

Bailiffs of the Bishop of Chester

30 November 1189 Richard I made the bishops of Coventry, Lichfield and Chester, their lands and men, free from all civil jurisdiction. This liberty could therefore be invoked whenever a case arose relating to the episcopal estates. In practice, however, as with all such liberties, if the matter was not resolved locally the sheriff of Cheshire could be issued a writ of *non omittat propter eandem libertatem* to bring the defendant before the county court.

1 June 1290 Westminster

Charter Roll 18 Edward I m.18 [348]

Inspeximus and confirmation, in favour of Roger de Meuland, bishop of Coventry and Lychefeld, of the following charters:

...

Ricardus, Dei gratia, rex Anglorum, dux Normannorum, Aquitanorum et comes Andegavorum archiepiscopus, episcopis, abbatibus, prioribus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus et omnibus ballivis suis et fidclibus, salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse et hac presenti carta confirmasse dilecto et familiari nostra Hugoni Coventrensi episcopo et successoribus suis episcopis Coventrensibus, ut omnia maneria sue et omnes terre sue et omnes homines sui et omnia maneria et omnes terre et omnes homines ecclesie sue de Coventria et ecclesie sue de Lychefeld et de Cestria et de Salopesberia et Gnoushale et omnium ecclesiarum suarum in perpetuum libera sint et queta de murdro, de latrocinio, de schiris et hundredis et sectis shirarum et hundredorn, de auxiliis vicecomitum, de foresta et placitis foreste, de wastis et assartis et rewardis foreste et operibus tam castellorum quam vivariorum et stagnorum et omnibus placitis et omnibus querelis. Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus ut omnia maneria et omnes terre et omnes homines predicti episcopi et successorum ejus et predictarum ecclesiarum inde in perpetuum libera sint et queta. Testibus, Hugone Dunelmensi, Huberto Saresberiensis, episcopis, Roberto comite Leycestrie, Willelmo Marcsallo, Henrico de Longo Campo, apud Cantuariam, xxx^{mo} de Novembris. Data per manum Willelmi Eliensis electi, cancellarii nostri, regni nostri anno prima.

In February 1302 Margery who was wife of Adam Chevel of Mouldsworth sued Robert son of Simon de Burton in the county court for a messuage and 5 acres of land in Burton juxta Tarvin. Burton had been a possession of the bishops of Chester since before the Conquest: a de Burton family arose holding the estate under them.

At the first hearing of the case the bishop's bailiffs intervened, saying that the land in question was part of their liberty, and the case was dismissed out of the county court; Margery would have been amerced for a false claim, but was pardoned.

15:88: 6 February 1302

Marg'ia que fuit vx' Ade Cheuel de Moldeworth'. petit u^s. Rob'm fil' Simo'is de Burton', vnu' Mes' & q'iq' acras t're cu' ptin' in Burton', vt ius suu' &c' p br'e de ingr'u Et sup hoc veniu't Ball'i lib'tatis d'ni Ep'i Cestr' & p statu lib'tatis eiusd'm ptestant' q'd ten'

illa petita sunt de feodo ip'ius Ep'i infra lib'tatem p'd'cam, que h't returnu' o'im br'im. & q'd vic' in lesione' eiusd'm lib'tatist fecit execuc'oem istius br'is absq' retorno inde eis faciend'. Et sup hoc pferunt Cartam d'ni Regis, q' testat' q'd d'ns Rex concessit eid'm Ep'o, q'd ip'e & successores sui Ep'i Cestr' impp'm h'eant Returnu' o'im br'ium suor pl'ita vetiti namis & catall' felonu' &c' & petu't returnu' br'is p'd'ci Et concessu' est ei Et p'. e' vic' q'd h're faciat &c'

15:172: 3 April 1302

m'ia cond' qa paup

D Marg'ia que fuit vx' Ade Cheuel de Moldeworth' p'f'lo clamore ~~u'sus~~ ppt' vic'm br'is u's. Rob'm fil' Simo'is de Burton', de pl'ito t're ppl' vic' Rob'ti de Hennington'

15:252: 26 June 1302

p'.

Marg'ia que fuit vx' Ade Cheuel de Moldeworth, op. se. v'sus Rob'm fil' Simon' de Burton', de pl'o vni's mes', & q'ng' acr' t're, cum ptin' in Burton', iuxta Teruyn. Et ip'e Rob's venit, & pet' inde visum; h'eat. Et h't diem. &c'. Idem dies &c'.

