

BARONIES
in the Chester county pleas,
CHES 29/1–22
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WYCH MALBANC BARONY

(Nantwich)

William Chaplain had been caught with a stolen horse by the bailiffs of Wych Malbanc, but he declared that he was a liege, that the horse was his, and called for an inquisition. Because they could not hold such an inquisition, then, as customary, they took him to Chester castle. Brought before the bench there he called for an inquisition, which found that he was a thief and had stolen the horse: he was adjudged to be hung. However, the bailiffs of Wych Malbanc claimed the barony's right to hang him themselves, and he was delivered to them: but because the day was almost over they let him be gibetted there and then, reserving to themselves their right to have done so.

1:163: 1 June 1260

T^rminat^r

Mem^d quod Will' chapelein capt^s fuit cu' q^ada' equa furata p^r ball'os baronu' de Wico malbanc'. & posuit sein inqⁱsic'one quod fidelis erat & quod d'ca equa sua pp^a fuit. Et quia d'ci baronis inqⁱsic' inde cape no' pot^ru't id'o ut moris est ip'm dux^rut ad Com' Cestr'. Et ibi it^ru' coram banco posuit se in inquis'. que dicit quod lat^o est & d'cam eq^am cepat. Id'o adiudicat' fuit q^d suspendat^r. Ball'i p^rd'cor^r baronu' exigu't d'cm lat^one' ad iudiciu' de se faciend'. & p^r iudiciu' sⁱ fuit delib'at^s. & quia dies ppe fuit elaps^s aco'modauer't Gibettu' salua eor^r lib'tate.

William Malbanc was tenant in chief, under the earl of Chester, of Wych at Domesday. The barony survived intact to a third generation, but his grandson William Malbanc left no sons.

In 1288, a hundred years later, an inquiry was made by the justice of Chester as to how the barony had become divided. According to the inquisition, these parts had emerged:

A. A sixth part held by John de Ganlowe, being the part of the first daughter of the first daughter of William.

B. A sixth part held by Alexander de Venables and Johanna his wife, being the part of the second daughter of the first daughter of William.

C. A third part held by James Audley, being the part of the second daughter of William.

D. A sixth part held by Ralph de Vernon, being the part of the first daughter of the third daughter of William.

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E. An eighteenth, being the part of the first daughter of the second daughter of the third daughter of William: sold to John de Sancto Petro

F. An eighteenth, being the part of the second daughter of the second daughter of the third daughter of William: sold to John de Wetenhall.

G. A 36th part, being the part of the first daughter of the third daughter of the third daughter of William: sold to Richard Leftwich.

H. A 36th part, being the part of the second daughter of the third daughter of the third daughter of William: sold to Ralph de Vernon the grandfather.

11 May 1288

Harley 2115 f. 135. Helsby iii 422-423

Dominus Willelmus Malbanck nuper tenuit baroniam Wici Malbani integralis, et quia obiit sine heredibus masculis baronia divisa fuit inter filias forma sequenti, ut patet per inquisitionem captam die Martis proximo post festum ascensionis domini anno regni regis Edwardi primi decimo sexto⁵⁵ coram Reginaldo Grey tunc justiciario comitis Cestriæ.

Prima filia habuit tertiam partem Wici Malbani cum castro ibidem, exceptis illis terris quas idem Willelmus prius dedit abathie de Cumbermere, tertiam partem manerii de Newhall, Aston juxta Hurleston, Acton, et Haselington in dominico, et [tertiam partem] de Cowell et de Wolstanwoode; et habuit homagium et servitium dominorum villarum subscriptarum, viz. Bartumleghe, Crewe, Leghton, Aston in Mondrem, Cholmeston, Stoke, Lancan, duas partes de Tranmoll, Buyrton, Alvaston, Church Mynshull, Wistaston, Rope, Willaston, Wytpull, Norbury, Wirswall, Row Shotwick, et Thingwall. Ista filia habuit duas filias, inter quas terræ prædictæ de purparte sua partitæ fuerunt.

Prima habuit castrum Wici Malbani, sextam partem maneriorum de Newhall, Aston juxta Hurleston, Acton et Haslington, et sextam partem de Cowell et Wolstan woode in dominico, et alienavit inde diversas parcelas terræ ut patet per tenentes inde, et in homagio et servicio habuit Bartumleghe, Crwe, Leghton, Aston in Mondrem, Cholmeston, Stoke, Landcan, duas partes de Tranmoll, quæ quidem servicia reddita fuerunt, in manum domino Ranulpho comiti Cestriæ, per comitem de Warwico tunc tenentem, et quæ modo sunt in manu Johannis Griffin, et habuit servicium de Burton, Alvaston, et Church Mynshull, quæ dominus Johannes de Ganlowe nunc tenet.

