

Wives, Widows and Wimples Theme 3: Property ownership

Document 1

Me D 4/5: Lease of property in Skegby, Nottinghamshire, from Matilda (Maud) de Nevill to John le Bret (undated, c.1275-1300, Latin)

Transcript and translation by Kathryn Summerwill

Sciant **presentes et futuri** quod ego Matilda de Neuill dedi **concessi et** hac **presenti** carta mea **confirmaui** Johanni le Bret **omnis terras meas et tenementa quas habui uel habere potui** in Skegby . ut In diu **er**cijs homagijs **seru**icijs **liberorum hominum** . Wardis . releiuis . Eschaetis . cum villanis uillenagia illa tenentibus **et omnibus eorum sequelis et cum libera capella mea habendum et tenendum** de me **et heredibus** meis ad totam uitam **Ipsius Jhoanis libere** quiete integre **bene et** In pace cum **omnibus pertinencijs** suis siue aliquo retinemento. Reddendo inde annuatim **Mihi et heredibus** meis Centi solidis **sterlingorum** ad duos anni **terminos scilicet** ad Pentecostum quinquaginta solidos **et** ad festum **sancti Martini** In Hyeme quinquaginta solidos pro **omnibus scalaribus seru**icijs **consuetudinibus exactionibus** sectis curia **et demandis mihi uel heredibus** meis aliquo iure **pertinentibus** . Ego uero **dicta Matilda et heredes mei omnis predictas terras et tenementa cum suis pertinencijs plenius pronominatis dicto Jhohani** ad totum uitam suam **contra** omnes gentes. In **omnibus** warentizabimuset **predictam annualem firmam adquietabimus et defendemus**. Et ad maiorem **securitatem huius rei presentis** carte sigillum meum apposui . Huius **testibus dominis Roberto** De Sutton . Nicholo de Eyuill . Roberto de Sutton In Aykring . Gicard de Weston . **et Waltero tuk Militibus** . Radulfo de Arnhale . Waltero de Kelum . Roberto de Draiton . Radulfo clerico **et** alijs.

Know all present people and those to come that I, Matilda de Nevill, have given, conceded and by this my present charter have confirmed to John le Bret all my lands and tenements which I had or could have in Skegby, with diverse homages, services of free men, wards, reliefs, escheats, with villeinage of villeins holding there and all their successors, and with my free chapel, to have and to hold from me and my heirs for the whole life of the same John, freely, quietly and wholly, well and in peace, with all of its appurtenances without reserve anywhere. Paying annually thereafter to me and my heirs one hundred shillings of sterling at two terms of the year, that is 50 shillings at Pentecost and 50 shillings on the feast of St Martin in Hyeme, for all stipends, services, customs, dues, courts and demands appertaining to me or my heirs by any right. Truly I the said Matilda and my heirs will warrant in all things all the said lands and tenements with their appurtenances fully to the before-named John, for his whole life, against all people, and will acquit and defend the said annual rent. And for more security to this thing, I have put my seal on this present writing. These being witnesses, dominus Robert de Sutton, Nicholas de Eyvill, Robert de Sutton in Aykring [Eakring], Guichard de Weston and Walter Tuk, knights, Ralph de Arnhal [Arnold], Water de Kelum [Kelham], Robert de Draiton, Ralph the clerk, and others.

Document 2

Ne D 742: Agreement in French relating to dower, between Joan, widow of Ralph Cromwell, and their son Ralph (2 May 1417, French)

Transcript and translation by Kathryn Summerwill

Cest endenture fact **per**entre Dame Johane **qui** fuist la femme Mon **seigneur** Rauf **seigneur** de Cromwell dun **part et** mon**seigneur** Rauf de Cromwell fitz dez ditz mon **seigneur** Rauf **et** Johane dautre **part** tesmoigne **qui** le dit mon **seigneur** Rauf le fitz ad assigne a dit Dame Johane sa Mier **pour** sa dower toutz les **terrez et** **tenementz** rentz **et seruices** oue toutz lours **apportenauntz** les queux furent a dit mon **seigneur** sone pier en Baseford **et** Bleseby en le Counte de Notyngham **et** en Wynthorpe en le Counte de Nichole ensemblement oue le Molyn de Arnalle estean Sir Iewe de Werbek en mesme le Counte de Notyngham a **auer et tener** toutz les ditz **terres et** **tenementz** rentez **et seruicez** oue toutz lour lour **apportenauntz** ensemblement oue le dit Molyn de Arnalle a dit Dame Johane **pour** terme de sa vie come sa dower en Allowance de toutz autrez Manoirs **terres et** **tenementz** rentes **et seruicez** oue toutz lour **apportenauntz** les queux furent a dit **seigneur** de Cromwell sone barone a quelle endowment la dit Dame Johane soy ad bien agree En tesmoign**ance** de quelle chose a yoestez endentures les **partiez** suisditz entrechaungeablement out mys lour sealx Done a lamley le secunde iour de May lan du regne le Roy Henri quint puis le conquest quint

