

Glossary of Terms for Manorial Records

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I prepared this glossary as part of the 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians' course offered by Pharos Teaching & Tutoring Limited, <https://www.pharostutors.com/> in 2019. The course notes referenced below may have been updated since that time.

Acre: Unit of land measurement in the British Imperial and United States Customary systems, equal to 43,560 square feet, or 160 square rods. One acre is equivalent to 0.4047 hectares (4,047 square metres). Derived from Middle English aker (from Old English aecer) and akin to Latin ager ("field"), the acre had one origin in the typical area that could be plowed in one day with a yoke of oxen pulling a wooden plough. The Anglo-Saxon acre was defined as a strip of land 1 × 1/10 furlong, or 40 × 4 rods (660 × 66 feet). One acre gradually came to denote a piece of land of any shape measuring the present 4,840 square yards. Larger and smaller variant acres, ranging from 0.19 to 0.911 hectares, were once employed throughout the British Isles.

Source: Encyclopædia Britannica Online, <https://www.britannica.com/science/acre-unit-of-measurement> [accessed 4 Nov 2019].

Acres, roods and perches: The areal measure of land. 1 acre = 4 roods; 1 rood = 40 perches. The customary acre varied in size but was often based on a 21-foot (7-yard) perch, giving an acre of approximately 1.6 statute acres (0.65 ha).

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/terrier.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Admissions and surrenders: Incoming and outgoing tenants. New tenants could only take legal possession of land using this process. The use of the phrase "to the use and behoof of" also helps you locate these admissions. The same phrase in Latin is ad opus et usum.[1]

Separate registers of admissions and surrenders may have been kept by the steward; possibly in cases where court sessions were not held regularly in the 18th and 19th centuries and transactions concerning copyhold land were being enacted outside of the court, probably in a solicitor's office.[2]

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 4.*
2. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 12.*

Affeerer: Chosen from the tenants at the court to oversee the setting of fines. Their job was to ensure that fines were fair and they had the power to reduce the fine if appropriate.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 3.

Aletaster: see that all beer brewed in their divisions was sound and of a required strength; that the measures were true, and prices as fixed; and that the brewers in no way broke 'the Assize of beer'.

Source: Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield – The Story of some Wealden Manors* (Courier, 1928), pp. 77-78, <http://theweald.org/d10.asp?bookid=Pullein000> [accessed 27 Oct 2019].

Amercement: The 'fine' imposed by the court for breach of a byelaw or order. In origin the word reflects the fact that the offender was deemed by his offence to have placed himself 'at the lord's mercy', from which the payment of the amercement freed him.

Source: *Cumbrian Manorial Records*,
<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/glossary/> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Appointments:

- appointed by the **Lord**: steward, bailiff, hayward
- appointed by the **Bailiff**: jury including foreman and deputy foreman
- appointed by the **Jury**: constables, ale-tasters, carni-ter, bread weigher, surveyor of chimneys and mantles, scavengers, leather sealer

Source: *Wareham Court Leet*, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Assessor: Assessed the fines payable for each offence.

Source: *Seven Somerton Court Rolls*,
<https://archive.org/details/sevensomertonco00sociqooq/page/n12> [accessed 30 Oct 2019].

Assizes of Bread and Ale: Although there is evidence of earlier less general legal requirements, legislation was enacted in the 13th century to regulate 'the price, weight, and quality of the bread and beer manufactured and sold in town, village, and hamlet'. [1] This legislation included the Assize of Bread, the Assize of Beer and the *Lucrum Pistoris* (Gain of the Baker). In addition, the *Judicium Pillorie* provides further detail on punishments of offending brewers and bakers. [2] While legislation in later centuries relieved some of the requirements, the statutes were not repealed until the 19th century.

Infractions regarding these statutes may be prevalent in manor court rolls. My personal research on a manor in Devon (court rolls from 1377) provides evidence of standard amercements on brewers and tapsters recurring in almost all court sessions. Such consistency may indicate that rather than defendants actually breaking the assize, the cases may instead be an early start to the licensing system that emerged by the 16th century, charging standard fees as a cost of doing business. [3]

Sources:

1. Fordham University, 'Medieval Sourcebook: The Assizes of Bread, Beer, & *Lucrum Pistoris*', <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/breadbeer.asp> [accessed 24 Oct 2019].
2. Fordham University, 'Medieval Sourcebook: *Judicium Pillorie* (The Judgment of the Pillory)', <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/judgepillory.asp> [accessed 24 Oct 2019].
3. *Manor Rolls, Bratton Clovelly, 1377-1685, A2A ref 314M series*, Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter.

Attorney: someone usually a resident in the manor who acts on behalf of someone who does not live there but is being admitted to land, or surrendering land.

Source: *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Chat 3b, 4 Nov 2019.*

Bailiff: The bailiff, also appointed by the lord or lady, was the chief administrator or general manager dealing with the day-to-day problems in the manor. He knew all the tenants and their property and generally assisted the steward. Both the steward and the bailiff would have expected to receive a salary for their work.[1] Responsible for summoning the court, executing its decisions and collecting all fines and other charges; the freeholders give judgement in all actions by 'most voices'. [2]

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 9.*
2. *Bromsgrove Court Leet, <https://www.bromsgrovecourtleet.co.uk/history> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].*

Barton: historically synonymous with a feudal demesne in the English West Country, now typically meaning a large farmhouse or the manor house

Source: *Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barton>.*

Baulk (balk or headland): a grassy, unploughed strip of land within an open arable field.

