

LANDOWNERSHIP

Although Compton Chamberlayne fell under the jurisdiction of South Damerham hundred during the later middle ages, a hundred made up of the possessions of Glastonbury Abbey, there is no evidence that it was ever held by Abbey.⁶⁶ In 1066 Compton Chamberlayne, a significant estate of 10 ploughlands, was held by Earl Harold, and it was held by king William in 1086.⁶⁷

The manor was held of the king in the 12th century by Warin of Lisores (Calvedos), sheriff of Wiltshire in 1130, who was probably the son of Geoffrey of Lisores.⁶⁸ The manor passed via Warin's daughter Rose to her grandson, Robert Chamberlain, who in 1208 demised one half share of the manor to Hugh of Haversham.⁶⁹

The Chamberlain half-manor was held in 1234 by Geoffrey Chamberlain,⁷⁰ who still held it in 1243;⁷¹ he may have been the son of Sir Hugh Chamberlain.⁷² One Philippe, daughter of Alexander of Ewyas and widow of one Robert Chamberlain,⁷³ conveyed part of her inheritance in Teffont Evias *c.* 1257–72, witnessed by one Sir Geoffrey Chamberlain, perhaps the same Geoffrey that held the half-manor in 1243, and possibly the father of Philippe's husband.⁷⁴ The Chamberlain half-manor was held by Robert Chamberlain in 1269,⁷⁵ probably the son of Robert and Philippe who confirmed conveyances in Teffont Evias in 1293.⁷⁶ The half-manor was held by Robert the son of Hugh Chamberlain in 1304.⁷⁷

Robert Chamberlain sold the estate to Richard Grimstead in 1309.⁷⁸ He may have been a distant relative; Geoffrey of Lisores' sister, Maud, married a member of the Grimstead family.⁷⁹ Richard Grimstead was succeeded by his son Thomas

⁶⁶ R. R. Darlington has suggested that Compton Chamberlayne might have been included but not specifically mentioned in a large grant made by King Edmund *c.* 945: *Sawyer*, S.513; *VCH Wilts II*, 96. See also Lesley Abrams, *Anglo-Saxon Glastonbury: Church and Endowment* (Woodbridge, 1996), p. 106.

⁶⁷ *Domesday*, p. 163.

⁶⁸ *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, IV, 367.

⁶⁹ Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1195–1272*, p. 10.

⁷⁰ *The Book of Fees*, I, 398.

⁷¹ *The Book of Fees*, I, 735.

⁷² *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, IV, 370.

⁷³ *VCH Wilts. XIII*, 188.

⁷⁴ Kirby (ed.), *Hungerford Cartulary: Radnor MS*, 165.

⁷⁵ TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/252/22/18; Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1195–1272*, p. 60.

⁷⁶ Kirby (ed.), *Hungerford Cartulary: Radnor MS*, 167, 169.

⁷⁷ TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/252/29/18; Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1272–1327*, p. 50.

⁷⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1307–1313, p. 156. See TNA: PRO, C 143/76/11; E 151/1/11. Also C 143/76/5, which suggests he granted the half-manor and the advowson to Hugh Chamberlain in 1308. See also Dunton, *VCH Beds. II*, 218–9.

⁷⁹ *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, V, 48–49.

Grimstead, who died *c.* 1328.⁸⁰ When John the infant son of Thomas died *c.* 1329, a partition was made between Thomas' sisters, whereby Margaret, wife of Thomas de Baynton (Beynton), inherited two-thirds of the estate and Katherine (d. 1333), wife of Ralph de Buckland, inherited the other third.⁸¹ Katherine's portion was held after her death by her second husband, John de Avenel, for the duration of his life, and then passed to her daughter by her first marriage, Joan, wife of John de Mauduit (d. 1355).⁸² Margaret's portion passed to her son Nicholas Baynton (d. 1412),⁸³ who inherited Joan's portion in 1369,⁸⁴ and the whole half-manor descended to his son, also Nicholas (d. 1422),⁸⁵ and grandson, John (d. 1465), and great-grandson Robert (d. 1475).⁸⁶

