

# V: The Shotwick Court Rolls 1338–1344

## A Snapshot of Peasant Life and Manorial Administration in Fourteenth-Century Cheshire

---

by Susan O’Neil\*

The purpose of this article is to shed light on manorial administration and peasant life in Cheshire in the second quarter of the fourteenth century, especially as depicted in the records of the Shotwick manor court rolls. The rolls present a wide variety of minor criminal and civil offences such as trespass, damage to the lord’s property, assaults, brewing ale, debt and lack of cooperation in communal farming. Information about land conveyances, inheritances, marriages and deaths can also be drawn from the rolls. This article will explore some of these issues, drawing also upon a manorial extent and the Chester Chamberlains’ Accounts edited by Stewart-Brown over a century ago.

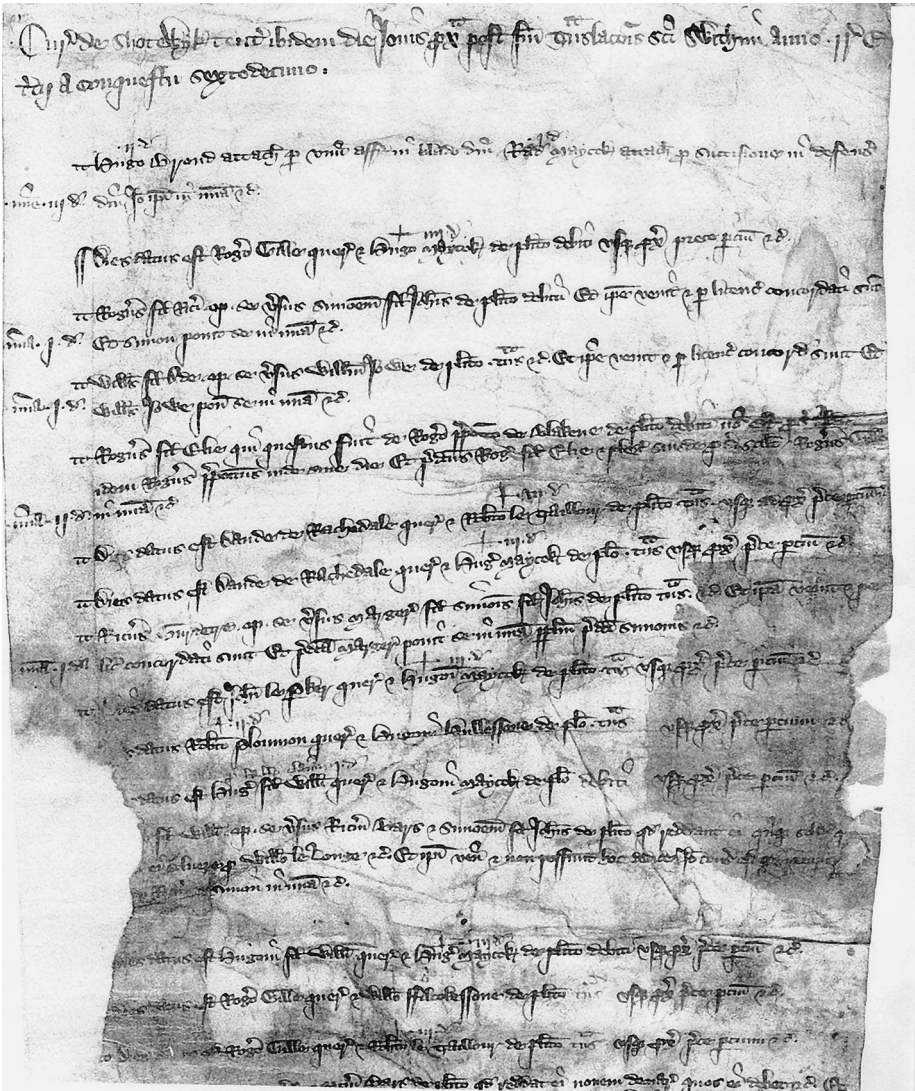
### Introduction

**T**he village of Shotwick lies approximately 8.5km/5.5 miles north-west of Chester on the former north bank of the River Dee on the Wirral peninsula. In the fourteenth century it formed a small part of the domains of the Earl of Chester (by this time the king’s eldest son, the Prince of Wales). It was not only an agricultural settlement but had fisheries on the river, a thriving port, a royal park and also a castle for defence against the Welsh.

The first Earl of Chester, Hugh d’Avranches, who held almost the whole of Cheshire under William I, granted a third of Shotwick to St Werburgh’s Abbey; this area became known as Church Shotwick (the present-day civil parish of Shotwick) (Burne 1962, 196; Stewart-Brown 1912a, 86). Another third, a strip of about two hundred acres across running east–west, was one third of Great and Little Saughall that belonged to the manor of Shotwick and was known as Woodbank or Rough Shotwick. The third part, retained by the earl, became known as Castle Shotwick and included part of the two townships of Great and Little Saughall. A manor court was held in the Earl of Chester’s part of Shotwick, and it is the rolls from this court for Castle Shotwick that are discussed here.

