

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003231 • MANOR
ABRAM MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 15 October 2026 11:16 UTC

Location: Abram, Lancashire
Associated places: Abram, Lancashire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abram, historically recorded as Edburgham, Adburgham and later Abraham, was a manor in the township of Abram in the ancient parish of Wigan, Lancashire. Before and after the Norman Conquest it appears to have been a member of the manor and fee of Newton. Henry II is stated to have granted Abram to Warine son of Godfrey, whose descendants adopted the local name of Abram or Abraham and held the estate into the seventeenth century. The manor was associated with Abram Hall, a moated residence. The estate should be distinguished from separate holdings within the township, including the former Cockersand Abbey estate at Occleshaw, which was later incorporated into the wider Abram estate. By the early twentieth century the lordship was still described as belonging to the Whitley family, although no manorial rights were then claimed.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely described lordship is the grant by Henry II to Warine son of Godfrey, probably during the reign of Henry II between 1154 and 1189. The VCH evidence then records Richard de Abram in possession in 1212, holding four oxgangs in Edburgham by the gift of King Henry in fee farm at an annual rent of four shillings. The medieval Abram or Adburgham family is documented at intervals, but the complete pedigree cannot be reconstructed securely. A Gilbert Abram died about 1470 leaving two daughters, Constance and Isabel, whose later holdings are thought by the VCH to represent part of the family inheritance; the manor itself, however, continued in the male line. Thomas Abram is reported as lord about 1500 and John Abram in 1528. In 1567 Thomas Abraham was deforciant of

the manor of Abram, and a 1598 settlement secured the estate to Mary Abram for life, with reversion to Henry Lance and Susan, her eldest daughter, and in default to Philip Langton and Mary, the younger daughter. After Thomas Abram's death in 1606 the manor was assigned to Susan Lance. Abraham Lance, Susan's son and heir, was involved in the estate during the mid-seventeenth century, but the family suffered sequestration and financial decline during the Civil War period. In 1649 William Gerard of Garswood was appointed receiver for Abraham Lance and his wife, with a remainder to Gerard; the estate was conveyed to Richard Hilton on 16 September 1667. Richard Hilton died about the beginning of 1690. The estate then descended through his daughter Abigail and her husband Thomas Crook. Their son Richard Crook died without issue in November 1727, after which the inheritance passed to five sisters as co-heirs. The manor appears to have been allotted to the second sister, Anne, wife of John Darbyshire, and then to their only child Abigail, wife of Thomas Clayton. In 1734 all the heirs joined in a lease of the manor. Thomas Clayton sold the manor in 1785 to Peter Arrowsmith, who sold it in 1828 to John Whitley. The Whitley family continued as owners: Henry Jackson Whitley succeeded John Whitley, and John Henry Arthur Whitley was reported as owner in the early twentieth century. The evidence is strong for the principal descent from the late sixteenth century onward, but intermediate medieval successions and the precise legal mechanism of some seventeenth-century transitions remain undocumented in the consulted public sources.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1154-1189 - after circa 1170 | Warine son of Godfrey | Grant by Henry II, probably during the reign of Henry II | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, *A History of the County of Lancaster*, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 111; see also *Lancashire Inquests and Extents*, volume I, p. 77, cited by the VCH.
- 1212 - after 1212 | Richard de Abram | Descent from Warine son of Godfrey; intervening successions are not securely documented | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, *A History of the County of Lancaster*, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, pp. 111-112; *Lancashire Inquests and Extents*, volume I, p. 77, cited by the VCH.
- 1528 - after 1528 | John Abram | Unspecified succession within the Abram family | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, *A History of the County of Lancaster*, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 112, note 18a, citing *Duchy Pleadings*, volume I, pp. 162-163.
- circa 1500 - 1567 | Thomas Abram | Unspecified succession within the Abram family | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, *A History of the County of Lancaster*, Volume IV, 1911, Abram

section, p. 112 and note 18a, citing Duchy Pleadings, Ducatus Lancastriae, and Palatinate of Lancaster Feet of Fines, bundle 29, membrane 68.

- 10 December 1598 - after 1606 | Mary wife of Thomas Abram | Settlement by indenture, with life interest | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 112, note 16, citing J. Leyland, Abram, p. 11.

- 1606 - after 1629 | Henry Lance and Susan Lance | Remainder under the 10 December 1598 settlement; the manor was assigned to Susan after Thomas Abram's death | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, pp. 112-113 and note 16, citing the 1598 indenture and Wigan parish registers.

- circa 1629 - circa 1649 | Abraham Lance | Succession as son and heir of Henry and Susan Lance; exact legal transfer not stated | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, pp. 112-113 and notes 17-18, citing recusant rolls, the Calendar of the Committee for Compounding, and Royalist Composition Papers.

- 1649 - after 1649 | William Gerard of Garswood | Appointment as receiver, with remainder to his use; not an ordinary outright conveyance | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 113, note 20, citing Palatinate of Lancaster Feet of Fines, bundles 146, membranes 111 and 180, membrane 17, and J. Leyland, Abram, p. 12.

- 16 September 1667 - circa 1690 | Richard Hilton of Westleigh | Conveyance for £1,505 | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 113, note 21, citing J. Leyland, Abram, pp. 12-13.

- circa 1690 - before November 1727 | Thomas Crook and Abigail Hilton | Descent through Abigail Hilton, daughter of Richard Hilton, and her husband Thomas Crook | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, pp. 113-114 and note 22, citing J. Leyland, Abram, pp. 14 and 118-121.

- before 1727 - November 1727 | Richard Crook | Succession within the Crook family; died without issue | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 113.

- November 1727 - 1734 | The five Crook sisters as co-heirs, including Anne Crook Darbyshire | Descent as co-heirs after the death of Richard Crook | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, pp. 113-114 and notes 25-26, citing J. Leyland, Local Gleanings, and the 1734 lease.

- 1734 - 1785 | Thomas Yates and Lydia his wife; Thomas Clayton and Abigail his wife; John Andrews and Abigail his wife; Thomas Summers and Margaret his wife; Reverend Thomas Heys and Isabel his wife | Joint lease by all the Crook heirs and their spouses; subsequent beneficial allocation of the manor appears to have been through Anne Darbyshire's branch | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, note 26, citing the 1734 lease and J. Leyland, Local Gleanings, volume II, pp. 231 and 237.

- 1785 - 1828 | Peter Arrowsmith of Astley | Purchase from Thomas Clayton | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 113.

- 1828 - after 1828 | John Whitley | Purchase from Peter Arrowsmith | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 113.

- after 1828 - before the early twentieth century | Henry Jackson Whitley | Succession from his father John Whitley | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 113.

- before 1911 - after 1911 | John Henry Arthur Whitley | Succession from his father Henry

Jackson Whitley | | W. Farrer and J. Brownbill, A History of the County of Lancaster, Volume IV, 1911, Abram section, p. 113.

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