Robert Baynton also held the other half-manor from 1466, and thus reunited the manor.⁸⁷ After his attainder in 1475 because of his Lancastrian sympathies,⁸⁸ his lands were granted to John Cheyne.⁸⁹ Cheyne was himself attainted in 1484 for his involvement in the Buckingham rebellion against Richard III, and his lands were granted to George Neville.⁹⁰ Cheyne's attainder was reversed after the battle of Bosworth, however, and his estates were restored, passing to Anne, daughter of Edward Trussell.⁹¹ The attainder of Robert Beynton was then also reversed and the Baynton half-manor was restored to his son John (d. 1526). John Baynton was succeeded by his son Sir Edward (d. 1544) and his grandson Andrew.⁹² The Strickland half-manor, however, seems to have reverted instead to the Lucys by 1492.

Andrew Baynton sold the reversion of his half-manor *c.* 1546 to Sir Thomas Seymour (1st Baron Seymour of Sudeley from 1547).⁹³ Seymour was executed for treason in 1549, so *c.* 1557⁹⁴ Baynton sold the reversion to Sir George Penruddock (d.

⁸⁰ TNA: PRO, C 135/11/6; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 23. Thomas was the son of Richard de Grimstead and his wife Edith le Tablier; *VCH Wilts.* XI, 3–19.

⁸¹ TNA: PRO, C 135/11/7; *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1327–1336, p. 112. *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 25. *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, 1348–1377, pp. 321–2.

⁸² *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, 1348–1377, pp. 321–2.

⁸³ TNA: PRO, C 137/85/13; *Cal. Fine*, 1405–1413, p. 232.

⁸⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1365–1369, p. 377.

⁸⁵ TNA: PRO, C 138/59/48.

⁸⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1415–1422, p. 411.

⁸⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, 1422–1485, pp. 234–35.

⁸⁸ *VCH Wilts.* XI, 8.

⁸⁹ *Cal. Pat.*, 1467–1477, pp. 533–34.

⁹⁰ *Cal. Pat.*, 1476–1485, p. 549–50.

⁹¹ *Cal. Pat.*, 1494–1509, p. 188.

⁹² TNA: PRO, C 142/72/109.

⁹³ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/65/531/1EDWVITRIN.

⁹⁴ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/81/695/4&5PHIL&MARYTRIN.

1582),⁹⁵ and Baynton's widow Isabella sold the estate in 1559 to Penruddock in return for an annual rent of £25 11s 8d.⁹⁶

The Haversham half-manor was held by Hugh of Haversham (Bucks.)⁹⁷ in 1208,⁹⁸ by his son Nicholas (d. c. 1249) in 1234,⁹⁹ by his son Nicholas (d. 1274) in 1249,¹⁰⁰ and then by the latter's daughter Matilda.¹⁰¹ She married firstly James de la Plaunche, by whom she had a son and a daughter, William and Joan. Following the death of James c. 1306,¹⁰² she married John of Olney c. 1308. A settlement was made by which the half-manor was to pass to her son William de la Plaunche, with contingent remainders first to John, her son by John of Olney, and then to Joan de la Plaunche, who had married John of Pabenhams.¹⁰³

William de la Plaunche inherited the half-manor in 1329,¹⁰⁴ from whom it passed to his son William in 1335,¹⁰⁵ and then to his granddaughter Katherine (d. 1398), who held it with her husbands, first Sir Hugh Tyrell (d. 1381)¹⁰⁶ and then Sir Bernard Brocas (d. 1395).¹⁰⁷ Following Katherine's death, the estate passed to her sister, Lady Elizabeth Clinton (d. 1423).¹⁰⁸ During this time, the half-manor was usually in the hands of trustees.¹⁰⁹ She died without issue, and her heir was William Lucy, the descendant of Joan of Pabenhams, but her estates were claimed under the terms of the settlement by Walter Strickland, whose wife Isabel was the heir of John of Olney.¹¹⁰ His claim was upheld, and Elizabeth's trustees quitclaimed the estate to him in 1429.¹¹¹ Following Isabel Strickland's death in 1445, the half-manor passed to her son Richard (d. 1458), then a minor. He died without issue, and so the 'Strickland moiety' should have passed under the terms of the ancient settlement to William

⁹⁵ TNA: PRO, C 142/197/82.

⁹⁶ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/239/1ELIZIEASTER.

⁹⁷ *VCH Bucks. IV*, 366–72.