\* Susan O’Neil, private researcher. Email [s.oneil16@btinternet.com](mailto:s.oneil16@btinternet.com). This article is based on a dissertation for a master’s degree at Liverpool University.

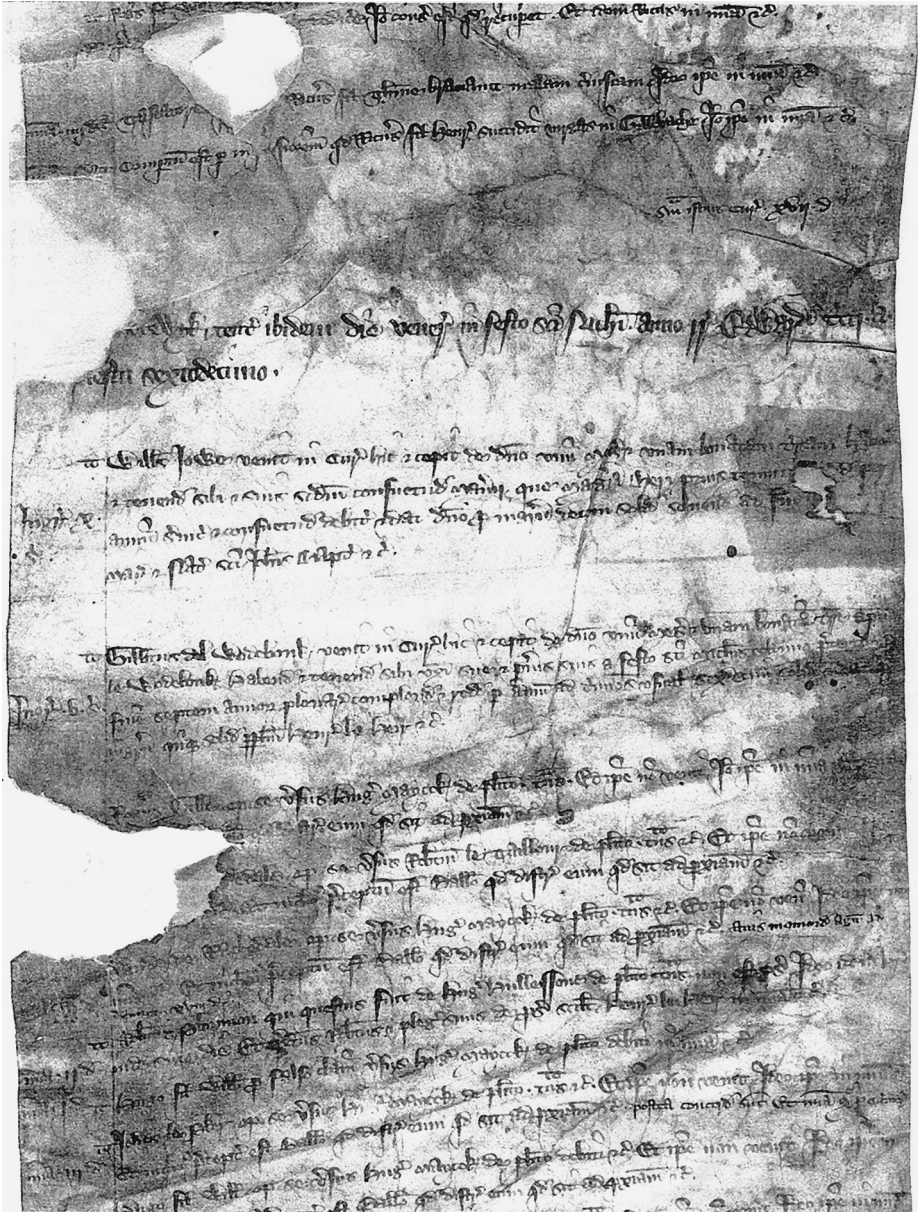
The Shotwick court rolls are kept at the National Archives. Those discussed here are catalogued as Special Collections SC 2/156/12 and SC 2/156/13 and cover the years 1338–44, although some use is also made of a roll for September 1382. The rolls follow a standard format. They open with the title and date of the court and then the cases follow. Amercements or fines, as fixed by the assessors or affeerors, were written over the offender's name in the roll and also recorded in the margin on the left-hand side, and then a total was given at the end of each court session. A transcription and translation of sample records of two hearings — on 18 July and 6 December 1342 — is appended; photographs of the records appear in Ills V.1–2.



above and right: Ill V.1a, b Shotwick court rolls for 18 July and 6 December 1342. Reproduced by kind permission of the National Archives, ref SC 2/156/12

**Existing information about Shotwick manor**

Our existing information on Shotwick is derived largely from Stewart-Brown's works 'The royal manor and park of Shotwick' and the appended 'Extent of the royal manor of Shotwick 1280', and the *Accounts of the chamberlain and other officers of the County of Chester 1301-1360* (Stewart-Brown 1912a, b and Stewart-Brown ed 1910 respectively).





