

Farrer vol 1 pp 484-6.  
[edited by Farrer]

Documents related to the grants of copyhold tenements in the Forests of  
Blackburnshire

(Duchy of Lancaster Records Class XII No 1 fol 57)

“HENRY &c., to al our ffermors, tenantes, and occupiers of al oure herbage and pastures, and of all other our londes and tenements, within our Wapyntak of Blackburnshir, in our Countie Palatyne of Lancaster, and their deputies and assignes, &c., greeting. Whereby auncient usages and old custum ye and euery of you and others, ffermors of the same our Duchie, owe to pay unto us our Rentes and fermes for your said holdynges, at ij tymes of euery yere, that ys to say, at the festes of Ester and St Mighell tharchaungell, by even procions or within xl dayes next after the same festes, upon the payn and ieopardy of losying of your holdynges”: and reciting that the said rents had been demanded and payment had been refused – “ We therefore late you wyt, that we have geven authorite and power by this our lettres, to our trusty and wellbeloved our chief officers and ffermors of the same, and to ther deputies” – in default of payment – “to distreygn you and euery of you for the same our duties, and the distresses taken to empark and kepe, according to oure lowes, tyll our said rentes and duties by you seuerally be fully content and payed.

(Dated) 12 April 20 Henry VII. [1505]

(Ditto, fol 61 dorso)

HENRY &c., To our trusty and welbeloued the Sturad of our lands and possessions in Blakboneshir, Rossyndale, and Acryngton, parcel of oure Duchie of Lancaster, in our Countie of Lancaster, gretying. Forsomoche as heretofore oure stuardes and ther deputies ther haue letten by virtue of their offices diuers lands and tenements, parcel of our demeasnes, by copie of Court Roll, sum for terme of lyvies and sum for terme of yeres, without auctorite so to do, Wherby diuers of oure tenantes and subgetes hauyng such enterest haue bin disseised of ther leases and holdings, we, willing and desiryng Justice to be indifferently ministred to euery of oure subgetes and tenantes, and that they from hensforth shall not want suertie of their takyngs and holdynges, Woll that ye in nowise shalbe disseised in that partie, therfor by thadvise of our councell of our said duchie geven unto you and, by this our letters, geve unto you full auctorite and power, for us and in oure name, that y by th’advise [of] oure Receyvov of oure possessions, do make leases by copy, as well of our demeasne lands as of oure customary holdes within oure said office, for terme of xij yeres, to endure next after the date of your lease, so that it excede not the same terme nor the value of xl by yere. Prouided and always forseen that by the colour of your leases ye do not dymynssh oure Rentes, fermes, seruices, ffynes, Gressones, no other oure old and auncien dueties, due and demaundals unto us &c., which our letters we woll

that ye do enter in oure Courte Rolles, ther to remain for the suerity of eury partie. Yeuen, &c., 8 Juyll, 21 Henry VII [1506]

(Ditto, fol 58 dorso)

HENRY &c., to our trusty and wellbeloued serunt and knight, for our body St John Bothe, Receivor of our Countie Palatyne of Lancaster, greeting. Where afore this tyme upon complaint made unto us on the behalf of our right worshipful chapeleyn, James Stanley, Archdeacon of Richemond, we by our other letters under his our seale, dated the viij<sup>th</sup> day of Septembre last past, charged you to suffer the said James peasible to occupie such fermes as he hath taken of us, within our forestes of Rossendale, Penhull, and Trowden, and to levie his dueties and fermes of th'occupiers of the same without vexacon of you or yours; wiche not withstanding ye made unto him and his seruantes resistence and impediments, as he surmittith, in contempt of us and our said writing, to our mervile if it so be. We, considering that he is charged unto us therein, and for the same hath trulie content and paid our general receiver of our said duchie, to our use for the hole yeres ferme endid at Mighelmas last past, and the most part thereof as yet restith in the tenantes and fermors' hands, there to levie as he surmittith; Wherefore we wool and efsounes straitilie command you, that ye suffer the said James and his seruantes and deputies to levie the rentes and fermes to him in eny wise due &c. (Dated) 27 Nov 21Henry VII [1505].

By Indenture under the Duchy Seal, dated 1 April 18 Henry VII [1503], certain meadows, pastures, feeding grounds and tenements within the Forests of Rossendale, Penhull, and Trowden were demised to farm to the Earl of Derby and James Stanley, clerk, for a term of 21 years, under the rent of £247 6s 8d., as answered for to the King in the Compotus of the Receiver of the County Palatine of Lancaster for the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Henry VII., beyond the annual increment of 13s 4d.

(Ditto fol 58 dorso)

"HENRY &c., to all our tenantes, fermors, and occupiers of certain our lands and tenements within our forestes of Rosseyndale, Penhull, and Trowden, in our Countie Palatyne of Lancaster, and to eury of them, greeting": reciting, as before, the order to pay their rents and duties to the said James, "for certine holdings and tenements whereof ye be tenantes and occupiers, conteyned in his fermeholde, whiche of late he toke of us in ferme within our said forestes," or else to appear before the Council of our Duchie of Lancaster, at our Palace of Westminster, in the morrow after All Saintes last past; which ye disobeyed and have not paid: "wherefore we eftsounes straightlie charge you &c., &c.," (Dated) 27 Nov 21Henry VII [1505].