

Account of Purley on Thames

Feet of Fines

R200571 8/12/2018

Until just after the Restoration land could not be 'owned' in the modern sense, it could be 'held' from a higher authority such as the King or the Pope but as land was created by God it was owned by him and the Pope or a King 'held' it of God and could then allow their underlings to hold parts of it.

This created a difficult situation in mediaeval times as someone who held land would garner the fruits of that land and when they died would want to pass on the benefits to their family or when they were short of cash wanted to dispose of it to someone else. In the case of heirs the matter was fairly simple. The heir could petition the king, pay a fine and thus regain all the rights.

However, in order to pass land holdings to a third party, the only way was to indulge in a complex legal suit where one party sued another and got a legal judgement. This judgement was delivered on a sheet of parchment written down three times. Two of these went to the two parties and the third went to the public record. The sheet was cut with wavy lines which was a security procedure so that in the case of a future dispute the wavy line cuts could be matched from two of the copies to ensure that they were genuine.

The third copy, called the Foot was deposited at court and while the other two copies have mostly disappeared over the years, the Feet have survived and can be seen today at the Public Record Office at Kew. Margaret Yates, for the Berkshire Record Society, has surveyed all the feet for Berkshire and published her summary of the contents in a two volume book in the Berkshire Record Series (volumes 23 and 24 in 2017) Those that referred to Purley or one of its manors are reproduced below.

In the text of the fines the word *Querem* refers to the complainant in this fictitious suit. He would be the person who would take up the rights and hold the land in future. The word *deforcium* (defendant) indicates the party giving up the rights. We quote two references, one in the text defines the position in the two volumes, the second of the form *Tyyy/xx* refers to the document in the T series of the Project Purley archive.

T1312/02 We start with the Huscarle family apparently acquiring Purley Magna from Nicholas de Guildford. However the Huscarles held the manor between 1166 and 1369 We must assume that they had sublet it to Nicholas and were regaining it.

85. 1312, two weeks [25 November] from St Martin. Thomas Huscart and Juliana his wife *quer*; Nicholas de Guldeford *def*. The manor of Purley (Magna Purle) and advowson of the church of the manor. Right of Nicholas who has by gift of Thomas. Grant back and render in court. To have and to hold to Thomas and Juliana and their heirs by services of the chief lords. Contingent remainder to right heirs of Thomas. [CP25/1/10/42, m. 8]
Notes: See *VCH Berks* iii, 418 where gives family name of Huscarle.

T1314/01 - Walter Fachel was vicar of Purley from 1280 to at least 1332 when he had gone blind. He had got into serious debt. He appears to be disposing of some of his glebe lands to pay his debts. The debt was recorded in 1329 as amounting to 22 marks which he owed to James de Ispan.

130. 1314, one week [6 October] from Michaelmas. Hugh Reymund and Eva his wife *quer*; Walter Fachel *def*. One messuage, 8 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow and 4s 1d rent in Purley (Purle), Tilehurst (Tyghelhurst) and Hurley (Hertle) [*unless Hartley in Shinfield*]. Grant by Walter to Hugh and Eva and rendered in court. To have and to hold to Hugh and Eva and their heirs by services of the chief lords. Contingent remainder to right heirs of Hugh. *Cons.* 20 marks. [CP25/1/10/44, m. 7]

T1329/04 We believe that the manor of Lething was recorded as Burley three times in Domesday and was the area now known as Purley Rise It was a craftsman's free area astride the road from Reading to Wallingford and adjacent to La Hyde. The de Philiberts had been lords of La Hyde between 1283 and 1304, re-acquiring the manor in 1317 after it being plundered by John de St Philibert's guardian after his father Hugh died. He appears to be other rights in this transaction.

367. 1329, two weeks [7 May] from Easter. John de St Philberto and Ada his wife and Thomas his son *quer*; Henry parson of the church of Sulham (Soleham) and Richard Thursteyn *def*. The manors of Sulham (Soleham), La Hyde [*perhaps the manor of Nunhide in Sulham*] and 1 messuage, 1 mill, 2 virgates of land and 16s rent in Letthyng, Pangbourne (Pangeburn), Purley (Purle) and the advowson of church of Sulham (Soleham). Right of Henry who with Richard have by gift of John. Grant back and render in court. To have and to hold to John, Ada and Thomas and his heirs by services of the chief lords. Contingent remainder to right heirs of John. [CP25/1/10/52, m. 15]

Notes: See entry **712**. Also *VCH Berks* iii, 429-30 for descent of manor of Sulham but this fine may be referring to the manor of Hyde Hall situated in Purley, Sulham, Pangbourne and Whitchurch which passed with the manor of Sulham *VCH Berks* iii, 420-21. IPM with extent of John de St Philberto in 1333, C135/35/35.

T1330/02 The Malyns family were lords of Purley Parva from 1302 to 1424. They appear to be acquiring some land from the Huscarles who were lords of Purley Magna.

