

HIGH LITTLETON MANOR COURT ROLLS

THE ROSEWELL FAMILY'S CONNECTION WITH HIGH LITTLETON AND THE DESCENT FROM THEM OF THE MANOR.

The only surviving Manorial Rolls for High Littleton, written in latin, cover 14 courts held in the period 1568 to 1587, when the Manor was held by William and Thomas ROSEWELL. A translation of these follows together with an index of names.

For many years the ROSEWELLS were Lords of the Manor and also owned the Advowson and Rectory of High Littleton. It is not known when or from whom William ROSEWELL acquired the Manor, but the Advowson and Rectory came into his possession in 1544.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries the assets of the Abbey of Keynsham were sold off. In 1544 a Grant in Fee was made to William ROWSWELL of Dunkerton, Somerset, of lands (specified and tenants named) in Compton Dando (including the chief messuage and grange of Compton Dando) and the Rectory and Advowson of the Parish Church of Lytelton [*High Littleton*]. - Keynsham, Westminster, 5th June 36 Henry VIll [1544]. Del. Westminster 20th June. - P. S. Pat. p.18, m.18.

(*Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIll Vol. XIX pt. 1 1544.*)

William ROSEWELL was born c.1499 the son of Richard ROSEWELL of Bradford, near Taunton and his wife Alice SEELEY of North Curry. He married firstly Joan FONTNEYS and secondly Agnes TILLEY. William had several children including Thomas ROSEWELL, born c.1532.

By Deed Poll dated 24th June 4 & 5 Philip and Mary [1558], William ROSEWELL granted to the use of himself for life, with remainder to the heirs male of Thomas ROSEWELL his son, with other remainders over, a capital messuage called The Grange and lands etc. in Compton Dando and the Rectory and Church of Littleton and all lands, glebes, tythes etc. thereto belonging.

A Deed dated 5th September 9 Elizabeth [1567], indented and inrolled, recites that William ROSEWELL was seized for his life in the Lordships of Farrington Gurney, Compton Dando, [*High*] Littleton and the Rectory of Littleton, and surrenders the same to his son Thomas.

William ROSEWELL also held the Manor of Stanton Prior, which he purchased in 1553 from Gerard ERINGTON, together with the Advowson of that Church.

After making his Will on 8th January 10 Elizabeth [1567/8], William ROSEWELL of Dunkerton died and his Will was proved on 10th November 1568 by his son Thomas. An extract of his Will notes that:

William left to his son John £40, to William and Alexander, sons of Thomas, £100 each, to Johane £20, Agnes and Mary, daughters of Thomas, £40 each, to his daughter Margaret RICHEMAN 40/-, to his son in law John ALLYN £6 13s.4d., to William ALLYN 20 sheep, to John ALLYN 20 nobles and the residue of his estate to his son Thomas ROSEWELL, who was appointed Executor. Appointed Overseers of his Will were William ROSEWELL (*sic*) his brother, William SEELEY and Alexander ROSEWELL.

William ROSEWELL only presented one vicar to the living of High Littleton, namely Miles BECKERDYKE in 1560 and his son Thomas presented one also, Henry BEENIE in 1590.

Thomas ROSEWELL of Dunkerton married Mary ATWOOD of Doynton and had several children including William born c.1561. This William ROSEWELL of Dunkerton married Cecilia CODRINGTON and had issue.

The ROSEWELLS sold the Advowson and Rectory of High Littleton in 1591. A Deed of Bargain and Sale, dated 18th June 33 Elizabeth [1591], indented and inrolled, from Thomas ROSEWELL and William ROSEWELL, his son and heir apparent, grants to the use of Thomas MILWARD alias HODGES, his heirs and assigns for ever, all Rents due to the Crown excepted, the Rectory and Church of Littleton alias High Littleton, thentofore belonging to the Monastery of Keynsham and the Advowson and all messuages, lands, rents and hereditaments and all, and all manner of Tythes etc. in as full and ample manner as the same were held by and under the Letters Patent of Henry 8th, dated 20th June in the 36th year of his reign [1544].

In 1593 Thomas MILWARD alias HODGES presented Edward HILL to the vicarage.

The Advowson and Rectory remained in the HODGES family, or families related to them by marriage, for over 300 years, but the Lordship of the Manor was sold to John BRITTEN by Thomas HODGES in 1618. No documents survive to provide evidence of when the Lordship came into Thomas HODGES' hands or how Robert WEBB and Bartholomew HORSEY, mentioned in the following deed, fit into the chronology of events:

A precis of a Deed of Indenture dated 20th January 15 James 1 [1617/8], between Thomas HODGES alias MYLLARD of High Littleton, yeoman and John BRITTEN of High Littleton, yeoman, records that:-

Thomas HODGES alias MYLLARD in consideration of £126 13s.4d. sells to John BRITTEN all his Lordship and Manor of High Littleton with appurtenances, which one Robert WEBBE purchased from Bartholomew HORSEY Esq. and his messuage or tenement and 6 acres of arable land, 2 acres of meadow and 6 acres of pasture in High Littleton, sometime in the tenure or occupation of Agnes BRITTEN, widow and his messuage or tenement and 3 acres of arable, 1 acre of meadow and 2 acres and 1/2 yard of pasture in High Littleton, sometime in the tenure of Stephen DANDOE and his cottage and appurtenances in High Littleton, containing 31 feet, sometime in the tenure of Elizabeth LAWRENCE and

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all his houses, edifices, buildings, barns, stables, orchards, gardens and backsides belonging to the same messuages, tenements and cottage and his chief-rent of 6/- and service, payable yearly or issuing out of certain lands and tenements in High Littleton, sometime the inheritance of Thomas ROWSWELL and

all the chief-rent and service of one pound of comynge and a pair of gloves or a $\frac{1}{2}$ d., issuing out of certain lands and tenements in High Littleton, now or late parcel of the possessions of the Hospital of St. John's in Bath, yearly due at the Feast of St. John the Baptist and

all the lands, tenements, commons, woods, underwoods, waters etc. etc. appertaining to the Lordship and Manor and other premises sold.

