

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003146 • MANOR

Yaxlee Bulls Hall cum Blogates Hall

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Location: Suffolk

Associated places: Suffolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

The lands to this manor lie in the parishes of Yaxley and Thrandeston, on the Roman road from Norwich

to Ipswich, and midway between Mellis on the west and Eye on the east. It is recorded in the Domesday that in Saxon times a manor was held by Bishop Aylmer, consistent of one carucate of land

with five bordars, a ploughteam, and two acres of meadow, the whole valued at twenty shillings;

after the conquest it was part of the holdings of William, Bishop of Thetford, and belonged to the

church of Hoxne. Copinger, in his history of the county, says that the manor was vested into the Crown

at the beginning of the reign of Edward I, but that the possessor by the end of this reign was one

Sir William Bole or Bulle. In 1335 it was granted by deed to Richard de Blogate, and passed in 1367

to Sir Ralph de Hemenhale, who had a grant of free warren here. His son Sir Robert de Hemenhale

inherited in 1370, and at his death in 1402 Sir Hugh de Lancaster came into possession, but conveyed

the manor to Joan, Lady Brayborooke, in the following year. The Blogate family interest was represented by John Blogate's lordship of the manor in 1428, and the next recorded possessor,

in 1583, was William Yaxlee.

At the turn of the same century the lord was Anthony Yaxley, eldest son of John Herberd, alias

Yaxley, serjeant-at-law, and most of the subsequent lords were Yaxleys (often spelt Yaxlee in the

records until the eighteenth century).

Edward Yaxlee, who held his first court in 1726 was the last of the male line of his family to hold

the lordship, and his tenure was short, his widow, Susanna Yaxlee, holding court two years later. At

her death in 1735 the manor passed into the possession of Samuel Newstead, and thence in 1741 to Dr.

John Mott - recorded from 1745 onwards as "John Thurston, lately called John Mott, Doctor of

Physick." Robert Buxton and Philip Meadows (formerly steward) were lords in trust until 1786

for Thomas Mott; John Thornton Mott succeeded in 1813, but his interest passed a year later to

Charles Layton, whose steward Adam Taylor, in his court records, dropped the use of the lord's

name in the proceedings so that names of successors are not available again until 1897, when Maria

Mills, a widow, was the lady. Isabel Phoebe Morter and Edward Stolworthy Holmes became lord and lady

in trust at her death in 1905 until the purchase of the manor by Henry Edwards Paine and George

Frederick Beaumont in 1907. The trustees of the latter's will purchased Mr.

Paine's share

in 1953. It may be of interest to note that a later Bishop of Thetford, John Philips Allcot Bowers,

who is still remembered with affection by many old residents in Norfolk, married Mr. G. F. Beaumont's sister while a curate at Coggeshall. A bronze tablet to his memory can be read in

Norwich Cathedral.

The earlier court books each contain on the opening flyleaf the reminder that in this manor the

custom of descent is "borough-English" - inheritance by the youngest son- but it is noted

that this custom is not extended to collaterals. Two tenants of the manor were required to witness

surrender of tenancies. The manor had its own Leet courts until 1840, and although these courts

appear from the records to have been for the last forty years of a very perfunctory nature, the

leets of most manors had been allowed to fall altogether into disuse before this date. Apart from

election of constables, voting of the "common fine" (four shillings in this manor) and the

routine fine of threepence on absentees, a representative of the manor was annually elected "to

serve for the town of Yalkey at the turn of Finningham held of the honour of Eye," and fines

were levied on those headboroughs who failed to "go the purlieu" - presumably a formal

beating of the bounds.

The following may be singled out for mention among a mass of interesting entries:

Presentment of death of Charles, Lord Cornwallis (May, 1722)

New stocks to be erected before 24th June following (May, 1727)

Rent for "Daveys" in Thrandeston, 1/7d. a cock and two hens (May, 1727)

Leave to enclose waste near the Black Lyon, with the consent of the other tenants (ingress