This indenture made between Dame Joan, who was the wife of my lord Ralph, lord of Cromwell on the one part, and my lord Ralph of Cromwell, son of the said lord Ralph and Joan on the other part. Witness that the said lord Ralph the son has assigned to the said Dame Joan his mother, for her dower, all the lands and tenements, rents and services with all their appurtenances, which were [owned by] the said lord his father in Basford and Bleasby in the county of Nottingham, and in Winthorpe in the county of Lincoln¹, together with the mill of Arnold ... in the county of Nottingham, to have and to hold all the said lands and tenements, rents and services, or all their appurtenances, together with the said mill of Arnold, to the said Dame Joan for the term of her life, as her dower and allowance from all other manors, lands and tenements, rents and services or all their appurtenances which were [part of] the said lord de Cromwell's barony, for which endowment the said Dame Joan is of good agreement. In witness of which thing, the parties abovesaid have jointly set their seals to these indentures. Given at Lambley the second day of May in the fifth year of the reign of King Henry V after the Conquest.

1. 'Nichole' or 'Nicole' is the Anglo-Norman translation for Lincoln

Document 3

Ne D 4716: Extract from a gift from Maude Brewes to Geoffrey and Agnes Bristowe of five shops and a garden in St Clement Danes, London (8 March 1388, Latin)

Transcript and translation by Kathryn Summerwill

Sciant **presentes et futuri quod** ego Matildis Brewes de Comitatu Sussex dedi concessi **et** hac **presenti** carta mea confirmaui Galfrido Brystowe Fuller **et** ciui London **et** Agneti uxori sue **quinque** shopas **cum** gardino adiacente **et omnibus** alijs **pertinencijs** suis situate in **parochia sancti** Clementis Dacor**um** extra Barram nom Templi London inter **tenementam et** gardinum

Know all present people and those to come that I Maud Brewes of the county of Sussex have given, conceded and by this my present charter have confirmed to Geoffrey Brystowe, fuller and citizen of London, and his wife Agnes, five shops with adjacent garden and all their other appurtenances situate in the parish of St Clement Danes outside the Bar called Temple [in] London, between the tenement and garden formerly Hugh de Putford's on

quondam
Hugonis de Putford ex parte occidentalis
et regiam viam ex parte Australis et
gardinum quondam Hamonis atte Well ex
parte
borialis et occidentalis et tenementam
quondam Rogeri Marschall ex parte
orientalis
imperpetuum In cuius rei testimonium
hinc presenti carte mee sigillum meum
apposui Hijs testibus Galfrido atte
Angell Willelmo Pecche Thoma atte Nasshe
Johane Shelden Willelmo atte Cornere
Johane Kentis Ricardo
Knapp Henrico Gardinere Johane
Barnacastell et alijs Datum in parochia
Sancti Clementis predicta octauo die
Marcij Anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi
post conquestum vndecimo

the west side, and the King's highway on
the south side, and a garden formerly
Hamon atte Well's on the north and west
side, and a tenement formerly Roger
Marschall's on the east side ...

... In witness of which thing I have
appended my seal to this present charter.
These being witnesses: Geoffrey atte
Angell, William Pecche, Thomas atte Nassh,
John Shelden, William atte Cornere, John
Kent, Richard Knapp, Henry Gardinere,
John Barnacastell and others. Dated in the
parish of St Clement aforesaid the eighth
day of March in the eleventh year of the
reign of King Richard the second after the
conquest.

Document 4

**Pa D 29: Extract from a deed by Joanna, daughter of Nicholas de Rudyngton and widow of Stephen de Boneye (29 July 1380, Latin)
Transcript and translation by Kathryn Summerwill**

Inueniendo dicte Johanne victum
competentem ut sibimus ipsi a festo
sancti Michaelis proximo futuri ad totam
vitam suam et terram sufficientem ad
seminandum annuatim vnium
fernedel de semine lini de terra ipsius
Johanis et etiam annuatim
sustentacionem unius vacce cum vaccis
suis properis et vnam cameram in
mesuagio ipsius Johanis subter ignem
et etiam
vnum clauem ad hostium celai ipsius
Johanis cum libere introitu et egressu pro
victualibus sibi necessariis in absentia
vxoris dicti Johanis capiende

[John] is to give the said Joanna a
competent living for herself from the next
Feast of St Michael into the future for the
whole of her life, and sufficient land for
annual sowing of one 'fernedel'¹ of flax
seed from John's own lands, and also
annually the sustenance for one cow with
her own calf, and one room in John's own
house below the fire, and also [she may]
take one key to the 'hostium celavi'² of the
said John, with liberty to enter and exit for
her victuals or necessities in the absence of
the wife of the said John.

1. Probably a variant of 'fardel', 'ferling' or 'farthingdeal', all words for a fourth-part of a measure of land, often a quarter of an acre or a quarter of a yard-land.

2. 'Celavi' means 'hidden', or 'concealed'. 'Hostium' is possibly an error for 'Hospitium', meaning 'the household', so the phrase probably means something like a locked pantry.

Document 5

WLC/LM/9, f. 257v: Inscription on the final folio of a volume containing 'Speculum Vitae' and 'The Lay Folks' Catechism' (early 15th century, English)

Image only, no transcript or translation available.