

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

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ALEXANDERSTONE AND MARA MOTA MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified

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Location: Brecknockshire

Associated places: Brecknockshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Alexanderstone and Mara Mota was a secular manor or group of associated manorial estates in the

historic county of Brecknockshire, centred on Alexanderstone in the parish and community of Llanddew, approximately north-east of Brecon. Alexanderstone is associated with a medieval motte-and-bailey castle and a later gentry farmhouse, suggesting that the settlement developed

around a post-Conquest manorial or estate centre. The name Alexanderstone is recorded in the later

fourteenth century as Alisandreston. Mara Mota is recorded as an alternative name in archaeological

and archival sources, and the two names occur together in seventeenth-century legal records as the

manors of Alexanderstone and Mara Mota. The manorial jurisdiction is directly evidenced by court

leet papers for 1703-1775, a sworn boundary description of 1798, an 1813 enclosure Act relating to

commons within the manor, and a court leet book covering 1703-1833. The 1579 letters patent describe

Alexanderstone as part of the lands and possessions formerly belonging to Edward, late Duke of

Buckingham, while Mara Mota was being held by William Awbrey under an earlier Crown lease. The

surviving public evidence does not yet establish a continuous descent of the freehold or lordship

from the medieval period to the nineteenth century, and the leasehold, legal-settlement, and later

testamentary evidence should not be treated as an uninterrupted ownership chain.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely identified ownership context is the Crown's administration of lands

formerly belonging to Edward, late Duke of Buckingham. A 1579 letters patent records Alexanderstone

as part of the former Buckingham possessions and records Mara Mota as leased to William

Awbrey under letters patent of 16 November 1575 for twenty-one years beginning on 25 March 1576. This is direct evidence of Crown-controlled estate administration and of William Awbrey's leasehold interest, but it does not establish that he owned the manorial lordship. The descent is next securely visible in a 1687 settlement and associated 1697 final concord concerning the castle and site of Brecon and the manors of Brecon, Alexanderstone, and Mara Mota. Thomas Morgan of Tredegar is named as the deforciant in the final concord, while John Morgan and Charles Williams are named as plaintiffs. The documents establish a legal settlement involving these parties but do not make the precise beneficial effect of the fine fully clear from the catalogue abstracts. A 1706 letter addressed to John Morgan records W. Bellamy's claim that the manor of Alexanderstone was the property of the City of London; this is evidence of a disputed assertion of title, not proof of a completed conveyance. The Tredegar estate archive preserves manorial court and legal material for Alexanderstone and Mara Mota through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but the public catalogue does not by itself identify every intervening lord. A 1841 abstract of the will of William Gwynne Vaughan lists the manor of Mara Mota among his property. The abstract identifies the will's date and beneficiaries but does not specify which beneficiary received Mara Mota, so no later devisee is entered. The descent therefore remains partial, with substantial documentary gaps between the 1570s, the 1687-1697 legal settlement, the 1706 disputed claim, and the 1841 testamentary evidence.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 25 March 1576 - 25 March 1597 | William Awbrey, Doctor of Civil Law | Lease under letters patent dated 16 November 1575, for twenty-one years beginning on 25 March 1576. | | National Library of Wales, Tredegar Estate Records, file 137/54, Letters Patent granting to William Awbrey, Doctor of the Civil Law, a lease for 21 years, 11 December 1579; the description recites the earlier letters patent of 16 November 1575 for Mara Mota.
- 19 September 1687 - 10 April 1697 | John Morgan and Charles Williams | Legal settlement by covenant to levy a fine, followed by an exemplification of a final concord in a fine levied in the Court of Great Sessions for Brecknockshire on 19 September 1687 and recorded by exemplification on 10 April 1697. | | National Library of Wales, Tredegar Estate Records, file 101/20, Further Settlement made after the marriage of Thomas Morgan and Martha, 12 September 1687; and file 101/22, Exemplification of a final concord in a fine levied in the Court of Great Sessions for Brecknockshire on 19 September 1687, dated 10 April 1697.
- 12 September 1687 - 19 September 1687 | Thomas Morgan of Tredegar | Documented as deforciant in the related fine and as the owner or possessor whose properties were placed under settlement; the exact legal effect of the settlement is not fully stated in the catalogue abstract. | | National Library of Wales, Tredegar Estate Records, file 101/20,

Further Settlement made after the marriage of Thomas Morgan and Martha, 12 September 1687; and file 101/22, Exemplification of a final concord in a fine levied in the Court of Great Sessions for Brecknockshire on 19 September 1687, dated 10 April 1697.

- Before 13 March 1841 - 13 March 1841 | William Gwynne Vaughan of Penymaes, Llanvillo | Testamentary disposition: the abstract of his will lists the manor of Mara Mota among his property. The specific beneficiary or devisee of Mara Mota is not identified in the catalogue abstract. | | Powys County Archives, B/D/JGW/49/7, copy will of William Gwynne Vaughan of Penymaes, parish of Llanvillo, dated 13 March 1841, abstracted in the deposited J G Williams records catalogue.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Court leet jurisdiction: Court leet papers and a court leet book provide direct evidence of manorial court-leet jurisdiction at Alexanderstone and Mara Mota from 1703 into the nineteenth century.

DISCLAIMER

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