

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society



Chorley Branch Education Group Talk Handout Further Steps An Introduction to Manors and Manorial Records

First some background into local government

- At Present (roughly)
 - Central Government look after
 - Law Making
 - Taxation
 - Law and Order
 - The Economy
 - War / Defence
 - Education
 - Health & Welfare
 - Etc.
 - Central Government look after
 - Law Making
 - Taxation
 - Law and Order
 - The Economy
 - War / Defence
 - Education
 - Health & Welfare
 - Etc.
 - Local Government at Borough level look after
 - Some Law Making
 - Some Taxation
 - Some involvement in Education
 - Some involvement in Welfare
 - Some Transport
 - Etc.
 - Local Government at Parish level look after
 - Hardly anything
- Prior to the 1830's
 - Local Government was at Parish level looked after
 - Some Law Making
 - Some Taxation
 - Some Law and Order
 - A great deal of involvement in Welfare
 - Roads
 - Etc.
- Prior to the 1500 (ish)
 - Local Government was at Split between
 - The Church
 - The Church at Abbey level looked after
 - Health & Welfare
 - The Church at parish level
 - Raised taxes (Tithes) and passed some on up the food chain
 - The Manors
 - The Manor looked after
 - Law Making
 - Taxation
 - Law and Order
 - The business of running the estate

Why use Manorial Records?

Some of the records are like a census but there is much more.

- If the records survive they give a set of records that cover a long period of time
 - 1260-1922
- Can help to take your tree beyond 1560
- They help to fill in gaps in your family tree.
- They are useful for solving problems.
 - Why did someone suddenly appear or disappear from a manor?
 - Which of these John Smiths is mine

But before looking at the records it is useful to look at the manors and their people

The People of the Manor.

The Lord of the Manor

- Now not all Lords were knights and not all knights were Lords
 - The king was the Lord at some manors
 - The Barons at some others
 - Bishops, Abbots & Abbesses could all be Lords of the Manor
 - And Uncle Tom Cobly and all.
- Often the Lords had in their charge a number of manors often many miles from each other. In addition he had his military duties.

The Lord of the Manor



- SO HE NEEDED HELP. HIS MANAGING DIRECTOR WAS CALLED WHAT?

The Steward

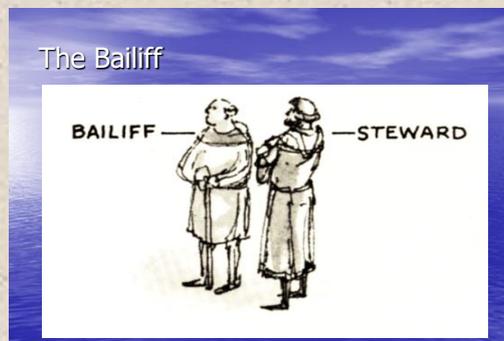
- The Steward looked after all of his lords manors.
- The Lord gave the Steward written descriptions of what he owned and what rent to expect, what services were due ("**Extents**")
- and what the 'by laws' were ("**Customals**")
- One of his jobs was to be President to the Court at each manor
- For this he was paid £15 per year plus extras
- He too could only spend a little time at each manor so he needed help also.



- WHO IS NEXT?

The Bailiff

- He was the man who controlled what happens on the manor
- He was the Production Manager.
- For this he was paid £6 per year
- To check on the Steward, Bailiff and Reeve the Lord of the Manor would also employ an Auditor.
- But some times if the Lord was tight with his cash the Bailiff also had to look after more that one manor.
- So the Bailiff did not have the time also.
- What was needed was a man who the Lord need not pay.
- (or at least not very much)



- WHO'S NEXT?
- The REEVE! But more of him later

The Rector

- He would have overall control of the Church in the Manor
- But he was often away looking after richer churches in the towns.
- So he had a priest to work for him (or priests if the manor had more than one church).
- And the priest may well have a deacon to help him
- When not preaching the priest and the deacon would have their own fields to look after.



Freemen

- More of these later when we compare them with the Villein

The Villein

- The freemen looked down on the villein
- And the Villein looked down on the Cottars
- But being free did not freemen where better off.
- Often the freeman only held a few acres of land
- He might even have to work for a villein to make ends meet.



NOW WHAT IS A VILLEIN?

- To do this lets compare Villein to Freeman.
 - First all the following people were Villeins also
 - Serf
 - Pytel Holders
 - Undermanni (Cottar)
 - Cottars
 - A Villein was part of the manor.
 - Just as the Mill. the Houses or indeed the land.
 - When the manor was sold he was sold with it.
 - He was a manorial asset.
 - The Villein owned nothing not even himself
 - This sounds bad and medieval!
 - But is it much different to a factory worker of today?
 - When a factory is bought or sold then the worker is treated as an asset.
- However,
- The factory worker can choose to leave. The Villein could not.
 - If a child was born to a villein then it also was a Villein
 - He was not a slave.
 - He was not sold at a market as a slave
 - Indeed he had many powers
 - Many of the villein could read enough to spot their own name and important facts in manorial documents.
 - The villein was rented land for which he has to pay and provide services.
 - Freeman were those, with the Lords permission, settled on the manor, paid rents to the Lord.
 - They could sell up and move on at any time.
 - They could choose not to work. (It's not much of a freedom for if he did not work he starved.)

Villeins Duties / Services

- Villein had to pay rent for the land they farmed and lived on.
- In addition they had to provide services at any time at the Lords whim and had to put aside his own work. (Carting, Building, Ploughing, logging, threshing etc.)
- It was the custom that he had to work 3 days a week for the Lord but a busy times such as harvest he had to work full time for the Lord until the work was complete.
- In actual practice the Lord did not need him for 3 days it was often less.

Freemen

- The freemen also had to pay rent
- But the services were much less, but even the Freeman had to work in the fields for the Lord at Harvest time.

