

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0002618 • MANOR
Beeston-next-Mileham

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Norfolk
Associated places: Norfolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of Beeston-next-Mileham | Associated | Before 1086 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

(Anciently held in-chief of the Crown)

LIKE THE Domesday Manor of Mileham, this Lordship was held by Alan, son of Flaad, ancestor of the

present Dukes of Norfolk (vide Smith's Peerage, vol II, to be published in 1994), by grant of

William the Conqueror some time before 1086. Alan gave the monks at Castleacre, Norfolk, the orchard

at Kempston, and 20 acres at Sprole which Turch Rufus held. He was succeeded by his son, William

FitzAlan, whose wife was Isabel, daughter and heir of Helias de Saye, niece of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, Lady of the Honor of Clun, Shropshire, by which William became Baron of Clun. He

was

already Baron of Oswestry which he purchased at the same time as this Manor. William's great

grandson, John, succeeded in 1218, and he married Isabel, daughter and co-heir of William d'Albini (Albany), Earl of Arundel, and sister of Hugh, by whom he had a son and namesake,

John.

On the death of Hugh, Earl of Arundel, in 1244, John FitzAlan was assigned Arundel Castle.

In 1250,

John was granted permission to make a park at Mileham. Maud, his wife, was the daughter of Robert de

Verdun and in 1267, as a widow, the Sheriff of Norfolk delivered the Manor to her in dower.

Their

son, Richard, who held 76 Knights' Fees in the county, seems to be the first FitzAlan to bear

the title, Earl of Arundel, a feudal Earldom, based on the ownership of Arundel Castle.

In 1287, it was found that the Lord of Mileham and Beeston had the view of frankpledge, the assize

of bread and ale, a tumbrel, gallows, pillory, toll and team, and in this year was ordered to

provide 600 men for Edward I's expedition against Rhys ap Meredith of Wales. Eight

years later,
he was ordered by the King to attend his brother, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, at Plymouth and escort him to Bordeaux, capital of the English province of Gascony. He died in 1301, seised of this Manor and left a son, Edmund, by Alison, daughter of the Marchese de Saluce, Italy. Edmund was a great favourite of Edward II, against whom most of the English nobility rose in revolt in 1326, led by Queen Isabella, the daughter of Philip IV of France. Unfortunately for Earl Edmund, he fell into this lady's power at Bristol and was summarily beheaded outside the gates of Bristol Castle, in sight of the powerless King. By his wife, Alice, the daughter of John, Earl Warenne and Surrey, a son and heir called Richard. The Lordship was temporarily allotted to John de Eltham, the King's brother, but in 1331, Richard was restored in blood and honours and had livery of his late father's Norfolk Lordships. He married Eleanor, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster. There is an inventory of his goods at his death in 1375 among the Duke of Norfolk's muniments at Arundel, where it is stated that he had 108,367 marks in cash and lands, a vast sum of money. His son and heir, Richard, married Elizabeth, daughter of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton. It was not hard to fall out with Richard II and in 1393, Richard Arundel was arrested, and beheaded in Cheapside, London, by Thomas Mowbray, Earl Marshal and Earl of Nottingham, with the King as a spectator. The Lordship with the Norfolk Hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhoe seems to have been granted to the King's uncle, Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester. Gloucester also fell foul of Richard II and was carried off in secret to Calais, then an English possession, where he was smothered to death. The Manor was taken by the Crown. Two years later, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, the son of John of Gaunt, overthrew the capricious King Richard, whom he supplanted as Henry IV. In 1400, the new King restored Earl Richard FitzAlan's son, Thomas, in blood and honours, and in 1402, Sir John Harsick was holding the Lordship of the Earl of Arundel. Earl Thomas married Beatrice, a natural daughter of the King of Portugal, but died without issue in 1415. Mileham and Beeston passed under the entail to Sir John FitzAlan, Lord Maltravers, a cousin and next male heir to the late Earl. John married Alionore, daughter of Sir John Berkeley of Beverstone, Glos,

and died
in 1431, leaving two sons, John and William. John succeeded as Earl of Arundel and died in France
four years later. His son, Humphrey, by Maud, daughter of Robert Lovell, died in infancy,
and the
Earl's property passed to his brother William FitzAlan. William survived the civil wars that
convulsed the reigns of Henry VI and Edward IV (the War of the Roses) and died in bed in 1488. By
his wife, Joan, daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and sister to Richard, Earl of
Warwick ("Warwick the Kingmaker"), he had a son, Thomas.
In 1504, Earl Thomas constituted Henry Fermor of Barsham, Norfolk, his feodary in this
Manor. Thomas
was succeeded by his son, William, by Margaret, daughter of Richard Wydvil, Earl Rivers,
brother to
Elizabeth, Queen to Edward IV. William married Anne, daughter of Henry Percy, Earl of
Northumberland, ancestor of the present Duke of Northumberland, and died in 1544, leaving a
son,
Henry, who was Constable of England at the Coronations of Mary I and Elizabeth I. Henry was
the last
of the FitzAlans to hold this Lordship for in 1559 he sold it to Sir Thomas Gresham of
London.
Gresham's executors sold the Manor to Henry Bastard who reconveyed it to Stephen
Barnwell.
Stephen was descended from Thomas Barnwell of Offaly, Ireland, and was living at Mileham in the
reign of Elizabeth. His son, Edward, married in 1618, at Elsing church, Norfolk, Anne,
daughter of
Sir Thomas Playters, of Sotterley, Suffolk.
The Barnwells, who figure in the Court Books for almost the next 300 years, were Lords of
the Manor
until 1889 when an action for debt was brought against the estate of the late Reverend
Charles
Barnwell of Mileham Hall in the Chancery Division. The Court ordered the sale of the Manor
and it
was purchased by James John Winter of Drayton Norfolk who successors in title held it until
recently. The Manor continued to be active until well into the present century, and we give
an
extract from one of the Court Books, dated 3 May 1911:
Proceedings had and taken out of Court at the office of George Frederick Beaumont, Gentleman
Steward, of the said Manor... Whereas at a General Court Baron holden for this Manor of the
11th day
of May one thousand nine hundred and eleven the Homage presented a certain absolute
surrender in
writing bearing date the 24th day of March one thousand nine hundred and eleven.... passed
out of
Court by Henry Thorpe, a copyhold tenant of this Manor, to the use of Charles King the

