



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

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Reference: D1583/78/2

Source: Original document

Title: Digital Archive: Image of Epitome of Excursion into Herefordshire by Mr. William Delves on behalf of Lord Abergavenny

Place name: Ewyas Lacy

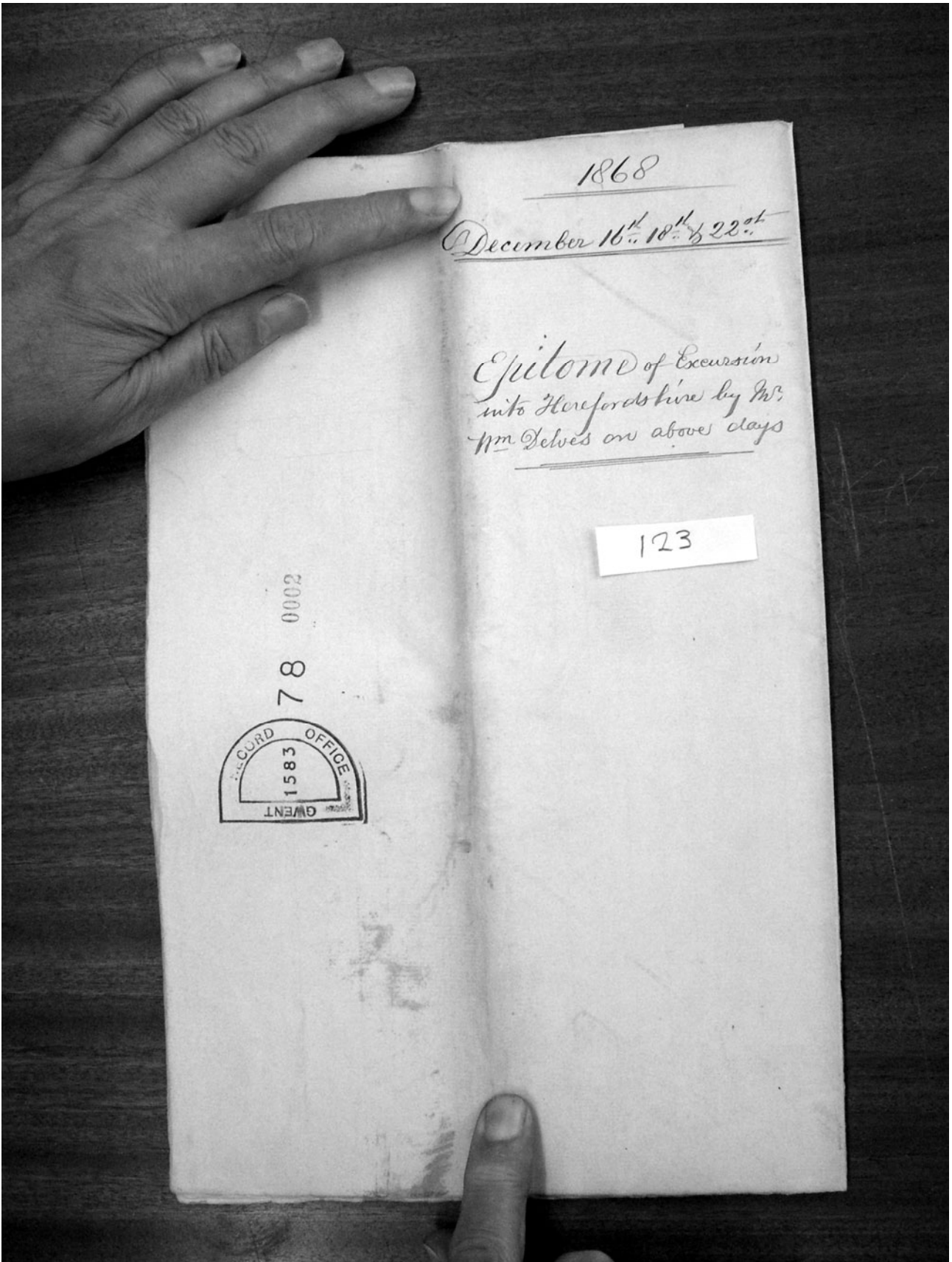
Date: 1868

Description:

Image of Epitome of Excursion [effectively an inspection of the estate] into Herefordshire by Mr. William Delves on behalf of Lord Abergavenny conducted on December 16th, 18th and 22nd 1868. The report is accompanied by personal letters to Lord Abergavenny highlighting various issues.

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Hargate Lodge, Tisbury, Wilt.

Dec^r 30th 1868.

My Lord,

I beg leave to send you my report of my visit to Monmouthshire and Herefordshire. I fear that it may be thought too long but could not well curtail it and at the same time convey a correct account of the property. Taken altogether there can be little doubt that it will some day prove besides the mines a valuable Estate. I thought it better to send my report as before coming to Oridge your Lordship would probably have an opportunity of looking it over and be prepared to give directions on some of the points named in it. I ought perhaps to have mentioned that many Mines in the locality are wholly closed some of them it is thought are not likely ever to be worked again but some of them are good mines stopped on account of the losses by the trade of the past few years. As regards Mr. Gabb, I shall be glad when your Lordship comes South to speak as to what you will have done as to collection of rents and other matters. It is only fair to him to say I have met with a gentleman in his Profession so well acquainted with Land and the requirements of it, and so well versed in the boundaries tenures &c. He must have taken great pains to become so well acquainted with the property generally. I am My Lord,

Yours most respectfully
William DeWes.

