

Summary of Dorney Manor Court Roll (31 May 1544)

This summary outlines the main points from the Dorney Manor Court Roll of 31st May 1544. It covers various aspects of manor management, including attendance records, rent collection issues, inheritance matters, land use disputes, and the confirmation and creation of local ordinances.

Key features of this court roll include:

1. The persistent issues with major institutions (Windsor and Eton) and some individuals withholding rent.
2. The detailed recording of a tenant's death and the inheritance process.
3. The management of common lands, particularly addressing unauthorized enclosures.
4. The confirmation of previous ordinances and the creation of new ones to address ongoing issues.

This document provides valuable insights into the complexities of managing a Tudor-era manor, showcasing how the manor court system was used to address a wide range of local issues, from property disputes to the regulation of common resources.

Court Details

- Date: 31st May 1544 (36th year of King Henry VIII's reign)
- Lord of the Manor: William Garrard, citizen and haberdasher of London

Key Points:

1. Essoins and Homage:

- Provost and Fellows of Eton College excused
- Homage listed, including William Tudwey, Thomas Dolwyn, Richard Michell, and others

2. Fines for Default:

- William Mountagne, Dean & Canons of Windsor, and Nicholas Clarke fined 12d each for failing to attend

3. Rent Arrears:

- Nicholas Clarke and wife Margaret (heir of Thomas Ramsey) reported for withholding rent on various properties
- Provost and Canons of Eton College reported for withholding rent on multiple parcels of land
- Dean and Canons of Windsor reported for withholding rent on several properties
- Bailiff ordered to distrain for all unpaid rents and arrears

4. Death and Inheritance:

- William Ingby's death reported; son Robert Ingby admitted as tenant, owing heriot and 6s 6d relief

5. Land Enclosure Issues:

- John Goldwyn, Robert Sheperd, and William Woolward ordered to remove fences from common field (40s fine)
- William Tyldesley ordered to remove fences and banks from Newe hayes in Northfeld (40s fine)

6. Other Violations and Orders:

- Richard Fuller alias Whytell ordered to make a common gate in Assheford field (40s fine if not done)
- William Mountagne fined 3s 4d for putting a mare on common after Michaelmas
- Nicholas Forge fined 40d for putting sheep on James Norres's pasture, future fine set at 20s

7. Confirmation of Ordinances:

- Ordinances from 11th June in 18th year of Henry VIII confirmed, except 2nd and 5th articles
- Articles and Ordinances from 32nd and 34th year courts confirmed
- New ordinance: No mares or horses to be pastured on common or common field (3s 4d fine)

8. Affeerers: The whole homage

Note on Spelling Variations:

- Wolward / Woolward
- Golwyn / Goldwyn
- Shepard / Sheperd
- Forge / Forde (possibly the same person)