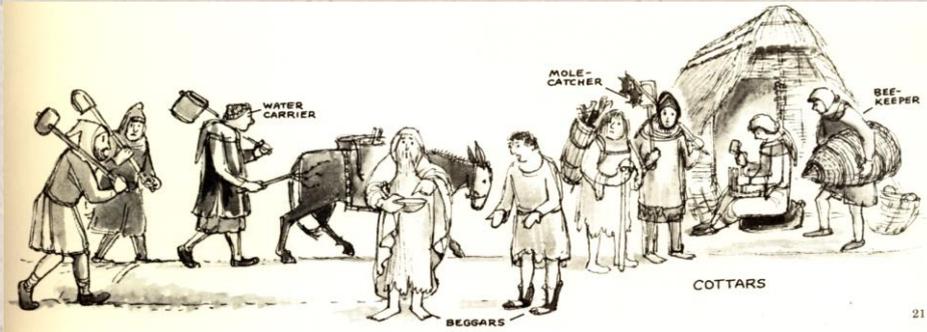


Not all Villein were the same

- Some would hold 'Full Lands' of 60 Acres
- Others would hold 'Half Lands' of 30 Acres
- Some would only have 10 or 15 Acres ('Fardels or Furlongs')
- The least were the Cottars who only had the small 'Closes' around their huts.
- The more land you had the greater the rent and services you had to provide to the Lord

The Cottars

- The cottars were also called Pytel Holders.
- A Pytel was a small field
- Not having much land they paid little
- They might have to provide the Lord with 2 hens a year and do a day or two's work a year at harvest.
- Since they could not grow enough to feed themselves they become the main workforce
- They worked as servants to the Villein or Freeman or the Lord
- If they had special skills they became carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers, wheelwrights, coopers, thatchers, ploughmen and then they could become reasonably well off.
- The manor was highly dependant upon these people



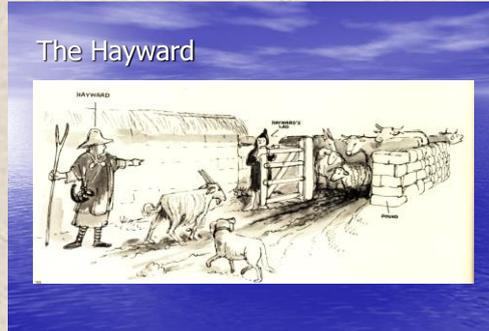
The Reeve

- Here is the Foreman. It was the Reeve who did the day to day running of the manor.
- But who was the Reeve.
- The Reeve was an un-free Villein and was elected by the Villein each year. Never a Freeman.
- He would decide which crops were grown in which fields, who would work the fields and when. He would make sure that everybody worked hard. He would decide when to start work, what jobs you would do and when to finish work. It was his job to ensure that the 'custom' or law was kept.
- If the Villein elected a bad Reeve and the Lord did not get the income he expected then all of the Villein were fined.
- When the villein found a good man they tended to elect him year after year even though he had to strict and uphold the laws and rules of the Manor
- This job must have been difficult to keep both sides happy.
- He had once a year to report to the Auditor
- To do this he had to keep records.
- Now it was the 'custom' that to hold land you had to be able to count and add numbers. Most Villein could also read a little and the Reeve probably a little better than the others. But usually he could not write. SO HOW DID HE KEEP HIS RECORDS?
- He had a collection of notched sticks called tally sticks.
- The Reeve still had to look after his own strips but many of the services due were reduced
- The Reeve was paid 9 shillings a year to do this job and got his rent reduced.
- Even then the job was too much for one man and many other officials were elected each with a different job.



The Hayward

- Whose principle job was to ensure the fences and walls were kept in good order



Some other possible officers were

- Beadle – Policeman
- Woodward – Woodlands & Plantations
- Foresters – Hunting rights
- Game Keepers
- Pinder – Looked after animal pound
- These were all officers who were elected by the villein each year.

Finding Your Way around a Medieval Manor!

The manor

- In the Middle Ages, the manor was the universal territorial unit outside of towns and had its roots in Anglo-Saxon England
- The size of the manor could range from a few acres to over a hundred square miles and the population could range from a handful of individuals to as many as fourteen hundred people

Norman Manors

- The Normans replaced virtually all of the Saxon Lords of the Manor with his own men.
- The term 'manor' came to mean a piece of landed property with tenants, over whom the lord had jurisdiction through a manor court
 - These courts had been in existence since Anglo-Saxon times, but they came to mean the manor itself – no manor court, no manor

How many?

- There were about 11000 parishes in England and between 25000 and 65000 manors!! The numbers varied over the centuries.
- The manor preceded the parish, and the boundaries need not coincide.
 - This presents a difficulty in finding a manor.
 - Parishes and manor boundaries could be the same.
 - A parish might have many manors
 - A manor might contain many parishes

What was a manor like?

- The manor lands were split into two parts – tenements, worked by tenants, and the demesne, owned by the lord and worked by the unfree tenants
- The tenement was split into 2 or 3 Large fields
- These in turn were subdivided into strips.
- Each tenant would have a number of strips in each field.
 - Anywhere between 20 acres in each field to none.

The three big field were used the Crop Rotation System. Cereal Crops one year, Legumes the next year and left fallow the next

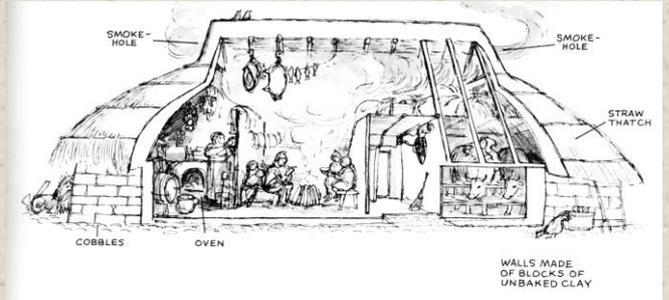
The fields were divided up into strips 220 yards long and 22 yards wide. They are separated by raised mounds of earth. The strips were divided amongst the farmers and they come together each year to the manor court to sort out differences and how the fields are to be farmed next year.

The field strip size was set by how much land could be ploughed in a day with a Mouldboard plough. Basically this is still the same plough we use today. It needed eight oxen to pull it.

