

Summary of Dorney Manor Court Roll (7 July 1578)

This summary outlines the main points from the Dorney Manor Court Roll of 7th July 1578. It covers various aspects of manor management, including attendance records, inheritance matters, fines for misuse of common land, maintenance orders, and a new ordinance for boundary surveying.

Key features of this court roll include:

1. The detailed recording of fines for misuse of common land, showing strict regulation of shared resources.
2. The court's role in managing inheritance and land tenure, as seen in the case of John Norreys.
3. The emphasis on community responsibilities in maintaining ditches, fences, and other infrastructure.
4. The introduction of a new ordinance for joint boundary surveying with a neighbouring manor, showing inter-manor cooperation.
5. The consistent use of fines as a means of enforcing manor regulations.

This document provides valuable insights into the day-to-day administration of an Elizabethan manor, showcasing how the manor court system addressed a wide range of local issues and maintained order in the community.

Court Details

- Date: 7th July 1578 (20th year of Queen Elizabeth I's reign)
- Lord of the Manor: William Garrard, esquire

Key Points:

1. **Attendance and Homage:**
 - List of homage members provided
 - Dean & Canons of Windsor fined 4d for failing to attend
2. **Death and Inheritance:**
 - John Norreys' death reported; son Richard (age 8) to inherit
 - Homage to investigate lands held and services due at next court
3. **Fines for Misuse of Commons:**
 - Multiple individuals fined 2d each for pasturing sheep on the Grene contrary to ordinances
 - Robert Webb fined 6d for keeping two geese against ordinances
 - Master Wells fined 3s 4d for putting 24 unmarked sheep on the Grene
4. **Other Violations and Fines:**
 - Robert Howe fined 6d for breaking the lord's park and removing sheep
 - Thomas Inwood fined 6d for pasturing Roger Gate's sheep on the Grene
 - William Wethered fined 6d and William Michell fined 2d for cutting willows
5. **Maintenance Orders:**
 - Orders to scour ditches in Southmeade by Michaelmas (4d fine per undone perch)
 - Orders to repair fences between Withmeade style and Mille Brooke by St. Matthew's Day (4d fine per undone perch)
 - Similar order for Ashfeld and Oldfeld

6. New Ordinance:

- Joint survey of manor boundaries with Boveney manor tenants before Michaelmas
- 12d fine for non-attendance
- Homage to report findings at next court

7. Affeerers: The whole Homage

Note:

The document mentions some damage, possibly by mice, affecting the last paragraph.