to repair the gate at Shawford's shall join together to make it sufficient before 18 May next, and so keep it, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 2s.

That John Allis, Robert Allis, Richard Witt, and Thomas Hayward

shall take a view and set merestones between the lord's ground and Mr. Martin's in a ground of Thomas Hush on Monday in the Whitsun week next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Richard Tuck, Richard Witt.

Court Baron held there on 24 May 1641

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Woodward, Richard Witt, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Hole, Edward Ponting, Thomas Groom, John Smith, Thomas Hush, Philip Saunders.

Grant

The lord granted the reversion of a messuage or tenement with the appurtenances to Simon and Thomas, sons of Simon Oateridge of Garsdon. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of William Alexander, who holds them for life, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of ... [*MS. blank*], for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. The elder Simon gives £100 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but the fealty and admittance of the younger Simon and of Thomas is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord grants that, if within the next seven years the younger Simon were to surrender the premises, he would be willing to re-grant them for life successively to two other persons nominated and appointed by the elder Simon in place of the younger Simon and Thomas, provided that the younger Simon and Thomas were then living.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 1 October 1641

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Allis, Thomas Hush, John Cove, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, Richard Tuck, David Neale, Robert Allis, Thomas Hole, Nicholas Waters, Thomas Davies, Thomas Hayward, John Smith, Thomas Groom, Robert Taylor, John Turk, Philip Saunders, John Allis, Richard Scriven, Edward Ponting.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes and Isaac Walter are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, and Samson Broad broke an order of the court because they did not scour their ditches and watercourses at the Willows. They have forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*.

That William Tubb broke an order made by the last court for [*rectius* by] not laying open the ancient highway through the Lammas down. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 40*s*.

That Isaac Walter made an affray on Anthony Palmer. Amerced, 12*d*.

That William Witt broke the common pound. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Henry Parry, gentleman, has died seised of land in Charlton which he held by suit of court. His son Joseph is his heir and should be admitted. He asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That John Woodward, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; a heriot, worth £3 10*s*., fell due. John's wife Agnes should be admitted for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

That William Alexander, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; a heriot, worth £3 10*s*., fell due. William's wife Margaret should be admitted for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

Orders of the court

That the Home field shall be parted before Candlemas day [2 February] next; all the fieldmen are to meet there on Allhollan day [All Saints' day: 1 November] next to view the work, and every man who has land shooting on the brook shall quickset and make so much hedge and ditch, as to everyone's part do belong, on the far side of the field, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3*s*. 4*d*.

That everyone shall make his mounds sufficient from Canter's piece to the West field gate by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, and [so] keep them from time to time, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3*s*. 4*d*.

That Justinian Smith shall rid and carry away, or cause to be carried away, all the earth, stones, and rubble lying in the highway at his door, before St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That the widow Woodward shall let her living no more without the lord's licence, on pain of forfeiture of it.

Officers

David Neale was chosen as tithingman for the coming year, Thomas Davies as reeve.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Richard Witt.

Court Baron held there on 25 November 1641

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

Edward Ponting, Thomas Hayward, John Smith.

Grant

An elder Richard Witt, a customary tenant, surrendered a house, with a curtilage, an orchard, and a garden lying near it, and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land lately inclosed in Grandon field, so that the lord might do as he wished. He also surrendered a close of pasture containing about 4 acres lying in the Hay between the land of Henry Long, clerk, and the Hay lane, a close of pasture containing about 4 acres lying in the Home field, three ridges of arable land containing about 1 acre on the Middle hill in the Home field, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of arable land in the Home field between Richard Tuck's land and the land of Henry Martin, gentleman, 1 acre of arable land in the Home field lying near Samson Broad's land, and 1 acre of meadow lying in the West field in the Windmill mead with Edward Ponting's land south and the Fourmen acre north, [?all] lately part of a customary tenement called Cornwall's, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Richard and his daughters Elizabeth Witt and Margaret Witt. They are to be held for life successively by them for a yearly rent of 6s., for 4s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Richard gives an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. The lord licensed him to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises or any part of them as often as he please during the term. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of Elizabeth and Margaret is respited.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 20 April 1642

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Hodges, Thomas Cove, Edward Gale, William Witt, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Tuck, Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, Thomas Hayward, Robert Taylor, Edward Ponting, John Allis, John Turk, John Smith, John Taylor, Thomas Hole, Robert Allis, Nicholas Waters, Henry Hayward, John Hodges.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes and Isaac Walter are common victuallers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Justinian Smith broke an order of the court for [*rectius* by] not carrying away rubble and earth lying at his door in the Church way. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*.

That Joseph Parry, gentleman, a free tenant of the manor, has died seised of lands which he held in Charlton by suit of court. His brother Hugh Parry, gentleman, is his heir, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Grants

William Cove, a customary tenant, surrendered 2 acres of arable land which were once part of a customary tenement called Cornwall's, 1½ acre of which lies in the field called the Hay and ½ acre lies in the Middle field, and his copy by which he holds it, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the land to Thomas Hayward. It is to be held for life successively by him and his daughters Margery and Mary for a yearly rent of 8*d*., for 8*d*. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Thomas gives £7 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty, but the fealty and admittance of Margery and Mary is respited.