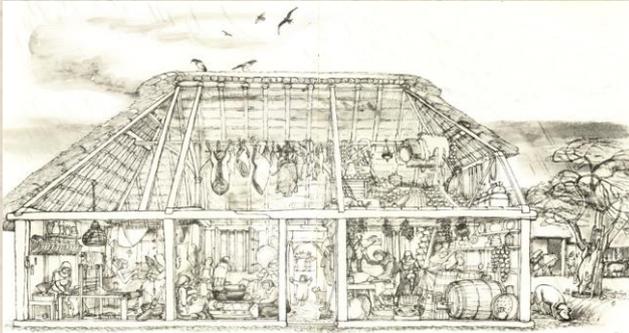
Note the oxen are being led by a boy with a long stick.

- This was just long enough to control the oxen.

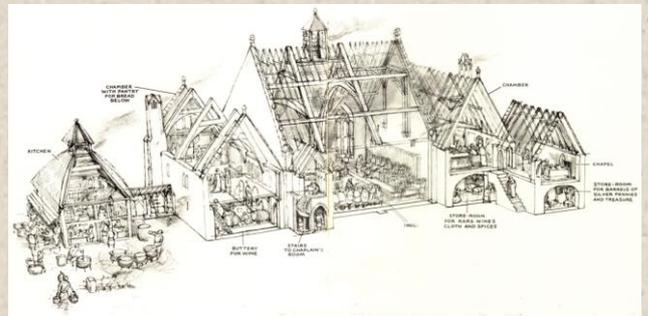
- It was called a rod, perch or a pole and was 5.5 yards long.
- 4 rods made a chain (22 yards) which was the width of the strip being ploughed
- 40 rods made a furlong (220 yards) which was the length of the strip being ploughed.



The Villein's House



The Freeman's House



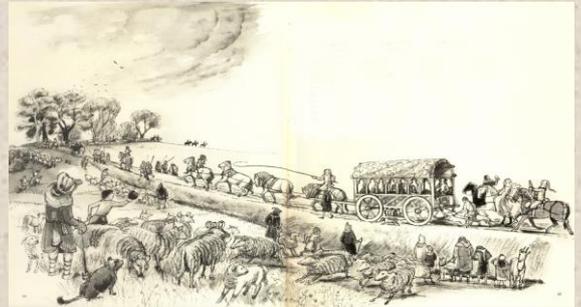
The Manor House



Some things that happened on the Manor?



The medieval year started on the 25th March



Here comes the Lord to visit.

The Lord came once a year with all his retinue. Sir Geoffrey & Dame Agnes. Some of the ladies in the coach, Sir Geoffrey's household consisted of about 100 people. They travelled with everything, clothes, bedding, tapestries, windows complete with frames, inside doors jammed between barrels of silver pennies, wine, suits of armour, swords, spears longbows and shields. Everything down to the last cooking pot. When they stayed they stayed for weeks until the stocks of food were used up.

The Steward and Bailiff would see that the Lord's requests were met. The accommodation at the hall was limited so all but the most important slept on the hall floor or in the barns. After they had all left the hall would be cleaned and locked up until next year.

What was owed was defined in the 'Custom of the Manor'.

- The custom could be changed by the steward or by a strong group of villein
- The changes were made at the court and it was the villein who gave the "dooms" of the court.

Rents & Services

- Week-Work - generally 3 days a week was asked for but only 1 or 2 days a week actually worked. The days not worked could be bought by the villein.
- Boon-Work - Other work days of the Lords choosing usually at haymaking or harvest.
- Military service - Assizes of arms 1225 - All villein should arm themselves - since the villein in theory owned nothing then the arms the villein provided himself with, the Lord said that he provided them.
- Suit of Mill - More of this later
- Manorial Oven & Bakery - All the villein had to have their bread baked at the Lords bakery for which a charge was made.
- Tallage - a tax made on the villein when the Lord had some pressing need.
- Heriots - Paid when a villein died - this old custom came from the idea that when a villein died he had to return his war gear. This changed to providing his best animal to the Lord.
- Mortuary - This was similar to Heriots but was claimed by the Church. They got the second best animal.
- Merchet - paid by villein to allow daughters to marry or sons to be educated.
- Other minor taxes
 - Wood bote
 - Poultry Bote

Harvest Time



Every adult and most of the children in a villein's household had to work in the Lords field at harvest time.

The exception was the villein's wife.

The villein's wife may have been free from working with the others harvesting the Lord of the Manor's crops but she had many other jobs to keep her from being idle.

Besides cooking, cleaning, washing, bearing and looking after the children, she had to

Harvest her own family's crops,

Do the gardening, (Not for pleasure but so that they had food on the table.)

Milk the goats and sheep, spin and weave the yarn,

Make the butter, cheese and beer and a thousand other jobs but

I bet she still had time for a gossip.

Milling went on throughout the year.

Here is shown a windmill. This at the time of Sir Geoffrey would be like having your own twin engined private jet plane. The invention had only just arrived in the country. It was the height of the new technology.

The villein had to thresh his own grain and then take it to the Lords mill to be ground.

You could not grind your own wheat with a quern at home or you would be fined

The bailiff would have the villein's houses searched for querns.

In old mills broken quern stones are often built into walls

Medieval Joke

What is the Boldest thing in the World?

A millers shirt, because it clasps a thief by the throat every day!

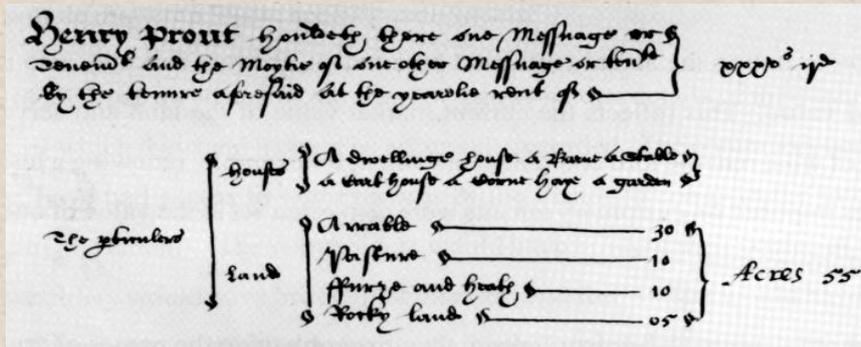
Medieval Records

What kind of records were kept?

