

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003340 • MANOR
ALBERBURY MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Alberbury with Cardeston, Shropshire
Associated places: Alberbury with Cardeston, Shropshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Alberbury was an ancient manor in Shropshire, situated on the River Severn near the Welsh border. Domesday Book records it as Alberberie: King Edward the Confessor had held it before the Conquest, while in 1086 the Earl held it and Roger fitz Corbet held it of the Earl. The manor was associated with the Hundred of Ruesset, later Ford Hundred, and was described by Eyton as a small manor which had formerly possessed royal and hundredal importance. From the twelfth through the fourteenth centuries Alberbury was closely connected with the Fitz Warin family, who held it under the barony of Caus and founded Alberbury Priory, or New Abbey, for the Grandmontine order. The manor itself must be distinguished from the priory's ecclesiastical possessions, advowson, tithes, and lands. A documented dispute in the late thirteenth century concerned the secular manor apart from the advowson of the church and abbey and the Walcheria belonging to the manor. In 1320 Fulk fitz Warin of Whittington formally quitclaimed his residual right in the manor to Fulk Glas, excepting the advowson and Walcheria. The surviving public sources leave a substantial gap between the early fourteenth-century Fitz Warin/Glas evidence and the later Leighton lordship. By the nineteenth century the Alberbury manor was held by Sir Baldwin or Sir Baldwyn Leighton, whose seat was Loton Park; contemporary directories describe him as lord of the manor and principal landowner. The parish also contained the separate or related manorial interests of places such as Rowton, Amaston, Bausley, Eyton, and Stanford, which should not automatically be merged with Alberbury Manor.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest secure evidence identifies Alberbury as a pre-Conquest royal manor held by Edward the Confessor. In 1086 it was held by the Earl, with Roger fitz Corbet holding of him, apparently as a mesne tenant within the Earl's feudal structure. Eyton identifies Ralph Crassus as the first apparent feoffee of Alberbury in the reign of Stephen, with evidence between 1141 and 1155. Fulk fitz Warin subsequently held Alberbury under the barony of Caus, although Eyton expressly states that the precise basis of his succession from Ralph Crassus is unknown. The Fitz Warin connection is securely documented through disputes over the manor and its church rights. In about 1262 the senior Fulk fitz Warin conveyed Alberbury, excluding the advowson of the church and abbey and the Walcheria, to his younger brother, thereafter known as Fulk fitz Warin of Alberbury, Fulk fitz Warin Junior, Fulk de Leyham, or Fulk Glas. Fulk Glas's possession is evidenced in the 1290s, and his son Fulk Glas II was settled in the manor with Agnes his wife by a fine of 1311. In 1320 Fulk Glas II obtained a formal quitclaim from Fulk fitz Warin of Whittington. No secure public source located in this research establishes the intervening descent from the Glas family to the later Leighton family. A later Leighton will, discussed in the published Leighton parish history, records profits from the manor of Alberbury and associated places, demonstrating Leighton possession by the sixteenth century, but it does not by itself establish the precise conveyance by which the manor left the Fitz Warin/Glas line. Nineteenth-century directories identify Sir Baldwin or Sir Baldwyn Leighton as lord of Alberbury Manor. The historical descent is therefore secure in its broad sequence but incomplete across the medieval-to-early-modern documentary gap.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1086 | Roger fitz Corbet | | Domesday Book, folio 253b; reproduced and discussed in R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, volume VII, Alberbury.
- 1141 - 1155 | Ralph Crassus, or Ralph the Fat | | R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, volume VII, Alberbury, pp. 67-68, citing the Shrewsbury Abbey chartulary and confirmations of 1141 and 1155.
- 1156 - 1170 | Fulk fitz Warin I | | R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, volume VII, Alberbury, pp. 68-69.
- 1171 - 1198 | Fulk fitz Warin II | Alberbury appears to have continued in the Fitz Warin interest after the death of Fulk fitz Warin I; no specific conveyance instrument for Alberbury has been located. | | R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, volume VII, Alberbury, pp. 69-70, citing the Shrewsbury Abbey chartulary, nos. 286 and 351.
- circa 1262 - before 1311 | Fulk fitz Warin of Alberbury, also called Fulk fitz Warin

Junior, Fulk de Leyham, or Fulk Glas I | About 1262, the senior Fulk fitz Warin conveyed Alberbury, excluding the advowson of the church and abbey and the Walcheria of the manor, to his younger brother, who thereafter was identified as Fulk fitz Warin of Alberbury or Fulk Glas. | | R. W. Eyton, Antiquities of Shropshire, volume VII, Alberbury, pp. 82-85, especially the discussion of the 1292 assize and the later Fulk Glas identification.

- 1311 - 1320 | Fulk Glas II and Agnes his wife | A fine of 9 February 1311 settled the manor of Alberbury on Fulk, son of Fulk Glas, and Agnes his wife, for their lives and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to Fulk's right heirs. | | R. W. Eyton, Antiquities of Shropshire, volume VII, Alberbury, p. 86, citing Feet of Fines, 4 Edward II.

- 1320 | Fulk Glas II | On 12 March 1320, Fulk fitz Warin of Whittington formally quitclaimed all his right in Alberbury Manor to Fulk, son of Fulk Glas, his heirs and assigns, while retaining the advowson of the abbey and church and the Walcheria of the manor. | | Charter dated 12 March 1320, cited and transcribed in R. W. Eyton, Antiquities of Shropshire, volume VII, Alberbury, p. 86.

- sixteenth century | Sir Thomas Leighton | | Shropshire Parish Register Society, Leighton parish history, discussion of Sir Thomas Leighton's will and the profits of the manor of Alberbury.

- nineteenth century - 1895 | Sir Baldwin Leighton, Baronet | | Kelly's Directory of Shropshire, 1895, entry for Alberbury; Edward Cassey and Co., History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Shropshire, 1871, entry for Alberbury township.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Association with the Hundred of Ruesset, later Ford Hundred: Alberbury was connected with this hundredal jurisdiction; the record describes it as having formerly possessed royal and hundredal importance.

- Walcheria belonging to the manor: The Walcheria was expressly distinguished from the secular manor in the medieval arrangements and was retained or excepted in the documented Fitz Warin transactions.

- Advowson of the church and abbey: The advowson was expressly excluded from the secular manor in the medieval conveyances and should not be treated as part of the manor itself.

DISCLAIMER

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