III.V.2 Shotwick court roll for 6 December 1342 (*continued*)

Reproduced by kind permission of the National Archives, ref SC 2/156/12

### *The manor court*

The manor court was the institution used by the lord of the manor to exploit his rights (Keen 1990, 54), including those to his tenants' labour, to heriots, (a form of death duty, usually the deceased's best beast), to entry fines from incoming tenants and to merchet (a fine payable to obtain permission to marry), along with any monopolies he held, for example milling (Keen 1990, 54–6). The lord also benefited financially from any fines or amercements levied for offences. For the tenants the court was a means of enforcing policing within their own communities (Keen 1990, 55) and was popular because it was a domestic court where they could settle issues and agree and enforce communal regulations (Titow 1972, 21) without the trouble or expense of a royal court or the sheriff's tourn (Haydon & Harrop eds 1997, viii). Peasants respected the courts because they themselves participated as jurors and pledges, which meant they could use them to further their own interests to some extent and could pay to have their transactions recorded in the rolls to prevent any future disputes. These records also provided precedents and evidence for disputes, customs, inheritances and transfer of land (Dyer 2002, 145).

At Shotwick the manor court was held by the lord's steward (Bennett 1937, 195). The method of summoning the court varied from manor to manor. Sometimes an announcement was given in church or notice could be given at the tenants' houses by a manorial officer or by a peasant whose property was charged with this duty (*op cit*, 202). The 1280 Extent records such a duty:

FREE TENANTS. Also they say that Thomas son of John holds 2 bovates of land of ancient feoffment without charter and ought to be the summoner of the court and to

carry letters everywhere within the bounds of Cheshire relating to the manor; and he pays no rent. (Stewart-Brown 1912b, 138)

### *The castle*

Shotwick Castle, originally a motte and bailey structure, was probably raised as a defence against the Welsh. It stood on the crest of a steep escarpment overlooking the north bank of the River Dee at a place where the river could be forded. Although there is no evidence to show who built the castle (Stewart-Brown 1912a, 88), it was possibly built or planned as the commencement of a line of fortresses before 1093 by Hugh d'Avranches. The castle was situated on massive earthworks consisting of a large mound, divided by a deep crescent-shaped ditch and surrounded by an entrenchment twenty feet deep (Sulley 1889, 114–15).

In 1274 Roger Gille became constable of the castle but by 1282, with the death of Llewelyn, peace was made with the Welsh and the castle and the surrounding demesne became used more as a mark of royal favour than for any military function (Stewart-Brown 1912a, 92–3). The Chamberlains' Accounts record preparations being made for the Black Prince's second and final visit to the castle in his capacity as Earl of Chester. In the 1356–7 accounts £9 1s 14d was paid to various masons for repairs to the castle (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 235) and the 1357–8 accounts record:

Paid masons, etc, mending the houses of the manor of Shotewyk (*sic*) in part and in cement, iron and steel bought for the said works £23 11s 10½d. (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 241)

Further repairs are recorded in the Chamberlains' Accounts for the year 1353–4:

To Alan, the lord's plumber, repairing defects in the lead roofing at Rathelan, Shotewyke, and in Chester Castle, from the morrow of St Michael in the 27th year of the reign of the king who now is till Dec 9th next following, for 71 days, taking 6d every day for his wages, by the lord's letter directed to the Chamberlain, the date whereof is at Chester 13th Sept in the 27th year. 35s 6d. (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 215)

### *The park*

In 1327 Edward III decided to enclose nearly the whole of the manor of Castle Shotwick to form a park and on 1 October of that year wrote to Richard de Eumary, the Justiciar of Chester, ordering him to start the work (Stewart-Brown 1912a, 100). Parks made profits out of venison, wood and timber but were valued mainly for pleasure. They were also used as political tools, to make alliances with visitors who were allowed permission to hunt.

The park became known as Burnilhaye or Burnellswood Park, and enclosure started immediately, as an entry in the Chamberlains' Accounts for 1326–7 shows:

Divers works done about making the ditch of Burnilhaye Park, by the king's precept £46 10s 3d.

(Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 105). (This amount is equivalent to £18,700.00 on the 2009 Retail Price Index: [http:// www.measuringworth.com/poweruk/](http://www.measuringworth.com/poweruk/)).

It may also have been necessary to construct a deer leap which enabled deer from outside the enclosure to enter it but not to leave it (Stewart-Brown 1912b, 100–1). Fallow deer produced the best venison, and the Chamberlains' Accounts for 1347–8 record the cost of purchasing salt to preserve the meat:

In salt bought for salting two stags and five does of good condition taken by Sir Thomas de Ferrers as well in Shotewyke park as in the forest of Wyrhale for the lord's larder, 1qr 6lbs of salt, the price of the quarter 2s ..... 3s 6d. (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 126)

The whole of the park area was enclosed by palings. Enclosing the park in 1349–50 cost 48s 3d. Repairs had to be undertaken after a few years:

Paid for mending the enclosure of Shotewyk Park with thorns and brambles for keeping the game there until it can be enclosed with pales, as was ordered by the lord's council and for making 13,500 pales made in Eulowe wood for enclosing the said park, viz, for 500, 10s. And for carriage of the same pales from the said wood to the said park, taking 9s 6d per 1,000 ... £19 17s 2d. (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 129 and 215)

Wood from Shotwick Park was valued for building and was used in many situations and places. Oak was used for repairing the Dee mills and in many buildings: for example, twenty oaks went to repair the king's castles and mills in North Wales and two oaks to the nuns of Chester to repair their houses and church (Stewart-Brown 1912a, 109). In 1347 the Chamberlains' Accounts record that John Colle of Chester purchased some wood, presumably for fuel:

And for 60s received of John Colle, baker of Chester, for 10,000 faggots sold to him in Shotewyke Park for saving the underwood there, by the Chamberlain's letters dated at Westminster, 26 Dec 21 Edw III. (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 122)

In 1347–8 the Accounts record the even larger sum of 72s 5¼d for cutting one quarter of the underwood, enclosing the quarter with a hedge and making faggots of the underwood (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 124).