Younger of

Beeston in the said county of Norfolk, Dealer, his heirs and assigns and which said surrender has

been enrolled in the Court Books of the said Manor and thereupon at the same Court the first proclamation was duly made according to the custom of this Manor for the said Charles King the

Younger to come into Court and be admitted tenant... Now let it be remembered... the said Charles

King the Younger (by Ernest William Saunders, Gentleman, his Attorney) came before the said George

Frederick Beaumont, Gentleman Steward of the said Manor, and prayed the favour of the lord of this

Manor to admit him tenant... And the said Charles King the Younger... was admitted tenant... to whom

the Lord of this Manor, by the hands of said Steward, doth grant and deliver seisin thereof by the

rod (per virgam: motto of the Manorial Society).

The Lordship is also known as Beeston next Mileham, Beeston and Mileham on the part of Mileham, and

Beeston and Mileham on the part of Beeston.

Rights, customs and incidentsIn 1287, it was found that the Lord of Mileham and Beeston had the view

of frankpledge, the assize of bread and ale, a tumbrel, gallows, pillory, toll and team, and in this

year was ordered to provide 600 men for Edward I's expedition against Rhys ap Meredith of

Wales.

Catalogue sourceLot #1 Manorial Auctioneers Partnership June 1992

Associated manorial documents / archive referencesIndenture 1891 Manorial SocietyGlazed Cloth Map

1833Index 1700Conveyance 1891 1894Tenants & Customs 1894Particular 1894Rental 1787Court Books

1700-1727, 1727-1755,1755-1772, 1772-1796,1797-1822, 1822-1852,1853-1880, 1881-1930

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationJames John Winter of Drayton Norfolkpurchased_by

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historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: The Court ordered the sale of the Manor and it was

purchased by James John Winter of Drayton Norfolk who successors in title held it until recently.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- | James John Winter of Drayton Norfolk | purchased_by | | Lot #1 Manorial Auctioneers Partnership June 1992

- Before 1086 - After 1086 | Alan son of Flaad | royal grant | Manor And Title |

- After 1086 - 1218 | William FitzAlan | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |

- 1244 - 1301 | Richard FitzAlan, 1st/10th Earl of Arundel | hereditary succession | Manor

And Title |

- 1301 - 1326 | Edmund FitzAlan, 2nd/9th Earl of Arundel | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1331 - 1375 | Richard FitzAlan, 3rd/10th Earl of Arundel | restoration and livery | Manor And Title |
- 1375 - 1393 | Richard FitzAlan, 4th/11th Earl of Arundel | hereditary succession and forfeiture | Manor And Title |
- 1400 - 1415 | Thomas FitzAlan, 5th/12th Earl of Arundel | royal restoration | Manor And Title |
- 1415 - 1431 | John FitzAlan, Lord Maltravers | entail succession | Manor And Title |
- 1435 - 1488 | William FitzAlan, 6th/13th Earl of Arundel | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1544 - 1559 | Henry FitzAlan, 19th/12th Earl of Arundel | hereditary succession and sale | Manor And Title |
- 1559 | Sir Thomas Gresham | sale | Manor And Title |
- | Henry Bastard | sale | Manor Property |
- - 1889 | Stephen Barnwell | reconveyance | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- View of frankpledge: In 1287 the Lord of Mileham and Beeston was found to have the view of frankpledge.
- Assize of bread and ale: In 1287 the Lord of Mileham and Beeston was found to have the assize of bread and ale.
- Tumbrel: In 1287 the Lord of Mileham and Beeston was found to have a tumbrel.
- Gallows: In 1287 the Lord of Mileham and Beeston was found to have gallows.
- Pillory: In 1287 the Lord of Mileham and Beeston was found to have a pillory.
- Toll and team: In 1287 the Lord of Mileham and Beeston was found to have toll and team.

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] Verify whether Beeston-next-Mileham was separately listed in Domesday Book or represented within the Mileham entry. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] Verify the historical parish designation and any later parish changes. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] Establish whether the distinct lordship title survived, was extinguished, or merged, and identify any current holder if applicable. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

DISCLAIMER

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