

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003121 • MANOR
Westhorpe Hall

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Suffolk
Associated places: Suffolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of the Manor of Westhorpe | Associated | medieval period | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

Westhorpe is a small village 2 miles west from Finningham and 8 north from Stowmarket. The Manor belonged to Ulrico Hagana at the time of Edward the Confessor and at the time of the Domesday Survey was held by Eudo, son of Spirnic. In the 13th century John de Westhorpe held the Manor. In 1323 it was held by John de Thorp and in 1338 it belonged to Matthew de Cambridge. In 1514 a grant was made to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who resided with his wife, Mary Tudor, Sister of Henry VIII in the noble Mansion of Westhorpe Hall which is now demolished. (Copingier, The Manors of Suffolk, Vol. III, p. 327). On 10th March, 1717, a Court was held for Maurice Shelton, his Steward being Robert Martin. On 5th June, 1733, the first Court was held of Thomas Taylor, Robert Martin continuing to act as Steward. Five years later the Manor was held by Baron Pettyman in the right of Arabella, his wife, relict of Thomas Taylor. He continued to hold it until his death in 1758, and on 30th October in that year his widow held her first Court. She appears to have died in 1761 when John Reilly appears as Lord at a Court held 10th December of that year. Neale Ward was his Steward. John Reilly held his last Court on 19th October, 1795 and he was followed by his widow, Maria Rebecca Reilly. Seven courts were held for her, the last on 13th June, 1808. She was followed by Thomas Reilly, whose last Court was held on 15th May, 1821. One Court only was held by the new Lord, Sir Miles Nightingale, for on 5th December, 1831, Dame Florentia Elizabeth Nightingale, widow, was Lady of the Manor, and remained so for 25 years. Her last Court was on 9th December, 1856.

The First and only Court of Charles Tabor, of Bovingdons, Braintree, was held on 25th October, 1869.

Joseph Beaumont of Coggeshall acted for him on his purchase and also as Steward. Several enfranchisements were negotiated immediately but one was as late as 11th September, 1905, and the

Lords who entered into it were Benjamin Dixon Tabor and Charles Victor Tabor, both now deceased.

They did not, however, hold any Court.

This Manor is an example of a custom of descent on intestacy which was not very common, viz.,

Borough-English. Under this custom in certain Manors the Youngest Son succeeded as heir instead of

the eldest, who was normally heir at law unless any custom to the contrary could be proved.

On 8th

July, 1803, William Philip Mulliner was admitted as youngest son and heir and later Jonathan Banks,

Shoemaker, was admitted under the same custom.

Fines on death and alienation of copyholds were arbitrary in this Manor, i.e., two years annual

value of the property, as opposed to fines certain which were twice the annual quit rent, usually

only a few shillings.

Cutting down trees was a frequent offence in this Manor. At a Court held on 26th July, 1768, the

Homage presented that Samuel Corke had cut down four ash trees lately standing upon the waste land

of this Manor called the Brick Kiln Lies, the property of the Lord of this Manor. On 11th December,

1749, William Page, Baronet, paid to the Lord £3 3s. 0d. for felling certain timber trees off the

copyhold lands of his wife, Dame Frances Page.

At a Court held on 23rd October, 1753, it was certified by the Steward that the Lord of the 2nd

Manor of this Manor of the Copyhold Tenants did grant licence to John Turner to make a ditch at Lady

Willow (parcel of the waste land of this Manor adjoining to the copyhold lands of the said John

Turner).

There is a small village green in respect of which negotiations are in progress with the Eastern

Electricity Board for the granting of wayleaves. The correspondence to date and plans will be handed

to the purchaser on completion.

The records of the Manor (insured for £300) which will be handed over on completion, are as under:

Court Books: 1635 1691; 1705 1760; 1767 1810; 1812 1856 and 1857 1892. 12th October, 1860:

Notice by Joseph Beaumont of Court to be held at Crown Inn, Westhorpe. 2nd June, 1869:

Particulars

of Sale by Biddell and Blencowe at Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds. 12th October, 1869: Notice by

Joseph Beaumont of intention to hold a Court at the Crown Inn, Westhorpe. 1951: Schedule of Courts,

Lords, Stewards and Homage, 1705 1892.

The Vendors sell as Trustees for sale and the title shall commence with a conveyance on sale dated

28th December, 1869 from the Rev. A. L. Darell Bart and L. E. Darell, to Charles Tabor of Bovingdon s, Bocking.

Rights, customs and incidentsFive years later the Manor was held by Baron Pettyman in the right of

Arabella, his wife, relict of Thomas Taylor.

This Manor is an example of a custom of descent on intestacy which was not very common, viz.,

Borough-English.

Catalogue sourceLot #5 of Stanford & Son's; Third Auction; - Sept 1964

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationIn the 13th century John de Westhorpe [source claim

requiring identity review]held_manor • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: In the 13th

century John de Westhorpe held the Manor.Lord, Sir Miles Nightingale, for on 5th December, 1831,

Dame Florentia Elizabeth Nightingale [source claim requiring identity review]1831 • lord_of_manor

• historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: One Court only was held by the new Lord, Sir Miles

Nightingale, for on 5th December, 1831, Dame Florentia Elizabeth Nightingale, widow, was Lady of the

Manor, and remained so for 25 years.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1066 - 1066 | Ulrico Hagana | | Manor Property |

- 1086 | Eudo, son of Spirnic | | Manor Property |

- 1323 - 1323 | John de Thorp | | Manor Property |

- 1338 - 1338 | Matthew de Cambridge | | Manor Property |

- 1717 - 1733 | Maurice Shelton | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1733 - 1738 | Thomas Taylor | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1738 - 1758 | Baron Pettyman in right of Arabella Pettyman | | Manor Property |

- 1758 - 1761 | Arabella Pettyman | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1761 - 1795 | John Reilly | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1795 - 1808 | Maria Rebecca Reilly | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1808 - 1821 | Thomas Reilly | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1821 - 1831 | Sir Miles Nightingale | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1831 - 1856 | Dame Florentia Elizabeth Nightingale | manorial court | Manor Property |

- 1869 - 1869 | Charles Tabor | purchase | Manor Property |

- 1869-12-28 | Charles Tabor | conveyance on sale | Manor Property |
- 1514 - 1514 | Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk | grant | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Borough-English: On intestacy, the youngest son could succeed as heir under the custom of the manor. Admissions recorded include William Philip Mulliner in 1803 and later Jonathan Banks.
- Arbitrary fines on death and alienation of copyholds: Fines were stated to be two years' annual value of the property rather than fines certain.
- Lord's right in waste timber: Cutting trees on the manor waste was treated as an offence; payments were made for authorised felling of timber.
- Licence to make a ditch on manor waste: The lord of the second manor of the copyhold tenants granted John Turner licence to make a ditch at Lady Willow, part of the manor waste.

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