

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003122 • MANOR
Westleton Grange

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 16 October 2026 02:17 UTC

Location: Suffolk
Associated places: Suffolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lordship of the Manor of Westleton Grange | Associated | before the Dissolution of the monasteries - 1954 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

The village of Westleton is on the river Minsmere, and appears as West Ledestuna, Westletuna, and Westeltona in 1086; these names are probably a reference to its position about 3 miles west of the city and fortress of Dunwich on the Suffolk coast. The Domesday survey shows Westleton Manor as part of the lands of Robert Malet, held of him by Gilbert Blund, and it was assessed at 7%^{od}. for Danegeld. It was later given to Sibton Abbey, the abbot of which held the manor and its advowson in 1299. The Hundred Rolls show him as holding 30 acres in Westleton of the Earl of Cornwall (Coping, vol. II, p. 196). A statute of Edward I forbade the creation of new manors, but before this time the original manor of Westleton had been broken up into eight separate manors, namely, Westleton with the Members, Westleton Grange, Minsmere or Scots Hall, Lenwades or Lembalde s or Lymbold s, Claydons, Cleeves or Cliffs Hornehorne, Valens and Rysings. The earliest of the Court records consists of 16 parchment rolls, written in law-Latin, the first of which dated 1500, shows Westleton as associated with Westleton Rectory and the Abbey. After 1504, there is a long gap which covers the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary Tudor, and the first fifteen years of the reign of Elizabeth I. Fifteen Courts are enrolled from 1573 to 1612, after which no records are available until the first Court Book in 1689. The rolls are for the most part in fairly good condition, although in some places the ink has faded, making reading difficult. Until 1732, the proceedings are recorded in law-Latin, and from 1737 in English, the change coinciding with a change of Stewardship from William Ingham to John Ingham. The title-page

draws attention to the custom of inheritance by Borough English, and states that Filius Junior est heres. This is followed by a note on the dower of Ann, the widow of Robert Colvett (Court of 27 September 12 Henry 8), and a statement that the youngest brother is heir (Court of 25 April 25 Eliz.). (Two cases of the operation of Borough English were enrolled in 1583.) The Lordship of the Manor of Westleton Grange was, for many years before the Dissolution of the monasteries, held by the Abbots of Sibton. At the Dissolution, the manor was granted, in 1536, to Thomas, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, and in 1537 was held by John Soone; in 1547 it passed to Edmund Rous, who disposed of it in 1551 to John Harbottle. The Courts for the years 1597 to 1608 were those of Edward Grimston. Courts were held in 1611 and 1612 for Sir Harbottle Grimston, the father of a better-known Sir Harbottle Grimston who sat in the Parliament of 1640 as member for Colchester, and who served in the Civil War. The lordship was known to have been held by William Hart in 1635, and by John Fiske in 1651. Fiske was Lord of the Manor in 1661, first of the Court Books opened in 1689; the Manor was conveyed by James Fiske to Mary Woods in 1710, when she held her first Court, her son, Everard Woods, then being a minor. Everard Woods became Lord of the Manor on attaining his majority, for there are occasional references to his Lordship, and at the first Court of a younger Everard Woods in 1742, the new Lord is described as the eldest son of Everard Woods, Gent., deceased, late Lord of this Manor. After only two years the younger Everard Woods was succeeded by Richard Crowfoot, who held the Lordship from 1744 to 1763; following this intermission, the title was again held by members of the Woods family, in the persons of Alexander Woods, Samuel Alexander Woods, and Samuel Alexander Woods the Younger. Henry Seymour Montagu acquired the Lordship in 1852 his signature appears on the flyleaf of the third Court Book and it was later held by Charles Henry Capon. He conveyed the Manor to George Frederick Beaumont, of Coggeshall, the trustees of whose will sold it by private treaty after the first auction of Lordships of Manors in 1954 to E. H. Roberts. Further records describe court proceedings, copyhold tenures, fines, stewardships, and enfranchisement activity through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including

references to

families such as Blois, Downing, and Robinson.

The following manorial records will be handed over on completion:

Court Rolls: 1500 1612 on 16 membranes.

Court Books: 1689 1737; 1738 1837; 1839 1876.

Minute Books: 1763 1830; 1844 1875.

The Vendor is Mr. George Cecil Jones the Executor of E. H. Roberts, deceased, and the title shall

commence with the Will of George Frederick Beaumont dated 1st June, 1928. The Vendor's Solicitors

are Messrs. Grover Smith and Moss, 18/22 Lloyd Street, Manchester, 2.

Rights, customs and incidents It was later given to Sibton Abbey, the abbot of which held the manor

and its advowson in 1299.

Catalogue source Lot #4 of Stanford & Son's Fourth Auction; - Dec 1965

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession information It was later given to Sibton Abbey, the abbot of [source

claim requiring identity review]1299 • held_manor • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording:

It was later given to Sibton Abbey, the abbot of which held the manor and its advowson in 1299. Fiske

[source claim requiring identity review]1661|1689|1710 • lord_of_manor •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Fiske was Lord of the Manor in 1661, first of the

Court Books opened in 1689; the Manor was conveyed by James Fiske to Mary Woods in 1710, when she

held her first Court, her son, Everard Woods, then being a minor. Everard Woods 1742 •

lord_of_manor

• historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Everard Woods became Lord of the Manor on attaining his majority, for there are occasional references to his Lordship, and at the first Court

of a younger Everard Woods in 1742, the new Lord is described as the eldest son of Everard Woods,

Gent., deceased, late Lord of this Manor. After only two years the younger Everard Woods was

succeeded [source claim requiring identity review]1744|1763 • held_manor •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: After only two years the younger Everard Woods was

succeeded by Richard Crowfoot, who held the Lordship from 1744 to 1763; following this intermission,

the title was again held by members of the Woods family, in the persons of Alexander Woods, Samuel

Alexander Woods, and Samuel Alexander Woods the Younger. Henry Seymour Montagu 1852 • purchased •

historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Henry Seymour Montagu acquired the Lordship in

1852 his signature appears on the flyleaf of the third Court Book and it was later held by Charles Henry Capon.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1742 | Everard Woods | lord_of_manor | | Lot #4 of Stanford & Son 'Fourth Auction' - Dec 1965
- 1852 | Henry Seymour Montagu | purchased | | Lot #4 of Stanford & Son 'Fourth Auction' - Dec 1965
- 1086 | Robert Malet | Domesday survey | Manor Property |
- 1086 | Gilbert Blund | Domesday survey | Manor Property |
- 1299 | Abbot of Sibton Abbey | | Manor And Title |
- 1536 | Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk | Crown grant | Manor And Title |
- 1537 | John Soone | | Manor Property |
- 1547 - 1551 | Edmund Rous | | Manor And Title |
- 1551 | John Harbottle | Conveyance | Manor And Title |
- 1597 - 1608 | Edward Grimston | Manorial court records | Lordship Title |
- 1611 - 1612 | Sir Harbottle Grimston | Manorial court records | Lordship Title |
- 1635 | William Hart | | Lordship Title |
- 1651 - 1661 | John Fiske | Manorial court records | Lordship Title |
- 1710 | James Fiske | Conveyance | Manor And Title |
- 1710 | Mary Woods | Conveyance | Manor And Title |
- 1744 - 1763 | Richard Crowfoot | | Lordship Title |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Advowson of Westleton: The abbot of Sibton held the manor and its advowson in 1299.
- Borough English inheritance custom: The court records state that inheritance followed Borough English, under which the youngest son was heir; cases applying the custom were enrolled in 1583.

DISCLAIMER

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