

A Serf in a Medieval Manor

I am a serf in a medieval manor. A manor is the village and the farmland around it. The Lord who owns the land lives in the manor house. I am nearly like a slave. I am not free to come and go like other workers, I have to ask the lords permission to marry. If I run away to be free I have to stay away for a year and a day and not be caught.

The farmland I work on is divided into three fields. We grow crops in two fields and leave one fallow or to rest each year. We keep all our animals on the commons.

There are many buildings in our manor. There is a mill where flour is made, barns where we keep our crops and a church. We pay one tenth of our crops to the priest.

My house has a thatched roof with wattle and daub walls. The floor is earth and we have little furniture. At night the animals sleep with us.