The Vicar
The Earl of Abergavenny

Decem^r 30th 1868
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Hargate Lodge, Tisbury, Wilt.

Dec^r 31st 1868.

My Lord,

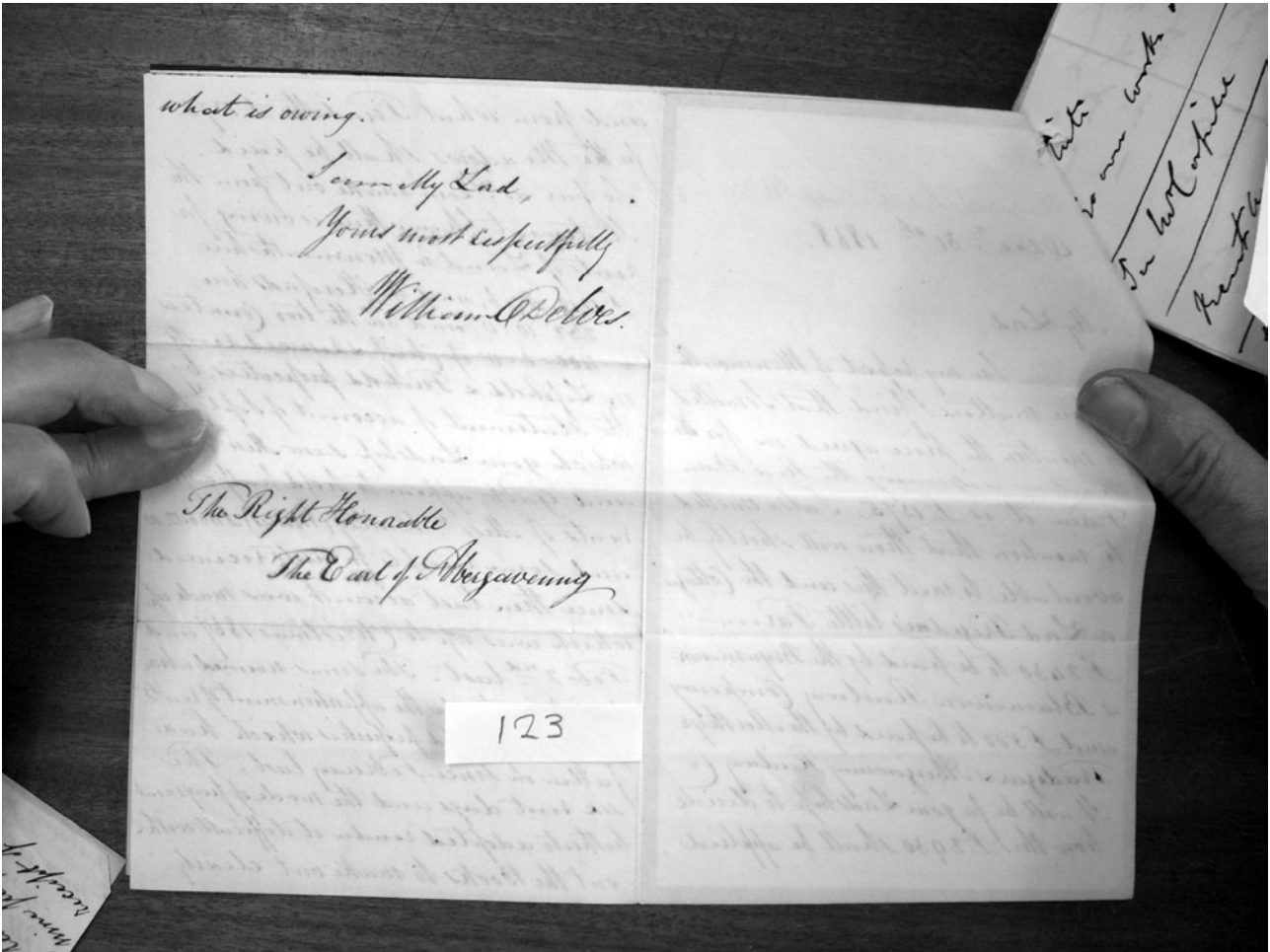
In my report of Monmouthshire matters I find that I omitted to mention the price agreed on for the Meadows adjoining the Red Barn Farm it is £1375. I also omitted to mention that there will shortly be available to meet this and the Cottages on Lord Pregeant's little Farm £2430 to be paid by the Brecon and Blaencivern Railway Company and £500 to be paid by the Merthyr Tydfid & Abergavenny Railway Co. It will be for your Lordship to decide how this £2930 shall be applied and from what Fund the £1375 for the Meadows shall be paid. So far as I can make out from the Statement I have, there is owing for rents of Land in Monmouthshire £122. 5. 6, and in Herefordshire 232. 10. 0 and in the two Counties 400. 0. 0 of Chief & reserved rents on Liphold & Parked properties, by the Statement of account of Sept^r 26th which your Lordship saw Mr. Walford and Gabb appear to hold half a year's rents of Mess^{rs} Bailey (Mines) £1153. 12. 10 and some receipts for rents received since their last account was made up which was up to Christmas 1867 and Feb^r 2nd last. The sums named above do not include the apprehension of a few liphold properties which have fallen in since February last. The six rent days and the mode of payment hitherto adopted render it difficult without the Books to make out clearly

