

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0002800 • MANOR
Great Ellingham

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 14 October 2026 22:38 UTC

Location: Norfolk
Associated places: Norfolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of Great Ellingham | Associated | about 1100 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

THIS MANOR belonged to Turketel, the Dane, in the Confessor s days and to Warbold in the reign of

William the Conqueror, who held it of Hermer de Ferrers, the ancestor of the first Earls Ferrers.

By 1100, it had become the Lordship of Earl Warrenne and was held under this family by the Wirmegges

for most of the 12th century. William de Wirmegge granted it to William, son of Ralph de Ellingham,

in about 1200 and we know from records in London that Ralph was the son of Walter de Ellingham who

was living in 1194. The descent of the de Ellinghams as far as this has been pieced together is as

follows (see digital catalogue).

This Alexander sold the Lordship in 1369 to Sir Robert Mortimer, although in 1372 Sir Robert sold it

back to Alexander de Ellingham and his wife, Amy. Nevertheless, Sir Robert Mortimer was Lord again

in 1381 and in 1388 we find Margery, Lady Mortimer, by then a widow, settling Great Ellingham on Sir

George Felbrigg.

Sir George released his rights in the Manor in 1399 and in 1401 Constantine Mortimer was the Lord.

Constantine was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas of Attleburgh, or Attleborough, one of whose

daughters and heiress married John FitzRalph. John was succeeded by Maud who married Sir Robert

Conyers. Various disputes over this Manor are found in the magnificent Paston Letters, which are

housed at the British Library, but which are available in printed form from Oxford University Press.

Sir Robert Conyer s son John, dying without issue in 1472 left Great Ellingham to his niece, Anne,

wife of Thomas Spelman. In 1524 the Manor passed into the hands of the de Greys of Merton.

Where we

note (supra) Margery, Lady Mortimer's settlement of 1388, we find on the grant her seal which

illustrates one of the earliest known coats of arms held by a woman: viz a chevron, between three

lions rampant, impaled with, and placed before, those of her husband.

The Lordship lies 3 miles north-west of Attleborough and covers approximately 2756 acres.

Rights, customs and incidents Sir George released his rights in the Manor in 1399 and in 1401

Constantine Mortimer was the Lord.

Catalogue source Lot #15 of Manorial Holdings Auction - December 1989

Associated manorial documents / archive references Exten Temp Edward IV PRO Survey Undated

Bodleian Records 1782-1875 Norfolk RO Field Books 1556, 1578, 1614 Surveys post 1631 Court Rolls

1556-1628 Court Book 1605-1755 Rentals C16th-C17th Norfolk RO

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The manor was held by Turketel in the Confessor's days and by Warbold under Hermer de Ferrers

after the Conquest. By about 1100 it was a lordship of the Warenne family and was held by the

Wirmegges during much of the twelfth century. It passed to the de Ellingham family around 1200.

Alexander de Ellingham sold the lordship to Sir Robert Mortimer in 1369, but Mortimer conveyed it

back to Alexander and Amy in 1372. Mortimer was again lord in 1381. Margery, Lady Mortimer, settled

it on Sir George Felbrigg in 1388; Felbrigg released his rights in 1399. Constantine Mortimer was

lord in 1401, followed by his son Sir Thomas of Attleborough. The subsequent descent included John

FitzRalph, Maud and Sir Robert Conyers, and Anne, wife of Thomas Spelman, after John Conyers died

without issue in 1472. The manor passed to the de Greys of Merton in 1524.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1369 - 1372 | Sir Robert Mortimer | sale | Lordship Title |
- 1372 | Alexander de Ellingham and Amy | sale | Lordship Title |
- 1388 - 1399 | Sir George Felbrigg | settlement | Manor Property |
- 1472 - 1524 | Thomas Spelman and Anne | inheritance | Manor Property |
- 1524 | de Greys of Merton | inheritance or transfer | Manor Property |
- before 1066 - 1066 | Turketel | descent or tenure | Manor Property |
- 1066 - about 1100 | Warbold | tenure or descent | Manor Property |
- about 1100 | Earl Warrenne | descent or lordship succession | Lordship Title |
- about 1200 | William, son of Ralph de Ellingham | grant | Manor And Title |
- 1381 - 1388 | Sir Robert Mortimer | lordship succession | Lordship Title |
- 1401 | Constantine Mortimer | lordship succession | Lordship Title |
- | Sir Thomas Mortimer of Attleborough | inheritance | Manor And Title |
- | John FitzRalph | inheritance through marriage | Manor Property |
- | Maud and Sir Robert Conyers | inheritance through marriage | Manor Property |

- - 1472 | John Conyers | inheritance | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Lordship rights in Great Ellingham: The historical account expressly refers to the lordship and records Sir George Felbrigg releasing his rights in the manor in 1399.
- Manorial court and rental administration: The supplied record identifies court rolls from 1556 1628, a court book from 1605 1755, and sixteenth- and seventeenth-century rentals, evidencing historical manorial administration.

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] The supplied record does not establish a complete descent after the de Greys of Merton. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] The continuing or extinguished status of the distinct lordship title is not established. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] The precise legal instruments and dates for several successions remain unspecified. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

DISCLAIMER

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