

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003225 • MANOR
ABINGTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 15 October 2026 11:17 UTC

Location: Abington, Northamptonshire
Associated places: Abington, Northamptonshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abington Manor was the principal manor of Abington, Northamptonshire, associated with the manor house now known as Abington Abbey or Abington Manor House and now occupied by Abington Museum. The settlement and its estate are recorded in Domesday Book in 1086, when Abington was held by Richard, with Alwin the hunter recorded as lord in 1066. The manor later passed through the Bassingburne, Colville, Gernon, Lyllyng and Bernard families. The Bernards held it from the early fifteenth century for more than two centuries and developed the surviving manor house, whose late-medieval hall dates from approximately the turn of the sixteenth century. Sir John Bernard sold the manor and estate to William Thursby in 1669. The Thursbys enlarged and remodelled the house and created an extensive private park, with much of the medieval village subsequently removed. The estate was sold in 1841 to the banker Lewis Loyd and was later inherited by his son Samuel Jones Loyd, 1st Baron Overstone, and then by Overstone's daughter Harriet Sarah Loyd, later Lady Wantage. In 1892 Lady Wantage offered Abington Abbey and approximately 20 acres to Northampton Corporation for a public park; the park was opened in 1897 and further adjoining land was acquired by the corporation. The house was subsequently used as a museum. The designation Abington Abbey was a later name for the manor house; the site was never an abbey or religious foundation.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest secure documentary reference is the Domesday entry for Abington in 1086, when Richard, described in modern Domesday databases as Richard the artificer, was tenant-in-chief and

lord; Alwin the hunter was recorded as lord in 1066. A later county history states that the four-hide holding was certified to Humphrey de Bassingburne in the reign of Henry II and descended in the Bassingburne family. After the death of Alice, formerly the wife of Giles de Bassingburne, in 1369, the manor passed to Robert de Colville. Robert died without issue in 1369 or 1370 and his heirs were found to be Ralph Basset of Sapcote and Sir John Gernon. A 1386 record concerns the purchase of the manor and advowson by Sir Robert de Swynburn, William Ashby and others, held of the Crown in chief of Sir John Gernon. The intermediate legal steps between the Colville/Basset/Gernon interests, the 1386 purchasers and Sir Nicholas Lylling are not fully established in the sources consulted. Sir Nicholas Lylling held the manor in the early fifteenth century, after which it passed to Robert Bernard through his marriage to Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Nicholas. The Bernard descent is documented in published local and family histories from approximately 1415 through Thomas Bernard, John Bernard, Margaret Bernard, John Bernard, John Bernard, Francis Bernard, Baldwin Bernard and Sir John Bernard. In 1669 Sir John Bernard conveyed the manor and estate to William Thursby. The estate descended through William Thursby, his nephew Richard Thursby, John Harvey Thursby and successive John Harvey Thursbys until the sale in 1841 to Lewis Loyd. It then descended to Samuel Jones Loyd, 1st Baron Overstone, and to his daughter Harriet Sarah Loyd, Lady Wantage. The 1892 gift to Northampton Corporation covered the manor house and part of the estate rather than necessarily the whole historical manor, so the corporation entry is recorded as a documented partial estate transfer rather than an assertion that the corporation acquired every manorial right.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1066 - 1086 | Alwin the hunter | Held in the time of Edward the Confessor; by 1086 the holding was in Richard's hands. | | Open Domesday, Abington, Northamptonshire, summarising Domesday Book; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN4260.
- 1086 | Richard the artificer | Recorded in Domesday Book as tenant-in-chief and lord of Abington; the transfer from Alwin is the Norman Conquest change recorded by Domesday and no more precise conveyance is supplied. | | Open Domesday, Abington, Northamptonshire, Phillimore reference Northamptonshire 59,3; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN4260.
- reign of Henry II - 13th century | Humphrey de Bassingburne | The Abington holding is stated in a later county history to have been certified to Humphrey de Bassingburne in the reign of Henry II and to have descended in his family. | | Samuel Lewis, A Topographical

Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848, reproducing the traditional county-history account of the manor's descent.

- 13th century - before 1369 | Nicholas de Bassingburne | Succeeded within the Bassingburne family; the precise date and instrument are not stated. | | The Historic Peerage of England, entry for Bassingbourne of Abington; Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848.

- before 1369 - 1369 | Alice, formerly wife of Giles de Bassingburne | Held the Bassingburne interest before the manor passed to Robert de Colville after her death or the termination of her interest in 1369. | | Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848.

- 1369 - 1370 | Robert de Colville | The manor passed from the Bassingburne interest to Robert de Colville; Robert died without issue and his estates then devolved on his coheirs.

| | Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848; Genealogical memoirs of the extinct family of Chester of Chicheley, discussion of the Colville estates and Abington.

