

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003366 • MANOR
ALDBOROUGH MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 15 October 2026 15:50 UTC

Location: Aldborough, Norfolk
Associated places: Aldborough, Norfolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldborough Manor was the manorial estate associated with Aldborough Hall in the parish of Aldborough, Norfolk, in North Erpingham hundred. Aldborough Hall is a surviving country house of seventeenth-century origin, with a rear wing dated 1636 and later alterations. The Norfolk Heritage Explorer identifies Aldborough Hall as the earliest of Aldborough's principal houses and records that it was bought by the Gay family in 1633. The parish church and local historical accounts associate the Gay family with the lordship of the manor and state that the manor subsequently passed by marriage to the Lilly family. The surviving manorial record series is catalogued as relating to the Manor of Aldborough Hall, with court records extending from 1657 to 1924.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The securely recoverable descent is incomplete. Local historical evidence places the Hereward or Herward family among the lords of Aldborough from at least the thirteenth century until the end of the sixteenth century. The individual Robert Herward, who died in 1481, and his wife Anne, who died in 1485, are commemorated by brasses in Aldborough church, but the available sources do not establish the precise legal transmission of the manor between members of the family. The Gay family is associated with the manor by the early seventeenth century: Aldborough Hall is reported to have been bought by the Gays in 1633, while a later local account explicitly describes the Gays as lords of the manor. By 1912, Mrs Edward Gay was described in Kelly's Directory as the lady of the manor and principal landowner. A family memoir states that Margaret Lilly inherited the substantial Aldborough estate after the death of her brother Edmund during the First World War period, and local

church-history material describes the manor as having passed by marriage to the Lilly family. The exact deeds, dates, and legal form of the transitions from the Herewards to the Gays and from the Gays to the Lillys were not established in the accessible public sources. Later references to Lilly family residence or ownership of Aldborough Hall have not been treated as proof of continued manorial lordship unless the source expressly linked them to the manor.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- at least the 13th century - end of the 16th century | Hereward or Herward family | Unknown; the available source states that the Hereward or Herward family were lords of the manor during this period but does not identify the conveyance into or out of their possession. | | Aldborough and Thurgarton Village Magazine, January/February 2021, article on the Hereward or Herward family and Aldborough; corroborated by the Aldborough, Norfolk, church-history account.

- 1633 - by 1912 | Gay family | Acquired Aldborough Hall in 1633 according to the Norfolk Heritage Explorer; the available sources do not provide the deed or prove whether the 1633 acquisition was identical in legal extent to the whole manor. A separate local church-history account explicitly identifies the Gay family as lords of the manor. | | Norfolk Heritage Explorer, Parish Summary: Aldborough, record TNF114; the summary identifies Aldborough Hall, Norfolk, and states that it was bought by the Gay family in 1633.

- by 1912 - after 1912 | Mrs Edward Gay | Unknown; Kelly's Directory describes Mrs Edward Gay as the lady of the manor and principal landowner, but does not state when or how she acquired the lordship. | | Kelly's Directory of Norfolk, 1912, entry for Aldborough, Norfolk, describing Aldborough Hall, Mrs Edward Gay, and the lady of the manor.

- after the death of her brother Edmund during the First World War period, 1914-1918 - not established | Margaret Lilly | Inherited the substantial Aldborough estate after the death of her brother Edmund, according to a family memoir. A separate local account states that the Gay manorial interest passed by marriage to the Lilly family. The precise date and legal instrument of the manorial transfer are unknown. | | Some Memories for My Grandchildren, family memoir, passages concerning Edward Gay, Margaret Lilly, the Aldborough estate, and the Lillys as descendants and heirs of the Gays, pp. 25 and 28-29; corroborated by the Aldborough church-history account.

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