Richard Witt, a customary tenant, surrendered *the same premises as he surrendered in the court baron held on 25 November 1641* with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the premises to Richard's daughter Elizabeth Witt. They are to be held for life successively by her, Richard, and Richard's daughter Margaret Witt for a yearly rent of 6*s*., [*interlined: 6d. for mead-silver, 4d. for court-silver,*] for 4*s*. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. Elizabeth and Richard give an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. The lord licensed Elizabeth, Richard, and Margaret to have, make, and substitute an undertenant and undertenants in the premises and any part of them as often as they please during the term. Elizabeth did fealty and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty and admittance of Richard and Margaret is respited.

Orders of the court

That every man shall rid away his sheep and cattle in all the fields before 23 April next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20*s*.

That none shall tie, feed, or depasture their sheep, oxen, or horses in any of their fields until the breach of the fields, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 40*s*.

That every man shall make his bounds sufficient from Meers hill to Canter's piece by 1 May next, and so to keep them, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10*s*.

That William Tubb shall lay up the ancient highway through the Lammas down before 1 August next, or, before the same day, amend and maintain the highway that in the same [place] is now insufficient, on pain of 40s.

That all the men of this jury shall meet on Monday morning in the Whitsun week next, between six and seven o'clock, to take a view between John Allis's ground and William Tubb's grounds lying by the Lammas down, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

That everyone who is behind in payment to the wanter [*i.e.* mole catcher] of his part shall pay that as [he] is due to pay to him before 1 May next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

That Justinian Smith shall make his mounds between the Conygers and Alice Hodges's ground by May day next, and so to keep them, on pain of 10s.

Officers

Edward Ponting and John Smith were chosen as overseers of the fields; tithingman, David Neale.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck.

Court Baron held there on 26 August 1642

The court baron of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Homage

John Allis, Robert Taylor, Edward Ponting, Henry Hayward, Thomas Davies.

Grant

John Hodges, a customary tenant in reversion, surrendered the estate which he has in reversion after the death of Alice Hodges, a widow, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, in a messuage and water mill, with the appurtenances, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the messuage and water mill, a close of pasture containing about 1 acre, 7 acres of arable land lying in the fields, 2½ acres in Middle field way, and 2 acres of pasture in the Hay, except, and reserved to the lord, all estate in the park of Charlton, all which premises Alice held for her widowhood, to John and to Anne Taylor. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after Alice's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 30s., for a pig worth 5s. for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. John and Anne give an agreed fine to the lord for having that estate. Their fealty and admittance is respited until the reversion falls due. The lord further granted to John that if, at any time within the next seven years, John would pay £20 to him or his heirs and surrender his estate in the premises, he would re-

grant the premises, according to the terms of the above grant, to John, Anne, and a son or daughter nominated by John, to be held for life successively by them.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 7 October 1642

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Day, Richard Brown, John Neale, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Tuck, Richard Witt, John Turk, Thomas Hayward, Robert Allis, Edward Ponting, Robert Taylor, John Smith, Henry Hayward, Thomas Davies, John Head, Thomas Groom, Nicholas Waters, John Hodges, Philip Saunders.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That a younger Thomas Hush, Justinian Smith, John Washbourne, Thomas Greenway, John Parker, John Bowler, and Richard Cox are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes and Isaac Walter are common victuallers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That a heifer came within the manor as a stray at the feast of Pentecost last and remains in the keeping of the lord's bailiff; it was valued for the lord at 20*s*.

That Richard Cox, Thomas Broad, James Powlton, John Washbourne, Thomas Witt, Justinian Smith, Robert Allis, John Parker, and Richard Tanner refused to contribute towards the repair of the king's highways and have not done their works in the repair thereof. Each amerced, 6*s*.

Grant

The lord granted the reversion of a cottage, an orchard, a garden, and, lying near them, a parcel of land containing about 1 acre in the Moor to John Brown and his daughter Joan Brown. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after the death of Joan Brown, a widow, who holds them for her widowhood, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 5*s*., for heriot, and for all the other services formerly due. John gives £6 to the lord as a fine for having that estate, but the fealty and admittance of him and [his daughter] Joan is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Orders of the court

That every man shall make his mound between Canter's piece and

the West field gate by 12 October next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5s.

That no man shall keep any pigs in the Home field to feed there, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That every man who does overstock the common fields with sheep shall forfeit 4*d.* for every sheep overpastured.

Officers

John Francombe was chosen as tithingman, Philip Saunders as reeve.

