

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003409 • MANOR
ALDRIDGE MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Aldridge, Staffordshire
Associated places: Aldridge, Staffordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldridge, recorded as Alrewic in Domesday Book, was a small Staffordshire estate in the hundred of Offlow. In 1086 the estate was held by Robert, identified in the Domesday material as Robert d'Oilly, under William son of Ansculf, while the wider post-Conquest holding became associated with the combined manor of Great Barr and Aldridge. The two places were subsequently separated for manorial purposes, with Aldridge becoming the principal manor and Great Barr a subsidiary or associated manor. In the thirteenth century the Aldridge estate was associated with the de Alrewych family, especially Nicholas de Alrewych, who is described in local historical material as lord of the manor. Later medieval evidence links the estate or an interest in the combined manor to the Stapleton and Bermingham families. Sixteenth-century evidence links the manor of Aldridge to Simon Mountford and, after his death, to his widow Joyce Rugeley or Joyce Mountford. By the seventeenth century the lordship was associated with the Jordan family, and by the late eighteenth century it was in the hands of the Croxall family of Shustoke. Edward Croxall's claim to the lordship was expressly recognized during the Aldridge enclosure proceedings of 1795. The surviving public evidence consulted does not establish a complete, deed-by-deed descent from the medieval holders to the Croxalls, nor does it establish that the later building known as Aldridge Manor House was continuously identical with the entire manorial estate.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest secure evidence is Domesday Book in 1086, when Aldridge was held by Robert d'Oilly from William son of Ansculf; William was the tenant-in-chief and Robert the immediate lord. The

estate was later combined administratively or tenurially with Great Barr, but Aldridge subsequently emerged as a separate inferior manor and eventually the principal manor in the combined name. Nicholas de Alrewych is described as lord of Aldridge in thirteenth-century local historical material. A fine of 1344-1345 concerning the advowson of Aldridge and the manor of Great Barr links Robert de Stapleton to the estate; later evidence places an interest in Aldridge and Great Barr in the hands of Sir Fulk Bermingham in the later fourteenth century, although the precise conveyance is not established. Secondary accounts place intervening interests with the Fenners, Hillary, Mountford and Jordan families, but the available online evidence does not provide a fully documented sequence for each transition. The surviving will evidence of Simon Mountford, proved in 1538, records a marriage settlement concerning the Manor of Aldridge with Nicholas Rugeley and indicates that the manor passed to Simon's widow Joyce on Simon's death. By the seventeenth century the Jordans were described as lords of the manor. By the late eighteenth century the lordship was held by the Croxalls of Shustoke. In the 1795 enclosure proceedings Edward Croxall was named as claimant to the manor and soil of Aldridge, and his claim was reportedly upheld at Quarter Sessions. This is the latest securely evidenced lordship claim located in the research undertaken. Later nineteenth-century references to individual Croxall-owned parcels in the parish are not treated as proof that the whole manor remained in the same ownership.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1086 - after 1086; end date not established | Robert d'Oilly | Held as immediate lord in Domesday Book; the preceding transfer into his hands after the Norman Conquest is not documented in the sources consulted. | | Open Domesday, Aldridge entry, citing Domesday Book, Staffordshire 12,24
- 1344-1345 - date of termination not established | Robert de Stapleton | Appears in a fine concerning the advowson of Aldridge and the manor of Great Barr. The precise acquisition or transfer of the manorial interest is not established. | | Eyton, Staffordshire-derived Stapleton genealogy, quoting the fine in 18 Edward III and Shaw's History of Staffordshire
- 1368 - 1372 or later; exact end date not established | Sir Fulk Bermingham | Later evidence places him in possession of all or part of the Aldridge and Great Barr estate, apparently following an earlier Stapleton settlement. The actual conveyance is not identified. | | Eyton, Staffordshire-derived Stapleton genealogy, discussing Shaw's History of Staffordshire and the 1368 and 1372 evidence
- by 1537 - 1537 | Simon Mountford | The will of Simon Mountford records a marriage settlement concerning the Manor of Aldridge with Nicholas Rugeley. On Simon's death the

manor passed to his widow, Joyce Rugeley or Joyce Mountford, according to the interpretation of the surviving will evidence. | | Simon Mountford will, proved 30 November 1538, as summarized with reference to the surviving probate and local record evidence

- 1537 - 1553 | Joyce Rugeley, later Joyce Mountford | Passed to her on the death of Simon Mountford under the marriage-settlement arrangement described in Simon's will; she thereafter exercised sole control according to the surviving will evidence. | | Joyce Rugeley of Moor Hall, summarizing the wills of Simon Mountford and Joyce Mountford and related record evidence

- seventeenth century; exact commencement not established - before the late eighteenth century; exact termination not established | Jordan family | The manor is reported to have come into the hands of the Jordan family by the seventeenth century. The conveyance from the previous holder is not identified. | | A. Stuart Williams, Saint Mary's in the Alder Village, local history account

- by the late eighteenth century; expressly claimant in 1795 - after 1795; exact end date not established | Edward Croxall of Shustoke | The manor was reported to have come to the Croxall family through the Jordan family, but the precise conveyance is not established. Edward Croxall's claim to the manor and soil of Aldridge was upheld during the 1795 enclosure proceedings. | | James Gould, Men of Aldridge, account of the 1795 Aldridge enclosure and the dispute between Edward Croxall and William Smallwood

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Advowson of Aldridge: A 1344-1345 fine concerned the advowson of Aldridge together with the manor of Great Barr.

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