Source: *Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).*

Beadle (or verger): Also a type of hayward, in some larger manors the beadle was the assistant hayward. In others he was the assistant reeve, and in some he even kept the accounts. The word simply means an under-officer. You may find him mainly in the records concerned with keeping control over vagrants.[1] Carried his rod or 'verger' while performing duties.[2] A **leet** officer who dealt with vagrants, normally unsalaried and parttime.[3]

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 10.*
2. *Source: Catherine Pullein, Rotherfield – The Story of some Wealden Manors (Courier, 1928), pp. 77-78, <http://theweald.org/d10.asp?bookid=Pullein000> [accessed 27 Oct 2019].*
3. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 7.*

Beating the Bounds: Usually refers to the practice of gathering a group of parishioners and walking around the parish boundaries. The simple reason for it was to fix in the memory of those present the whereabouts of the boundary because it was not drawn out, mapped or written down anywhere.

Source: *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 7.*

Boonwork: Work done, ostensibly at the lord's request, on certain days in time of pressure, such as harvest, the number of days in a year being fixed by the custom of the manor.

Source: Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 54.

Bread Weighers: to check the freshness and weight of the bread and to ensure a consistent two-pound loaf throughout the manor.

Source: Wareham Court Leet, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

By 'holders for life': customary tenants-for-life held the land for their lifetime only for a set number of 'lives'. A life was generally set at 7 years and the usual format was for three lives – the tenant, his wife and one of the children. At the end of the three lives, the land reverted to the lord.

Source: Pharos Tutors, *'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians'*, Lesson 2, p. 5.

By inheritance: land held by customary holders of inheritance descended to an heir determined by the custom of the manor, usually the eldest son (primogeniture) but there were variations. By the mid-16th century, the copyholder could choose another heir by enrolling a copy of their will in the records of the court. Land would then be surrendered to 'the use of the will'.

Source: Pharos Tutors, *'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians'*, Lesson 2, p. 5.

By the Rod: Ancient custom of physically handing over a piece of turf or stick of wood to the lord of the manor who then passed it over to the new tenant, representing the transfer of the land. Over time, it became a symbolic gesture and a physical pole or rod took the place of an actual sod of earth. In some places this is 'by the verge', 'by the straw' or even 'by the glove'. After the symbolic physical transfer took place, an account of the surrender and admission was written into the court roll and a copy given to the tenant.

Source: Pharos Tutors, *'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians'*, Lesson 3, p. 4.

Call Books: list tenants who owed suit to the court, and were also used as court attendance books. These can usefully be used to quickly identify and track people over a number of years.

Source: Pharos Tutors, *'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians'*, Lesson 3, p. 12.

Carniter: to check the freshness of the meat and poultry.

Source: Wareham Court Leet, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Carucate (hide): 120 acres.

Source: Pharos Tutors, *'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians'*, Lesson 4, p. 4.

[1 rod = 16.5 ft, 1 furlong = 40 rods = 660 ft, 1 perch = 1 rod x 1 rod = 1 sq rod, 1 rood = 1 rod x 1 furlong = 40 perches = 10,890 sq ft = ¼ acre, 1 acre = 4 roods, oxgang = 15 acres, virgate = 30 acres, carucate = 120 acres]

Source: my summary

Cepit (Latin): Took from or was granted by.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Chat 3a, 3 Nov 2019.

Chevage (capitag): annual payment to the manorial lord permitting a villein to live outside the manor. Sometimes charged to adult males who did not hold land.

Source: Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 32 and pp. 241-247 (glossary).

Childwyte: payment by women who gave birth illegitimately (since bastards were deemed free).

Source: Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 33.

Conditional surrender: A type of mortgage. If a tenant needed a loan he could conditionally surrender his copyhold property to someone else in exchange for the money which had to be repaid in full with interest by a set date. If the tenant failed to make the repayment then the person making the loan could keep the property, subject to the will of the lord.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 4.

Constable: A **leet** officer who enforced the law at the local level, normally unsalaried and parttime.[1] Duties were to summon juries, arrest vagabonds, distrain on the goods of defaulters, and generally maintain the peace.[2]

Sources:

1. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 8.
2. Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield – The Story of some Wealden Manors* (Courier, 1928), pp. 77-78, <http://theweald.org/d10.asp?bookid=Pullein000> [accessed 27 Oct 2019].

Copyhold (by copy): Tenants received a copy of the court roll entry which recorded the acquisition, terms and conditions of their land.

Source: Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 36.

Copyholder: The name of villain gradually disappears from the manorial records; the tenant is said to hold by custom or by copy of court roll (early form of written land title), and hence called a copyholder. More specific obligations and rights include:[1]

- disqualified from bringing an action against his Lord in the King's Courts
- could not be slain or maimed by his lord
- the lord could not seize his wainage (see below)
- owed fine of merchet to be paid on marriage of his daughter
- could not leave the manor but, for a small annual payment of chevage he could live outside the manor
- could not go to University or take Holy Orders without licence

- his goods and chattels were considered the property of the lord; but the right of seizure was seldom exercised
- had a house and small farm on a good and secure tenure; in the 13th century by a settled money rent
- the form of his holding is often 'to him and his heirs'
- he could claim bond land as his inheritance, and settle it upon his wife and children
- could purchase free land
- in the manor court, he could recover debts and damages for trespasses and enforce agreements, also land was alienated by surrender and admittance
- the manor court was composed of villains and freemen, ruled in accordance with the custom of the manor, defined by the tenants themselves

Additional from the course:

