

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003206 • MANOR
ABERFORD MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 14 October 2026 17:18 UTC

Location: Aberford, Yorkshire
Associated places: Aberford, Yorkshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aberford Manor was the principal medieval manor of Aberford in the West Riding of Yorkshire, associated with the village, its manor court or manorial estate, and the market and fair granted by Henry III in 1251. The manor is recorded in 12th- and 13th-century sources in the hands of the Gramary family. A royal grant of the market and fair to Hugh le Despenser in 1307 indicates a temporary change or interruption in the Gramary holding, while a further grant to William de Gramary in 1335 shows the manor or its relevant franchise again associated with the Gramary family. The documentary descent is incomplete after the 14th century. By the 16th century the manor was incorporated into the expanding Gascoigne estate centred on Parlington and nearby Aberford properties; John Gascoigne's estate is specifically recorded as including the manor of Aberford by the time of his death in 1557. By the later 19th century Colonel Frederick Charles Trench Gascoigne was explicitly described in local directories as lord of the manor of Aberford. The sources do not establish every intermediate conveyance or the precise date at which the manor passed from the Gramary family to the Gascoignes.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely identified holder is Richard le Gramaire, who held Aberford, and apparently Becca, in 1166. By 1251 the manor was associated with Richard le Gramary's grandson William, who received a royal grant of a weekly Wednesday market and an annual fair to be held at his manor of Aberford. In 1307 the market and fair were granted to Hugh le Despenser, probably reflecting a forfeiture, royal intervention, or temporary displacement of the Gramary interest; the available source does not provide a complete conveyance or explain the legal basis of the change. In

1335 the same privileges were granted to William de Gramary, and the Victoria County History market-and-fair gazetteer states that the manor was presumably forfeited and subsequently returned to the Gramary family. There is then a substantial documentary gap. The Gascoigne family had acquired extensive estates in and around Aberford by the 16th century. A study of the Gascoigne family, citing the West Yorkshire Archive Service Gascoigne estate papers, records that John Gascoigne's estate had grown to include the manors of Parlington, Aberford, Potterton, and Barnbow by his death in 1557, but it does not identify the precise conveyance by which Aberford Manor entered the Gascoigne estate. The later succession within the Gascoigne family is not fully documented here. Sir Thomas Gascoigne, 8th Baronet, is described in an early nineteenth-century account as lord of the manor, and Colonel Frederick Charles Trench Gascoigne is explicitly identified as lord of the manor in 19th-century local directories. Further research in the Gascoigne family papers, deeds, fines, inquisitions post mortem, and manorial records would be required to reconstruct the missing 14th- to 19th-century descent.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1166 - before 1251 | Richard le Gramaire | Earliest securely recorded holder; the later Gramary holding is described as connected with his family, but the precise succession is not documented in the sources consulted. | | M. L. Faull and S. A. Moorhouse, eds., *West Yorkshire: An Archaeological Survey to 1500*, as cited by the CRSBI entry for St Ricarius, Aberford; corroborated by the Aberford Parish Plan.
- by 1251 - after 1251 | William de Gramary | Associated with the Gramary family holding after Richard le Gramaire; the source describes William as Richard's grandson, but the precise conveyance or succession instrument is not identified. | | Victoria County History, *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs to 1516*, Yorkshire entry for Aberford, citing Charter Rolls 1226-1257, page 354; corroborated by the Aberford Parish Plan.
- 1307 - before 1335 | Hugh le Despenser, earl of Winchester | Royal grant of Aberford's Wednesday market and St Denis fair to Hugh le Despenser, to be held at the manor. The source does not establish whether this represented ownership of the whole manor, a franchise held with the manor, royal custody, or a temporary forfeiture of the Gramary interest. | | Victoria County History, *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs to 1516*, Yorkshire entry for Aberford, citing Charter Rolls 1300-1326, page 81.
- 1335 - after 1335 | William de Gramary | Royal grant of Aberford's Wednesday market and fair to William de Gramary. The Victoria County History source interprets the sequence as indicating that the manor had been forfeited and was subsequently returned to the Gramary family, but the underlying conveyance or restoration instrument has not been identified. | |

Victoria County History, Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs to 1516, Yorkshire entry for Aberford, citing Charter Rolls 1327-1341, page 345.

- by 1557 - 1557 | John Gascoigne of Lasingcroft, Barnbow, and Parlington | By the time of his death, John Gascoigne's enlarged estate included the manor of Aberford. The precise acquisition, grant, purchase, or other conveyance by which Aberford Manor entered the Gascoigne estate is not established. | | C. Bovis, The Gascoigne Family, c. 1309-1592: Gentry and Identity, PhD thesis, University of York, discussion of John Gascoigne's estate and citation to West Yorkshire Archive Service, WYL115/115/DZ/2054.
- before 1810 - 1810 | Sir Thomas Gascoigne, 8th Baronet | Later Gascoigne holding; the source identifies Sir Thomas as lord of the manor but does not document the immediate predecessor or the instrument of succession. | | Everett, The Village Blacksmith; passage describing Samuel Hick seeking permission from Sir Thomas Gascoigne, lord of the manor, to obtain stone near Aberford.
- 1871 - at least 1887 | Colonel Frederick Charles Trench Gascoigne | Later Gascoigne succession; the available directories identify him as lord of the manor but do not state the conveyance or exact date by which he succeeded to the manor. | | History, Gazetteer and Directory of the West-Riding of Yorkshire with the City of York and Port of Hull, volume covering Aberford, 1887; the Aberford entry states that Colonel Gascoigne was lord of the manor and a chief landowner.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Weekly Wednesday market at Aberford: A royal grant in 1251 authorised a weekly Wednesday market at William de Gramary's manor of Aberford; the franchise was later granted to Hugh le Despenser in 1307 and to William de Gramary in 1335.
- Annual fair at Aberford, associated with St Denis: A royal grant in 1251 authorised an annual fair at the manor of Aberford; the privilege was later granted to Hugh le Despenser in 1307 and to William de Gramary in 1335.

DISCLAIMER

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