

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003177 • MANOR
ABBOTS RIPTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Abbots Ripton, Huntingdonshire
Associated places: Abbots Ripton, Huntingdonshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abbots Ripton Manor was the principal manor of Abbots Ripton, historically also known as Ripton, Magna Riptona, Riptona Abbatis and, after the Dissolution, St John s Ripton. It was recorded in Domesday Book in 1086 as land of Ramsey Abbey, with Ramsey Abbey named both tenant-in-chief and lord. The medieval manor included the site of the later Abbots Ripton Hall and an earlier moated manor house, now generally associated with Moat House. After the Dissolution of Ramsey Abbey, the manor was granted by the Crown to Sir John St John in 1541 in exchange for the manor of Paulerspury in Northamptonshire. It subsequently descended through the St John family, passed to Oliver St John, Earl of Bolingbroke, and was conveyed in 1640 to Hugh Awdley. On Awdley s death in 1662 the estate was divided between his great-nephews Nicholas and Thomas Bonfoy, creating two principal moieties or portions. One portion descended through Nicholas Bonfoy to Hugh Bonfoy; the other descended through Thomas Bonfoy to his daughter Susan, who married Sir Charles Caesar. The portions were subsequently reunited under the Caesar family. Julius Caesar inherited the manor in 1741 and later sold it. The principal portion was acquired by the Fellowes family, with sources differing over whether the acquisition occurred in 1760 or 1794. The 1794 date is chronologically compatible with William Henry Fellowes, who was born in 1769, and is therefore used for the principal Fellowes conveyance while the earlier 1760 statement is retained as a source conflict. A separate part of the estate remained with descendants of the Bonfoy line, including the Rooper family, until the De Ramsey/Fellowes

interest acquired the remainder in the 1850s. The consulted sources do not establish a complete deed-by-deed descent for every intervening Fellowes, Caesar, Bonfoy or Rooper holding, so those gaps are preserved rather than filled by genealogical inference.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Abbots Ripton Manor was held by Ramsey Abbey from at least the Domesday Survey of 1086 until the Dissolution in 1539. The Crown granted it in 1541 to Sir John St John. It descended through the St John family to Oliver St John, Earl of Bolingbroke, who conveyed it to Hugh Awdley in 1640. Hugh Awdley's death in 1662 resulted in division between Nicholas and Thomas Bonfoy. The Nicholas Bonfoy moiety passed to his son Hugh Bonfoy in 1679; the Thomas Bonfoy moiety passed to Susan Bonfoy, whose marriage to Sir Charles Caesar brought that portion into the Caesar family. The two portions were later reunited under the Caesars. Julius Caesar held the manor from 1741 until its sale in the mid-eighteenth century. The principal portion was acquired by the Fellowes family, reported as 1794 by the Huntingdonshire conservation statement and Historic England's Abbots Ripton Hall entry, although the latter's registered-park narrative also gives 1760 and names William Henry Fellowes. This is an unresolved source conflict. The Fellowes/De Ramsey family continued as lords of the manor, while another part remained with the Rooper descendants until the 1850s, when the De Ramseys acquired the remainder. John Ailwyn Fellowes, 4th Baron de Ramsey, is identified by the estate history as becoming the family's current lord in 1993; the sources consulted do not provide a later manorial conveyance or a definitive post-1993 change of lordship.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1541 - 1558 | Sir John St John | Granted by the Crown in exchange for the manor of Paulerspury, Northamptonshire | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Abbots Ripton Conservation Area Character Statement, sections 3.4-3.5; local historical account citing the St John conveyance.
- 1582 - 1596 | John St John | Succeeded to the St John family estate after the death of Oliver St John, 1st Baron St John of Bletsoe | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Abbots Ripton Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.4-3.5.
- 1596 - 1618 | Oliver St John | Succeeded his elder brother John St John as the manor passed through the St John family | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Abbots Ripton Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.5.

- 1679 - unknown | Hugh Bonfoy | Inherited the Nicholas Bonfoy moiety in 1679 | | Local historical account, Episode 26 Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire, citing the Victoria County History and related sources.
- 1640 - 1662 | Hugh Awdley | Conveyance | Manor Property |
- 1662 - 1679 | Nicholas Bonfoy | Descent or division | Manor Property |
- 1662 - unknown | Thomas Bonfoy | Descent or division | Manor Property |
- Unknown - Unknown | Susan Bonfoy | Descent and marriage settlement or marital succession | Manor Property |
- Unknown - Unknown | Sir Charles Caesar | Marital succession | Manor Property |
- 1741 - Unknown | Julius Caesar | Inheritance | Manor Property |
- 1794 - Unknown | William Henry Fellowes | Sale or conveyance | Manor Property |
- 1850s - Unknown | De Ramsey/Fellowes family | Acquisition or conveyance | Manor Property |

RECORDED RIGHTS

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