Affeerors

Richard Tuck, Richard Witt.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 7 April 1643

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Henry Sealy, Richard Brown, Richard Canter, William Lea, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Tuck, Robert Taylor, Thomas Hayward, John Turk, Thomas Hole, Thomas Groom, John Hodges, Thomas Davies, Richard Witt, Nicholas Waters, Philip Saunders, John Allis, William Harris, Henry Hayward, Robert Roberts, David Neale, John Smith.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That John Throckmorton, gentleman, Henry Martin, gentleman, Henry Rich, gentleman, and John Thorne, gentleman, are free suitors and tenants of the manor, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That George Hughes, Isaac Walter, and Henry Dixon are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d.*

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d.*

That 12 sheep valued at ... [*MS. blank*] came within the manor as strays on 12 January last and remain in the lord's keeping.

That two sheep valued at ... [*MS. blank*] came within the manor as strays on 12 January last and remain in the lord's keeping.

That Hugh Parry, gentleman, a free tenant, died seised of lands in Charlton which he held by suit of court. Henry Rich, gentleman, is the next heir.

Orders of the court

That Mistress Parry, a widow, shall set up a stile and a needful [*i.e.* necessary] bridge between her two haxalls at the ancient place where it stood formerly, leading from Broad green to the house which Mr. Richman now dwells in, by 1 May next, on pain of 10s.

That the Moor and [the] Heath shall be hained from sheep only from the 17th day of this April, and so to be kept until the breach of the fields, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 20s.

That no man shall let loose or tie his or their horse [or] horses in the fields on another man's ground after 1 August next, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 5s.

That Justinian Smith shall remove and carry away the heap of dung at his stable door in the Church way by 1 May next, on pain of 20s.; and that he shall keep the place sweet and decent for the time to come, on pain of 20s.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 13 October 1643

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

John Curtis, John Washbourne, William Lea, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, Richard Tuck, John Allis, Robert Smith, John Smith, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Hole, Thomas Hush, John Hodges, John Taylor, John Turk, Thomas Davies, Edward Ponting, David Neale, Robert Allis, Robert Roberts.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Henry Webb, gentleman, Thomas Greenway, Thomas Neale, and Daniel Neale are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of the mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Hugh Smith and George Hughes are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Justinian Smith has broken the pain of 20s. for [?rectius by] not carrying away the soil at his stable door in the common Church way, [as he should have] according to an order made at the last court; and also he has broken another order, made at the court, for that he should carry away that soil according to the order made in that behalf and should lay no more there but keep the place sweet and decent for ever after, and for not performing that he has broken the pain of 20s.

That John Washbourne has broken an order of the court, viz. for [?rectius by] feeding and tying his mare in the corn fields at Banbury hill contrary to the tenor of the order. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 5s.

That Anthony Palmer broke the common pound. Amerced, 10s.

That Justinian Smith did likewise. Amerced, 20s.

That Henry Webb, gentleman, did likewise. Amerced, 20s.

That eight sheep valued at ... [*MS. blank*] came within the manor as strays and remain in the lord's keeping.

Orders of the court

That Justinian Smith shall cleanse and scour the ditch in the ground he holds of Mr. Bartholomew Hall, called the Home close, to draw the water out of the highway before the widow Scriven's door, before St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of 10s.

That Samuel Saunders shall scour the ditch at the field leaze lately inclosed next to the widow Alexander's piece in the Home field, by All Saints' day [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That the widow Alexander shall scour the watercourse drawing the water into Samuel Saunders's ditch, before the feast of All Saints [1 November] next, on pain of 10s.

That the fieldmen shall meet together [on] 2 November next to take a view of all faults in the West field, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That the widow Jane Tomes shall cause her hedge to be cut at her leaze in the Home field next to the widow Alexander's piece on the north and south sides, by Candlemas day [2 February] next, on pain of 10s.

Officers

A younger John Waters was chosen as reeve for the coming year, Henry Hayward as tithingman, Richard Tuck and Thomas Hayward as overseers of the fields, Hugh Smith as hayward.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, Thomas Hayward.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 13 April 1644

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Thomas Hodges, Henry Sealy, John Stiff, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Thomas Hayward, Richard Witt, Robert Smith, Robert Allis, Robert Taylor, John Francombe, John Smith, Thomas Hole, Richard Tuck, Thomas Hush, Philip Saunders, Thomas Davies, John Turk, William Harris, John Hodges, Nicholas Waters, Edward Ponting.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Samuel Saunders, Henry Webb, gentleman, Robert Roberts,

John Washbourne, John Tuck, Thomas Groom, David Neale, and Thomas Neale are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes and Hugh Smith are common victuallers, broke the assize, and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Hugh Parry, gentleman, a free tenant, has died seised of lands in Charlton which he held by suit of court. Henry Rich, gentleman, his half-brother is his heir, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

That Justinian Smith broke an order of the court because he did not scour his ditch appurtenant to the Home close, to draw the water dry out of the highway. He has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*., and it was ordered that he should scour the ditch before 4 May next, on pain of 20*s*.

