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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864

Methley is a village in what is now West Yorkshire, situated between Leeds and Pontefract. In 1591, some land here was bequeathed to University College by its then rector, Otho Hunt. Hunt had been elected a Percy Fellow of University College in May 1559, and served as the College's Bursar for 1561/2. It seems that he resigned his Fellowship in about 1563, because the Bursar's Accounts for 1563–6 show that he was renting a room in the College as Commoner and not a Fellow. A list of incumbents in Methley Church says that Hunt was appointed rector there in 1567.

Otho Hunt died in 1591, and bequeathed the College some freehold and copyhold land in Methley on condition that they be used to endow two scholarships there. As is clear from **UC:E11/D1** below, Hunt's brother Thomas played an important role in securing the bequest for the College. To judge from the College's Register, however, the first recorded Hunt Scholar, Edward Coplay, was not appointed until 1631.

The College retained this property until October 1867, when it sold it to the Earl of Mexborough for £6000 (information taken from **UC:EB1/A1/5** pp. 727–9). The funding for Hunt Scholars, however, continued long after that date.

All the documents in this section were found during the stocktaking of July 1993. Some documents transcribed or calendared by William Smith in the early 18th century proved to be missing.

Because of its proximity both to the Freeston estates in and around Pontefract, and to the Lodge Estates in and around the city of York, several documents about Methley are to be found in the catalogues relating to both these estates (**UC:E12** and **UC:E18** respectively). In particular, for much of the later 18th and early 19th centuries, the estate accounts for Methley and the Lodge estates were kept in one sequence, and are therefore all to be found in **UC:E18**.

Catalogued in January 2012.

UC:E11/D1 - DOCUMENTS CONCERNING OTHO HUNT'S BEQUEST, 1591–1619

UC:E11/D1/1

31 Aug 1591

Copy from the court roll of the Manor of Methley reporting that Thomas Hunt, clerk, and Robert Croft, the executors of Otho Hunt, were present to pay for the probate of Otho Hunt's will. Hunt's will, dated 19 Sep 1590, is quoted in full. He leaves all his freehold land in Methley to his brother Thomas for life, and then for the uses set out in his will, and he has surrendered his copyhold land in the manor of Methley for the use of Robert Croft and Alles his wife for their lives, with reversion to his brother Thomas. His aim is that his lands will endow the funding of one or two poor scholars in University College, Oxford, as the Master and Fellows will think most meet for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel. He asks that his poor scholars should be deemed eligible to be elected to Fellowships. The Master and Fellows have the right to deprive Scholars deemed idle or disobedient of their awards. He hopes

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

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that from time to time Scholars will be chosen who were born either in Swynton in the parish of Wathe, Yorks., where Hunt himself was born, or from the parishes of Methley and Kirkburton. If University College does not want this Scholarship, then it is to be offered to Brasenose College, and if they do not want it, then Hunt's brother is to put the money towards endowing a free school at Swynton.

[There is no Pyz Z fasc. 1 no. 1 in Smith's list. But this document might have been intended; and it does bear annotations in Smith's hand]

UC:E11/D1/2**31 Aug 1591**

[This document was not found in September 2011. The only evidence for its contents is derived from Smith's transcript (UC:AR2/1/MS1/4 p. 9)]

An account of the proceedings in Methley Court upon Otho Hunt's death.

This reports that Hunt had surrendered his copyhold lands at Methley to the use of Robert Croft and Alice his wife for 21 years from 31 May 1591, on condition they pay £6 a year to Hunt's brother Thomas Hunt, and that the lease would be voidable if Hunt himself chose to occupy the lands. Hunt had later surrendered all his lands for the use of Thomas Hunt according to the conditions of his will.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 2]

UC:E11/D1/3**31 Aug 1591**

Copy of court roll from the manor of Methley.

Parties:

1. William Shann and Richard Shann, two wardens of the manor of Methley.
2. Thomas Hunt, clerk, brother of Otho Hunt.

Property: (i) A messuage with buildings erected on it called Pockocke Place, and 2 acres of land and meadow, and lying in one orchard, one garden and one croft, which were usually leased with the same messuage, and one close of land and pasture lying between land of the Rectory of Methley to the east and land formerly of the Chantry of Kippax to the west; (ii) another messuage and buildings erected on it in Mickeltowne in Methley, a parcel of the same bovate [sic?] called Buttle Oxcange one garden, and three roods of land meadow, and lying in an orchard, toft, foldestead, and croft; (iii) one acre of land in le Sowtheslades in Methley; (iv) two acres of pasture in a close situated in the east field; (v) five other roods of land in certain places called Gamblestarr and Westfordbancke and two acres of pasture in a close situated to the east part of Townecarr in Methley once of Robert Leyburne the younger and William Goodricke; (vi) a half part of one messuage and two acres of land and meadow lying in Le Foldestead with a

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yard, garden and croft, and in a certain close called Lockwoode Crookes in Methleye recently of Nicholas Shillito; (vii) four and a half acres of land and pasture in a close called Smethye Halle and existing in Thorpesyde in Methley, abutting on the royal way called Watergate to the north, and on Thorppynges and a close of Richard Walker called Lonker to the south, and on a lane leading into le Thorppynges and on another part of the same meadow called le Thorppynges to the west, and on two other closes called Halfeacre and Greateclose to the west.

