

## LETTER TO QUEEN ELIZABETH I (MODERN SPELLING)

Pleaseth your honour to be advised that we Richard Molyneux of Sefton, Richard Bold of Bold and Edward Norris of Speke in the County of Lancashire, esquires, by force of her highness's commission to us directed for viewing and seeing the state of her majesty's courthouse within her highness's manor of West Derby have repaired ourselves to the said manor where we do find the said courthouse and place where her majesty's records have been heretofore usually kept to be in such ruin and decay as of necessity it must needs be pulled down and another to be made and the timber or stuff thereof to be of no value or worth towards the building of the said new house for that purpose and that her majesty's courts as well the wapentake for the whole Hundred of West Derby here usually kept.

As the halmote for the said manor are now of necessity holden and kept in the Chapel of West Derby aforesaid and the records likewise kept and preserved. A place nothing decent for the same, as well for disturbance of divine service as otherwise and calling before us such artificers as best should know the charge of making a new house for that purpose and having full conference with them do signify and declare unto your honour that a house of three bays or buildings will be fit for the same and smallest charges to arise unto her majesty and wherein will be contained a convenient checker and place for the courts as also another place for keeping her majesty's said records which said house being circumspective and advisedly considered of by advice of ourselves and the said artificers will cost of the workmanship stone, slates and other necessities to be had for the finishing thereof three score pounds [£60] besides such trouble and cost as may arise to the tenants in loading and carrying of all things necessary to be had for that purpose without any allowance, therefore, and besides threescore trees to be had by your honour's appointment in her majesty's woods where your honour shall think may best be spared and thus certifying your honour that the said house is very needful to be had as well for the profit of her majesty as ourselves the tenants.

We most humbly end wishing your honour long continuance with much increase thereof. Derby 1 March 1586.

Your honour's most humbly to command.

[?]

Edward Norris [signature or mark]