386. 1330, one week [20 January] from St Hilary. John son of Henry de Malynes *quer*; Amice Roymund *def*. One messuage, 5 acres of land, 1 acre of meadow and 2s rent in Purley (Magna Porle) and Hartley Pellitot (Hertle Petitot) [*in Shinfield*]. Right of John by gift of Amice. Grant back and render in court. To have and to hold to Amice for life paying yearly one rose at St John Baptist and services of the chief lords in his place. Reversion after her death to John and his heirs. [CP25/1/10/52, m. 12]

T1342/03 In this transaction the Huscarles seem to be subletting Purley Magna as a gift to two nephews.

584. 1342, one week [1 July] from St John Baptist. John de Dagenhale and Robert son of Peter de la Mare *quer*; Thomas Hustarl *chivaler* and Lucy his wife by William de Boys for Lucy *def*. The manor of Purley (Magna Purle). Right of John who with Robert have by gift of Thomas. Grant back and render in court. To have and to hold to John and Lucy and their heirs by services of the chief lords. Contingent remainders that should they die without heirs then remains to John son of Thomas and his heirs and finally right heirs of Thomas. [CP25/1/11/60, m. 19]

Notes: See *VCH Berks* iii, 418.

T1364/01 Walter Haywood acquired La Hyde from the St Philiberts in 1352. Here he seems to be making the transaction legal.

836. 1364, two weeks [7 April] from Easter and afterwards in one week [26 May] from Trinity in the same year. Walter de Haywod and Joan his wife *quer*; John Sandford parson of the church of Over Wallop [*HANTS*] and John Staunton parson of the church of Sulham (Sholham) *def*. The manors of Sulham (Sholham) and la Hyde [*in Sulham*] and the advowson of the church of Sulham (Sholham) and la Hyde. Right of John Sandford who with John Staunton has by gift of Walter. Grant back and render in court. To have and to hold to Walter and Joan and his heirs by services of the chief lords. [CP25/1/11/68, m. 12]

Notes: See *VCH Berks* iii, 429.

T1371/1 Nicholas Carew I was the stepfather of Sir Thomas Huscarle who died in 1369. He had acquired the manor of Beddington in 1353 and in this transaction is legalising his ownership of Purley Magna. The Carews went on to acquire all the Purley manors and by bringing men from those manors to work on his Beddington estate founded the naming a Purley Surrey as these men were always referred to as de Purley.

921. 1371, morrow [3 November] of All Souls. Nicholas de Carreu *quer*; William Dovill and Juliana his wife *def*. The manor of Bedyngton and 100 acres of wood and 24s rent in Horley (Horlee) and from the advowson of the parish church of Bedyngton, SURREY; and the manor of Purley (Magna Purlee), BERKS; and the manor of Brightwell Baldwin (Est Brightwell), OXON. Right of Nicholas by gift of William and Juliana. Remise and quitclaim from William and Juliana and her heirs to Nicholas and his heirs. Warranty specifying Juliana's heirs. *Cons.* 500 marks. Surr', Berk', Oxon'. [CP25/1/288/49, m. 726]

T1431/1 Nicholas Carew II died in 1432 but just before that he acquires the other two manors of Purley Parva from the Malyns and La Hyde.

1304. 1431, three weeks [20 October] from Michaelmas. Nicholas Carreu senior and Mercia his wife *quer*; John Martyn, Roger Heroun clerk, John Gaynesford and Thomas Heryng *def*. The manors of Maytham and Stoke in Hoo alias the said Malmayns and the advowson of the chantries of two chapels in the same manors of Stoke, KENT; the manors of Carshalton (Karsalton), Bandon and Nutfield (Nutfeld) and the advowson of the church of Nutfield (Nutfeld), SURREY; and the manors of Purley (Purle), Hyde [*in Sulham*] and Sulham with the advowson of the church of the manor of Sulham, BERKS. Right of Roger who with the defendants has by gift of Nicholas. Grant back and render to Nicholas and Mercia. To have and to hold to them and their heirs by services of the chief lords. Contingent remainder to right heirs of Nicholas. Kanc', Surr', Berk'. [CP25/1/292/67, m. 120]

Notes: See *VCH Berks* iii, 418-19 for details of the Berkshire manor of Purley.

T1454/1 This is to make sure that other descendants of the Malyns and St Philberts give up any rights to the three manors.

1417. 1454, one week [20 January] from St Hilary. Edward Langford *armiger*, John Rogers *armiger* and Arthur Ormesby *armiger quer*; Nicholas Carreu *armiger* and Margaret his wife *def*. The manors of Purley (Magna Purlee), Hyde [*in Sulham*] and Sulham. Right of Arthur who with Edward and John has by gift of Nicholas and Margaret. Remise and quitclaim from Nicholas and Margaret and her heirs to Edward, John, Arthur and his heirs. Warranty specifying Margaret's heirs. Grant back and render to Nicholas in

court. To have and to hold to Nicholas for his life without waste by services of the chief lords. After the death of Nicholas it remains to his son Nicholas and Margaret and their heirs and should they die without heirs then remains to right heirs of Nicholas Carreu. [CP25/1/13/86, m. 8]

Notes: See *VCH Berks* iii, 418-19, 429.