(viii) 2 acres and half a rood of land lying in the fields of Methleye of which 3 roods lie in a selion in the east field and abut on le Sowthemoore to the south and the croft of Thomas Whittleys to the north, and lie between lands of Robert Heptonstall to the east and lands of John Townend to the west; and another half acre lies in the same field, abutting on the said le Sowthemoore to the south and on two selions of which one was formerly held by Robert Scawbarte, and the other in the occupation of Robert Heptonstall, to the north, and situated between land of Robert Warde to the east and of John Townend to the west; and another half acre lies in the field called Kirckfielde, and abuts on the said le Sowthemoore and land of Andrew Yonge, lying between land of Robert Nutter in the right of his wife, to the east, and land of Richard Shann to the west; and another rood of land which lies in the west field between land of John Townend to the west, and land of Robert Heptonstall to the east, and abuts on the high way to the north and on land of Thomas Cockell to the south; and the remaining half a rood of land lies in the same field between land of Robert Heptonstall to the east and land of the Chantry of Kippax to the west, and abuts on the croft of Thomas Blewett to the south, and land of Fether to the north.

(ix) Two acres of land and pasture in a close called le Ympeyerd in Methleye; (x) five roods of land in Walleplattfeild in Methley, formerly of Thomas Heptonstall; (xi) the reversion of the same immediately after the death of Joan Heptonstall, mother of Thomas; (xii) half an acre of meadow in Northeyngs in Methley formerly of William Waterburne; (xiii) a rood and a half of land in the west field of Methleye in a place called Hungerhill abutting on the common way to the north and on a croft of Thomas Blewett to the south; (xiv) a rood of land lying on le Sowthmore of Methleye recently of John Townend; (xv) one other parcel of land containing [acreage left blank] called a Butt in le Churchfeilde of Methleye formerly of Richard Heptonstall.

Comments: On 31 May 1591, on his deathbed, Otho Hunt, clerk, parson of Methley, surrendered the above properties to 1, for the use of 2 according to certain uses declared in Hunt's

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will. 1 now present the above properties to 2 according to the same uses.

Language: Latin.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 3]

UC:E11/D1/4

13 Jan 34 Eliz I (1591/2)

Grant

Parties:

1. (a) Henry Farrer of Ewood, Yorks., gent.
(b) William Savile of Wakefeld, Yorks., Gent.
2. Thomas Hunt of Whitwicke, Leics., clerk, brother and heir of Otho Hunt of Methley alias Medley, Yorks., clerk, deceased.

Property: 1 selion of pasture called the Lordes balke or le Parsons balke with all woods, and bushes, containing one acre, situated between le Eastfeild and Okes Feild in Methley (excepting one *ergastulum* or park called le Pynnfold and the lands on which it stands, situated at the north boundary of the same selion, and all the usual ways and passages across the selion granted to the inhabitants of Methley).

Consideration: None mentioned.

Comments: 1 grant the above land to 2.

Language: Latin.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 4]

UC:E11/D1/5

17 Jan 34 Eliz I (1591/2)

Bargain and Sale.

Parties:

1. Richarde Burton of Meathley alias Medley, Yorks., Yeoman.
2. Thomas Hunte of Whitwicke, Leics., clerk.

Property: One messuage of an oxegange of land with the houses built on it, with one barn, one close, one garth, one garden, and one other garden, containing one acre and one rood of land, with common of pasture, and situated between the lands of Robert Warde of Meathley, Yeoman, called the Towelande, to the west, and on another messuage called Pocock Place, one close, one orchard, one garden and foldstead occupied by Robert Crofte alias Carver to the east, and abutting on a close of Robert Warde called the Dewsam Feild to the north, and on the orchard of Robert Warde to the south.

Consideration: £20.

Comments: 1 sells the above land to 2.

Language: English.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 5]

UC:E11/D1/6

17 Jan 34 Eliz I (1591/2)

Bond

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Parties: Both as in **UC:E11/D1/5** above.

Consideration: £20.

Comments: 1 is bound to 2 to perform the covenants set out in **D1/5** above. This deed is attached to **UC:E11/D1/5**.

Language: Latin and English.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 6]

UC:E11/D1/7**18 Jan 34 Eliz I (1591/2)**

Confirmation of Bargain and Sale

Parties & Property: All as in **UC:E11/D1/5** above.

Comments: 1 confirms the above bargain and sale, and promises warranty to 2 against any other claims on the property.

Language: Latin

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 7]

UC:E11/D1/8**23 Oct 35 Eliz 1 (1593)**

Letter of Attorney from the Master and Fellows of University College appointing John Browne their attorney to treat with Thomas Hunt, who has agreed to pass over to the College lands in Methley, and to grant Thomas Hunt assurances for life of the estate. The document is signed by Anthony Gate (Master 1584–97).

