

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003129 • MANOR
Whitwell

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Rutland
Associated places: Rutland

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS
- Lordship of Whitwell | Associated | 1086 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

WHITWELL TAKES ITS name from the White Well , a water source which descends the hill upon which the village church of St Michael s is located. This is a small parish of 630 acres (240 h), almost entirely consisting of rich pasture. The Lordship of Whitwell is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086, when it was held by Judith, Countess of Huntingdon. The entry reads:
In Whitwell Besi has 1 carucate of land to the geld. There is land for 3 ploughs. Herbert, the Countess man has 1 plough there, and 6 villains and 4 bordars with 2 ploughs. There is a church, a priest and 1 mill rendering 12d and 20 acres of meadow and woodland pasture 6 furlongs and 6 perches long and 3 furlongs and 13 perches broad. Before 1066 it was worth £8. Now £10. After the execution of her husband, the Saxon Earl Waltheof, for rebellion in 1070, Judith was commanded by William the Conqueror to marry Simon of St Liz, Earl of Northampton. She refused to do this and her estates were confiscated. Whitwell then was passed to her daughter Maud, who did marry Simon and on his death in 1111 it passed to David, King of Scotland. Later in the 12th century, the Lordship was granted to Richard de Moreville who was succeeded at his death in 1189 by his son, William, who lived until 1196. The descent of Whitwell after this point is obscure. The overlordship passed to the Knights Templar, but possession of the Manor appears to have come to a local family who had leased it. It is next fully recorded in 1317 when it was in the hands of Henry Byron of Whitwell. It then descended to his son John, who was Lord in 1333. John s widow Joan married Sir William Burton and from him it passed to his son Sir Thomas, who died seised of the Lordship

in
1382. His son and heir, Thomas, sold Whitwell in 1412 to Roger Flower (or Flore). Roger was
the son
of William Flower, a wool merchant and also a Member of Parliament for Rutland.
The Flower family represent the early stirrings of a middle class of successful merchants
and
tradesmen who took advantage of the aftermath of the Black Death in the mid-14th century to
build
fortunes for themselves and move into land ownership; the natural prerogative of a newly
rich
Englishman. Flower was also a royal official and served as Steward of the Crown in the
Lordship of
Oakham and was a placeman of Edward, Earl of Rutland. Through the influence of his patron,
Flower
was able to be elected to Parliament for Rutland in January 1397 and again two years later.
Around
this time, Flower expanded his career to take in the law and in 1407 was appointed as
Sheriff of the
county. His administrative skills were appreciated by Henry IV (1399 1413) and he was made
a
Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster and also a justice of the peace in ten counties. Flower
sat in all
the Parliaments from 1414 to 1419 and was elected Speaker for an unprecedented three terms
during
this period. In 1422, he was appointed Speaker for a fourth time when his experience was
called for
on the accession of the infant Henry VI. At his death, in 1427, Flower left the enormous sum
of
£550 in legacies.
The Flower family held Whitwell until the 16th century. From Roger it descended to his son
Thomas
and from him to his son Roger who was holding it at the time of his death in 1523. He was
succeeded
by his son Roger, who settled Whitwell on his son Richard, who married Alice, the daughter
of John
Harington of Exton. Richard died in 1540 leaving a son John who was only five years old.
When he was
old enough, John married Margery Colley of Glaston, and Whitwell passed to their surviving
son,
John.
John lived until 1612 and was succeeded by his son, also called John, who sold Whitwell to
kinsmen
of his wife, Edward and William Sheldon, in 1618. Two years later it was sold again to
Baptist
Hicks, Viscount Campden. He settled Whitwell on his daughter, Juliana, who was married to
Edward,
Lord Noel. Noel inherited the viscountcy from his father-in-law. His grandson, Edward, was
created

the Earl of Gainsborough and the Lordship has remained in this family to the present day.
The
descent of the Gainsboroughs can be found on page 29 of this catalogue. The pretty village
of
Whitwell lies in a shallow on the Oakham-Stamford road.
Catalogue sourceLot #12 of Manorial Auctioneers November 2007
Associated manorial documents / archive referencesLegacy 1553-1538 National Archives
Source notesCatalogue transcribed by the Lord of Finchingfield - a friend to learning

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationRichard de Moreville1189|1196 • granted_to •
historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: Later in the 12th century, the Lordship was
granted
to Richard de Moreville who was succeeded at his death in 1189 by his son, William, who
lived until
1196.who [source claim requiring identity review]1333 • stated_lord •
historical_holderSource
wording: It then descended to his son John, who was Lord in 1333.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1189|1196 | Richard de Moreville | granted_to | | Lot #12 of Manorial Auctioneers
November 2007
- 1086 | Judith, Countess of Huntingdon | Domesday survey | Manor And Title |
- 1070 | Maud, Countess of Huntingdon | | Manor And Title |
- 1111 | David I, King of Scots | | Manor And Title |
- 1189 - 1196 | William de Moreville | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1317 | Henry Byron of Whitwell | | Manor And Title |
- 1333 | John Byron of Whitwell | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- - 1382 | Sir Thomas Burton | marital and hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1382 - 1412 | Thomas Burton | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1412 - 1427 | Roger Flower (also Roger Flore) | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1523 | Roger Flower | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- - 1540 | Richard Flower | family settlement and hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1540 | John Flower | hereditary succession | Manor And Title |
- 1612 - 1618 | John Flower | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1618 - 1620 | Edward and William Sheldon | sale | Manor And Title |
- 1620 | Baptist Hicks, Viscount Campden | purchase and settlement | Manor And Title |
- 1620 | Juliana Noel | settlement | Manor And Title |

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