

In an ancient Book of Institutions
and Memorandums of William Alwaker formerly
Bishop of Lincoln (now remaining in the
Registry at Lincoln) who began to preside over
that See in the year of our Lord 1514. there is
amongst other things contained as follows, to wit

Common Recovery
of the Tenents of the
Bishop of Lincoln in
Lydington upon the
Brand.

Henry by the Grace of God King of England and
France and Lord of Ireland To all to whom these
present Letters shall come Greeting. We have inspected our
certain Writ of Complaint to William Heydon directed and
upon the Files of our Chancery remaining together with a Return
or Indorsment of our same Writ ~~in~~ made in these Words. —
Henry by the Grace of God King of England and France and Lord
of Ireland To William Heydon Gentleman Greeting. Willing for
certain Causes, to certify upon a certain Plea held at Wppingham on
Friday the tenth day of September in the Sixth year of the Reign of
the ^{late} Lord Henry the Seventh King of England our Father of reverend
Memory before Sir John Rastell Knight late Lord Fitzwater, and Sir
Reginald Bray Knight late Itinerant Justice of all Forests Parks
Chaces and Warrens of our aforesaid Father, about Trencham
made ^{and had} between the same King and John late Bishop of Lincoln
concerning certain Liberties Franchises and Acquittances which the
aforesaid late Bishop claimed to have for himself and his Successors
in the Forest of Lyffeld in the County of Rutland, which plea lately
came to your hands after the Death of the aforesaid Reginald and
hitherto remains in your hands, as it is said. We Command You that
the aforesaid Plea with all things touching the same, to us in our
Chancery under your Seal you distinctly and openly send, and this
Writ. Witness my self at Westminster the twenty third day of May
in the fourth year of our Reign. (Yong.) The Answer of
William Heydon within named. The Plea of which Mention is
within made to our Lord the King in his Chancery under my Seal
I certify as to me is within commanded, which Plea appears in a
certain Schedule to this Writ annexed. We have further inspected
a certain Plea held at Wppingham on Friday the tenth day of September
in the Sixth year of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh before
Sir John Rastell Knight Lord Fitzwater and Sir Reginald Bray Knight

Itinerant Justices of the said Lord the King of all Forests Parks-
Chaces and Warrens of the same Lord the King about
Trentham and the Chief keepers and Masters assigned to hear
and determine all things in the premises in the aforesaid Plea
by the aforesaid William Heydon by pretext of our aforesaid
Writ to him directed, to us in our Chancery aforesaid under the
Seal of the said William certified and returned and on the Files of
our aforesaid Chancery remaining and to the same writ runs made
in these words The Lord the King commanded John Rasteliff
Lord Fitzwater and Sir Reginald Bray knight by his Writ in these
words Henry by the grace of God King of England and France
and Lord of Ireland To all to whom these present Letters shall
come greeting It appears to us by the Inspection of the Rolls of
our Chancery that We lately caused to be made our Letters Patent in
these words Henry by the grace of God King of England and
France and Lord of Ireland To all to whom these present Letters
shall come greeting Know ye that We in consideration of the good
and grateful friendship which our beloved and faithful Sir John
Rasteliff knight Lord Fitzwater Steward of our Household and Sir
Reginald Bray knight have bestowed and do intend to bestow
for the future Have given and granted to the said John and
Reginald and to either of them the Office of Guardian and Chief
Justice of all our Forests and have constituted them and either of them
our Itinerant Justices of all our Forests Parks, Chaces and warrens
about Trentham to hear and determine all ^{kindes of} pleas of our Forests,
and Chief keepers and Masters Rangers of all the premises To
have and exercise the aforesaid Office of the aforesaid John and
Reginald and of either of them, by themselves or by their sufficient
Deputy or sufficient Deputies for the term of their Lives and the life
of the longer Liver of them, To take in and for the aforesaid
Office the Fees Wages Profits Commodities and Emoluments to the
said Office of ancient due accustomed or belonging from the
Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel last past for the Term of
the Lives of them and either of them as aforesaid together with
the Power of making all Officers to the same Office of ancient due
and accustomed in as ample manner and form as any person
or persons occupying the aforesaid Office have been used, had and
have taken in the same And we give to all and singular

Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Knights, Sheriffs, Foresters, Verderers, Regarders, Woodwardes and to all other our faithful Subjects by the Tenor of these Presents firmly in Command that they and every of them to the aforesaid John and Reginald, in all or any of the premises to be made and executed they aid assist and counsel as they ought, any Statute, Act, Ordination or Provision to the contrary made or provided notwithstanding. In Testimony whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness myself at Westminster the twenty fifth day of February, in the first year of our Reign. We also for that the said Letters have casually been lost, as before us in our aforesaid Chancery is sufficiently testified, and that if they should hereafter happen to find those Letters, they shall return them into our aforesaid Chancery there to be cancelled, we have caused the Tenor of the Inrollment of the aforesaid Letters at the Request of the aforesaid John and Reginald, to be exemplified by these Presents. In Testimony whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness myself at Westminster the fourth day of July in the third year of our Reign. Forest of Wyfeld in the County of Rutland. Pleas of the Forest aforesaid upon a Journey, held at Lippingham on Friday the tenth day of September in the sixth year of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh before Sir John Ratchiff Knight Lord Fitzwater and Sir Reginald Bray knight Itinerant Justices of the said Lord the King of all Forests, Parks, Chaces and Warrens of the said Lord the King about Trentham and chief Keepers and Masters Rangers of all the Premises to the aforesaid Pleas assigned to hear and determine, By Virtue of certain Letters Patent of the aforesaid Justices have commanded the Sheriff of Rutland to issue his precept on a certain Journey before them in these words Sir John Ratchiff knight Lord Fitzwater and Sir Reginald Bray knight Itinerant Justices of all Forests, Parks, Chaces and Warrens of the Lord the King about Trentham, chief Keepers and Masters Rangers of all the Premises, to the Sheriff of Rutland. Greeting. On the behalf of the Lord the King We command you firmly injoining you that you cause to come before us our Deputy in this behalf at Lippingham on the tenth day of September next coming after the Date of these Presents twenty four honest and lawful men of every Hundred within the Forest of Wyfeld and lying round the same by whom the truth of the matter may the better be known,

to enquire and do those things which to them on the behalf of the
said Lord the King shall then and there beinjoined, and moreover
We command you on the behalf of the said Lord the King firmly
injoining you that without Delay you cause to come together all
Foresters Regarders and all other Ministers of the said Forest
and twenty four of discreet lawful Men of your Bailiwick by whose
Oaths concerning the State of the said Forest We can the better and
more fully be certified and that you shall cause to be led those men
by the Oaths of the said Foresters through all the Bailiwicks of the
said Forest on a certain Day or certain Days which you shall
make known to them before our coming to answer or see all
Transgressions done in the same Forest. And this you shall not omit
for any thing, and in the place of the Rangers who shall be dead
or infirm you shall cause others to be chosen. And furthermore
you shall cause to be proclaimed as well in the Cities and other
Towns as in the Markets Fairs and other Public Places within the
aforesaid County that all and singular Persons whatsoever who have
or claim to have Liberties Priviledges or profits within the aforesaid
Forest that they be before us or our Deputy in this behalf at the
aforesaid Day and Place to shew what Liberties Franchises
Priviledges or profits there they have or claim to have and by what
Warrant, and also We command you that in the said Places
you cause to be proclaimed that all men attached for Vert and
Venison in the aforesaid Forest after the last pleas of the Forest
aforesaid held or their Pledges or Nonrecaptors who had Day
for the Nonrecaption aforesaid ~~shall~~ to be before the Itinerant
Justices of the Lord the King thence next coming that at the aforesaid
Day and Place they be before us the aforesaid Justices to stand to the
Right and to do those things which according to the Law of the
Forest aforesaid ought to be done, and that you be there
with all the Bailiffs of the Hundreds aforesaid having with you
all the Names of all the Men and Bailiffs aforesaid together with
this Mandate to execute (and certify to us upon these and other
Businesses touching those things, and these you are not to omit
under the Punishment thereon incumbent. Witness Us the
aforesaid Justices at Westminster the eighth day of July in the fifth
Year of the Reign of the said Lord King Henry the Seventh.
And the Sheriff to wit Thomas Sapote Esquire made hereof