EXCEPT the messuage or tenement called Rockborne in High Littleton, late in the tenure or occupation of William BRITTEN dec'd and now in the tenure of the said John BRITTEN and 27 acres and 3 yards of arable, 18 acres and 3 yards of meadow and $57\frac{1}{2}$ acres of pasture belonging to, and heretofore purchased by John BRITTEN the elder, father of the said John BRITTEN and also EXCEPT the messuage or tenement with appurtenances and 14 acres of arable, 5 acres of meadow and 12 acres of pasture in High Littleton and the rent and service yearly due and payable for the same, sometime in the tenure and occupation of John SPURLOCKE, in the right of Marjorie his wife and also all commons, woods, underwoods etc. pertaining to the same premises, belonging to and heretofore purchased by John SPURLOCKE and also all rent, reversions, remainders and service of the said premises sold, due to Thomas HODGES and deeds, writings etc. to go to John BRITTEN.

(Signed) Tho's HODGES.

The Lordship of the Manor of High Littleton remained in the BRITTEN family for the next 125 years, before passing to the JONES family of Stowey, as a result of John BRITTEN dying without issue and also being aided in his financial difficulties by his half-brother William JONES, as the following extracts from documents witness:

INDENTURE made 19th Apr 10 George 2 [1737] between John BRITTON esq. of High Littleton and William JONES esq. the elder, of Stowey, whereby BRITTON, in consideration of brotherly love and affection for JONES and valuable causes, gives to JONES his messuages, tenements, curtilages etc. at Rockbourne, High Littleton and Hallatrow and other places in Somerset and quarries, mines, veins of coal etc. and all freehold estates, rights, reversions, redemptions etc. now in the possession of BRITTON and his tenants, from his decease.
Signed John BRITTON

DEED OF GIFT - John BRITTON esq. of High Littleton, in consideration of natural love and affection which he has to his brother William JONES esq. of Stowey and in consideration of £1200 from me to him justly due and owing and in consideration of his being bound for me to several people in the City of Bristol for several sums of money still unpaid, gives to William JONES all his messuage, tenements and lands at Rockburn, Hallatrow and High Littleton and elsewhere in Somerset and right to sell any part for 99 years or 3 lives, according to the Custom of the Manor of High Littleton, also all mines, veins of coal etc. in and upon the said Manor, from his death. Signed John BRITTON in the presence of Elizabeth BROOKS, Edw. BISHOP, William HICKES. 24th Aug 16 George 2 [1742].

John BRITTON died and was buried at High Littleton on 21st September 1742, following which William JONES became Lord of the Manor. An Exemplification of Title relates the events and sets out details of the property passing.

INQUISITION taken at the house of John BEALL in Bedminster 1st Feb 18 George 2 [1745] found that John BRITTON esq. died at High Littleton on 17th Sep 1742, without any issue and that the said BRITTON was at the time of his death seized by descent, as heir to John BRITTON his late father deceased, in the Lordship and Manor of High Littleton, with rights etc. and in messuages, houses, lands and in a messuage or tenement called Rockbourne in High Littleton and 104 acres of lands, meadows, pastures etc. thereto belonging and in other lands at Rockbourne, Hallatrow or High Littleton, namely:

Mansion House at High Littleton with outhouses, orchards, gardens etc.	2 acres
Close of ground called Lower Mead	10 acres
Close called Upper Mead	7 acres
Close called Bottom Wells	7 acres
Several closes called Ratcombe Close, The Mead, Barn Close, adjoining Wood Close, Wood Close, adjoining Ratcombe, all afterwards thrown into one close called Barn Close	12 acres
Piece of land called Three Meads	3 acres
Piece of land formerly called Two Cribbs	10 acres
Close called Lay Close	2 acres
Ground called Honey Garston	$\frac{3}{4}$ acre
Tenements formerly called Harris' Customary Tenements	8 acres
Tenement formerly called Harris' Leasehold Tenement with shear shop and other buildings	$11\frac{1}{2}$ acres
Close called Mr. Hodges' Close	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre
Ground called The Redfield	3 acres
Another ground called Redfield	4 acres
Paddock called Francis' Paddock	$1\frac{1}{2}$ acres
Peter's Cloudhill and ground adjoining Gooseheard Mead and Farm Mead	$16\frac{1}{2}$ acres
A tenement called James' tenement with 2 houses there	6 acres

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Land at Ridens	2 acres
And more adjoining it	3 acres
Several Fee Farm or Lord's Rents issuing out of various lands in High Littleton, amounting to 4s.4 ¹ / ₂ d.	
Close called Mordon's Batch	3 acres
Close called Great Mordon's Mead	3 acres
Close on north side of Great Mordon's Mead	8 acres
Close called Limekiln Close	6 acres
Close called Little New Tynning	2 acres
Close called Hay Groves	12 acres
Parcel of land called The Piece	10 acres
Ground called Stockhill	4 acres
Ground called The Lyes	10 acres
Close called New Tynning	10 acres
Close called Oxleaze	3 acres
Close called Pease Close	4 acres

Several messuages and tenements, with land leased out for lives, in High Littleton formerly in several tenures or occupation of John TYLER, James EMLYN, Mr. Richard MOORE, William PARSONS, Jacob NASH, Thomas RUDDOCK, Jonathan PARSONS, James EMELYN, John HARRIS, John PURNELL, John PURNELL(sic), Thomas HARRIS, Cornelius TYLER, Jane TYLER, Jacob PARSONS, Jonathan TYLER, Robert BROADRIPP and Ezra LAMBOURN, as tenants to the said John BRITTON deceased, all in the Manor and Parish of High Littleton.

