

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003325 • MANOR
AINSTABLE MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 16 October 2026 18:07 UTC

Location: Ainstable, Cumberland
Associated places: Ainstable, Cumberland

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Ainstable Manor was the principal secular manor of Ainstable in Cumberland, historically also called Ainstapleth or Ainstaplight. It included the settlement and lands of Ainstable and was distinct from the neighbouring manor of Ermathwaite, also known as the Nunnery or Armathwaite and Ruckcroft estate, which originated in the endowment of Armathwaite Nunnery. Ainstable was an immediate or mesne manor whose medieval tenure was associated at different times with the Neville, Dacre and other superior interests. From the seventeenth century it became an out-manor of the Barony of Gilsland under the Howards of Naworth, later Earls of Carlisle. The manor was held by the Crown after the forfeiture of Leonard Dacre in 1570, was claimed and recovered by branches of the Howard family after the mid-seventeenth-century settlement of forfeited Dacre lands, and was sold by the Earl of Carlisle's estate to Edward Ecroyd in 1890. The Ecroyd family continued as lords of the manor into the twenty-first century. The record concerns Ainstable Manor itself, not the separate Ermathwaite or Nunnery manor.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Ainstable is traditionally said by John Denton to have been granted by Henry I to Adam son of Swein, although the surviving evidence supports this only cautiously: the Pipe Rolls record Henry I's grant of four vills to Adam, son of Swein, and one of the unnamed vills is considered likely to have been Ainstable. After Adam's death about 1159, interests descended through his daughters' marriages. In 1212 the manor was recorded as divided into three moieties held by Roger de

Montbegon,
Simon son of Walter and Alexander de Nevill. The evidence between 1212 and 1276 is incomplete. John Denton stated that William Boyvill of Thursby was lord by about 1239 and held of Richard Neville;
William de Boyvill is documented in connection with Ainstable in 1276/7 and held the manor at his death in 1305. The manor then passed through John and Edmund de Boyvill. Edmund de Boyvill sold it to Andrew de Harcla, Earl of Carlisle, whose estates were forfeited after his execution in 1323.
Edward II granted the forfeited manor to Richard de Denton, while a quarter was separately held by Margaret de Askeby and Joan de Boyvill asserted a life dower interest in 1324. The Dentons retained the manor until Sir John Denton's enfeoffment in 1446, first to William de Moore and then to Thomas Dacre, Lord of Gilsland, Phillippa Dacre and William Marshall. The transfer was challenged by later Dentons, but the manor thereafter formed part of the Dacre estates. After Ralph Dacre's death and Humphrey Dacre's attainder in the Wars of the Roses, the estate was temporarily assigned to Joan Dacre Fenys and her Fenys family. In 1473 Edward IV restored the Dacre estates to Humphrey Dacre, who was ennobled as Baron Dacre of the North. Ainstable descended with the northern Dacre barony through Thomas, William, Thomas and George Dacre. Following the extinction of the barony and the disputes arising after George Dacre's death in 1569, Ainstable was awarded to Leonard Dacre, whose rebellion and attainder in 1570 caused the manor to be forfeited to the Crown.
The Crown retained it until the mid-seventeenth century, although it granted leases to Fergus Graham in 1583 and Robert Graham in 1602. In the post-Civil-War settlement, the Howards of Arundel and Naworth successfully claimed the manor through descent from Dacre co-heirs. Their claim was allowed in 1649, the estate was awarded in 1651, and in 1654 the Howards of Arundel transferred their half share to the Howards of Naworth. The manor thereafter descended with the Barony of Gilsland and the Naworth Howard, later Carlisle, estate. In 1834 it was placed in trust for the Earl of Carlisle, with the 6th Duke of Devonshire and James Loch as trustees; after Loch's death in 1868, the trust was renewed with the then Duke of Devonshire and Edward Wentworth Keppel Coke. Edward

Ecroyd

purchased the manor from the Earl of Carlisle's estate on 14 May 1890. The manor then descended

through Thomas Backhouse Ecroyd, William Edward Bedingfield Ecroyd, Edward Peter Ecroyd and Charles

Ecroyd, who was identified as lord of the manor in 2023.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- reign of Henry I, early 12th century - about 1159 | Adam son of Swein | Traditionally said by John Denton to have received Ainstable as a royal grant from Henry I. The modern county history states that Henry I granted Adam son of Swein four vills, of which Ainstable is considered likely to have been one; the identification is not certain. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, section 'The Manor of Ainstable', pp. 20-21, discussing John Denton and VCH Cumberland I, p. 422.