### *Livestock*

Shotwick manor only kept enough cattle for ploughing and manuring the fields. Stock was often moved round to and from the earl's other manors at Drakelowe, Frodsham and Macclesfield. In 1353–4 the Ministers' Accounts record that one bull, ten cows, three stirks and six calves were moved to Macclesfield (Hewitt, 1929, 53). The Chamberlains' Accounts for 1358–9 record foals being sent to Macclesfield:

... eight foals stamped with the lord's sign, received of William Jonet, reeve of the manor of Shotewyk on 27th Dec, in the 32nd year of the King who now is, by indenture; one black whereof is four years, with a long white mark on its forehead; the second black, of the same age; the third brown, of the same age; the fourth black, three years old; the fifth black, of the same age, with a white star on its forehead; the sixth grey, with a long white mark on its nose, of the same age; the seventh sorrel, of the same age; the eighth grisel, with a long white mark on its forehead, of the same age. (Stewart-Brown ed 1910, 256)

### *Land tenure and agricultural practices in the manorial Extent and accounts*

Part of the manor was held in 1280 under the local custom of ‘avowry’, which offered legal protection to fugitives from other counties and also bestowed on them a special status which passed to their heirs (Booth 1981, 3, 9). The Extent shows that eight named people paid 4d annually for this and there are others not named, but the amount of payment must have varied because the total amount paid for avowries was 5s 6d. (Stewart-Brown 1912a, 20; Bennett 1937, 337)

The 1280 Extent also gives details of land held by both free and bondsmen. The land was measured in bovates and was farmed in selions (strips) and butts (short strips). A bovate was otherwise known as an ox-gang, or as much land as an ox could plough in a year and varied in amount according to the system of tillage (Bennett 1937, 337). The Extent lists thirty bovates, each of the unusually small size of three acres each, valued at 3s, with a total value of £4 10s. (This amount is the equivalent of £1,980.00 on the 2009 Retail Price Index: <http://www.measuringworth.com/poweruk/>). However, the Cheshire acre was customarily 10,240 square yards, more than double the size of the statute measure (Tonkinson 1999, 7), so each bovate was probably about half the size of those elsewhere in the country, which were typically about fifteen statute acres in extent.

For bondsmen, labour services such as ploughing, harrowing, sewing and reaping on the lord’s demesne could be an obligation of land holding. The 1280 Extent lists twenty-four men and one woman (Edusa the widow) who between them had twenty-three holdings, eighteen of which were of one bovate and five of two bovates and who owed regular manual labour:

... and he owes one day’s ploughing in the winter at his own cost with all the oxen working in his own plough and one day’s ploughing in Lent at the cost of the lord and he owes 3 boon-days in autumn of one man, this is one day-work at the cost of the lord.

Boon services were theoretically given freely by the tenants for love of the lord (Bennett 1937, 110), although the lord had to pay in kind. The cost of such boon works appears in the manorial accounts for 1351–2:

Expenses of 18 plough-boon-works at the Lenten sowing	3s 0d
To William Maycock, serjeant of the manor in fee, for supervising the said works, same time, 1 day	2d
To same William for holding three courts at the said manor, time of the account	6d
To the same for supervising the reapers in harvest-time on the day called ‘le Bienday’	2d
Total	3s 10d

Waste lands were tracts within the manor that were uncultivated. The peasants depended on the waste for many things essential to their everyday lives, including food and fuel and pannage for pigs (Keen 1990, 49). The 1280 Extent lists the pannage as being worth 10s. In the waste a peasant could exercise his rights to take wood, and these rights fell into three categories. Hous-bote was the right of a tenant to take wood from his lord’s estate for the

repair of his house; haye-bote was the right granted by the lord to the peasant to take wood or thorns to repair fences; and fire-bote was the wood granted to a tenant by the lord for the purpose of fuel (Bennett 1937, 337–8). Wood was also needed for making agricultural implements and domestic utensils. The 1280 Extent shows that the value of fallen wood was 6s 6d a year. Pasturage also required services or payments. The Extent lists the amounts each area paid:

... pasturage is worth yearly 19s; of which the township of Salghal pays 10s; Wodebank 4s; the township of Shetewick 18d or 18 hens and does one day's ploughing or 10d, and one boon-day in autumn or 18d; and the township of Crabwell of these renders 6d, or does one day's ploughing and one boon-day or give 8d. (Stewart-Brown 1912a, 29)

With only a very small amount of arable land available to each tenant it was not possible to make a living out of farming alone, and another means of livelihood was essential. The fishery at Shotwick provided another very important means. The fishery was a valuable one, as is shown in the 1280 Extent:

Also they say that the fishery is worth annually 10 marks [£6 13s 4d] of which 4 weirs are worth to rent £4, and the men of Salghall pay 4 marks [£2 13s 4d] for the fishery with their nets: and the lord shall have from the fishery half of each catch of salmon caught by nets as his fee.

