

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003141 • MANOR

Woolstone

Evidence status: Unverified

Generated: 16 October 2026 00:14 UTC

Location: Berkshire

Associated places: Berkshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Extract from Skeats's The Place Names of Berkshire .

Not far from Shrivenham. An old name and much contracted; entirely unconnected with wool and

stone . There are other places with a similar name, but they may not be from the same original.

Spelt WLRICHESTON, WULRICHESTON, WLRIFHESTONE (error for WLRICHESTONE), by the very frequent substitution of l for r), WULFRICHESTON, WUIUIRICHESTON. In another reference (1316) we

find that WALFRICHESTON is in Shrivenham hundred. The Domesday Book has OLVRICESTONE. The Anglo-Saxon original is unmistakable. It must have been Wulfrices tun, i.e.

Wulfric's town

or farm . Note that in the Domesday Book the name recurs, but is there mis-written

ULRITONE

(omitting cs), and is, moreover, incorrectly said to be in Thatcham hundred, by confusion with

Woolhampton. Wild and silly fables have been founded on this misreading, which is a reason for

recommending caution.

The Domesday Survey.

II. THE LAND OF THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER. IN HILLES LAU () HUNDRET.,

Walchelin, Bishop of Winchester, has OLVRICESTONE (Woolstone,) which finds support (de vicu) for

the monks. T.R.E. it was assessed at 20 hides; it is now assessed at 10. There is land for 11

ploughs. On the demesne are 2% ploughs; and (there are) 12 villeins and 24 bordars with 2% ploughs. There are 10 serfs and 2 mills worth (de) 12 shillings and 6 pence, and 150 acres of

meadow. Of this manor Roger (de Ivrei holds 3% hides of the bishop and there he has 1 plough.

T.R.E. it was worth 16 pounds; afterwards 12 pounds; now (it is worth) 18 pounds. Yet it renders

from the farm 22 pounds. What Roger holds (is worth) 3 pounds.

History of the Manor.

In 1086 the Bishop of Winchester held land in WOOLSTONE (Olvrichestone, xi cent.;

Wulwricheston,
 Wulvrycheston, xiii cent.; Wilricheston, Woulricheston, xiv cent.; Wolierston, Wolston, xvi
 cent.),
 which was assessed at 10 hides. This was already assigned to the support of the monks of the
 priory
 of St. Swithun, Winchester, and from at least the 13th century was in the possession of this
 house.
 The Prior retained it until the Dissolution, when it was granted to Sir Thomas Seymour. By
 this
 attainder in 1549 it reverted to the Crown, and was granted in 1551 to Thomas Weldon of
 Cokham, one
 of the masters of the king's household and afterwards cofferor to Queen Elizabeth. His
 son
 William Weldon succeeded him in March 1566 67 and made various settlements, possibly in
 accordance
 with the trusts established under his father's will. From William Weldon it passed,
 probably in
 1583, to Edmund Wiseman. Edmund settled it in February, 1597 98 on his son William and his
 wife,
 together with an infant daughter Elizabeth, and Edmund then made a settlement on Charles
 Wiseman,
 his eldest surviving son. Edmund died in March, 1605 06. Elizabeth received a livery of
 one-third
 of the manor in January, 1616 17, and her uncle Charles, who made a settlement of the
 manor in
 1629, died seised of it in 1635, leaving a son and heir Edmund, a minor. The latter made a
 conveyance of the manor, and was succeeded by a son Edmund. He was holding in 1691, and on
 his death
 without issue in 1694 was followed by his brother William. Woolstone formed part of the
 jointure of
 Elizabeth wife of William Wiseman, but was sold with her consent before August, 1712,
 apparently to
 Bartholomew Tipping of Woolley Park. It then followed the descent of Woolley Park (q.v.),
 and was
 inherited by Mary Anne, niece and sole heir of Bartholomew Tipping and wife of the Rev.
 Philip
 Wroughton, who was in possession in 1805. They sold it in 1814 to the second Earl of Craven,
 and it
 is now the property of the present Earl of Craven.
 In 1538 the reputed manor of HALL PLACE in Woolstone was settled by John George on his son
 John and
 his wife Edith. The Younger John George died in February, 1538 39, leaving an infant
 daughter
 Frideswide, whose custody was in 1542 granted to her stepfather John Wilmot. Frideswide
 afterwards
 married Levenscot Hide and obtained livery in 1560.
 In 1599 John Saunders of Woolstone died, and was apparently succeeded by Thomas Saunders,
 who in

