

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0002586 • MANOR
Alrewas

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Staffordshire
Associated places: Staffordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS
- Prebend of Alrewas | Associated | 12th century | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

This ancient Saxon lordship is situated six miles north of Lichfield in Staffordshire. According to the Domesday Survey there was a church already here at Alrewas at the time of the conquest. Malmesbury, the historian, says that this was one of the first prebends instituted in the church of Lichfield by Athelwals, Bishop of Lichfield in 822. We know that it was called a prebend soon after the conquest because Robal the son of Walter de Alrewas granted to Ade de Walton, the Chancellor of the church of Lichfield, and to the Prebendary of the Prebend of Alrewas one piece of land, which he held of the said Prebend in Alrewas. This land was near the churchyard on the east side thereof, to be held of the said Adae and his successors for ever, for which grant he paid 20 shillings in silver. Pope Celestinus in 1143 confirmed the donation of the church of Alrewas to the Bishop of Coventry and Church of Lichfield, and declared that no one should dare to impede or contradict the same under danger of incurring the indignation of the Almighty and his blessed apostles St. Peter and St. Paul. In 1259 Archbishop Boniface confirmed it in an Inspexinus that Alrewas church with its chapels constituted the chancellorship of the Cathedral. In 1386 the perpetual vicar of the prebendal church of Alrewas was Thomas de Wilton. In 1414 it was Robert Cowe. Mr Ralphe Whitehed was taxed 40s there as prebendary and chancellor of Lichfield in 1534 on a value of £26.13s.4d. By 1795 the value of the prebend was about £100 and was held by the Chancellor of the church of Lichfield, Dr. Farmer, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The office of the Chancellor of the Cathedral was to superintend the regular exercise of

devotion in
the cathedral.

Richard Smallbrook, who became Bishop in 1750, made his son-in-law, Dr. Bateman of Christ Church,

Oxford, and chaplain to Archbishop Walker, chancellor of the church. Archbishop Herring on the

consecration of Bishop Frederick Cornwallis made the office his option.

On the death of Dr. Bateman he gave the lordship to Dr. Thomas Green, eldest son of Dr. Thomas

Green, Bishop of Ely, who was living in 1757 and then made Dean of Salisbury. He was also chaplain

to the King. By Act of Parliament of 1796, the chancellorship became annexed to the newly established Residentiary. Shortly after this the lordship was purchased by an ancestor of the

present lord of the manor, the Earl of Lichfield.

(Including the historic rights to market & fair)

BEFORE the Norman Conquest in 1066, this Manor belonged to Algar, Earl of Mercia. It had been held

large estates in Staffordshire and left them to Edwin, his son, but upon Edwin's rebellion

against the Conqueror, they became forfeit to the Crown. And so, at the time of Domesday, we find:

The King holds Alrewas. Earl Algar formerly held it. Here there are three hides. The arable land is

eight carucates. In demesne there are two; and one bordman, 20 villans, six bordars, with a priest,

have six carucates. There are 24 acres of meadow, and a fishery that yeilds 1500 eels. Also a wood

one mile in length and 1/2 in breadth. Value before Domesday, £10; now £11.

It continued as lands of the Crown for over a century until the reign of King John. In 1204 he

granted the Manor to Roger de Somerville, to hold in fee farm. He was certified to be holding

Alrewas in about 1216. His son, John de Somerville, was shortly afterwards rated as holding the

Manor from the King. The tenure-roll for the Hundred of Offlow goes on to say that he held it by the

fourth part of a knight's fee and in fee-farm, paying the King annually over £15. It was

estimated to be worth £24 to him. Robert de Somerville died in 1280, his son, Sir Robert de Somerville Kt succeeding him, in 1290, the King's licence of free warren over all his holdings. He

was also granted a weekly market (on a Tuesday) and a yearly fair on the eve, day and morrow of St

Margaret the Virgin. He paid the King 25s for his relief from the fourth part of a Knight's fee

and died in 1297.