Execution &c. And upon this on the aforesaid Friday the tenth
day of September in the Sixth year of the Reign of King Henry the
Seventh before the aforesaid Justice Thomas Sapote Esquire the
Sheriff aforesaid came and brought the precept to him in this behalf
directed which came to him as before written. To which precept the
said Sheriff returned that he caused to come before the aforesaid
Justice or their Deputy in this behalf at the Day and Place aforesaid
twenty four honest and lawful men of every hundred within the
aforesaid Forest of Lifeld and lying round the same by whom the
Truth of the matter could the better be known to enquire and do
those things which on the behalf of the Lord the King shall be then
there enjoined; he also caused to come together all Foresters, Rangers
and all other Ministers of the said Forest and twenty four ^{discreet and lawful} men
of his Bailiwick by whose Oaths concerning the State of the Forest
he could better and more fully certify and that he had caused to be
led those men by the Oaths of the said Foresters through all the
Bailiwicks of the said Forest before the coming of the said Justice
to answer or see all the Transgressions done in the same Forest
And he also caused to be proclaimed as well in the Cities and other
Towns as in the Markets Fairs and other public places within the
aforesaid County that all and singular persons whatsoever who
have or claim to have Liberties Franchises Privileges or Profits
within the aforesaid Forest that they be before the Justice aforesaid
or their Deputy in this behalf at the Day and Place aforesaid
to shew what Liberties Franchises Privileges or profits they have a
claim to have in the aforesaid Forest and by what warrant.
Moreover he caused to be proclaimed in the aforesaid Places that
all men attached for Vert and Venison - - in the aforesaid
Forest after the last pleas of the Forest aforesaid held and their
Pledges and Manncapors who had Day for the Manncaption
aforesaid to be before the Itinerant Justice of the Lord the King -
then next coming, that at the Day and Place aforesaid they should
be before the Justice aforesaid to stand to the Right and to do
those things which according to the Law of the Forest ought to be
done. The residue of the Execution of the aforesaid Precept
appears in form following. *PLAS &c.* as above. John
Bishop of Lincoln puts in his place William Brett his Attorney
to ask challenge - prosecute and defend all Liberties Franchises

Priviledges profits Emoluments & Commodities in the aforesaid
Forest, and for certain causes here moving the aforesaid Justices
by leave of the Court &c. Day is given to the aforesaid Bishops at
the City of Westminster in the County of Middlesex on the morrow of
Saint Martin the Bishop, to claim and shew his claim aforesaid &c.
At which Day before the aforesaid Justices here, to wit at Westminster
aforesaid comes the aforesaid Bishop by his Attorney aforesaid and
claims to have for himself and his Successors Bishops of Lincoln
the Liberties Franchises Acquittances Common of Pasture Profits and
Emoluments underwritten in the said Forest of the said Lord the
King of Lifeld in the said County of Rutland, to wit, To have and
to hold his Park of Lydyngton as the same is now inclosed, and
that he and his Successors may freely inclose their Parks and
may carry their wood of Lydyngton when and where they will
at their Pleasure to make give and sele and take and cause to be
taken without the View and ale Contradiction of the Foresters and
Rangers and of all Ministers of the Lord the King and his Heirs.
And thereupon whatever they should take or cause to be taken
should give or sele they might draw and remove and might cause
to be drawn and removed freely and peaceably with the Liberty of
Chimnages and without ^{Chimnages} in the same Forest aforesaid being paid
and without the View, Reclaim, Restriction Contradiction or Impediment
of the Foresters of the aforesaid Forest on any Occasion and that those
woods and Assarts thereupon made and caused to be made
of the waste and Range and brow of the Foresters
Verdurers and Rangers of the same Forest. And they also
claim that he and his Successors in ^{his Demesnes} the Church of the Manor
in the said County of Rutland and all their Men of Lydyngton
aforesaid or of their Demesnes be quit of Suit at the Swain mot Court
and of Pleas of the Forest aforesaid and of the Lawing of Dogs and of
all Summonses Pleas Plaints and Actions appertaining to the
Foresters and Forest aforesaid
He also claims for himself and his Successors to ~~have~~ have
twenty acres of Assart in Lydyngton aforesaid. He also
claims to have for himself and his Successors the Deer Leaps
in his said Park of Lydyngton with all Liberties to the Deer Leaps
belonging He also claims to have for himself and his Successors
twenty five acres of old Assart in the Forest aforesaid quietly from

