

The Court Rolls of the Manor of Slaidburn

(Yorkshire pre-1974, now in Lancashire)

Volume 1

1392-1613

Translated and transcribed

by

Christopher John Spencer BSc ARCS

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The Manor of Slaidburn had jurisdiction across the Liberty of Bowland which comprised the townships of Slaidburn, Newton in Bowland, Easington, Grindleton, West Bradford, Waddington, Mitton, Bashall, Bowland Forest Higher and Lower, and Bowland with Leagram.

The manorial courts were held in the court house in Slaidburn and the proceedings were recorded on parchment rolls now preserved in the Lancashire Archives. There are almost three hundred rolls covering the years 1515-1782, as well as a much earlier roll for 1392-1393. They are mostly written in abbreviated Latin up until 1733, but this has been translated into English in these transcripts.

The court rolls record infringements of manorial laws such as fishing in the Hodder and taking the monarch's fish, unmade fences and hedges, affrays, cattle trespassing, etc. The contents of the rolls give a fascinating insight into daily life in the manor in centuries gone by.

The rolls also acted as a 'deeds registry' recording conveyances of land in the townships of Slaidburn, Newton, Grindleton and West Bradford. It is often possible to trace the ownership history of a farm in these townships over many centuries.

This Volume 1 of the rolls is 1210 pages long and includes comprehensive indexes for people named in the rolls, placenames and miscellanea. For anyone researching Bowland's local history or the genealogy of its inhabitants, the court rolls are an essential primary source. Two further volumes will follow later covering the years up to 1782.