However, Margery resumed her suit in the following September, without intervention on behalf of the bishop. She said that Adam her late husband had demised the property in question to a certain Simon de Burton: she had been unable to stop the transaction, being unable to contradict her husband. Robert replied by calling Adam's daughters, Mabilla and Margery, then under age, to warrant. Margery the plaintiff said that the statute in such a case invalidated such a plea. The daughters then came to court and duly warranted their father's demise of the property: the question arose whether they were of full age, and by their bodily appearance it seemed to the court that they were. The court awarded the property to Margery the mother.

15:388: 18 September 1302

Marg'ia que fuit vxor Ade Cheuel de Moldeworth', petit. u's. Rob'm fil' Simonis de Burton', vnu' mes' & q'ng' acris terre cu' ptin', in Burton' iuxta Teruen', que clam' esse ius & hereditatem sua' & in que idem Rob's non h't ingr'm, n' p Simone' de Burton', cui p'd'cus Adam, quond' vir ip'ius Marg'ie illa dimisit, cui ip'a in vita sua cont'dic'e no' potuit &c'. Et p'd'cus Rob'tus, venit & defend' vim & iniur', q'ndo &c'. & voc' inde ad war' Mabill' & Margar', filias & hered' ip'ius Ade, que sunt infra etatem, Et sum' in isto Com', &c'. Et p'd'ca Marg'ia dic' q'd ad hi's voc', no' debet admitti, p eo q'd in stat' d'ni R' apud Westm' edito conti' q'd vbi vir er's vxoris sue ali Man'ia. p eo q'dr p's morte' ip'ius viri pl'tm inde suscitau'it; no' admittat' tenentis, si vocau'it ad war' infra etatem existentes, ad progand' p hoc, ius m'lris, sed exp'et hi's vocator, qui igno..... +..... h'uit de quo ten' + q'd alien'; vsq' ad legit' etate' voc' ad war'. &c'. Et p'd'cus Rob's dic', q'd d'cm stat' i' aliq'o no' d' qa dic' virt' ei's d'; se extendit t'mm'o, ad alienac' factas post constituc'om ei's d', & no' ad alienac', antea f'cas, vn' q'd alienac' d'cor'ten', f'ca fuit, an' confect' ei's d', Et hoc pat' est &c'. Et pred'ca Marg'ia dic', q'd & si alienac'o illa ante stat', quod no' concedit; dic', q'd in acc'one psonali, quo ad punic'o'es, in psonas delinquent' in f'cas illud no' se extendit. sed, que ad melior'oem legis, in acc'oe reali' se extendit, sic' conti' in stat' Et de hoc; sunt ad iud'm, quod differ' vsq' ad px'm Com'. &c'. Postea ad Com' die M'rtis px' p'st f'm s'ce Luc'

virg' anno .xxxj^{o225} ven' p^rd'ce Mabill' & Margar' & g^atis warant' d'co Rob'to p^rd'ca ten' & g^atis ea dederu't in Cur'. Et qa p^r aspic'onu' corpu' d'car Mabill' & Margar' satis constat Cur' q'd sunt plene etatis warant' & reddic'o amisse fu'unt Et +...+ cons' est q'd p^rd'ca Marg'ia recuperet p^rd'ca ten', u'sus p^rd'cas Mabill' & Margar', Et qa p^rma dies ven' & gratis reddiderunt Ideo am^rc' nulla.

Simon son of Adam de Burton sued William Bolax to acquit him of some payment of 5 shillings. Bolax was one of the sheriff's serjeants (11:48). A case like this was usually brought when a serjeant or bailiff had levied a fine or amercement and then failed to account for it to their superiors. The case was referred to the bailiff of the bishop's liberty, who failed to respond, and the sheriff was ordered to proceed. This suit then disappears from the record.

17:261: 15 March 1306

p^r.

Simon filius Ade de Burton'. op. se. u^s. Will' Bolax de pl'ito q'd acquietet eum de .v.s' &c' Et p^rd'cus Will'us no' venit Et vic' mand' q'd mandatum illud returnauit ball' lib'tatis Ep'i qui nich' inde fecer' I'o prec' est vic' q'd non omittat ppt^r lib'tatem p^rd'cam quin eam ingrediatur & q'd ponat eum p^r vad' &c', q'd sit ad prox' Com' ad r' p^rd'co Simoni de pl'ito p^rd'co. pleg' de pros' Adam del Greneway & Petr' de Manl'

In August 1308 William de Huxley sued William Lovekoc or son of Louke or Luke of Tarvin for some unspecified trespass. The case was referred to the bailiff of the bishop's liberty, who failed to respond, and the sheriff was ordered to proceed on a writ of *non omittas*. There is no further record on the county pleas; but in July 1309 William son of Luke himself sues Roger Curveround of Tarvin for an unspecified trespass: the visne of Tarvin is summoned, it being specified that there be noone linked with either William son of Luke or Robert son of Simon de Burton — without revealing how Simon might be involved on Roger's side in this dispute.

