

BOND FOR POACHING

9 August 1516

This indenture, made the ninth day of August, the eighth year of our Sovereign Lord, King Henry VIII, witnesses that I, Sir Ralph Ellerker the elder, knight, in most humble and lamentable wise submit myself unto my lord Cardinal's grace and truly confess that I have many times recklessly and against all good order of the law, and contrary to good conscience, misbehaved myself and willfully offended God and Saint John of Beverley, and my said lord Cardinal, and continually many years from time to time I have fallen into the sentence of the Church of God, breaking the Park of Beverley. And in the days of sundry my said lord's predecessors, I have killed many deer, more than I can number or esteem.

And now late, not dreading the lawful punishment that might ensue, my servants Henry Norham and Koberte Hunt, of their unhappy minds, without my commandment, did lie in wait of one George Millet, servant unto my said lord's Grace, and palasin of the Park of Beverley, and brought him unto me in to Cottingham Park into a place called the Lord Powes' Land. In the which land I had nothing to do, neither authority nor office; and there I kept him as prisoner, contrary to the King's peace, for a certain time. Whereby the said George Millet was let to do service unto my said Lord within his said office and park.

And over this whereas the King's Highness, by his most honorable letters patents, has granted unto my said lord Cardinal's Grace the last vacation of the Archbishopric of York, with all profits, commodities, game, forests, parks, and chases thereunto belonging, I, the said Sir Ralph, show and confess that during and within the time of the said vacation, I have, unlawfully and contrary to right, entered into the park of rest within the lordship of Sherborne and Cawood and there hunted and killed a buck and diverse other deer without licence of my said lord.

For the which, my said misdemeanours and unlawful deeds done and committed against His Grace and the right of his church, I, the said Sir Ralph, do submit myself body and goods unto His Grace, beseeching him to have mercy and pity upon me and to consider my poverty, not able to make full satisfaction unto His Grace. And by these presents I bind myself unto His Grace in the sum of £200 that I, the said Sir Ralph, shall fulfill and pay, stand to, and obey such punishment, fine, and correction as His Grace, or his counsel thereunto by him assigned, will command, judge, or award.

In witness hereof to the one part of this indenture I have set to my seal. And to the other part thereof William Bedell, treasurer of my said lord's household, and Master Hugh Asheton, surveyor of his lands, counsellors to my said lord, have set to their seals the day and year above-said.

Arthur F. Leach, ed. *Beverly Town Documents* (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1900):136-137. [modernized]

¹ Cardinal Thomas Wolsey (c. 1473-1530), Archbishop of York (1514-1530) and Chancellor of England (1515-1529)