At the time of John BRITTON's death all the lands and premises were held immediately of the King and at the time of this Inquisition had a yearly value of £300, besides a coalwork on part of the premises, which had a yearly value of £300, the benefit of which was then enjoyed by William JONES esq.

The document relates that John BRITTON, father of the said John BRITTON, married on 1st May 1672 [not recorded in Register - ? 14th February 1669/70 (unsubstantiated)] at High Littleton, Mary MOORE spinster [daughter of Francis MOORE], and by her begot John BRITTON, the son and heir (his only child) and then died, but Mary survived him. On his father's death [? 14th July 1674 (unsubstantiated)] the Manor descended to John BRITTON the son. After her husband's death Mary married on 1st May 1676 (sic) at High Littleton [? married at Clutton on 2nd Oct, by licence dated 30th Sep 1676] Samuel JONES esq. and had issue [Richard (born 1677, died young)], the said William JONES [(born 1679) and Elizabeth (born 1685)], so John BRITTON and William JONES were [half] brothers. In his lifetime, on 19th Apr 1737, John BRITTON agreed to give the Manor and premises, on his death, to William JONES the elder of Stowey, in consideration of brotherly love and affection etc. and further on 24th Aug 1742 John BRITTON entered into another similar indenture. John BRITTON died without issue on 17th Sep 1742 at High Littleton and by virtue of the indentures etc., William JONES became seized in the various premises at high Littleton.

The Inquisition found that William JONES should be entitled to the Manor etc. from John BRITTON's death. The order was signed on 12th May 22 George 2 [1749], by which time William JONES was dead.

In the Church of St. Mary's, Stowey is a monument and tablet inscribed;

"Sacred to the memories of William JONES of this parish, Esq., who died Jan 4th 1748, aged 69. He was a commissioner of the peace in the reigns of Queen Anne, King George the First, and of his present Majesty, which trust he discharged with great candour and impartiality. He was second son of Samuel JONES, of Ramsbury in the county of Wilts., Esq. Likewise of Elizabeth his wife, who died Dec 26th 1743, aged 69. She was in every part of her life worthy of imitation for all virtues and christian graces. She was daughter of John STRACHEY, of Sutton Court, Esq., by Jane his wife, one of the daughters and coheireses of George HODGES, of Wedmore in this county. And also of Richard JONES, son of the abovesaid William and Elizabeth JONES, who died March 14th 1724, aged 17."

William JONES' Will dated 15th Jan 1742/3 and codicil dated 9th Dec 1747, was proved on 11th Feb 1748. An extract from the Will says:

"I give all my right, title, interest, property and claim to the Manors of High Littleton and Hallatrow, also the Mansion House at High Littleton and the household goods therein standing and being, to my two daughters Elizabeth and Mary, to be had and holden to them jointly and respectively and to the heirs of their bodies, lawfully to be gotten and in default of such heirs, to my right heirs for ever."

The Manor of High Littleton duly descended to Elizabeth and Mary JONES, neither of whom married. Elizabeth died on 1st Sep 1783 aged 80, leaving Mary in possession of the whole of the Manor and Estate of High Littleton. Mary died on 13th Sep 1791 aged 86 and was buried at Stowey, where there is a monument to the two sisters. Under her Will dated 18th Jan 1787 and codicil of 26th Apr 1791 she left the Manors of Stowey and High Littleton, to Dame Elizabeth JONES, the wife of Sir William JONES, Bt., of Ramsbury Manor, Wilts. Dame Elizabeth was Mary's second cousin once removed, being the daughter of William JONES Esq. of Ramsbury Manor and his wife Eleanora ERNLE.

Dame Elizabeth JONES died without issue in 1800 and her Will dated 9th Jan 1798 with codicils of 7th Sep 1799 and 14th Jan 1800, was proved on 30th Apr 1800. Under it she devised her Manors of Stowey and High Littleton to her nephew William Jones BURDETT, the third son of her sister Mary Eleanora BURDETT (nee JONES).

Michael L. Browning

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MANOR COURT ROLLS 1568 to 1587

1

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of William ROSEWELL, gentleman, and of Thomas his son, held at Farrington the fifth day of October, in the tenth year [1568] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLEY, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - none

[JURY] - William REDMAN Robert HILL
 John HODGES senior John DAYSHFEILDE alias SMYTHE
 William HODGES junior
 sworn.

Presentments of the Jury:

THE JURY for the same place come and through John HODGES, in the name of all the Jury, present:

THAT John HILL, son and heir to John HILL, is a free tenant of this manor and owes suit of court on this day and was here and he paid his relief after the death of the aforesaid John his father, that is to say, one peppercorn, paid into the hands of the lord.

AND John HODGES senior was ordered at the last Court to repair one house called a Wayne House and he did not repair it. Therefore he is fined 3s.4d.

AND that all the tenants of the Manor of Littleton are ruled by the statute of the Court in keeping sheep in the field of Highe Littleton. Therefore they are reminded of the penalty of the Court for exceeding the limit, that is to say, 3s.4d.

