



Feet of Fines for the Period of Edward I and Edward II

The Purpose of a Fine

To add strength and security to a conveyance that had already been virtually effected was then the prime motive for making or, as it was called, 'levying' a fine. This is shown by two Wiltshire examples. On 17 May 1287 Edward I granted by letters patent to Matthew son of John, knight, among other things the castle and manor of Devizes for life.¹ In Michaelmas term in the same year Matthew acquired by fine the same estate from the king and Eleanor the queen.

1273 – 1 Edward I

Oct. of Trinity.¹ John prior of Maydenebradel', plaintiff Nicholas 'de Wallibus', impediens. 1 messuage and 1 carucate of land in Toddeworth la Zuche. [Writ not specified] Impediens has acknowledged the premises to be the right of plaintiff. and of the brethren and sisters of the church of St. Mary Maydenbradel' as those which they have of his gift. Plaintiff and the said brethren and sisters to hold of chief lords. For this, plaintiff has granted to impediens. 1 messuage and 1 carucate of land in Humyngton', except 6 acres of meadow called 'L . . . los² which lie in that place. Impediens to hold during his life of plaintiff and his successors, rendering yearly 5 marks in moieties at Michaelmas and at Easter (Warranty) Reversion of the premises in Humyngton' which remain to impediens by this fine to plaintiff, his successors, [etc.].

1313 – 6 Edward II

Oct. of Trinity.³ Richard de Coumbe and Anastace his wife, plaintiffs Peter de Forstebury, deforciant 2 messuages, 2 carucates and 5 virgates of land, 4 acres of meadow and loos. rent in Northtodeworth' and Cump-ton'. To hold to plaintiff and the heirs of Richard's body. Successive remainders to Richard son of Simon de Coumbe, the heirs of his body and the right heirs of the said Richard de Coumbe. .

1323 – 16 Edward II

One month from Easter⁴ Richard de Tudeworth' and Katherine his wife, plaintiffs, by the said Richard in her place by the king's writ. William Wakeman and Henry de Ludyngton', deforciants. 1 messuage, 1 mill, 2 carucates of land and 39s. 6d. rent in Overewollop, co. Southampton, and 1 mill, 9 acres of meadow and 10 shillings rent in Muleford' Pychard', co. Wilts. To hold to plaintiffs and the heirs of their bodies. Successive remainders to Maud daughter of the same Richard, the heirs of her body and William le Ireys of Tudeworth'.

Information courtesy of the Wiltshire Record Society

¹ In 1273 Trinity Sunday was 4th June so the 8th of Trinity (Oct) would have been 11th June.

² Manuscript damaged.

³ In 1313 Trinity Sunday was 12th June so the 8th (Oct) Trinity was 19th June.

⁴ In 1323 Easter Sunday was 27th March.