T1462/01 Nicholas Carew IV was on the wrong side at this time in the wars of the Roses. Edward IV who had seized the throne in 1461 issued a warrant for the arrest and imprisonment of Nicholas and ten others on some rather odd charges. As a result Nicholas had to dispose of many of his manors to the Norreys but with some sleight of hand he was pardoned and regained much of it. However this set up a series of complex litigations and marriage settlements. He had died by 1466 with his son Nicholas V a minor. But he did not survive Bosworth and in 1485 all the Carews' lands went to his sisters and thereby to the St John (Purley Magna), Norris (Purley Parva) and Hyde (La Hyde) families

1440. 1462, one week [1 July] from St John Baptist. Thomas Hayward and Alan Lumnour *quer*; John Norreys *armiger* and Margaret his wife *def*. The manors of Ockholt (Okholt) [*in Bray*] called Norreys Manor (Norreysmaner), Mores [*in Bray*], Hyndens in Bray, Sunninghill (Sunnynghill), Newenham in Warfield (Warfeld), Elington (Elyngtones) [*in Cookham*], Spensers in Cookham (Cokeham) and Purley (Parva Purle), and 83 messuages, 19 tofts, 4 dovecots, 5 mills, 1,078 acres of land, 202 acres of meadow, 190 acres of pasture, 109 acres of wood and £10 7s rent in Bray, Cookham, Maidenhead (Maydenhith), Binfield (Benfeld), Shottesbrook (Shotesbroke), Wargrave, Reading (Redyng), New Windsor (Nova Wyndesore), Old Windsor (Vetus Wyndesore), Clewer, Twyford, Hurst (Hurste), Wokingham (Wokyngham), Winkfield (Wynkfeld), Ascot (Ascote), Warfield, Bracknell (Brakenhale), Purley and Theale (Thele), BERKS; 6 messuages, 3 tofts, 60 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 6 acres of pasture, 6 acres of wood and 6s rent in Hartley Witney (Herteley Wynteney), HANTS; 20 messuages, 7 tofts, 2 dovecots, 3 mills, 180 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 76 acres of pasture, 13 acres of wood and 23s rent in Wimborne Minster (Wymbourne Mynster), Kingston Lacy (Kyngeston Lacy), Wilksworth (Woddekesworth) and Crawford, DORS; 33 messuages, 10 tofts, 3 mills, 520 acres of land, 66 acres of meadow, 72 acres of pasture, 42 acres of wood and 66s rent in Wokingham (Wokyngham), Twyford (Twyforde) and Hurst (Hurste), WILTS; the manor of Eythrope (Tythrop) and 30 messuages, 7 tofts, 3 dovecots, 460 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 120 acres pasture, 9 acres of wood and £4 6s rent in Kingsey (Kyngesey) and Hadenham, BUCKS; and 2 messuages, 20 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 6 acres of pasture and 10s rent in Towersey (Touresey), OXON. Right of Thomas who with Alan have by gift of John and Margaret. Remise and quitclaim from John and Margaret and John's heirs to Thomas and Alan and heirs of Thomas. Warranty. Grant back and render to John and Margaret the manors of Ockholt, Mores, Hyndens in Bray, Sunninghill, Newenham in Warfield, Elington and Spensers in Cookham, and 141 messuages, 37 tofts, 6 dovecots, the mills, 1,830 acres of land, 324 acres of meadow, 342 acres of pasture, 170 acres of wood and £15 2s rent in Bray, Cookham, Maidenhead, Binfield, Shottesbrook, Wargrave, Reading, New

Windsor, Old Windsor, Clewer, Twyford, Hurst, Wokingham, Winkfield, Ascot, Warfield and Bracknell. To have and to hold to John and Margaret and their male heirs with successive remainders to John's male heirs, then William Norreys his father and his male heirs, then right heirs of John. Grant also the manor of Eythrope and 32 messuages, 7 tofts, 3 dovecots, 480 acres of land, 54 acres of meadow, 126 acres of pasture, 9 acres of wood and £4 16s rent in Kingsey, Hadenham and Towersey. To have and to hold to John and Margaret and their male heirs with successive remainders of the male heirs in turn to: John son of John and Alice formerly his wife, then William Norreys *miles* son of John the father and Alice, then John son of John the father and Eleanor formerly his wife, then right heirs of John the father. Grant also to John and Margaret the manor of Purley and 1 messuage, 1 toft, 8 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow and 2 acres of pasture in Purley and Theale. To hold to them for their lives without waste and successive remainders of male heirs to John Norreys son of John and Alice, then William Norreys *miles* son of John and Alice, then John Norreys son of John and Eleanor, then William son of John and Margaret, and finally the right heirs of John Norreys the father. Berk', Sutht', Dors', Wiltes', Buk', Oxon'. [CP25/1/294/74, m. 8]

Notes: Wiltshire feet of fines 1377-1509, 141-42 employed to identify modern place-names. Dorset feet of fines 1327-1485, 388-90.