- (Those with diamonds I will not be covering in detail.)
- Customals ♦
 - This is a list of 'by laws'.
 - In theory this document did not change,
 - But could be changed by the Court Leet
- Extents
- Accounts ♦
 - Just Boring accounts but often do have lists of Tenents & how much they paid.
- Surveys resulted in the following classes of documents ♦
 - Report of the Jury of Inquisition (Articles of Enquiry) ♦
 - Detectives
 - Description of the boundaries of the manor ♦
 - Maps
 - Presentments to the court ♦
 - The Tenants arguments – "No I think the Jury got it wrong"
 - Report of the Court of Survey ♦
 - The record of the Court's decisions
 - Rent Rolls
The Survey was conducted by a full court and with a Jury of 'good freeholders and ... Men of good substance'.
 - All the tenants had to be present.
 - The Steward would then go though the "Articles of Enquiry" item by item and they would make their comments
 - The tenants could speak also.
 - If the tenants had documents to prove their case they would produce them.
 - All would be written up and signed by the Jury.
- Lay Subsidy ♦
 - A Crown tax on the wealthy in a manor (And towns etc.)
- The Deed of Title ♦
 - Ownership of land
- Letters ♦
- Surrender ♦
 - When a tenant gives up a holding
- Admission
 - When a Tenant is admitted to the manor
- Pains ♦
 - The threat of punishment if tasks are not undertaken
A Payne
layd that noe person whatsoever shall at any time hereafter play
Or suffer their children or Servants or apprentices to
Play at football (wippet or bads) in Market place or Kirkgate in Ottley
In payne of every default herein (no amount set)
- Fines ♦
 - Not as you might expect a punishment but a kind of tax
Fines were paid when a tenant was admitted i.e. he took over tenancy of some land.
31 January 1752
Of Christopher Powell for a fine upon his Recovery
Of six Acres of Land in Otley
- The Precept ♦
 - The Lords order to the Bailiff to announce that a court is to be held.
- Reports of the court Baron / Customary
- Report of the Court Leet & View Frankpledge
- Report of the Coroners Court ♦

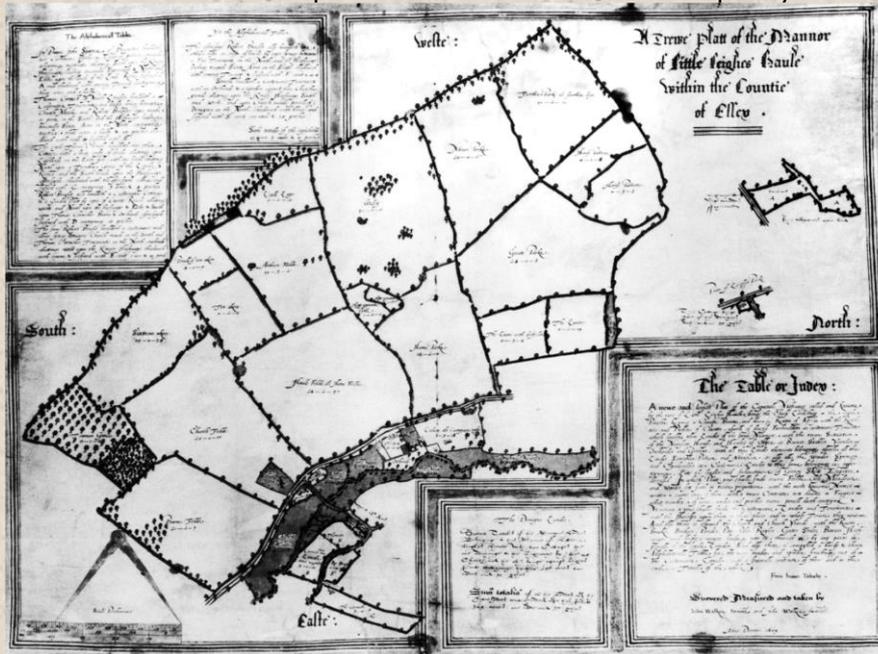
Extents

- This is a list of what rents and services were owed.
- This document was written down only once as, unlike today, they did not allow for inflation.
- Because of this the serf paid the same every year.
- A new document was only drawn up when a new Lord took over the estate and was given to the Steward.
- This normally did not happen when passed down father to son.
- Another reason to draw up a new Extent was when a new Steward took over.
- Here the Extent has a detailed description of the Land the tenant had, even down to the types of land he had.
- If this was your ancestor it would give you a good idea of his wealth and living conditions.



Manorial Maps

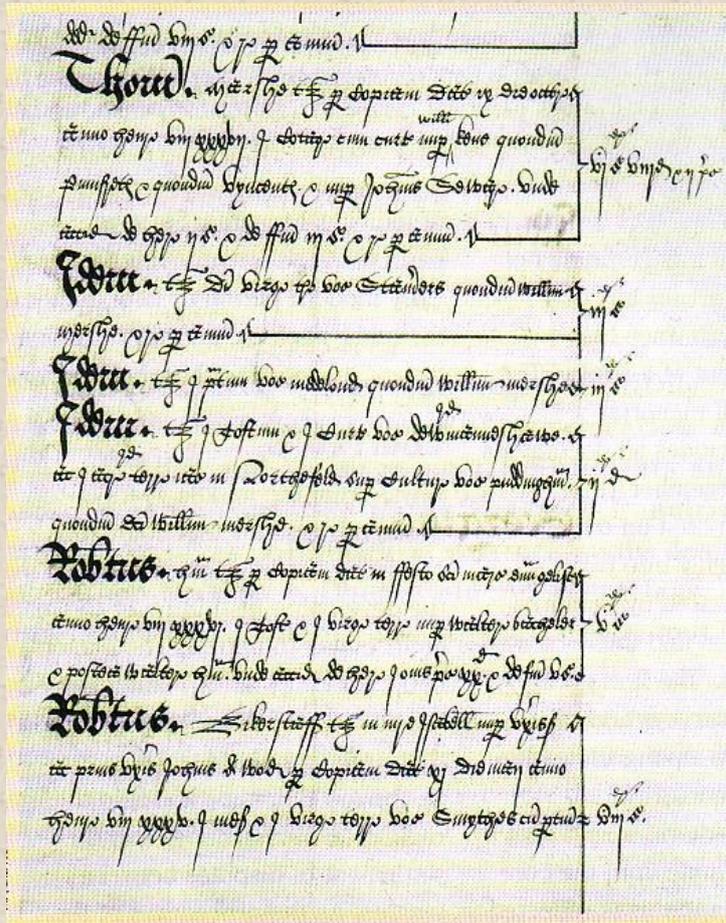
- To get the most out of manorial maps they should be read in conjunction with the lists for field and owners which is often separate. In this case the list is partly on the map.