That ... [*MS. blank*] Alexander, a widow, has broken an order of the court because she did not scour her ditch or watercourse, namely to draw the water into the ditch of Samuel Saunders. She has forfeited the penalty provided for in the order, 10*s*., and it was ordered that she should scour the ditch or watercourse before the feast of St. Michael [29 September: Michaelmas] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That John Allis, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, 50*s*. His wife Elizabeth Allis should be admitted as tenant for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted and was admitted as tenant.

That Joan Sealy, a widow, accepted John Chappell and his wife as inmates. It was ordered that she should eject them within the next six days, on pain of £10.

Orders of the court

That Samuel Saunders shall scour the watercourse from the widow Alexander's ground as far as his ground goes, by Michaelmas day [29 September] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That no man shall put any horse into the fallow field to keep them there, until the breach of the field, each on pain of 20*s*.

That no man shall keep or tie any horse in the corn field after Lammas day [1 August] until the breach of the field, except [if] they tie them to a wall or bush and not otherwise, each on pain of 10*s*.

Officer

Henry Hayward, tithingman.

Affeerors

Thomas Hayward, Richard Witt.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 4 October 1644

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of

Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

William Lea, Edward Gale, Francis Richman, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Witt, Thomas Hayward, Richard Tuck, Robert Smith, John Francombe, Robert Taylor, John Taylor, Nicholas Waters, Thomas Hole, John Turk, Edward Ponting, John Smith, Thomas Hush, John Hodges.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Samuel Saunders, Henry Webb, gentleman, Robert Knight, John Washbourne, Richard Dobbs, David Neale, Thomas Neale, and Walter Foscott are residents, live within the jurisdiction of this court, owe suit to this court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Hugh Smith, George Hughes, Francis Smith, and Simon Painter are common tipplers and sellers of ale and broke the assize. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Hugh Smith broke the common pound. Amerced, 3*s*. 4*d*.

Orders of the court

That Hugh Roberts shall remove John Taylor and his family out of his house, except [if] John do give security to save the parish harmless, by 12 October next, on pain of £5.

That, whereas Thomas Palmer has taken in Robert Hobbs and his wife as inmates, he shall avoid them, except he [Robert] do give security to discharge the parish of his charge, by 12 October next, on pain of £5.

That Thomas Harvord shall avoid and remove William Davies and his family out of his house, except [if] William do give security to discharge the parish, by 12 October next, on pain of £5.

That Mary Colborne, a widow, shall avoid and remove one Thomas Cook and his family out of her house, [which] she let [to] John Alexander, except [if] Thomas do give security to discharge the parish, by 12 October next, on pain of £5.

That everyone shall make bounds round the field from the West field gate to Canter's piece by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 5*s*.

Officers

Edward Ponting was chosen as reeve for the coming year, Henry Hayward as tithingman.

View of Frankpledge with Manor Court held there on 12 April 1645

The view of frankpledge, with the court of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of John Platt, esquire, the steward.

Essoins

Richard Hughes, John Waters, Edward Simons, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Witt, Richard Tuck, Robert Smith, Thomas Hayward, Robert Allis, John Smith, David Neale, Robert Taylor, Thomas Groom, Philip Saunders, William Harris, John Turk, John Head, William Avery.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Edward Douce, esquire, Henry Martin, gentleman, John Thorner, gentleman, William Palmer, clerk, Bartholomew Hall, gentleman, John Throckmorton, gentleman, and Henry Rich, gentleman, are free suitors, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Davies, Thomas Webb, Henry Webb, gentleman, Thomas Broad, Robert Roberts, Francis Smith, Thomas Cove, John Washbourne, William Davies, John Tuck, Aldham Brown, Thomas Greenway, John Taylor, Thomas Hole, Walter Foscott, Thomas Neale, Daniel Neale, John Neale, Richard Cox, and James Baker are residents, live within the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present on this day. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Alice Hodges, a widow, is a common miller and behaved badly in the exercise of her mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes is a common butcher and behaved badly in the exercise of his mystery. Amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Harvord broke an order made at the last court because he would not eject William Davies from his house and has not given security for saving the parish harmless. He has forfeited the penalty, £5, and it was ordered that he should give security for saving the parish harmless, or remove the tenant, before 1 May next, on pain of £5.

That Margery Knight, a widow, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, valued at £2 3*s*. 4*d*. Robert Knight is the next taker by virtue of a copy previously made of the reversion. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Mr. Bartholomew Hall is a great oppressor of [*rectius* by] pasturing joistment sheep to the number of 200 and above in our commons, contrary to our common orders and custom. Amerced, £5.

That Aldham Brown did likewise. Amerced, 5*s*.

That Thomas Buckland and his son did likewise. Amerced, 20*s*.

That Philip Saunders is a customary tenant, an inhabitant within the jurisdiction of this court, sworn for the king and the homage, owes suit to this court, and was not present. Amerced, 6*d*.

Orders of the court

That Philip Saunders shall avoid and remove Robert Hobbs and his family out of his house before the feast of Pentecost next, or give security to discharge the parish of them, on pain of £5.

