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SOURCE: Canterbury Cathedral Archives

LANGUAGE: English

DATE: 17/12/11726

SUMMARY:

17 December 1726, letter from Nicholas Webber, Chapter Clerk at Exeter to D & C. Mr Waldren, the tenant of Doccombe manor wishes to know how much rent is due, & how much the renewal of the lease will be as Canterbury are not happy with him granting Lives under Copyhold tenancies. He has already told them about the nature of this estate – the tenant receives no annual income from the manor as the rent is passed on to Canterbury except the ability to raise money from granting Lives through the Copyhold system & this may not happen for 20 years.

The lessee/Farmer can continue to grant Lives by Copyhold up to the last day of his Lease & will be upheld by law even when his lease runs out & Canterbury itself takes over the manor.

Exeter through their Copyhold manors never ask more than ¼ part, often take 1/5th & sometimes 1/6th. Recently one of their manors became vacant as the old tenant refused to give 1/6th part & they gave a lease for 21 years for less than 2 years value.

Outside:

17 Dec[ember] 1726 Mr Webber, Chapter Clerk of Exeter; ab[ou]t Doccomb[e] Man[ou] Letter

Inside:

S[[i]r

Mr Waldren the Tenant at Doccombe desires to know how much is due for Rent and to whom it must be paid and as to the Renewal he humbly waits the Pleasure of his Honoured Land Lords who seeme at present not to be well satisfied as to their Impowering him to grant Lives by Coppy of Court Roll.

I formerly Acquainted you with the nature of this estate (being the same with the Mannors belonging to the Church of Exeter). Your Tenant Receives no Annual Income besides the

Rent which he Pays to the Church and he really Buys nothing else from you but the Power of Granting Coppys dureing his Terme and of that Power he may not happen to make any Advantage in 20 yeares time.

You'l[1] Please to observe that by the Custome the Tenant may fill up all the Estates of the Mannor by granting Lives by Coppy even the last day of his Terme and those Grants will be good in Law after he Ceases to be your Tenant, so that if his 14 yeares Run out and the Mannor should come unto your own hands yet you can have no Proffit from the Mannor dureing the Lives that he Leaves upon it.

The Church's Interest therefore (being a distant Reversion and uncertaine) must be of the less value to be sold {*blank*} where we grant a Lease of any particular Estate that brings in an Annuall Rent we take a yeares value for Renewall but in the case of those Coppy hold Mannors we never aske more then a 4th part often take a 5th & sometimes so low as a 6th and the best Mannor belonging to the Church was lately Renewed for a 6th part which I believe is is more than is annually made over one yeare with an other.

Some yeares since one of our Mannors fell into hand (the old Tenant refuseing to give so much as a 6th part for Renewall) and we granted a full Leases of 21 yeares for less then two yeares value.

Mr Waldren is a meere stranger to me and I have no other end to serve in this Representation but only to set the matter in as true a legal as I can for the satisfaction of Both Land Lord & Tenant and I hope you'l Pardon the Trouble that is now given by

S[i]r Y[ou]r most faithfull
humble Ser[vant]

Nich[olas]. Webber

Exon 17 December 1726

Letter from Nicholas Webber, Chapter Clerk at Exeter Cathedral to Canterbury, 17th