AND that John CERTEN, subtenant of Elizabeth COLLIER, has cut down a pear tree against the will of the aforesaid Elizabeth. And the aforesaid Elizabeth has leave until the next Court to reach a settlement with the lord of this manor.

AND it is ordered that John HODGES junior should repair his house before the next Court, under a penalty of 6s.8d.

AND that John HODGES senior needs two days work in roofing his dwelling house. Therefore he is ordered to repair it sufficiently before the next Court, under a penalty of 3s.4d.

AND that Elizabeth COLLIER needs one day's work in roofing her dwelling house. Therefore a date is given to her to repair it sufficiently before the next Court, under a penalty of 3s.4d.

AND that William REDMAN needs one day's work in roofing his dwelling house. Therefore a date is given to him to repair it sufficiently before the next Court, under a penalty of 3s.4d.

AND all the tenants are ordered to inspect an oak tree in dispute between Maurice RODNEY, Esquire and Thomas ROSEWELL, Gentleman and to make a presentment at the next Court, under a penalty of 12d., for each one who may be in default.

AND that one draught animal, of colour vallow [*? yellow intended*], came into this manor as a stray at the Feast of St. (*blank*). And it is not valued.

2

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place the 8th day of April in the eleventh year [1570] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLEY, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - John HILL - not being at home
 John DAYSHFEILDE alias SMYTHE
 Elizabeth COLLYER - being sick in bed

JURY - John HODGES and Robert HILL, sworn.

Presentments of the Jury:

THE JURY for the same place come and through John HODGES, junior, in the name of all the Jury, present:

THAT John HILL is a free tenant of this manor and owes suit of court on this day and is in default. Therefore he is fined 12d.

AND that Elizabeth COLLIER, widow, caused the destruction of one wall in her house, that is to say, in her hall. And a date is given to her to repair it sufficiently before the Feast of St. John the Baptist [24 Jun], under a penalty of 10d.
(*marginal note: To repair before the date*)

AND that (the house of - *?superfluous*) William REDMAN needs one day's roofing work upon his house called the Kitchen. And a date is given to him to repair it sufficiently before the

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5

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place the 28th day of March in the fourteenth year [1572] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLEY, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - John HODGES senior
Elizabeth COLLIER

[JURY] - John HODGES junior William REDMAN
 Robert HILL John DAYSHFEILDE alias SMYTHE
 sworn.

THE JURY for the same place come and through John HODGES in the name of all the Jury, present: That Elizabeth COLLYER has in her keeping one lamb, which came into this manor as a stray at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [25 Mar] last past. And it is valued at 8d.

(*marginal note*: Payable into the hands of the lord)

AND that John HODGES, senior, needs one day's roofing work upon the Stele. Therefore a date is given to him to repair it sufficiently before the Feast of Pentecost [25 May], under a penalty of 20d.

AND that William REDEMAN, upon his own admission, needs one day's roofing work. Therefore a date is given etc. until the aforesaid Feast, under a penalty of 20d., as aforesaid.

IT WAS AGREED in the aforesaid Court that each tenant who may break the fields in the manor aforesaid before John HODGES senior, farmer in the same place does, should forfeit 6s.8d., for each time he offends.

TO THIS Court came Robert HILL and took from the lord, by his own surrender, one tenement, with it's appurtenances, now in the tenure of the said Robert, to have and to hold the aforesaid tenement, with it's appurtenances, to the aforesaid Robert HILL, Margaret his wife and Richard their son, for the terms of their lives and of the longer living of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the aforesaid manor, by rent-charge and service thence first due and in accordance with the law; and for such estate and to have his right of entrance of and in the aforesaid premises, Robert gives to the lord, as a fine, £5 paid beforehand. And so he is admitted as tenant thereof and the aforesaid Robert makes fealty to the lord. Dated etc.

And furthermore they say that all else is well and they stand to right on this day.

6

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place the ninth day of October in the fourteenth year [1572] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLY, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTH
 and William REDMAN.

[JURY] - John HODGES and Robert HILL, sworn.

THE JURY for the same place come and through John HODGES, in the name of all the Jury, present: That John DAYSHFEILDE needs one day's roofing work upon his house called the Newhouse. Therefore a date is given to him to repair it sufficiently before the Feast of St. Andrew [30 Nov], under a penalty of 20d.

AND that Elizabeth COLLIER, on her own admission, needs one day's roofing work on her house called (*blank*). Therefore a date is given to her to repair it sufficiently before the aforesaid Feast, under a penalty of 20d.

And that John HODGES may cut down an oak common called Gursewoodes Common, to the value of 20d.

IT WAS ORDERED that John SPURLOCKE of Halotrow should put up his hedge in the right direction before the Feast of the Birth of Our Lord [25 Dec], under a penalty of 20d.

AND furthermore they present that all else is well. And they stand to right on this day.

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7

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place, the seventh day of May in the fifteenth year [1573] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of Thomas LEWELLYN, steward for the same place for the time.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - Elizabeth COLLYER

On this day John HILL, free tenant of this manor made suit of court in his own person.

THE JURY for the same place, that is to say John HODGES, Robert HILL, John DAYSHFEILDE and William REDMAN sworn, present:

That John HODGES, who held of the lord, by indenture, a farm in the same place, has died since the last Court, by whose death there falls due to the lord, as a heriot, one ox to the value of (*blank*) and it is to be delivered into the lord's stock. And that Richard HODGES is the next claimant.