2/6, quit
 rent one penny per annum "for ever"). (June, 1734)
 Seizure of Kipping's tenement, ruinous and occupier missing (June, 1734)
 Death of "Mary the late wife of the Rt. Hon. James Reynolds Esq., Lord Chief Baron of
 his
 Majesties Court of
 Exchequer at Westminster," a copyhold tenant of the manor (1736).
 20/0 fine for a dangerously decayed footpath.
 Tenant "gone into parts beyond the seas or unknown" for fifteen years, and
 presumed
 deceased. His "youngest son and heir according to the Custom of this Manor";
 admitted as
 tenant. (Nov. 1741)
 Surveyors fined 20/0 for failure to repair road. (Nov. 1741)
 Forfeiture of tenancy for dilapidation (1745)
 Common fine of 4/- payable by the churchwardens of the Parish of Yaxlee "as ancient
 custom." (1745)
 Presentment of a tenant for several offences involving unlawful enclosure and unauthorised
 erection
 of buildings (1759)
 Licenses to enclose waste granted to several tenants including the Marquess Cornwallis
 (1813)
 Death of the R. Hon. J. Hookham, Frere, a copyhold tenant of the manor. (1846)
 Awards of enfranchisement under Copyhold Acts (1867-68)
 The "Town House" held by the vicar as feoffee for the Charity trustees of the
 parish - las
 t of any transfers of this holding. (1905)
 The Manorial Records to be handed over are:
 Court Books: 1648-1703; 1703-26; 1727-58; 1759-92; 1793-1820; 1821-36; 1837-1924
 Minute Books: 1736-46; 1747-56; 1757-1813; 1814-49; 1850-1907.
 Rental Rolls: 1710; 1735; 1760; 1773-80
 Survey: 1756
 Stewards' Accounts and Rentals: 1740-65
 Particulars of Sale: With photograph of Yaxlee Manor House
 The following records in other hands were also relevant to the history of the manor:
 Public Record Office: Court Rolls 10 Ric. 11, 1 Hen. VI, and extracts from a roll of 23 Hen.
 VIII.
 1st Report on Public Records in 1800, p. 191 (referring to a compotus roll of 27 Hen. VIII).
 Harleian MSS. (B.M.). Harl. 47D.45; 46F.15; 46E.25.
 These have not been investigated and may contain items of historical, economic or
 genealogical
 interest to any one who may like to indulge in research work.
 In a book entitled "The Betts of Wortham in Suffolk 1480-1905" by Katherine
 Francis
 Doughty published in 1912 by John Lane Ltd., New York and London, it is stated on page 53
 that one
 of the Yaxlee family married a certain Thomas Sherman of Yaxlee, and the signatures of both
 are said

to be attached to a deed of Bargain and Sale among the Betts's papers. The writer continues
 "From the Suffolk Shermans it is said that the whole family of that name in America is descended." In Vol. 1 of A.M. Burke's "Prominent Families in U.S.A." (1908, Sackville Press) appears the pedigree of the Sherman family, and it is stated that a certain "Henry Sherman of Colchester, Essex, who died in 1589 (probably the son of Thomas Sherman of Yaxlee, Co. Suffolk) had a grandson Edmund, born at Dedham, Essex, who went to America in 1632." The pedigree shows that the well known General, William Tecumseh Sherman, was a descendant of these Shermans.
 Insurance of Records: £400, premium £1 p.a.
 Commencement of Title: Deed dated 8th August, 1907
 Rights, customs and incidents In 1335 it was granted by deed to Richard de Blogate, and passed in 1367 to Sir Ralph de Hemenhale, who had a grant of free warren here. Apart from election of constables, voting of the "common fine" (four shillings in this manor) and the routine fine of threepence on absentees, a representative of the manor was annually elected "to serve for the town of Yalkey at the turn of Finningham held of the honour of Eye," and fines were levied on those headboroughs who failed to "go the purlieu"; - presumably a formal beating of the bounds.
 Catalogue source Lot #20 of Stanford & Son's "Second Auction"; - Dec 1955

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Historical holder / succession information Samuel Newstead, and thence in 1741 to Dr 1735|1741
 •
 passed_to • historical_holder_or_transferee Source wording: At her death in 1735 the manor passed into the possession of Samuel Newstead, and thence in 1741 to Dr.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1735|1741 | Samuel Newstead, and thence in 1741 to Dr | passed_to | | Lot #20 of Stanford & Son's 'Second Auction' - Dec 1955
 - late 13th century | Sir William Bole, also recorded as Sir William Bulle | | Manor Property |
 - 1335 | Richard de Blogate | deed | Manor Property |
 - 1367 - 1370 | Sir Ralph de Hemenhale | | Manor And Title |
 - 1370 - 1402 | Sir Robert de Hemenhale | inheritance | Manor Property |
 - 1402 - 1403 | Sir Hugh de Lancaster | conveyance | Manor Property |
 - 1403 | Joan, Lady Braybrooke | conveyance | Manor Property |
 - 1428 | John Blogate | | Manor And Title |
 - 1583 | William Yaxlee | | Manor Property |
 - c. 1600 | Anthony Yaxley | | Manor And Title |
 - 1726 | Edward Yaxlee | court record | Manor And Title |

- 1728 - 1735 | Susanna Yaxlee | court record | Manor And Title |
- 1741 - 1786 | John Thurston, lately called John Mott, Doctor of Physick | | Manor Property |
- 1745 - 1786 | Robert Buxton and Philip Meadows, in trust for Thomas Mott | trust | Manor Property |
- 1813 - 1814 | John Thornton Mott | | Manor Property |
- 1814 | Charles Layton | | Manor Property |
- 1897 - 1905 | Maria Mills | | Manor And Title |
- 1905 - 1907 | Isabel Phoebe Morter and Edward Stolworthy Holmes, in trust | trust | Manor And Title |
- 1907 - 1953 | Henry Edwards Paine and George Frederick Beaumont | purchase | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Free warren: Sir Ralph de Hemenhale is recorded as having a grant of free warren at the manor in 1367.
- Borough-English customary descent: The court books state that inheritance descended to the youngest son; the custom was not extended to collaterals.
- Leet courts: The manor held its own leet courts until 1840, including the election of constables and related presentments.
- Common fine: A common fine of four shillings was payable under the manor's customary practice.
- Purlieu or bounds-walking obligation: Headboroughs could be fined for failing to go the purlieu, apparently a formal beating of the bounds.
- Requirement for tenant witnesses to surrenders: Two tenants of the manor were required to witness surrenders of tenancies.

DISCLAIMER

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