

#5 c. 1664

Letter from John Dickinson to Job Lane regarding how ownership of land in Gilderson passed among the Reyner family

Note: The first page is missing and could not be scanned, but transcript is available

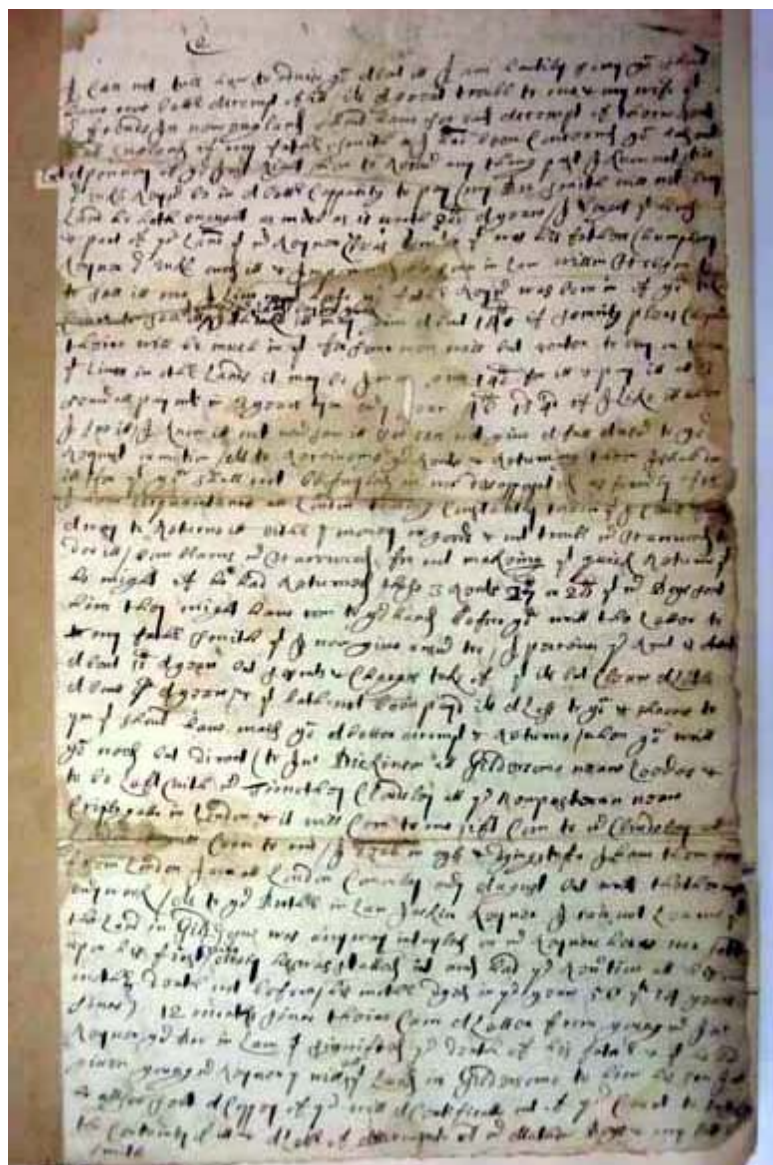
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Cozen Laine,

