

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003344 • MANOR
ALBRIGHTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Albrighton (near Shrewsbury), Shropshire
Associated places: Albrighton (near Shrewsbury), Shropshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Albrighton Manor, also known historically as Monks' Albrighton, was a manor in the township and later parish of Albrighton near Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Its Domesday history is unusual: the 1086 entry records Alcher holding Etbritone from Warin, Warin's successor Rainald, and states that Gheri had previously held it as a free man. Robert William Eyton interpreted the evidence, together with the foundation charter of Shrewsbury Abbey, as showing that Alcher or Aherius had given Albrighton to Shrewsbury Abbey before or around the time of the Domesday survey. Earl Roger's charter and confirmations by Henry I, Stephen, Henry II and Henry III record or confirm the abbey's title. The manor was held by the Abbot of Shrewsbury in chief of the Crown in the thirteenth century and remained an abbey temporal possession until the Dissolution. It was purchased in 1543 by Thomas Ireland, after which it descended through the Ireland family and later owners. The estate was sold in 1804 to the Reverend Inigo William Jones, whose son sold it in 1830 to William Spurrier. By 1899 William A. Sparrow was described as lord of the manor. The surviving evidence establishes a substantial descent but leaves some intermediate Ireland-family successions and the later descent after Sparrow incompletely documented.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely relevant evidence is Domesday Book, where Alcher held Etbritone from Warin's successor Rainald; the same entry preserves an earlier holding by Gheri. Eyton's analysis of the Domesday wording and Earl Roger's charter identifies Aherius or Alcher as the donor of Albrighton to Shrewsbury Abbey. The abbey's possession is supported by successive

royal confirmations and by the Pimhill Hundred-Rolls, which describe the Abbot of Shrewsbury as holding Albrighton in chief of the King, in pure and perpetual alms. Abbey records from the thirteenth to early sixteenth centuries show demesne income, tenants, rents and the abbot's bailiff at Albrighton. Shrewsbury Abbey surrendered in 1540. A modern scholarly account states that Albrighton was purchased in 1543 by Thomas Ireland, a wealthy Shrewsbury wool merchant. The Ireland family retained the estate for approximately five generations. Thomas Ireland of Albrighton, sheriff of Shropshire in 1632, was followed by his son Robert, who succeeded in 1650. Thomas Pershall Ireland later held the estate; after his death and the death of his natural daughter Mary, the property passed to the Crown and was subsequently granted to his nephew Robert Ireland, who sold it in 1804. The Reverend Inigo William Jones acquired it in 1804; after his death in 1809, his infant son Inigo William Jones junior eventually sold it in 1830 to William Spurrier. In 1899 William A. Sparrow was described as lord of the manor. The record is therefore a secure but incomplete descent, especially for the intermediate Ireland generations and the post-1899 ownership.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1086 - before or around 1086 | Alcher, also styled Aherius or Aher | Donation or grant of Albrighton to Shrewsbury Abbey, probably before the Domesday survey; the exact date and legal form are not preserved in the cited evidence. | | R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. 10, pp. 107-108, section 'Albrighton, or Monks' Albrighton'; citing Domesday Book, folio 255b, and Earl Roger's charter to Shrewsbury Abbey.
- before 1086 - 1540 | Abbot and convent of Shrewsbury Abbey | Received Albrighton from Alcher or Aherius; the gift was later confirmed by Earl Roger and by royal confirmations under Henry I, Stephen, Henry II and Henry III. | | R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. 10, pp. 107-109; citing Earl Roger's charter, royal confirmations, the Pimhill Hundred-Rolls of 1255 and 1279, the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1534 and Ministers' Accounts of 1541-1542.
- 1543 - 1554 | Thomas Ireland | Purchased Albrighton after the Dissolution of Shrewsbury Abbey. | | Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in *The Country Houses of Shropshire*, pp. 33-35, published by Boydell & Brewer; corroborated by Castles and Old Mansions of Shropshire, entry 'Albrighton'.
- 1554 - 1792 | Ireland family | Inherited and descended through the Ireland family; the cited sources establish the family descent but do not securely document every intermediate conveyance. | | 'Some Old Shropshire Houses and Their Owners', *Shropshire Parish Register Society Transactions*, vol. 46, part 1, 1931, pp. 80-81; corroborated by Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in *The Country Houses of Shropshire*, pp. 33-35.
- 1742 - 1792 | Thomas Pershall Ireland | Inherited Albrighton within the Ireland family succession. | | 'Some Old Shropshire Houses and Their Owners', *Shropshire Parish Register*

Society Transactions, vol. 46, part 1, 1931, p. 80; Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in The Country Houses of Shropshire, pp. 33-35.

- 1792 - after 1796 | Mary Ireland | Succeeded to the Albrighton estate as the natural daughter of Thomas Pershall Ireland; on her death, unmarried and a minor, the estate passed to the Crown. | | Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in The Country Houses of Shropshire, pp. 33-35; 'Some Old Shropshire Houses and Their Owners', Shropshire Parish Register Society Transactions, vol. 46, part 1, 1931, p. 80.

- after 1796 - 1804 | Robert Ireland | Granted Albrighton by the Crown as the nearest of kin after the death of Mary Ireland; sold the estate in 1804. | | Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in The Country Houses of Shropshire, pp. 33-35; 'Some Old Shropshire Houses and Their Owners', Shropshire Parish Register Society Transactions, vol. 46, part 1, 1931, p. 80.

- 1804 - 1809 | Reverend Inigo William Jones | Purchased Albrighton from Robert Ireland in 1804; was preparing to sell it to Hugh Smith when he died in 1809, but the sale had not been completed. | | Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in The Country Houses of Shropshire, pp. 33-35.

- 1809 - 1830 | Inigo William Jones junior | Inherited Albrighton from his father, the Reverend Inigo William Jones; sold it on reaching majority in 1830. | | Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in The Country Houses of Shropshire, pp. 33-35.

- 1830 - 1848 | William Spurrier | Purchased Albrighton from Inigo William Jones junior in 1830. | | Gareth Williams, 'Albrighton Hall', in The Country Houses of Shropshire, pp. 33-35.

- 1899 | William A. Sparrow | Later holder; the exact conveyance into his possession and the date of its termination are not established in the cited sources. | | Albrighton Parish Registers, transcript and introductory material, dated 20 April 1899, stating that W. A. Sparrow was lord of the manor and patron of the living.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Holding in chief of the Crown, in pure and perpetual alms, during the medieval Shrewsbury Abbey tenure: The record states that the Abbot of Shrewsbury held Albrighton in chief of the King, in pure and perpetual alms, as recorded in the thirteenth-century evidence.

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