

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003135 • MANOR
Wix Park Hall

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Essex
Associated places: Essex

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS
- Lordship of Wix Park | Associated | before 1066 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

ANCIENTLY KNOWN as Wikes, this parish lies 2½ miles south of Bradfield and eight miles from Harwich. It is an agricultural area, mainly for arable production, and consists of an area of 3,129 acres. The Lordship dates from before Domesday Book and was held before the Norman Conquest by Queen Edith. Its entry in the Survey reads:
Queen Edith held Wix before 1066 as a manor, for 1 hide.
Now Roger holds it from Hugh.
Always 2 villagers. Then 2 smallholders; now 8,
then 2 slaves, now none. Always 1 plough.
Woodland, 10 pigs; meadow, 3 acres.
Value 10s.
Roger holds this land and the Hundred does not know how.
The Queen had the jurisdiction.
Wix Park was held by Walter the Deacon shortly after Domesday Book. Walter was the forebear of the Hastings family, who later became Barons of Hastings. The Barony consisted of 10 Knights Fees,
one of which lay in Wix and which Robert de Hastings was noted as having paid scutage in 1206. The succession of the Hastings family is well recorded and proceeds as thus: Robert was succeeded by his son Alexander, who in turn was succeeded by Ralph. Ralph's son was Robert who in turn passed Wix Park to his son William. William's son Robert then left the Lordship to his daughter Delicia who was married to Godfrey de Lovain, brother of Henry, Duke of Brabant. Wix Park, together with the remainder of the Barony of Hastings was then held by the Lovain family. The Barony continued in the hands of the Lovain family until 1365 when the Alianore, the surviving heir of John Lovain, married Sir William Bouchier, to whom the Barony and the Lordship of Wix Park passed as part of the

marriage settlement.

The Bouchier family were of Norman descent and settled in Essex soon after the Conquest. By the

reign of Edward II (1307-1327) John Bouchier of Colchester had been knighted and served as one of

the Justices of the King's Bench. His son Robert was a great favourite of Edward III and was made

Lord Chancellor in 1340, at a fee of £500 a year. Bouchier was the first layman to hold this

position, ousting Archbishop Stratford. In the struggle between the King and the Archbishop which

followed, Bouchier withheld the writ of summons to Stratford, interrupted his address to the other

Bishops in the Painted Chamber of Parliament, and urged him to submit to the King. Bouchier fought

with notable distinction at the battle of Crecy against the French in 1346 where he served under the

immediate command of the Prince Edward, the Black Prince. He was created Baron by Writ of Summons in

1342 and was succeeded by his son John on his death in 1349.

Under the Lovains and Bouchiers, the Lordship of Wix Park was held in farm by members of several

great families including the Bohuns and the Despensers. In 1360 on the death of William de Bohun,

Earl of Northampton, Wix Park went to his son Humphrey, Earl of Hereford, Essex and Northampton. On

his death in 1372 the Lordship passed to one of his daughters Anne who built a house in the Manor,

known as Park Hall. Anne brought Wix Park to the Stafford family on her marriage to the Earl of

Stafford, and this family retained the Lordship until 1460 when, on the death of Humphrey Stafford,

Duke of Buckingham at the battle of Northampton, it was seized by Edward IV (1461-1483) for the

Crown.

Richard III granted Wix Park back to his supporters the Staffords in 1483. The recipient, Henry

Stafford, was the second Duke, succeeding to the title in 1460. Only on the death of Edward IV in

1483 did Buckingham make a serious impact on political life. He was deeply mistrusted by the late

King's wife Elizabeth Woodville and was a prominent supporter of Richard of Gloucester. In the

tragic manoeuvrings which surrounded the disappearance of the young King Edward V and his brother,

the Duke of York (the Princes in the Tower) Buckingham was seen to have been involved. It was with

his help that Richard arrested Lords Grey and Rivers who had been conducting the King from

Ludlow to

London. Richard was keen to retain the support of Buckingham, and gave him powers over five counties

to raise troops. It was Buckingham who suggested that King Edward V and his younger brother should

be transported to the Tower. On Edward's captivity, Buckingham hastened to London where he is said

to have harangued the populace, from the Guildhall, into accepting Richard as their king.