⁹⁸ TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/250/3/27; Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1195–1272*, p. 10.

⁹⁹ TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/250/8/27; Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1195–1272*, p. 22.

¹⁰⁰ TNA: PRO, C 132/12/2; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 5–6.

¹⁰¹ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 92–96.

¹⁰² TNA: PRO, C 133/122/4; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 322–23.

¹⁰³ *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, IV, 526. A similar settlement was made for the manor of Haversham (Bucks.): *VCH Bucks. IV*, 366–72. He appears already to have acquired some estate in the village by 1300; *Cal. Chart.*, 1300–1326, p. 391.

¹⁰⁴ *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, 1327–1336, p. 157.

¹⁰⁵ *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, 1327–1336, pp. 494–95.

¹⁰⁶ *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, 1377–1383, p. 171.

¹⁰⁷ TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/289/54/108; Kirby (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1377–1509*, p. 14.

¹⁰⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1391–1399, p. 406.

¹⁰⁹ TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/290/61/141; Kirby (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1377–1509*, p. 64.

¹¹⁰ *VCH Bucks. IV*, pp. 366–72.

¹¹¹ TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/292/66/87; Kirby (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1377–1509*, pp. 94–95.

Lucy of Charlecote (Warks.) (d. 1466),¹¹² but it seems to have been retained by another branch of the Strickland family.¹¹³

By 1492, the half-manor was held by Sir William Lucy, who died in that year.¹¹⁴ He was succeeded by his son Edmund (d. 1505),¹¹⁵ his grandson Sir Thomas (d. 1526) and his great-grandson William (d. 1551).¹¹⁶ William's son Thomas (later knighted, d. 1600) sold the half-manor c. 1557 to John Nicholas (d. 1596),¹¹⁷ whose son Robert sold it in 1596 to Sir Edward Penruddock (d. 1614),¹¹⁸ the son of Sir George,¹¹⁹ who thus reunited the manor.

The Reunited (Penruddock) Manor passed with Sir Edward Penruddock's death in 1614 to his son, Sir John (d. 1648), and his grandson John, who was executed in 1655 following an abortive uprising against the Cromwellian Protectorate. John was succeeded by his sons George (d. 1664) and then Thomas (d. c. 1698), who was succeeded by his son Thomas (d. 1741), his grandson Charles (d. 1769) and great-grandson Charles (d. 1788) and great-great-grandson John Hungerford Penruddock (d. 1841). When this latter died without issue, the estate descended to his great-nephew Charles (d. 1899), great-grandson of Charles Penruddock (d. 1769). Charles (d. 1899) was succeeded by his son Charles (d. 1929) and grandson George William, whose elder brother Charles and younger brother Thomas were both killed in action during the First World War. George William Penruddock sold the manor in 1930 to George Cross.¹²⁰ Cross sold Compton Park and House to Leonard Schuster c. 1956,¹²¹ from whom it was purchased by Derbe Berry.¹²² Cross continued to reside in the parish, at the Dower House, until his death, and his estate was purchased from his executors by John Newman and his wife in 1974,¹²³ who subsequently purchased the House and Park from Mr and Mrs Berry.¹²⁴

Overlordship. The overlordship of the manor remained in the hands of successive kings until, in 1203, King John granted the overlordship of the manor to

¹¹² *Cal. Close*, 1454–61, p. 243. TNA: PRO, C 139/169/35B.

¹¹³ TNA: PRO, C 1/44/139; CP 25/1/257/65/33; Kirby (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1377–1509*, p 154; *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, 1422–1485, pp. 234–35.

¹¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, 1485–1496, p. 360.

¹¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p. m., Hen. VII*, 1497–1505, p. 506.

¹¹⁶ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/46/319/17HENVIIIIMICH. For the descent of the Lucys, see 'Sir Thomas Lucy (d. 1600)', *Old DNB*, XII, 248–51.

¹¹⁷ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/81/694/3and4PHILandMARYTRIN; CP 25/2/81/695/4and5PHILandMARYHIL.

¹¹⁸ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/242/38ELIZIHIL; Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.*, IV(1) (Hun. S. Damerham), 86.

¹¹⁹ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/370/11JASIEASTER.

¹²⁰ *Burke's Landed Gentry*.