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 8a]

UC:E11/D1/9**[..] Nov 37 Eliz I [1594 or 1595]**

Draft Agreement

Parties:

1. John Savile, Serjeant at Law.
2. The Master and Fellows of University College

Property: Copyhold lands held by Otho Hunt in Methley, Yorks.

Consideration: An annual rent, sum left blank.

Comments: 1 is Lord of the Manor of Methley. He now gives this property to 2 for ever, subject to this annual rent.

The day of the month is not given in this document. Because Elizabeth I's regnal year began on 17 November, it is not known whether this draft dates from the start of her 37th year (late Nov 1594) or the end of it (early Nov. 1595). On the back of this document, William Smith has wondered whether this deed was ever executed, because it covers much of the same ground as that in **UC:E11/D1/10** below.

Some of this deed is lost, it seems because it has been eaten at by rodents.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 8b]

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864**UC:E11/D1/10****20 Jan 44 Eliz I (1601/2)**

[This document appeared to be missing in October 2011, and so Smith's transcript (UC:AR2/MS1/4, pp. 14–18) provides the only guide to its contents]

Agreement

Parties:

1. John Savile, one of the Barons of the Court of the Exchequer, and owner of the Manor of Methley, Yorks.
2. George Abbot, DD., Dean of Winchester and Master of University College, and the Fellows of the same.
3. Thomas Hunt of Cudgrove, Notts., Clerk.

Property: Various copyhold lands in the manor of Methley, which were once in the tenure of Otho Hunt.

Consideration: The equivalent of one year's rent, to be paid to 1 and his heirs every time that there is a change of Master in University College.

Comments: 1 gives the above property to 2 in fee simple, to be used in accordance with the uses declared under Otho Hunt's will. It is also agreed that any future tenants of the property shall take their turn acting as grave or reeve of the manor.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 9]

UC:E11/D1/11**19 Aug 44 Eliz I (1602)**

Lease for 21 Years done by way of Copy of Court Roll

Parties:

1. Thomas Hunt of Codgrave, Notts., Clerk.
2. Henry Farrar, Esq., John Flower, Robert Ward and Nicholas Hanson.

Property: A messuage and a bovate of land, meadow and pasture called Pocock Oxcange, in Methley, now in the tenure of Robert Crofte alias Carver.

Consideration: £6 a year.

Comments: 1 arranges that the above property be passed to 2 after his death for 21 years.

Language: Latin

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 10]

UC:E11/D1/12**20 Oct 44 Eliz I (1602)**

Agreement

Parties:

1. George Abbot, DD., Dean of Winchester and Master of University College, and the Fellows of the same.
2. Thomas Hunt, Rector of Codgrave, Notts., Clerk.

Property: Various lands (unspecified) in Methley, Yorks., both copyhold and freehold.

Comments: 1 undertake that, after the death of 2, they will continue to elect one scholar who will receive an annual stipend of £5, and a second scholar, who will have been born

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inside the county of Yorkshire or the parish of Codgrave, who will receive an annual stipend of £4.

Language: Latin

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 11]

UC:E11/D1/13**11 Nov 44 Eliz I (1602)**

Conveyance by means of Court Roll

Parties:

1. Thomas Hunt of Codgrave, Clerk.
2. John Browne and John Brooke, of University College, Oxford.

Property: The reversion on a messuage and a bovate of land, meadow and pasture in Methley, now in the tenure of Robert Croft alias Carver.

Consideration: None mentioned.

Comments: 1 gives the above reversion to 2.

Language: Latin

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 12]

UC:E11/D1/14**12 Jul 3 Ja I (1605)**

Lease for 21 Years.

Parties:

1. Thomas Hunt of Codgrave, Notts., Clerk.
2. (a) Henrie Farrer, Esq.
(b) John Flowre of Methley, gent.
(c) Robert Ward of the same, Yeoman.
(d) Nicholas Hanson of the same, Yeoman.

Property: All the freehold lands (unspecified) in Methley which 1 has bought from 2a, William Savill, and Richard Burton. William Smith has written on the back of this deed of the property that "tis for a messuage there called Wrohale, &c."

Consideration: 13s 4d a year.

Comments: This lease will come into operation on death of 1.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 13a]

UC:E11/D1/15**12 Jul 3 Ja I (1605)**

Counterpart of **UC:E11/D1/14** above.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 13b]

UC:E11/D1/16**13 Jul 3 Ja I (1605)**

Grant

Parties:

1. Thomas Hunt of Codgrave, Notts., Clerk.
2. Henry Tilson and John Rayner of University College, Oxford.

Property: All 1's freehold lands (unspecified) in Methley, Yorks.

Consideration: None mentioned.

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Comments: 1 conveys the above lands to 2 for the use of 1 during his lifetime, and then to the use of the Master and Fellows of University College.

