

# 1589-1623/33 DOCCOMBE MANOR CUSTOMS

## 1] 1589

**Document Ref.:** CCA-033R-U63-70463 [1589] 040R/V

**Source:** Canterbury Cathedral Archives

**Language:** English

**Date** 1589

### TEXT TRANSCRIBED

*'A Survey of the Mano[r] of Dockcombe taken by Thomas Cocks gent[leman] An[n]o 31<sup>mo</sup> {31<sup>st</sup> year of the reign of} Elizabeth*

*CUSTOMES [OF THE MANOR]*

*The L[ord] maye lett for one life <now> in possession & ij {2} in rev[er]c[i]on, but S[i]r Rob[er]te {sic} Dennys {The Lords' Farmer} affyrmeth that he maye lett for ij {2} in possession & ij {2} in rev[er]c[i]on, & sayeth he hath manye p[re]sydents therefore.*

*All tennants dyeing possessed of <a> Copie hold or any p[ar]t thereof paieth his best beast for a herryott and his wife enjoyeth his estate during onlye her widdowho[o]d and if she <marrye or> comytt fornycac[i]on she forfeits her estate.*

*The tenants have housebout {sic} {right to timber for house building or repairs}, stakeboote {for stakes}, foldeboote {for construction/repair of cattle-folds}, & fyreboote {to burn in fires & ovens} out of S[ain]t Thom[as] Cliffe, & Colridg[e] [Woods] by th'assingm[en]t of the woodwardes or one of them payeng ijd {2d} apeec[e] {i.e. each}.*

*Ev[er]y tenant by custome ys bounde to grinde at the L[ord's] myll, and the myller to serve them fyrst, and <if> they do not so, they are to be am[er]ced {punished} by the afferrers {two tenants appointed at each manorial court to determine size of fines}.*

*The tenn[an]ts have the straye sheepe and lambes by custome payeing to the L[ord] vjd {6d} for ev[er]y of them, ev[er]y of them suche as*

*come on theyre grownd, and other straves are the L[ord's]: the straves taken on Merdon {Mardon Common – jointly owned with Moretonhampstead manor} are ij {2} p[ar]ts the L[ord] of this mannor and a third p[ar]t S[ir] W[illia]m Courtneys {Lord of Moretonhampstead} to be devyded by apricem[en]t.*

*The myller paieth accustomedly to the L[ord] for excesses of Toll vjd {6d} yearely.*

*The ten[a]nts have taken [a] daye tyll the next co[u]rt to sett downe there customes more at large but thus farre I understand more of theire customes w[hi]ch they wo[u]ld not p[re]sent viz.: that if any ten[a]nt dwell from his copie {i.e. away from his tenement} w[i]thout the licence of the L[ord] he forfeyte his estate.*

*Yf any lett his land out to tyllage {i.e. lets it for arable} w[i]thout lycence he forfeyts his estate.*

*Yf any will not repayre his buyldings he is twyce fyned, & the third default ys forfeiture of his estate.*

*The Copie holders must not sue one an other out of the L[ord's] Court w[i]thout lycence, and yf he do he ys fyned*

*These copieholders are not charged to Sessions nor Assisses {i.e. not obliged to attend or serve on the jury in County Quarter Sessions or Assize Courts}.'*

## **2] 1623/33**

**Document ref.:** CCA-U15/14/12

**Source:** Canterbury Cathedral Archives

**Language:** English

**Date:** 1623-1633 (The document is part of a set of nine court records for Doccombe manor 1623-33)

### **TEXT TRANSCRIBED**

*'The Manno[ur] of Doccombe*

*The custome of the manno[ur] beforesaid deliv[er]ed by the homage before named upon theire sev[er]all Oathes is as followeth vi[delice]t {that is to say}*

- 1. Imp[ri]mis {Firstly} wee doe present that wee did never knowe any man Dispossessed of any copie {i.e. not having written proof that he has a right to succeed to the tenancy} that was brought into the court whether there were two lives or but one life upon a copie as the Lord or Farmer then beinge & the taker or takers did compound & agree {i.e he would not be allowed to take on the tenancy}.*
- 2. And next wee doe p[re]sent that as many rev[er]tions as be found ten[a]nts in occupac[i]on of any p[ar]t or p[ar]cell of any tenem[en]t w[i]thin the Mannour aforesaid if that tenant Do decease his best beast is a heriott to the Lord or Farmer & his wife to injoy her widdowe's estate of so much as her husband was seized ten[a]nt of etc.*
- 3. Also we p[re]sent that if anny ot[h]er ten[a]nt <beinge> in possession or occupac[i]on & is willing to yeeld unto the next rev[er]tion[er] any p[ar]t or p[ar]cell of his tenem[en]t that Rev[er]c[i]oner hath bin taken <Tenant> by the old Tennants & he ought to be recorded tenn[an]t by the Steward in the court booke.*
- 4. We do p[re]sent that ev[er]y Tenant here w[i]thin the mannour aforesaid beinge in occupac[i]on ought to have the Lords woods of Docombe[e] (vi[delice]t) in St Thomas Clift {now St Thomas Cleave Wood owned by the National Trust} or els[e] in Colridge Wood {now Coleridge wood owned jointly by the Woodland & National Trusts} sufficient tymbre or fryth by the deliv[er]ye of the woodwardens for rep[ar]ac[i]ons of their houses as also sufficient tymbre for stakes w[i]th necessary voiteboot {paling wood} and Firevoite {firewood} – paying ev[er]y of the antient <customarie> tenants ijd [2d] a*

