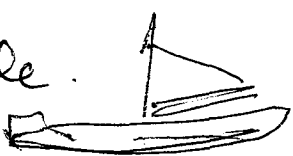


Buddle



NEWTON PARK COLLEGE

Long flies to catch Lead 1901

St Catharine

Priddy

"LORD CHOCK'S" MINING LAWS

X There are several copies of these, the oldest probably being of the time of Philip and Mary. They purport to refer to a judgement by Lord Chocke ('Lord' being a courtesy title for a judge) about grazing rights in the time of Edward IV (1461-83) to which a copy of the 'Laws is added. Chocke was Richard Chock of Stanton Drew, who bought Ashton Court in 1454; he died in 1486 and his monument may be seen in Long Ashton Church. In 1469 he adjudicated in a dispute about lands at Axbridge.

It is probable that his judgement was on the grazing rights only and that the laws are much older.

THE OLD AUNCIENT CUSTOME OF THE OCCUPACON OF THE MINEDRIES IN AND UPON THE KINGS MATIES FFORREST OR MEYNDEEPE Within HIS MATIES COUNTY OF SOMSETT.

BEE IT RIGHT WELL KNOWNE That this is enrolled in the Kings Highnesse Exchequer by the time of King Edward the fourth of a great debate that was in the County of Somrset Betweene the Lord Bonvills Tenants of Chuton and the Prior of Greene Oare the said Prior complained unto King Edward of great Injuries and wrongs that hee had upon Meyndeepe being the Kings Forest. The said King Edward comanded my Lord Chocke being Chiefe Justice of England to goe down into the Countrey upon Meyndeepe upon paine of his high displeasure. The said Lord Chocke sate upon a place of My Lord of Bathes called the forge upon Meyndeepe where hee commanded all the Comoners to appeare there and in especiall the foure Lords Royall of Meyndeepe THAT IS TO SAY my Lord the Bishop of Bath and Wells my Lord of Glastenbury my Lord Bonvil Lord of Chuton and my Lord of Richmond-Castle with all the appearance to the number of ten thousand people. A proclamacon was made to enquire of all the saide Companie how they would bee ordered. Then they all with one assent made answer and said That they would bee ordered and tryed by the foure Lords Royall. Then the foure Lords Royall were agreed That all the Comoners of Meyndeepe dwelling in theire Tenements being within the bounds of Meyndeepe should turne out theire Cattle att theire outletts as much the summer as they bee able to keepe the Winter without hounding or pounding upon whose ground soever they went to take theire course and recourse. To this the said foure Lords did put theire Seales. And alsoe were agreed that whosoever should breake any of these bounds should forfeite to the King one thousand Markes and all the Comoners theire bodyes and goods att the Kings pleasure that doth either hound or pound.

IRROT: in Secor Dnae-Reginae (i.e. "enrolled in the Exchequer of our Lady the Queen")

THE OLD AUNCIENT custome of the occupacon of the Mynedries in and upon the Kings Maties Forrest of Meyndeepe wthin his Maties County of Somsett being one of the Foure Staples of England wch hath bene exercised used and continued through the said Forrest from the time whereof man now living hath now memory is as hereafter doth particularly ensue:

Brimingham Grass W. Sherriff & Reynham & Selford Grass bills.

....continued.

Free range.  
Chase with hounds  
& put in a pound

right to dig  
1. FIRST That if any man whatsoever hee bee that doth intend to venter his life to bee a workman in the mynedery Occupacon hee must first of all require Lycence of the Lord of the Soyle where hee doth purpose to work or in his absence of his officer as Lead Reve or Bailye and the Lord nother his Bayliffe or officer can deny him.

2. ITEM That after the first Lycence had the workman shall never need to aske againe but to bee at his freewill to pitch within the said Forrest and to Breake ground where and in what place itt shall best like him to his behofte and profitt using himselfe justlie and trulie.

3. ITEM That every man that doth begin his pitt or Groove shall have his hacks throw two wayes after the Rake; And note that hee that doth throwe the hack must stand in his said Groove to the girdle or wäst And then now man shall or may worke within the Compasse of his said hacks thros.

4. ITEM That when a workman hath landed any oare hee may carry the same to clensing and blowing to what minedrie hee shall please for the more speedy making of the same soe that hee doe trulie pay the tenth thereof to the Lord of the soyle where itt was landed.

5. ITEM That if any Lord or his officer have once given Lycence to any man to build or sitt upon any Hearth or washing house to wash and cleanse and blow theire oare hee who hath soe once leave shall for ever keepe itt sell itt or give itt to whome itt shall please him soe that he doe trulie and justlie pay the Lott Lead wch is the tenth pound that shall be blowne att the same Hearth or hearth and alsoe if hee doe keepe itt tenantable as the Craft doth require.

6. ITEM That if any man of that occupacon doe pick or steale any Lead or Lead oare to the value of xiii. ob. (note: 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d.) the Lord or his officer may arrest all his Lead and oare house or hearths wth all his Grooves and workes and keepe them as a forfeit to his owne use and shall take the person that soe hath offended and bring him where his house or worke and all his tooles and Instruments belonging to the same occupacon bee and put him into his house or worke and fire in all together about him and banish him from tha occupacon before all the Myneders for ever.

7. ITEM That if ever that person doe pick or steale there any more hee shall be tryed by the Common Law, for this Custome and law hath noe more to doe with him.

8. ITEM That every Lord of soyle or soyles ought to keepe tow Mynedrie Courts by the yeare and to swaere twelve men or more of the same occupacon for the redresse of all misdemeancours and wrongs touching the Mynedries.

9. ITEM The Lord or Lords mau make three manner of Arrest the first is for strife between man and man for theire workes under the earth. The second is for his owne dutye for Lead or oare wherescever hee find itt wthin the said Forrest. The third is upon felons goods of the same occupacon wheresoever hee find itt wthin the same Hill.

10. ITEM That if any man by any meanes of this doubtfull and dangerous occupacon doe by misfortune take his death as by falling the earth upon him by drowning by stifeling wth fire or otherwise as in times past many have bene The workmen of this occupacon are bound to fetch the body out of the earth and bring him to Christian buriall att theire owne proper Costs and Charges although hee bee threescore fathom under the earth as heretofore hath bene And the Coroner or any other officer att Jurye shall not have to doe wth him or them.

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360/14 dec