Language: Latin

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 14]

UC:E11/D1/17**28 Jan 10 Ja I (1612/13)**

Copy of Court Roll recording a surrender of land

Parties:

1. John Halson and John Flower of Methley, and Nicholas Hanson of Eland.
2. Thomas Scofeild of Methley.

Property: One messuage and all buildings erected on it in Mickletowne, Methley; parcels of a bovate of land called Buttell Oxgang; one garden; three roods of land and meadow in an orchard, toft, foldstead and croft adjoining the same; 2 acres of land lying in a close called Longeclose to the east of le Towncarr; four and a half acres of meadow and pasture lying in a close in Thorpside in Methely called Smitthiehalffe; a close of land an meadow adjoining the water of Kedler, recently divided from the land of William Nunnes and Richard Wilkinson; an acre of land in le Oxefeilde (alias Waleslatfield), between two *lirae* [?] and abutting on le South More; and half an acre of arable land in the east field of Methley between two *lirae* and abutting on le South More in Methley.

Consideration: 2 is to pay £3 a year to the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.

Comments: 1 convey the land to 2 immediately on the death of Thomas Hunt of Cotgrave, Clerk, for the term of 21 years.

Language: Latin

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 15]

UC:E11/D1/18**10 Jan 1615/16–21 Jan 1617/18**

Copy of the will of Thomas Hunt, dated 10 Jan 1615/16 and proved 21 Jan 1617/18. Hunt leaves his lands in Methley to University College on the trusts set out in his brother's will.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 16]

UC:E11/D1/19**14 Apr 17 Ja I (1619)**

Bargain and Sale

Parties:

1. William Shillito and Robert Abbott, both of Whitwood, Yorks., Yeoman.
2. [blank; should be John] Bancroft, DD, Master of University College, and the Fellows of the same.

Property: The timber rights in the manor of Methley, which are now in the tenure of Ellenor, widow of Otho Hunt (with certain rights reserved to her for the remainder of a term of 21 years).

Consideration: None given.

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Comments: On the dorse of this deed, William Smith wrote that he had not seen any other reference in any other document to a widow of Otho Hunt the former Fellow of University College and benefactor, but observed that Thomas Hunt's will mentions a younger Otho Hunt who was alive in 1615.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 17]

UC:E11/MS1 - LOST DOCUMENTS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF METHLEY

All the documents in this section were found to be missing in October 2011, and have almost certainly been missing at least since before 1993. The only source for their contents, therefore, are William Smith's transcripts.

UC:E11/MS1/1**4 Nov 1634**

[from UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 33–34.]
Surrender by University College of Pocock Place to Anne Scholefield of Methley, Widow, for 21 Years, at an annual rent of £6.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 18a]

UC:E11/MS1/2**3 Nov 1634**

[from UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 34]
Apparently another copy of the preceding.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 18b]

UC:E11/MS1/3**27 Sep 1636**

[from UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 34–41]
Described by Smith as "A decree of the Counsell at York on the Behalfe of the College & their tenants that the latter should pay noe fines to the Lord of the manor of Methley up their admittances to be tenants or renewals of their leases from the College."

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 19]

UC:E11/MS1/4**6 Feb 1637**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 42–3]
Letter from John Darell to Thomas Walker discussing claims made by the lord of the manor of Methley for payment of heriot.
The letter was dated "1637", but Smith thought that it was written in 1637 rather than 1637/8.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 20b]

UC:E11/MS1/5**n.d. (1630s?)**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 43]
List of rents payable to the Lord of the manor of Methley for University College's land.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 21]

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864**UC:E11/MS1/6****25 Jan 1637 [1637/8?]**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 42]

Acquittance from the Lord of the Manor of Methley for the payment of a fine on the change of a Master of University College.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 22]

UC:E11/MS1/7–8**1685/6?**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 43–4]

These documents are described by Smith simply thus: “In the beginning of the year 1685 before 6 May that year Mr Jo. Savile Lord of Methley made an entry upon some of the Colledge Copyhold Lands at Methley in order to an ejection - and the tenants are advised by letters from the Coll. to keep possession & when an ejection is delivered to send speedy notice to the College that it may be ready to defend their right. This seisure or intended seisure was for two fines due about the deaths of Dr. Walker and Dr. Clayton later Masters of the College”.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 nos. 23–24]

UC:E11/MS1/9**c. 15 Oct 1685**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 44–5]

Draft letter from Obadiah Walker to Mr. Savile on the question of the above seizure.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 25]

UC:E11/MS1/10**15 Oct 1685**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 45]

Letter from William Holgate, a tenant of Methley, describing John Savile’s proceedings against their estate. Smith observes “This Holgate was an Anabaptist Preacher.”

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 26]

UC:E11/MS1/11**6 Feb 1685/6**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 45–6]

Draft letter from the College to John Savile discussing how much money Savile is entitled to as Lord of the Manor of Methley from the College.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 27]

UC:E11/MS1/12**2 Mar 1685/6**

[From UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 46]

Letter from Edward Hinchliffe to the College. Smith notes that Hinchliffe was “A bachelor Fellow sent down with some College writing in the winter (when none else of the Fellows were willing to go down)”. Hinchliffe reports on his details with lawyers in this case against Savile.