By 1357–8 the value had increased. The joint value of two fisheries at Shotwick, the Castle lake and the Floodyards was £8 13s 4d (Hewitt 1929, 186), equivalent to £2,850.00 by the 2009 Retail Price Index: <http://www.measuringworth.com/poweruk/>.

## **The court rolls**

### *The manor court*

Courts could meet every three weeks or so but in Shotwick they were held far less frequently. The rolls record two or three courts each year from 1338 to 1344 inclusive, with the exception of 1341 when only one session is recorded. The sessions had to be held within the manor but the actual meeting place could be anywhere convenient. Unfortunately, the Shotwick court rolls give no indication of the place where the court was held, although it is likely to have been in a room in Shotwick Castle.

### *Land tenure and agricultural practice in the manor court rolls*

The land in Shotwick was managed in the period of the court rolls by the earl's agents. The land of the manorial tenants was either free, servile (or 'bond' or 'in villeinage') or held by lease. Free tenants could dispose of their land without reference to the lord, but servile or villain tenants had to operate through the manor court and pay entry fines. An example of these payments appears in the Shotwick rolls for 1341:

William son of Adam of Great Salghale came in court here and took from the lord 1 messuage and [all] the land which [ ] Hokenhull formerly held in Wodebank, term of 18 years ... rent 16s 0d, entry fine 10s 0d, meanwhile William will do all other services and customs.

(SC 2/156/12m3d)



The rolls contain a number of cases of tenants asking for an inquiry regarding property and land ownership, in some cases regarding hereditary rights to land. An example of just such a case appears in 1341, when Richard Bars gave 12d to the lord for an inquiry into whether he had the right to one messuage and one bovate of land which John Shakeloh held. An inquisition was taken which gave John the right to the property ‘by his blood’ (SC 2/156/12m3d) and concluded that Richard had no right because Richard his father only had the property for the term of his life. Richard Bars would have had to pay for this enquiry but the payment meant that the decision would be enrolled on the record (Bennett 1937, 213). In 1342 a certain Gilbert del Wodebank made certain that his family would inherit his lands and property by having all the details of his transaction enrolled at the court when he took one messuage and one bovate from the lord. The entry on the roll stipulates that the land at le Wodebank is his:

... to have and to hold to himself, his wife and his children from Michaelmas last. Term of 7 years rent 16s, entry-fine 5s. (SC 2/156/12m4)

In 1339 the court rolls record that Hugh Bars took from the lord one butt which was fallow and which used to be a right of way (SC 2/156/12 m2d). The presence of fallow land indicates a crop rotation system but we have few details of how it operated. Although the main crop produced in Cheshire was oats (Tonkinson 1999, 17), a variety of crops was grown in Shotwick: corn, oats, wheat, maslin, rye, barley and peas (SC 6/783/17). An example of the amount and variety of crops that a tenant could produce occurs in the rolls for 1338:

Roger son of Hugh (dead) had: 1½ selions of wheat, 4 selions of peas, 1 butt less a quarter of oats and 3 butts of barley. (SC 2/156/12 m1d)

The rolls contain a rare reference to ‘co-aration’, that is the business of tenants clubbing together to make a plough team of eight oxen. This cooperation between the tenants would have been an important element in the successful working of the common arable fields. In 1339 Richard Richemon, William Hermyst, Malyn widow of Gille the Reeve, William son of John, William Jouwe, Richard Gurdetre and Richard Brass were instructed by the manor court to join together to plough according to the custom of the manor on pain of a fine of 6s 8d (SC 2/156/12 m2d). Two years later in 1341 the court roll shows that William Ermyt and William Jouwe did not yoke their plough animals with their neighbours and were both fined 12d (SC 2/156/12 m3d). Cooperation was also important during the actual ploughing itself. In 1343 two cases came before the court when Roger Gille, who still had corn in his strips, complained that William Filcokessme and Robert le Taillour had damaged his corn with their ploughs. Damages were awarded to a total of 6d (SC 2/156/12 m4d).

Control of livestock, including the oxen which pulled the ploughs, was also an important part of agricultural management. For letting their animals stray or do damage against the prohibition or in the lord’s defence (Shotwick Park) in the seven years from 1338 to 1344, fifty-eight men and three women appeared in court, many of whom were repeat offenders. Fines ranged from 1d to 1s (SC 2/156/12).

The fisheries also appear in the roll as a matter of business. In 1339 John le Parker and Roger Gille took tolls in the River Dee for one year, paying 18s for them. In 1340 Henry Gille charged himself 12s 8d for the fishery of one lake below Shotwick Park until the

feast of St Mark the Evangelist (SC 2/156/12 m3). In the same year Richard Hockenhall, William son of John of Shotwick and Richard son of Robert of Shotwick took the same fishery at farm at the said feast for one year at a cost of 26s 8d (SC 2/156/12 m3).