- services could include ploughing, harvesting, carrying goods to market and repairing estate buildings or fences, without pay
- may be required to pay services in kind, e.g. butter, milk and eggs as part of their rent
- owed heriot and suit to the court
- paid **entry fine** when first taking over the land
- responsible for keeping holding in good repair and may have been subject to some restrictions like mining or cutting timber
- from the latter 1600s, service obligations were replaced in favor of monetary payments

Sources:

1. *Nathaniel J Hone, The Manor and Manorial Records (London, 1906), pp. 56-57.*
2. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, pp. 3-4.*

Cottar (or bordar): An unfree smallholder.[1] Hone describes that the 'holdings of the cottars were small, a cottage with a curtilage or courtyard and a few acres in the arable fields, usually five; on account of the insignificance of their holdings, their services, although obligatory, were of a much lighter character than those of the villains proper. As few of these were the owners of even one ox, they were generally exempted from plough service...'[2]

Sources:

1. *Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).*
2. *Nathaniel J Hone, The Manor and Manorial Records (London, 1906), pp. 46-47.*

Court Baron: the highest privilege pertaining to manorial lordship, the holding of a domestic court, in which alienations and disputes as to the property were arranged, by-laws made, and breaches of such presented by the jury, and duly visited with a fine.[1] Courts Baron were the automatic right of a Lord to settle disputes etc. and to aid in the administration of his estate, but they had no right to deal with crimes or punish offenders, reserved for Court Leet.[2]

Only some manors had a court leet, but every manor had a court baron. The court baron, so named as it dealt with the baron or lord's business, refers back to the original granting of manors by the king to the barons. The court baron met on a regular basis, the frequency dictated by the size of the manor and the number of tenants. The holding of a court baron is absolutely integral to a manor

actually being a manor and forms part of the legal definition of what a manor was. The business was divided into two areas: Administration of the manor and checking that the customs were being observed; and Admission and surrender of land within the manor... The duties of the court were to uphold the regulations of the manor and deal with tenancy disputes, trespass and debts, and also disputes between tenants where damages were less than 40 shillings.[3]

Sources:

1. Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 22.
2. Wareham Court Leet, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].
3. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 12.

Court Leet (curia leta or curia magna): The court leet was essentially a royal jurisdictional franchise. What that means is the right to hold a court leet was originally granted by the King and did not apply to all manors. A court leet heard minor offences and gave out punishments and the **view of frankpledge** took place there. Once or twice yearly, the court leet heard cases of a non-felonious nature, much like petty sessions. It can be considered as part of the law enforcement at a village level and also on a wider scale as being part of the transfer of some of the judicial power of the crown to the lord. Court leet records are the **only** records that record the landless labourers, as the transfer of lands between tenants was dealt with by the court baron. However, only those landless people who commit an offence will have been recorded by the leet.[1]

The quo warrantor proceedings of Edward I established a sharp distinction between the court baron, exercising strictly manorial rights, and the court leet, depending for its jurisdiction upon royal franchise. The court leet was a court of record, and its duty was not only to view the pledges but to try by jury, and punish, all crimes committed within the jurisdiction. The steward of the court acted as judge, presiding wholly in a judicial character, the ministerial acts being executed by the bailiff. [2]

The Court Leet powers diminished over time: after the 1880s courts leet no longer imposed fines; in 1925 the 'Law of Property Act' abolished many manorial rights; and in 1977 court leet functions were further reduced to their current level during local government reorganisation.[3]

Sources:

1. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 7-8.
2. Bromsgrove Court Leet, <https://www.bromsgrovecourtleet.co.uk/> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].
3. Wareham Court Leet, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Court of Recognition: First manorial court meeting for a new lord of the manor. Both the court of survey and the court of recognition might cover the same ground because the new lord of the manor needed to get to know the customs of the manor as well as familiarize himself or herself with the tenants' holdings and rents due.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 6.

Court of Survey: In the 16th century (following the Reformation), records created by a regular manor court meeting were felt to be deficient in keeping track of all the ways of making money from land

and so special courts of survey were convened to provide the necessary information. A typical court of survey record will provide:

- A description of the extent of the manor
- A list of customs attached to the manor
- A record of all the tenants, the land they rent, type of tenure plus rent due.

Probably the most informative part of such a survey are the presentments made by the jury in response to the articles of enquiry. Presentments might contain e.g.: the means by which customary land was inherited and the provision made for a widow of a customary tenant, level of entry fines, level of reliefs, frequency and officials of the courts, rights of the lord e.g. hunting and fishing, common land and mills and tenant entitlements.

Customs (incl the rights of people to act in specific ways) of a manor could throw much light on the life of individuals, because they contain tenants' statements about the customs. Even better, they are mainly written in English.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 6-7.

Customary Court: The court baron originally dealt with the free tenants and the customary court dealt with the copyholders, but usually for all practical purposes the court was held at the same time and dealt with by just one session.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 10.

Customary tenure: Defined in the courts of common law as **unfree tenure**, whose obligations and terms were enforced in the manor court. Also known as **villein tenure** (see below).[1] Hone also identifies that the 'great body of the peasantry fell under this class. This ... included the **full villain** with his farm of thirty acres, the **semi-villain** with his holding of fifteen, the **cottar** with some five acres ... down to the man ... with his quarter of an acre.'[2] But view as synonymous with copyholder.[3]

Sources:

1. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).
2. Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), pp. 45-46.
3. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, Chat 3, 3 Nov 2019.