[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 28]

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- UC:E11/MS1/13** **n.d. (Mar 1685/6)**
 [from UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 46–7]
 Another letter from Hinchliffe to the College reporting on his dealings in the Methley affair.
[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 29]
- UC:E11/MS1/14** **16 Feb 1685/6**
 [from UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 47]
 Opinion of Judge Creswell Levinz on the dispute between the College and John Savile, in particular how much, if anything should be paid to Savile on the death or removal of a Master.
[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 30]
- UC:E11/MS1/15** **17 Apr 1686**
 [From UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 48]
 Acquittance from John Savile for the payment of two fines owed on the deaths of Thomas Walker and Richard Clayton.
[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 31]
- UC:E11/MS1/16** **1 Dec 1694**
 [From UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 48]
 Acquittance from John Savile for the payment of three fines (£18) for the removal or deaths of Obadiah Walker, Edward Farrer, and Thomas Bennet.
[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 32]
- UC:E11/MS1/17** **n.d. (1630s?)**
 [From UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 49]
 Petition from Thomas Scofield on ensuring that his sons will succeed to his tenancy.
[Original reference Pyx Z fasc. 1 no. 33]

UC:E11/D2 - LEASES CONCERNING “BUTTLE OXGANG”

UC:E11/D2/1–7 were found bundled together by William Smith and inscribed “Methly Bundle 1”

Note here the lost lease in **UC:EB1/A1/1** fols. 399v–400 described in the introduction to **UC:E11/D3** below.

- UC:E11/D2/1** **12 Oct 1649**
 Lease for 21 Years
Parties:
 1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
 2. Thomas Scholefeild, William Scholefeild, and Andrew Scholefeild, sons of Thomas Scholefeild, decd.
Property: A messuage or tenement called Butle Oxgang, with all buildings erected there on, situated in Mickle Town of

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

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Methley, Yorks.; one orchard and croft adjoining; one close of meadow called the Crookes; one close of pasture called the Smithy halfe; one other close of pasture lying by the Town Car; one acre of arable land lying in the Oackes Feild alias Walflat Feild; and one half acre lying in the East feild; but with timber rights reserved to the College.

Rent: £3 a year.

UC:E11/D2/2

6 Nov 1662

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. (a) Robert Scholefeild of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.
(b) Isabell Scholefeild of Methley, Spinster.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D2/1** above.

UC:E11/D2/3

15 Dec 17 Cha II (1665)

Assignment of Lease

Parties:

1. Isabell Scholefeild of Methley, Yorks., Spinster.
2. Robert Scholefeild of the same, gent.

Property: 1's portion of the property as set out in **UC:E11/D2/1** above.

Consideration: None mentioned.

Comments: 1 passes over the above property to 2.

UC:E11/D2/4

15 Oct 1674

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. John Farrar of Methley, Yorks., Gent.

Property: A messuage or tenement called Butle Ofgang, with all buildings erected thereon, situated in the Mickle Town of Methley, Yorks.; one orchard and croft adjoining, bounded on the west by lands of William Shann, on the north by the town Car, and on the east by William Robert's lands; one close of meadow called the Crookes bounded on the east by the river of Calder, on the south and west by the lands of William Nunne, and on the north by William Roberts' lands; one close of pasture called the Smithy halfe, bounded on the south and west by a meadow called the Thorppings, on the east by lands of John Hagggar, and on the north by the highway called Watter gate; one other close of pasture lying by the Town Car, bounded on the west and south by the said Car, on the north by the lands of John Savile, and on the west [sic] by the lands of William Ward; one acre of arable land lying in the Okes Feild alias Walflat Feild, bounded on the east and west with two balks, to the north by the lands of William Shann, and on the south by the South More; and one half acre lying in the East

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feild bounded on the east and west with two balks, to the north by William Webster's land, and on the south by the South More; but with timber rights reserved to the College.

Rent: £3 a year.

UC:E11/D2/5**27 Mar 1678**

Assignment of Lease

Parties:

1. John Farrar of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.
2. William Holgate of Pontefract, Yorks., [status lost]

Property: As in **UC:E11/D2/4** above.

Consideration: An unspecified sum.

Comments: 1 assigns his lease on the above property to 2. This deed is written on paper, and a small part of text on the top left-hand corner has been lost.

UC:E11/D2/6**13 Aug 1684**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. William Holgate of Pontefract, Yorks., Lynnen Draper.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D2/4** above.

UC:E11/D2/7**19 Jan 1699/1700**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Glover.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D2/4** above.

UC:E11/D2/8**19 Jan 1699/1700**

Counterpart of **UC:E11/D2/7** above.

UC:E11/D2/9**14 Sep 1709**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Glover.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D2/4** above.

UC:E11/D2/10**14 Sep 1709**

Counterpart of **UC:E11/D2/9** above.

UC:E11/D2/11**14 Jul 1719**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Glover.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D2/4** above.

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864**UC:E11/D2/12****13 Oct 1729**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Glover.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D2/4** above.**UC:E11/D2/13****13 Oct 1729**Counterpart of **UC:E11/D2/12** above.

In 1738, all the College's properties in Methley were leased to a single tenant. See **UC:E11/D5** below for leases from after this date.

UC:E11/D3 - LEASES OF POCOCK PLACE

UC:E11/D3/1–4 were found bundled together by William Smith and labelled "Methly Bundle 2d". They have been damaged by damp and some deeds are not easy to read because they have been stuck together.

