

WROXHILL CUSTUMAL 1253

The text below was translated and transcribed by Kathryn Faulkner and Dorothy Jamieson. The date is presumed to be the 37th year of the reign of Henry III, that is between 28th October 1252 and 27th October 1253. [Reference R Box 100]

In the translation below the following conventions¹ have been used:

1. The ends of lines in the translation of the original are marked with an oblique stroke /
2. First names have been modernised, but family names are written as in the original
3. The use of upper case letters in the original is erratic, even on family names; they are used as in the original in both translation and transcription
4. Words which have been added to clarify the meaning of the text are enclosed in curved brackets, e.g. (**day**)
5. Editorial notes, for example indicating where text appears in the document are enclosed in square brackets, e.g. [**in the margin**]
6. indicates that letters, a word or words cannot be deciphered
7. The only punctuation in the original is the full stop, these are often used where we would use a comma, or in spaces and positions which we do not use today: to mark Roman numerals and abbreviations for shillings and pence. Many of these have been removed, and other punctuation marks have been used sparingly
8. Crossings out and superscripts are as in the original.

Annual revenue which used to belong to the full Lord of Wroxhill in Houghton. And now it is Lord Richard de Specheleye and M wife, having succeeded by hereditary right

Manasses of Houghton holds his tenement for 22s, paying Yearly, namely, at the feast of St Michael 11s / and at the feast of Blessed Mary in March 11s, and for two (days) boon-works loaned out ploughing, in return for food provided by the Lord and for two days held / for reaping in autumn. Namely one day's boon-work with one man and another with all his family by way of payment.

Matthew son of Thomas holds his tenement for 11s at the same fixed dates and for the other aforesaid services [Annotated 'Robert de Lynleye].

Robert Grokel for his tenement 2s 6d at the same fixed dates and performing the other aforesaid services. /

The Prior of Dunstable holds one virgate of the same tenement for 2s 6d Annually and performing other services. /

¹ This list has been inspired by 'Editorial conventions used in the text' in 'Eggington Manor Court Rolls' by J. S. Thompson and K. T. Ward, BHRS volume 69 *Hundreds, Manors, Parishes and the Church*, published 1990, pp.192-3

Beatrice the widow and Avelina the widow hold 3 virgates of villein land for 25s and at the same fixed dates. / and they are held by customary services, namely for two ploughing days with their ploughs for food provided by the lord and for 3 / boon-work days in autumn for reaping, namely two days boon-work with two men and a third with the whole family. and in June / boon-reaping with their carts if they should have them for taking hay, for one day, and they shall come for lifting the hay in the meadow / and for carrying grain in autumn they shall come with their carts for one day and all this shall be done for food / from the lord, and they are held by paying feudal aid, at his will. Also they are not able to marry their daughters outside the fee, without the will / and permission of the lord. /

Adam Poke for his messuage and the nearby headland he holds, Annually 18d. [annotated in a different hand: Robert of Lynleye holds by the gift of the aforesaid] /

Richard the painter², for 15 butts³ which he holds of which 12 lie upon rolea and three upon millea, next to the land / of Robert Freman 4d a Year and one man in autumn [in a different hand: Robert of Lynleye holds by the aforesaid gift] /

William red for his messuage and for a half Acre of land against chilowe between the chaplain's land and the land / of bideWell and for another half acre in the West field next to the land Richard of chedindon held by / homage and for 22 d a Year and by one hen and by two capons and for two young men for reaping in autumn [in a different hand: the aforesaid Robert holds]. /

Stephen Angell holds two acres from the same Robert freman and they lie in the east dole field, that is to say one half acre / lies upon hoehille. between the land of John de Koke and of Hawisia of Malton and another half acre lies on / Hohill between the land of Alice mitteris and the land of John, son of Adam, and one acre he inhabits on Hykende next to / the land of the prior, and he pays 1d a Year [in another hand: the aforesaid Robert holds] /

Walter Wynditch for his messuage and adjacent croft and for one Acre lying in the field, he pays annually / 28d and 2 men in autumn and he should make homage [in another hand: the aforesaid Robert holds] /

² pictor' may be his occupational surname in this context

³ Butts may mean areas for target practice, but here it probably means 'strips of land'

Payments of Robert of Wroxhill purchased from Robert the Freeman /

Walter ~~freman~~ Windhut 2 shillings and 4d a Year and homage and 2 men in August. [in another hand: the aforesaid Robert holds] /

William son of Godriche 22d. a Year and homage and 2 men in Autumn /

William ingham 5d a Year and homage /

John Violator 2d a Year and his homage /

Stephen Angevin one penny a Year and homage /

by purchase from Mathew of Selton /

Thomas ruffus 2 shillings and 4 pence a Year, and homage /

Gregory ruffus, 2s 1d a Year and homage /

**Memorandum that Claricia and Johanna Hervy hold alone /
for 2d a year, and one farthing for foreign service /
from the land belonging to the miterti. /**

