

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003105 • MANOR

Wannerton

Evidence status: Unverified

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Location: Worcestershire

Associated places: Worcestershire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of Wannerton | Associated | Medieval period - Unknown | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

Wannerton is one of the 16 outliers or berewicks of Kidderminster which appears as a separate hamlet on the Subsidiary Roll of 1280.

In 736 Cynberht was granted by Ethelbald, King of the Mercians 10 cassates of land for the founding

of a monastery, though in 816 Kidderminster is recorded as in the hands of the crown and continued

so to Edward the Confessor and to King Harold prior to the conquest.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 notes: "William holding Kidderminster in lordship, with 16 outliers; Wannerton, Trimley, Hurcott, Franche, another Franche Bristitune, Habberley, Fastochesfelde, Wribbenhall, Ribbesford, another Ribbesford, Sutton, Oldington, Mitton, Teulesberge

and Sudale. In these lands, including the manor, 20 hides. The whole of this manor was waste. In

Lordship 1 plough; 20 villagers and 30 smallholders with 18 ploughs; a further 20 more ploughs

possible. 2 male and 4 female slaves. 2 mills at 16s; 2 salt-houses at 30s; a fishery at 100d;

woodland of 4 leagues. In this manor three free holds the land of one riding-man; he has 1 plough

and a mill at 5 ora. To this manor belongs 1 house in Droitwich and another in Worcester which pay

10d. The whole manor paid £14 in revenue before 1066, after it paid £10.4s by weight. The King had

placed the woodland of this manor in the Forest of Feckenham. Of this manor's land William

holds 1 hide and the land of one riding-man. He has 1 villager and 8 smallholders who have 4f

ploughs, value 11s. Also of this land Aiulf holds 1 virgate, 1 plough and 2 slaves there.

Value

2s."

The Sheriff accounted to the King for the proceeds of the whole of Kidderminster until Henry II

alienated to his "dapifer" or Steward, Manasser Biset sometime between 1156 and 1162.

The Lordship of Wannerton was enfeoffed under the Barony of Kidderminster Biset and passed to a

family which took its name from the manor. During the 15th century three followed at least four

generations of the name. John Wannerton whose father and grandfather had lived there had a son

also John Wannerton, of

Worfield, Salop or Shropshire, whose daughter and heir Jane married Sir George Bromley, knight

and justiciar of Chester. Jane outlived her husband and settled her estate with the manor on her

grandson, Thomas Bromley of Bridgnorth who died without issue in 1609-10. Thomas had settled by will

his estate on his widow Eleanor, but afterwards it reverted to Sir Edward Bromley of Sheriff Hales

under the will of Thomas Bromley.

In 1677 William Bromley is recorded as in possession and in 1683 he conveyed the Lordship and Manor

of Wannerton to Thomas Foley. Thomas was the son of Richard Foley of Stowbridge by his second wife,

Alicia, daughter of William Brindley of Willenhall. Richard Foley had amassed a huge fortune during

the civil war as an iron master and had settled at Great Witley, where Thomas Foley was then responsible for the construction of Witley Court, the Foley family seat.

Thomas Foley had married Grace Granville, 3rd daughter and co heir of George Granville, Lord of

Lansdowne at Bideford but died November 1777 to be succeeded by his son, also Thomas. This Thomas

Foley was MP for Herefordshire from 1767-1774 and for Droitwich from 1774-77 and appointed Postmaster General in 1783. He married Harriet Stanhope, 4th daughter of William Stanhope, 2nd Earl

of Harrington but died in 1793 to be succeeded by his 3rd and only surviving son again Thomas.

This Thomas Foley was a Privy Councillor and Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire and had married

Cecilia Olivia Geraldine Fitzgerald, 5th daughter of Robert Fitzgerald, 2nd Duke of Leinster. He

died April 1833 and was succeeded by his son, Thomas Henry Foley. Thomas Henry Foley had been MP for

Worcestershire 1830-1832 but sold the Manor of Wannerton with others in about 1836-1837 to William,

11th Lord Ward. William was created Earl of Dudley on 17th February 1860, had acquired Witley Court

the chief seat of Foley's and enlarged it to a yet more substantial residence. He died May 1885

to be succeeded by his son, William Humble, the 2nd Earl. The Lordship of the Manor of

Wannerton has continued to be held by successive Earls of Dudley until the present day. Rights, customs and incidents In Lordship 1 plough; 20 villagers and 30 smallholders with 18 ploughs; a further 20 more ploughs possible. 2 male and 4 female slaves. 2 mills at 16s; 2 salt-houses at 30s; a fishery at 100d; woodland of 4 leagues. Catalogue source Lot #40 of Strutt & Parker Auction November 2003 Associated manorial documents / archive references Calendar Close Rolls 1296-1302 Kew Record Office Chancery Inquisition Portmortem 1281 " " Calendar Patent Rolls 1301-1307 " " Recovery Rolls 1573 " " Feet of Fines Worcestershire 1602 Feet of Fines Divisional Co 1720 Recovery Rolls 1802

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Wannerton was one of the outliers or berewicks of Kidderminster and was held with the lordship of Kidderminster before being alienated by Henry II to Manasser Biset, the king's dapifer, between 1156 and 1162. Its lordship was subsequently enfeoffed under the Biset barony and passed to a family using the name Wannerton. In the later medieval and early modern period it descended through the Wannerton and Bromley families. Thomas Bromley died without issue in 1609 10; under the relevant testamentary arrangements the estate ultimately reverted to Sir Edward Bromley of Sheriff Hales. William Bromley was in possession in 1677 and conveyed the lordship and manor to Thomas Foley in 1683. The manor descended through successive members of the Foley family until Thomas Henry Foley sold it, with other property, about 1836 1837 to William, 11th Lord Ward. The lordship thereafter descended with the Earls of Dudley, according to the supplied registry narrative.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- After 1609-1610 | Sir Edward Bromley of Sheriff Hales | Will and reversion | Manor And Title |
 - 1683 | Thomas Foley | Conveyance | Manor And Title |
 - About 1836 - About 1837 | William Ward, 11th Lord Ward | Sale | Manor And Title |
 - Between 1156 and 1162 | Manasser Biset | Royal alienation and feoffment | Manor And Title |

- November 1777 | Thomas Foley | Descent | Manor And Title |
- 1793 | Thomas Foley | Descent | Manor And Title |
- April 1833 - About 1836 | Thomas Henry Foley | Descent followed by sale | Manor And Title |
- May 1885 | William Humble Ward, 2nd Earl of Dudley | Descent | Manor And Title |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Domesday agricultural and customary resources included ploughlands, mills, salt-houses, a fishery, woodland, and associated dependent holdings.: The 1086 entry records one lordship plough, villagers and smallholders, two mills, two salt-houses, a fishery, woodland, and other dependent land and holdings.
- Woodland rights or resources associated with the Forest of Feckenham.: The Domesday account states that the King had placed the woodland of the manor in the Forest of Feckenham.

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