20:691: 20 August 1308

Will's de Huxeley. op. se. u^s. Will'm Loukoc + no' om'tas.+ de Teruin de pl'ito de pl'ito²²⁶ t^ans. Et ip'e no' venit. Et p^rcept' fuit vic' q'd distr' eu' p^r om's t^rras. &c'. Et q'd de Exitib^s &c'. Et q'd h'eret eu' hic ad hu'c Com' &c'. Et vic' nich' inde fec' &c'. Ideo sicut alias p^rceptum est vic'. q'd distr' eu'. p^r om'es t^rras. &c'. Et q'd h'eat corp^s eius ad px'm Com'. &c'.

21:59: 1 October 1308

p^r e'

Will's de Huxley op. se u'sus ~~Adam fil'~~ Will'm Louk de Teruyn de pl'ito t^ans. Et ip'e no' venit Et p^rceptum fuit vic' sicut alias q'd distr' eu' p^r om'es t^rras &c'. Et q'd de exit' &c' Et q'd h'eret corp^s ei^s hic ad hu'c Com' Et vic' modo mand'. q'd mand' ball'is lib'tat^s Ep'i Cestr' qui nichil inde fec' u't. Ideo p^rceptu' est vic' q'd no' Omittat ppt^r lib'tatem p^rd'cam q'n distr' p^rd'cm Will'm p^r om'es t^rras &c'. Et q'd de exit' &c' Et q'd h'eat corp^s. &c'.

²²⁵ Tuesday 18 December 1302

²²⁶ sic

21:163: 12 November 1308

p^r e'

[blank] Essonniator Will'i de Huxley op. se u^rs Will'm fil' Louke de Teruyn de pl'ito t^ans Et ip'e no' ven'. Et p^rcept' fuit vic' q'd no' omitt^ret ppt^r lib'tate' Ep'i Cestr' q'n distr' eu' p o'es t^ras &c'. Et q'd de exit' &c'. Et q'd h'eret corp^s ei^s ad hu'c Com' &c'. Et vic' nichil inde fecit s' mand' q'd p^rd'cus Will'us no' est inuent^s &c' n^c aliqⁱd h'et &c' p quod &c'. Id'o p^rceptu' est vic' q'd no' omittat ppt^r lib'tate' p^rd'cam q'n capiat eu' si &c' & saluo &c' Ita q'd h'eat corpus ei^s ad p^rx'm Com' &c' ad respondend' p^rd'co Will'o &c'

21:772: 22 July 1309

p^r.e'

Exig^r

Will's fil' Leuk de Teruin +e+ op. se u^rsus Rog^rm Keruerou'd de pl'ito t^ans. Et ip'e no' venit. Et sicut [prius p^rc' fuit] vic' q'd capet eu' si &c', Et saluo &c'. Et q'd h'eret corpus ei^s ad hunc Com'. &c'. Et vic' nich' inde fecit s[et mand' q'd idem] Rog^rus no' est inuent^s &c'. I'o sicut plur' p^rcept' est vic' q'd cap' eu'. si &c'. Et saluo &c'. Et q'd h'eat corp^s ei^s [ad p^rx'm Com' &c']

p^r e' in r^u

Preceptu' fuit vic'. q'd venire fac^ret hic ad hunc Com' .xij. &c' de visnet' de T^ruyn. p quos &c'. Et qui nec W[ill'm fil'] Leuk de Teruyn. nec Rob'm fil' Simon' de Burton' aliqua affinitate atting^rent ad faciend' qua'd' Jur^am int^r eos de [pl'ito] t^ans. Quia tam &c'. Et vic' nich' inde fecit set mand' q'd p^rcept' istud adeo tarde &c'. I'o sicut alias p^rceptu' est vic' [q'd] venire fac' ad p^rx'm Com' .xij. &c'. p quos &c'. Et qui nec &c'. Quia tam &c'.