

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0041911 • MANOR
Woodhay or West Woodhay

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: West Woodhay, Berkshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Woodhay or West Woodhay | Associated | | Unverified

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

OverlordshipNo manor of this name is mentioned in the Domesday Survey, but in the 13th century it

was held by Sewal de Oseville of the Earl of Hereford as of the honour of Plessey, and the overlordship afterwards followed the descent of that earldom until both passed to the Crown at the accession of Henry IV.

LordshipIn 1204 Sewal de Oseville granted a virgate and 2 acres of land with appurtenances here to

John son of Roger. The manor was called 'Woodhaye Oseville' in 1221, and in 1227 when it was disafforested by grant from Henry III, and Sewal was holding it later in the 13th century, but by

1256 it had passed to Aumary de St. Amand, who then obtained a quitclaim of their rights in it from

Mabel the wife of Thomas de Kedesovere and Thomas Hemming, apparently the co-heirs of Sewal. It

subsequently followed the descent of East Ilsley (q.v.) until 1433, when Elizabeth the wife of

William Beauchamp and great-granddaughter of the last Aumary de St. Amand quitclaimed her right in

it to Sir Robert Shottesbrook, who had apparently been holding it since the death of Eleanor St.

Amand in 1426. Eleanor daughter and heir of Sir Robert Shottesbrook married Sir John Cheney of

Sherland in the Isle of Sheppey. At the death of Sir John Cheney this manor passed under a deed of

settlement to his son John. This John Cheney was a strong supporter of Henry VII, and both he and

his brother Robert, who seems to have been then holding West Woodhay, were attainted in 1483, and in

1484 Richard III granted the manor to his nephew, John de la Pole Earl of Lincoln. The manor was,

however, afterwards recovered by John Cheney, who distinguished himself at Bosworth and again at

Stoke. He was elected K.G. shortly after Henry's accession and was summoned to Parliament as

a baron
in 1487. He died without issue on 30 May 1499, and his heir was then found to be his nephew Francis,
the son of his elder brother William, but it was afterwards stated that by the terms of the settlement West Woodhay was to remain in tail-male successively to Robert and Roger, his younger
brothers. Sir Robert Cheney died seised of the manor on 6 August 1503, and, as he had no sons and
Sir Roger Cheney was already dead, the estate should have passed to Sir Roger's son John Cheney, but
Francis took possession of the profits and brought an action against Margaret, Sir Robert's widow,
for detention of deeds relating to this manor. Sir Francis died childless in 1512 seised of the
estate, which passed to John, his cousin, who had livery of this manor in 1515, settled it on the
marriage of his son John with Dorothy daughter of John Yate of Charney in 1531 and died seised of it
in 1545. John Cheney the younger about the year 1550 killed Robert Parrys, and his goods would have
been seized had not the Privy Council ordered them to be retained by his wife for the maintenance of
her children. John settled this manor on his wife Dorothy in 1559 and died seised of it in 1567,
when his heir was his son Thomas. It seems probable that his widow was married again almost immediately to one William Niell or Personnes, for in that autumn William with his wife Dorothy
quitclaimed her right in the manor to Thomas Cheney in return for an annuity of £120. Thomas died
in 1582, and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas Cheney, who sold the reversion of this manor,
then leased to Robert Oxenbridge during the life of Anne widow of Thomas Cheney, in 1586 to William
Darrell. Darrell obtained a quitclaim of their rights in the manor from Robert and Henry Cheney in
1589 and died childless in the same year. The reversion of this manor passed to his brother Thomas,
who left it at his death in 1591 to his son John Darrell. Anne Cheney was still in possession of the
profits of this manor in 1594 and Thomas Cheney made a fresh conveyance to John Darrell in 1598.
John Darrell was created a baronet on 7 June 1622 and with Anne his wife sold this manor in 1634 to
Sir Benjamin Rudyerd and his son William. Sir Benjamin Rudyerd, politician and poet, was Surveyor of
the Court of Wards and Liveries from 1618 to 1647, M.P. for Portsmouth in 1620, 1624 and 1625, for
Old Sarum in 1626, Downton in 1628 and Wilton in 1640. He died here in 1658, and was

succeeded by
his son William, who married Sarah daughter and co-heir of Sir Stephen Harvey of Northampton.
William died in 1661, leaving as his heir his infant son Benjamin, who placed the manor in settlement in 1681 and was vouchee, together with his son Benjamin, in a recovery of 1707. He seems
to have sold the manor a few years later to William Sloper, who was holding it in 1714. William
Sloper died in 1743, leaving two sons William and John. William succeeded to the manor, and was
buried here on 2 August 1789, when he was followed by his son General Sir Robert Sloper, who had
been knighted in 1788. General Sloper placed the manor in settlement in 1794, and was succeeded in
1802 by his eldest son Robert Orby Sloper, who was holding it in 1806. He was still living in 1821,
but seems to have died not long afterwards, and the manor passed to his son the Rev. John Sloper,
curate of this parish from 1823 to 1850 and afterwards rector. He was holding it in 1839, and died
on 1 October 1877, leaving by his wife Georgina a son Gerard Orby and several daughters. His will,
dated 10 February 1876, states that the manor must pass under the will of Sir Robert to his son
Gerard Orby Sloper, and it was sold by Gerard in 1880 to William Henry Cole. By his will, which was
proved in 1889, William Henry Cole left the West Woodhay property, subject to the life interest of
his widow, to his elder son Major William Utting Cole, who had married in 1879 Mary eldest daughter
of Major Horace de Vere, R.E. Major Cole died of cholera in India in 1892, and his eldest son
William Horace de Vere Cole succeeded to the estate on the death of Mrs. Jane Cole in 1906, but sold
it in 1912 to his uncle, the present owner, Alfred Clayton Cole, Governor of the Bank of England. In
1276 Aumary de St. Amand claimed the right of having a gallows in his manor of West Woodhay, besides
free warren on his demesne lands and assize of bread and ale. His son John de St. Amand, 28 July
1317, received a grant of a weekly market on Tuesdays and a yearly fair on the vigil, day and morrow
of the Purification.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- | Sewal de Oseville of the Earl of Hereford as of the honour of Plessey | Recorded holder |
- |
- | the Crown at the accession of Henry IV | Passed | |

- 1204 | John son of Roger | Grant | |
- 1256 | Aumary de St. Amand | Passed | |
- 1433 | Sir Robert Shottesbrook | Conveyance | |
- | Sir Robert Chency | Recorded holder | |
- 1503 | Sir Roger's son John Chency | Passed | |
- 1512 | John | Passed | |
- | Dorothy | Settlement | |
- | Thomas Cheney in return for an annuity of £120 | Conveyance | |
- | Thomas | Passed | |
- 1591 | John Darrell | Devise | |
- 1634 | Sir Benjamin Rudyerd and his son William | Sale | |
- 1658 | William | Succession | |
- | William Sloper | Sale | |
- 1821 | the Rev. John Sloper | Passed | |
- 1880 | William Henry Cole | Sale | |

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