

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0002784 • MANOR

Giffords

Evidence status: Unverified

Generated: 14 October 2026 22:38 UTC

Location: Hertfordshire

Associated places: Hertfordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Giffords | Associated | 1190s - 20th century | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

THIS MANOR was the holding of a family named either Giffard or Gifford in the 1190s, when Giffard de

Gilston called Peter de Goldington to warrant to him a quarter of a virgate of land in Gilston, which he had by charter of Thomas, his father. In 1307, Ralph Giffard was among the

tenants at Gilston assessed for a lay subsidy, and in 1324 this Ralph was in debt to the younger

Hugh le Despenser for £40, levied on his lands in Essex and Hertfordshire. In 1341, John Gifford

made a settlement of two messuages, two mills, 240 acres of land with appurtenances in Gilston,

Sawbridgeworth, and Eastwick on himself and his wife Margaret in 1341. William Gifford, probably the

son of John, left his daughter Margaret as his heir. She married John Chauncy, and in 1418 a quitclaim of a moiety of the estate mentioned above was made to them by William Johane of Hatfield

Broad Oak in Essex who had married Joan, another heiress of the estate.

Their son John died in 1479 seised of this Manor, and it passed to his son, also John. He settled it

on his son William, and a quitclaim was made to him by Leonard Killesham and his wife Griselda,

James Frauncys and Alice in 1492, and John Wypall and Wifrid his wife in 1549. It passed to his

second son Henry, and immediately after his death in 1587 it was conveyed to George Chauncy by his

heir William. William's eldest son, Maurice, became a monk at the Carthusian monastery, and the

family was accused of seditious practices favouring Popery in 1581. George Chauncy sold it to

Alexander Williams of the Pipe Office, who married Elizabeth Carter, the sister of Sir Dudley

Carleton, the Ambassador at the Hague.

Giffords was later sold to John Gore, the Lord Mayor of London in 1624, who died seised of

the
 Lordship in 1636. His son was Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1639, and he was knighted by
 Charles I in
 1641. He fought as a royalist during the Civil War, but later was reconciled with
 Cromwell's
 government. He died in 1659, having settled the messuages and farm called Upperhall, a mill
 in
 Hunsdon, and the Manors of Overhall, Netherhall, and Giffords on his son Humphrey Gore on
 the
 occasion of his marriage to Persis English.
 Humphrey was knighted in 1660, and was succeeded by his second son Henry in 1699, his eldest
 son
 having died within his father's lifetime. Henry sold the Manors to John Plumer of
 Blakesware, who
 died in 1719, and is buried at East. The Lordships passed to his second son, William, who
 was MP for
 Hertfordshire in 1754. He settled the Manors on his son, also William, who was MP for
 Hertfordshire
 from 1768-1806. He was also buried at Eastwick in 1822, and his widow married Robert Ward,
 who
 assumed the name of Plumer. They lived at Gilston Park, and he was sheriff of the county in
 1832.
 Ward was a well known politician, and a great friend of the Prime Minister of the time,
 William Pitt
 the Younger. He was later an under-secretary to the Foreign Office, and had a seat on the
 Board of
 the Admiralty. He wrote several books on the law, and also gained a reputation as a
 novelist, though
 Canning's remark "His law books are as pleasant as his novels, and his novels as dull as
 his law
 books" has a grain of truth in it.
 The Manor passed to Henry George Ward, who sold it to John Hodgson, whose brother William
 succeeded
 in 1882. On his death in 1886 the Manor passed to his nephew Edward Salvin Bowlby. His son,
 Arthur
 Salvin Bowlby, inherited the title in 1902 and Giffords remains in that family. The courts
 let and
 courts Baron for this Manor and the Manor of Netherhall used to be held at the Plume and
 Feathers
 Inn.
 The Lordship lies in the parishes of Gilston and Sawbridgeworth, about four miles south of
 Bishop's Stortford.
 Catalogue source Lot #24 of Manorial Auctioneers December 1996
 Associated manorial documents / archive references Court Rolls 1526-1690 Herts RO Extent 1304
 PRO Pedigree of the Villens of the Manor temp Edw I Extracts of the Court 1619-38 Herts RO Fines
 1627,
 1634/5 Courts & View of Frankpledge 1539-55 PRO Extent of Court Rolls 1598 Accounts
 & Rentals

C17th Herts ROExtracts fromCourt Baron C18th & C19thCourt Rolls 1603 Kent AOAccount Roll
1615Rentals late C19th Hunts RO

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationhis son, also John [source claim requiring identity review]1479 • passed_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Their son John died in 1479 seised of this Manor, and it passed to his son, also John.Henry George Ward1882 • passed_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: The Manor passed to Henry George Ward, who sold it to John Hodgson, whose brother William succeeded in 1882.his nephew Edward Salvin Bowlby [source claim requiring identity review]1886 • passed_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: On his death in 1886 the Manor passed to his nephew Edward Salvin Bowlby.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1882 | Henry George Ward | passed_to | | Lot #24 of Manorial Auctioneers December 1996
- 1190s | Giffard de Gilston | charter and warranty | Manor Property |
- 1341 | John Gifford | settlement | Manor Property |
- 1418 | John Chauncy | quitclaim | Manor Property |
- 1479 | John Chauncy | descent | Manor Property |
- - 1587 | William Chauncy | settlement and quitclaims | Manor Property |
- 1587 | Henry Chauncy | descent and conveyance | Manor Property |
- 1587 | George Chauncy | conveyance | Manor Property |
- | Alexander Williams | sale | Manor Property |
- - 1636 | John Gore | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1636 - 1659 | Sir John Gore | descent and settlement | Manor And Title |
- 1659 - 1699 | Humphrey Gore | marriage settlement | Manor And Title |
- 1699 | Henry Gore | descent and sale | Manor And Title |
- - 1719 | John Plumer | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1719 | William Plumer | descent | Manor And Title |
- 1754 | William Plumer | settlement | Manor And Title |
- | John Hodgson | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1882 - 1886 | William Hodgson | descent | Manor And Title |
- 1886 - 1902 | Edward Salvin Bowlby | descent | Manor And Title |
- 1902 | Arthur Salvin Bowlby | inheritance | Manor And Title |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Court baron: The account states that courts baron were held for Giffords and Netherhall at the Plume and Feathers Inn.
- Court leet and view of frankpledge: The account states that courts leet and view of frankpledge were held for the manor; associated records are listed for 1539 55.

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] Domesday status is not established from the supplied record or pre-existing

knowledge. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

- [OPEN] The precise historical form of the manor name is not established beyond Giffords/Gifford references. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

- [OPEN] The status and current holder of any distinct lordship title are not established. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

DISCLAIMER

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