

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003420 • MANOR
ALDWORTH MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Aldworth, Berkshire
Associated places: Aldworth, Berkshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldworth Manor was the principal manor of Aldworth in the historic hundred of Compton, Berkshire.

Domesday evidence records Aldworth, then written as Elleorde, as held by Theodoric the goldsmith in

1086. A later medieval descent records the manor in the hands of Thomas de Clare, who conveyed it in

July 1276 to Robert de Muscegros in exchange for Irish possessions. Robert's daughter and heir

Hawise brought the manor by marriage to John de Ferrers, Lord Ferrers of Chartley. The manor subsequently became associated with the Langford family, whose descendants held it until about 1509.

In the Elizabethan period it was held by Sir John Norreys, then by the Bertie family. Willoughby

Bertie, 3rd Earl of Abingdon, sold it in 1756 to Richard Palmer of Sonning. By 1899 John Bligh Monck

of Coley Park was recorded as lord of the manor, and a 1911 Berkshire directory named George Stanley

S. Monck as lord. Aldworth also contained a separate manor or estate known as De la Beche, centred

on the fortified manor house at Beche Farm; that separate holding must not be merged with the

principal Aldworth Manor without further documentary proof.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The secure public-source descent is incomplete in the medieval period. Theodoric the goldsmith is

the Domesday holder in 1086. By July 1276 Thomas de Clare held and conveyed the manor to Robert de

Muscegros. Robert died in 1280, and his daughter and heir Hawise is reported to have brought the

manor by marriage to John de Ferrers. The later transition from the Ferrers interest to Sir Thomas

Langford is reported by nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century county descriptions, but the

precise conveyance and intermediate holders are not identified in the sources located.

Langford

descendants were said to remain connected with the manor until 1509. The manor was then associated

with Sir John Norreys during the reign of Elizabeth I, later passed to the Berties, and was sold in

1756 by Willoughby Bertie, 3rd Earl of Abingdon, to Richard Palmer of Sonning. The precise transfer

from Richard Palmer to the Monck family is not established by the sources located; Monck lordship is

nevertheless directly attested by 1899 and again in 1911. The De la Beche manor in Aldworth is a

distinct and separately documented estate and is excluded from this descent.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1086 | Theodoric the goldsmith | Domesday Book records Aldworth, written as Elleorde, as held by Theodoric the goldsmith. The earlier descent into his hands is not established here.

| | Domesday Book, Berkshire entry for Aldworth; corroborated by Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1899, Aldworth entry, and Victoria County History, Berkshire, volume IV, 1924, pages 3-8.

- before July 1276 - July 1276 | Thomas de Clare | Thomas de Clare conveyed the manor of Aldworth to Robert de Muscegros in July 1276 in exchange for Bunratty Castle, the cantred of Tradree and Ui-Corbmaig in Ireland. | | Victoria County History, Berkshire, volume IV, 1924, pages 3-8; corroborated by the account citing National Archives and published medieval records for Robert de Muscegros.

- July 1276 - 27 December 1280 | Robert de Muscegros | Received Aldworth from Thomas de Clare in the July 1276 exchange involving Bunratty Castle and Irish territorial interests. | | Victoria County History, Berkshire, volume IV, 1924, pages 3-8; Robert de Muscegros, Royal Ancestry-based account citing VCH Berkshire IV and National Archives records.

- before 1300 - before 1312 | Hawise de Muscegros and John de Ferrers | Hawise de Muscegros, daughter and heir of Robert de Muscegros, brought Aldworth by marriage to John de Ferrers. The marriage is documented as occurring before 1300, but the precise date of the manor settlement is not established. | | Victoria County History, Berkshire, volume IV, 1924, pages 3-8; corroborating account of Hawise de Muscegros and John de Ferrers citing Complete Peerage, Calendar of Papal Letters and related medieval records.

- after 1347 - 1391 | Sir Thomas Langford | The manor or associated Langford estate is reported to have subsequently become the property of Sir Thomas Langford. The precise conveyance from the preceding Ferrers interest is not identified. | | Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1899, Aldworth entry; Berkshire historical directory material; compare Victoria County History, Berkshire, volume IV, 1924, pages 3-8, for the distinction between Aldworth and De la Beche holdings.

- 1391 - 1509 | Langford descendants | The county description states that Sir Thomas Langford's descendants continued in possession or association with the property until 1509. Individual holders and the precise transfers are not named. | | Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1899, Aldworth entry, reporting that the Langford descendants continued there until 1509.

- 1558 - 1603 | Sir John Norreys | The manor was reported as belonging to Sir John Norreys during the reign of Elizabeth I. The precise conveyance from the Langford interest is not

identified. | | Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1899, Aldworth entry; corroborating Berkshire historical accounts of the Norreys family in the Aldworth and neighbouring Yattendon area.

- before 1756 - 1756 | Willoughby Bertie, 3rd Earl of Abingdon | Held the manor as representative of the Bertie interest and sold it in 1756 to Richard Palmer of Sonning. | | Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1899, Aldworth entry, quoting the historical descent of the manor.

- 1756 - before 1899 | Richard Palmer | Purchased Aldworth Manor in 1756 from Willoughby Bertie, 3rd Earl of Abingdon. | | Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1899, Aldworth entry.

- 1899 - 1911 | John Bligh Monck | The transfer from Richard Palmer or the Palmer family to the Monck family is not identified. By 1899 John Bligh Monck was recorded as lord of the manor and chief landowner. | | Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1899, Aldworth entry.

- 1911 | George Stanley S. Monck | A 1911 Berkshire directory records George Stanley S. Monck as lord of the manor and chief landowner. The precise transfer from John Bligh Monck is not identified. | | Kelly's Directory of Berkshire, 1911, Aldworth entry, reproduced in the digitized directory extract.

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