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SOURCE: Canterbury Cathedral Archives

LANGUAGE: English

DATE: c1675

Description Doccombe manor, Moretonhampstead Parish

Extent 1 file

A copy of a letter sent to Peter Passmore from the Reverend Mr Hall, Treasurer of the Church of Exon

SUMMARISED

To: the Reverend the Dean & the Prebends of Canterbury

From: Reverend Mr Hall

Date: 1675? [catalogue ref. gives early C18]

Re.: Doccombe Manor

Recommends renew 2 leases both dated October 1669 – one for the manor & one for the wood.

The ‘*estates*’ of the manor are out to under tenants upon copyhold & pay rent of c. £6.16s.

As no other charge to D&C the farmers holding immediately from Church have no other profit but only ‘*casualties of renewals*’ to undertenants or copyholders. But nothing from this in last 6 years.

Value of all estates upon the rack is c. £140 or £150 pa for renewing

Fair if we have a fifth of the renewal value.

This the custom with other estates of D&C.

Most of the undertenants on this manor have 2 lives on their estates & their wives’ widowhood.

‘*Many times old men who are just dropping into the grave marry young wenches & they (by custom) have their widdowhood in the tenement & so keep the estate 40 or 50 years.*’

Therefore a fifth part for renewing every seventh year is very fair or will have no income from this manor for a long time.

These kind of tenures are scarce anywhere except Devon & Cornwall.

Also wants to renew woods' lease. The rent is c. £5 or £6 pa. But it only yields money every 20 years. Value is £30 pa that reckons sufficient.

The wood itself is worth more but tenants can cut frith & stakes so they take away a third part.