That Justinian Smith and all other persons who have or keep any pigs in any of our fields or commons shall from time to time hereafter keep them duly ringed, on pain of every pig so found three days unringed to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That Justinian Smith shall amend and maintain his mounds in Grandon between Edward Ponting and himself, by 1 May next, on pain of 20s.

That Justinian Smith shall amend and maintain his mounds between the widow Tomes and Highway's, on pain of 20s.

That, if any person shall be found to overpasture with sheep in any of the fields, [he] shall for every sheep forfeit 16d., that is to say 12d. to the hayward and 4d. to the party aggrieved.

That we do make the like order for horses and rother beasts; for every horse or rother beast to forfeit 3s. 4d., that is to say 2s. 4d. to the lord and 1s. for the party aggrieved.

That no man shall keep or tie any horse or mare in the corn field, except it be [tied] to the hedge or bush, from Lammas day [1 August] to the breach of the field, on pain of every man making default to forfeit 5s.

That Justinian Smith shall mend and maintain his mounds between the widow Hodges and his ground called the Conygers by the 20th day of this April, on pain of 10s.

That every customary tenant or leaseholder shall, upon lawful summons by the tithingman, go, or send with him either horse or foot [?or send with the tithingman either a horse or a man on foot], to drive the commons as often as he or they shall be so required, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

Oath of allegiance

Christopher Knight is sworn to the king for his allegiance.

Affeerors

Richard Witt, Richard Tuck, Robert Smith.

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View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 8 October 1646

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held by Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

Hugh Waters, William Waters, John Hodges, and others are essoined of common [suit].

Free suitors

Edmund Dunch in the right of his wife, Bartholomew Hall, William Palmer, clerk, Henry Rich, and William Harris are free suitors of the court and owe suit of court.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, Richard Witt, Robert Smith, John Turk, Thomas Hayward, John Hodges, Thomas Allis, Robert Taylor, Thomas Davies, Edward Ponting, John Smith, Henry Hayward, Philip Saunders, John Head, David Neale, Thomas Hush, William Harris, John Waters.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That Edmund Dunch, esquire, Henry Rich, gentleman, and Bartholomew Hall are free suitors of the manor, owe suit of court, and were not present. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That George Hughes, Hugh Smith, Thomas Broad, Henry Hole, and Simon Painter are common victuallers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 12*d*.

That Philip Avery, who held a cottage and a garden, has died since the last court; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. Philip's wife Joan should hold and enjoy the premises for her widowhood. She asks to be admitted, was admitted as tenant, and did fealty.

Orders and pains

That Mrs. Emme Webb [should] remove the widow Powell, her undertenant, within 10 days, on pain of 40*s*.

That John Waters [should] scour his ditch to draw the water out of the street against Richard Scriven's house by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That Samson Broad shall scour his ditch by the Hay lane gate to draw the water out of the highway by All Saints' day [1 November] next, on pain of 10*s*.

That every man who shall dig any sand in the Heath within 20 feet of the highway shall forfeit 20*s*. for every offence.

That Edward Jakes and George Hughes shall carry away their soil out of the highway by the church house before St. Luke's day [18 October] next, on pain of forfeiting 5*s*. apiece.

That everyone shall make his bounds sufficient from the West field gate round to Canter's piece by St. Luke's day [18 October] next, and so keep them, on pain of 10*s*. for every default.

That, whereas the living now in the possession of Anne Woodward, widow, is by custom and turn to serve the office of a tithingman, the widow Woodward do provide a sufficient man to serve that office this ensuing year, on pain of 40*s*.

That, the widow Buckland's living being in like manor [due] to find a reeve this ensuing year, the widow Buckland [should] provide an able man to execute that office according to the custom, on pain of 40*s*.

That all the sheep shall be rid out of the corn fields by 12 October next, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

We present that Francis Newman, a copyholder, has suffered his barn to go to decay, and we order that he do repair it before the feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June], next on pain of 40s.

Grant

Thomas Davies surrendered a messuage or tenement, a close lying near it called Plumgaston containing about 6 acres, a headland of land in Home field, and 1 acre in the Hay, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, nothing because it is not heriotable. The lord granted the premises to Thomas, to be held for life successively by him and his sons Thomas and William for a yearly rent of 2s. 4d. and for all the other services formerly due. The elder Thomas gives £20 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of the younger Thomas and of William is respited.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, Richard Tuck, Richard Witt.

[*Signed*]

Henry Stephens.

Court Baron held there on 11 January 1647

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

Richard Witt, Francis Newman, Richard Tuck, Edward Ponting, Thomas Hayward, Robert Taylor, John Turk.

Grant

Hugh Waters, gentleman, surrendered the reversion of a tenement at Stonehill, with a garden and an orchard lying near it, and of various closes of pasture and meadow containing about 24 acres, [all] now in the occupation of an elder Francis Waters, gentleman, his brother, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the reversion to Francis's son Francis. [The premises] are to be held for life by him immediately after his father's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by him, for a yearly rent of 13s. 5d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. The younger Francis gives £20 to the lord for an entry fine, but fealty and admittance is respited until [the reversion falls due].