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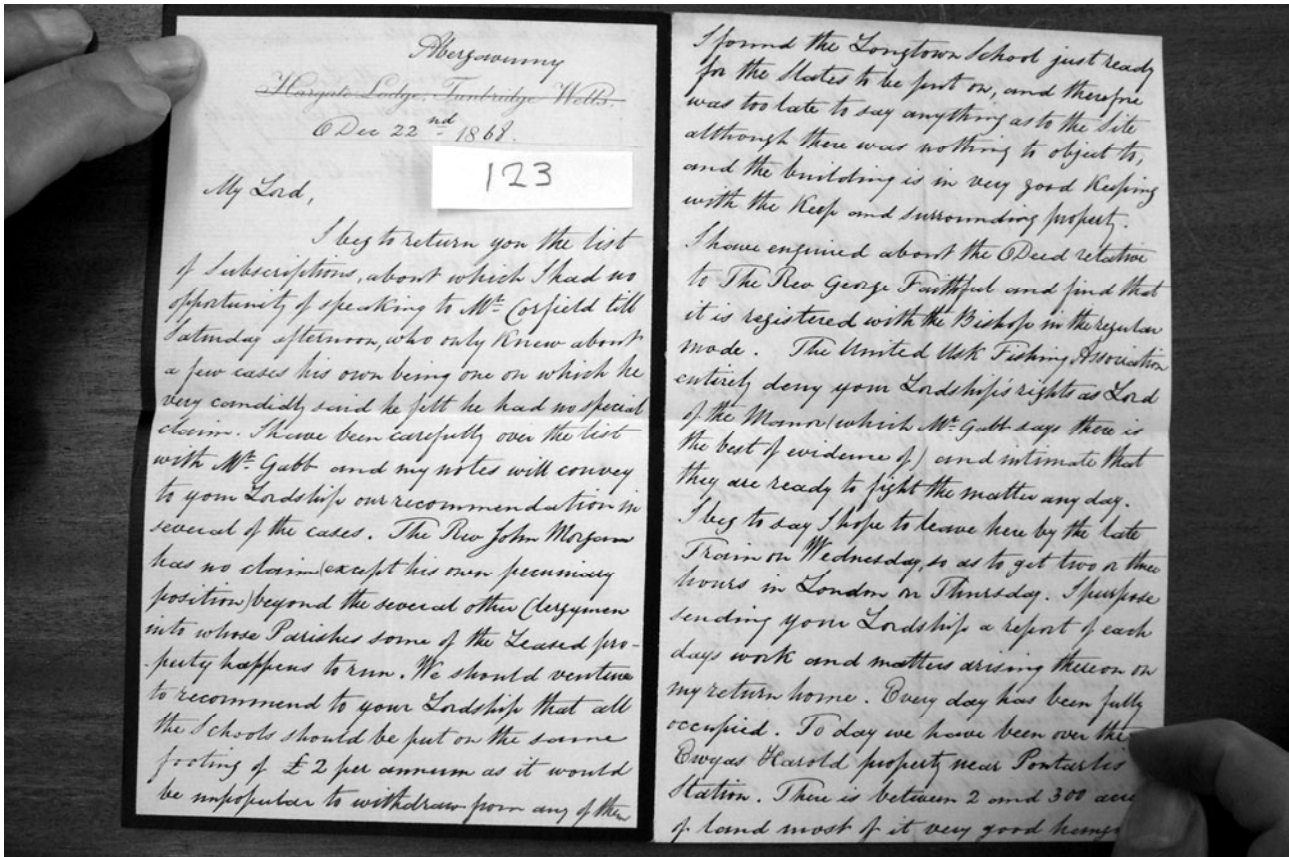
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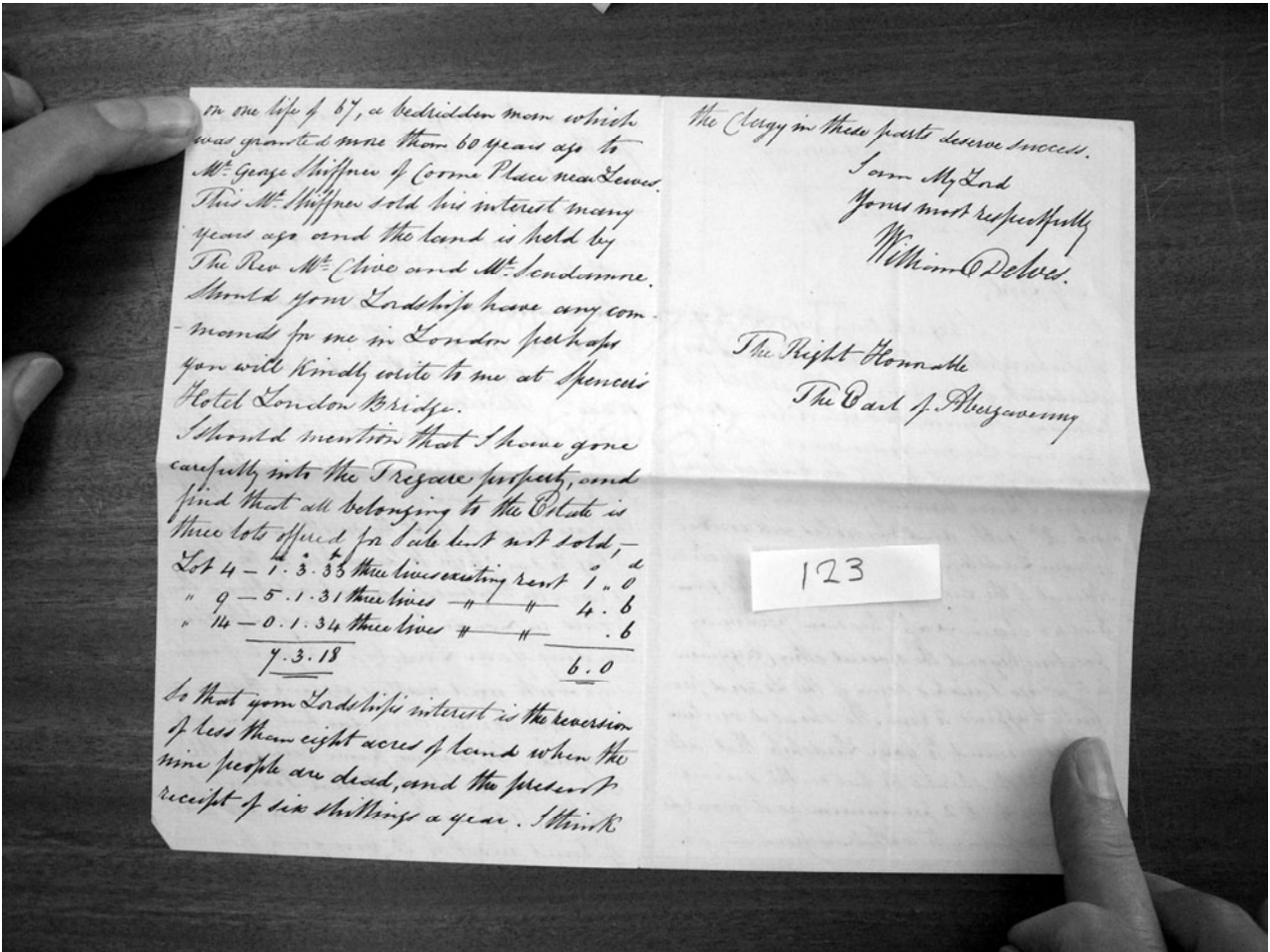
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in one life of 87, a bedridden man which
was granted more than 60 years ago to
Mr. George Whiffen of Coome Place near Leominster.
This Mr. Whiffen sold his interest many
years ago and the land is held by
The Rev Mr. Clive and Mr. Sanderson.
Should your Lordship have any com-
munications for me in London perhaps
you will kindly write to me at Spencer's
Hotel London Bridge.
I should mention that I have gone
carefully into the Tregore papers, and
find that all belonging to the Estate is
three lots offered for sale but not sold,
Lot 4 - 1.3.35 three acres existing rent 1 " 0
" 9 - 5.1.31 three acres " " 4 " 6
" 14 - 0.1.34 three acres " " . 6
9.3.18 6.0
So that your Lordship's interest is the reversion
of less than eight acres of land when the
three people are dead, and the present
receipt of six shillings a year. I think