UC:EB1/A1/1 fols. 399–399v is a copy of a lost lease for 21 years, dated 3 November 1634, to Anne Scholfeild of Methley, widow, at a rent of £6 a year, of the following properties:

(1) A messuage in Mickle towne in Methley called Pocock Place, and 2 acres of land, meadow or pasture in one garden, orchard, foldstead, and two crofts adjoining the same, 2 acres of pasture in a close called Impyards, 5 roods of meadow lying in Tamble Scarr, half an acre of meadow in North-ings, 2 acres of arable land lying in the east field of Methley, 5 roods of arable land in the Oakes Field alias Wallflat field, one and a half roods in the west field, half an acre and a parcel of and called Abutt in the Church field.

(2) One other messuage in Mickletowne aforesaid, being part of an oxgang of land called Butleoxgange, one garden, three roods of land meadow and pasture in an orchard toft foldhouse and croft adjoining, 2 acres of land and pasture in a close called the Long Close lying on the east part of the town carr, 4 and a half acres of land and meadow adjoining the mater of Kalder, lately divided and separated from the lands of William Nunnes, and the lands late of Richard Wilkinson, one acre of arable land lying in the Oakes Field, alias Walflat Field, between two balkes and abutting on the South Moore, and half an acre lying in the East Field abutting on the South Moor.

UC:EB1/A1/2 fol. 31v is a copy of a lost lease dated 12 Oct 1649 to John Darrell and Ann his wife, and Mary Scholefield and Isabell Scholefield, daughters of the said Ann, of Methly, Yorks., for 21 years, at a rent of £3 a year, of Poccocke Place, as set out in the lease of 1634 above.

UC:E11/D3/1**15 Oct 1649**

Bond

Parties:

1. John Darrell of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.
2. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.

Comments: 1 is bound to 2 for £100 to perform convenants on behalf of himself, his wife Anne, Mary and Elizabeth

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864

Scholefield her daughters, and of Thomas, William and Andrew Scholefield his grandchildren, in a deed of the same date as this document (i.e. the lost deed copied on

UC:EB1/A1/2 fol. 31v).

Language: Latin and English.

UC:E11/D3/2

6 Nov 1662

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. (a) Robert Scholefeild of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.
(b) Isabell Scholefeild of the same, Spinster.

Property: A messuage or tenement now occupied by 2 in Mickle Town in Methly called Pocock Place; one half acre of meadow in the North End; one close of pasture called Hempyards; one and a half acres of meadow in Gamilscar; one acre and half a rood of arable land in the West Feild; half an acre and a butt in the Church Field, 2 acres of arable land in the Oakes Field alias Walplatfield; 2 acres of arable land in the East Field.

Rent: £3 a year.

UC:E11/D3/3

[20 Jan] 166970

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. William Nunnes of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D3/2** above.

Comments: The date is illegible on the original deed, but is taken from the copy at **UC:EB1/A1/1** fol. 112.

UC:E11/D3/4

16 Jun 1682

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. John Webster of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D3/2** above.

UC:E11/D3/5

26 Oct 1701

Lease for 19 Years, 2 Months and 13 Days (to run from 16 June 1703)

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Ibbetson of Lodstone, Yorks., Gent.

Property: A messuage or tenement now occupied by John Webster, in Mickle Town in Methley called Pocock Place, and two crofts of pasture adjoining; one half acre of meadow in the North End; one close of pasture called Hempyards; one and a half acres of meadow lying in Gamilscare; one acre and half a

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864

rood of arable land in the Westfield; half an acre and a butt in the Churchfield; 2 acres of arable land in the Oakefield or Walflatfield; 2 acres of arable land in the East Field.

Rent: £3 a year.

UC:E11/D3/6**15 Feb 1708/9**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Ibbetson of Lodstone, Yorks., gent.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D3/5** above.

UC:E11/D3/7**24 Mar 1715/16**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. Mary Ibbetson, widow of James Ibbetson of Lodstone, Yorks., gent.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D3/5** above.

UC:E11/D3/8**13 Oct 1729**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. Mary Ibbetson, widow of James Ibbetson of Lodstone, Yorks., gent.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D3/5** above.

UC:E11/D3/9**13 Oct 1729**

Counterpart of **UC:E11/D3/8** above.

In 1738, all the College's properties in Methley were leased to a single tenant. See **UC:E11/D5** below for leases from after this date.

UC:E11/D4 - LEASE OF "WROHOLE" OR "WORHOLE"

UC:EB1/A1/1 fol. 398v is a copy of a lost lease dated 3 Nov 10 Cha I (1634), for 21 years, to Francis Brigs of Methley, Yorks, Tailor, at a rent of 13s 4d a year, of Wrohole, as described in **UC:E11/D4/2** below.

UC:EB1/A1/2 fol. 32 is a copy of a lost lease for 21 years, dated 12 Oct 1649, to Francis Briggs, as above, at a rent of 13s 4d a year, of Wrohole, again as described in **UC:E11/D4/2** below.