Signed with C. conteynynge . 3 . acres & . 4 . perches.
 Robert Bright also holdeth a Customarie Cottage
 & a Garden Platt by copie of Courte Rowle abuttinge
 weste and North upon the highway & East & South
 upon Thomas Cormishes Barne & Orcharde aforesayde
 Signed with D. conteynynge . 16 . perches.
 The same Robert Bright holdeth a customarie med
 dowe lyinge betweene Church meade on the South and
 Thomas Cormishes Tenement on the North, one heade
 abuttinge west upon the Kinges highway shadowed
 with greene. & signed with E. cont. 1 acre & 10 perch.

Rental for Cobham 1547-1550

- Rent Roll
 - Names Details of the land they hold
 - By what tenure
 - What the rent is.



The Manorial Courts

- Justice was dispensed in local courts, two of which were the court baron and the court customary
- In practice these two courts were combined and referred to as the court baron
- Technically the court baron was for the freemen whilst the court customary was for the non-free (Villeins, surfs, cottars etc.)

Court Baron

- This was concerned with the running of the manor as an estate – control of tenure, estate management, appointment of manorial officers
- It was also the local judicial court, hearing cases under customary law
- All tenants were obliged to attend the combined courts
- The orders of the court were enforced by annually appointed officers called barleymen or bylawmen

The Court Leet

- Held twice a year to deal with minor misdemeanours
- They can be titled View of Frankpledge, from the old custom of making groups of 10 men (tithings) responsible for each other's behaviour
- Men could be fined if it was discovered they did not belong to a tithing

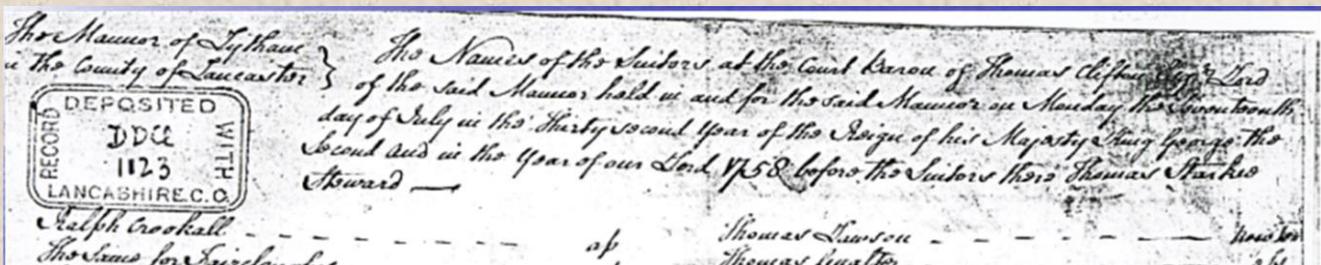
View Frank Pledge & Court Leet

- Dealt with
 - Custom of the manor
 - Debts
 - Trespass
 - Disputes where value of damages were less than £2
 - Surrender and Admission
 - Minor criminal offences (no blood)

How the Court Roll are organised

We now will look at how the court record was arranged.

- First was the name of the manor, the name of the Steward and the regnal date.
 - Regnal date – 20th day of May in the second year of the reign of King Henry VI
- Second are the Essoins.
 - A register of those who attended
 - Not always present
- Third are the Names of the Jurors.
- Next are the names of the people appointed as officers to the Court.
- Fifthly are the decisions of the court.
- Lastly are the signatures of the Jury.



The Manor of Latham
in the County of Lancaster

The Names of the Suitors at the Court Barrow of Thomas Clifforde Lord
of the said Manor hold in and for the said Manor on Monday the thirteenth
day of July in the thirty second year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the
Second and in the year of our Lord 1758 before the Suitors Messrs Thomas Sturges
Steward