The Clergy in these parts deserve success.
I am My Lord
Yours most respectfully
William Devereux.

The Right Honorable
The Earl of Albemarle

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So over works & reports

In W Corpice

Rent landish - twice a year

See for school at Longtown

All documents as with
them including for
W Gabs to have to be
sent to bridge -

A list of those books to
be sent to the Earl -

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For the land
was put up for
was bought in -

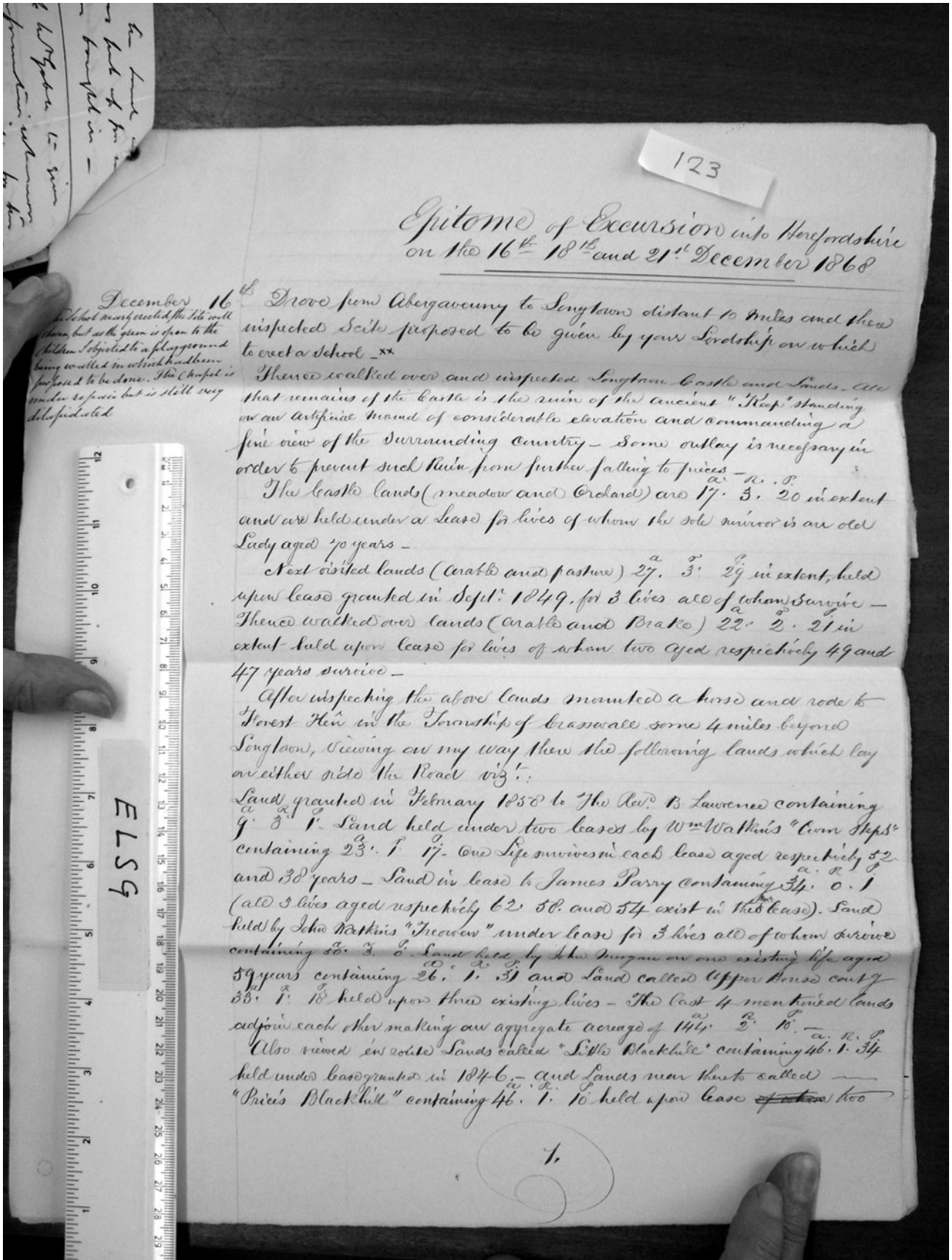
asked to give
information when
found desirable for the
estate comes into the
market -

To bring all rents to April &
October or some other 2 days in the
Year. There are now six rent days

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Epitome of Excursion into Herefordshire on the 16th 18th and 21st December 1868

December 16th
The school newly erected, the site well chosen, but as the ground is open to the children I object to a playground being erected in which children are exposed to be done. The Chapel is in a good repair but is still very dilapidated

Drove from Abergavenny to Sengtown distant 10 miles and then inspected soils proposed to be given by your Lordship on which to erect a school -^{xx}

Then walked over and inspected Sengtown Castle and Sands - all that remains of the castle is the ruin of the ancient "Keep" standing on an artificial mound of considerable elevation and commanding a fine view of the surrounding country - Some outlay is necessary in order to prevent such ruins from further falling to pieces -^{a. r. p.}

The best lands (meadow and Orchard) are 17^a 3^r 20ⁱ in extent and are held under a lease for lives of whom the sole survivor is an old Lady aged 70 years -

Next visited lands (arable and pasture) 27^a 3^r 29ⁱ in extent, held upon lease granted in Sept. 1849, for 3 lives all of whom survive - Then walked over lands (arable and Bracke) 22^a 2^r 21ⁱ in extent held upon lease for lives of whom two aged respectively 49 and 47 years survive -

After inspecting the above lands mounted a horse and rode to Forest Hill in the Township of Grasswall some 4 miles beyond Sengtown, viewing on my way the following lands which lay on either side the Road viz^t:

