

## Manor Court Roll Wootton and Boarhill 1591

Manerium de Wootton et Boreshill in Comitacione Berkes  
Visus Frankiplegii cum Curia Baronis

Richard Hyde generosi tenta ibidem per Thomam Rede suum senescallum ibidem decimo quinto die Aprilis anno regni dominae nostrae Elizabeth dei gratia Angliae Franciae et Hiberniae regina fidei defensoris etc tresimo tertio

Essonii ad hanc diem essonii nulli

Querela ad hanc diem querela nulla

Customarii tenentes Nicholas Badcock Richard Bowell; Edmundus Orpwood Thomas Woodliffe

John Bond Robert Mayo Richard Broughton William Truelock Gelda Mayo vidua

**Amie Richards vidua** Anne Badcock vidua John Rede Edward Faulkner Henry Woodliffe

Nicholas Badcock	Robert Mayo	Henry Woodliffe
Richard Bowell	Richard Broughton	William Badcock
Edmund Orpwood	William Truelock	<b>Thomas Richards</b>
Thomas Woodliffe	Edward Faulkner	John Rede
John Bond		

Iurati

Presentant qui dicunt super sacramentum suum et presentant quod anglice le butte sunt in defectu ideo in misericordia iis

Etiam presentant quod inhabitantes predicti quod non habent anglice a Rok net secundum tenuram *unam formam* et offendent statutum ideo in misericordia xid

Quoque presentant quod Thomas Badcock unus customarius tenens huius manerii quidem tenuit de domino huius manerii unum messagium sive tenementum et duas virgatas et dimidium terrae arableis cum pertinentiis obiit citra ultimam curiam inde accidit domino duos herioti viz duas vaccas primas etiam quod Anne uxor sua debet habere et gaudere predictam premissam durante vidultatem suam cui dominus per senescallum suum predictum concessit ei inde seisinam per virgam et admissa est inde tenens et fecit domine fidelitatem sec cons

Similiter presentant quod **Simon Richards** customarius tenens huius manerii quidam tenuit de domino huius manerii unum messagium sive tenementum et unam virgatam terrae et dimidium arableis cum pertinentiis obiit citra ultimam curiam inde domino accidit unum spadonem *fieri* etiam quod **Amie** uxor sua debet habere et gaudere predictam premissam durante vidultatem suam cui dominus per senescallum suum predictum concessit ei inde seisinam per virgam et admissa est inde tenens et fecit domino fidelitatem sec cons

Insimul presentant quod Osmundus Adkins fecit nocumentum anglice in le common streame per iacentum in eadem ad grandem damagem tenentum ibidem ideo amerciat xiid

Ordinatus item ordinatus est quod tenentes huius manerii annulant porcos suos sub pena quilibet porcus quidem facet defaltam pro quilibet tempore iiis

Pena ordinatum est quod tenentes huius manerii fodebant et obscurabant fossatum vocatem  
Grandpre ab myngstone sade usque vernant le wirge per festum diei sancti proximum sequendum  
per quidem facet defaltam iis

Pena ordinatum est quod homagium assemblant se ad ponendem morestones inter tenentem et  
tenantem ibidem necessum regulat ante festum Pentecost vocatem Whitsunday proximum  
sequendum sub pena quidem defaltet iis

William Badcock electus est in officio decenarius iuratus

Robert Mayo

Thomas Woodliffe electi sunt in officio de le leymen et iurati

**Manor of Wootton and Boarshill in the County of Berkshire (15<sup>th</sup> April 1591)**

View of Frankpledge and Court Baron

Held there for Richard Hyde, gentleman, by his steward there Thomas Rede, on the fifteenth of April in the thirty third year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

Apologies for absence on this day none

Suits on this day none

Customary tenants Nicholas Badcock Richard Bowell Edmund Orpwood Thomas Woodliffe John Bond Robert Mayo Richard Broughton William Truelock Gelda Mayo, widow **Amie Richards, widow** Anne Badcock, widow John Rede Edward Faulkner Henry Woodliffe

Nicholas Badcock	Robert Mayo	Henry Woodliffe	
Richard Bowell	Richard Broughton	William Badcock	sworn
Edmund Orpwood	William Truelock	<b>Thomas Richards</b>	
Thomas Woodliffe	Edward Faulkner	John Rede	

Presentments they state on their oath and present that (English) the butts are in disrepair and are therefore in mercy two shillings fine

They also present that the aforesaid inhabitants, who do not have (English) a Rook net according to *single form of tenure* and offend against the statute and are therefore in mercy twelve pence fine

They also present that Thomas Badcock, a customary tenant of this manor, who held from the lord of this manor a messuage or tenement and two virgates and a half of arable land with appurtenances, has died since the last court, and therefore two heriots fall to the lord, that is two best beasts. Also that Anne, his wife, shall have and enjoy the said premises during her widowhood and that the lord, by his steward, transfers possession to her by the rod and she is thereby admitted as tenant and did fealty to the lord according to custom.

Similarly they present that **Simon Richards**, a customary tenant of this manor, who held from the lord of this manor a messuage or tenement and one and a half virgates of arable land with appurtenances, has died since the last court and a gelding owing to the lord *is to be given*. Also that **Amie, his wife**, shall have and enjoy the said premises during her widowhood and the lord, by his steward, thereby transfers possession to her by the rod and she is thereby admitted tenant and did fealty to the lord according to custom.

They also present that Osmundus Adkins caused a nuisance (English) in the common stream, by throwing waste into the same, to the great inconvenience of tenants there, and is fined twelve pence.

Orders It is ordered that tenants of this manor shall attach rings to their pigs under pain, for each pig for each time, whoever is in default, of a fine of three pence and three shillings

Pains It is ordered that tenants of this manor dig out and clear the ditch called Grandpre from Myngstone Sade up to Vernant le Wirge by the feast of the next holy day, under pain for each defaulter of two shillings.

Pains It is ordered that the Homage is to meet for setting more stones between tenant and tenant and that this must be completed before the next Feast of Pentecost, called Whit Sunday, under pain for each defaulter of two shillings.

William Badcock is elected tithingman and is sworn.

Robert Mayo and Thomas Woodliffe are elected in the office of leymen and are sworn.

#### Notes

The will of Simon Richards is still extant and is held in the Berkshire Record Office. It has a date of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1591, although it appears that Simon died prior to this court, held in April. His wife, Amy, and son Thomas are appointed executors of the will.

The Thomas Richards in the jury and Homage is probably this son.

The butts referred to above were the shooting butts for villagers' archery practice. Henry VIII had revived their use and upkeep by statute.

A statute of 1532 (Henry VIII), For the Destruction of Crows and Rooks, required each village to maintain and use a rook net to prevent harm to crops, upon pain of a fine to the crown. This record is from April when rooks were beginning to nest and crops had been sown. Perhaps each tenant was responsible for their own net in this village.

The stones referred to may be boundary stones between the property of various tenants or those to mark the parish boundary.

The tithingman was responsible for seeing that tenants kept the peace.

The office of leyman was probably the abbreviated form of barleymen, itself a contraction of byrelawman (by our law man). These officials were constables, responsible for assuring the observance of bye-laws.