¹²¹ WSA, G 11/505/3.

¹²² Information from Mr J. Newman.

¹²³ Information from Mr J. Newman.

¹²⁴ Information from Mr J. Newman.

William Brewer (d. 1226) as a knight's fee.¹²⁵ Brewer's overlordship descended to his son-in-law William de Percy (d. 1245).¹²⁶ By 1303, overlordship of the Chamberlain portion of the manor had passed to Sir John Ferlington, who granted it to Edward I.¹²⁷ The overlordship of this half-manor remained with the crown in 1613.¹²⁸

By 1249, the Haversham portion had become attached to the manor of Grimstead, perhaps because of the marriage of Geoffrey of Lisores's daughter into the Grimstead family. It was held by John of Grimstead in 1249,¹²⁹ Sir John in 1274,¹³⁰ Andrew (d. 1325) in 1306,¹³¹ John in 1325,¹³² Adam (d. c. 1347) and John (d. c. 1363). The heir of this last-named John was his cousin, Reynold Perrot (d. 1370), son of Adam Grimstead's sister.¹³³ However, John had sold the reversion of the manor of West Grimstead to John Bettesthorn (d. 1380),¹³⁴ but this was disputed. The estates were seized into the King's hands and granted by letters patent to Robert of Beverley, prompting Bettesthorn to petition Parliament.¹³⁵ This possibly created a confused situation, and in 1381 the manor was described as being held of 'the lord of Grimstead',¹³⁶ but it was restored to Bettesthorn, and subsequently this half of Compton Chamberlayne manor was held by Lady Elizabeth Clinton from his son Sir John (d. 1399).¹³⁷ His heir, his daughter Elizabeth, married Sir John Berkeley, and Lady Clinton held her portion of the manor of him in 1423.¹³⁸ Berkeley was succeeded by his son Sir Maurice and grandson Sir Maurice.¹³⁹ Sir Maurice was succeeded by his daughter, the wife of Sir John Brereton, but overlordship of this portion of the manor seems instead to have been attached to the Hungerfords. It was held of Robert, Lord Hungerford in 1458,¹⁴⁰ of the heirs of Robert Hungerford in 1467,¹⁴¹ of the heir of Sir Robert Hungerford in 1492,¹⁴² and of the heir of Robert

¹²⁵ *Rot. Chart.*, 110. For Brewer, see *New DNB*, 3369, accessed 23 Nov., 2010.

¹²⁶ *Book of Fees*, I, 398.

¹²⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1302–1307, pp. 194–95.

¹²⁸ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/370/11JASIEASTER.

¹²⁹ TNA: PRO, C 132/12/2; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 5–6.

¹³⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1272–1291, pp. 54–55; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 92–96.

¹³¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1301–1307, p. 242.

¹³² *Cal. Close*, 1323–1327, p. 442.

¹³³ TNA: PRO, C 135/170/20; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.*, 1327–1377, pp. 307–08.

¹³⁴ TNA: PRO, C 135/170/20, C 135/178/2; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.*, 1327–1377, pp. 307–08, 324

¹³⁵ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.*, Alderbury, 203; *Rot. Parl.*, II, 354.

¹³⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1377–1383, p. 171.

¹³⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1391–1399, p. 406.

¹³⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1422–1427, p. 307.

¹³⁹ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.*, Frustfield, pp. 48–49; TNA: PRO, C 135/84/17.

¹⁴⁰ TNA: PRO, C 139/169/35b.

¹⁴¹ TNA: PRO, C 140/17/30.

¹⁴² *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, *Hen. VII*, 1485–1496, p. 360.

Hungerford in 1526.¹⁴³ By the 17th century, however, the identity of the overlord of the erstwhile Haversham half of the manor had become unclear.¹⁴⁴

Manor House

In 1328, the manor house of the Chamberlain half-manor was a substantial two-storey building, with a complex of associated outhouses which included a granary and a larder. There were also buildings for cattle, sheep, pigs and a dovecote.¹⁴⁵