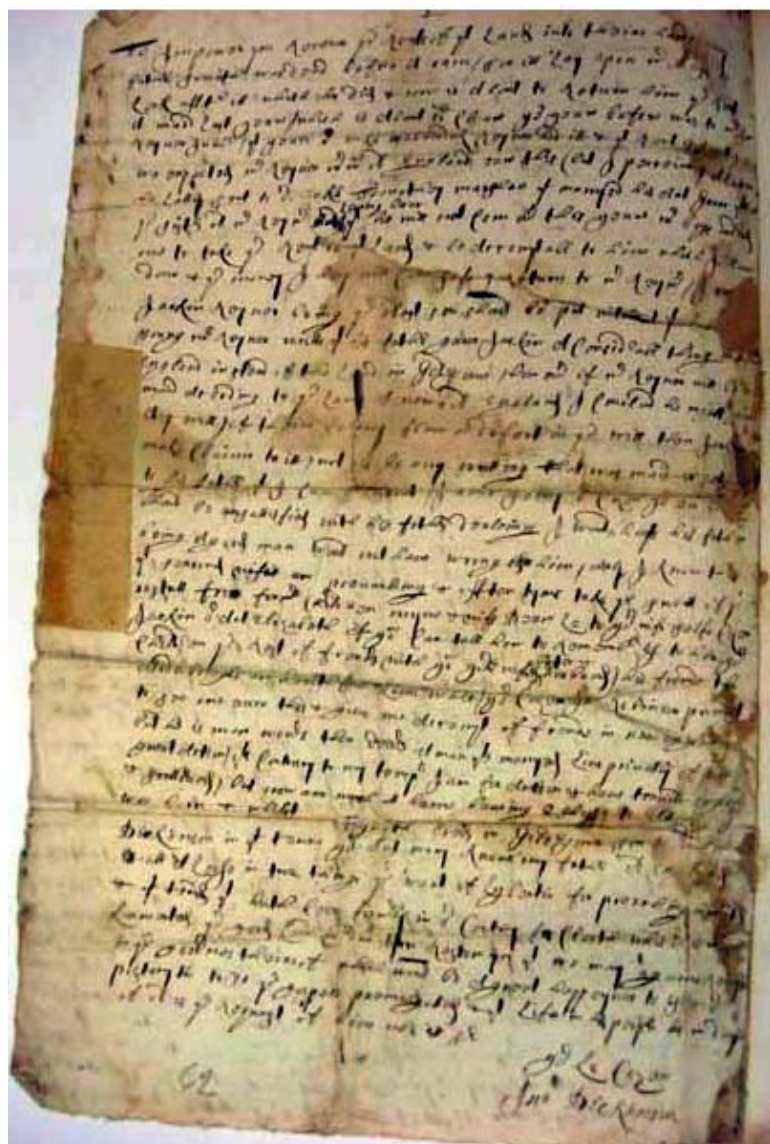
Your letter dated 13 August last I rec'd in December; it was to my father[-in-law] Smith. He being dead, I administrator, it came to my hands. I married his eldest daughter, Hannah, in the year '56; have had 4 sons and 3 daughters since ; one daughter dead, 4 sons and 2 daughters living, my wife big-bellies of one now ; my wife's sister married to Jerm. Boulton in our town; hath two daughters. My wife's brother, married 12 years since ; hath 4 sons, 1 daughter. My father Smith died in July '69 ; he never had anything with your land,— with that land that's beyond York that came by your mother[-in-law], than that land that's in Gildersome, that was your father[-in-law] John Reyner's. Your unkle Marmaduke Reyner always received the rent of it, that came of your mother[-in-law], till the last 3 years rent. Mr. Samuel Boys received that rent, and saith he returned it to Mr. Harwood of London for your use. It seems Mr. Harwood does not well in keeping from you. Our unkle Mar. Reyner saith he has your rent till 5 years, and hath payed Mr. Harwood by bill .£46 or 47, so he sees by that account he hath but £3 or thereabouts in his hand; which I fear you will lose, whether it be more or less; he is not at present able to pay you than any other he owes money to. He has given up his house and this day gone into Lancashire to be steward to a Knight his land; and having all sold and cannot pay what he owes by much. Your mother Reyner and Mrs. Prudent [[Prudden], I fear, loseth most of £100 by him; if he was able to pay he would; they must have patience until God enable him. With suit they cannot get because it's not to be had. His wife died 12 months since; it may be, he may light of some rich widow, that may make him capable to pay; except God some way raise him, he cannot pay you or any else. To trouble him with suit, it will bring nothing into your pocket, but loss to yourself and trouble to him; so pray acquaint your aunt Reyner (I mean your mother-in-law Reyner,) and Mrs. Prudent. He owes me

money, that I expect not a penny [of], except God some way aid him; besides I am bound with him for money I must pay myself. I remembered you to John Robinson, and acquainted him you would sell that land that's beyond York, that came by Mr. Reyner's first wife; he having one part of it, it would be fit for him ; but he is not fit for buying, but saith it was never divided, and that will much hinder your sales. If Mrs. Prudent, you, and John Robinson, and the other that's the fourth [Simons], could all agree to sell, it would sell best; but no division being served on it, it may fall on longest lives. Robinson stood upon that; but if you can find a way to sell and make good assurance, and join Mrs. Prudent with you, it's like I might find you a chapman [trader]. I do not know it, but I perceive there's mean housing on't, and tenants fail on't as they do in many places; also land is much cheaper now than it hath been; it would have given more by £30 at £100, ten years since than now. Trading is bad; it's stolen out of England into Ireland, Germany and Holland, that mightily impoverisheth England. Besides there hath been great teynts and taxing in this land, that hath disabled tenants in too much money. \* \* \* \*