RECORDED
DEPOSITED
DDE
1123
LANCASHIRE C.O.
WITH

Ediph Crookall	ap	Thomas Lumsden	new
The same for Warcloughs	ap	Thomas Gualter	ap
Thomas Shephard	ap	George Milton	ap
Henry Sticher	ap	John Cookson Senr	ap
Henry Grimballstone	ap	James Cookson	ap
Thomas Crookall of Lalthouse	ap	James Crookall	ap
The same for Kalls	ap	John Barker	ap
The same for Rowsto	ap	George Bagott	ap
Ann Crookall Widow in Lords hands	new	James Newsham	ap
The Exec ^r of Mr. Sandolph Bewnwick for Lalthouses	ap	John Lalthouse	ap
Robert Cookson for Haleroff	ap	Robert Harrison	ap
William Kichson	ap	John Cookson	ap
Robert Cookson for Shothell	ap	William Cowbaid	ap
Mary F. Kilsch Widow	ap	James Cowbaid	ap
John Parker	ap	Richard Cookson 2th Suters	ap
Thomas Shephard	ap	Conelius Lalthouse	ap
William Gualter	ap	James Bagot for Katch for	ap
Thomas Cookson the Younger	ap	Richard Noruby in Lords hands	ap
The same	ap	The Exec ^r of Richard Lalthouse for parture	ap
Thomas Cookson for Callays	ap	William Cowbaid for Coullis	new
Richard Crookall for Winderfor	ap	James Bagot	ap
Thomas Gualter	ap	Margaret Rowsey Widow	ap
James Walsh	ap	The Exec ^r of Tho. Crookall for parture house	ap
Ann Shephard & Tho. Crookall for Shephards	ap	Conelius Lalthouse for Thaxth	ap
Edward Bannay	ap	Catharine Hood for Winstanboys	ap
The same for part of low Seatonsons	ap	Robert Brown for Gradwell	ap
Tho. Cookson the Elder	ap	Tho. Webster for Key houses	ap
William Kichson	ap	Wm Cookson	ap
Thomas Hatley	ap	The same for Harrissons Ground	ap
John Crookall the Elder	ap	Roger Charaby for Lethersides	ap
The same for part of Bagotts	ap	Thomas Kichson	ap
Thomas Crookall the Younger	ap	Thomas Webster for Stated bare	ap
Robert How	ap	Richard Walsh for Woorsted hell	ap
Thomas Crookall of Salt coats	ap	James Cowbaid	ap
John Milton	ap	Margery Elston	new
William Kichson	ap	James Wall	ap
Dorothy Richard Widow	ap	James Webster	ap
Alice Dobson Widow	ap	James Bagot	new
Richard Dobson	ap	John Smith	ap
Thomas Crookall	ap	John Webster for Stated room Gate	ap
The Rev ^d Mr. Rob ^t Willacy	ap	John Newsham for Webster	ap
Henry Hodgson for Winstanboys	ap	John Smith for Gate	ap
John Crookall for Harrissons	ap	Thomas Knott	ap
Richard Cookson	ap	William Surps	ap
John Shephard	ap	Tho. Gualter	ap
James Webster for Church houses	ap	Edward Bagot	ap
		James Galloway in Lords hands	ap
		Eliz. Kichson in Lords hands	ap
		Tho. Lalthouse	ap
		The same for part of Wilkuis	ap

The Names of the Jurors sworn to require and Pro: out for the Lord of the said
Manor

William Seacocken
Robert Wole - in
John Crookall - in
Tho. Woodfor - in
Francis Hatley - in
James Hamvora - in

Thomas Webster - in
James Smith - in
John Dasser - in
Henry Hodgson - in
James Cowbaid - in
John Gualter - in

Officers for the ensuing year

Constables { Thomps Webster } Sworn
 { Robert Cookson }
 Burley { James Walsh }
 Mon { Edw. Boussey } Sworn
 { William Waddo }
 { Tho. Webster }
 Mops { William Waddo }
 Rows { William Cowbaco } Cou.
 { Wm. Inap }
 { Tho. Crookall of Town }
 { Rob. God }
 Overseers { Tho. Webster }
 of the { Roger Charley } Cou.
 Water { Tho. Crookall }
 courses { Henry Fletcher } Sworn

Overseers of { Henry Hodgson }
 the { Tho. Gualter } Cou.
 the { }
 off { }
 Game keepers { Tho. Cookson } Sworn
 { Henry Hodgson } Cou.
 Pindars of { Wm. Cookson } Sworn
 the { James Hood } Cou.
 Commons { Edw. Boussey } Cou.
 { Wm. Crookall } Sworn
 Assessors - Thomas Cookson }
 { }
 { Tho. Crookall Saltrook } Sworn

1. We the Jury present Thomas Shepherd, Robert Smalley, and William Fletcher for that they severally owe suit and service at this Court but had due summons and warning to appear and do the same, but made default. Therefore we amerce them in the sum of one Shilling apiece —
Approved to the sum of 10. apiece —

2. We Order all Person or Persons within this Manour that they Open, Cleanse, and scour their respective Share or Shares in the Watercourse well and sufficiently and give them time to the 20. of August next and in default thereof we amerce them in 6. s. & each — Approved to each

3. We Order all Person or Persons that they repair their respective Part or Parts, Share or Shares in the Sea Cop well and sufficiently and give them time to the 20. of August next and in default thereof we amerce them in 6. s. & each — Approved to each

4. We Order William Moor, William Snape, Tho. Gualter, W. Warbrick, Peter Charney, John Westhead & Tho. Salthowe ^{joyrally} that they Open, Cleanse and scour their respective Share or Shares along their respective Closes of Ground from the William Moor's Close of Ground call'd the Marton hoy and John Smith's Sack hoy Water Course well and sufficiently and give them time to the 20. of August next and in default thereof we amerce them in 6. s. & each — Approved to each

5. We Order George Gillat and Thurston Blackhurst that they Open sink and scour their Ditch Bottoms betwixt George Milers' Houss and Lytham Hale Garden well and sufficiently for a Water fall and ~~give~~ ^{give} them time to the 20. of August next and in default thereof we amerce them in 6. s. & each — Approved to each

6. We Order John Parkinson that he repair his ring Fences along Lytham Common and make the same a good and sufficient fence and give him time to the 20. of August next and in default thereof we amerce him in 1. s. 19. d. — Approved to 1. s. 0.

7. We Order John Winstanley that he open, cleanse and scour his Water Course on the North side of his Ground to the half penny gutter and give him time to the 20. of August next and in default thereof we amerce him in 6. s. & each — Approved to

8. We Order All Person or Persons that they open their respective head rooms lying along Lytham Common from W. Ingham house ^{to} John Winstanley's house and likewise open and scour their Water Course to take the Water of Lytham Common and give them time to the 20. of August next and in default thereof we amerce them in 6. s. & each — Approved to each

in the sum of 10.00 pence
afforded to the poor of the
parish of St. James by us
Thomas Cookson
Thomas Crookall

Signed by us
Thomas Cookson
Thomas Crookall
Thos Crookall
Henry Fletcher
W. Gilcock
Thos. Mally
Thomas Crookall
John Sawley
William Coobun
Cornelius Saltthous
Wm Cookson
Thos. Gorter