Brewing provided another source of income and, although it was mostly women who brewed ale, the Shotwick rolls record more men than women (17 men; 6 women) who were fined, many of them repeatedly, for related offences. For producing bad ale, fines ranging from 2d to 6d seem to have been regularly imposed. A fine of 4d was imposed for selling ale without paying stallage. Breaking the assize of ale cost anything from 2d to 6d. In 1339 four men and two women were fined up to 4d for selling ale at  $\frac{3}{4}$ d beyond the proclamation (SC 2/156/12m2). Fines were also imposed for brewing without view of the ale tasters. In 1340 Henry le Chaplain appears in the court for this offence, for which he was duly fined 6d (SC 2/156/12m3). This Henry may have been Henry de Eccles who was the incumbent of St Michael's Church in Shotwick from 1333 (Richards 1947, 302). Unfortunately, the court rolls do not give us the names of the ale tasters in Shotwick until the court held on 15th October 1408, when they are named as John Huchensone and Gruffydd de Couper.

### Conclusion

After studying the rolls it is apparent that, whatever national events were taking place, the day-to-day life of the tenants of Shotwick did not change very much, if at all, in the five years covered by the rolls. They were bound to the soil and worked in accordance with the changing seasons, the jurisdiction of the manor court and the teachings and festivals of the church. They may have fought and sued their neighbours in the manor court, but they had to live and work with them, and the rolls illustrate clearly just how much they depended on those same neighbours for cooperation in their agricultural work.

### Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the National Archives for permission to reproduce photographs of a sample of the rolls and the anonymous reviewer for a number of suggestions.

### Transcription and translation of an extract from the Shotwick court rolls for 18 July and 6 December 1842 (SC 2/156/12)

*Curia de Shotewyk' tenta ibidem die Jovis proxima post festum translacionis sancti Swithun anno regni regis Edwardi Tercij a conquestu sextodecimo.*

Court of Shotwick held there on the Thursday after the feast of the translation of St Swithun in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Edward III after the Conquest [18 July 1342].

*Misericordie iiiid*

*Hugo Brond (Broud?) attachiatus per unum affrum in blado domini. Radulphus Maycok' attachiatus persuccisione in defensum domini. Ideo ipsi in misericordia et cetera.*

- Amercement 3d Hugo Brond (Broud?) attached for one beast in the Lord's corn. Ralph Maycok attached for cutting in the Lord's defence. Therefore, they are in mercy *et cetera*.
- Dies datus est Rogero Gille querenti et Hugo<sup>1</sup> Maycok' de placito debiti usque proximam prece partium et cetera.*  
(<sup>1</sup>Should be dative).
- Day given to Roger Gille plaintiff and Hugo Maycok in a plea of debt until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.
- Misericordia id* *Rogerus filius Ricardi optulit se versus Simonem filio Johannis de placito debiti. Et ipse venit et per licentiam concordati sunt et Simon ponit se in misericordia et cetera.*
- Amercement 1d Roger son of Richard versus Simon son of John in a plea of debt. And he comes and they have agreed and Simon places himself in mercy *et cetera*.
- Misericordia id* *Willelmus filius Ada optulit se versus Willelmum Jowe de placito transgressionis et cetera. Et ipse venit et per licentiam concordati sunt. Et Willelmum Jowe ponit se in misericordia et cetera.*
- Amercement 1d William son of Ada versus William Jowe in a plea of trespass *et cetera*. And he comes and they have agreed. And William Jowe places himself in mercy *et cetera*.
- Misericordia iid* *Rogerus filius Elia qui questus fuit de Rogero preposito de Blakene de placito debiti non est prosecutus idem Rogerus prepositus inde sine die. Et predictus Rogerus filius Elia et plegii suis de prosequendo scilicet Rogerus Gille.*
- Amercement 2d Roger son of Ellis who complained of Roger the Reeve of Blacon in a plea of debt. Prosecution will not take place until a date not yet given. And the aforesaid Roger son of Ellis and his pledges of prosecuting namely Roger Gille.
- Dies datus est Dande de Rachedale querenti et Roberto le Tailleur de placito transgressionis usque ad proximam prece partium et cetera.*
- Day given to Dande de Rochdale, plaintiff and Robert le Taylor in a plea of trespass until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*Dies datus est Dande de Rachedale querenti et Hugoni Maycok' de placito transgressionis usque ad proximam prece partium et cetera.*

Day give to Dande de Rochdale, plaintiff and Hugo Maycok' in a plea of trespass until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*Misericordia id*

*Ricardus Gurdetre optulit se versus Margeriam filiam Simonis filii Johannis de placito transgressionis et cetera. Et ipsa venit, et per licentiam concordati sunt. Et predicta Margeria ponit se in misericordia per plegim predicti Simonis et cetera.*

*Amercement 1d*

Richard Gurdetre versus Margery daughter of Simon son of John in a plea of trespass *et cetera*. And she comes and they have agreed. And the aforesaid Margery places herself in mercy by the pledge of the aforesaid Simon *et cetera*.

