

## **The Manors of Shrivenham Salop, Claycourt and Stalpitts in the county of Berks**

### **Customs of the Manors. The 5<sup>th</sup> day of May in the 10<sup>th</sup> of George the first, Anno 1725**

Homage. Thomas Cox, John Smith, Benjamin Kent, William Kent, John Row, Edward Stratton, Customary tenants of the Manors aforesaid to us and our Heirs according to the Custom of the manors sworn of the Homage of the Court Baron for the said Manors there held the day and year above written do present our Customs to be as follows.

Imprimis. We present every Customary Tenant of Inheritance to him and his Heirs of the Manors ought to pay their rents at the Feasts of St Michael the Arch Angell and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by equal portions and to do visit of Court at the Court Barons of the said Manors and at the Hundred Courts from three weeks to three weeks to be holden and for every time every of them maketh default they are to be Amersed threepence. And if any tenant shall wilfully either deny to pay his rents, or to do visit of court, that then every such tenant doth forfeit his Copyhold Lands and Tenements to the Lord, and the Lord may seize such his Customary Lands and Tenements to his own use. Or grant the same to any other at his pleasure, which grant is good according to the custom as it was before the forfeiture Committee.

Item. We further present that the Customary Tenants of Inheritance may sell their Customary Lands and Tenements which they hold of the Lord by the Custom of the said Manors which is to be done only by surrendering in the Lord's Court or elsewhere that the Steward or Bailiff or one of them with two Customary Tenants to the said Manors be present at the doing thereof, which presentment ought to be presented and Testified at the next Court Baron of the said Manor to be holden, upon every such surrender there is due to the Lord of Manors for every Messuage Customary hold a Herriott which is the best Beast of the Tenant so surrendering, if he hath any Cattle within the Hundred. If they hath no Cattle then the best Good of the party's so surrendering is due for the Herriott. If the party surrendering hath neither Cattle nor Goods within the Hundred, then two shillings and sixpence due to the Lord in lieu of a Herriott.

Item. We further present that the partys to which use such Surrender is made ought to pay two years Rent to the Lord o the Manors for a fine in the name of a Relief and no more the like Herriotts are due upon the death of every tenant and the next heirs to pay a Relief upon his admittance which is one years Rent and not above.

Item. The Customary tenants of Inheritance of the said Manors may demise their lands for one and twenty years so that the grant are in present possession and not in reversion and the lord is to have no profit by reason of such Lease or Grant.

Item. We further present that the women which are Customary Tenants of Inheritance to them and their heirs for ever under Court Baron (that is to say) if they be Married at the time of Surrendering their lands and tenements ought to be first examined in Open Court before the Steward before she makes any surrender of her lands that it may appear whether she doth

the same without compulsion of her husband, and upon her surrender the Lord is to have the like Herriotts of her husbands goods as is before expressed for other tenants and the like fine of the party to whose use the surrender was made as before.

Item. That the Customary Tenant of Inheritance having a wife at the time of his death, his widow is to hold his Customary Lands during her widowhood in the right of her Free Bank doing to the Lord all suits and services for the same lands. But she is not to Cut or Spill the woods or underwoods growing upon the said Lands and such widow is to do all manner of Reparations. And upon the death or forfeiture of such widow the next Heir is to enter presently and the Lord is to have no profit thereby.

Item. If any heir be underage at the death of his Ancestor, he is to choose his guardian which guardian shall be accumulate to the heir at his full age and the Lord is to have profit of it by reason of the nonage of such heir.

Item. We further present that the widow of every Customary Tenant of Inheritance ought to enter presently after the death of her Husband into the Customary Land... of her Husband died Seized and the Heir or in Reversion ought to enter presently after the death of such widow and no Executors year is due to any Executor of any Customary Tenant of Inheritance.

Item. We further present that all free Suitors of the said Manor ought to do suit of Court at the Court Baron of the said Manors, and at the Hundred Court from three weeks to three weeks to be holden and for every time every of them maketh default they are to be annexed.

Item. We further present that all Copyhold Lands and Tenements for Life within the Manors are grantable for two or three lives at the will of the Lord and for no longer time whereupon such fines as are due to the Lord for granting such estates as the Lord and the present Tenant which shall take such estate shall agree for upon the death of every person named in such Copyhold grant, being Tenant in possession there is due to the Lord the like Herriott as Customary Tenants of Inheritance ought to pay and the widow of every such Copyholder for Life if her husband died in possession ought to enjoy such Copyhold Tenements whereof her husband died Seized during her said l.... and the Executor of such Copyhold Tenant for life and also the Executor of the widow of every such Copyhold Tenant Seized ought to enjoy an Executors Year after the death of very such Copyhold Tenant.

Item. We further present that any Copyholder for life being first taken of any Copyhold Tenements, Viz, if he be first named in any, he may if he pay the such fine surrender as well his own estate as the estates of any others named in such Copys of in and to his Copyhold Lord and Tenements and by such surrender as well the estate of the party surrendering as of other named in such Copy are thereby determined and frustrated but the second person named in such copy if he surrender he cannot thereby Barron Exclude the third person named in any such copy.

Item. We further present that if any Copyhold Tenant for life doth commit any waste without licence of the Lord of the Manor, He doth thereby forfeit his estate of in and to his Copyhold Lands and Tenements.

Item. We further present that if any Copyhold Tenant for life do grant his Copyhold Tenement longer than by the space of one year and one day , or if he inhabit and dwell from

his Copyhold Lands and Tenements longer than by the space of one year and one day without the second of .....