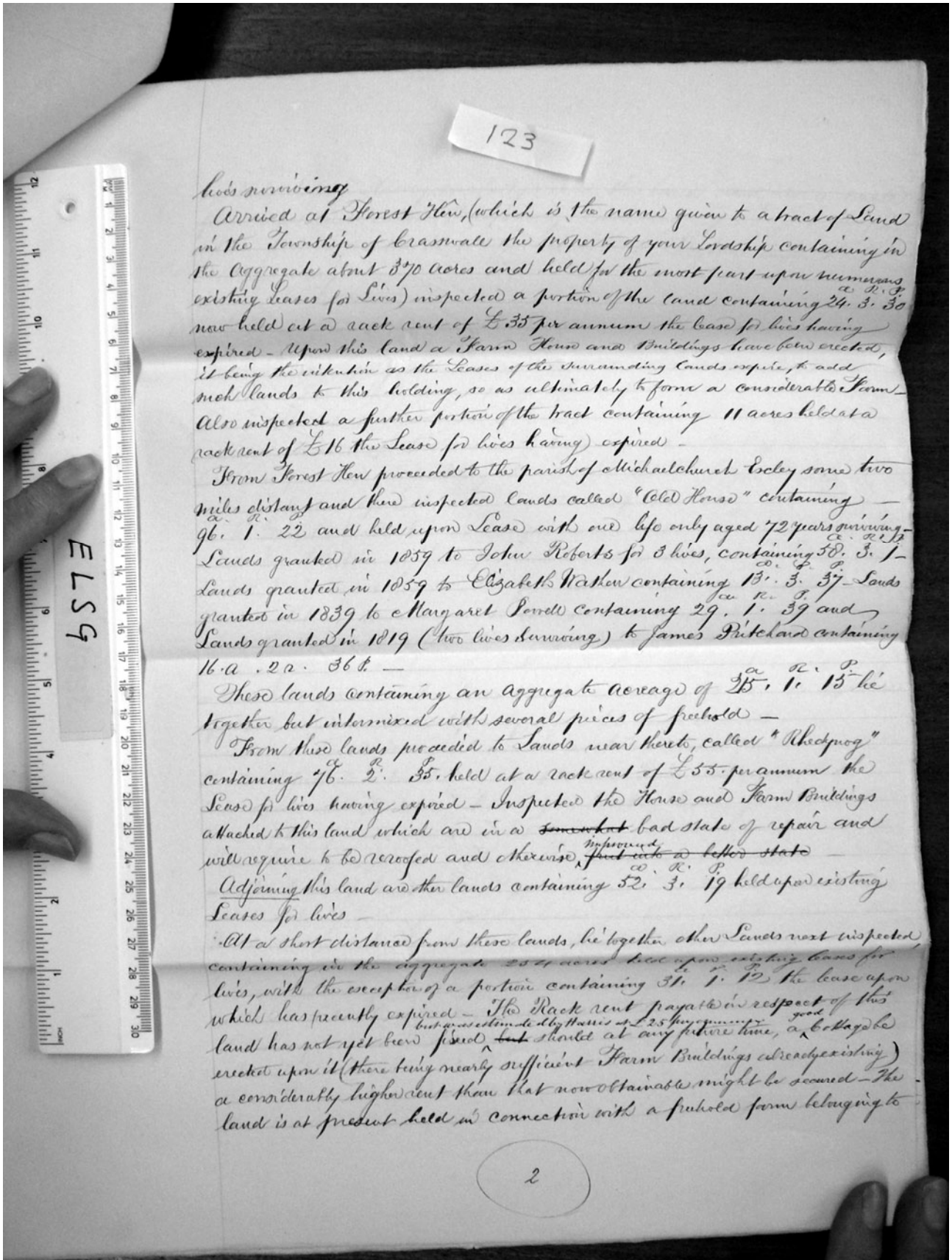
Land granted in February 1850 to The Rev. B. Lawrence containing 9^a 3^r 1ⁱ Land held under two leases by W^m Watkins "Crown Steps" containing 23^a 1^r 17ⁱ One life survives in each lease aged respectively 52 and 30 years - Land in lease to James Parry containing 34^a 0^r 1ⁱ (all 3 lives aged respectively 62, 58, and 54 exist in this lease). Land held by John Watkins "The Green" under lease for 3 lives all of whom survive containing 55^a 3^r 5ⁱ Land here by the margin on one existing life aged 59 years containing 26^a 1^r 3ⁱ and Land called "Upper House court" 33^a 1^r 10ⁱ held upon three existing lives - The last 4 mentioned lands adjoin each other making an aggregate acreage of 144^a 2^r 10ⁱ -^{a. r. p.}

Also viewed in route Lands called "Little Blackhill" containing 46^a 1^r 34ⁱ held under lease granted in 1846 - and Lands near there called "Pier's Blackhill" containing 46^a 1^r 10ⁱ held upon lease of ~~the~~ two

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his surviving

Arrived at Forest New, (which is the name given to a tract of Land in the Township of Brassvale the property of your Lordship containing in the Aggregate about 370 acres and held for the most part upon numerous existing Leases for Lives) inspected a portion of the land containing ^{a. R. P.} 24. 3. 30 now held at a rack rent of £55 per annum the lease for lives having expired - Upon this land a Farm House and Buildings have been erected, it being the intention as the Leases of the surrounding lands expire, to add such lands to this holding, so as ultimately to form a considerable Farm - Also inspected a further portion of the tract containing 11 acres held at a rack rent of £16 the Lease for lives having expired -

From Forest New proceeded to the parish of Allchurch Church Coley some two miles distant and there inspected lands called "Cold House" containing ^{a. R. P.} 96. 1. 22 and held upon Lease with one life only aged 72 years surviving - Lands granted in 1039 to John Roberts for 3 lives, containing ^{a. R. P.} 58. 3. 1 - Lands granted in 1059 to Elizabeth Wether containing ^{a. R. P.} 13. 3. 37 - Lands granted in 1039 to Margaret Powell containing ^{a. R. P.} 29. 1. 39 and Lands granted in 1019 (two lives surviving) to James Pritchard containing ^{a. R. P.} 16. a. 22. 36 b. -

