

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0002769 • MANOR

Fenny Stratford

Evidence status: Unverified

Generated: 15 October 2026 14:06 UTC

Location: Buckinghamshire

Associated places: Buckinghamshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of Fenny Stafford | Associated | 1252 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

(Including the historic right to market)

FENNY STAFFORD is a market town and ancient borough which gained importance due to its position on

Watling Street, the Roman Road. It was an important place of call on this road, the main highway

from London to the north-west of England. The town attained the rank of borough before 1370 and

annual fairs had been granted to the Lord of Fenny Stafford in 1252. The town suffered badly from

the civil war (the chapel was destroyed) and the plague of 1665. It never regained its earlier

significance.

The first record to the Lordship of Fenny Stafford is in 1252, the time when the annual fair was

granted to the Lord of the Manor. At that time the Lord was John Grey, who was Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1238. Upon his death in 1266, he was succeeded by his eldest son Reynold.

Reynold

was summoned to parliament in 1295 as Lord de Grey. He was appointed Justice of Chester and Keeper

of County Chester in 1281 and fought at the battle of Falkirk with Edward I in 1298. The Manor

passed to his son, John, upon his death in 1308. John, Lord Grey, was made Justiciar of North Wales

and keeper of the King's lands in those parts. From him it passed to his son, Henry, in 1323

and from him to his son, Reynold, fourth Lord Grey, in 1342.

Reynold died in 1370 and his son succeeded him. Henry was summoned to Parliament in 1377 and served

until 1394. Upon his death in 1395 the Lordship passed to his son Richard who died in 1442.

His

widow, Margaret married Thomas Grey, younger brother of Edmund (Grey), Earl of Kent. He was later

made Baron of Richenmount Grey and served as Justice of the Peace in Buckinghamshire between

1453

and 1458. In 1448, Margaret renounced her life interest in the Manor to her first husband's

son, Reynold Grey. Reynold served in Parliament from 1444 to 1495. He settled the Manor in fee-tail

on himself and his wife Tacina in 1454. He died in 1493.

His heir, John, died in 1499. His widow, Elizabeth, married Sir Edward Stanley, later Lord Monteagle, and sued her son Edmund Grey for her dower in the Manor. Edmund settled Fenny Stafford on

his wife Florence for life, and after his death in 1511, his fourth son (the elder three dying as

minors) succeeded to the title in 1520. William obtained the Manor in 1536 upon the death of Florence. He was one of the 26 peers who signed the letters patent of 16 June 1553 settling the

Crown of England on Lady Jane Grey. He was soon pardoned on the accession of Queen Mary and was even

supposed to be master of the queen's hawks the day of her coronation.

Before he died in 1562 he quitclaimed the Manor for £1,000 to the Marquess of Winchester, to whom

the Manor was granted in 1563 by Queen Elizabeth. It was quitclaimed by Arthur, William's son

and heir, in 1564, both grant and quitclaim to be void if Arthur paid £3,000. He was regranted the

Manor in 1572. Arthur died in 1593 and his son, Thomas 15th Lord Grey, was attainted in 1603. Fenny

Stafford became forfeit to the Crown, and was leased to George Fleetwood and others in 1609. In

1616, after the death of Thomas, Lord Grey, the Manor was granted in fee to Sir George Villiers,

James I's great favourite. The lease to the Grey family was surrendered to Villiers in 1616,

and he was created Duke of Buckingham in 1623.

The Manor was sold by the 2nd Duke of Buckingham in 1674 to Thomas Willis MD who died the following

Autumn. His son, also Thomas, died in 1699 and was succeeded by Browne Willis, the famous antiquary.

Fenny Stafford was settled on the marriage of his eldest son, Thomas, in 1735. Thomas died in 1756

and his son, Thomas, proved the will of his grandfather, Browne Willis, upon the latest death in

1760. Thomas Willis took the name of Fleming after an inheritance of land from a distant cousin. He

died in 1762, the Manor passing to his half brother John.