Affeerors

None.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 26 October 1647

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Francis Waters, gentleman, Richard Tuck, Robert Smith, Francis Newman, John Francombe, John Turk, Thomas Hayward, John Hodges, Robert Taylor, Thomas Davies, Edward Ponting, John Smith, Philip Saunders, David Neale, William Harris, Thomas Hush, John Waters, Thomas Allis.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That George Hughes, Hugh Smith, Thomas Broad, Henry Hole, and Simon Painter are common tipplers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*. Also that each sold ale without a licence. Each amerced, 6*d*.

That a stray heifer worth 13*s*. 4*d*. has remained in the lord's keeping; it was made a stray through Richard Tuck, Samuel Saunders, and John Hodges, according to term of a statute, on 23 October.

That William Waters broke the common pound and by main force took some sheep which, on the oath of Samuel Saunders, trespassed on Edward Ponting to his loss of £2 10*s*.

That James Harding of Milbourne by main force took from the common pound some oxen which, on the oath of Samuel Saunders, trespassed on Edward Ponting to his loss of £2 10*s*.

That Robert Allis, the customary tenant of a message with the appurtenances, is dead; heriot, [?] a tin rake (*aren'ras*) worth 16*s*. Thomas Allis should enjoy the premises for his life. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

That Anne Woodward, a widow, who held an estate within the manor for her widowhood, has lately died; heriot, ... [*MS. blank*]. Anne's son John Woodward should hold the premises for his life.

Grant

The lord granted to John the son of John Waters, gentleman, of Charlton the reversion of a message or tenement called the Lype, with all the land appurtenant to it, and of a close of pasture in which the message stands, a close of pasture called Madley's lying near it, ½ yardland, 9 acres of arable land of the demene land called Fortlands, 1 acre of land lying in the Hay lately had in exchange for another acre of Fortlands, and a close called Claybreach in Kingershay, [all] now in Hugh Waters's tenure. The premises are to be held for life by the younger John immediately after the death of Hugh and the elder John, or on surrender or forfeiture by them, for a yearly rent of 7*s*. 9*d*., for all the other services formerly due, and for

heriot. The elder John gives £40 to the lord for an entry [fine]. The admittance and the fealty are respited until [the reversion falls due]. It is agreed that the younger John, being tenant in possession, will carry with his cart an adequate cart-load of wood yearly from the lord's wood in Braydon to the lord's mansion house in Charlton to, and for the use of, the lord for the time being. The lord licensed the younger John to make and put in place an undertenant or undertenants in the premises and any part of them from time to time for his life, any custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Pains and orders made at this court

That Mrs. Emme Webb, widow, shall avoid [i.e. expell] the widow Powell and her child from [i.e. by not] entertaining them any more, on pain for making every default to forfeit 10s.

That whosoever shall dig, or set workmen to dig, sand in the Heath common within 20 feet of the highway shall forfeit, for everyone so making default, 20s.

That everyone shall make his bounds from the West field gate to Canter's piece by 3 November next, and the same [bounds] to maintain and keep so repaired, on pain for everyone making default to forfeit for every such offence 10s.

That everyone having common of pasture in the Home field shall depasture but one sheep on an acre, on pain for everyone making such default to forfeit 10s.

That, [on] 8 November next, all the fieldmen shall meet at the church wall to go together into the Home field to take course between them for [the] parting and quicksetting of that field, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit 13s. 4d.

That, by 11 November next, a gate shall be hung up at the Hay lands end by Broadwater, and the bounds by the gate shall be repaired and made sufficient by those who anciently maintained and kept them, on pain of everyone making default [i.e. failing] to contribute towards the hanging up of that gate and [the] mending [of] those bounds to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, by that 11 November, everyone who ought to contribute towards the making and maintaining of the Suy [*rectius* Hay] lane gate next to the Home field shall join together and hang up that gate, and make those bounds, on pain [of] everyone making default to forfeit 3s. 4d.

That, by 3 November next, William Waters shall make and hang up gates between his ground adjoining his house and the Home field, and a gate by his house next to the street, and [he should] make his bounds sufficient and so keep them, on pain [of] making default to forfeit 20s.

That every commoner in Braydon common shall pay ratably, according to the church rate, towards the repairing and keeping of the fences and bounds in and about those commons; and to have them repaired by 20 November next, on pain [of] everyone who will not pay towards that work on command to forfeit 3s. 4d. And John Waters, gentleman, and

John Francombe are appointed to gather up the money and see the work performed.

Officers

Thomas Witt was chosen as tithingman, Thomas Groom as reeve, Robert Taylor and John Hodges as overseers of the fields.

Affeerors

Francis Waters, John Francombe, Henry Hayward.