all Rewards and all Exaction and that he and his
Successors have an Assignment of all his woods aforesaid whensoever
and wheresoever they will in the proper woods. And that they
take in those woods all things necessary in Green and Dry without
the View and Delivery of the Foresters. Save the Kings Hunt or
He also claims to have for himself and his Successors and his Men
and Tenants at-wile or for years and other his Tenants of Lydyngton
and faldcote and Stokedric Common of Pasture for ale and all
manner of his Beasts and ~~Cattle~~^{Birds} aswile Hogs and geese as for
his other Beasts and ~~Cattle~~^{Birds} whatsoever in all times of the Year
in a certain Place called the Brende within the forest of Lifeld
in the County of Rutland. And then it was demanded by Reginald
Gayton Attorney of the said King in this behalf by what warrant
the aforesaid now Bishop claims the Liberties Acquittances Common
and other Premises. And the said Bishop by his Attorney aforesaid
as to all the premises except the Common of Pasture aforesaid
asks thereupon Respite to make his claim. And as to the said
Common of Pasture in the aforesaid place called the Brende
the same Bishop says that he was seized of the said Manor or
Lordship of Lydyngton in the County aforesaid in his Demesne as of
Free in right of his Church of Lincoln aforesaid and that he and
all his Predecessors Bishops of Lincoln aforesaid were seized of the
aforesaid Manor or Lordship in right of the Church aforesaid
from the time whereof the Memory of Man is not to the contrary
and in all that time had and used for themselves their Tenants
or Men aforesaid of Lydyngton of faldcote and Stokedric aforesaid
Common of Pasture for ale and all manner of their Beasts and
~~Cattle~~^{Birds} aforesaid in all times of the Year in the aforesaid Place
called the Brende within the forest aforesaid as belonging to
the said Manor or Lordship of Lydyngton. And this the same
now Bishop is ready to verify as &c. and demanded that
the Common aforesaid in the aforesaid Place called the Brende
should be allotted for him and his Successors &c. And the
aforesaid Reginald Gayton who sues for the Lord the King in this
Behalf says that neither the aforesaid now Bishop nor his
Predecessors had nor were accustomed to have Common in
the aforesaid Place called the Brende nor elsewhere in the

aforesaid Forest from the time whereof there is not memory -
as the aforesaid now Bishop above by his said Attorney -
alleged. And this for the Lord the King he demands may be
inquired by the Country And the aforesaid now Bishop by his said
Attorney doth the like. Therefore it is commanded to the Sheriff
of Rutland that he cause to come before the Justices aforesaid
here on this said Instant tenth day of September at four of the
Clock of the Same Day twenty four honest and lawfull men of the
Vieo of Lydington in his County to do those things which between
the Lord the King and the aforesaid now Bishop are injoined to them
&c. At which hour here comes as well the aforesaid Reginald
who for the Lord the King &c. as the aforesaid now Bishop by his
Attorney aforesaid And also the Sheriff in the manner commanded
his aforesaid Precept in all things hath done and Executed
Upon this Twenty four honest and lawfull men impanelled by
the aforesaid Sheriff ^{came} and twelve of those are impanelled elected
tried and sworn are as follows, William Villers, John Dirrand,
of Baroughdon and Thomas Dirrand John Thornton William
Overton Thomas Clerke Henry Dretton John Droune John
Hint William Haryson Robert Hardalf and William Morecroft
and the aforesaid Rangers to wit John Lothly William Sheffield
Thomas Sofeld John Wight John Marston William Petyser Thomas
Overton Robert Symes Hugh Boldhor Robert Blackburn and
William Larnowe then and there likewise in this Behalf are sworn
who say upon their Oath that the aforesaid now Bishop and his
Predecessors Bishops of Lincoln had and were accustomed to have
from the time whereof memory is not Common of Pasture for his
Cattle in the aforesaid Place called the Brende within the aforesaid
Forest of Leyfeld for his Men and Tenants aforesaid of Lydington
Caldecote and Stokedrie aforesaid in manner and form as the aforesaid
now Bishop by his said Attorney amongst other things in his said
Comin hath alleged. Therefore It is considered by the
aforesaid Justices here that the aforesaid now Bishop may enjoy and
have quietly Common of Pasture for his Cattle in the aforesaid Place
called the Brende within the aforesaid Forest of Leyfeld for his said
Men and Tenants of Lydington Caldecote and Stokedrie in manner
and form as by the aforesaid twelve Jurors and Rangers above appears.

And because for certain causes to the Court here shewn the
aforesaid now Bishop is not now prepared further to shew and
prove his claim in the rest of the premises expressed in the claim
aforesaid. Therefore by leave of the Court as before he thereupon
prays Respite and it is granted to him or. And upon this Day is
given to him thereupon as above at Westminister until the aforesaid
Morrow of Saint Martin to further shew and prove thereupon his
claim aforesaid, the right of the King in the mean time in all things
being saved &c. We therefore by the Tenor of the writ Indulgent
or Recital of the same and of the plea aforesaid at the Request of
the Reverend Father in Christ William now Bishop of Lincoln have
caused to be exemplified by these presents In Testimony whereof
we have caused these our Letters to be made patent Witness my self
at Westminister the sixth day of June in the fourth year of our Reign