

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003233 • MANOR
ABSON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Wick & Abson, Gloucestershire
Associated places: Wick & Abson, Gloucestershire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abson Manor, also recorded as the manor of Abson and Wick, was the principal manorial estate associated with the villages and former chapelry of Abson and Wick in Gloucestershire. The place-name forms Abston, Abbotston and Abbetstone reflect historical variants of Abson. Medieval and early modern accounts connect the estate with the wider Pucklechurch estate, which included Abson and surrounding settlements. The manor was associated with the historic manor house at Wick, now known as Wick Manor; the surviving building has a seventeenth-century origin and was substantially remodelled in the mid eighteenth century. The parish is now within South Gloucestershire, although the historical county designation is Gloucestershire.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely reported history places Abson and Wick within the large Pucklechurch estate held by Glastonbury Abbey before the Norman Conquest; a local historical account states that the estate had been given to Glastonbury by King Edward the Confessor. In 1205 Glastonbury Abbey relinquished its right in Pucklechurch, Abson and Westerleigh to the see of Bath and Wells. The bishops of Bath and Wells are reported to have held Abson and Wick for more than two hundred and fifty years. A record of a fine levied by Hugh Dennis in the eleventh year of Henry VIII provides a direct contemporary link between Dennis and the manor, but the available account does not establish whether he held the whole manor, a share, or a legal interest created by the fine; it is therefore not treated here as a proven conveyance of the lordship. Henry VIII acquired the manor from the bishopric during the Dissolution period, approximately 1536-1540, together with the advowson of the

rectory and Friars Wood in Abson. The available public account states that the King subsequently granted the manor, but the grantee and date of that grant were not recoverable from the accessible material. A documentary gap therefore remains between the Crown acquisition and the nineteenth-century holders. Richard Hayne was reported as lord of the manor in 1851. By 1863 and 1870-1872, sources variously report James Tolman, or James Tolman together with members of the Batterbury family, as lord or lords of the manor. The 1876 directory names James Tolman alone. In 1891-1897, directory evidence describes the trustees of the late James Tolman as lords of the manor. These nineteenth-century references conflict or may reflect concurrent interests and changes in the legal holding; no unrecorded conveyances have been inserted. The accessible public evidence does not establish the later twentieth-century descent or a current holder.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1066 - 1205 | Glastonbury Abbey | Held as part of the wider Pucklechurch estate, which included Abson and surrounding settlements; the estate is reported to have been given to Glastonbury Abbey by King Edward the Confessor. | | J. F. Meehan, *More Famous Houses of Bath and District*, second series, 1906, p. 92, discussion of Abson and Wick; corroborated by the historical account of Abson and Wick published from nineteenth-century gazetteer material.
- 1205 - 1536-1540 | See of Bath and Wells | In 1205 Glastonbury Abbey relinquished its right in the manors of Pucklechurch, Abson and Westerleigh to the bishopric of Bath and Wells. | | J. F. Meehan, *More Famous Houses of Bath and District*, second series, 1906, p. 92, citing the 1205 transaction and the subsequent episcopal tenure.
- 1536-1540 - after 1536-1540 | Henry VIII and the Crown | Acquired from the bishopric of Bath and Wells during the Dissolution period, together with the advowson of the rectory and Friars Wood in Abson. | | J. F. Meehan, *More Famous Houses of Bath and District*, second series, 1906, p. 92; nineteenth-century gazetteer summaries also state that the manor passed from Bath and Wells to Henry VIII.
- 1851 - unknown | Richard Hayne | Reported as lord of the manor in an 1851 directory account. | | Post Office Directory of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and the City of Bristol, 1851, Abson and Wick entry, reproduced in the Abson and Wick historical directory compilation.
- 1863 - 1870-1872 | James Tolman and John Henry Batterbury or the Batterbury interest | Reported in directory and gazetteer material as the lords of the manor, or as the persons to whom the manor belonged. | | Post Office Directory of Gloucestershire, 1863, Abson and Wick entry; John Marius Wilson, *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*, 1870-1872, Abson entry, reproduced by Vision of Britain.
- 1876 - unknown | James Tolman | Reported as lord of the manor in the 1876 directory. | | Abson and Wick directory entry for 1876, reproduced in the historical directory compilation.
- 1891 - after 1897 | Trustees of the late James Tolman | By the 1891-1897 period, directory evidence described the trustees of the late James Tolman as lords of the manor. | | Kelly's

Directory of Gloucestershire, 1897, Abson entry, reporting that the trustees of the late James Tolman were lords of the manor; the same wording is reproduced in the parish historical compilation and in contemporary directory extracts.

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