

CONVEYANCE & DESCENT

HISTORICAL HOLDER REGISTER

Manor:

AGMERHURST MANOR

Location:

Ashburnham, Sussex

Recorded historical holders:

5

Export date:

15 October 2026, 12:06 GMT+0000

Public record URL:https://manorialregistry.com/?mhr_manor=agmerhurst-manor

Colour key: green - direct blood, blue - collateral, purple - marriage-linked blood, amber - in-law, grey - unclassified. Colours describe the saved relationship classification, not documentary certainty.

SUCCESSION AT A GLANCE

Earliest recorded holder to present. Relationship descriptions are reproduced from saved published paths; categories are not evidence ratings.

- 1. Sir Anthony Browne and the Browne family, later Viscounts Montagu, Sir Anthony Browne was a Tudor courtier and Master of the Horse, his son Anthony Browne became 1st Viscount Montagu in 1554 | 1538 - 1721**

Transfer: Post-Dissolution grant or acquisition of Battle Abbey and its associated estate from the Crown, followed by descent in the Browne family and Viscounts Montagu

Holding: Whole manor insofar as Agmerhurst is identified as part of the Battle Abbey estate in the later estate evidence / Browne family and Viscounts Montagu

Relationship to present holder: Not recorded

- 2. Sir Thomas Webster, 1st Baronet, and the Webster family, Member of Parliament, owner of the Battle Abbey estate from 1721 | 1721 - 1857**

Transfer: Purchase of the Battle Abbey estate from Viscount Montagu; the purchased estate expressly included the Manor of Agmerhurst

Holding: Whole manor as part of the Battle Abbey estate, subject to any later estate sales not identified in the sources located / Webster family, first ownership period

Relationship to present holder: Not recorded

- 3. Webster family, including the successive Webster baronets, Baronets of the Webster family of Battle Abbey | circa 1751 - 1857**

Transfer: Descent within the Webster family after the death of Sir Thomas Webster; no separate manor-specific conveyance located

Holding: Whole manor as part of the Battle Abbey estate, subject to any unlocated partial disposals / Webster family, inherited Battle Abbey estate

Relationship to present holder: Not recorded

4. **Harry Vane, later 4th Duke of Cleveland, and the Cleveland estate, Harry Vane later became 4th Duke of Cleveland, the Duchess of Cleveland held the estate until 1901 | 1857 - 1901**

Transfer: Purchase of the Battle Abbey estate from the Webster family

Holding: Estate-level holding; specific retention of Agmerhurst Manor through the 1857 transaction is supported by the continuity of the Battle Abbey estate but not by a separate deed located in this research / Cleveland estate

Relationship to present holder: Not recorded

5. **Sir Augustus Webster and the Webster family, Webster baronets of Battle Abbey | 1901 - 1976**

Transfer: Reacquisition of the Battle Abbey estate after the death of the Duchess of Cleveland

Holding: Estate-level holding; specific continuity of Agmerhurst Manor is not separately demonstrated by the public sources located / Webster family, reacquired estate

Relationship to present holder: Not recorded

DETAILED CONVEYANCE & DESCENT

HOLDER 1

1538 - 1721

Sir Anthony Browne and the Browne family, later Viscounts Montagu, Sir Anthony Browne was a Tudor courtier and Master of the Horse, his son Anthony Browne became 1st Viscount Montagu in 1554

Transfer:

Post-Dissolution grant or acquisition of Battle Abbey and its associated estate from the Crown, followed by descent in the Browne family and Viscounts Montagu

Previous holder:

Battle Abbey, the Benedictine monastery of St Martin at Battle, and ultimately the Crown after the Dissolution

Holding arrangement:

sole

Share / interest:

Whole manor insofar as Agmerhurst is identified as part of the Battle Abbey estate in the later estate evidence

Shared holding:

Browne family and Viscounts Montagu

Narrative / explanation:

Battle Abbey was dissolved in 1538, and the abbey together with a substantial area of associated land was granted or sold to Sir Anthony Browne. The Battle Abbey archive subsequently consisted of Browne family and Viscounts Montagu estate papers. The evidence does not provide a separate 1538 deed naming Agmerhurst Manor, but a later account of the Battle Abbey estate explicitly includes Agmerhurst among the manors held by that estate. This entry therefore records the post-Dissolution estate holding with medium rather than high evidence for the specific manor link.