UC:E11/D4/1**[14 Oct 1669]**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. Francis Briggs of Methley, Yorks. [Taylor].

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864

Property: Messuage called Wrohole, in the Mickle Town in Methley, as set out in **UC:E11/D4/2** below.

Rent: 13s 4d a year

Comments: This document has been particularly badly damaged by damp. As it stands, it is now in two pieces, one of which is stuck to **UC:E11/D3/4** above. The portion stuck to **UC:E11/D3/4** shows fragments of two other leases, the top one of which Smith has inscribed "Methley Bundle 3d". No text survives for either of these documents. Extra information supplied in square brackets has been taken from the copy of this deed in **UC:EB1/A1/2** fol. 112.

UC:E11/D4/2**17 Feb 1701/2**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. Richard Briggs, son of Francis Briggs of Methley, Yorks., Tailor.

Property: A messuage or tenement called Wrohole in Mickle Town of Methley, containing 2 acres of ground bordering on an orchard now or late of William Wards to the south, on the north on a close called Breadclose or Dewsome field, to the east on Brigcroft and an orchard now or late of Anne Scholefield, and on the west on a parcel of ground now or late of William Wards called Two lands.

Rent: 13s 4d a year.

UC:E11/D4/3**13 May 1720**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. Frances Park of Kirkfenton, Yorks., Husbandman.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D4/2** above.

In 1738, all the College's properties in Methley were leased to a single tenant. See **UC:E11/D5** below for leases from after this date.

UC:E11/D5 - LEASES OF ALL THE COLLEGE'S LANDS IN METHLEY

From 1738, the College chose to lease all its lands in Methley to a single tenant.

UC:E11/D5/1**24 Mar 1737/8**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.

Property: (i) A messuage or tenement occupied by 2, with barn, stable, outhouse, fold, garden and croft, in Mickle Town in Methley, containing 1 acre, 1 rood and 9 perches, bounded

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864

by lands of Mr. Roberts to the east, Charles Savile and Mr. Finch to the west, butting on Methley Carr to the north, and the Town Street to the south; also one close of meadow called the Crooks containing 9 acres bounded with the River Chalder to the east, and lands of Samuel Stocks to the west, north and south; one close of called the Smithy Half containing 5 acres 3 roods and 39 perches, bounded by lands of John Haggard to the east, a meadow called Thorn Inng on the east, Watergate to the north, and Thorn Inng again on the south; one close called the Carr Close containing 2 acres, 1 rood, and 15 perches bounded by lands of John Shann to the east, the Town Carr to the west, lands of Charles Savil to the north, and John Shann to the south; one land in Methley Low Field containing 2 roods and 18 perches bounded with two common balks on the east and west, land of John Shann to the north, and Windmill Moor to the south.

(ii) A messuage now occupied by John Wilson undertenant to the late Mrs. Ibbetson, with a barn, fold and two crofts situated in the Mickle Town of Methley, containing 2 acres, 2 roods and 10 perches, bounded with the Gleab [sic] land belonging to the rectory of Methley to the east, John Farrand's College land to the west, and land of John Shann to the north and south; a close called Hemp Yard containing 2 acres, 2 roods, and 30 perches, bounded by land of Mr. Shann to the east, the Glebe land to the west, the Gleab [sic] to the north, and land of Mr. Shann to the south; a close called Gamescarr Close containing 4 roods and 15 perches butting on the lands of Mr. Shann to the east, Mr. Roberts to the west, Hannah Lake to the north, and Mrs. Thunil to the south; a piece of meadow in Gamescarr containing 1 rood and 5 perches bounded with the lands of Anthony Roberts to the east, the river Ayre to the west and north, and lands of Mr. Shann to the south; a piece of meadow in the North Inngs containing 2 roods and 36 perches bounded with the lands of Mr. Shann and Mr. Savil to the east, John Corkel to the west and north, and Mr. Savile to the south; a piece of meadow called Butts containing 18 perches, bounded with lands of Mr. Roberts to the east and north, a common balk to the west, and the high road to the south; 10 parts of parcels of arable land in the Town Fields of Methley (described in detail).

(iii) Another freehold messuage called Worehole now occupied by Deborah Brown, widow, with the fold and garden and two crofts containing 2 acres, bounded by Mrs. Ibbetson's College land to the west, land of Mr. Shann to the west and north, and the same College land to the south.

Rent: £6 13s 4d a year.

UC:E11/D5/2

24 Mar 1737/8

Counterpart of **UC:E11/D5/1** above.

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864**UC:E11/D5/3****24 May 1745**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.

Property & Rent: All as in **UC:E11/D5/1** above.

There is a copy of a lost lease for 21 years of the same properties to James Wade, dated 17 Sep 1753, but with a rent of £6 13s 4d a year for the first 13 years of the term, and then £21 a year for the last 8, on **UC:EB1/A1/3** fols. 445v–447.

UC:E11/D5/4**1 May 1760**

Lease for 21 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.

Property: All as in **UC:E11/D5/1** above.**Rent:** £6 13s 4d a year for the first six years of the lease, and then £21 a year for the rest of the term.

