

Letter to Robert Warmistry

BAH MS 3061/1/485 (former 167885)

Dated 3 January 1598, Ralph's letter addressed the diocesan Registrar Robert Warmistry as High Alderman of Worcester, his position in civic life.¹

Jhesu

Sir in my pleading in the *quare Impedit*² I must certainly set down the last incumbent ^in Ditchford³ and who presented him / which by your means already I have. I must also as near as may be derive the title from one Agard⁴ who some time was Lord of the manor and from whom Mr Ffyeldyng and I do both claim the means⁵ to attain this understanding as to see into the former incumbents and the patrons who preceded next before <...> Wylliam Halford⁶ presented by Mr Willington wherein I heartily pray you cause a diligent search to be made and that I may receive a copy of these records upon Saturday next by a servant of mine whom I will commend unto you. In your former letter you did signify of the several presentations from anno 1292 until the year <...>1448 in which year one Elinora Allesley did present⁷ but in John Carpenter⁸ folio 69 20 Januarii. Since that time if the records remain with you I heartily pray you that search may be made.

And so with my very hearty commendations I take my leave from Beoley the 3rd day of January 1597/98

Your friend assured
Raffe Sheldon

Verso

To the worshipful my very good friend Mr Robert Warmistry High Alderman of the city of Worcester

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¹ The Warmistry family held the post of Registrar from 1544 to 1641; William died in 1581 leaving bequests of about £50, his son Robert in 1600, leaving bequests around £100 and some landed property (Worcester, WAAS, The Hive, Prob vol. VI, f.362; VII, f.118). Nothing is known of his grandson, also William, Alan D Dyer, *The City of Worcester in the sixteenth century*, Leicester 1973, p.145. *Vis'n Worcestershire* 1634, p. 99.

² Title of a writ issued by the sovereign to inquire about the rights of a disputed presentation.

³ Modern Ditchford.

⁴ Grant of the Manor of Ducheforde [Ditchford] Frary, by Stephen Agard to William Wyllington. BAH MS 3061/1/401, (former 167801) 1543. Earlier links between Agard and Willington are in MS 3061/1/110 (former 167510), 1491; MS 3061/1/54, (former 167454), 1511[12] and MS 3061/1/54, (former 167692), 1527.

⁵ Feilding was probably William, the son of Sheldon's aunt Godith, daughter of William Willington of Barcheston, Sheldon's maternal grandfather.

⁶ The name should be Hadfield, supplied from BAH MS 3061/1/126, (former 167526), 1604[/5].

⁷ Dugdale, *Antiquities*, 1730, p.598b; she presented twice, in 1443 and 1448/9.

⁸ John Carpenter was bishop of Worcester 1443-76.