Custumal: Survey or rental which includes details of the rents, services and customs by which tenants held their land. May cover, for example: payment of rents; payment of fines or **gressums** on a change of lord; the payment of fines on a change of tenant, with the customs governing the rights of widows and payment of fines in cases of widowhood; payment of heriots; suit of court and payments due to manorial officials when a new tenant was proclaimed and enrolled.[1]

They are usually from the 12th and 13th centuries and like an inventory with lists showing various types of payment due to the lord. Tenants are named, details of their land holding given, the rent, labour service and payment in kind due. They may also include a record of the **customs** of the

manor. The details of labour service may be referred to as **works**. In effect, you can think of this as a list of the liabilities of each tenant. Mainly associated with manors that were part of large monastic estates.[2]

Strictly speaking a custumal extends beyond the tenurial obligations of landholders to encompass all the customs of the manor in their broadest sense, e.g. details of local agricultural practices and edicts designed to promote good order among residents.[3]

Sources:

1. *Cumbrian Manorial Records*,
<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/custumal.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].
2. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 4.*
3. *Mark Bailey, The English Manor c 1200 – c 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 21.*

Default: failure to fulfill a requirement laid down by the court.

Source: *Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).*

Demesne: land held and cultivated for the use of the lord of the manor

Source: *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 2.*

Demise: conveyance or transfer of property or a title upon a person's death.

Source: *combined dictionary sources.*

Distrain (distrain): Temporary confiscation of land and/or goods to enforce a court's decision or recover a debt.

Source: *Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).*

Enclosure: describes various ways in which land-holdings were consolidated or extended into larger units. This included the partition of large areas of communally farmed land into small fields farmed by individuals, as well as the conversion of arable land to pasture and the occupation of commons by large landowners. As tithes were normally commuted as part of the enclosure process, areas covered by enclosure maps often lack tithe maps.

Source: *The National Archives, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/enclosure-awards/> [accessed 12 Nov 2019].*

Enfranchisement: Conversion of a copyhold or customary tenancy into a freehold. The tenant paid a lump sum based on the value of the property to acquire the freehold. Gathered pace in the 17th century.[1]

Copyhold land could be converted into freehold land by the Lord or Lady of the Manor. This was done either by including an enfranchisement clause into a deed of conveyance, or by a separate

deed of enfranchisement. Enfranchisement transferred the land from the Lord or Lady to the new owner. The new owner paid a consideration for the transaction. Many enfranchisements date from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, as the Copyhold Act of 1852 allowed tenants to demand enfranchisement. The Act stated that if the fee simple of the land was conveyed to the tenant, then the copyhold nature of the land was permanently extinguished. All copyhold tenure was extinguished and turned into freehold by the Law of Property Act of 1922, which came into force on 1st January 1926... The word 'enfranchised' will always appear on any conveyance. [2]

Sources:

1. *Cumbrian Manorial Records*,
<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/enfranchisement.htm>
[accessed 1 Nov 2019].
2. *Manuscripts and Special Collections, University of Nottingham*,
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/deedsindepth/copyhold/enfranchisement.aspx> [accessed 15 Nov 2019].

Entry fine (or entry gressum): A sum of money paid to the lord by a tenant entering a property. These were of two types, a 'certain fine', which was a fixed sum, usually related to the ancient yearly rent of a property; and the 'arbitrary fine', which was variable and was usually calculated on the basis of the annual rental value of the property.

Source: *Cumbrian Manorial Records*,
<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/glossary/> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Escheat: Forfeiture of a tenancy on the tenant's death without an heir or if the tenant was convicted of a felony or otherwise breach in his manorial obligations (not applicable to freeholders).

Source: *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 5.*

Essoin: A small fee paid by those formally opting out of attending court.

Source: *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 3.*

Estreat Rolls: Records of the amercements, fines and all the monies collected from the manor, estreat being a collective term for these payments. These smaller rolls were used by the bailiff as he went on his rounds collecting money from the tenants who had been fined. Like court rolls they should contain lists of tenants and details of the fines imposed.[1] Authorised the bailiff to gather in the sums due to the lord from those who had been amerced.[2]

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 12.*
2. <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/account.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Extent: Evolved from the simple inventory of the custumal in the 13th century. A survey of the manor showing not just the tenants and their dues, but also the boundaries of the manor and other parts of the demesne. An extent was also created on the death of the lord, for taxation purposes. Thus the extent started to become a detailed valuation of the medieval manor; its lands and tenancies.

Extents follow a set format, listing the most valuable assets first, usually the manor house and demesne land and then the larger holdings right down to the smallest tenancy. Values set out in the extent related to the amount that could be expected for a single year's lease, not to a capital value.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 5.

Fealty: an oath of fidelity sworn by a new tenant to the lord in recognition of his obligations

Source: Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).

Financial account (compotus): drawn up by manorial officials, such as reeves and bailiffs. The division between manorial accounts and estate accounts is somewhat arbitrary: accounts may be classed as 'manorial' if they contain details of income and expenditure relating specifically to manorial administration, such as income from holding manorial courts (the 'pleas and perquisites of courts') or from entry fines and heriots, or expenditure on carrying out a perambulation of the boundaries of the manor, for example. Manorial accounts are generally in Latin and sometimes contain names of individual people or properties but the focus is on sums of money.

Source: Cumbrian Manorial Records,

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/account.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Fine: A fine in manorial records is a payment for an admission to a tenancy, and nothing to do with our meaning of fine. Can include other payments for land such as heriots, merchets and reliefs. Penalties for misdemeanors were pains, or amercements, or estreats.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Chat 3a, 3 Nov 2019.

Foreman of the Jury (and his Deputy): presided over the nominal twelve Jurymen who are appointed by the Bailiff.

Source: Wareham Court Leet, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Free sokage: an estate held by any certain or determinate service, as by fealty and a money rent, or by homage and fealty without rent.

