

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0002764 • MANOR
Farnworth

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Lancashire
Associated places: Lancashire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of Farnworth | Associated | 13th century - 1988 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

Until the 19th century Farnworth was a small moorland village, but with the growth of nearby Manchester during the industrial revolution it rapidly became a large urban settlement sandwiched

between its sprawling neighbour to the south and the town of Bolton, a few miles to the North.

Anciently, Farnworth, which means settlement among the ferns seems to have formed part of the

Lordship of Barton, a manor within the Barony of Manchester, but by the 13th century it had become a

manor in its own right. The early holders of the estate are obscure and the first named Lords of

Farnworth appears to have been Robert de Redford and Richard the chief of Farnworth .

In 1320 the Lordship was held jointly by Adam de Lever of Great Lever, Henry de Hulton and Richard

de Redford but what had been a whole estate seems now to have been divided between these three soon

afterwards. The principal share, or moiety, descended with the Hulton family who hailed from the

nearby village of the same name. A cadet branch of the family, founded by John de Hulton, came to

live in Farnworth during the late 13th century and he was succeeded by his son Henry who is recorded

in a number of charters and grants from the time. Henry was succeeded by his son John, who is noted

as having received a grant of Harpurhey in Manchester from John de le Warre in 1327 and a few months

later came into the possession of Oakeney in Horwich.

After John s death, Farnworth descended to his eldest son, William, who is noted later in the 14th

century as settling on his heirs a number of Lordships and estates in Farnworth, Rumworth, Lostock,

Kearsley, Irlam, Barton, Breighmet, Syndale , Westhoughton , Middleton, Great Lever, Bolton, and

Lower Hulton as well as several estates in Manchester. He died in 1392 and this impressive estate came to his eldest son, John, who had made a good marriage to Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir William de Atherton. John died in December 1422 leaving certain lands in Barton called Farnworth of the Lord of Manchester to his son James. He in turn was succeeded by his son James and his grandson, William, who appears as an accessory in a case of murder in 1445. A kinsman of his, Randle Hulton was accused of the fatal shooting of Richard Whitehead, and both William and his brother John were accused of helping him. In the event all three men were acquitted. Farnworth then passed to William's son, John who left an only daughter, Alice. She married a cousin, Adam Hulton of Over Hulton. The Lordship though had been entailed and passed to Alice's uncles, Richard, Christopher and James. Richard was an idiot and James too young, so the profits of the Lordship came to Christopher. Eventually Farnworth descended to William, the son of James Hulton, but a great deal of rancour had been aroused in the Hulton family over what Alice Hulton should have received. In a bid to end the disputes in 1521, William Hulton released land to her descendants. When William died, in 1556, his direct heir was his infant grandson, William, however, Farnworth passed instead to the descendants of the elder William's brother, John. This caused yet more legal wrangles, with William's widow, Christian claiming a part of Farnworth Hall. John Hulton left Farnworth to his son Alan, from whom it passed to his son John and then to his nephew, Alan Hulton. This Alan had a number of sons and the Lordship passed down to the second son George. In 1598 George made complaints that certain persons were intruding on his lands in Farnworth and Kearsley and digging coal pits there. He died in 1610 and was found to be holding the manor of Farnworth, with the capital messuage and various lands there of Sir Nicholas Mosley. Mosley was Baron of Manchester and Hulton was paying 4s 6d to his overlord. Within a few weeks of their father's death, George's children had sold Farnworth to their kinsman Adam Hulton of Over Hulton. In 1660, Adam's son and heir, William, contested the election for the borough of Clitheroe and sat in Parliament from July to December of that year. In 1738 the Lordship of Farnworth appears as the possession of William Hulton and his son,

also

William claimed the waste of the manor, having frequently exercised the right of driving the

commoners and hath gotten coal under Halshaw moor. At some time after this the Lordship became

the property of the Earls of Ellesmere. In 1963 this family succeeded to the Dukedom of Sutherland

and in 1988 the Lordship of Farnworth was sold to a private purchaser.

Rights, customs and incidentsAnciently, Farnworth, which means settlement among the fens

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Catalogue sourceLot #7 of Manorial Services Auction - Nov 2023 - Stephen Johnson

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationhis eldest son, John [source claim requiring identity

review]1392 • passed_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: He died in 1392 and this

impressive estate came to his eldest son, John, who had made a good marriage to Elizabeth, the

daughter of Sir William de Atherton.Alice s uncles, Richard, Christopher and

Jamespassed_to •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: The Lordship though had been entailed and passed to

Alice s uncles, Richard, Christopher and James.Christopher [source claim requiring identity

review]passed_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Richard was an idiot and

James too young, so the profits of the Lordship came to Christopher.a private purchaser [source

claim requiring identity review]1963|1988 • sold_to •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource

wording: In 1963 this family succeeded to the Dukedom of Sutherland and in 1988 the Lordship of

Farnworth was sold to a private purchaser.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- | Alice s uncles, Richard, Christopher and James | passed_to | | Lot #7 of Manorial Services Auction - Nov 2023 - Stephen Johnson

- 1320 - 1320 | Adam de Lever of Great Lever, Henry de Hulton and Richard de Redford | descent or recorded tenure | Manor And Title |
- 1392 - 1422 | John Hulton | descent | Manor Property |
- December 1422 | James Hulton | descent | Manor Property |
- | James Hulton | descent | Manor Property |
- | William Hulton | descent | Manor Property |
- | John Hulton | descent | Manor Property |
- | Christopher Hulton | entail and beneficial possession | Manor And Title |
- 1598 - 1610 | George Hulton | descent | Manor And Title |
- 1610 | Adam Hulton of Over Hulton | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1738 | William Hulton | recorded possession | Manor And Title |
- 1988 - 1988 | private purchaser | sale | Manor And Title |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Lord of the manor's right to the waste and common: In 1738 William Hulton and his son claimed the waste of the manor and were said to have exercised the right of driving the commoners.
- Right to take coal under Halshaw Moor: The 1738 claim included having obtained coal under Halshaw Moor.

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] The Domesday status of Farnworth is not established from the supplied record. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] The current status and holder of the Lordship of Farnworth are not established. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] The precise historical parish boundary and date of any ecclesiastical or civil parish change require verification. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

DISCLAIMER

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