

## MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003125 • MANOR  
Whately

Evidence status: Unverified  
Generated: 18 October 2026 16:37 UTC

Location: Warwickshire  
Associated places: Warwickshire

### LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

#### ABOUT THE MANOR

THIS LORDSHIP lies in Kingsbury, a large parish, measuring some 8,000 acres. Whateley lies on the border of Warwickshire and Staffordshire, three miles south of Tamworth and ten miles from Birmingham. The River Tame runs through the area which it is noted for its hills, woods, brickfields and collieries.

First in the prior in the correction of the brothers and rebuking the excesses of the same should take care to have more discretion than he was wont lest the lukewarmness of his discipline should in the future increase the reason for laxity; also that none of the brothers in the frater distribute or send out of the monastery any of the remains of their food to anyone, without the knowledge of the president, tot he prejudice of alms, nor do anything to the detriment of alms; also that the time of religious services should be more properly observed by more strictly keeping silence than is wont, according to the rule of St Augustine and to the approved custom of the place; also the same prior of Worcester at his visitation absolved brother Thomas de Watelye of his, who for his disobedience and other excesses had for a long time been kept in prison, he having shown signs of contrition.

It is interesting to wonder who Thomas of Wateleye was. He obviously had been a resident of the

Lordship and was perhaps a younger son of the Bracebridge family, which continued to hold Kingsbury

during this period. Wyke s findings, that the canons were slovenly, sold food to locals and had to

be physically restrained is by no means an unusual description of a 14th century priory. Not for

nothing had the term merry monk been earned. Six years later, Wyke was forced to threaten with

excommunication, the cellarer, Adam Wyberd, for selling beer brewed for the canons.

Another inquiry was carried out at Studley in 1350, this time under the auspices of the bishop of

Worcester and it was found that there was a great deal of waste goods produced by the canons

which was not given to the poor. In 1364 John de Evesham, the prior of Worcester visited Studley but on his arrival was confronted by a group of armed canons. Eventually through threat of excommunication he was allowed to enter and allowed to exercise his jurisdiction. Why he was resisted it is, unfortunately, not recorded. For the next 175 there is little record of the canons but there seems to have been a slow decline, both in their numbers and the size and importance of their estates. They did remain as Lords of the Manor of Whateley and when the Commissioners for the Dissolution visited Studley in 1536 they valued the priory as a yearly income of £141. They found that the house contains the prior and eight canons and that all priests have good conversation and lyvyng . After the demise of Studley Priory the Lordship of the Manor of Whateley was granted by Henry VIII (1509-1547) to John Beaumont. Within a few months he had alienated it to Nicholas Wylson and his wife Eleanor. In 1553 they sold it on again, this time to Thomas Overton, alias, Orton, who died in 1590. From him it came down to his son Nicholas, who is recorded as holding Whateley for a fortieth of a knights fee from Queen Elizabeth. In 1604 the Lordship was settled on his son Thomas and his wife Dorothy. It then seems to have remained in this family for some time before coming into the hands of the Chetwynd s, who were related to the Earls of Shrewsbury. The present Lord of Whateley is the current Earl, the 14th.

Catalogue source Lot #51 of Manorial Services Auction - 2004 UNPUBLISHED/ABORTED - Stephen Johnson

#### OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Whateley was held by Studley Priory before the Dissolution. Following the dissolution of Studley Priory, Henry VIII granted the lordship of the manor of Whateley to John Beaumont. Beaumont alienated it within a few months to Nicholas Wylson and his wife Eleanor. In 1553 Nicholas Wylson and Eleanor sold it to Thomas Overton, also called Orton. Thomas Overton died in 1590, after which Whateley descended to his son Nicholas, who held it from Queen Elizabeth for a fortieth part of a knight's fee. In 1604 the lordship was settled on Nicholas's son Thomas and Thomas's wife Dorothy. It subsequently passed to the Chetwynd family; the supplied account associates the

later lordship with the Earl of Shrewsbury's family but does not establish a sufficiently precise current holder identity.

#### CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1536 | Studley Priory | Manor And Title |
- 1536 - within months after 1536 | John Beaumont | royal grant followed by alienation | Manor And Title |
- within months after 1536 - 1553 | Nicholas Wylson and Eleanor Wylson | alienation | Manor And Title |
- 1553 - 1590 | Thomas Overton alias Orton | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1590 - 1604 | Nicholas Overton | descent | Manor And Title |
- 1604 | Thomas Overton and Dorothy Overton | settlement | Manor And Title |

#### RECORDED RIGHTS

#### DISCLAIMER

This is a historical registry extract generated from the Manorial Heritage Registry. It records the registry's documented research and assertions; it is not a Land Registry title document, legal certificate, or guarantee of ownership, lordship, rights, boundaries, or enforceability.