Free tenure (freeman, sokeman): A 'privileged' tenure or status that denoted greater freedom of time or action than, say, customary tenure or status. A **freeman** or **sokeman** was entitled to use the royal courts, and the title to free tenure was defensible there. Free and unfree tenure were paralleled by a distinction between personal freedom and servility. Personal status was inherited through the male line, unfree women who married a freeman were free for the duration of the marriage, and all bastards were deemed free by the mid-14th century. A freeman could hold unfree land (with its obligations) but an unfree person could not hold free land. They didn't own land in the modern sense so the terms applied include 'possessed, seised or held'. Free land could be sold, inherited or granted by the holder without seigneurial interference.[1]

The tenure, by which the freeholder [*freeman*] held his land in time was distinguished by legal writers as **free sokage**. More specific rights and obligations of freemen include:[2]

- rents were fixed whether in money or services
- free to alienate lands and quit the manor
- liable to suit at (attend) the lord's court, being subject to the 'soke' or jurisdiction of the lord
- the freemen were called the homagers and sat with the lord, or his steward in the Manorial Court, virtually as judges

Additionally from the course:[3]

- be prepared to serve as jurors at the court
- pay certain dues to the lord such as a **heriot** (best beast) on the death of the tenant
- when the existing tenant died, the heir could take over the freehold provided he or she gave homage, paid a monetary fine (**relief**), and normally set at one year's rent
- could sell their freehold land [these holdings eventually became a modern form of freehold land, held according to common law and not the customs of the manor]
- could hold a lease over the demesne land if the lord did not want to farm it directly, leases being normally for a year
- Money rents were due but fixed and immutable. By the 16th century, the freeholders' rents had declined in value due to the effects of inflation and became of much less interest to the lord, very often the rents stopped

Sources:

1. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 26-27 and p. 241-247 (glossary).
2. Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), pp. 61-63.
3. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, pp. 2-3.

Furlong: Old English unit of length, based on the length of an average plowed furrow (hence "furrow-long," or furlong) in the English open- or common-field system. Each furrow ran the length of a 40 × 4-rod acre, or 660 modern feet. Standardization by government began sometime between 1266 and 1303 and the furlong became 660 standard English feet, and the mile, always 8 furlongs, became 5,280 feet. 1/8 mile, 10 chains, 40 rods, 220 yards.

Source: *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, <https://www.britannica.com/science/acre-unit-of-measurement> [accessed 4 Nov 2019].

Hayward: The hayward was originally in charge of hedges and fence and boundary maintenance, not necessarily the hay making, latterly was in charge of sowing and meadowland and mowing for hay making.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 10.

Headman (or tithingman): responsible for a tithing.

Source: Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield – The Story of some Wealden Manors* (Courier, 1928), pp. 77-78, <http://theweald.org/d10.asp?bookid=Pullein000> [accessed 27 Oct 2019].

Heriot: a fine on land tenure, due on the death of a tenant. Later, usually commuted for a money payment.

Source: Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), pp. 19-20.

Heyment: boundary, fence.

Source: Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 192.

Homage: act by which a vassal, often of lordly status, acknowledges a superior lord.[1] In addition to the oath of fealty, free tenants were called upon to do homage to his lord: humbly kneeling and holding up his hands together between those of his lord, he professed that 'he did become his man, from that day forth, of life and limb, and earthly honour'; and then he received a kiss from his lord.[2]

Court jury, normally 12 for a Court Leet and a variable number for a Court Baron. Known as homage because the jurors paid homage and service to the lord. The jurors were drawn from current tenants of the manor in good standing and can be seen as evidence of a certain local status.[3]

Sources:

1. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).
2. Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 21.
3. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 3.

Hue and cry: The raising of the hue and cry may be reported in manor court rolls. According to Müller:

'Upon discovery of a felony attention was drawn to it by crying for help, while in response those who heard the calls were expected to come together to help and/or to witness the wrong that had been done and the relationship of the raiser of the hue to the misdeed. On a second level the local forces of authority and officialdom were to be involved in investigating the crime and administering justice.'

Müller further explains the communal role in the hue and cry:

'Members of the community gathered as witnesses to observe, investigate, and if necessary to right a wrong that had been committed to one among their midst. However, this communal act of gathering together also indicated a potential communal condemnation of any act that may have been committed, warranting the raising of the hue and cry.'

Source: Miriam Müller (2005), 'Social control and the hue and cry in two fourteenth-century villages', *Journal of Medieval History*, 31:1, 29-53.

In mercy: to be subject to an amercement

Source: my own interpretation.

Inquisition: a judicial or official inquiry or examination usually before a jury.

Source: Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/inquisition> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Kept within: remain unmarried.

Source: Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 191.

Leasehold: The most common form involved holding land on a fixed term, normally of years but sometimes for a life or lives. Often described as being 'at farm' and the lord was said to 'demise' the land. Rent levels reflected market value but tenants were generally subject to no other obligations save perhaps a maintenance clause. A lessee could assign an unexpired portion of a lease to someone else. Used overwhelmingly when lords chose not to exploit all or parts of the demesne directly.[1]

Freeholders and copyholders could hold land by lease. Rents could be set at market value with reviews. Newly cultivated land, mills, fisheries and quarries could also be leased. Medieval leases were generally for a year but by the 16th century they extended to cover 21 years or three lives.[2]

Sources:

1. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 36-37.
2. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 5.

Leather Sealer: to maintain the quality of leather goods.

Source: Wareham Court Leet, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Leywrite: payment by women who fornicated outside of their marriage.

Source: Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 33.

Lord of the Manor (or tenant-in-chief): The manor and estate were a business and provided an income and investment opportunity for the lord or lady of the manor. Originally they were also supposed physically to protect their tenants in exchange for the land they were given, but of course this obligation had melted away by the end of the medieval period.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 8.

