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SOURCE: Canterbury Cathedral Archives

LANGUAGE: English

DATE: 12/7/1719

SUMMARY:

Letter from Nicholas Hall, lessee of Doccombe Manor to D & C Canterbury July 12th 1719 explaining that his father had overestimated the size of some tenancies from misinformation so the Manor is worth a lot less than his father claimed.

The woods are worth nothing, especially 10 acres where nothing grows & rocks & due to the customs of the Manor which his father tried to overturn in Court but lost.

The Manor lies in the worst part of the county.

His income is from the addition of Lives (filling of copies- fines) to the tenancies but they have long lives as the hardness of the country makes them very healthy & each life has a widowhood. He has not received any income in the last 5 years from fines & may be another 10 before he will get any. He has to pay more on outgoings so his annual income cannot be anywhere near £220 D & C assess he receives.

He does not know of a £100 fine before he was born.

The Church estates locally only ask a 4th, a 5th or a 6th part of the value for the fine.

Let him know the decision what his fine is.

Nicholas Hall

TRANSCRIPT

Outside:

For Mr Samuel Norris att his house in Christchurch Canterbury
N Halls Letter about Doccomb[e] 1719

Inside:

July 12th 1719

S[i]r

How my father could make Doccombe mannor to be of such
a vallue I cant imagine, but I find in some minutes of his th[a]t he makes
one estate to contain 51 acres w[hi]ch upon measuring will not exceed
3, he must do it from some misinformation, for I believe he never saw

a foot of it, as for the woods I have already writt th[a]t th[e]y are nothing worth by reason of the costes, w[hi]ch my father endeavour [e]d to destroy by law but was cast, nor are th[e]y so much as the chapter reckons, there being rocks in the middle of th[e]m of 10 acres together on w[hi]ch there grows no more t[ha]n

on the palm of my hand, the whole mannor lying in the very worst part of the county. But S[i]r I desire you would consider w[ha]t it is th[a]t I purchase, it is but the filling of copys if any life drops, for there is not one foot of this £220 p[e]r annum (if it was so much) in hand, it being all out upon lives (and the hardness of the country makes th[e]m very healthy ones too) and each of those lives have widdowhoods. I have not rec[eive]d a penny fine these five years, and it may be twice five more before I may, so I have not one penny certain income from the mannor but certain outgoings for the rent I pay the Chapter is more th[a]n I rec[eive] from the mannor, wherefore it is

impossible for you or any man living to think th[a]t the annual income of the mannor to me, can be anything in the least like w[ha]t you write viz: £220 w[hi]ch is more th[a]n the whole rack rent of the mannor if the whole was in my hand

whereas there is not so much as one inch in hand of it as for the £100 fine it was done before I was born, nor did I ever hear anything of it untill Mr Deans letter to Mr Rouse wherefore I can say no more on th[a]t head the <chapter> has thought ever since th[a]t the usuall fine was a just vallue (even

tho th[e]y had my fathers valluation before th[e]m), w[hi]ch I am willing to give (*oblit.*) for alt[e]ring y[ou]r opponion I know not; but I am sure it cant be 'rowing (*oblit.*) better for it is much worse all estates falling

I understand th[a]t the chapter <here> asks but a 4th often a 5th sometimes a 6th part of the value

of the mannor

but I know this is nothing to the chapter of Canterbury, where fore to conclude if the

chapter will be pleased to set me a fine you shall have a speedy answer from [me]

I desire you would let me know when I may expect y[ou]r answer

your humble serv[an]t

Nic[holas] Hall
at Cowick near Exon