His eldest son died without issue, the Manor passing to Sir Philip de Somerville, Kt, his

youngest
 son. Sir Philip held other Manors in the area, one of which, Wichnor, was held by the
 astonishing
 service of finding a slitch of bacon. He died in 1356 leaving two daughters and co-heirs,
 the eldest
 of which, Joan, carried this Manor to her husband, Sir Reece Griffith Kt, in whose family it
 continued for several generations. Sir Walter Griffith, son of John Griffith, was certified
 to hold
 Alrewas in 1473. The male line ended with Sir Henry Griffith, whose sister, Frances, married
 Sir
 Matthew Boynton Btof Barmston, and later of Burton-Agnes. It passed to their son, Sir
 Francis
 Boynton, who, in 1660, sold the Manor to William Turton, clerk to Lord Leigh. His son, Sir
 John,
 succeeded him in 1683. He was one of the barons of the Exchequer during the reign of William
 and
 Mary, and afterwards one of the justices of the King's Bench. His eldest son, William,
 died
 before him in 1692, and Sir John Turton died in 1707. His lands passing to his grandson,
 also John.
 He was a Justice of the Peace for Staffordshire and held the Manor for 50 years, selling it
 before
 his death in 1771, aged 84. It was sold, in 1752, to George, Lord Anson, who was the
 ancestor of the
 Earls of Lichfield. It remained in that family until 1987 when it was sold to the present
 owner.
 George, Lord Anson, was the Admiral who circumnavigated the globe in 1740. His estates
 passed to his
 great-nephew, Thomas Anson, who was MP for Lichfield and was created Viscount Anson in 1806.
 He died
 in 1818 and was succeeded by his son, Thomas William, Privy Councillor, who was created Earl
 of
 Lichfield in 1831. He was Master of the Buckhounds from 1830 to 1834 and died in 1854. His
 son,
 Thomas George, was Lord Lieutenant of Lichfield. He died in 1941 and his son, Thomas Edward,
 the 4th
 Earl, died in 1988. Thomas Patrick John, the 5th Earl, succeeded him and his trustees
 conveyed the
 Manor of the Prebend of Alrewas to David Shaw Esq. Alrewas stands on the Grand Trunk Canal,
 5 miles
 North of Lichfield.
 Rights, customs and incidents(Including the historic rights to market & fair)
 Catalogue sourceLot #16 of Bernard Thorpe Auction - March 1987Lot #13 of Manorial
 Auctioneers
 October 1997
 Associated manorial documents / archive references1 Court rolls 1298-16972 Court books
 1773-1856
 Source notes((1987 Catalogue Begins)) | ((1997 Catalogue Begins))

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession information an ancestor of the present lord of the manor, the Earl of

Lichfield [source claim requiring identity review] purchased_by •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Shortly after this the lordship was purchased by an

ancestor of the present lord of the manor, the Earl of Lichfield. He was a Justice of the Peace for

Staffordshire and [source claim requiring identity review] 1771 • held_manor •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: He was a Justice of the Peace for Staffordshire and

held the Manor for 50 years, selling it before his death in 1771, aged 84.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1204 | Roger de Somerville | royal grant | Manor Property |

- 1660 - 1683 | William Turton | sale | Manor Property |

- 1683 - 1707 | John Turton | inheritance | Manor Property |

- 1752 | George, Lord Anson | sale | Manor Property |

- before 1066 - 1066 | Algar, Earl of Mercia | pre-Conquest holding and forfeiture | Manor Property |

- 1280 - 1297 | Sir Robert de Somerville | inheritance | Manor Property |

- 1297 - 1356 | Sir Philip de Somerville | inheritance | Manor Property |

- 1356 | Joan de Somerville and Sir Reece Griffith | marriage settlement or descent through co-heir | Manor Property |

- | Sir Matthew Boynton | descent through marriage | Manor Property |

- - 1660 | Sir Francis Boynton | inheritance followed by sale | Manor Property |

- | Thomas Anson | inheritance | Manor Property |

- 1818 | Thomas William Anson, 1st Earl of Lichfield | inheritance | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Weekly market on Tuesday: Sir Robert de Somerville was granted a weekly Tuesday market in 1290.

- Annual fair on the eve, day and morrow of Saint Margaret the Virgin: The same grant included a yearly fair held on the eve, day and morrow of Saint Margaret the Virgin.

- Free warren: Sir Robert de Somerville received royal licence of free warren over his holdings in 1290.

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] Verify the historical parish designation and any alternative or medieval forms of the name. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

- [OPEN] Verify the complete descent between the Somerville, Griffith, Boynton, Turton and Anson families. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

- [OPEN] Resolve the chronology and legal relationship between the prebendal title, the manor property, the 1987 sale and the later conveyance to David Shaw Esq. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

- [OPEN] Verify whether the distinct Prebend of Alrewas title survived, was extinguished, or merged. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

DISCLAIMER

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