*Dies datus est Johanni Le Parker querenti et Hugoni Maycok' de placito transgressionis usque proximam prece partium et cetera.*

Day given to John Le Parker, plaintiff, and Hugo Maycok in a plea of trespass until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*[Die]s datus est Roberto Ploumon querenti et Hugoni Hullemsme de placito transgressionis usque proximam prece partium et cetera.*

Day given to Robert Plomon, plaintiff and Hugo Hullemsme in a plea of trespass until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*[Die]s datus est Hugoni filio Willami querenti et Hugoni Maycok' de placito debiti usque proximam prece partium et cetera.*

Day given to Hugo son of William, plaintiff and Hugo Maycok in a plea of debt until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*[...] filius Willelmi optulit se versus Ricardum Bars et Simonem filium Johannis de placito quod reddant ei quinque solid[es] ei solvere pro Willelmo Le Longe et*

*cetera. Et ipse venunt et non possunt hoc dedicere. Ideo consideratum est quod recuperet [...] in misericordia et cetera.*

[...] son of William versus Richard Bars and Simon son of John in a plea that they should render to him 5 shillings which he claims to have paid on behalf of William Le Longe *et cetera*. And he comes and they could not deny it. Therefore it is considered that he should recover [...] in mercy *et cetera*.

*Dies datus est Hugoni filius Willelmi querenti et Hugoni Maycok' de placito debiti usque proximam prece partium et cetera.*

Day given to Hugo son of William plaintiff and Hugo Maycok in a plea of debit until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*Dies datus est Rogero Gille querenti et Willelmo Filcokessone de placito transgressionis usque proximam prece partium et cetera.*

Day given to Roger Gill plaintiff and William Filcokessone in a plea of trespass until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*[...] Rogero Gille querenti et Johannis le Taillour de placito transgressionis usque proximam prece partium et cetera.*

[...] Roger Gille plaintiff and John le Taylor in a plea of trespass until the next (court) at the request of the parties *et cetera*.

*Rogerus filius W[illelmi optulit] se versus Ricardum Bars de placito quod reddat ei novem denarios quos ei debet et cetera. Et [...] ideo consideratum est quod recuperet. Et idem Ricardus in misericordia, et cetera.*

Roger son of William versus Richard Bars in a plea that he should render (give back) to him 9d which he owes to him *et cetera*. And [...] therefore it is considered that he should recover it. And the same Richard is in mercy *et cetera*.

*Misericordia iiid*

*Tastator[es ...] Ricardi filius Thome brasavit malam cervisiam. Ideo ipse in misericordia et cetera.*

Amercement 3d                      The tasters [present that] Richard son of Thomas brewed bad ale. Therefore he is in mercy *et cetera*.

*Mis[...]*                                      *Comptum est per inquisitionem quod Ricardus filius Henrici succidit virgas in Gillebache. Ideo ipse in misericorida et cetera.*

Amercement [...]                      It was found by the manor court jury that Richard son of Henry cut sticks at Gillebache. Therefore he is in mercy *et cetera*.

*Summa istius Curie xviii.*  
Total of this court 17d.

*[Curia de] [Sho]tewyk' tenta ibidem die Veneris in festo sancti Nicholaus anno regni regis Edwardi Tercii a conquestu sextodecimo.*

[Court of] Shotwick held there on the Friday in the feast of St Nicholas in the sixteenth year of the reign of Edward III after the Conquest [6 December 1342].

*Misericordia xd*                              *Willelmus Jowe venit in curia hic et [...] de domino unam messuagium et unam bovatom terre habendum et tenendum sibi et suis consuetudinem manerii qui Margeria Beri prius tenuit [...] per annum et consuetudinem debit et dat domino pro ingressu decem solidos [...] nato sancti Johannis.*

Amercement 10d                      William Jowe came in court here and [took] from the lord 1 messuage and 1 bovate of land, to have and to hold to him and his, according to the custom of the manor, which Margery Beri held [for a rent of ...] a year; he owes the customary [rent] and pays and entry fine of 10s [...] on the nativity of St John.

*Gilbertus de Wodebank' venit in curia hic et cepit de domino unam messuagium et unam bovatom terre le Wodebank habendum et tenendum sibi uxori [...] suis a festo sancti ?septum [...] sextodecimo [...] ?solidos. Henry le Heir et cetera.*

Gilbert del Wodebank came here in court and took from the lord 1 messuage and 1 bovate of land at the Wodebank, to have and to hold to himself, his wife and his children from Michelmas last, [?term of] ?7 years; [?rent] 16s; [?entry-fine 5s 0d] [ ?pledge] Henry le Heir *et cetera*.

*Rogerus Gille optulit se versus Hugoni Maycok' de placito transgressionis. Et ipse non venit. Ideo ipse in misericordia. [...] dstringat eum quod sit ad proximam et cetera.*

Roger Gille versus Hugo Maycok in a plea of trespass. He did not come. Therefore he is in mercy. [The bailiff is ordered to] distrain him to be at the next (court) *et cetera*.

