

Sir Robert Lovell (the Lord of the Manor)



1349

Where can we find more workers, Stephen? The crops are rotting in the fields and animals are wandering free. My income is far less than my father's before the pestilence came.

(Find Lady Alice, your mother and Stephen Cakebread the Steward)

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Stephen Cakebread the Steward (a freeman)



1349

I don't know, my lord. We offer the workers higher wages but there's no one looking for more work.

(Find Sir Robert Lovell and Lady Alice Lovell, his mother)

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Lady Alice Lovell (the lord's mother)



1349

I'm glad your father did not have time to free the villeins. At least they have to stay and work for us and we don't have to pay them high wages.

(Find Sir Robert Lovell, your son and Stephen Cakebread the Steward)

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Adam Smith (a villein)



1349

Sir Robert is increasing the wages of the freemen who work for him but what about us villeins, John? We have to work for him but we get no benefit. Sir Robert won't free us.

(Find Edith Smith and John Baker)

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Edith Smith (a villein)



1349

All you can do is pray, John. Nothing else can save us. I know families who tried bleeding, purging and every remedy they knew, but they all died. Think of that young couple, John and Mathilda, only married a few weeks and both dead.

(Find Adam Smith and John Baker)

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John Baker (a villein) with baby Isabella and Christina



1349

I check the children every day for signs of the pestilence. Every time I fear that I'll find those terrible lumps in their armpits but so far God has only taken Agnes.

(Find Adam Smith and Edith Smith)

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Father William (a freeman)



1349

This is God's doing. God has punished the people with this pestilence. We have not prayed enough or lived as God told us.

(Find Richard Carter)

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Richard Carter (a villein)



1349

So much for the chance to go to school. I'm stuck as a shepherd. There's no one else to do it. But Thomas didn't live to go to the French wars so I'd better not moan too much.

(Find Father William)

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Margery Morell (a freewoman)



1349

No thank you Henry. I can earn higher wages too, remember, so I can choose whether to marry again. I might even be able to afford to send young Adam to school.

(Find Young Adam, her son and Henry Brewer)

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1349

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Henry Brewer (a freeman)



1349

I'm going to do very well, Margery. I can earn high wages working on Sir Robert's lands and I'll use the money to buy more land of my own. You could sell me your spare land - or you could marry me and we'll do well together.

(Find Margery Morell and her son, Young Adam)

www.thinkinghistory.co.uk

Young Adam Morell (a freeman)



1349

School! I'd rather get work, mother. The Lord's paying really good wages now he's short of workers.

(Find Margery Morell, his mother and Henry Brewer)

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