

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003401 • MANOR
ALDFORD MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 16 October 2026 22:01 UTC

Location: Aldford, Cheshire
Associated places: Aldford, Cheshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldford Manor was the principal manor associated with Aldford on the east bank of the River Dee in Cheshire, beside the medieval motte-and-bailey castle traditionally associated with the ford and the Chester-Wales route. The medieval estate was held of the earls of Chester and formed part of the wider fee of Aldford. The manor and castle were associated successively with Richard de Aldford, the Arderne family, the Stanley family, the Crown, the Breretons, the Fittons and Tattons, and ultimately the Grosvenors of Eaton. The surviving castle earthworks lie near St John the Baptist's Church. The manor should not be confused with other places called Alderford or with the separate manors and estates within the wider fee of Aldford.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest located evidence places the fee of Aldford under the earls of Chester and in the hands of Richard de Aldford during the reign of King John, approximately 1199-1216. Between 1208 and 1225 the fee and castle passed to Sir John Arderne, and the manor thereafter remained associated with the Arderne family for several generations. The Arderne interest passed by marriage to Thomas Stanley and Matilda de Arderne; Thomas is recorded in connection with Aldford in a deed of 1434. The manor subsequently descended in the Stanley family. Sir William Stanley of Holt acquired Aldford from Sir John Stanley of Elford, but following Sir William's execution in 1495 the manor was seized by Henry VII and came into Crown hands. It was later acquired by Sir William Brereton, probably after 1526, but his attainder and execution in 1536 caused the manor to revert to the Crown. A near-primary account records a Crown grant or demise in 1536 to Edmund Peckham, followed by a lease

to Robert Tatton and later transactions involving the Peckhams and Tatton. In the reign of Philip and Mary, the reversion was granted to Sir Edward Fitton and Robert Tatton; secondary accounts describe them as subsequent joint purchasers or holders. The later descent is complicated and is not fully reconstructed here. Sources state that the manor passed by the will of Sir Edward Fitton to his nephew Charles Gerard, later Earl of Macclesfield; through Gerard's heirs it became associated with Charles, Lord Mohun, and was ultimately sold by Lord Mohun's third husband to Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton in the early eighteenth century. By the nineteenth century Aldford was part of the Eaton estate of the Grosvenor family, later the Marquesses and Dukes of Westminster. Several intermediate legal interests, leases, remainders, and family settlements remain to be disentangled from the available public material.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- reign of King John, 1199-1216 - between 1208 and 1225 | Richard de Aldford | Held the fee of Aldford under the Earl of Chester; the fee and castle subsequently passed to Sir John Arderne. | | Craig Thornber, *A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford*, summarising George Ormerod, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, 2nd ed., vol. II, pp. 754-760.
- between 1208 and 1225 - before 1434 | Sir John Arderne | The fee and castle passed from Richard de Aldford to Sir John Arderne, son of Richard de Harderna. The manor then remained associated with the Arderne family until the marriage of Matilda de Arderne to Thomas Stanley. | | Craig Thornber, *A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford*, summarising George Ormerod, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, 2nd ed., vol. II, pp. 754-760.
- between 1208 and 1225 - before or by 1434 | Arderne family | Descent within the Arderne family; the interest subsequently passed by the marriage of Matilda de Arderne, daughter and heir of John and Margaret de Arderne, to Thomas Stanley. | | Craig Thornber, *A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford*, summarising George Ormerod, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, 2nd ed., vol. II, pp. 754-760.
- by 1434 - before the late fifteenth century | Thomas Stanley and Matilda de Arderne | The Arderne inheritance passed through the marriage of Matilda de Arderne, daughter and heir of John and Margaret de Arderne, to Thomas Stanley. Thomas Stanley is specifically mentioned in an Aldford deed of 1434. | | Craig Thornber, *A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford*, citing a deed of 1434 and George Ormerod, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, 2nd ed., vol. II, pp. 754-760.
- by 1434 - 1495 | Stanley family | The manor remained in the Stanley family. Sir William Stanley of Holt later bought Aldford from Sir John Stanley of Elford; after Sir William's execution in 1495, the manor was seized by Henry VII. | | Craig Thornber, *A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford*, including the account of Sir William Stanley's purchase from Sir John Stanley of Elford and the 1495 forfeiture.
- late fifteenth century, before 1495 - 16 February 1495 | Sir William Stanley of Holt |

Purchased the manors of Aldford and Nether Alderley from Sir John Stanley of Elford.