AND the same John likewise held one close of meadow called Rydons, containing by estimation six acres, whereon nothing falls due to the lord as a heriot, because it is not so liable. UPON which there comes into the same Court John HODGES, the son of the said deceased John and asks and claims to have and to hold the aforesaid close, by virtue of the copy signed by the hand of William ROSEWELL deceased, dated the 29th of May in the 2nd and 3rd years of the reigns of Philip and Mary [1556]. And because the aforesaid William was seized of the premises jointly with his son, lately deceased, who in fact survived him, and the aforesaid demise was without his consent, therefore the demise is void. It is also ruled to have been made without notice. The tenancy and agreement, written in a fine copy, was held for the term of his life, but not in accordance with the custom, and he is to be treated as if he was never in possession. On that ground also it is void.

ON THIS day they renewed this statute, that is to say, that each tenant should keep no more sheep in the common fields than three sheep for each acre, under a penalty, for each one who may be in default, of 20d. for each sheep. And they assigned, as overseer of the statutes, the aforesaid John DAYSHFEILD and John HODGES.

ITEM: On this day it is ordered, by the agreement of all the tenants, that from this day/next Sunday [*both phrases written*] no tenant should keep or put any draught animal or cattle, or any sheep, in a field ready for seed, after the Feast of Peter's Chains [1 Aug] until breaking the field, under a penalty of 6s.8d., for each of them who may be guilty thereof.

ITEM: On this day it is ordered that no tenant, after the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 Feb], should keep or put any sheep in the common field until the breaking of the same, under a penalty of 6s.8d., for each of them who may be guilty thereof.

IT IS ORDERED that the aforesaid statutes do not extend to a certain common lying at Jeffearses Bridge and Hallytro Bridge.

ITEM: It is ordered that no tenant should keep or put any draught animal on the common called The Het [*? Heath intended*], from the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary [2 Feb] to the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [3 May], under a penalty of 6s.8d., for each person offending.

ITEM: It is ordered, by the agreement of all the tenants, that no tenant should put out more oxen or cattle than one animal for every acre, under a penalty of 10s., for each one who may offend.

WARNING IS GIVEN to the jury to convene and hold an inquiry at the Halatro Field, concerning one piece of Robert HILL's land, enclosed by Johanna ALLYNGES in her newly enclosed close in the same place. And to do this before the Feast of the Holy Trinity [17 May] next, under a penalty of 20d. for each of them who may be in default.

IN LIKE MANNER they present that Thomas GERVYS of Clutton is a common trespasser within the manor, leading his beasts upon the lord's commons, to the detriment of the tenement in that place. Therefore he is fined 3s.4d. by the lord.

And that all else is well.

John HODGES
John DAYSHFEILD

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HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place, the tenth day of August in the fifteenth year [1573] of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLYE, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - none

[<i>JURY</i>] - Robert HILL	John HODGES
John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTHE	John ABRAHAM
	sworn.

THE JURY for the same place, through Robert HILL in the name of all the Jury, present:
That John HILL is a free tenant of this [*manor*] and owes suit of court on this day and is in default. Therefore he is fined 12d.

AND that William REDMAN is a customary tenant of this manor and owes suit of court on this day and is in default. Therefore he is fined 12d.

AND that Elizabeth COLLYER, widow, John HODGES and John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTH, tenants of this manor, were accustomed to discharge the customary service for John HODGES deceased, that is to say, each of them, four measures of half a day and half an afternoon to make hay, and four chickens per annum, and they have pasture in one meadow on the said farm, called Homemade, for the measures aforesaid, until the Feast of All Saints [*1st November*].

A DATE is given for all the tenants to inquire whether the Vicar of High Littleton has or once had an entitlement to land in the fields of Littleton, lately concealed by the lord of the manor. And this is set by the same lord, to be made before the Feast of All Saints [*1st November*], under a penalty of 3s.4d. for everyone who may be in default.

TO THIS Court came John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTH and took from the lord, by his own surrender, one tenement, with it's appurtenances, containing by estimation forty acres of land, meadow and pasture, now in the tenure or occupation of the said John, TO HAVE and to hold, to him and to John his son and to his first wife, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the aforesaid manor, yielding the customary rent-charge and services thence first due and in accordance with the law; and the aforesaid John, the elder, gave to the said lord, as a fine, on account of having his estate and right of entrance therein, £20 to be paid in the manner and form following, that is to say, £10 before the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord next following [*25th December*] and £10 at the Feast of Michael the Archangel [*29th September*] which will be in the year of Our Lord 1574. And so the aforesaid John DAYSHFEILD senior was thereby admitted as a tenant and the aforesaid John junior was deferred for so long as etc. Provided always, that if the aforesaid John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTHE should default in payment of the aforesaid ten pounds thereof, which is payable at the Feast of St. Michael, then this demise shall be void.

TO THIS Court came John MILWARDE alias HODGES and took from the lord by his own surrender, one tenement, with it's appurtenances, containing by estimation 73 acres of land, meadow and pasture, with it's appurtenances, now in the tenure or occupation of the aforesaid John, TO HAVE and to hold the aforesaid tenement, with it's appurtenances, to the aforesaid John MILWARDE alias HODGES, Agnes his wife and John the son of the same John and Agnes, for the term of their lives, or the longer lived of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the said manor, by rent, customary rent-charge and services thence first due and in accordance with the law; and he gave to the said lord, as a fine, on account of having his estate and right of entrance of and in the said premises, £12 to be paid at the Feast of the Inventory of the Holy Cross next following [*14th September*]. And so the aforesaid John, the father, was thereby admitted as a tenant and made fealty to the lord. Provided always, that if the aforesaid John MILWARD alias HODGES, senior, should default in payment of the aforesaid twelve pounds, which is payable at the aforesaid Feast as said beforehand, then this demise shall be void.

