

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003315 • MANOR
AGNELLS MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
Associated places: Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Agnells Manor was a subordinate manor of the principal manor of Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire.

The manor is recorded under variant forms including Aynells, Aignells, Agnews and Agnalls, and gave

its name to the historic Agnells or St Agnells locality and farm in the northern part of Hemel

Hempstead, around the modern St Agnells Lane and Cupid Green area. The surviving evidence indicates

medieval origins: John de Aygnel held courts there during the reigns of Edward II and Edward III. A

surviving court transcript for 23 September in the fourth and fifth regnal years of Philip and Mary,

equivalent to 1556 1557, identifies Sir William Dods and Elizabeth his wife as holding the court

baron; Elizabeth is described as the former wife of the deceased John Coningsby, knight, who had

been lord of the manor. A copy plan of Agnells Manor dated 1645 is cited in modern county landscape

research, confirming the continuing existence of the manor as an identifiable estate at that date.

The manor should not be conflated with the separate Agnells or Aynells manor in Redbourn, Hertfordshire.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely located evidence is a court held by John de Aygnel in the nineteenth year of

Edward II, followed by further courts from the second to the twenty-fourth years of Edward III. The

source does not provide a documented conveyance into or out of the Aygnel family, so no intervening

succession is asserted. By 23 September in the fourth and fifth years of Philip and Mary, the manor

was in the hands of Sir William Dods and Elizabeth his wife; the court heading describes Elizabeth

as formerly the wife of John Coningsby, knight, deceased lord of the manor. The precise conveyance from John Coningsby or his estate to Elizabeth and William Dods is not stated in the surviving evidence located. A 1645 plan demonstrates that Agnells Manor remained an identifiable estate, but the present research has not securely established its holder after the Dods and Elizabeth evidence.

The descent is therefore partial, with a substantial documentary gap between the mid-sixteenth-century court and later estate evidence.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 19 Edward II (1325 1326) - 24 Edward III (1350 1351), with additional courts recorded between the second and twenty-fourth years of Edward III | John de Aygnel | Earliest securely evidenced holder located. Henry Chauncy's county history, as reported in a later antiquarian source, states that John de Aygnel held a court in this manor in the nineteenth year of Edward II and several other courts from the second through the twenty-fourth years of Edward III. No earlier holder or conveyance into John de Aygnel has been located. | | Henry Chauncy, *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire* (London, 1700), folio/page reference reported as f. 594; corroborated by the later antiquarian discussion identifying John de Aygnel as holding courts in the Hemel Hempstead manor of Agnells.

- Unknown; before 23 September 1556 - By 23 September 1556 | John Coningsby | The 1556 1557 court heading describes John Coningsby, knight, as deceased lord of the manor and identifies Elizabeth, his former wife, and her current husband Sir William Dods as holding the court. The source does not state how or when the manor passed from John Coningsby or his estate to Elizabeth and William Dods. | | London Metropolitan Archives transcript of a sixteenth-century manorial court volume, folio 82 verso: 'Manor of Agnells in Hemel Hempstead'; court baron of Sir William Dods and Elizabeth his wife, 'once the wife of John Coningsby kt deceased lord of the said manor', dated 23 September Philip and Mary 4 and 5.

- 23 September Philip and Mary 4 and 5 (1556 1557) - Unknown | Sir William Dods and Elizabeth Dods | At the court held on 23 September in the fourth and fifth regnal years of Philip and Mary, Sir William Dods and Elizabeth his wife held the court baron of Agnells Manor. Elizabeth is described as having previously been the wife of the deceased John Coningsby, knight, who had been lord of the manor. The precise conveyance or succession from Coningsby is not recorded in the source located. | | London Metropolitan Archives transcript, folio 82 verso, headed 'Manor of Agnells in Hemel Hempstead': 'Court Baron of Sir William Dods kt and Elizabeth his wife once the wife of John Coningsby kt deceased lord of the said manor', dated 23 September Philip and Mary 4 and 5.

- 23 September Philip and Mary 4 and 5 (1556 1557) - Unknown | Elizabeth Dods | Elizabeth appears jointly with her husband Sir William Dods as holder of the court baron. The court identifies her as the former wife of John Coningsby, deceased lord of the manor, but does not state whether her interest arose by inheritance, dower, settlement, purchase, or another legal mechanism. | | London Metropolitan Archives transcript, folio 82 verso, headed 'Manor of Agnells in Hemel Hempstead': court baron of Sir William Dods and Elizabeth his wife, once the wife of John Coningsby, deceased lord of the manor, dated 23 September Philip and Mary 4 and 5.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Court baron: The manor is expressly recorded as having a court baron, including the court held by Sir William Dods and Elizabeth his wife in 1556 1557.

DISCLAIMER

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