

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003221 • MANOR
ABERYSTWYTH MANOR AND BOROUGH

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Cardiganshire
Associated places: Cardiganshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aberystwyth Manor and Borough was the royal borough and associated manorial or lordship estate established around the Edwardian castle at the mouth of the Rheidol in Cardiganshire. The settlement was initially known officially as Llanbadarn Fawr or Lampadervaur and only became officially known as Aberystwyth in the early fifteenth century. Edward I granted the town a free-borough charter on 28 December 1277, with a gild merchant, the liberties and customs of Montgomery, a weekly market and fairs. The medieval administrative and economic complex included the castle, the borough, the king's lands and the associated honor or lordship. The manor should not be confused with the separate ecclesiastical and older settlement of Llanbadarn Fawr, although the royal estate and borough were historically administered under the Llanbadarn/Lampadervaur name. By the early eighteenth century the Powell family of Nanteos was asserting lordship over the manor of Aberystwyth, while the Aberystwyth Corporation controlled or claimed parts of the borough waste and common lands; the resulting conflict is documented in National Library of Wales material from 1706 to 1929.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely evidenced status is royal. Edward I established the new castle and borough at Aberystwyth in 1277, and contemporary administrative evidence describes the castle, honor of Lampadervaur and the king's lands in Cardiganshire. The Crown therefore held the royal lordship and associated manor and borough at the foundation of the Edwardian settlement. The surviving public evidence located for this research does not provide a continuous list of medieval custodians or

every temporary occupation during the Welsh revolt and Glyndwr's rebellion; castle keepers and military governors are not automatically treated as manor holders. In 1633 Sir John Lewis of Abernant-bychan and his son James Lewis are reported to have bought the boroughs and manors of Cardigan and Aberystwyth, together with assize rents from burgesses, tolls and other perquisites. The precise legal instrument and the exact extent of the interest require confirmation from deeds or Crown revenue records. A documentary gap follows: a secondary account states that the Aberystwyth interest passed to the Nanteos estate after 1660, but the precise conveyance has not been identified. From the early eighteenth century onward the Powell family of Nanteos is directly documented as lords of the manor of Aberystwyth. National Library of Wales records also preserve evidence concerning William Edward Powell's title to the manor in the 1820s and identify William Beauclerc Powell as lord of the manor in the late nineteenth century. The descent recorded here is therefore secure from the Crown to the Lewis purchase in 1633 and from the later Nanteos lordship, but incomplete for the intervening transfer after 1633 and for the exact succession within the Powell family.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1277 - 1633 | English Crown, represented by the king and the royal lordship of Lampadervaur or Llanbadarn Fawr | Royal establishment and retention of the castle, honor, king's lands, borough and associated manor; the end date marks the reported purchase by the Lewis family, not a fully verified Crown conveyance date. | | Edward I's charter of 28 December 1277, Calendar of Charter Rolls, 1257-1300, vol. II, p. 206; Arnold Taylor, The Welsh Castles of Edward I, pp. 5, 14, citing Littere Wallie, the Liberate Roll, E 372/122 and SC 6/1218/10; Victoria County History, Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs to 1516, entry for Aberystwyth.

- 1633 - after 1660 | Sir John Lewis of Abernant-bychan and James Lewis of Cwm Awen, jointly | Purchase from the Crown or from the Crown's estate; the reported transaction included the boroughs and manors of Cardigan and Aberystwyth, assize rents of burgesses, tolls and other perquisites. | | Lewis family historical journal, discussion of Sir John Lewis and James Lewis's 1633 purchase of the boroughs and manors of Cardigan and Aberystwyth, with an explicit statement that the interests passed to the Nanteos estate after 1660.

- after 1660 - at least 1929 | Powell family of Nanteos | The precise conveyance from the Lewis ownership has not been located. A historical account states that the Aberystwyth and Cardigan borough and manor interests passed to the Nanteos estate after 1660. National Library of Wales records directly identify the Powell family of Nanteos as lords of the manor of Aberystwyth in records spanning 1706-1929. | | National Library of Wales Archives and Manuscripts, 'Papers, letters, etc. relating to Aberystwyth Borough and Corporation', 1706-1929; National Library of Wales Nanteos estate records, including material concerning

W. E. Powell's title to the Manor of Aberystwyth and the lordship of Llanbadarn Fawr.

- by the 1820s - 1854 | William Edward Powell of Nanteos | Continuation of the Nanteos family holding; the exact instrument by which the manor descended to William Edward Powell is not established in the sources consulted. | | National Library of Wales Archives and Manuscripts, Nanteos estate records, catalogue entry for correspondence concerning 'Quarter Sessions, and WEP's title to Manor of Aberystwyth'; National Library of Wales, Powell family of Nanteos authority record.

- by 1895 - after 1895 | William Beauclerc Powell of Nanteos | Later continuation of the Nanteos/Powell lordship; the precise conveyance or succession from William Edward Powell's estate is not established in the sources consulted. | | Peter Glyn Williams, historical discussion citing Kelly's Directory of South Wales, 1895, for Llanbadarn Fawr and identifying W. B. Powell of Nanteos as lord of the manor; National Library of Wales archival description of Aberystwyth Borough and Corporation papers, 1706-1929.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Free-borough liberties and customs of Montgomery: Edward I's charter of 28 December 1277 granted Aberystwyth the liberties and customs of Montgomery.
- Gild merchant: The 1277 borough charter granted a gild merchant.
- Weekly market: The 1277 borough charter granted a weekly market.
- Fairs: The 1277 borough charter granted fairs.

DISCLAIMER

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