William of 1848

RECEIVED OF THE
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
REDEMPTION OF THE
RENTS OF THE

Ann Shepherd and Thomas Crookall for Shepherds ap	Richard Crookall for Windrass's ess	The executors of Thomas Crookall ap	The same for Bennets ap	The same for Balls ap	Heirs of John Crookale for Saltcoats ap	The same for Faircloughs ap	Ralph Crookall ap	1769
Ann Shepherd and Thomas Crookall for Shepherds Admd	Richard Crookall for Windrass's ess	The executors of Thomas Crookall Junr Admd. dd cd	The same for Bennets d ap	The same for Balls d ap	John Crookale for Saltcoats d ap	The same for Faircloughs ess	Ralph Crookall ess	1768
Ann Shepherd and Thomas Crookall for Shepherds Admd	Richard Crookall for Windrass's dd ap	The executors of Thomas Crookall Junr Admd. Decd	The same for Bennets ap	The same for Balls ap	John Crookale for Saltcoats ap	The same for Faircloughs dd ap	Ralph Crookall dd ap	1767
Ann Shepherd and Thomas Crookall for Shepherds ap	Richard Crookall for Windrass's ap	Thomas Crookall Junr ap	The same for Bennets ap	The same for Balls ap	Thos Crookale for Saltcoats ap		Ralph Crookall ess	1766
Ann Shepherd and Thomas Crookall for Shepherds ap	Richard Crookall for Windrass's ap	Thomas Crookall Junr ap	The same for Bennets ap	The same for Balls ap	Thomas Crookall for Saltcoats ap		Ralph Crookall ap	1765

						John Crookall	1772
						John Crookale	1769
						John Crookale	1768
						John Crookale	1767
			Thomas Crookale Junr	Thomas Crookall Senr	William Crookall		1765
		Thomas Crookall othe Yards	Thomas Crookale Junr	Thomas Crookall Senr			1763
Thomas Crookall	Thomas Crookall of Saltcoat				Wm Crookall		1762
	Thomas Crookall of Saltcoats						1760
Thomas Crookall	Thomas Crookall of Saltcoat						1759
	Thomas Crookall Saltcoat						1758
		Thomas Crookall over the Yards		Thomas Crookall Senr			1757

Overseer s of the water	Pinders of the common	Game keeper	Assessors of the taxes	Moss Reeve	Burley Man	Constables	
Wm Crookall		John Crookale	John Crookale				1772
John Crookale			John Crookale		Thos Crookale Junr		1769
John Crookale			John Crookale				1768
John Crookale Junr			John Crookale Junr		John Crookale		1767
Thos Crookall Senr	Thos Crookale Junr	Thos Crookale Senr.	Thos. Crookale				1765
Thos Crookale	Richard Crookale	Thos Crookall	Thos. Crookale				1763
Thos Crookale	Wm Crookale of Town	Thos Crookall	Thos. Crookale				1762
Thos Crookall	Wm Crookale Senr		Thomas Crookall	Thos. Crookale		Thos Crookall Junior	1760
Thos Crookale Senr	Wm Crookale		Thos. Crookale		Thos Crookall over yard	John Crookall Junr	1759
Thos Crookale Senr			Thos Crookale Senr	Thos Crookale of Town			1758
Thos Crookale Senr	Thos Crookale Senr	Thos Crookall	Thos Crookale Senr	Thos Crookall over yard	Thos Crookall over yard	Thos Crookall Junior	1757
Thos Crookale Senr		Thos Crookall Junr	Thos Crookale Senr				1754

Mannor of Ginston with Gindall in the County of York
 To wit At the Court of the Court Baron and Customary Court
 of John Wilkinson Esq. held there in and for the said Mannor on
 Friday the Thirtieth day of October in the
 Year of our Lord 1741 Before James Collins Gentleman Steward of
 those — 1741 1742 1743 1744 1745

Charles John Gill.	of	ad	of	of	of	of
Robert Thomas Dixon.	ad	of	of	of	of	of
Thos. Diver.						
Richard Doves.	of	of	of	of	of	of
John Harrison	ad	of	of	ad	of	
Robt. Hoffmann						
William Harrison.	of	of	of	of	of	of
John John Buzen.	videtur	ad	of	of	of	of
Richard Smeaton.	of	of	of	of	of	of
Richard Richard Smith.	of	of	of	of	of	of
Chas. Richard Steell.	of	of	of	of	of	of
Richard Smeaton for the						
Wm. Harrison.	of	of	of	of	of	of
Margaret Houseman.	of	of	of	of	of	of
Robert Robert						
Wm. Smeaton	of	of	of	of	of	of
Wm. Calverley						
William Buch	of	of	of	of	of	of
George Smeaton						
George Whinnam	of	of	of	of	of	of
John Platt						

N^o 54. July 2. 1751 R. 51.