There is a copy of a lost lease for 21 years of the same properties to James Wade, dated 28 Feb 1769, at **UC:EB1/A1/4** pp. 104–5, for a rent of £21 a year.

UC:E11/D5/5**28 Feb 1776**

Bond

Parties:

1. James Wade of Methley, Yorks., Yeoman.
2. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.

Comments: 1 is bound to 2 for £50 to perform the covenants in a lease between 1 and 2 of the same date.

The original lease of 28 Feb 1776 accompanying this bond is lost, but there is a copy of it in **UC:EB1/A1/4** pp. 170–3. This shows that the lease was for the same property as above, at a rent of £21.

No leases or copies of leases for the Methley land are known from between 1776 and 1867.

There is a copy of a now lost conveyance, dated 30 Apr 1842, at **UC:EB1/A1/5** pp. 353–4, in which the College sells a parcel of land at Methley, measuring 1 acre, 1 rood and 6 perches, lately occupied by John Wade to the North Midland Railway Company, for £195.

At **UC:EB1/A1/5** pp. 727–9 is a copy of a lost conveyance, dated 4 Oct 1867, whereby the College sold its land at Methley to John, Earl of Mexborough, for £6000.

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864**UC:E11/D6 - LEASE OF MINING RIGHTS****UC:E11/D6/1****14 Jul 1829**

Lease for 16 Years

Parties:

1. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.
2. William Fenton of Thorp in the parish of Rothwell, Yorks., Esq.

Property: A coal mine and seams of coal lying within or under the Allotment on the Carr, the three Carr Closes, and the Oak Close, the Allotment in Church Field, all in Methley, Yorks., and all as depicted on a map drawn on the lease.

Rent: A single payment of £1720, and £8 a year.

Notes: Various conditions are set for 2 on the extraction and transport of this coal.

UC:E11/E1 - TERRIERS**UC:E11/E1/1****1729**

Terrier of the land leased to James Wade.

UC:E11/E1/2**19 Nov 1729**

Terrier of the lands of University College at Methley now leased to John Wilson.

UC:E11/M1 - MAPS**UC:E11/M1/1****n.d. (Mid-19th cent.?)**

Plan of land belonging to University College at Methley, Yorks.

Draughtsman: Unnamed.**Scale:** 1 inch to 4 chains.**Size:** 710 by 775 mm

Inscribed: Plan / of an Estate / in the Parish of / Methley / in the County of / York / belonging to / The Revd the Master / and Fellows of / University College / Oxford [the names of the owners of neighbouring fields are given]

Signed: [unsigned]

Dated: [undated; although the style of the handwriting suggests the first half of the 19th century, and the line of a railway is drawn through the estate]

Medium: Ink with various coloured washes.**Support:** Linen paper.**Format:** 2 sheets stuck together.

Notes: There is an unexpectedly charming watercolour depiction of Methley Church on the plan. On the back is written "Methley. Sold to Earl Mexborough".

This map is drawn by the same draughtsman who produced maps of South Milford, Acton, Wighill, and Healaugh for the

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864

College (see **UC:E12/2/M1/18–21** and **UC:E18/2/M1/3–5** respectively).

UC:E11/C1 - CORRESPONDENCE

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| UC:E11/C1/1 | Letter from John Crowder to Francis Simpson on expenses relating to the enclosure of Methley. | 24 Apr 1787 |
| UC:E11/C1/2 | Letter from William Fenton to the Bursar of University College enclosing a rent payment for coal at Methley. | 5 May 1836 |
| UC:E11/C1/3 | Letter to F. C. Plumptre from J. Bower on selling some land at Methley to the North Midland Railway Co. | 6 Jun 1840 |
| UC:E11/C1/4 | Letter to F.C. Plumptre from Payne, Eddison and Ford (address, Leeds), concerning the sale of land at Methley for the North Midland Railway. | 24 Oct 1841 |
| UC:E11/C1/5 | Letter from Henry Holt to F. J. Headlam discussing College lands at Methley, in particular those lands with the best coal beds in them. | 19 Nov 1864 |
| UC:E11/C1/6 | Letter to F. J. Headlam, as Bursar, from Henry Holt, reporting on a proposed line for Barnsley, Ackworth and Pontefract, and which portions of land at Methley the College might have to sell. | 28 Dec 1864 |

UC:E11/F1 - FINANCIAL PAPERS

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| UC:E11/F1/1 | Certificate and related papers concerning the redemption of Land Tax on the College's property at Methley. | Dec 1830 |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|

UC:E11/MS2 - NOTES ON COURT ROLLS AND MAPS

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| UC:E11/MS2/1 | Undated copy of an extract from the court rolls of the Manor of Methley for 2 May 1765, on the forfeiture from University College to the court of two messuages and one cottage with various pieces of land (specified). | n.d. (19th cent.) |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|

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UC:E11 Property at Methley, Yorkshire, 1591–1864**UC:E11/MS2/2****n.d. (Early 19th cent.?)**

Notes of land owned by University College at Methley, with reference numbers attached to an unspecified plan, and a note that coal under copyhold land belongs to the Lord of the Manor.