



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Salford

Local Government

Manor Courts and Officers

Separate courts baron were presumably held for both Salford manors by the late 13th century, when the Morins also owed suit to the archbishop of York's court at Churchdown (Glos.) for their intermediary lordship.¹ At a court of survey held in 1446 (after the manors' unification) two affeerers were sworn in, and presentments were made regarding dilapidated houses and the flight from the manor of an unfree tenant or bondsman (*nativus*).² Salford's inhabitants owed additional suit to Chadlington's hundred court and to its annual view of frankpledge, where in 1279 (and still in 1549) a tithingman paid fixed sums for cert money, wardpenny, and hidage, and where at the latter date fines were imposed for brewing offences.³ By 1718 leet jurisdiction belonged to the lord of Salford,⁴ who in 1725 convened a court baron with view of frankpledge to agree agricultural by-laws enforced by two fieldsmen. The court also elected a constable and two tithingmen,⁵ the former a successor of a constable of Salford mentioned in 1377.⁶ Open-field land known as Tithingmen's Plot was mentioned in 1688.⁷

Owners of the Berkeleys or Bartletts estate owed suit to the Chipping Norton manor court (in 1302 nominally every three weeks),⁸ and there is no evidence that they ever held separate courts for their tenants. By the 18th century courts baron with view of frankpledge were held for Over Norton and Bartletts manors combined, manorial quitrents remaining due from six Salford houses.⁹

¹ *Rot. Hund.* II, 728–9; W. Brown (ed.), *The Registers of John le Romeyn, Lord Archbishop of York, 1286–1296*, II (Surtees Soc. 128, 1916), 257.

² TNA, SC 2/197/61; above, social hist. (Middle Ages).

³ *Rot. Hund.* II, 728; TNA, SC 2/197/20–21.

⁴ Bodl. MS dd Dawkins C29/ID1/9.

⁵ OHC, CH/VII/1.

⁶ *Poll Taxes 1377–81*, ed. Fenwick, II, 306.

⁷ OHC, BOR4/36/17D/1; Over Norton & Salford estate survey, 1818 (photocopy in possession of Joy Timms, Salford), p. 46.

⁸ Above, landownership (Berkeleys); TNA, C 133/104/21.

⁹ Bodl. MSS dd Dawkins C7/IA17/3; C8/IB3/8; above, Over Norton, local govt.

Parish Government and Officers

Two churchwardens were mentioned in 1530,¹⁰ and two overseers of the poor in 1642.¹¹ Churchwardens' accounts survive for the year 1727 (when expenditure included 8s. 8d. for killing hedgehogs),¹² and overseers' accounts for the period 1744–1826.¹³ At enclosure in 1770 a ½-a. parcel was awarded to the parish clerk, and the parish received a stone pit for road repairs.¹⁴ Two surveyors of highways were appointed by 1772, their surviving accounts (covering 1772–1807) detailing payments for quarrying and spreading stone,¹⁵ while in 1785 the parish lost a court case brought by the county over the maintenance of Salford Bridge.¹⁶ Both surveyors were replaced in 1864 with a waywarden on the new Chadlington Highway Board.¹⁷

Vestry meetings were held in the church by 1860, when an inspector of nuisances was appointed.¹⁸ Under the Local Government Act of 1894 the vestry was superseded for civil purposes by a parish council, which met at the school from 1894 and later at the village hall.¹⁹ The parish belonged to Chipping Norton Poor Law Union from 1834, Chipping Norton Rural District from 1894, and West Oxfordshire District from 1974.²⁰

¹⁰ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* II, 46.

¹¹ *Prot. Retns.*, 97.

¹² OHC, PAR227/5/A1/1, f. 12.

¹³ *Ibid.* PAR227/5/F1/1–3; above, social hist. (welfare).

¹⁴ *Ibid.* Chipping Norton & Salford enclo. award; cf. Salford map, 1771 (in private possession).

¹⁵ OHC, PAR227/7/F1/1.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* QSB/1; above, landscape etc. (communics).

¹⁷ *Ibid.* HB6; *London Gaz.* 8 Jan. 1864, p. 102.

¹⁸ OHC, PAR227/2/A/1.

¹⁹ Par. council mins 1894 (in private possession); par. council mins 1898–2021 (in possession of par. council); OHC, S227/1/A2/1, p. 54; www.salfordvillage.org.uk (accessed Jan. 2021).

²⁰ Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 404; *Oxon. Atlas*, 144–5, 150–1.