

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003248 • MANOR
ACKTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Featherstone, Yorkshire
Associated places: Featherstone, Yorkshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Ackton Manor was the manorial and landed estate associated with Ackton, a township in the parish of Featherstone, historically in the West Riding of Yorkshire and now in West Yorkshire. Medieval and early-modern sources use variant forms including Aitone, Attone, Ackton, Acton and Aikton. Domesday evidence places Ackton in the fee of Ilbert de Lacy in 1086, with William recorded as his subtenant. The later estate was centred on Ackton Hall and included land and closes in Ackton and neighbouring parts of Featherstone. The surviving evidence is uneven: a fifteenth-century extent of the manor is recorded in the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society collections, while a group of seventeenth-century deeds explicitly concerns the manor of Ackton alias Aikton, Ackton Hall and associated lands. The later Ackton Hall estate became a substantial landed and mining estate, but the sources found do not always distinguish the legal lordship of the manor from freehold estate ownership, mineral rights, residence at Ackton Hall, or ownership of particular parcels. The descent below therefore preserves those distinctions and identifies documentary gaps rather than assuming that every later estate owner held the manorial title.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

In 1086 Ackton was held by William from Ilbert de Lacy; the Domesday material also records Ligulf as the pre-Conquest holder in 1066, although the intervening transfer is not documented in the sources consulted. The medieval descent is incompletely established. Later antiquarian and genealogical material places the Ackton estate with the Featherstone family and subsequently with the

Frost

family, but the publicly accessible evidence located here is not sufficient to reconstruct every

medieval conveyance securely. By the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, Thomas Beckwith

of Ackton is securely associated with the estate, and the Beckwith family held Ackton until the

mid-seventeenth century. A 1655 archival deed records Langdale Sunderland's grant of Ackton

Hall and lands in Ackton to trustees for his own use during life and for his wife Elizabeth after

his death; a related archival handlist identifies the 1650-1680 group as deeds concerning the manor

of Ackton alias Aikton. Langdale Sunderland later sold Ackton to Edmund Winn, probably before 1678,

but the exact sale date has not been established. The Winn family held the Ackton estate through the

eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Edmund Winn of Ackton was followed by his brother Thomas

Winn, and the estate subsequently passed to Sir Edmund Mark Winn, who died in 1833. The estate then

passed to his nieces and their families, including Mary Du Roure and Arthur Heywood. In 1865 George

Bradley acquired the Ackton estate. Following Bradley's financial failure, Samuel Cunliffe

Lister acquired most of the Ackton Hall estate, including the colliery and mineral rights, in 1890.

The sources found do not conclusively demonstrate whether all of these later estate transactions

conveyed the separate legal lordship of Ackton Manor, as opposed to the Ackton Hall estate or

particular freehold and mineral interests.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1066 - 1086 | Ligulf | The Domesday evidence records Ligulf as the holder of Ackton in 1066 and William as holder in 1086. The intervening transfer is unknown. | | The British Place Names Website, Ackton, Wakefield, Domesday summary: Lord of the Manor in 1066, Ligulf.

- 1086 | William | By 1086 Ackton was held by William from Ilbert de Lacy. The transfer from the pre-Conquest holder Ligulf is not documented in the sources consulted. | | The Domesday Book Online, Yorkshire: West Riding A-B, entry for Ackton: Aitone or Attone, William from Ilbert de Lacy.

- late 16th century - 1652 | Thomas Beckwith of Ackton | The Beckwith family held Ackton before the 1650s. The precise date and legal form of Thomas Beckwith's acquisition are not established by the sources consulted. The estate was later conveyed or sold to Langdale Sunderland after the Civil War period; the exact sale instrument and date remain uncertain.

| | Joseph Foster, edition of Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, pedigree of Beckwith of Ackton; corroborated by the entry for Thomas Beckwith of Ackton in Venn's Biographical History of Gonville and Caius College.

- 1652 - 1698 | Langdale Sunderland | Acquired Ackton from the Beckwith family after the Civil War period; the exact sale date and instrument are not established. On 10 November 1655 he granted Ackton Hall and lands in Ackton to trustees for his own use during life and for his wife Elizabeth after his death. | | Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society, DD12/II/24/44, 10 November 1655, Trust grant by Langdale Sunderland of Ackton Hall and lands in Ackton; Keele University, Meysey Thompson Muniments, MT 1-17, deeds concerning the manor of Ackton alias Aikton.
- before 1678 - 1710 | Edmund Winn of Ackton | Purchased Ackton from the Sunderland family. The exact date and conveyance have not been located; the visitation material records the purchase but provides no precise year. | | Joseph Foster, edition of Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, pedigree of Winn of Ackton: Edmund Winn of Ackton bought Ackton from the Sunderland family.
- 1710 - 1780 | Thomas Winn of Ackton | Inherited Ackton from his elder brother Edmund Winn. The source records Thomas as heir to his brother; the underlying probate or conveyance record was not located. | | Joseph Foster, edition of Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, pedigree of Winn of Ackton: Thomas Winn of Ackton, heir to his brother.
- 1780 - 1 June 1833 | Sir Edmund Mark Winn, 7th Baronet | Succeeded to the Ackton estate after the death of his father Thomas Winn in 1780. The source describes him as of Ackton and records his death without issue in 1833. | | Joseph Foster, edition of Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, pedigree of Winn of Ackton; Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society, collections guide, MS765 reference to a fifteenth-century extent of Ackton and published local accounts identifying Sir Edmund Mark Winn as of Ackton.
- 1833 - 1863 | Mary Du Roure and Arthur Heywood | The Ackton estate passed after Sir Edmund Mark Winn's death to his nieces, including Mary Du Roure; Mary and her husband Arthur Heywood occupied Ackton Hall. The exact division of the estate between the co-heirs and the date of any legal manorial conveyance are not established. | | Fairfield Homes, Featherstone Hall historical account, summarising the succession after Sir Edmund Mark Winn's death and identifying Mary Du Roure and Arthur Heywood at Ackton Hall; the account also cites a 1857 trade-directory description of Mrs Heywood as lady of the manor.
- 1865 - 1890 | George Bradley | Purchased the Ackton estate from members or descendants of the Heywood and Du Roure family interests in 1865. The exact deed and the extent to which the legal lordship of the manor was included have not been established. | | Fairfield Homes, Featherstone Hall historical account, reporting George Bradley's 1865 purchase of the Ackton estate and citing a deed held by West Yorkshire Archive Service; corroborated by local historical accounts of Ackton Hall.
- 1890 - 1906 | Samuel Cunliffe Lister, 1st Baron Masham | Acquired approximately 1,200 acres of the Ackton Hall estate, including the Ackton or Manor Colliery and mineral rights, after George Bradley's financial failure. Contemporary sale details and the precise legal components of the purchase should be checked against the sale and insolvency records. | | House and Heritage, Yorkshire account of the 1890 acquisition of the Ackton Hall estate by Samuel Cunliffe Lister; Featherstone local-history account of the purchase of Bradley's former holdings.

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