Lytham

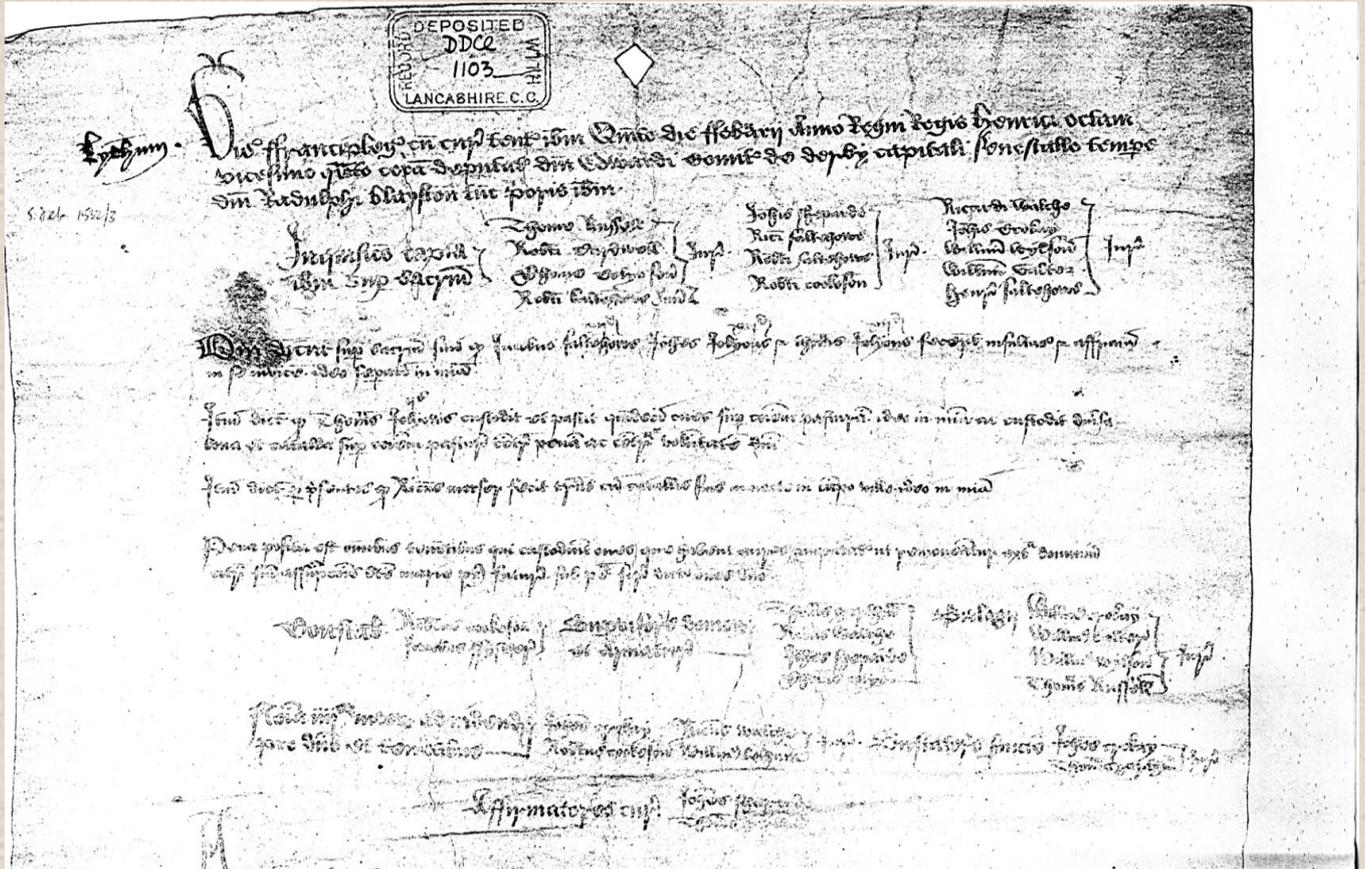
Thomas Crookall's Counterpart
for his Mesuage and Tenement at Saltcoat

June £ 77⁰⁰ 00

Rent and Fees 03⁰⁰ 04

Received Nov. 24 1751

What if it is Latin?



How to use Essoins

An Attendance Register

NOTE THE NAME OF THE MANOR IN THE TOP LEFT CORNER.

All tenants had to attend and they were recorded as having attended or not.

If you did not attend you had to give a good reason why.
3 absences and you're out – or at least fined.

Here the clerk has used a rough copy of attendance would copy the information later into the rolls.

- Ap means appeared.
- Ess means absent.
- Ad means admitted.
- The year is at the top.

What useful information can you get from this?

John Gill
He appeared in 1741 but Charles Gill was admitted in 1742
This suggests to me that John Gill died between the 1741 & 1742 and his son/brother Charles took over.

Thomas Dixon
Thomas Dixon dies in 1741 and his son or brother Robert takes over in 1741
Robert is missing in 1745 but Thomas takes over in 1745.
Has Robert died also?

John Dawson?

NOTE THAT A SINGLE YEARS RECORD ON ITS OWN IS OF LITTLE USE BUT MUCH CAN BE READ FROM A GROUP OF YEARS.

Handwritten manorial record table showing names and years from 1740 to 1745. The table is written in cursive and includes a header 'Those' with a line pointing to the years. The names listed are John Gill, Bobt Thomas Dixon, Thos. Dixon, Richard Daines, John Harrison, Robt. Haffeman, William Harrison, and Jane Owen. The years are 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, and 1745. The entries are as follows:

Those	1740	1741	1742	1743	1744	1745
John Gill	of	ad	of	of	of	of
Bobt Thomas Dixon	ad	of	of	of	of	of
Thos. Dixon						
Richard Daines	of	of	of	of	of	of
John Harrison	ad	of	of	of	of	of
Robt. Haffeman						
William Harrison	of	of	of	of	of	of
Jane Owen	ad	of	of	of	of	of

Locating Manorial Records

- Using the Manorial Documents Register.
- Using the Web Site.
- Lancashire Manors.

Using the Manorial Documents Register

Manorial Documents are not public property
They belong to the Lord of the Manor.
Historians have no right to see them if the Lord of the Manor does not want it.

They are kept in many different places
With the Lord himself
Solicitors
Libraries
Local Record Offices
National Record Repositories e.g. TNA
Etc.

In 1922 manors in effect were brought to an end.
To protect these records an Act in 1924 was passed ensuring the documents were preserved.
Also a register was set up to identify the location of these documents.

This is the Manorial Documents Register
It is kept at The National Archives

To use this you need to know the Parish or the Manor name.
In the end you only have got the location of the record and a reference code.

Using Web Site

This is the Website <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

In summary what information can I get from Manorial Records?

- An indication of how wealthy they were.
- Where they lived and what it was like.
- When the head of the household died.
- Sometimes the name of his wife.
- Sometimes the name of the eldest son or brother.
- When they left the area.
- The name of his executors.
- What official position he held.
- Did he serve on a Jury?
- What things did he get into trouble about?
- Did he scour his ditches?
- And much more.

**Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society
Chorley Research Centre at Astley Hall Farmhouse**

Opening times

First & Third Saturdays Noon—4:00pm
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00am—4:00pm

Last appointment 3:00pm

Booking advisable—Tel. 01257 231 600 (When centre is open),
Tel 01257 262 028 (When centre is closed)

or

Book in line at - Chorley Family History Research Centre Website – www.cfhrc.com

Research Enquires - chorleyresearch@lfhhs.org.uk

Chorley Branch Website - www.lfhhschorleybranch.com

LFHHS

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