I cannot tell how to advise you about it; I am heartily sorry you should have no better account of it; it's a great trouble to me and my wife, that our friends in New England should have so bad account of their rent in Old England. If my father Smith or I had been concerned, you had not lost a penny of your just right. How to recover anything past, I know not till our uncle Reyner be in a better capacity to pay. My brother Smith will not buy land; he hath enough, as much as is worth £200 a year. I bought that house and part of your land that Mr. Reyner was born in, that was his father's. Humphrey Reyner, our uncle, owned it and empowered his son-in-law William Hobson to sell it me. I live in that house your father Reyner was born in. If you take cause to sell it, (I mean the land beyond York) I think it may give about £140, if [the] security please [the] chapman; there will be much in that, for some will not venture to buy on [of] them that live in other lands. It may be that I may give £140 for it, and pay it in three several payments in three years time, every year £46 13s. 4d., if I like it when I see it. I know it not; —never saw it,—and so cannot give a full answer to your request or motion. As to receiving your rents, and returning them, I shall do it; for that, you shall not be failed in nor disappointed as formerly, for I have acquaintances at London, sending constantly them; I could find a way to return it either by money or goods, and not trouble Mr. Harwood to do it. Some blame Mr. Harwood for not making that quick return that he might; if he had returned those three rents, £27 or 28 that Mr. Boys sent him, they might have come to you hand before you writ the letter to my rather Smith that I now give answer to. I perceive the rent is about £10 a year, but teints and charges take of, that it's bout clear, a little above £9 a year ; and that hath not been paid, it's a loss to you and a shame to them that should have made you a better account and return. When you write you need but direct to John Dickinson at Gildersome near Leeds,. and to be left with Mr. Timothy Cloudsby at the new postman near Cripplegate in London, and it will come to me. If it comes to Mr. Cloudsby at London, it will come to me; I deal in oil and dye-stuffs, [and] I have them from London. I am at London commonly every August, but write thither every week. As to your brother-in-law, Jachin Reyner, I cannot learn that the land in Gildersome was any way entailed on Mr. Reyner's heirs, nor

settled upon his first wife, only he was stalled (?) in it and had the reception at his own mother's death, not before. His mother died in the year '56, that is 14 years since. Twelve months since there came a letter from young Mr. John Reyner, your brother-in-law, that signified the death of his father, and that he had given young Mr. Reyner, by will, that land in Gildersome, to him, his son John ; he also sent a copy of the will, a certificate of it of the Court to testify the certainty of it, and a letter of attorney to Mr. Mathew Boys and my father Smith,



empowering them to receive the rent of that land into their hands. My father Smith was dead before it came ; so it lay upon Mr. Boys to look after it, which he did, and now is about to return him the rent it made last year ; which is about £10 clear. The year before was to Mr. John -Reyner, junior ; that year our uncle Marmaduke Reyner had it, and that rent is lost. We expected Mr. Reyner in Old England ere this; but I perceive by a letter so lately sent to our uncle Timothy Marshal that married his aunt Grace, (that is the sister of Mr. Reyner, living here,) he will not come over this year. Mr. Boys ordered me to take the rent of the land and be accountable to him ; which I have done and the money I hope will come safe by return to Mr. Reyner. I \* \* \* \*. Jachin Reyner being the oldest son shall be put \*\*\*\*\* Young Mr. Reyner writes that his father gave Jachin a considerable thing in New England instead of the land in Gildersome. However if Mr. Reyner's will be made according to the law in New and Old England, I conclude he might give it by will. If there be any flaw or defect in the will, then Jachin makes claim to it; not by any writing that was made or settled to his father that I can find out. I am sorry our cousin your brother Jachin should be unsatisfied with his father's dealings; I would hope his father being a good man would not have wronged him ; only I know this,—that second wives are prevailing and often take the (swett of the restatt ?) from former children.

Mine and wife's dear love to your wife, self, cousin Jachin and daughter Elizabeth, if you can tell how to remember us to him, your children and the rest of [our] friends with you, your wife's sister and husband; (his friends, the Middlebroughs, are healthful and lives well). Your cousin John Robinson promised to see me ere this, and give me account of friends in New England; but he is more words than deeds. A man that is married lives principally of no great action; that is contrary to my composition, I am for action, and have tracted England and Scotland, but now am much at home, having a shop to attend. I was born, and whilst a youth bred, in Gildersome, son to William Dickinson, in that town ; your aunt Mary knows my father.

Old England is at a loss in sure things ; the want of a liberty of preaching...

and that trade that hath been formerly in our country for cloath which is much lamented.

The good Lord in due time restore them, that we may again rejoice in the goodness thereof, which would be a great happiness to us and our posterity ; to have the Gospel promulgated and that life in His people as in days of old, is the request of him who is, sir,

Your loving cousin  
John Dickinson