Source citation:

Historic England, Battle Abbey, Battle, National Heritage List for England entry 1000309; The Huntington Library, Battle Abbey Archives, 1077-circa 1830, collection description; Rose Fuller Whistler, The Annals of an English Family, Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 35 (1887), as summarized in the Battle estate history.

Source URL:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000309>

Other parties:

Sir Anthony Browne, Browne family, Viscounts Montagu

Historical person profile:

https://manorialregistry.com/?mhr_person=sir-anthony-browne-browne-family-viscounts-montagu-25154

Person dates:

Sir Anthony Browne died 1548; the Browne/Viscount Montagu ownership of the Battle Abbey estate continued until the sale in 1721

Relationship to present holder

No published relationship path recorded.

HOLDER 2**1721 - 1857****Sir Thomas Webster, 1st Baronet, and the Webster family, Member of Parliament, owner of the Battle Abbey estate from 1721****Transfer:**

Purchase of the Battle Abbey estate from Viscount Montagu; the purchased estate expressly included the Manor of Agmerhurst

Previous holder:

Anthony Browne, 6th Viscount Montagu

Holding arrangement:

sole

Share / interest:

Whole manor as part of the Battle Abbey estate, subject to any later estate sales not identified in the sources located

Shared holding:

Webster family, first ownership period

Narrative / explanation:

In 1721 Sir Thomas Webster purchased the Battle Abbey estate from Viscount Montagu. The contemporary or near-contemporary estate account cited in the research specifically lists the Manors of Battle, Barnhorne, Agmerhurst and Swineham among the assets acquired. This is the clearest direct evidence located linking the specific manor to a named owner. The date is given as 1721 because that is the date stated by the principal modern and archival summaries, although some secondary accounts describe the disposal as occurring between 1715 and 1721.

Source citation:

Henry Whistler, 'Whistler, Henry', Epsom and Ewell History Explorer, citing Rose Fuller Whistler, The Annals of an English Family, Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 35 (1887); The Huntington Library, Battle Abbey Archives, 1077-circa 1830; English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield.

Source URL:

<https://eehe.org.uk/33503/whistler/>

Other parties:

Sir Thomas Webster, 1st Baronet, Webster family

Historical person profile:

https://manorialregistry.com/?mhr_person=sir-thomas-webster-1st-baronet-25155

Person dates:

1679-1751

Relationship to present holder

No published relationship path recorded.

HOLDER 3**circa 1751 - 1857****Webster family, including the successive Webster baronets, Baronets of the Webster family of Battle Abbey****Transfer:**

Descent within the Webster family after the death of Sir Thomas Webster; no separate manor-specific conveyance located

Previous holder:

Sir Thomas Webster, 1st Baronet

Holding arrangement:

sole

Share / interest:

Whole manor as part of the Battle Abbey estate, subject to any unlocated partial disposals

Shared holding:

Webster family, inherited Battle Abbey estate

Narrative / explanation:

The Battle Abbey estate remained in the Webster family after Sir Thomas Webster's death. Public summaries identify successive Webster baronets as owners of the estate and state that the estate was sold out of the family in 1857. Because the sources located describe the Battle Abbey estate as a whole and do not provide separate Agmerhurst deeds for each succession, this entry records the family holding rather than asserting an individual manor conveyance at every generational change.

Source citation:

The Huntington Library, Battle Abbey Archives, 1077-circa 1830, collection description; English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield; Google Arts & Culture, The Webster Family and Battle Abbey; Friends of the National Libraries, Title deeds from Raper and Fovargue of Battle, solicitors.