Richard of Wootton, 10 shillings a Year [annotated the aforesaid Robert holds] /

Alicia miterty 7 shillings a year [annotated 'as tenant of William hardulf, bracketed with the following two entries] /

Jordan at the town's end, 20 pence a Year [annotated held by William hardulf] /

Simon cooper, 10d a Year and 2 men in Autumn [annotated held by William hardulf] /

(In the margin:) Wroxhill

Nigel blake holds three parts of one knight's fee, therefrom making three parts of the service to the Lord King. And he renders 30 pence Annually. [illegible annotation, seems to link him with an earlier entry in the document] /

John hermer holds one virgate of land, doing foreign service and fealty etc. therefrom in the army, with the proper horse as a customary tenant of the lord /

William, son of Geoffrey holds 12 Acres of land and pays 40 pence and does foreign service and for other lands 7d and foreign service /

John draper holds half a virgate of land for 5 shillings and does foreign service /

William le Ram holds one courtyard by charter, and pays 2 pence and a half penny a Year /

Alan pinnoc holds 12 Acres and pays 3 shillings and 2 pence and foreign service /

Walter richer makes foreign service for his tenement and homage to the lord. And he renders
7d Without Socage /

John Pinnok holds 8 Acres by homage and renders 2s a Year /

Constance crouce holds 2 Messuages and pays 20 pence a year /

Thomas son of Constance holds one messuage and 3 Acres of land and he pays 16 pence a
Year, and 4 hens, 20 eggs and he will hoe for one [day] / without food and he will mow three
Acres of meadow without food and gather up the hay in the same way as is customary and
reap three acres of grain (blank) Acres / mowing and 1 Acre of Oats ^{without food} he should also
mow for two days without food and to thresh apples as is customary /

Randolf malot holds one Messuage and three acres of land he owes Annually 16 pence at
two terms a year at Easter and at raising the hay with other customary (services) and one
day at Garth land / grain and 3 acres of hay and 3 acres of meadow and 3 acres of
oats /

line erased here

Gilbert cruce holds 16 acres and pays 4 shillings to the lord and will find one man for one day in
autumn without food from the lord and two men will come / for the great boon works and load as
often as shall be needed and one man for raising the hay as often as shall be necessary without
food and one man for threshing the apples / as was necessary and with food from the lord. and
1 man for one day for weeding without food and one man for dragging and spreading with food
from the lord and he will plough for three days / just as perpetually (accustomed) in the year.
and he owes at Christmas 6 hens and one cock and 1 cake. and at Easter he will send 40 eggs
and one goose haunch and / the same at the feast of saint Michael and he seeks merchet for
his daughter and permission if he wishes to sell a horse for /

Walter of Weston and Olimpias his wife hold from the lady three butts on Applerayhill from the
land of the fields and they pay / three pence, that is to say, at the feast of Saint Michael 1 pence
and a half and at the feast of the Blessed Mary in March 1 pence and a half /

Henry Churchill holds three acres of land and renders a year 2 hens and 15 eggs and all other
customary services as Gilbert renders to the lord in the declaration /

Heading in the margin: this (is) Hallowed

Richard Blundus holds 12 acres and renders 5 shillings and 2 hens and one cock and one cake
and 25 eggs and all other customary services as [illegible] /

Joanna the widow holds 1 messuage and three acres of land and renders 4 shillings and all
customary services as the aforesaid William, except for eggs and various cakes /

John Olhoun holds all that tenement that Hilbert' Grander formerly held for the same / services and customs in villeinage /

The reverse of the document

'et' X jcixy y te' to be translated

William Dec makes land of half a virgate from land which Richard blount held and which the son of this John received in the fields / of Hugh folibat between William son of Ralph and the land of Richard, son of Richard and he lives on the north headland on the land / of William, son of Randolph, and one butt between the land of Elisella blake and the land of William hermer and he lives on the land of Richard, son of Richard in the field / and two virgates lying through half an acre, also half an acre between the land of Richard, son of R and William son of Randolph and it juts against the land / of William Hermer also half an acre between the land of Christopher son of Otes Brain lord blount and it juts against the land / (vertical in the margin) 'coninued'

of Richard son of Richard also 3 acres of same land of Richard son of Richard and the land of Gilbert and it juts against the land of William / and in the furlong which juts against a third part of one acre between the land which and Richard son of Richard also a third part of an acre lying against the land of William son of Randolph and Richard bland and one half / of a rood⁴ between the land of James folibat and Charles hering also half a rood in Wustonslade between the land of Charles / hermer. And Richard son of Richard, also in Chalnegroft a third part of one acre between the headland of Charles Hermer and of Gilbert / also against W.....hill half an acre between the land of James folibat and the land which was Richard pinnot's /