*peece {i.e. each} yearly att Michaelmas according to the custome of the mannor aforesaid.*

5. *Wee doe p[re]sent that ev[er]y tenant ought to greind to the Lord's mill of Doccomb[e] and he the miller for his p[ar]t ought to take but a quart of a bushell & also he ought to serve the tenants one after th'other as they come, before any other stranger.*
6. *We do p[re]sent that no tenant beinge in occupac[i]on to dwell from his tenem[en]t except the Chappell for one quarter of a yeare togeather, w[i]thout licence of the Lord or farmer for the tyme beinge nor sett his tenement nor any p[ar]t ther[e]of to tillage, but only to pasture & that from yeere to yeere reserving one day a yeere in the tenants hand upon payne to forfeit his estate.*
7. *We do p[re]sent that ev[er]y tenant ought to make one halfe of hedge as far as ev[er]y man hath ground against th'other.*
8. *We doe p[re]sent that ev[er]y ten[an]t beinge in occupac[i]on ought to have his strayer sheepe paying vjd [6d] to the Lord or farmer for ev[er]y sheepe {i.e. released from the Lord's pound}.*
9. *We do p[re]sent that o[ur] Lord or farm[er] ought to have the two p[ar]ts of the strayers upon Merdon {i.e. Mardon Common 450 acres of moorland shared with Moretonhampstead manor} ether beasts cattell or sheepe & Sir William Courtney the therd p[ar]t.*
10. *We do p[re]sent that for all trespasses committed or don[e] by the ten[a]nt or ten[a]nts betweene them & the Lord or farmer then two of the ten[a]nts ought to be retourned by the tythingeman one for the Lord & th'other for the p[ar]ty to affice & asses[s] all damages betweene them (that is to say) betweene the lord & the ten[a]nt or ten[an]ts.*

11. We doe p[re]sent that if any stranger have committed any fault or trespas[s] w[i]thin the mann[or] & have no surety w[i]thin the mann[or] that if his or their goods be taken w[i]thin the mann[or] it may be brought to the Lord's pound & then to be prayesd {i.e. its value appraised} by the ten[a]nts & there to be sold w[i]thin the mann[or] by the ten[a]nts & the money that is left when the cause is levyed to be sent to the [par]tie w[hi]ch doth owne the goods.
12. We do p[re]sent that if any tenant beinge in occupac[i]on have any tree or trees in any of his neighbours grounds by the deliv[er]y of the woodwardens the owners of the ground where the tree or trees do growe is to have all the wood or top of the tree or trees & the ten[a]nt that hath the tree or trees deliv[er]ed the tymer & nothing els of the tree or trees so growing out of the Lords wood or woods.
13. We do p[re]sent that ev[er]y tenant here beinge in occupac[i]on in a mast yeere {i.e. a bumper crop of acorns and beech nuts} to have all his or their swyne, hoggs & piggs to goe in the Lord's woodes of Docombe[e] & in the woods of Sir William Courtney {lord of neighbouring Moretonhampstead manor who shared the woods in the Teign Valley with Docombe} from the Feast of St Michaell Th'archangell & the day called All Soules every Tenant to pay for a swyne iiijd [4d], to pay for a hogg ijd [2d] to pay for a pigg {i.e. young pig} jd [1d] our Lord or farmer to have the thirde p[ar]t & Sir William Courtnay the two p[ar]ts of the mastage money.
14. We doe p[re]sent that if any houses or hedges be put into the Court for want of rep[ar]ac[i]ons if they be not rep[air]ed before the day given in Court that then the penalty to be paid to the Lord or farmer for the tyme beinge.
15. We do p[re]sent that ev[er]y ten[a]nt here beinge in occupac[i]on ought to pay his Lord's rent but att one tyme in the yeere & that is att the Feast of St Michaell Th'archangell

*whosoever doth not pay his Rent here w[i]thin the mann[or] of Doccomb[e] beinge a ten[a]nt in occupac[i]on att Michaelmas yeerely or not W[i]thin one quarter of a yeere after ev[er]y Michaelmas is to forfeit his estate if no sufficient distresse {i.e. goods or chattels impounded as compensation for rent} may be taken upon the tenem[en]t [for] the Rent to be paide to the Reeve of the mann[or] aforesaid.*

*16. We do p[re]sent that the miller ought to pay vjd [6d] yeerely att Michaelmas for excessive tolles.*

*17. We do p[re]sent that no ten[a]nt here ought to sue [an]other out of the court of o[ur] mannour {i.e cases between Doccombe tenants only to be heard in the Doccombe court} for any mann[er] of trespasse growinge betweene tenant & ten[a]nt herew[i]thin the mannour.*

*18. We do p[re]sent that alwaies att Michaelmas court we do chose newe officers for the mann[or] (vi[delice]t) Tythingeman & Reeve & also two woodwardens & those officers ought to be sworne by the Steward yeerely att Michaelmas court for the apointing of their office.*

*19. We do p[re]sent that ev[er]y ten[a]nt in Rev[er]c[i]on here w[i]thin the Mannour of Doccomb[e] ought to enjoy a peaceable occupac[i]on of his tenement or any p[ar]t or p[ar]cell ther[e]of ymediately after death, forfeiture or surrender {i.e. of the current tenant} And also if ther[e]be no rev[er]c[i]on graunted like wise to fall to the Lord or Farmer for the tyme beinge as aforesaide by death, forfeit or surrender.'*