These lands containing an aggregate acreage of ^{a. R. P.} 35. 1. 15 lie together but intermixed with several pieces of freehold -

From these lands proceeded to Lands near thereto, called "Abedyng" containing ^{a. R. P.} 76. 2. 35, held at a rack rent of £55 per annum the Lease for lives having expired - Inspected the House and Farm Buildings attached to this land which are in a ~~some~~ ^{very} bad state of repair and will require to be re-roofed and otherwise ~~put into a better state~~ ^{improved} -

Adjoining this land are other lands containing ^{a. R. P.} 52. 3. 19 held upon existing Leases for lives -

At a short distance from these lands, lie together other Lands next inspected containing in the aggregate 304 acres held upon existing Leases for lives, with the exception of a portion containing ^{a. R. P.} 31. 1. 12 the lease upon which has recently expired - The Rack rent payable in respect of this land has not yet been fixed ^{but was estimated by the tenant at £25 per annum} ^{and} should at any future time, a Cottage be erected upon it (there being nearly sufficient Farm Buildings already existing) a considerably higher rent than that now obtainable might be secured - The land is at present held in connection with a freehold farm belonging to

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The late Lepid - Having carefully viewed this land and also a small farm near there called "Ponty Moody" containing $27^a. 3^r. 3^s$ held upon a lease for lives granted in 1854, returned to Longtown and thence to Abergavenny -

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December 18th

Drove from Abergavenny to Longtown then mounted and rode to a tract of land situated part in the Township of Longtown and part in the Township of Atracton called "Lower Mesceod" containing about 250 acres - First inspected a small farm portion of this tract containing $31^a. 1^r. 3^s$ let at a rack rent of £25 per annum the lease for lives having expired - Next inspected a small holding where a Capital Cottage has been put up containing $5^a. 3^r. 3^s$ let to Joseph Watkins at a rack rent of £16.

also inspected Cottage and Land $(3^a. 2^r. 3^s)$ let to Mr. Job at £10 per annum Cottage and Land $(3^a. 1^r. 3^s)$ let to John Watkins at £8 per annum - Cottage and Land $(2^a. 2^r. 2^s)$ let to Mr. Williams at £7.10.0 per annum and $2^a. 3^r. 3^s$ Cottages and Gardens let at smaller rents all the above are portions of the same tract the lease upon which have expired - Next viewed the remaining portions of the tract upon which leases for lives still exist and especially a large holding called "The Larr House" containing $93^a. 0^r. 14^s$ and held upon a lease in which and life only, aged 63 years survives -

From "Lower Mesceod" rode on a short distance further and there inspected a tract of about 130 acres lying contiguous (but intermixed with Freeholds) held upon existing leases for lives with the exception of about 40 acres let to James Harn at rack rent, the lease having expired - From these lands rode on about a mile to another tract of land called "Upper Mesceod" containing about 240 acres entirely held upon existing leases for lives - After viewing this tract returned to Longtown and thence to Abergavenny

December 21st

Proceeded by the 8.10 a.m. Train from Abergavenny to Pontulas, a Station situated in the parish of Ewyas Harold half-way on the line of Railway between Abergavenny and Hereford and about 13 miles from either Town - Arrived at Pontulas proceeded to inspect lands near to the Station and intersected by the Railway and by the Turnpike Road - These lands containing 40 acres, consist for the most part of fine Pasture

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land lying alongside the River Monnow and are held by Col^l Scudamore under a lease granted in 1809 to George Shipper of Lombe Place near Leeds for 3 lives of whom only now aged 68 years survives.

At a short distance from the above lands lie other lands (next viewed) situate on both sides of the Turnpike Road leading from the Station to the Village of Lomas Harold; those on the left hand side containing about 15 acres (arable and orcharding) being held under two leases with three existing lives in each lease - whilst the portion on the right hand side consisting of a good pasture field containing about 20 acres held by Col^l Scudamore under above mentioned Lease of 1809 - Separately from this field by a Brook, we next came to two pieces of Arable Land and Orcharding called respectively "Greens Orchard" and "Cresfield" containing together 23 acres and also held by Col^l Scudamore under same lease of 1809 - From these Lands we next proceeded to view remainder of the lands contained in Lease of 1809 consisting for the most part of rich pasture Lands lying alongside the River "Worm" and almost intermixed with freehold Lands of Col^l Scudamore and the Rev^d Archer Clive - The whole quantity contained in lease of 1809 is 225 acres - Next inspected lands containing 35 acres granted in 1859 to William Jones upon a Lease for 3 lives all of whom survive - Also Lands granted to John Gwillim Rev^d Archer Clive and others -

Next proceeded to Ewyas Harold Common which consists of some 115 acres of unenclosed and some 100 acres of enclosed land, the latter being for the most part held under numerous existing leases for lives, some two or three Leases have however recently expired - The whole of the Land is of good quality with considerable depths of soil and the enclosed portion is especially rich in orcharding -

From the "Common" proceeded to the site of the ancient Castle which but a mound of considerable elevation, showing where the Keep and tower, remains - Around this Castle or mound which stands immediately above the Village lie some 50 acres of fair pasture and arable land held under a Lease granted in 1791 for 3 lives of whom only aged 90 years, survives,