John obtained an Act of Parliament in 1767 enabling him to take the name Fleming and later sold the

manor to the Rev Philip Barton of Great Brickhill. He died in 1786, leaving the Manor in trust for

his godson Philip Duncombe Pauncefort on the condition he should take the name Duncombe on

inheriting. This he did in 1805. The Manor then descended through his son Philip (created Baronet in 1859), to Philip Henry Pauncefort-Duncombe to the current owner, Sir Everard Philip Digby Pauncefort-Duncombe. The descent of the family is given at the end of this Catalogue. The Lordship lies in the modern parish of Bletchley. Rights, customs and incidents(Including the historic right to market) The town attained the rank of borough before 1370 and annual fairs had been granted to the Lord of Fenny Stafford in 1252.

The first record to the Lordship of Fenny Stafford is in 1252, the time when the annual fair was granted to the Lord of the Manor.

Catalogue sourceLot #28 of Manorial Auctioneers December 1996

Associated manorial documents / archive referencesCourt Roll 1771 Bucks ROCourt Book 1776-1832Court

Rolls c1334-1470 Greater Manchester ROCourt Rolls (Compti) C14th-15thAccount Rolls 1371-96 Bucks

ROCourt Rolls 1372-94, 1679Court Books 1771, 1776-1832Survey 1669Quit Rental 1824

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationLord of the Manor [source claim requiring identity review]1252 • granted_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: The first record to the

Lordship of Fenny Stafford is in 1252, the time when the annual fair was granted to the Lord of the

Manor.his son, John, upon his death [source claim requiring identity review]1308 • passed_to •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: The Manor passed to his son, John, upon his death in

1308.his son Richard [source claim requiring identity review]1395[1442 • passed_to •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Upon his death in 1395 the Lordship passed to his son

Richard who died in 1442.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1252 - 1266 | John Grey | grant of annual fair | Manor And Title |
- 1266 - 1308 | Reynold Grey | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1308 - 1323 | John Grey | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1323 - 1342 | Henry Grey | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1342 - 1370 | Reynold Grey | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1370 - 1395 | Henry Grey | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1395 - 1442 | Richard Grey | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1448 - 1493 | Reynold Grey | renunciation and settlement | Manor Property |
- 1536 - 1562 | William Grey | succession | Manor Property |
- 1563 - 1572 | Marquess of Winchester | quitclaim and royal grant | Manor Property |
- 1572 - 1593 | Arthur Grey | regrant | Manor Property |
- 1616 - 1674 | George Villiers, later Duke of Buckingham | Crown grant in fee | Manor Property |

- 1674 - 1675 | Thomas Willis | sale | Manor Property |
- 1767 - 1786 | Rev. Philip Barton | sale | Manor Property |
- 1805 | Philip Duncombe Pauncefort, later Philip Duncombe | trust succession | Manor Property |
- 1442 - 1448 | Margaret Grey | widow's life interest and renunciation | Manor And Title |
- 1493 - 1511 | Edmund Grey | succession and settlement | Manor Property |
- 1511 - 1536 | Florence Grey | life settlement | Manor Property |
- 1593 - 1603 | Thomas Grey, 15th Baron Grey | hereditary succession and forfeiture | Manor And Title |
- 1603 - 1616 | Crown | forfeiture and Crown ownership | Manor Property |
- 1609 - 1616 | George Fleetwood and others | lease | Manor Property |
- 1675 - 1699 | Thomas Willis | hereditary succession | Manor Property |
- 1699 - 1760 | Browne Willis | hereditary succession | Manor Property |
- 1735 - 1756 | Thomas Willis | marriage settlement | Manor Property |
- 1756 - 1762 | Thomas Willis Fleming | hereditary succession | Manor Property |
- 1762 - 1767 | John Fleming | hereditary succession and sale | Manor Property |
- 1786 - 1805 | Rev. Philip Barton | testamentary trust | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Annual fair: An annual fair was granted to the Lord of the Manor in 1252.
- Market: The record expressly identifies a historic right to market associated with Fenny Stratford.
- Borough status: The town attained the rank of borough before 1370.

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] Domesday status remains unconfirmed. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] The surviving or extinguished status of the distinct Lordship of Fenny Stafford is unconfirmed. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] The complete post-1805 conveyance and present title position require source verification. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

DISCLAIMER

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