

SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES

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From the Survey of the Duchy of Lancaster manors in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. [TNA DL 42/117]

Dedington The presentment of the foreseyd Jurie concerninge their Customes and other things.

Custom for granting estats by copie: They present that the custome of the seyde manor is that the Lord for the time beyng, may graunt estates by Copie, To hold unto the takers for two lives successively, the same beinge in possession at the time of the graunt and not otherwise.

Widdowes estate: The wife of anie tenant diinge in possession, shall enjoy the Landes and Tenements Customerie, wherof her seyde (husband) dyed possessed, during her widdowes estate, livinge chaste.

For letting their copyholds: No tenaunt may graunt his customarie tenement for a longer terme than one yeare, without license upon peyne of forfeiture.

Forfeiture: If a tenaunt customary of the same manor doe sell anie timber tree or trees, without warrant, it is also a forfeiture by the same Custome.

Harriott: A Copieholder dyinge possessed of a Tenemente Customary within the seyde manor is to paye for his heryot his beste good, quick or dead, and the cottage tenaunte for heryot is to pay double his rent.

This survey is dated 1592, and comes from the huge archive concerning the estates of the Duchy of Lancaster. Deddington was divided into three manors, but even so the crown was interested in the income

By the end of the sixteenth century many manorial courts had ceased functioning as they produced little profit for their lords, but where land was held by copyhold, as here, the court had to continue to meet so that land could be inherited, sold and let.