Manor: PDA Harvey [1] defines manor as "a residence", "a unit of estate administration" and "a piece of landed property with tenants over whom the landlord exercised rights of jurisdiction in a private court", the last definition being applied to the Manorial Documents Register[2].

Nick Barratt further characterises a manor as:[3]

- cornerstone of local administration and rural life
- socio-economic ties not geographical ones
- tenants owed rents & services to the lord of the manor: freehold land, copyhold land and leasehold land
- each manor had own laws and customs

Because the manorial pattern is so varied across the country, it may be thought of as: 'The relationship between the knight and his peasants is the manorial system.'[4]

Mark Bailey provides further insights on the origin of manors from about the ninth century.[5]

Sources:

1. PDA Harvey, *Manorial Records* (British Records Association, *Archives and the User* No 5, 1984).
2. *The National Archives*, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/legislation/definitions/> [accessed 24 Oct 2019].
3. Dr Nick Barratt, 'Webinar: An introduction to medieval and early modern sources for family historians', <https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/webinar-introduction-medieval-early-modern-sources-family-historians/> [accessed 24 Oct 2019].
4. Bamber Gascoigne, <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/plaintexthistories.asp?historyid=ac80> [accessed 3 Nov 2019].
5. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c 1200 – c 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), pp. 11-18.

Manorial documents: The 1922 Law of Property Act abolished copyhold land tenure and legislated a right of access to the original documents of the manorial courts that often held proof of title to these properties. An amendment in 1924 placed these documents under the charge of The Master of the Rolls and defined them as:

'court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, documents and books of every description relating to the boundaries, wastes, customs or courts of a manor', but excluded 'deeds or other instruments required for evidencing title to a manor or agreements or draft agreements relating to compensation, or any documents which came into being after 31st December 1925'.

They do not include records relating to the title (sale and purchase) of the manor itself. Subsequent legislation further refined the requirements for managing and protecting these documents.

Source: *The National Archives*, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/legislation/other-archival-legislation/manorial-documents/> [accessed 24 Oct 2019].

Manorial rights: Each lord had originally been granted particular rights and freedoms from the rule of law, all of which helped him to increase his income from his manor(s) and some of which had to have been granted to him directly by the King, e.g. the right to hold a market:

- The right to hold markets and fairs – in an age where there were no shops
- save in the larger towns only - all shopping was done at the market. Thus the
- right to charge stall-holders was a valuable one.
- The right to common and manorial waste.
- The right to the incidents such as merchets, heriots, wardships, tolls,
- escheats, pikeage, stallage, turbury and pannage Profits of justice in the manorial court.
- The rights to mines and quarries in the manor.
- Fishing rights.
- Rights of free warren, free chase and free forest (sporting rights).
- Rights over rivers and foreshores.

Source: *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 8.*

Merchet: a fine on land tenure, due on the marriage of a daughter.

Source:

Ordinances (pains, bylaws or orders): The duties and rights of the tenants, together with the penalties.[1] Manor court juries laid these down in order to try to maintain 'good neighbourhood', that is friendly relations between members of the local community.[2]

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 3.*
2. https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/pain_list.htm [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Oxgang: 15 acres.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 4.

Perambulation: Description of the boundaries of a manor, often recording the boundaries as 'beaten' or perambulated by members of the manor court. Maps showing manorial boundaries are comparatively rare.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/perambulation.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Petition: Formal and formulaic requests from tenants to the lord of the manor, for example for the use of timber.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/petition.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Pindar: to round up any stray livestock and impound it in the village pound.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 10.

Pleas: The hearing of minor civil cases including debt, trespass and 'detinue' (where someone owed goods, rather than money, to another). Manor courts could hear pleas where the damages claimed were not above 40 shillings.

Source: Cumbrian Manorial Records,

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/index.htm> [accessed 30 Oct 2019].

Pledge (surety, mainprise, mainpernor): a guarantor nominated by a court to ensure that another person upholds its orders.

Source: Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).

Preamble: Formal manorial court proceedings began with the steward calling the tenants to order, and reading out the title of the manor and the name of the official presiding.[1] The preamble usually consists of a standard phrase:[2]

'Manor of A . Court B of C held at D on E before F .'

A = Name of Manor. Note that a manor did not necessarily cover the same area as a parish or township of the same name. It might contain land in more than one place; or cover only part of a township.

B = Type of Court, usually 'Court Baron' or 'Court Leet with view of Frankpledge'

C = Name of Lord of Manor

D = Where held

E = Date

F = Name of person who presided over the court. This was usually the lord's steward (Latin *senescallus*), rather than the lord himself.

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 3.*
2. *Cumbrian Manorial Records,*
<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/index.htm> [accessed 30 Oct 2019].

Prebend: a stipend furnished by a cathedral or collegiate church to a clergyman (such as a canon) in its chapter. A **prebendary** is a clergyman receiving a prebend for officiating and serving in the church.

Source: Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prebend> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Precept: an order issued by legally constituted authority (the court) to a subordinate official.

Source: Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/precept> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Presentments: A list of matters to be dealt with by the court. These tended to be minor offences against the customs of the manor.[1] An accusation brought before a court by a body of men under oath.[2]

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 3.*
2. *Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).*

Proclamation: When a tenant died, his or her death was announced at the manorial court and heirs would be called for to come and claim the tenancy. Three proclamations were made, so this process could take up to 3 years if the court only met annually, after which time the holding could revert to the lord for re-letting.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 4.