Court Baron held there on 6 December 1647

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

Thomas Hayward, Edward Ponting, Francis Newman, Robert Knight, John Waters, Thomas Hush.

Grant

Bartholomew Hall, gentleman, surrendered 4 acres of arable land lying in the Home field, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished. The lord granted the land to a younger William Gagg of Hankerton. [It] is to be held for life successively by him, his daughter Elizabeth Gagg, and John the son of William Miles of Hankerton for a yearly rent of 1s. 6d. and for all the other services formerly due. William Gagg gives £6 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant, but the fealty of Elizabeth and John is respited.

Court Baron held there on 31 January 1648

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

Robert Smith, Thomas Hayward, Philip Saunders, Robert Knight, John Waters.

Grant

Bartholomew Hall, gentleman, surrendered a tenement with the appurtenances, now in his tenure and formerly in the tenure of Alice Scriven, a widow, with the intention that the lord might do as he wished; heriot, as agreed between Bartholomew and the lord. The lord granted the tenement, with the [arable] land, meadow, pasture, and common [rights]

appurtenant to it, to Justinian Smith. The premises are to be held for life by him for a yearly rent of 10s., for all the other services formerly due, and for £3 for heriot. Justinian gives £10 to the lord for an entry fine, did fealty, and was admitted as tenant.

Court Baron held there on 22 February 1648

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of John Waters, gentleman, the deputy of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

Thomas Hayward, Edward Ponting, John Turk, John Head, Thomas Hush, Hugh Smith.

Presentment of the homage

That Anne Woodward, a widow, a customary tenant, has died since the last court; heriot, paid to the lord's bailiff. Anne's son John Woodward should be admitted as tenant for life in accordance with the tenor of a copy. He did fealty and was admitted as tenant.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held there on 17 [?rectius 27] April 1648

The view of frankpledge, with the court baron of the manor, of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Jurors for the king and the homage

Richard Tuck, Thomas Hayward, Edward Ponting, Robert Smith, John Francombe, John Turk, Thomas Allis, John Smith, William Harris, John Hodges, Thomas Davies, David Neale, Thomas Hush, Philip Saunders, William Witt, John Waters, Thomas Hole, Justinian Smith.

Presentments of the jurors and homage

That George Hughes, Thomas Broad, and Hugh Smith are common tipplers and sold ale through prohibited measures. Each amerced, 3*d*.

That Thomas Broad and George Hughes sold ale without a licence. Each amerced, 2*s*. 6*d*.

That Emme Webb would not send away ... [*MS. blank*] Powell, a widow, [as she should have done] according to an order of the last court. She has forfeited the penalty, 20*s*.

That William Waters has not made and amended his boundaries nor

hung his gates [as he should have] according to an order of the last court. He has forfeited the penalty, 10s.

That Robert Taylor, a customary tenant of a messuage with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, an ox worth £7. Robert's wife should be admitted as tenant.

That Henry Hayward, who held a messuage or tenement with the appurtenances, has died since the last court; heriot, worth £4. Henry's wife should be admitted as tenant.

That Samson Broad, a customary tenant, has died since the last court. His son Thomas should be admitted as tenant for life.

That four sheep worth 40s. came within the manor as strays at the feast of All Saints [1 November] and remained in the lords keeping.

That two sheep and two lambs worth £1 came within the manor as strays on 27 April and remain in the lord's keeping.

Orders

That neither man nor woman who has common [rights] within the commons of Charlton shall let or set their common [rights] together with their grounds to anyone who does not inhabit in our own parish; neither shall they let or set their common [rights] to any stranger alone, by itself, [and separate] from their ground. But, if they let their ground, they may let common [rights] proportionable to that, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit £5. This order [is] to continue until Our Lady day [25 March] court next, and no longer if any of the lord's tenants dislike of it.

That if, for this present year, anyone of this parish has let or set their grounds to any stranger that does not inhabit within our parish and allows them common [rights], and if they that have taken such ground or grounds do overpress and stock more than is a fit proportion, as shall be adjudged by the major part of this homage, then they shall forfeit for every offence £5.

That every man shall make his bounds between the West field gate and Canter's piece by 25 May next, and so continue it, on pain of everyone making default to forfeit 10s.

That everyone who has made mounds from Highway's corner to Hankerton hedge shall keep them in good reparation, on pain of everyone to forfeit 5s. Only Robert Smith they afford excepted [i.e. grant exception to], which is for a general good.

That everyone who shall be found to oppress by overstocking with sheep in any of our fallow fields contrary to ancient orders shall, for every sheep so found, forfeit 1s.

They do make and continue a former order that Mrs. Emme Webb shall avoid [i.e. expell] and keep out the widow Powell, from entertaining [i.e. and not entertain] her at any time hereafter, on pain of [her making] default to forfeit 40s.

That, according to an order made at the last court, no man shall dig sand within 20 feet of the highway in the Heath, on pain to forfeit 10s.

That no man shall cut furzes in the Heath within 10 feet of the bank, on pain to forfeit 10s.