- 1212 - after 1212; end date unknown | Roger de Montbegon | Recorded in 1212 as holding one of three moieties of Ainstable. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 20, citing VCH Cumberland I, p. 422.

- 1212 - after 1212; end date unknown | Simon son of Walter | Recorded in 1212 as holding one of three moieties of Ainstable. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 20, citing VCH Cumberland I, p. 422.

- 1212 - after 1212; end date unknown | Alexander de Nevill | Recorded in 1212 as holding one of three moieties of Ainstable. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 20, citing VCH Cumberland I, p. 422.

- about 1239 - 1305 | William de Boyvill of Thursby | John Denton stated that William Boyvill was lord of Ainstable by about 1239 and held it of Richard Neville. The instrument by which Boyvill acquired the manor has not been found. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 20-21, citing John Denton, A History of Cumberland, and F.M.H. Parker, 'A Calendar of Feet of Fines for Cumberland'.

- 1305 - 1319 | John de Boyvill | Succeeded his father William de Boyvill as heir and held the manor until his death in 1319. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 21, citing Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, vol. VI, no. 131.

- 1319 - before 1323 | Edmund de Boyvill | Succeeded his brother John de Boyvill and sold the manor to Andrew de Harcla. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 21.

- before 1323 - 1323 | Andrew de Harcla | Purchased Ainstable from Edmund de Boyvill. His estate was forfeited after his execution for treason in 1323. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 21.

- 1323 - after 1323; end date unknown | Richard de Denton | King Edward II granted the forfeited manor of Ainstable to Richard de Denton after Andrew de Harcla's forfeiture. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 21, citing Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1334-1338, p. 111, reciting events of 1323.

- before 1324 - after 1324; end date unknown | Margaret de Askeby | Held one quarter of Ainstable, reportedly purchased from Andrew de Harcla, and held it from John de Neville of Hornby. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 21, citing Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1334-1338, p. 111, reciting events of 1323.

- 1324 - life interest claimed in 1324; end date unknown | Joan de Boyvill | Asserted a right to hold the manor as her dower for life in an agreement involving Sir John de Denton

and Sir Richard de Denton. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 21, citing F.M.H. Parker, 'A Calendar of Feet of Fines for Cumberland', no. 247.

- 14th century; before 1446 - 1446 | Sir John Denton | The Denton family retained Ainstable until Sir John Denton enfeoffed the manor to William de Moore in 1446. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 21-22, citing Cumbria Archive Service, DHN C/1/1.

- 1446 - 1446 or shortly thereafter | William de Moore | Sir John Denton enfeoffed the manor to William de Moore, vicar of Ainstable, who then enfeoffed Thomas Dacre, Phillippa Dacre and William Marshall. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 21-22, citing Cumbria Archive Service, DHN C/1/1.

- 1446 - after 1446; Thomas Dacre's interest passed to Ralph Dacre before 1461 | Thomas Dacre, Phillippa Dacre and William Marshall | William de Moore enfeoffed Thomas Dacre, Lord of Gilsland, Phillippa his wife, and William Marshall, vicar of Kirkoswald. The conveyance was later challenged by Denton descendants, but the manor is documented as part of the Dacre estates from 1446. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 21-22, citing Cumbria Archive Service, DHN C/1/1.

- after 1446 - 1461 | Ralph Dacre | Succeeded to the Dacre interest in Ainstable after Thomas Dacre of 1446; Ralph was the owner of the manor at the beginning of the Wars of the Roses. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 22.

- 1461 - 1473 | Joan Dacre Fenys and the Fenys family | Edward IV acquired the Dacre estates by attainder after the Lancastrian defeat and assigned them to Joan Dacre Fenys, daughter of the deceased elder Dacre brother. The Fenys family held Ainstable during the period before Humphrey Dacre's restoration. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 22-23, citing TNA, SC/29/144.

- 1473 - 1485 | Humphrey Dacre | Edward IV reversed Humphrey Dacre's attainder in 1473, restored the Dacre estates including Ainstable, and ennobled him as Baron Dacre of the North. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 22-23, citing TNA, SC/29/144 and Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, vol. 1, no. 157.