Quit rent: service commuted to payment. Usually they are lists of payments received from tenants for certain years only and can prove someone was a tenant at a particular time. They may also contain details of the house or land of the tenant and occasional additional detail.[1]

Under feudal law, the payment of quit rent freed the tenant of a holding (such as those in the High Street and Bridge Street) from the obligation to perform such other services as were obligatory under feudal tenure, or freed the occupier of the land from the burden of having others use their own distinct rights that affected the land (e.g., hunting rights which would have impaired farming)... The only sanction for not paying a feudal quit rent was that the alternative burdens would return - which imposed a ceiling on how much could be demanded in payment of a quit rent in practice. Where the sanctions for non-compliance are limited in this way, a quit rent is a rent in fact as well as in form and name, and not a tax.[2]

Sources:

1. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 13.
2. Quit Rents, <https://www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk/index.php/13-archives/747-quit-rents> [accessed 8 Nov 2019].

Recovery: taking distrained goods or impounded animals without seignorial permission.

Source: Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).

Reeve (or grave): The reeve can be thought of as the foreman and had responsibility for cultivation. Hone says that 'the best husbandman was elected by the villeins as reeve' [1]. Although this job did not carry a salary, the reeve would usually have his annual rent remitted and be excused any customary duties for the term of his office. The reeve was chosen from the customary tenants.[2] The reeve also collected heriots (best beasts).[3]

Sources:

1. Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 63.
2. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 9.
3. Source: Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield – The Story of some Wealden Manors* (Courier, 1928), pp. 77-78, <http://theweald.org/d10.asp?bookid=Pullein000> [accessed 27 Oct 2019].

Relief: a fine on land tenure, usually due on a tenant taking the estate of his ancestor, according to the custom of the manor, generally a year's rent. A fine was also imposed on the alienation of land.

Source: Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 21.

Rental: After the 14th century, most demesne land was being leased out and the extent tends to revert to lists of tenants and rents due (annual rent charge), and becomes a Rental. Rentals cover the whole estate and show amounts due, not paid. If there is an unbroken list of them over some years, they can help ascertain how long a tenant remained in the manor. They may give details of the holding and tenure as well.[1] See reasons for and benefits of rentals in [2].

Rarely gives information other than the tenants' names and the sums of rent due. Categories might include, for example, 'Land Rent', the normal ancient yearly rent payable to the lord for a holding of land and 'Boon loads', a payment in lieu of carriage duties, 'boons' being labour services due to the lord.[3]

Sources:

1. *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 4, p. 5 and p. 13.*
2. *Source: Mark Bailey, The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500 (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 38-39.*
3. <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/rental.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Rod: Old English measure of distance equal to 16.5 feet (5.029 metres), with variations from 9 to 28 feet (2.743 to 8.534 metres) also being used. It was also called a perch or pole. The word rod derives from Old English rodd and is akin to Old Norse rudda ("club"). Etymologically rod is also akin to the Dutch rood which referred to a land area of 40 square rods, equal to one-quarter acre, or 10,890 square feet (1,012 square metres). It also denoted just one square rod, or 272.25 square feet (25.29 square metres).

Source: *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, <https://www.britannica.com/science/acre-unit-of-measurement> [accessed 4 Nov 2019].

Rood: Rood is an English unit of area equal to one quarter of an acre or 10,890 square feet (1,012 m²). A rectangle that is one furlong (i.e., 10 chains, or 40 rods) in length and one rod in width is one rood in area, as is any space comprising 40 **perches** (a perch being one square rod).

Source: *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rood_\(unit\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rood_(unit)) [access 4 Nov 2019].

Royal Manor: manor directly held by the King (Crown). Tenants may have certain liberties, such as the right not to be publicly taxed but to only pay tax (**tallage**) directly to the King. Villeins were free and tenure was fixed. The tenants could not be brought before the hundred or county courts.

Source: *Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 7.*

Rupture: piece of arable land.

Source: *Nathaniel J Hone, The Manor and Manorial Records (London, 1906), p. 186.*

Scavenger: to ensure standards of hygiene within the 'lanes and privies' of the town, to guard against the spread of infectious disease.

Source: *Wareham Court Leet*, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Scribe (or clerk): The business of the manor court necessitated, by the fourteenth century, the production of extensive written records. Several scribes might be employed intermittently on a large manor. In addition to the regular work of writing up the court rolls, the annual accounts and rentals, the lord or steward required scribal services for legal documents and correspondence. Surveys of the

state of the manor were carried out occasionally, especially when the manor changed hands, and recorded.

A medieval form of Latin continued to be used for the rolls, indicating the specialised and restricted training of the scribes. During the Interregnum, parliament passed legislation declaring that from 1 January 1651 all legal documents, including manor court rolls, were to be written in English. After the Restoration in 1660, the legislation passed during the Interregnum was abrogated and court rolls returned to Latin. From 1733, English was once more required.

Source: Conisburgh Court Rolls, 'A Manorial Scribe at his Work', <https://www.dhi.ac.uk/conisbrough/find/scribe.html> [accessed 27 Oct 2019].

Seisin: possession (of land).

*Source: Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).*

Severalty: land that is not subject to common rights.

*Source: Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), pp. 241-247 (glossary).*

Steward (or Seneschal): The main officer for the manor was the steward. He was appointed to be the lord's agent, to represent them at (preside over) the manor courts. He was expected to have a good grounding in legal matters and may have been employed as a clerk (scribe in the medieval period) whose job it was to keep the manor court records and deal with correspondence. The steward was also responsible for keeping an eye on, and account of, incidents – or all those events by which, according to the customs, the payment of money (fine) was due, for example when a tenant died. He can be thought of as similar to a land-agent ... as a go-between between lord and tenant.[1] The steward of the court acted as judge, presiding wholly in a judicial character, the ministerial acts being executed by the bailiff.[2]

Sources:

1. Bromsgrove Court Leet, <https://www.bromsgrovecourtleet.co.uk/> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].
2. Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 9.