Source URL:

<https://www.huntington.org/collections/lib-mssba-aspaces-b769b5b68dff607f9653d601522d05e2>

Other parties:

Sir Whistler Webster, 2nd Baronet, Sir Godfrey Webster, 3rd Baronet, Sir Godfrey Vassall Webster, 4th Baronet, Sir Godfrey Webster, 5th Baronet, Sir Godfrey Vassall Webster, 6th Baronet, Sir Augustus Frederick Webster, 6th Baronet

Historical person profile:

https://manorialregistry.com/?mhr_person=the-successive-webster-baronets-25156

Person dates:

The estate passed through the Webster family from 1721 until its sale in 1857

Relationship to present holder

No published relationship path recorded.

HOLDER 4**1857 - 1901**

Harry Vane, later 4th Duke of Cleveland, and the Cleveland estate, Harry Vane later became 4th Duke of Cleveland, the Duchess of Cleveland held the estate until 1901

Transfer:

Purchase of the Battle Abbey estate from the Webster family

Previous holder:

Webster family

Holding arrangement:

sole

Share / interest:

Estate-level holding; specific retention of Agmerhurst Manor through the 1857 transaction is supported by the continuity of the Battle Abbey estate but not by a separate deed located in this research

Shared holding:

Cleveland estate

Narrative / explanation:

The Battle Abbey estate was sold in 1857 to Lord Harry Vane, later 4th Duke of Cleveland. The Duchess of Cleveland held the estate until her death in 1901. The sources located describe this as ownership of the Battle Abbey estate, but do not reproduce the conveyance or separately name Agmerhurst Manor in the 1857 transaction; the manor connection is therefore recorded as medium-strength estate evidence rather than as a direct manor deed.

Source citation:

Historic England, Battle Abbey, National Heritage List for England entry 1000309; English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield; Battle History Society, Cleveland, the Duke and Duchess.

Source URL:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000309>

Other parties:

Harry Vane, 4th Duke of Cleveland, Duchess of Cleveland

Historical person profile:

https://manorialregistry.com/?mhr_person=harry-vane-later-4th-duke-of-cleveland-and-the-duchess-of-cleveland-25157

Person dates:

Battle Abbey estate ownership 1857-1901

Relationship to present holder

No published relationship path recorded.

HOLDER 5**1901 - 1976**

Sir Augustus Webster and the Webster family, Webster baronets of Battle Abbey

Transfer:

Reacquisition of the Battle Abbey estate after the death of the Duchess of Cleveland

Previous holder:

Duchess of Cleveland and the Cleveland estate

Holding arrangement:

sole

Share / interest:

Estate-level holding; specific continuity of Agmerhurst Manor is not separately demonstrated by the public sources located

Shared holding:

Webster family, reacquired estate

Narrative / explanation:

After the death of the Duchess of Cleveland in 1901, Sir Augustus Webster bought the Battle Abbey estate back into the Webster family. The estate remained associated with the Webster family until its sale to the state in 1976. Agmerhurst is documented in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ashburnham landscape, including Agmerhurst House and Farm, but the sources located do not prove whether the entire manor remained intact within the Battle Abbey estate throughout this period. This entry therefore records the estate-level succession with a stated qualification.

Source citation:

English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield; Historic England, Battle Abbey, National Heritage List for England entry 1000309; The Keep, Ashburnham parish and manorial records; Historic England, Agmerhurst House, National Heritage List for England entry 1278842.

Source URL:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield/history-and-stories/history/>

Other parties:

Sir Augustus Webster, 7th Baronet, Sir Augustus Webster, 8th Baronet, Battle Abbey Settled Estate trustees

Historical person profile:

https://manorialregistry.com/?mhr_person=sir-augustus-webster-7th-and-8th-baronets-25158

Person dates:

The Webster family reacquired the Battle Abbey estate in 1901; the estate was sold to the state in 1976

Relationship to present holder

No published relationship path recorded.