Compton House was built in the late 16th century next to the parish church, on the ancient manorial site shared by the farmhouses of the two half-manors.¹⁴⁶ In 1597, one of these farmhouses was considered suitable to serve as outhouses for the newly-built mansion,¹⁴⁷ and this may account for medieval material incorporated into the fabric of the house. Stone buttress on the west side may point to a mediaeval origin. A 17th-century newel stair remains on the west side, lit by ovolo-moulded two- and three-light mullioned windows. Another feature of this date, or perhaps slightly earlier, is a 4-centred arched blocked doorway set below the level of the north forecourt, which now backs onto a utility area.¹⁴⁸

The house was rebuilt by Charles Penruddock in the late 18th century; commemorated by a rainwater head on the south-west front dated 1780. Its elevations are largely of dressed limestone with sash windows and castellated parapets under Welsh slate roofs. The principal elevation, a plain symmetrical front of sash windows, those on the ground floor being Venetian, faces east onto Compton Park. Attached to the left is a two-storey service range behind a three-bay loggia with double-chamfered pointed arches. The detached range to the west was an addition of about the third quarter of the 19th century and contained a game larder, dairy, laundry, and fuel store.

The house is entered by a square stone castellated porch with a 4-centred arched doorway. It leads to a large hall with an open-well early 18th century stair with two barleytwist balusters per tread. An undated drawing in the house shows the stair hall as the 'Justice Room', with a railed platform supported on posts attached mid-way up the staircase. This lofty perch no longer exists but scarf joints in the stair carpentry point to possible evidence for such a structure. To the south of the entrance hall is a richly-panelled drawing room in Grinling Gibbons style. It has good carved broken-pediment doorcases and an overmantel panel to the bolection-

¹⁴³ TNA: PRO, C 142/43/51.

¹⁴⁴ TNA: PRO, C 142/340/205.

¹⁴⁵ TNA: PRO, C 135/13/2; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 26–30.

¹⁴⁶ The 1597 field book refers to 'the mansion house of both manors lately built by Penruddocke, consisting of many fair and convenient rooms, well contrived and strongly built with free stone': WSA, 332/252, f. 8v.

¹⁴⁷ WSA, 332/252, f. 8v.

¹⁴⁸ NHL, No. 1146151, Compton Park House, accessed 28 Nov. 2013.

moulded fireplace. To the right of the hall the dining room has been altered *c.* 1780 in Adam style with a fine plaster ceiling and fireplace. Of note are the rear breakfast room with a shallow barrel-vaulted ceiling, also a small sitting room at the south end with full raised panelling and eared-surround fireplace of the early 18th century.

OTHER ESTATES

Rectory Estate. In 1341, the rector held a messuage worth 3s. and a virgate of arable land worth 10s.¹⁴⁹ This may have been the same small estate of a messuage, 4 a. of land and 12s. of rent granted with the advowson to St Edmund's College, Salisbury in 1349.¹⁵⁰ The rectory estate consisted of a house with garden and orchard, 21 a. of pasture, 24 a. of arable, and 2½ a. of meadow in 1597.¹⁵¹ Presumably, the estate was purchased with the advowson by John Penruddock in the early 17th century; his son leased the former rectory estate separate from other parts of the estate,¹⁵² but thereafter it became absorbed into the manorial demesne.

St John's Hospital Estate. In 1330, John de Harnham gave a messuage, 10 a. of land and 6s. of rent to St John's Hospital, Wilton, to celebrate annually the obit of Robert le Chamberlain, and to provide two candles on the high altar daily.¹⁵³ By 1826, this had increased to 15 a. of arable, 6 a. of pasture, and a small trapezoid of land north of the Garston containing three tenements, with common rights for 30 sheep and 6 beasts.¹⁵⁴ After a long dispute over the land between the Prior of St John's and Charles Penruddock, who as tenant of the Priory lands had removed the boundaries between them and his lands,¹⁵⁵ an agreement was reached to exchange the Priory estate in Compton for lands in Baverstock.¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁹ *Non. Inq.*, p. 169.

¹⁵⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1348–1350, p. 405; *VCH Wilts.* III, 386–7.

¹⁵¹ WSA, 332/252, *passim*.

¹⁵² WSA, 332/73.

¹⁵³ *Cal. Pat.* 1330–1334, p. 21; *VCH Wilts.* III, 365.

¹⁵⁴ WSA, 332/40.

¹⁵⁵ WSA, 1671/11/2.

¹⁵⁶ WSA, 332/276.