(Written in English) Memorandum that the said John HODGES must pay unto the lord or his assigns, one ox or 53s.4d. and [*at*] Michaelmas two years following, one other ox or 53s.4d., at the election of the lord.

(marginal note: Yielding for the tenement with it's appurtenances and 31 acres of land, meadow and pasture, 6s.8d. and for 6 acres of meadow called Rydons, 13s.4d.)

HIGH LITTLETON MANOR COURT ROLLS

9

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place, the twenty ninth day of April in the sixteenth year [1574] of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLEY, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - none

[*JURY*] - Robert HILL John HODGES and
 John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTH William REDMAN
 sworn.

THE JURY for the same place come and through Robert HILL, in the name of all the Jury, present:

That Elizabeth COLLIER, widow, holds of the lord, at the end of it's term, one tenement, with it's appurtenances, containing by estimation 30 acres of land, meadow and pasture, whereby there falls due to the lord, as a heriot, one ox of value 53s.4d. Which tenement and the rest of the premises remain in the lord's hands.

(*marginal note:* Heriot paid into the hands of the lord, 53s.4d.)

AND THAT John COLLYER junior has in his keeping two ewes, of colour black, which came into this manor as strays around the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord [6 Jan] And they remain in his custody. And they are valued at 2s.6d.

(*marginal note:* To remain for a year and a day and payment into the lord's hands 16d.)

And furthermore that all else is well.

10

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place, the twenty eighth day of September in the sixteenth year [1574] of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLEY, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - William REDMAN

[*JURY*] - Robert HILL John HODGES
 John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTH
 sworn.

THE JURY for the same place come and through Robert HILL, in the name of all the Jury, present:

That John HILL is a free tenant of this manor and owes suit of court on this day and he was here.

AND that John HODGES has in his keeping one ewe, of colour black, valued at 2s.8d., which came into this manor as a stray since the last Feast of Easter [11 Apr]. And it may remain in his custody.

(*marginal note:* Strays 2s.8d.)

AND it was ordered that all the tenants should sufficiently repair their hedges around the common called the Heath at Lyttleton aforesaid, before the fourth day of October, under a penalty of 3s.4d., for each one who may default therein.

(*marginal note:* Order put forth)

AND furthermore they present that all else is well. And they stand to right on this day.

11

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, esquire, held in the same place, the 11th day of April in the nineteenth year [1577] of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of Thomas LLEWELLYN, steward in the same place and at the time.

John HILL, free tenant of this manor, is in default of suit of court, but is excused by the steward.

THE JURY for the same place come in full and through John COLLYER, in the name of all the jury, present under oath:

That the tenement, barn and cattle shed of John HODGES are ruinous and open to the elements; the barn, cattleshed and wagon of Richard HODGES are ruinous and open to the elements; the hay barn of John DAYSHFEILD is ruinous and open to the elements; and the tenement of John COLLYER is in decay and open to the elements; to whom order is given to repair the said defects sufficiently before the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist next [24 Jun], under a penalty of 3s.4d. for each of them who may be in default.

ON THIS day order is given, to those who ought to repair the hedges adjoining the common, to repair them sufficiently before the Feast of St. Mark next [25 Apr], under a penalty of 3s.4d. for each one in default.

HIGH LITTLETON MANOR COURT ROLLS

ON THIS day it was also ordered that no tenant should break a field, ready for seed, with his draught animals before the farmer breaks the same, under a penalty of 6s.8d. for each one in default.

ITEM: On this day it was ordered that no tenant who has draught animals in summer pasture on the common should keep the same beasts on the common after the breaking of the field. And that each horse or mare, and the same draught animals taken from the summer pasture, should not be put on the field called The Edes, under a penalty, for each one in default, of 3s.4d. for every beast found there in contravention.

ITEM: On this day it was ordered that each tenant having right of common in this manor shall share it according to the proportion of their holdings. And that each horse or mare may be counted for two draught animals. Provided that they may have only one horse or mare in number for each beast, but not more, under a penalty of 6s.8d. for each one in default; provided also that a foal shall not be counted as a horse or a mare before the Feast of St. (*blank*).

ITEM: On this day warning is given to the jury to convene and hold an inquiry into the dispute between John COLLYER, tenant of this manor and John SPURLOCKE, tenant of the manor of HORSEY, at The Combe, concerning each certain hovel/pigsty in that place, now in the Court Leet between them. And to do this before the Feast of Pentecost next [*10 May*], under a penalty of 20d. for each one in default.

AND FOR THE FUTURE, warning is given to the jury to convene and hold an inquiry into the disputes between Richard HODGES and John TYLER, at Heygrove Slade, and between the said Henry and John COLLYER, at Wyscombe. And to do this before the next Court, under a penalty of 20d. for each one in default.

12

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, esquire, held in the same place, the 12th day of April in the nineteenth year [*1577*] of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of Thomas LLEWELLYN, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - [*None*]

JURY - Robert HILL	John COLLYER
John DAYSHFEILD alias SMYTHE	John TYLER
sworn.	

THE JURY for the same place come and through Robert HILL, in the name of all the Jury, present:

That one gelding, of colour black, to the value of 12s., came into this manor, as a stray, at the Feast of St. Martin [*11 Nov*] a year ago and is still with John COLLYER on this day, and a year's time limit has expired.