The total of the rental of Houghton in the holding of Wroxhill 23s 7d.

and Nicholas Blake, from John mause 6s and 3d and from William grigere 12d and various parts for three pence /

Richard de Vinidium from John mause 8s /

and the leader 19s 5¹/₂d and it is from the assart of John Mause 8s and 4d from / Ralph[?] Mause 11s and from the dukabel 10d /

gregere^{favert} xd / from Thomas le Rus 9d and for a third part of one furlong 16s 9¹/₂d / and the hall of Fauk Mayse 18s and from Thomas 18d and [illegible] of Gilbert 40d [illegible] /

in the margin

How the vill ofis held from lord Hugh, earl of Oxford /

How it is defended against the lord King in respect of travellers' tolls /

⁴ That is ¼ acre.

Memorandum that Wroxhill holds from lord Hugh de Vere, earl of Oxford for one knight's fee according to these particulars. And / is secured from the lord King⁵ for half a fee, namely for 7 virgates and half from which the lord King has for travellers' tolls per / annum of 3shillings and 9d. that is to say from each virgate of land 6d. Especially from lady Mabel of Spechley for one / virgate and a half of land which she holds from the fee of Simon of Wroxhill 9d from Nigel White, for one virgate / and one quarter of land from the fee of the aforesaid Simon. And one virgate and one quarter of land from the fee of lady Mable of Spechley / 15d. from Henry, son of Ralph for one virgate from the fee of Simon 6d. from William son of Richer for / one virgate of land which he holds from the lady Mable 6d. from John Hermer for one virgate of land which he holds from the said lady / M[able] 6d. Also for half a virgate of land which the heirs of Henry Curgis hold 3d. /
total 3 shillings and 9 pence

From the Reeve of the Lord King /

Note that Wroxhill owes to the lord King a year for suit of county and the hundred / 6 shillings and 8 pence therefrom to Lady of Spechely being collected 3 shillings and 4 pence that is to say from William son of Richer 10d / from John Henry 13 pence from Hilary p..... through the hand of Henry son of Ralph 3d from Simon Cappe for a tenement / having been bought from Henry 3d, from the heirs of Henry curgis 3 pence, from Gilfride son of Weraldi 2 pence /

[heading in left margin]

From land held by socage, recently / having been bought from outside the lord's roll /

Lady mabel of Wroxhill holds 1 virgate and a half /

Edmund of Weedon 1 virgate of land /

Walter Hacun 1 virgate /

Ralph son of Henry 1 virgate and a half and the same Ralph holds 15 / acres of land and 1 rood of meadow from the land of the prior of Newnham and the same Ralph / holds 12 acres of land from the Prior of Cauldwell and the same Ralph holds /

(attached to text written to right, alongside rows 96 to 101)

net 12 acres from the house of Saint John, of Bedford / and 1 messuage in Burford and half an acre in / chapelgreen and 1 headland outside Rodwell / and the same Ralph holds half a virgate of land which he bought from / Richard of Grokelle and 1 virgate of land from William, son of Robert of Cranfield / Also the same Ralph, son of Richard, holds half a virgate of land in T field /
(linked to an illegible note in damaged left margin) /

⁵ literally 'defended against the King'

Bauldwyn of Millend holds the fee of half a knight in Millend/ the same in calverton .in Leavet in the county of Oxfordshire the fee of one knight and / half of one from the heir of J of calverton holds for the fee of one knight and from the heir of / Robert of Hintes the fee of half a knight / the same also in Bicester the heirs of Geoffrey Gilbwyne and Gilbert buckellpere. Hold / the fee of two knights, in the county of Oxfordshire /
also Peter son of holds the fee of two knights in lechebrook in the county of Oxfordshire /
also in Lendune Willian Mace one knight's fee /
also Thurstan Despencer (Spencer) in the same vill holds a fee of one knight /
also Richard son of Osbert holds half a knight's fee in Berkamstead /
also Albert of Ramelti' holds a fee of two knights /

from the fee of the marshall 10 knights, that is to say lord Geoffrey of mar..... holds a fee of three knights wherefore one fee / is at Linford and the second fee is at Radm..... and the third is at Crownhill /
also the countess has a fee of three knights in the vill of Kimble /
also William de Bechampton holds a fee of one knight's service in Beachampton /
also Ralph of Millend holds a fee of half a knight's service in the vill of Leckhamsted /
also Henry Dayrel holds one knight's fee in the vill of Lilligstone /
also Ralph of the island holds one knight's fee in the vill of Stokes /
also Ralph of Heyvil holds half a knight's fee in the same vill /

Followed by about 6 empty lines

There is no formal ending to the custumal, but after some empty lines there are a series of short postscripts which seem to be random jottings from manor courts which may also have been part of the lands of the earl of Oxford.