

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003397 • MANOR
ALDERTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Alderton, Wiltshire
Associated places: Alderton, Wiltshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Alderton Manor, also historically called the manor of Aldrington or Aldrington alias Alderton, was the principal manorial estate of Alderton in north-west Wiltshire, historically associated with the village church and manor house north of the church. Domesday Book records two separate holdings at Alderton in 1086: one held in chief by Ralph de Mortimer, with Richard and Walter as immediate lords, and another held in chief by Drogo son of Poyntz, with Hugh as immediate lord. The medieval manor was later associated with the Clifford and Hartham families, before being acquired by the Gore family in 1382. The Gore family held the manor for more than three centuries, followed by the Hedges and Montagu families. Joseph Neeld purchased the Alderton estate in 1827. The former manor house was demolished sometime between 1814 and 1845, probably shortly before 1828; the site was north of Alderton church, near the former manor pond and the later Manor Farm.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest evidence is divided Domesday tenure rather than a single undivided lordship. In 1086 Ralph de Mortimer was tenant-in-chief of one Alderton holding, whose immediate lords were Richard of Brampton and Walter; Drogo son of Poyntz was tenant-in-chief of the other, whose immediate lord was Hugh. Later medieval evidence describes Alderton as held of the Crown by the Mortimers and afterwards by the Cliffords of Clifford's Castle. Under the Cliffords, the principal estate was associated with William Hartham; Henry de Hertham held in 1242-43, and the 1316 return names John de Hertham, Hugo de Davereswell and Robert de Harlegh as lords of Aldrynton. The documentary transition

from the Clifford-Hartham phase to the Gore phase is not preserved in the sources consulted. William Gore is nevertheless recorded as having purchased Alderton in 1382, and a court baron was held by William Gore at Alderton in 1414. The manor descended in the Gore family through the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Thomas Gore is commemorated as late lord of the town in an inscription dated to his death in 1532; his widow Elizabeth subsequently held title, and their son Giles Gore II inherited the estate. Giles was succeeded by his son Richard Gore, followed by Edward Gore and then the later Gore line. Thomas Gore, the antiquarian, inherited his estate at Alderton on his mother's death in January 1654 and is explicitly called Lord of the Manor in the 1663 court record. After his death in 1684, his son Thomas Gore inherited. Thomas's death in 1697 led to administration by trustees during the minority of his son Charles Gore; Charles later issued leases in his own name and was described as the late lord of the manor when he died in 1710. The estate then passed through Elizabeth Gore, who became Elizabeth Hedges, the Hedges family, and subsequently Eleanor Hedges Montagu and the Montagu family of Lackham. James Montagu's death in 1790 was followed by the succession of James Montagu V. George Montagu briefly exercised control after James's death in 1797, but the source expressly distinguishes this control from ownership. The later Montagu estate was encumbered and subject to Chancery proceedings and gradual sale. George Courtenay Conway Montagu and his son Frederick dealt with Joseph Neeld's agent over the sale of the Alderton estate, and Joseph Neeld purchased it in 1827 for a stated price of £61,000 plus £1,000 for timber. The precise legal descent within the late Montagu period and the later succession within the Neeld family remain incompletely documented in the public sources consulted.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1086 - after 1086; before the later medieval Clifford phase | Ralph de Mortimer | Domesday tenant-in-chief; no later transfer instrument identified | | Domesday Book, Wiltshire 41,9, as transcribed by Open Domesday; corroborated by Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 10-11.
- 1086 - unknown | Richard of Brampton and Walter | Immediate lordship recorded in Domesday Book; subsequent transfer not identified | | Domesday Book, Wiltshire 41,9, Open Domesday transcription.
- 1086 - unknown | Drogo son of Poyntz | Domesday tenant-in-chief; later transfer not identified | | Domesday Book, Wiltshire 49,3, as transcribed by Open Domesday; corroborated

by Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 9-11.

- 1086 - unknown | Hugh | Immediate lordship recorded in Domesday Book; subsequent transfer not identified | | Domesday Book, Wiltshire 49,3, Open Domesday transcription.

- circa 1240 - 1382 | Clifford family of Clifford's Castle | Later medieval lordship is attributed to the Cliffords; the precise acquisition and transfer instrument is unknown | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 17-19, citing Rev. J. E. Jackson and medieval local records.

- 1242-1243 - unknown | Henry de Hertham | Direct holding recorded for 1242-1243; later transfer not identified | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., p. 18, citing the medieval evidence summarized by Rev. J. E. Jackson.

- 1316 - unknown | John de Hertham, Hugo de Davereswell and Robert de Harlegh | Named as lords in the 1316 return; subsequent transfer not identified | | 1316 Nomina Villarum return for Wiltshire, as quoted in Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., p. 18.

