

Giggleswick Manor Court Records: Introduction

A large number of Court Records for Giggleswick were photographed by Roy Price and translated and transcribed in part by Brooke Westcott some years ago, all at Roy's expense. The originals are held at the University of Leeds in the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society Special collection, YAS DD121/15/10. The conserved folios are bound in one book with 94 pages numbered in pencil bottom left corner on the recto with no numbers on the verso. Some text is found on the verso. The series starts with page 1 being the record for 40 Eliz (1598) and the last pages for 13 May 21 Eliz. Some page numbers are missing or confused. Many of the folios are fragmentary and partially torn.

As a result of illness, Roy Price has donated all his work to the North Craven Heritage Trust requesting that the material is made publically available. The NCHT in turn are copying these transcribed court records to the Capturing the Past website.

The collection comprises the Court Leet and Court Baron records from 21 Elizabeth (modern calendar 1579) to 40 Elizabeth (1598).

Translation was initially partial and selective and incomplete. The proceedings for 32 Elizabeth have now been transcribed in Latin and translated in full by Brooke Westcott as an example of content and aid to others involved in such studies.

It was found necessary to photograph every page (with the kind permission of the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society) to determine the order of early partial transcriptions. These have been placed in page order and further work has been carried out. The twice-yearly lists of tenants have been transcribed in full. For other pages concerning Presentments and Pleas, partly in Latin and partly in English, some have been translated as reasonably full extracts but for others only names and fines have been recorded. These pages await proper translation by professionals.

A large amount of information concerning the local courts can be obtained from these records despite the less than full translation and the variable style of presentation. It has not been attempted to reproduce the exact layout of text and marginal notes have not been noted in full; often they are at the edge of torn pages or very difficult to decipher.

M.J.Slater
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Index to pages in book.

p1	11 Oct 40 Eliz (modern calendar 1598)
p3	10 May 40 Eliz (modern calendar 1598)
p6	12 Oct 39 Eliz
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p11	12 Oct 38 Eliz
p15	26 Apr 38 Eliz
p18	8 Oct 37 Eliz
p20	7 May 37 Eliz

p22	9 Oct 36 Eliz
p24	17 April 36 Eliz
p26	11 Oct 35 Eliz
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p30	12 Oct 34 Eliz
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p34	29 Sept 33 Eliz
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p40	6 May 32 Eliz
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p92	13 May 21 Eliz (modern calendar 1579)
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Abbreviated words

Many of the Latin words used in manorial court records can be found in specialized dictionaries and glossaries but no one source has been found totally helpful. On-line dictionaries can be helpful in suggesting appropriate words but much of the difficulty stems from reading the scruffily written short forms in the text.

See Manorial Records, by Denis Stuart 1992. Phillimore and websites of University of Lancaster and University of Nottingham for examples of texts.

Guide to some abbreviations of Latin and English words commonly found.

ad valor = to the value of

amp = amputo/amputat = to cut/cutting

apud = at

arm = armiger = esquire (knight)

bosci dni = in the Lord's wood
c = com = compar = compareo = appear in court
com = comes = Earl
conli = consiles = consimiles = for similar or for the like (offence)
def or defect = defalta or defectus = default
damnum = damages
dft = def = defendant
dni = domini = of the Lord
fat = fateor = acknowledge
filius, filia = son, daughter
ibm = ibidem = the same
ideo = therefore
in mia Cur = in misericordia Curie = at the mercy of the Court
in plito debti = plea of debt
jur = jurator or juro = juror or jury or sworn
libi tens = liberi tenentes = free tenants
mort = mortuus = dead
nuper = late
offic dni = officarius domini = officer of the Lord
pleg = plegagium/ plegius = pledge/ surety
plito = placito = plea
plt = plaintiff
qr = querulus = complainant
Qui dicunt super sacrum quod ... = Who say upon their oaths that ...
rel = relicta/ relictus = remaining (widow/widower)
resians/reseans = Latinization of Anglo-Norman word reseant - residents
secundum = according to (the custom of the Manor)
sub pena = under penalty
tenen ad vol = tenentes ad voluntatem = tenants at will
trans = transgressor = trespasser (usually refers to animals)
ut declar = as declared
vastum = waste
vid = vidua = widow
vir = virid = viridis = green, greenwood
virid & bosci = greenwood and firewood