

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0042479 • MANOR
Woolhampton

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Location: Woolhampton, Berkshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS
- Woolhampton | Associated | | Unverified

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

OverlordshipThe manor of WOOLHAMPTON belonged to Godric the Sheriff in the time of Edward the

Confessor, and in 1086 was in the possession of Henry Ferrers, whose descendants held it in demesne

or overlordship until 1266. When Robert Ferrers, sixth Earl of Derby, forfeited his lands for

rebellion in that year, the overlordship of Woolhampton seems to have been granted with his other

possessions to Edmund Earl of Lancaster, whose grandson Henry Earl of Derby and Duke of Lancaster

died seised of it in 1361. There is apparently no further mention of the overlordship, which must

have passed to the Crown on the accession of Henry Duke of Lancaster to the throne as Henry IV.

Lordship account 1The manor of Woolhampton was granted to the Prior and brethren of the hospital of

St. John of Jerusalem before 1159 by Robert Ferrers, second Earl of Derby, whose gift was confirmed

by King John in his charter of 1199. The Hospitallers are described about the same time as holding a

moiety of Woolhampton of the gift of Geoffrey de Hostreville. Possibly the latter was co-tenant of

the Ferrers fee with the predecessor of Henry de Chequers (see below). In 1227 the prior of the

Hospitallers, Robert de Diva, agreed that the moiety of Woolhampton held by Henry de Chequers should

do suit of court at the hundred of Reading, in return for which the abbot, Adam of Lathbury, quitclaimed to the prior all his right to suit and service from the other half together with his

right to fines and the goods of fugitives. The Knights Hospitallers remained in possession of the

manor of Woolhampton until the Dissolution. In 1544 Henry VIII granted the lands of the hospital in

Shalford and elsewhere to William Wollascott, who afterwards obtained from Queen Elizabeth

licence

to alienate them to Thomas Farmer and Edmund Plowden. This alienation, however, appears to have been

made only for the purpose of a settlement, as William Wollascott the younger was in possession of

both Shalford and Woolhampton in 1613, and the manors followed the descent of the manor of Brimpton

until 1906, when Woolhampton was bought from Mr. James Blyth, then lord of the manor, by a syndicate. The property is now being developed for building purposes.

Lordship account 2In 1227 Henry de Chequers had a holding in Woolhampton, which had previously

belonged to Roger Panculf, as under-tenant of Ferrers. His son and heir Ralf de Chequers died seised

of the estate before 1286, leaving as co-heir his daughter Katherine the wife of William Hawtrey;

her share was settled in that year upon William and Katherine and their children with remainder to

William's son and namesake. Thomas was the son and heir of this second William, but the estate

appears to have passed to Ralf Chenduit, son apparently of Agnes Chenduit, co-heir of Ralf de

Chequers. The property seems to have afterwards passed to Sir Thomas de Sibthorpe, clerk, who

granted land described as a twentieth of a knight's fee and rents in Woolhampton in 1341 to the

Prior and brethren of St. John in exchange for rents in Sibthorpe and the advowson of the church

there. In the following year, when the living of Sibthorpe fell vacant, the prior tried to evade his

share of the agreement, but Thomas brought an action against him in the court of King's Bench and

recovered the presentation. The tenements in Woolhampton granted by Sibthorpe were held of the Earl

of Derby by the service of one-twentieth of a knight's fee, and were worth, together with a rent

which he also gave, 8 marks yearly. It seems clear, however, that what the Hospitallers came into

possession of was the quarter of a fee which had belonged to Ralf Chenduit, for the prior was said

to be holding this in 1428. It was amalgamated with the other lands of the Hospitallers in Woolhampton. A messuage and 2 virgates of land in Woolhampton were held of the Prior of St. John of

Jerusalem in 1390 by Simon Godewyne, who in that year released his right in them to William Fauconer. In 1458 the property was settled on Margaret (Fauconer) the wife of Robert Fitz Elis or

Physeles, who died seised of the property in 1469, leaving as her heir her granddaughter Sibyl the

wife of George Ingilton. Sibyl was succeeded by Robert Ingilton, perhaps her son, who died

in 1503,
 leaving a widow Anne and a daughter and heir Joan. The descent of his holding in Woolhampton
 after
 this date is unknown.
 Lordship account 3 There was another manor in Woolhampton, not entered in Domesday Book,
 which was
 held in the 13th century by William Revel of Robert Achard by service of half a knight's
 fee. It
 seems to have passed to Ellis de St. Albans, rector of Wethersfield, before 1331, in which
 year it
 was valued at £20. It was then said to be held of the Abbot of Reading, but this was
 perhaps a
 mistake, as the overlordship, if this estate be the same, would have descended in the
 Achards and
 Delamares, the heirs of the last Robert Achard of Aldermaston. The half fee of Ellis de St.
 Albans
 was held in 1428 by John Delamare, who possibly belonged to a younger branch of the
 Delamares of
 Aldermaston. After this date its history becomes obscure, but it possibly reverted to the
 elder
 branch of Delamare at John's death, and descending to Sir Humphrey Forster became
 amalgamated with
 his lands in Woolhampton.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- | Edmund Earl of Lancaster | Grant | |
- | the Prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem | Grant | |
- 1544 | William Wollascott | Grant | |
- | and heir Ralf de Chequers | Recorded holder | |
- 1286 | William and Katherine and their children | Settlement | |
- | Ralf Chenduit | Passed | |
- | Sir Thomas de Sibthorpe | Passed | |
- 1390 | William Fauconer | Conveyance | |
- 1458 | Margaret (Fauconer) the wife of Robert Fitz Elis or Physeles | Settlement | |
- | Robert Ingilton | Succession | |
- | William Revel of Robert Achard by service of half a knight's fee | Recorded holder | |
- | Ellis de St. Albans | Passed | |
- | The half fee of Ellis de St. Albans | Recorded holder | |
- Attested 1428 | John Delamare | Recorded holder | |
- | the elder branch of Delamare at John's death | Reversion | |

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