Despite

officiating at Richard's lavish and imperious Coronation, he could rouse no enthusiasm for Richard

and was himself in open revolt just two months [later]. Richard had promised to restore land and

estates taken from his family during the reign of Henry IV (1399-1413), but it seems that Buckingham had reason to doubt this and wished to seize them by force. Some historians have concluded that Buckingham felt he had a just claim to the throne in his own right. Whatever the

reasons for the revolt, Buckingham decided to overthrow Richard on hearing of the death of the two

Princes in the Tower, and began assembling an army. On 11 October 1483 Richard declared Buckingham a

traitor and a most untrue creature living. Buckingham moved his forces from his Welsh strongholds. With the delays at Hereford, his forces melted away and he fled north to Shrewsbury in

disguise. Richard placed a reward of £1000 on his head and a retainer, Ralph Bannister of Wem,

sheltered him for a time before giving him up for the reward. He was brought before a court in

Salisbury and was beheaded in the market-place. His lands and estates, including Wix Park, were

seized by the Crown.

In 1595 Queen Elizabeth I granted the Lordship to Gilly Merrick. Later it was sold to John Philipson

of Harwich, Commissary to the Packet-boats. He was succeeded by his son John who served as MP for

Harwich from 1741 to 1753. On his death Wix Park passed to his daughter's husband Robert Bristow.

By the middle of the 19th century the Lordship was in the hands of E W Garland. The trustees of the

Garland Estate are the current owners of this Lordship.

Rights, customs and incidentsSome historians have concluded that Buckingham felt he had a just claim

to the throne in his own right.

Catalogue sourceLot #10 of Manorial Auctioneers - Undated but Post-2002

Associated manorial documents / archive referencesCourt Roll, 1277-1280 Essex

ROCompoti of

Gilbert Barre, 1343-1348Compotus Rolls, 1402-1403 British MuseumSurvey, Henry VIII

PROSurvey, with other manors, James ICourt Rolls, 1602 1786 EROCourt Books,
 1727 1832Minute
 Books, 1723 1824Index to rolls, 1718, 1727Survey, 1825 6, c1828Survey of Lands, 1638
 PROSteward s solicitor s correspondence and papers (with other manors), 1751 1813Court
 Books,
 1832 1924 EROMinute Books, 1824 1921Steward s Papers, 1748 1934Rental, with
 other
 manors, 1859 1885Fee Accounts, 1889 1916Enfranchisement accounts, 1916 1935Map of
 Copyholds,
 1825 1827Estreat Minute Books, 1642 48
 Source notesCatalogue gifted & transcribed for the archive by the Lord of Finchingfield
 - a
 friend to learning

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession informationone of his daughters Anne [source claim requiring
 identity
 review]1372 • passed_to • historical_holder_or_transfereeSource wording: On his death in
 1372 the
 Lordship passed to one of his daughters Anne who built a house in the Manor, known as Park
 Hall.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- Before 1066 - 1066 | Queen Edith | | Manor And Title |
- 1086 | Roger | | Manor Property |
- Shortly after 1086 | Walter the Deacon | | Manor Property |
- | Robert de Hastings | | Manor And Title |
- | Alexander de Hastings | descent | Manor And Title |
- | Ralph de Hastings | descent | Manor And Title |
- | William de Hastings | descent | Manor And Title |
- | Delicia de Hastings | inheritance and marriage settlement | Manor And Title |
- | Godfrey de Lovain | marriage settlement | Manor And Title |
- 1365 | Alianore de Lovain | marriage settlement | Manor And Title |
- 1365 | Sir William Bouchier | marriage settlement | Manor And Title |
- 1360 - 1372 | Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex and Northampton | descent | Manor
Property |
- 1372 | Anne, daughter of Humphrey de Bohun | inheritance | Manor And Title |
- 1483 - 1483 | Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham | royal grant or restoration | Manor
And Title |
- 1483 | The Crown | forfeiture | Manor And Title |
- 1595 | Gilly Merrick | royal grant | Manor And Title |
- | John Philipson of Harwich | sale | Manor And Title |
- | John Philipson | descent | Manor And Title |
- | Robert Bristow | marriage succession | Manor And Title |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Jurisdiction: The Domesday entry states that Queen Edith had the jurisdiction at Wix.

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