That everyone who ought to pay towards keeping the Hay lane gate next [to] the Moor shall pay their ratable part by 1 May next, on pain [of] every man to forfeit 5s.

Officers

Thomas Witt was chosen as tithingman; Thomas Groom, reeve; Robert Taylor and John Hodges are overseers of the fields.

Court Baron held there on 30 May 1648

The court baron of the manor of Thomas, earl of Berkshire, held in front of Henry Stephens, gentleman, the steward.

Essoins

None.

Homage

Robert Smith, John Turk, John Smith, Thomas Hush, John Palmer, John Hodges, Philip Saunders, Robert Knight, Thomas Davies.

Grant

The lord granted to an elder John Weeks of Brinkworth and his sons Richard and John the reversion of a messuage or tenement, with a garden, an orchard, and two closes lying near it containing about 5 acres, and of a close in the Hay containing about 7 acres, a close at Broadwater containing about 1 acre, and 34 acres lying in the common fields [and] appurtenant to the messuage, [all] now in the tenure of Alice Woodward, a widow. The premises are to be held for life successively by them immediately after Alice's death, or on surrender or forfeiture by her, for a yearly rent of 3s. 11d., for all the other services formerly due, and for heriot. The elder John gives £200 to the lord for an entry fine, but fealty and admittance are respited until [the reversion falls due].

INDEX OF PERSONS AND PLACES

Namesakes are categorized, by a parenthetical note after their name, according to whether they are mentioned in records of either the 16th century or the 17th. Some are further or instead categorized according to whether they are mentioned in the records of either Brinkworth or Charlton. A few men and women were mentioned in the records of both places, and it is of course possible that references to namesakes in different categories are occasionally to one and the same person. In the cases where such categorization is not possible an asterisk in front of a forename indicates that the page numbers following that forename are known, or are very likely, to refer to namesakes. The places named in the index lie in Wiltshire unless otherwise stated.

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- Southampton. University Library
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- Swindon
English Heritage
Swindon Borough Council
- Taunton. Somerset Archaeological and
Natural History Society
- Trowbridge
Wiltshire Libraries & Heritage
- Wetherby. British Library Document
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- York. University Library

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 Melbourne
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Dublin. Trinity College Library

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Gottingen. University Library

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 Tokyo. Waseda University Library

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

The Wiltshire Record Society was founded in 1937, as the Records Branch of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, to promote the publication of the documentary sources for the history of Wiltshire. The annual subscription is £15 for private and institutional members. In return, a member receives a volume each year. Prospective members should apply to the Hon. Secretary, c/o Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham SN15 3QN. Many more members are needed.

The following volumes have been published. Price to members £15, and to non-members £20, postage extra. Most volumes up to 51 are still available from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham SN15 3QN. Volumes 52-9 are available from Hobnob Press, PO Box 1838, East Knoyle, Salisbury SP3 6FA.

1. *Abstracts of feet of fines relating to Wiltshire for the reigns of Edward I and Edward II*, ed. R.B. Pugh, 1939
2. *Accounts of the parliamentary garrisons of Great Chalfield and Malmesbury, 1645-1646*, ed. J.H.P. Pafford, 1940
3. *Calendar of Antrobus deeds before 1625*, ed. R.B. Pugh, 1947
4. *Wiltshire county records: minutes of proceedings in sessions, 1563 and 1574 to 1592*, ed. H.C. Johnson, 1949
5. *List of Wiltshire boroughs records earlier in date than 1836*, ed. M.G. Rathbone, 1951
6. *The Trowbridge woollen industry as illustrated by the stock books of John and Thomas Clark, 1804-1824*, ed. R.P. Beckinsale, 1951
7. *Guild stewards' book of the borough of Calne, 1561-1688*, ed. A.W. Mabbs, 1953
8. *Andrews' and Dury's map of Wiltshire, 1773: a reduced facsimile*, ed. Elizabeth Crittall, 1952
9. *Surveys of the manors of Philip, earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, 1631-2*, ed. E. Kerridge, 1953
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- 21-2. *The rolls of Highworth hundred, 1275-1287*, 2 parts, ed. Brenda Farr, 1966, 1968
23. *The earl of Hertford's lieutenancy papers, 1603-1612*, ed. W.P.D. Murphy, 1969
24. *Court rolls of the Wiltshire manors of Adam de Stratton*, ed. R.B. Pugh, 1970
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Wiltshire papist returns and estate enrolments, 1705-87, edited by J.A. Williams; *Crown pleas of the Wiltshire eyre, 1268*, edited by Brenda Farr; *The Parish registers of Thomas Crockford, 1613-29*, edited by C.C. Newbury; *Wiltshire rural industry organiser surveys and reports, c. 1938 - c. 1957*, edited by Ian Hicks; *William Small's Notebook*, edited by Jane Howells and Ruth Newman; *Gleanings from Wiltshire parish registers*, edited by Steven Hobbs. The volumes will not necessarily appear in this order.

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