- 1382 - after 1414; exact end unknown | William Gore | Purchased Alderton in 1382; seller and conveyance instrument are not identified in the source | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 28 and 30-31, citing Thomas Gore's 1666 family register, Rev. J. E. Jackson's manuscripts and the Alderton rent roll.

- before 1532 - 1532 | Thomas Gore | Inherited or otherwise held the manor; precise preceding conveyance not identified | | Inscription recorded by Thomas Gore in *Syntagma Genealogicum* and discussed in Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 38-40.

- 1532 - after 1534; exact end unknown | Elizabeth Gore, later Elizabeth Worth | Held title after the death of Thomas Gore; later remarried George Worth | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 39 and 44, citing the Gore family register and associated records.

- after 1532; before 1562 - before 1576 | Giles Gore II | Inherited the estate from his parents' generation; exact date and instrument not identified | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 39-41 and 49, citing the Gore family register, wills and related records.

- before 1562 - 1583 | Richard Gore | Succeeded Giles Gore II; exact date of succession not identified | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 49-50 and 57-58, citing Thomas Gore's *Syntagma Genealogicum* and Richard Gore's will and inventory.

- 1583 - after 1622; exact end unknown | Edward Gore | Inherited as Richard Gore's heir; exact date of legal vesting not identified | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 57-68, citing the Gore family register, an indenture of 1589 and a 1621-1622 family settlement.

- 1621-1622 - before 1654; exact end unknown | Charles Gore | Received the Alderton manor house and appurtenances through a family settlement associated with his marriage; exact legal extent of his interest is not fully stated | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 66-69, citing the 1621-1622 family settlement and the Gore family register.

- January 1654 - 31 March 1684 | Thomas Gore the antiquarian | Inherited the estate at his mother's death in January 1654 | | Alderton Court Rolls, W&SHC 1305/1, entry of 3 July 1663, quoted in Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 79 and 85-87; death and burial are discussed on pp. 86-87.

- 31 March 1684 - 1697 | Thomas Gore junior | Inherited after the death of his father, Thomas Gore the antiquarian | | Tony Pratt, *The Manor of Alderton*, 3rd ed., pp. 86-91, citing the Gore family register, parish registers and Alderton court records.

- 1697 - 1698-1707; exact end unknown | Trustees under the will of Thomas Gore junior | Trust administration following Thomas Gore junior's death during the minority of Charles Gore | | Alderton Court Rolls, W&SHC 1305/1, and lease reference W&SHC 84/46, discussed in

Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 89-91.

- 1697 - 1710 | Charles Gore | Beneficial heir after the death of his father; trustees administered during his minority, after which Charles issued leases in his own name | | Alderton Court Rolls, W&SHC 1305/1; Alderton lease material, W&SHC 84/46; and Alderton parish record memorandum, all discussed in Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 89-91.
- 1710 or 1714 - 1743 | Elizabeth Gore, later Elizabeth Hedges | Manor passed after the death of Charles Gore; the precise vesting date is uncertain. Elizabeth was recorded as Lady of the Manor in 1714 | | Alderton parish register entry of 18 May 1714 and related estate discussion in Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 90-93.
- 1714 - 1757 | William Hedges | Held the estate through and after his marriage to Elizabeth Gore; exact legal vesting and date of sole ownership are not fully stated | | Alderton parish register entry of 18 May 1714 and estate succession discussion in Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 90-93.
- 1757 - 1762 | Thomas Hedges | Inherited from his father William Hedges | | Estate succession discussion in Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 92-93.
- 1762 - 1766 | Eleanor Hedges, later Eleanor Montagu | Inherited after the death of Thomas Hedges; she had married James Montagu before inheriting | | Estate succession discussion in Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 92-97, citing Lacock parish registers and related estate records.
- 1766 - 1790 | James Montagu IV | Estate passed to the Montagu family after the death of Eleanor Hedges Montagu; precise legal instrument not identified | | Estate succession discussion in Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 93-98.
- 1790 - 1797 | James Montagu V | Inherited from his father James Montagu IV | | Montagu succession discussion in Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 97-99.
- after 1797 - 1827 | George Courtenay Conway Montagu | Late Montagu estate holder or disposing proprietor; exact legal descent and the effect of Chancery proceedings are unresolved | | Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 98-112, especially the discussion of the 1797 succession, Chancery proceedings and the sale agreement W&SHC 1305/16.
- 1827 - unknown; the Neeld family remained associated with the estate into the 20th century | Joseph Neeld | Purchased the Alderton estate from the late Montagu estate through an agreement involving John Hannam Knipton; the purchase price was £61,000 plus £1,000 for timber | | Tony Pratt, The Manor of Alderton, 3rd ed., pp. 108-113, citing the sale agreement and memorandum W&SHC 1305/16; corroborated by Wiltshire Council Community History, Alderton entry.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Court baron jurisdiction or court baron custom: A court baron was held by William Gore at Alderton in 1414, and a later court record of 1663 explicitly describes Thomas Gore as Lord of the Manor.

DISCLAIMER

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