Steward's Minute Book: A draft form of the court process. Can prove invaluable if the original court roll or book is missing or if the roll is illegible. It might be possible to use the minute book to isolate an entry before searching for it in Latin rolls. The clerk may have included additional information when making his notes to help him identify a specific tenant (especially if there are two people with the same name) or you may find his calculations on rents and ameracements.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 12.

Sub-tenants: Sub-tenants occupied and worked the land on behalf of the official tenants. Manorial tenants had the right to sublet subject to manor approval, provided the official tenant paid the rent and the sub-tenant didn't infringe on the customs or local laws.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 6.

Survey: A written description of a manor or manors, usually giving details of manorial boundaries and customs and detailing each holding of land. The amount of topographical detail given varies and acreages are approximate.[1] May just provide summary descriptions. In its most mature form, it comprises a detailed statement of the customs and services rendered by each manorial tenant. Almost never accompanied by maps or plans before the late 16th century. Sometimes used as a generic form to cover surveys, customals, extents, terriers and rentals.[2]

Sources:

1. <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/survey.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].
2. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c 1200 – c 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 21.

Surveyors of Chimneys and Mantles (or chimney peepers): to check that chimneys are swept clean; a measure introduced after the fire of Wareham in 1762, when a large part of the town was destroyed.

Source: Wareham Court Leet, <http://www.opcdorset.org/WarehamFiles/WarehamCourtLeet.htm> [accessed 31 Oct 2019].

Tallage: seignorial right to tax unfree peasants at will.

Source: Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), pp. 241-247 (glossary).

Tenants at will: Some of the poorest tenants, squatters with a shelter on the fringes of the manorial land, were subject to a rent but held no common rights and were only allowed to stay 'at the will of the lord'.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 2, p. 6.

Terrier: Survey arranged topographically, field by field (or, in the case of open arable fields, strip by strip).[1] Provides precise location but seldom values them.[2]

Sources:

1. <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/terrier.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].
2. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c 1200 – c 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 21.

Tithing: Group who shared view of frankpledge. In theory, every male over 12 was involved in this. They were also responsible for bringing any miscreants to the manorial court to face charges.

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 8.

Tithingman (headborough or headman): represented the tithing group in manor and county courts (although the whole tithing would attend the manor court).

Source: Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 8.

Toft: an enclosure for a homestead.

Source: Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).

Valor: Summary valuation of a manor, laying out the income and expenses with a view to showing how much profit a manor could be expected to provide. Valors were based on information in manorial accounts.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/valor.htm> [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

Verdict Sheet: The original record of the court proceedings and would have been used to prepare the neat, formal record in a court roll or court book. By the 17th and 18th centuries, verdict sheets often survive as the only record.

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/gallery/verdict_sheet.htm [accessed 1 Nov 2019].

View of Frankpledge: Derived from an Anglo-Saxon system of law and order, whereby ten neighbours would take responsibility for their own security and good behavior by standing surety for each other. These ten (or 12) men were self-policing, and if one of them did wrong the other nine were to be held to account. In certain manors the King granted to the lord the right to hold the twice yearly inspection of the **tithings** (from the sheriff at the county court) and this was usually incorporated into the appropriate court leet session as the view of frankpledge. Thus if the view of frankpledge was devolved to the manorial lord, the tithingman would report to the manor court not the sheriff. By the time of the Tudors however, frankpledge was the same as the court leet.

The post-medieval view of frankpledge is therefore usually a list of all land-holders, whether they are freehold, leasehold and copyhold tenants, who gather to swear fealty to the lord of the manor. It should list their holding and the amount of rent paid and is thus a valuable research record.

Source: Pharos Tutors, *'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians'*, Lesson 3, p. 8-9.

Villein (villain or bondsman): Peasant whose freedom of time and action is constrained by his lord. A villein was not able to use the royal courts.[1] However, Hone notes that the 'commissions [of the Norman Survey] ... described many who were personally free under the generic term of villains.' [2] But he also notes that 'The commutation of services for money payments was continually on the increase, and by the time of the Black Death (A.D. 1349) many villains by this means had attained their freedom.' [3]

Sources:

1. Mark Bailey, *The English Manor c. 1200 - c. 1500* (Manchester University Press, 2002), p. 241-247 (glossary).
2. Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), pp. 44-45.
3. Nathaniel J Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records* (London, 1906), p. 54.

Virgate (or yard-land): About thirty acres, consisting of a bundle of the acre or half-acre strips distributed through the three arable fields, generally ten or twenty in each field. The distinctive

feature of these holdings was that the strips were not collected together into one plot, but lay interspersed in the several fields.

Source: Nathaniel J Hone, The Manor and Manorial Records (London, 1906), p. 48.

Wainage: a labour service involving carting goods for the lord. A wain is a light, two-wheeled, cart.

Source:

Weekwork: The obligation to plough and do other agricultural work on the lord's demesne two or three days a week.

Source: Nathaniel J Hone, The Manor and Manorial Records (London, 1906), p. 54.

Note: There is also a Latin glossary in Pharos Tutors, 'Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians', Lesson 3, p. 15-17. Also see Family Search, Latin Genealogical Word List, https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List [accessed 2 Nov 2019]. Also National Archives, Learn Medieval Latin, <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/> [accessed 2 Nov 2019].