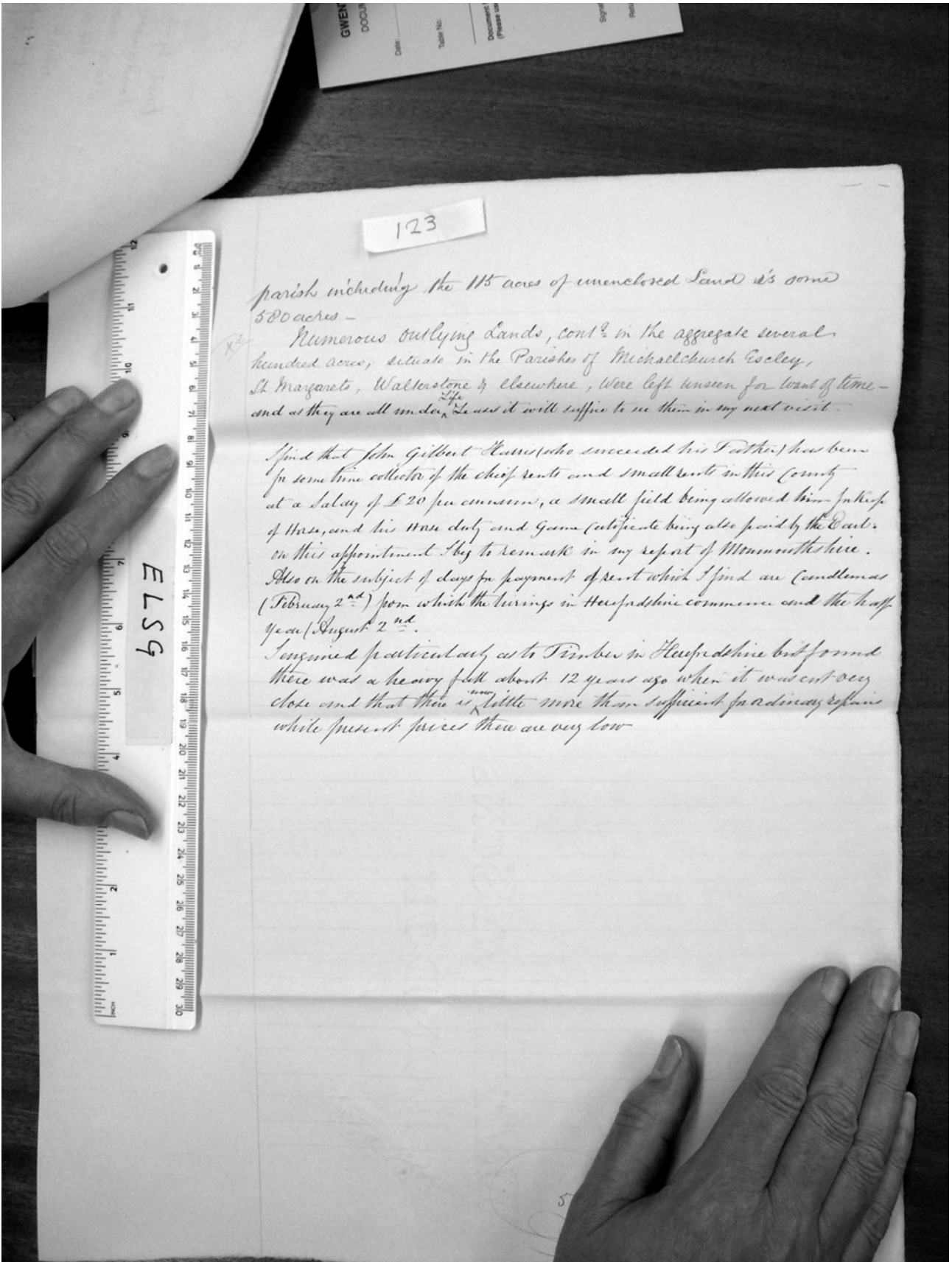
Having viewed this land returned to the Railway Station about 1 1/2 miles distant, and thence to Abergavenny -

The total quantity of Land belonging to your Lordship in this -

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parish including the 115 acres of unenclosed Land & some 580 acres -

Numerous outlying Lands, cont^d in the aggregate several hundred acres, situate in the Parishes of Michaelchurch Escley, St. Margarets, Wallerstone & elsewhere, were left unsevered for want of time - and as they are all under Lease it will suffice to see them in my next visit.

I find that John Gilbert Harris (who succeeded his Father) has been for some time collector of the chief rents and small rents in this County at a Salary of £20 per annum, a small field being allowed him for keep of Hare, and his Horse duty and Game (antipede) being also paid by the Court in this appointment. My remark in my report of Monmouthshire. Also on the subject of days for payment of rent which I find an Ordinance (February 2nd) from which the termings in Herefordshire commence and the half year (August 2nd).

I enquired particularly as to Timber in Herefordshire but found there was a heavy fall about 12 years ago when it was cut very close and that there is little more than sufficient for ordinary repairs while present prices show are very low.



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Observations:

None