

Summary of Dorney Manor Court Roll (16 April 1543)

This summary outlines the main points from the Dorney Manor Court Roll of 16th April 1543. It covers various aspects of manor management, including attendance records, enforcement of local ordinances, fines for violations, ongoing rent issues, and property disputes.

Key features of this court roll include:

1. The continued emphasis on regulating the use of common land, particularly for grazing animals.
2. The ongoing issues with major institutions (Windsor and Eton) withholding rent.
3. The clarification of property boundaries between Dorney and Boveney manors.
4. The appointment of specific individuals to enforce the manor's ordinances.

This document provides valuable insights into the agricultural practices, property management, and local governance of a Tudor-era manor. It shows how the manor court system was used to maintain order, settle disputes, and enforce local regulations.

Court Details

- Date: 16th April 1543 (34th year of King Henry VIII's reign)
- Lord of the Manor: William Garrard, citizen and haberdasher of London

Key Points:

1. **Essoins (Excused Absences):**
 - Several individuals excused, represented by others.
2. **Homage (Jury) Members:**
 - Listed, including William Ingby, Thomas Dolwyn, Richard Mychell, and others.
3. **Violations and Fines:**
 - Nicholas Forde fined 3s 4d for illegally grazing 200 sheep for 16 days before Christmas.
4. **New and Confirmed Regulations:**
 - Pigs and piglings must be ringed from 14th September to 3rd May (1d fine per animal).
 - Restrictions on geese in common after Michaelmas (40d fine).
 - Limits on beasts and sheep in common areas as per 1526 ordinance (40d fine).
 - Nicholas Forde warned not to break James Norres's hedge again (40d fine).
 - Ban on breaking neighbors' fences (4d fine per offense).
5. **Rent Arrears:**
 - Dean & Canons of Windsor, Provost and Fellows of Eton College, and Nicholas Clerke (heir of Thomas Ramsey) reported for withholding rent.
6. **Property Dispute:**
 - Clarification on ownership and boundaries of Robert Sheperd's tenement, noting part is in Boveney parish.
7. **Affeerers** (assessors of fines): William Ingby, William Wulward, John Goldynge sworn in.
8. **Enforcement of Ordinances:**
 - William Mountagne, Mach Symson, John Goldynge and Henry Lane elected to enforce statutes and ordinances concerning the common (40d fine for failure).

Note on Spelling Variations:

- Wullward / Wulward
- Goldwyn / Goldynge
- Sheperd / Shepard