*[...] edale optulit se versus Robertum le Taillour de placito transgressionis et cetera. Et ipse non venit [...] Et nichilominus preceptum est ballivo quod dstringat eum quod sit ad proximam et cetera.*

[...] edale versus Robert le Taillour, in a plea of trespass *et cetera*. He did not come [...]. And nevertheless the bailiff is ordered to distrain him to be at the next (court) *et cetera*.

*Dande de Rochdale optulit se versus Hugoni Maycok' de placito transgressionis et cetera. Et ipse non venit. Ideo ipse [...] Et nichilominus est ballivo quod dstringat eum quod sit ad proximam et cetera.*

Dande de Rochdale versus Hugo Maycok in a plea of trespass *et cetera*. He did not come. [...]. And so he [...]. And nevertheless the bailiff is ordered to distrain him to be at the next (court) *et cetera*.

Misericordia iid	<i>Robertus Ploymon qui questus fruit de Hugoni Hullessme de placito transgressionis.</i>
Amercement 2d	Robert Ploymon complained of Hugo Hullessme in a plea of trespass.
Misericordia iid	<i>Hugoni filius Willelmus pro [...] versus Hugoni Maycok' de placito debiti in misericordia et cetera.</i>
Amercement 2d	Hugo son of William for [...] versus Hugo Maycok' in a plea of debt in mercy <i>et cetera</i> .
Misericordia iiid	<i>Johanni le Parker optulit se versus Hugoni Maycok' de placito transgressionis et cetera. Et ipse non venit. Ideo ipse in misericordia. Et nichilominus preceptum est ballivo quod dstringat eum quod sit ad proximam et cetera.</i>
Amercement 3d	John le Parker versus Hugo Maycok in a plea of trespass <i>et cetera</i> . He did not come. Therefore he is in mercy. And

nevertheless the bailiff is ordered to distrain him to be at the next (court) *et cetera*.

*Hugo filius Willelmi optulit se versus Hugoni Maycok' de placito debiti et cetera. Et ipse non venit. Ideo in misericordia et cetera. Et nichilominus preceptum est ballivo quod dstringat eum quod sit ad proximam et cetera.*

Hugo son of William versus Hugo Maycok in a plea of debt *et cetera*. And he did not come. Therefore he is in mercy *et cetera*. And nevertheless the bailiff is ordered to distrain him to be at the next (court) *et cetera*.

*Rogerus Gille optulit se versus Willelmum Filcokessone de placito transgressionis et cetera. Et ipse non venit. Ideo ipse in misericordia. Et nichilominus preceptum est ballivo quod dstringat eum quod sit ad proximam et cetera.*

Roger Gille versus William Filcokessone in a plea of trespass *et cetera*. He did not come. Therefore he is in mercy *et cetera*. And nevertheless the bailiff is ordered to distrain him to be at the next (court) *et cetera*.

*Misericordia iiid*

*Rogerus Gille optulit se versus Roberto le Taillour de placito transgressionis et cetera. Et ipse non venit. Ideo ipse in misericordia. Et nichilominus preceptum est ballivo quod dstringat eum quod sit ad proximam et cetera.*

Amercement 3d

Roger Gille versus Robert le Taillour in a plea of trespass *et cetera*. And he did not come. Therefore he is in mercy *et cetera*. And nevertheless the bailiff is ordered to distrain him to be at the next (court) *et cetera*.



## Bibliography

- Bennett, H S 1937 *Life on the English manor*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Booth, P H W 1981 *The financial administration of the lordship and county of Chester 1272–1377*. Manchester: Manchester University Press for Chetham Society. (Remains Historical and Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester ser 3, **28**)
- Burne, R V H 1962 *The monks of Chester*. London: SPCK
- Dyer, C 2002 *Making a living in the Middle Ages: the people of Britain 850–1520*. New Haven; London: Yale University Press
- Haydon, E S & Harrop, J H eds 1997 *Widworthy manorial court rolls 1453–1617*. Honiton: Marwood
- Hewitt, H J 1929 *Mediaeval Cheshire: an economic and social history of Cheshire in the reigns of the three Edwards*. Manchester: Chetham Society. (Remains Historical and Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester new ser **88**)
- Keen, M 1990 *English society in the later Middle Ages 1348–1500*. London: Allen Lane
- Richards, R 1947 *Old Cheshire churches: a survey of their history, fabric and furniture with records of the older monuments*. London; Malvern: Batsford
- Stewart-Brown, R 1912a The royal manor and park of Shotwick. *Trans Hist Soc Lancashire Cheshire* **64**, 82–137
- Stewart-Brown, R 1912b Extent of the royal manor of Shotwick 1280. *Trans Hist Soc Lancashire Cheshire* **64**, 138–42
- Stewart-Brown, R ed 1910 *Accounts of the chamberlain and other officers of the county of Chester 1301–1360*. (Rec Soc Lancashire Cheshire **59**)
- Sulley, P 1889 *The hundred of Wirral*. Birkenhead: Haram
- Titow, J Z 1969 *English rural society 1200–1350*. London: Allen & Unwin
- Tonkinson, A M 1999 *Macclesfield in the late fourteenth century: communities of town and forest*. Manchester: Carnegie for Chetham Society. (Remains Historical and Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester ser 3, **42**)

