

SUMMARY: The excerpts below are taken from the court rolls of the manor of Earls Colne at the first court held by Leicester on 5 November 1563 and at a court held by him on 24 September 1565. For the Queen's grant of Oxford's lands to Leicester during Oxford's minority dated 22 October 1563, see TNA WARD 8/13, Part 25.

At the court held 5 November 1563 it is stated that Oxford's mother, Margery Golding, had taken certain trees for firewood and repairs, and that two other tenants had also taken wood for fuel and repairs, which actions caused the other tenants to consider that 'we must take counsel of the lord', i.e. Leicester. For a letter from Margery Golding to Sir William Cecil dated 11 October 1563 stating that Leicester's servants had forbidden the tenants to provide her with rent corn for her household, see BL Lansdowne 6/34, ff. 96-7.

For the first court held at Colne Priory by Leicester on 4 November 1563, see ERO D/DPr/41.

The transcript below was made from the copy on the Earls Colne Project Database website at <http://linux02.lib.cam.ac.uk/earlscolne/ecrolls2/65400825.htm>.

The ECPD copy does not appear to be entirely accurate. However it provides the details of the records, and serves as a useful resource. The author of this website hopes to obtain a copy of the original document in the near future.

The view of the free [sic?] pledge with the first court of the noble man, Robert, Lord Dudley, of the noble Order of the Garter, knight, Master of the Horses of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, and the Master of the Court of Wards under the suit of the said court during the nonage of the Lord Edward, Earl of Oxford, bearing date the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of the Queen's Majesty that now is etc., there holden on Friday, viz., on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November in the fifth year [=5 November 1563] of the said reign.

Now of the court to this court came Robert Peerson, John Litle, John Pennocke, William Finche, William Smythe, John Leffingwell, John Orvis, clerk, John Culverton, Adam Polly, James Hale, John Sparrowe senior, John Baret, Gregory Garrard, Thomas Cawche, John Ward, Henry Prentice, John Cole, gentleman, Richard Ennowes, John Brewer, Nicholas Parker, William Wade senior, William Catte, Robert Stooks, William Greene, William Wade junior, Richard Rolte, George Hall, Thomas Marche, Thomas Leffingwell, Thomas Allen, John Parker, John Sparrowe junior, Thomas Spycer, clerk, Margaret Game, widow, Agnes Bieston, widow, and Joan Spicer, widow, and made attornment and became tenants to the foresaid Robert, Lord Dudley, and lord of this manor for the time being, by the payment of 1d by every of them in the court, being into the hands of the steward instead of the lord delivered in the name of a seisin and possession of their rents and services due and of ancient time of right accustomed to the lord of the manor

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aforesaid, and hereupon every of them made fealty to the foresaid Robert, Lord Dudley, lord of this manor for the time being.

And that the Lady Margery, Countess of Oxford, cut down, lopped and shrud ninety trees called bollings in certain lands of this manor called Bunnars for fuel to be spent in her mansion house called Colne Priory, and also felled five other trees called spirks in the said land called Bunnars for her reparations and other necessaries about the said mansion house, and that William Wade cut six cart-loads of fuel in Bettingsland to be burnt in his mansion house, and that Lewis Jegon felled four trees called spirks in Bettingsland for the reparation of his tenement; therefore we must take counsel of the lord.

The view of the frankpledge with the court of the noble man, Robert, Lord Dudley, of the noble Order of the Garter, knights [sic], Master of her Majesty's Horse and of the Privy Council, there holden of [sic?] Monday, viz., the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September in the 7<sup>th</sup> year [=24 September 1565] of the reign of the Queen's Majesty that now is.