- 1369 - 1386 | Ralph Basset of Sapcote and Sir John Gernon | Succeeded Robert de Colville as his identified heirs; the holding was divided or otherwise settled between the coheirs, with Abington later specifically associated with Sir John Gernon. | | Genealogical memoirs of the extinct family of Chester of Chicheley, discussion of the Colville estates and partition of Abington; Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848.

- 1386 | Sir Robert de Swynburn, William Ashby and other purchasers | Purchased the manor and advowson of Abington without the King's licence, according to the account of the ninth year of Richard II. | | Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848, citing the transaction in the ninth year of Richard II.

- late 14th century or early 15th century - 1419 | Sir Nicholas Lylling | The manor later passed to Sir Nicholas Lylling; the exact conveyance from the 1386 purchasers is not established in the consulted sources. | | Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311, summarising the manor's early ownership.

- circa 1415 - before 1464 | Robert Bernard | Acquired or became entitled to Abington through his marriage to Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Nicholas Lylling. | | Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Abington, 1848; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN4260, which dates the Bernard acquisition to 1415; Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park descent.

- before 1464 - 1464 | Thomas Bernard | Succeeded to the Bernard interest in Abington; the exact instrument is not stated. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311.

- 1464 - 1485 | John Bernard | Succeeded Thomas Bernard in the Bernard descent of Abington. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311.

- 1485 - 1496 | Margaret Bernard | Held the Bernard interest as widow after John Bernard's death until the succession of her son John Bernard. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311, noting that John Bernard inherited the house in 1496.

- 1496 - 1508 | John Bernard | Inherited the Abington house and manor interest in 1496 from the preceding Bernard generation. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument

MNN32311, Abington Abbey; Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park descent.

- 1508 - circa 1550 | John Bernard | Succeeded his father or predecessor John Bernard in the Bernard descent of Abington. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate.
- circa 1550 - 1602 | Francis Bernard | Succeeded John Bernard in the Bernard descent of Abington. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate.
- 1602 - 1610 | Baldwin Bernard | Succeeded Francis Bernard in the Bernard descent of Abington. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate.
- 1610 - 1669 | Sir John Bernard | Sold and conveyed Abington Manor and estate to William Thursby in 1669. | | Northamptonshire Record Society, Northamptonshire Past and Present, volume 1, number 6, discussion of the 1669 conveyance and Overstone archive deeds; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311.
- 1669 - 1701 | William Thursby | Purchased Abington Manor from Sir John Bernard in 1669; the conveyance was made with associated trustees and included the manor estate. | | Northamptonshire Record Society, Northamptonshire Past and Present, volume 1, number 6, discussion of the 1669 conveyance; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311 and Monument MNN4260.
- 1701 - 1736 | Richard Thursby | Inherited Abington after the death of his uncle William Thursby, according to the published estate descent. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311.
- 1736 - 1764 | John Harvey Thursby | Succeeded Richard Thursby in 1736 as identified in the published Abington estate descent. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311; Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park descent.
- 1764 - 1798 | John Harvey Thursby | Succeeded the earlier John Harvey Thursby in the published Abington estate descent. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311.
- 1798 - 1838 | John Harvey Thursby | Succeeded the earlier John Harvey Thursby in the published Abington estate descent. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park, Northamptonshire, descent of the estate.
- 1838 - 1841 | John Harvey Thursby | Held Abington until selling the estate in 1841 to Lewis Loyd. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311; Parks and Gardens, Abington Park history; The Bernards of Abington and Nether Winchendon, discussion of the 1841 sale.
- 1841 - 1858 | Lewis Loyd | Purchased Abington Manor and estate from John Harvey Thursby in 1841. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311; Parks and Gardens, Abington Park history; The Bernards of Abington and Nether Winchendon, discussion of the 1841 sale.
- 1858 - 1883 | Samuel Jones Loyd, 1st Baron Overstone | Inherited or succeeded to Abington after the death of his father Lewis Loyd; the published estate descent places the formal inheritance around 1860. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN32311; St Gregory's Abington history; Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, Abington Park descent.
- 1883 - 1892 or 1897 | Harriet Sarah Loyd, later Lady Wantage | Inherited the Abington estate as the only surviving child and heiress of Samuel Jones Loyd, 1st Baron Overstone;

subsequently transferred the manor house and part of the estate to Northampton Corporation. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN4263; Parks and Gardens, Abington Park history; St Gregory's Abington history.
- 1892 - 1897 | Northampton Corporation | Received Abington Abbey and approximately 20 acres from Lady Wantage for a People's Park; the corporation also purchased additional adjoining land, and the public park opened in 1897. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN4263; Parks and Gardens, Abington Park history; Northampton Museums, Abington Manor donation history.

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