TO THIS COURT comes John COLLYER, and took from the lord, by his own surrender, one tenement, with it's appurtenances, to the aforesaid John COLLYER and to William and John his sons, for the term of their lives, and also of the one who is the longer living of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the manor in the same place, by rent, customary rent-charge and duties and services thence first due and in accordance with the law; And on account of having his estate therein, gave to the lord, as a fine, £50 paid to the lord beforehand. And so he was thereby admitted as a tenant, and the aforesaid John COLLYER the father made fealty to the lord, and fealty of the aforesaid William and John was deferred until etc.

TO THIS Court came John TYLER alias WILTON and Thomas his son and Elizabeth the wife of the said Thomas and took from the lord, through his own surrender, one tenement, with it's appurtenances, in the same place, late in the tenure of William RADMAN [*REDMAN*] and now in the hands of the lord, through the surrender of the same William, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid tenement, with it's appurtenances, to the aforesaid John TYLER alias WYLTON, Thomas his son and Elizabeth the wife of the said Thomas, for the term of their lives, and also of the one who is the longer living of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the manor in the same place, by rent, customary rent-charge and duties and services thence first due and in accordance with the law; And furthermore it was agreed between the aforesaid parties, with their licence and consent, that the aforesaid Thomas shall occupy all the aforesaid tenement, with it's appurtenances, during his life, except half the mansion tenement aforesaid, half the garden and curtilage and half the rights to common, both in the common and in the field, And the close called The Outlett Close or The Home Close, with their appurtenances, which the aforesaid John occupied during his lifetime; And for this grant they gave to the lord, as a fine, £26 paid to the lord beforehand. And so they were thereby admitted as tenants, and the aforesaid John made fealty to the lord etc.

AND NOTHING else, as all else is well.

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13

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL, gentleman, held in the same place, the fifteenth day of March in the twenty second year [1579/80] of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, at the time of William COLEY, steward in the same place.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - None

JURY - John HODGES John DAYSHFEILDE
 John COLLYER junior John WILTON alias TYLER
 Robert HILL

sworn.

Presentments of the Jury:

The Jury for the same place come and through John HODGES, in the name of all the Jury, present:

THAT John HILL is a free tenant of this manor and owes suit of court on this day.

AND THAT Richard WILKES of (*blank*), who holds of the lord, by indenture bearing date (*blank*), for a term of divers years, now finished, one messuage or farm and 78 virgates of land, meadow and pasture, with their appurtenances and tithes of the said farm annually accruing or growing, and the last day having passed, there falls due to the lord, as heriot, one mare to be delivered to the lord; and the premises remain in the lord's hands.
(*marginal note: Tenancy forfeited*)

AND THAT John HODGES will repair his house before the Feast of St. John the Baptist [*24th June*] next following, so that he may be free of the Court before the Feast of Pentecost [*22nd May*], and not then suffer the imposition of a penalty by the Court.

AND THAT John DAYSHFEILD will [*did*] not repair the hedges and ditches at The Heath before the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle [*21 September*] next following the last sitting of the Court. Therefore he has suffered a penalty imposed in the same Court. Therefore a further date is given to the aforesaid John DAYSHFEILD, to repair it sufficiently before the 27th day of March next, under a penalty of 2 shillings.

AND THAT John HILL has encroached upon the Common, called The Heath, more than was agreed in Court. Therefore he has suffered a penalty. Therefore he is ordered not to do likewise, under a penalty of 10 shillings.
(*marginal note: Penalty imposed 10/-*)

AND THAT the house of John HODGES, called the Parlor, is ruinous and open to the elements. Therefore a date is given to him, to repair it sufficiently before the Feast of Holy Cross [*14th September*], under a penalty of 2 shillings.
(*marginal note: Order put forth*)

AND THAT John DAYSHFEILD's barn is ruinous and open to the elements. Therefore - see above - under a penalty of 2 shillings
(*marginal note: Order put forth*)

AND THAT Elizabeth HODGES, widow, has in her keeping one colt, called a gelding colt, which came within this manor as a stray after the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle [*30th November*] last past, and is valued at twelve shillings. And it remains in the hands of the aforesaid Elizabeth.
(*marginal note: Payable into the hands of the lord*)

AND THAT John TYLER has in his keeping two pigs, valued at 3 shillings, which came within this manor as strays after the aforesaid Feast. And they remain in the hands of the same John.
(*marginal note: Payable into the hands of the lord*)

AND THAT John BRITTAYNE drives along a road called Longfurlong Way. Therefore (*blank*).

TO THIS Court came John JONES alias COLLYER, junior and took from the aforesaid lord by his own proper surrender, one tenement with it's appurtenances and 32 acres of land, meadow and pasture, adjacent to the same tenement, late in the tenure or occupation of Elizabeth JONES alias COLLYER, widow, mother of the aforesaid John, TO HAVE and to hold the aforesaid tenement and the aforesaid 32 acres of land, meadow and pasture, with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid John JONES alias COLLYER, William JONES alias COLLYER and John JONES alias COLLYER, sons of the aforesaid John, the father, for the term of their lives or the longer lived of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the said manor, by the customary rent-charge and services thence first due and in accordance with the law; And for his title, estate and right of entrance, so that he might have them, the aforesaid John JONES alias COLLYER, the father, gave to the lord as a fine, £55, paid beforehand. And so the aforesaid John JONES alias COLLYER, the father, was thereby admitted as a tenant, and made fealty to the lord, that of the aforesaid William and John being deferred until such time etc.
(*marginal note: Best beast in the name of heriot as it falls due.*)

TO THIS Court came John DAYSHFEILDE and took from the aforesaid lord, by his own proper surrender, one tenement and 14 acres of land, meadow and pasture, with their appurtenances, adjacent to the same tenement, late in the tenure of Richard DAYSHFEILDE, father of the aforesaid John, TO HAVE and to hold the tenement and the aforesaid 14 acres of land, meadow

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and pasture, with whatsoever their appurtenances, to the aforesaid John DAYSHFEILDE, John his son and Katherine, wife of the aforesaid John junior, for the term of their lives or the longer lived of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the aforesaid manor, by the customary rent-charge and services thence first due and in accordance with the law, and with best beast in the name of heriot as it falls due; And for his title, estate and right of entrance, so that he might have them, the aforesaid John DAYSHFEILD gave to the lord as a fine, £20 paid beforehand. And so the aforesaid John DAYSHFEILD senior was thereby admitted as a tenant and made fealty to the lord. And fealty etc.

