

DOCUMENT: CCA-U63_70254_039RH_040_041LH

SOURCE: Canterbury Cathedral Archives

LANGUAGE: English

DATE: 16/12/1752

SUMMARY:

December 1752. Another letter from Edward Whitefield, Steward of Doccombe Manor to D & C, about the addition of John Babbacombe's son John being added to the lease of Leen (My Land & Le Laugh). Elias Babbacombe's life is already on the lease. He sent the health certificate a year ago & a terrier of the acres & another letter since.

There are 115 acres; 20 in tillage, 8 meadow, 6 moor with rocks; the rest coarse & barren. Those under tillage will soon revert to furze & moor unless the addition of manure & dressing is applied annually & the same with meadow. The rest of the land is coarse & it is very cold there.

It was demised to Mr Babbacombe by Laskey, who held it for 2 terms, for £20 successively at a yearly rent.

Babbacombe is a local well-known tanner & through his profit from this has invested in improving the land which he could not have done through farming alone. Improvements have also been made so he can carry on with his trade but if after 2 - 3 years he demised Leign & the land was completely returned to tillage it would only yield £25-£26 per annum. Querying the amount of the fine required as Mr Babbacombe has invested & improved the land. The last fine paid was £30 for adding 1 life not long ago. Mr Babbacombe thinks the fine will be £74 & should be calculated without his improvements for his trade he has made as they are not worth anything to anyone else.

Outside:

Doccomb[e] Certificate of persons being alive with Letter etc 1752

MoretonHamps{*oblit.*}

To Mr Sam[ue]l Norris Audit[o]r of the Dean and Chapt[e]r of Christ Church Canterbury

Inside:

Moretonhampstead 16. X[Decem]ber 1752

S[i]r

It's likely that my papers and L[ette]res mentioned to be mislaid, will soon come to hand ag[ai]n relating to the taking in the Life of John Babbacombe, Son of John Babbacombe, Ten[an]t in possession of, and now entitled to the Tenem[en]t of My Land and Le Laugh al[ia]s Leen, parcell of the Man[o]r of Doccombe here, for his own, and the Life, of Elias Babbacombe, and for that

purpose, as y[o]u directed. I sent a Certificate of Health, in December last, and another lately, and a Terrier, of the particulars, acres etc in X[Decem]ber last, cont[aining] in the whole 115 acres, of w[hi]ch 20 were Tillage. 8 Mead[o]w. 6 Moor incumbered with Rocks etc and the Residue coarse & barren Grounds etc. These now of Tillage, if not annually Improved with Manure, & Dressing, will be again, in a few years covered with Furze and Heath; their natural produce; and what is called Mead[o]w soon sink into Moor, unless constant expense be laid out ab[ou]t, The other acres are very barren and coarse, The Coutry cold. The whole were demised of late years, by Laskey, the im[m]ediate Tenant before Mr Babbacombe, at an yearly Rent, for 2 Terms~ of years, Successively, for £20, and no more, to be paid quarterly, The present Tenant, Babbacombe, is by trade a Tanner, wherein he deals considerably, for this part of the Country, and hath by profits, arising from it made Improvem[en]ts aswell for the Benefitt of the Lands (w[hi]ch by Agriculture only, he could not have done), as of his Trade, yet any Estimate or account made thereof, at, £50 p[er] ann[um] (as in y[ea]rs) vastly exceeds the value thereof, tho' taking therein, all the Improvements made, for the Carrying on his Trade; which, (I am inclined to think, and so he says) if he were to quit, at the end of 2 or 3 years, and Demise the Estate, & to a Tenant, at an yearly Rent, to pasture & Tillage, that it would not <yield>. more than £25 0r £26 p[er] ann[um] to be paid quarterly, as usuall; and a Rent of 21s 2d is reserved on the Lease, amounting with the Receipts to 22s 6d –The last fine paid for adding 1 Life, not many years since was £30 only. The present Tenant Mr Babbacombe, having but this only Child, is willing to give the Utmost Farthing, of the value for his Life, and apprehends the Fine set at £74 is about double and requests that this may be layn before or represented to your Worthy Body, now it not too late, and Hopes that a Proporcioniomible {sic} abatement will be made of the Fine, and according to the yearly value of the Lands, at the Rate of 25 or 26, and fixed accordingly by, their wanted Methods, without regarding Improvements in respect of his Trade, which will be of <no> Utility when he quits it

to the Lands, or such the Misrepresentac[i]on of the yearly
value to be £50 and consideration had to him, as an
honest fair Ten[an]t (as other Lords do) who hath no way
Injured or wasted the property , or the Lands, as soon as
you can conveniently be pleased to Favour me with some
answer, and an account of y[ou]r Charges thus far for your Trouble
p[er] tem[por]e etc My Father Tenders you his Service and the
Compliments of the Season in w[hi]ch I join, and Beg Leave to subscribe

Sir y[ou] most obed[ient]e Serv[an]t

Ed[ward] Whitefield {*signed*}