

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003381 • MANOR
ALDENHAM MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Aldenham, Hertfordshire
Associated places: Aldenham, Hertfordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldenham was an ancient manor in Hertfordshire, recorded in Domesday Book in 1086 under the land of

St Peter's Abbey, Westminster. The manor's early history involved a long dispute between

Westminster Abbey and St Albans Abbey. A charter tradition associated the estate with an early grant

by Wulfsinus or with a grant by Offa to Westminster, while St Albans claimed an original interest

and is reported to have leased the manor to Westminster for a term after the Norman Conquest. The

surviving Domesday evidence records Westminster Abbey as lord and tenant-in-chief in 1066 and 1086.

After the Dissolution, the manor passed to the Crown and was granted to Ralph Stepney or Stepneth in

1547. It subsequently descended through the Cary, Harby, Holles, Pelham, Vandewall, Neate and

Thellusson interests. The manor should not be conflated with individual country-house estates within

the parish, including Penn's Place or Aldenham Hall, Wigbournes or Aldenham House, and Wall

Hall or Aldenham Abbey, although some later accounts use Aldenham or the Aldenham estate loosely for

estates containing parts of the manor.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The securely evidenced descent begins with Westminster Abbey, recorded as lord and tenant-in-chief

at Domesday in 1086. The early medieval relationship between Westminster and St Albans is disputed:

St Albans claimed the original lordship and is said to have leased the manor to Westminster, but the

Domesday record supports Westminster's possession at that date. The manor was surrendered or

otherwise taken into Crown hands at the Dissolution in the 1530s and was granted by Henry

VIII to

Ralph Stepney or Stepneth and Joan in 1547. It was sold to Edward Cary in 1589, followed by Cary's son Henry, later 1st Viscount Falkland, and then Lucius Cary, 2nd Viscount Falkland.

Lucius Cary sold the manor during the Civil War in 1642 to a member of the Harby family; sources

differ between Sir John Harby and Sir Job Harby, so the first name is flagged as uncertain.

The

Harby interest was sold to Denzil Holles in 1664 or in the early 1660s. The manor then descended

through Francis Holles and the younger Denzil Holles before passing into the hands of John Holles,

later Duke of Newcastle, and Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle. It was sold in 1754 to Samuel

Vandewall, whose interest passed by will to his stepson Thomas Neate. The later transition from

Neate to George Woodford Thellusson is reported as a sale in 1799. In 1805 George Woodford Thellusson sold the Aldenham property or estate to trustees of his father's will; the surviving

public accounts do not always distinguish the manorial lordship from the Wall Hall or Aldenham

estate at this point. A nineteenth-century county guide nevertheless identifies Frederick William

Thellusson, 5th Baron Rendlesham, as lord of the manor. No later securely sourced manorial conveyance was located.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1066 - 1538 or 1539 | Westminster Abbey, represented by the Abbot of Westminster | Held at Domesday and until the Dissolution; the precise date and legal form of the loss to the Crown require confirmation from the abbey and Crown records. | | Domesday Book Online, Aldenham entry; PASE Domesday database, Hertfordshire 9,4; Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum, no. 53; Victoria County History, A History of the County of Hertford, volume 2, 'Parishes: Aldenham', pp. 149-161.

- 1538 or 1539 - 10 August 1547 | The Crown | The manor was surrendered or taken into Crown hands at the Dissolution and subsequently granted by Henry VIII to Ralph Stepney or Stepneth and Joan. | | John Murray, Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, Aldenham section; Stephen Johnson, 'Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire'; Victoria County History, A History of the County of Hertford, volume 2, 'Parishes: Aldenham', pp. 149-161.

- 10 August 1547 - 1589 | Ralph Stepney or Stepneth and Joan | Grant by Henry VIII or the Crown; the grant date is reported as 10 August 1547. | | Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society, volume XV, part 4, biographical details for Ralph Stepney; John Murray, Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, Aldenham section.

- 1589 - 1617 | Edward Cary | Sale of Aldenham Manor by the Stepney or Stepneth family to Edward Cary. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Hertford, volume 2, 'Parishes: Aldenham', pp. 149-161; Stephen Johnson, 'Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire'; John Murray, Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, Aldenham section.

- 1617 - 1633 | Henry Cary, 1st Viscount Falkland | Succession to his father's Aldenham interest on the death of Edward Cary; the source describes the manor as passing to Henry Cary in 1617. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Hertford, volume 2, 'Parishes: Aldenham', pp. 149-161; Stephen Johnson, 'Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire'.
- 1633 - June 1642 | Lucius Cary, 2nd Viscount Falkland | Succession to his father's Aldenham interest on the death of Henry Cary, 1st Viscount Falkland. | | Hertfordshire during the Great Civil War and the Long Parliament, passage concerning the sale of Aldenham Manor in June 1642; Victoria County History, A History of the County of Hertford, volume 2, 'Parishes: Aldenham', pp. 149-161.
- June 1642 - 1664 or early 1660s | Sir John Harby or Sir Job Harby | Sale by Lucius Cary, 2nd Viscount Falkland, to a Harby baronet. Sources conflict over whether the purchaser was Sir John Harby or Sir Job Harby. | | Hertfordshire during the Great Civil War and the Long Parliament, passage stating that Lucius Cary sold Aldenham Manor to Sir Job Harby in June 1642; Stephen Johnson, 'Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire', which gives Sir John Harby.
- 1664 or early 1660s - 1680 | Denzil Holles, 1st Baron Holles | Purchase of Aldenham Manor from the Harby family. | | History of Parliament Online, biography of Denzil Holles, 1598-1680; Victoria County History, A History of the County of Hertford, volume 2, 'Parishes: Aldenham', pp. 149-161.
- 1680 - late June 1692 | Francis Holles, 2nd Baron Holles | Succession to his father's Aldenham estate on the death of Denzil Holles, 1st Baron Holles. | | History of Parliament Online, biography of Francis Holles, 1627-1692.
- late June or July 1692 - 24 January 1694 | Denzil Holles, 3rd Baron Holles | Succession to the Holles estate on the death of Francis Holles, 2nd Baron Holles. | | History of Parliament Online, biography of Denzil Holles, 1675-1694.
- 24 January 1694 - 15 July 1711 | John Holles, 4th Earl of Clare, later 1st Duke of Newcastle-upon-Tyne | Succession to the Holles estate on the death of Denzil Holles, 3rd Baron Holles. | | History of Parliament Online, biography of Denzil Holles, 1675-1694; John Murray, Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, Aldenham section.
- 15 July 1711 - 1754 | Thomas Pelham-Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle | Succession to the Holles estates through inheritance after the death of John Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. | | John Murray, Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, Aldenham section; Stephen Johnson, 'Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire'.
- 1754 - After 1754 and before 1799 | Samuel Vandewall or Vanderwall | Purchase of Aldenham Manor or the Aldenham estate from the Pelham-Newcastle interest in 1754. | | John Murray, Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, Aldenham section; Stephen Johnson, 'Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire'.
- 1799 - 1805 | George Woodford Thellusson | Purchase of Aldenham or the associated Aldenham estate from Thomas Neate in 1799; sold in 1805 to trustees of his father's will. | | Sir John Soane's Museum Collection Online, Wall Hall, Hertfordshire: new entrance front and rooms for G. W. Thellusson; Stephen Johnson, 'Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire'.
- By 1908 - After 1908; end date not established | Frederick William Thellusson, 5th Baron Rendlesham | Later Thellusson family succession; the precise intermediate conveyances and dates were not established. | | John Murray, Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, Aldenham section; Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire, Aldenham entry.

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