Plus, on the back of this roll, that which was granted and ordered at this Court.

ON THIS DAY the Court of the Manor of High Littleton is held in the same place on the 15th day of March in the twenty second year [1579/80] of the reign of Queen Elizabeth etc.

TO THIS COURT came John WYLTON alias TYLER and took from the aforesaid lord, by his own surrender, one tenement and 14 acres of land, meadow and pasture adjacent to the same tenement, with their appurtenances, late in the tenure or occupation of William REEDMAN [REDMAN], TO HAVE and to hold the aforesaid tenement and 14 acres of land, meadow and pasture, with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid John WYLTON alias TYLER, to Thomas WYLTON alias TYLER his son and to Edith the wife of the aforesaid Thomas, for the term of their lives, or the longer lived of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the aforesaid manor, by rent, customary rent-charge and services thence first due and in accordance with the law, and with best beast in the name of heriot as it falls due; And on account of having his estate therein and right of entrance thereto, the aforesaid John gave to the lord as a fine, £26 paid beforehand. And so the aforesaid John was thereby admitted as a tenant and made fealty to the lord, and fealty etc.

AND it was ordered that all tenants of this manor should hold a View at Combe, under Bury Meade, between John COLLYER junior and John COLLYER senior, before the Feast of Easter [3 April], under a penalty of 3s.4d.

AND furthermore they present that all is well and they stand acquitted on this day.

14

HIGH LITTLETON - MANOR COURT of Thomas ROSEWELL esquire, held in the same place on the eighth day of May in the twenty ninth year [1587] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith.

ESSOINS [*Default of Tenants*] - (blank)

[JURY] - John HODGES John COLLIER
 John DAYSHFEILDE John WILTON alias TYLER
 Robert HILL

sworn.

Presentments of the Jury:

THE JURY for the same place come and through John COLLIER, in the name of all of the Jury, present:

That John HILL is a free tenant of this manor and owes suit of court on this day, and is in default of suit of court on this day. Therefore he is fined 6d.

AND they present that there came within this manor as a stray, one mare, white in colour, valued at 13s.4d., since the Feast of St. Peter the Apostle in the 26th year [29 June 1584] and it has been in Thomas HODGES' keeping for over a year.
(*marginal note*: Strays over one year)

AND that John SPURLOCKE of Hallowtree, tenant of Maurice RODNEY esquire, has reclaimed land with a ditch at Hallotrowes Bridge, at the western end of the same bridge. Therefore he is fined 5d. And order is sent to the aforesaid to reinstate it before the Feast of All Saints next [1 November], under a penalty of 10s.
(*marginal note*: Encroachment with Enclosure)

AND that Stephen DANDO of Lyttleton has made illegal recoveries upon Agnes TYLER and Margaret ELLYS, servants of the aforesaid John at Lyttleton, of one gelding and one mare, which he took and abducted from the goods of the said Stephen. Therefore he is fined 40s.
(*marginal note*: Recovery)

AND the houses of John COLLYER, John HODGES and John DAYSHEFEILDE are ruinous and unseemly and open to the elements. Therefore a date is given to them, to repair them sufficiently, before the Feast of All Saints next [1 November], under a penalty of 3s.4d. for each of them.

TO THIS Court came Robert HILL of Hallotrow, within the parish of High Lyttleton, who holds of the lord, to him and to Margaret his wife, by copy of the Court Rolls bearing date the 28th day of March in the 14th year [1572] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, now Queen:

One tenement with garden and barn adjoining and a small park of meadow, containing in total one acre,

One close called Kytcrofte containing two acres,

One other close called Kitcrofte containing half an acre,

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One other close called Witryse containing one acre,
One other close called Elwills containing three virgates,
Seven acres of pasture in John Byde's close,
One other acre of pasture in a close called Sladacres,
Four acres of arable land in the East Field,
Four and a half acres of arable land in the West Field,
with their appurtenances, and yielded up all and singular the premises, together with the copy, into the hands of the lord, to the following purpose, wherefore there falls due to the lord an inhibitory heriot which is contained in the underwritten fine. Whereupon the aforesaid Robert HILL came into the same Court and took from the aforesaid lord, through his own surrender, the aforesaid tenement and all and singular the rest of the premises with all their appurtenances whatsoever, To have and to hold the aforesaid tenement, with all and singular the rest as expressed and specified above, with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid Robert HILL and to Thomas HILL and John HILL, sons of the aforesaid Robert, for the term of their lives, or the longer lived of them, in succession, in accordance with the custom of the aforesaid manor, by the annual rent of 3s. and all other customary rent-charges and services thence first due and in accordance with the law; And on account of having his estate therein and right of entrance thereto, the aforesaid Robert HILL gave to the said lord as a fine, £15 paid beforehand. And so he was thereby admitted as a tenant and the aforesaid Robert HILL made fealty to the lord etc.

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