1617 settled Hall Place on John his son and heir on his marriage with Margaret daughter of John Evelyn of a Godstone, Surrey. John, who had been admitted to the Middle Temple in 1608, succeeded his father and died in 1638, leaving a son Thomas, a minor. This boy apparently died without issue, for in 1664 John son of Thomas Saunders declared that he was nephew of John Saunders, a Barester at Law. John son of Thomas died in 1674 and had a son Thomas Saunders. The Saunders sold to Thomas Bigg in 1754, who left the property to his brother, Rev. Walter Bigg. His son Lovelace succeeded, and took the name of Wither in 1789. Lovelace's son Harris Bigg-Wither sold it to Capt. Butler in 1828, who in 1864 sold Woolstone Farm to the Earl of Craven, but Mr. W. J. Butler retains the rest.

Catalogue source Lot #6 of Hobbs & Chambers Auction July 1966

Associated manorial documents / archive references Court Roll: 1787. In addition to the documents to be handed over, the following, which relate to the Manor, are in the possession of Winchester Cathedral Library and the Public Record Office, London: Court Roll: 1534 35. (Winchester Cathedral Library.) Court Rolls: 1 Edw. iij., 25 Hen. vij. (Public Record Office, London.),

Now in the Hundred of Shrivenham.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

In 1086 the Bishop of Winchester held Woolstone, which had already been assigned to support the monks of St Swithun's Priory, Winchester. From at least the 13th century it was held by the priory until the Dissolution. It was then granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, reverted to the Crown following his attainder in 1549, and was granted in 1551 to Thomas Weldon of Cokham. William Weldon succeeded in March 1566 67. The manor passed, probably in 1583, to Edmund Wiseman. Settlements and family succession followed through William Wiseman, Charles Wiseman and the younger Edmund Wiseman. Edmund was holding in 1691 and died without issue in 1694; his brother William succeeded. The manor was sold before August 1712, apparently to Bartholomew Tipping of Woolley Park. It descended with Woolley Park to Mary Anne Tipping and the Rev. Philip Wroughton, who were in possession in 1805. They sold it in 1814 to the second Earl of Craven, whose family held it thereafter according to the

supplied account.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- Dissolution - 1549 | Sir Thomas Seymour | grant and forfeiture | Manor Property |
- 1551 - March 1566 67 | Thomas Weldon of Cokham | Crown grant | Manor Property |
- March 1566 67 - probably 1583 | William Weldon | succession and settlement | Manor Property |
- probably 1583 - March 1605 06 | Edmund Wiseman | settlement | Manor Property |
- 1605 06 - 1635 | Charles Wiseman | succession and settlement | Manor Property |
- 1694 - before August 1712 | William Wiseman | inheritance and sale | Manor Property |
- unknown - 1814 | Mary Anne Tipping and the Rev. Philip Wroughton | inheritance and sale | Manor Property |
- 1814 - unknown | Second Earl of Craven | sale | Manor Property |
- 1086 - at least the 13th century | Walchelin, Bishop of Winchester | Domesday episcopal holding and ecclesiastical assignment | Manor Property |
- at least the 13th century - Dissolution | Prior of St Swithun's, Winchester | ecclesiastical tenure | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Manorial court: Court rolls for Woolstone are recorded for 1534 35, the first year of Edward III, the twenty-fifth year of Henry VII, and 1787, evidencing the exercise or recording of manorial court proceedings.

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