- 1485 - 1525 | Thomas Dacre, 2nd Baron Dacre of the North | Inherited Ainstable with the Dacre estates after the death of Humphrey Dacre. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 22.

- 1525 - 1563 | William Dacre, 3rd Baron Dacre of the North | Inherited Ainstable with the northern Dacre estates after the death of Thomas Dacre. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 22.

- 1563 - 1566 | Thomas Dacre, 4th Baron Dacre of the North | Inherited Ainstable with the northern Dacre estates after the death of William Dacre. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 22.

- 1566 - 1569 | George Dacre, 5th Baron Dacre of the North | Inherited Ainstable as a child after the death of Thomas Dacre. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 22, citing Cumbria Archive Service, D/MH/10/6/16.

- about 1569 - 1570 | Leonard Dacre | A small group of Dacre manors including Ainstable was awarded to Leonard Dacre, an unsuccessful claimant and uncle of George Dacre. After Leonard's defeat and attainder in 1570, the manor was forfeited to the Crown. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 22-23; the instrument by which Leonard acquired the manors is stated not to have been found.

- 1570 - 1649 | The Crown | Ainstable was forfeited to the Crown after Leonard Dacre's attainder and remained in Crown hands until the mid-seventeenth-century settlement of the forfeited Dacre estates. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 23-24, citing TNA, E 178/576 and Cumbria Archive Service, DHN/C/1/2.
- 1583 - 1604 | Fergus Graham | Leased Ainstable from the Crown for 21 years in 1583. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 23, citing TNA, E 178/576.
- 1602 - 1623 | Robert Graham | Leased Ainstable from the Crown for 21 years in 1602. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 23, citing Cumbria Archive Service, DHN/C/1/2.
- 1649 - 1654 | Howards of Arundel and Naworth | The Court of Exchequer allowed the Howard claim to Ainstable in 1649. The manors were awarded to the Howards of Arundel and Naworth in 1651, following claims based on descent from Dacre co-heirs. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, pp. 23-24, citing Cumbria Archive Service, DHN/C/1/8.
- 1654 - 1661 | Howards of Naworth | The Howards of Arundel transferred their half share of Ainstable to the Howards of Naworth in 1654. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 23, citing Cumbria Archive Service, DHN/C/1/9.
- 1834 - 1868 | 6th Duke of Devonshire and James Loch, trustees for the 5th Earl of Carlisle | Ainstable was placed in trust in 1834 for the 5th Earl of Carlisle, with the 6th Duke of Devonshire and James Loch acting as trustees. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 24.
- 1868 - 14 May 1890 | Duke of Devonshire and Edward Wentworth Keppel Coke, trustees for the Earl of Carlisle | After the death of James Loch, the trust was renewed in 1868 with the then Duke of Devonshire and Edward Wentworth Keppel Coke as trustees. The manor was sold from the Earl of Carlisle's estate to Edward Ecroyd on 14 May 1890. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 24.
- 14 May 1890 - 27 September 1916 | Edward Ecroyd | Purchased Ainstable Manor from the estate of the Earl of Carlisle on 14 May 1890. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 24; the source cites Ecroyd family papers at Low House, Armathwaite.
- 27 September 1916 - 1945 | Thomas Backhouse Ecroyd | Succeeded Edward Ecroyd after his death; the Ecroyd descent of the manor is stated by the modern county history. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 24, based on Ecroyd family papers and information from Charles Ecroyd.
- 1945 - 1957 | William Edward Bedingfield Ecroyd | Succeeded Thomas Backhouse Ecroyd in the regular Ecroyd family descent. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 24, based on Ecroyd family papers and information from Charles Ecroyd.
- 1957 - 2002 | Edward Peter Ecroyd | Succeeded William Edward Bedingfield Ecroyd in the regular Ecroyd family descent. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 24, based on Ecroyd family papers and information from Charles Ecroyd.
- 2002 - 2023; later date not established in the consulted source | Charles Ecroyd | Succeeded Edward Peter Ecroyd in the regular Ecroyd family descent. The modern county history identified Charles Ecroyd as lord of the manor in 2023. | | Victoria County History of Cumbria Project, Ainstable parish history, draft July 2024, p. 24, based on Ecroyd family

papers and information from Charles Ecroyd.

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