

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0002940 • MANOR

Mursley

Evidence status: Unverified

Generated: 14 October 2026 22:38 UTC

Location: Buckinghamshire

Associated places: Buckinghamshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of Mursley | Associated | Medieval period | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

(Including the historic right to Markets and Fair)

MURSLEY was held by Lewin of Nuneham at the Conquest and he was still holding in 1086. But within 80

years, the Lord was Robert FitzNiel who was also Lord of the adjoining Manor of Salden, in succession to his father Richard. Robert's grand-daughter, Agnes, the wife of Reginald Basset,

succeeded to Mursley and was holding it in 1220. She died in 1252 and was succeeded by Robert

FitzNiel, but their relationship is not known. He was killed at the Battle of Evesham in 1265 and

was succeeded by his son, also Robert, who died in 1331 when it passed to his daughter, Grace, widow

of John de Nowers. Their second son, Robert, inherited Mursley in 1349, but he had been struck in

the head by a lance during a joust and had lost his memory. Custody of the Manor was therefore

granted by the Crown to Robert's two kinsmen, provided they find him proper maintenance.

In 1351, the custodians made an inventory and among the items in the great hall was a piece of green

tapestry hung against the wall with diverse coats of arms on it, a bench-covering, a wash-basin,

three trestle-tables, and three fixed tables. In the Lord's chamber was a bed and beadspread, a

mattress and a blanket. (Until recently, it had been thought that our medieval ancestors were a

particularly unhygienic people, so note the presence of a wash-basin in what was a fairly minor

family of manorial lords).

The FitzNiels were granted a market on Wednesdays and an annual, three-day fair in September by

Henry III. Robert FitzNiel, in 1299, obtained a charter of free warren from Edward I and the family

held the view of frankpledge from the 14th century. The market and fair, with the addition of a second fair for 14 to 16 August, were confirmed in 1416, and Mursley was not unimportant, having a Seigniorial Borough for much of the later Middle Ages.

From 1358, Mursley was in the possession of Princess Isabel, daughter of Edward III, and her husband, Ingelram de Courci, Earl of Bedford. It remained in the Bedfords until 1432 when it was sold to Robert Whittingham. In 1525, Mursley was settled on Edward Verney, son of Sir Ralph Verney of Middle Clayton, Bucks, ancestor of the Viscounts Fermanagh and Earls Verney, and remained in the family, from father to son, until its sale by Sir Ralph Verney MP in 1663 to Sir John Fortescue Bart of Salden. On the death of the last Baronet in 1729, the Manor passed to Viscountess Gage, great grand-daughter of Sir John Verney, who died in 1683. Lady Gage's trustees sold Mursley in 1736 to Hugh Barker, a merchant, who in about 1750 conveyed it to Sampson Gideon, a Jewish financier, whose son, also Sampson, was created Baron Eardley in 1789. On Lord Eardley's death in 1824 the Lordship was inherited by his three daughters, Selina, wife of John Walbanke Childers; Maria, wife of Lord Saye and Sele; and Charlotte, wife of Sir Culling Smith Bart. They sold Mursley to the Selby-Lowndes family of Whaddon in whose successors, Martin Selby-Lowndes Esquire and his sister, Jane, it now vests.

The Lordship lies three miles east of Winslow.

Rights, customs and incidents(Including the historic right to Markets and Fair)

Robert FitzNiel, in 1299, obtained a charter of free warren from Edward I and the family held the view of frankpledge from the 14th century.

Catalogue sourceLot #8 Manorial Auctioneers Partnership October 1990
Associated manorial documents / archive referencesAdd Chart 47482, 53092 British LibraryChart Roll
27 Edw I, no 92 PROHund Roll (Rec Com) i, 26 PROCal Patent 1232-47, p351 PROChart Roll 3 & 4
HenV, no 2 PROFeet of Fines (Bucks) 4 Jas I PROPleas Rec R, Hil 9 Jas I, m 7 PROClose Roll 15 Chas
II, pt vi no 18 PRO

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationViscountess Gage, great grand-daughter of Sir John Verney1729|1683 • passed_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: On the death of the last Baronet in 1729, the Manor passed to Viscountess Gage, great grand-daughter of Sir John

Verney,
who died in 1683.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1729|1683 | Viscountess Gage, great grand-daughter of Sir John Verney | passed_to | | Lot #8 Manorial Auctioneers Partnership October 1990
- Before 1086 - 1086 | Lewin of Nuneham | | Manor Property |
- 12th century | Robert FitzNiel | descent | Manor Property |
- By 1220 - 1252 | Agnes, wife of Reginald Basset | descent | Manor Property |
- 1252 - 1265 | Robert FitzNiel | descent | Manor Property |
- 1265 - 1331 | Robert FitzNiel | descent | Manor Property |
- 1331 - 1349 | Grace, widow of John de Nowers | descent | Manor Property |
- 1349 - 1358 | Robert FitzNiel | descent | Manor Property |
- 1358 - 1432 | Isabel, daughter of Edward III, and Ingelram de Coucy, Earl of Bedford | descent | Manor Property |
- 1432 | Robert Whittingham | sale | Manor Property |
- 1525 | Edward Verney | settlement | Manor Property |
- 1663 - 1729 | Sir John Fortescue, Baronet | sale | Manor Property |
- 1736 - About 1750 | Hugh Barker | sale | Manor Property |
- About 1750 | Sampson Gideon | conveyance | Manor Property |
- 1824 | Selina Childers, Maria, wife of Lord Saye and Sele, and Charlotte Smith | descent | Manor Property |
- | Selby-Lowndes family of Whaddon | sale | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Market on Wednesdays: The FitzNiel family was granted a Wednesday market by Henry III; the market was confirmed in 1416.
- Annual three-day fair in September: The FitzNiel family was granted an annual three-day September fair by Henry III; the fair was confirmed in 1416.
- Second annual fair held from 14 to 16 August: A second fair, held from 14 to 16 August, was confirmed in 1416.
- Free warren: Robert FitzNiel obtained a charter of free warren from Edward I in 1299.
- View of frankpledge: The FitzNiel family held the view of frankpledge from the fourteenth century.
- Seignorial borough: Mursley had a seignorial borough for much of the later Middle Ages.

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] Historical variant spellings of Mursley were not added because none can be stated confidently from the available knowledge. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point
- [OPEN] The legal status and current holder of any distinct Lordship of Mursley remain unconfirmed. | Wanted: Source-backed evidence resolving this point

DISCLAIMER

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