Following his execution for alleged complicity in the Perkin Warbeck rising, Aldford was seized by Henry VII. | | Craig Thornber, A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford, citing The House of Stanley from the 12th Century and George Ormerod, The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester, 2nd ed., vol. II, pp. 754-760.

- 16 February 1495 - after 1526 and before 1536 | The Crown | Aldford was seized following Sir William Stanley's execution and forfeiture. It was later acquired by Sir William Brereton; the exact date of the Crown's transfer is not established, although the secondary account places Brereton's acquisition after 1526. | | Craig Thornber, A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford; corroborated by the Chester Cause Papers directory entry for Aldford.

- after 1526 - 17 May 1536 | Sir William Brereton | Acquired the manor from the Crown at an uncertain date after 1526. Following his execution on 17 May 1536, the manor was forfeited and returned to Crown hands. | | Craig Thornber, A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities; Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, volume 91, Cheshire inquisitions, entry reciting the Crown's title after William Brereton's attainder.

- 17 May 1536 - 29 May 1557 or later | The Crown | Following William Brereton's attainder, the manor came into Crown hands. By Letters Patent dated 9 July 1536, the Crown demised the manors including Aldford to Edmund Peckham. The later reversion was granted in the reign of Philip and Mary to Sir Edward Fitton and Robert Tatton, with intervening leasehold transactions. | | Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, volume 91, Cheshire inquisitions, entry reciting the 9 July 1536 Letters Patent and the 29 May 1557 grant of the reversion.

- 9 July 1536 - 22 January 1536-1537 or later | Edmund Peckham | Received a Crown demise of Aldford and the associated manors by Letters Patent dated 9 July 1536. He then granted the same premises to Robert Tatton by indenture dated 22 January 1536-1537, with a later confirmation in 1544-1545. | | Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, volume 91, Cheshire inquisitions, entry reciting the Letters Patent of 9 July 1536 and the indenture of 22 January 1536-1537.

- 22 January 1536-1537 - after 3 May 1557; exact end uncertain | Robert Tatton | Received a grant from Edmund Peckham at an annual rent of £144, confirmed by indenture of 4 March 1544-1545. In May 1557 he assigned or released interests in the associated premises, while retaining an expressly documented long lease in part of the transaction. | | Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, volume 91, Cheshire inquisitions, entry reciting the indentures of 22 January 1536-1537, 4 March 1544-1545, 1 May 1557, 3 May 1557, and 20 May 1557.

- 29 May 1557 - before or by the seventeenth century; exact end uncertain | Sir Edward Fitton and Robert Tatton | The reversion of the manors, including Aldford, was granted by Letters Patent dated 29 May 1557 to Sir Edward Fitton and Robert Tatton. Secondary accounts describe the manor as later sold to or held jointly by Fitton and Tatton. | | Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, volume 91, Cheshire inquisitions, entry reciting the Letters Patent of 29 May 1557; Chester Cause Papers, Aldford directory entry.

- after the death of the last Sir Edward Fitton; seventeenth century - before the later Mohun interest; exact dates uncertain | Charles Gerard, later Earl of Macclesfield | Received Aldford under the will of the last Sir Edward Fitton, according to the cited local historical account. | | Craig Thornber, A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford; corroborated by the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire paper quoting Lysons on the Fitton-Gerard and Mohun descent.

- after the Gerard succession; seventeenth century - early eighteenth century | Charles

Mohun, Lord Mohun, and subsequently his second wife | Aldford passed through the heirs of Charles Gerard, later Earl of Macclesfield, to the family of Charles Mohun, Lord Mohun. Lord Mohun's will left the manor to his second wife; the exact intermediate heirship and dates are not established. | | Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, paper quoting Lysons on the descent from Fitton Gerard through Lord Mohun; Craig Thornber, A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford.

- early eighteenth century, before 1732 - 1732 | Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton | Purchased Aldford from the husband of Lord Mohun's second wife, according to the cited account. The exact conveyance date is not stated; Sir Richard Grosvenor died in 1732. | | Craig Thornber, A Scrapbook of Cheshire Antiquities: Aldford; Brunning and Price, The Grosvenor Arms and Aldford; Chester Cause Papers, Aldford directory entry.

- early eighteenth century - nineteenth century and later | Grosvenor family of Eaton | Aldford remained associated with the Grosvenor family after Sir Richard Grosvenor's acquisition. By the nineteenth century it formed part of the Eaton estate and was held by the Marquesses and later Dukes of Westminster. | | Chester Cause Papers, Aldford directory entry; Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, 1848, entry for Aldford; Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, 1870-1872, entry for Aldford.

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