Secunda filia habuit sextam partem Wici Malbani, sextam partem maneriorum de Newhall, Aston juxta Hurleston, Acton, et Haslington, et sextam partem de Cowell, Wolstan Wood, in dominico, et alienavit inde diversas partes, prout patet per tenentes inde et in homagio et servicio habuit Wystaston, Rope, Willaston, Witpull, Norbury, Wireswall, Roo Shoiwick, et Thingwall, quæ Alex. de Venables et Johanna uxor ejus modo tenent.

Secunda filia habuit tertiam partem Wici Malbani exceptis terris concessis abathie de Cumbermere, tertiam partem de Cowell, Wolstanwoode et ii partes manerii de Newhall, et Aston juxta Mondrem, Hurleston in dominico, et Acton, et habuit homagium et servitium dominorum villarum infra scriptarum, viz. de Becheton, Hassal, Worlaston, Wrenbury, Chorle, Backford, Monke Copenhale, Over Bebinton, ii partes de Barneston, Badington, Bromehall, Sonde, Alstanton, Bertherton, ii partes de Cherleton, ii partes de Teverton, quæ

⁵⁵ Tuesday 11 May 1288: 'date corrected from an exemplification at Chester'

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quidem tenementa cum servicio modo sunt in manu Jacobi Audlegh: et sciendum quod Hatherton est de hundredo Wici Malbani, sed in quam partem devenerit ignoratur; et Blakenhall, Chackiley, Dudington, Briddesmere, Hunsterton et Lee, non sunt de baronia ista, sed de baronia de Kinderton, et Shipbrooke.

Tertia filia habuit tertiam partem Wici Malbani exceptis terris concessis abathie de Cumbermere tertiam partem de Cowell et Wolstanwoode, partem manerii de Hurdleston et Acton, et ii partes de Haselington in dominico, et habuit homagia et servicia dominorum et villarum de Audlim, Hankelow, Titenlegh, Merbury, Stapelegh, Badelegh, Fadelegh, Burlond, Edlaston, Barrettespull, Weston, Wydinbury, Houghe, Savinton, Walkerton, Church Copenhall, Henhull, Alsager, tertiam partem de Cherlton, et Wightreson, et Penesby. Ista filia habuit duas filias inter quas tenementa prædicta cum servitiis partita fuerunt.

Prima habuit sextam partem Wici Malbani, sextam partem de Cowell et Wolstanwoode, sextam partem maneriorum de Acton et de Hurdleston, duas partes de Haselington in dominico, et homagia et servicia habuit in sep'ali Audlem, Hankelow, Henhull, et Alsacher, quæ dominus Radulphus de Vernon modo tenet; cum omnibus serviciis quæ sunt in conjunctione inter ipsam et parcenarios suorum, viz. Johanne de Sancto Petro, Johannem de Wettenhall, et Ricardum Leftwich.

Secunda filia habuit sextam partem de Cowell et de Wolstanwoode, et sextam partem maneriorum de Hurdleston et Acton, sed de Haselington nihil. Quæ quidem habuit tres filias inter quas pro parte sua partita sunt, quæ tres filie vendiderunt, pro parte sua diversis tenentibus, viz. Johanni de Sancto Petro, pro parte unius, et Johanni de Wettenhall pro parte alterius, et Ricardo Leftwich medietatem propartis tertiæ sororis, et Radulpho de Vernon, avo ultimi dicti Radulphi, aliam medietatem propartis tertiæ sororis.

Memorandum quod dicta baronia tenetur de domino rege in jure comitatus Cestriæ in capite.

However, the 1580 visitation of Cheshire, for what it is worth, differed as to the genealogy:

Harleian Society xviii 158: Harley 1424 f. 98; Harley 1505 f. 101v

...

Will'm's Malbank Baro' de Nantw^{ch}.

[issue:]

Auda de Malbank

[married firstly] *de Altaripus*

[issue:]

Hugo de Altaripus

[married secondly] *Warren de Vernon*

[issue:]

Warren^s

[issue:]

Margreta vxor Ric'i Wilbraham militis

[issue:] ...

Matheus

[issue:]

Radulphus Vernon senior

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Phillipa vxor Tho. Bassett Baro. de Haddington

[issue:]

Philippa vxor Henrici Com. Warw. et obiit sine exitu

Alicia

Jane vxor Reynaldi de Valletort et Will'm's Courtney A^o 36.H.3.⁵⁶

Elenora nupta Henrico de Alditheley.

Alicia vxor . . . Domini de Waleia.

[issue:]

Joh'es de Waleia

The division of the barony took place in such a way that instead of different manors being handed out to different strands of the family, the descendants held third or sixth or twelfth or 36th shares of manors. This not only ensured the effective destruction of the barony, but also means that we cannot trace or verify these descents by examining what happened to particular manors. As with other baronies, attempts were made later to gather together some of the shattered fragments.

⁵⁶ 1251-1252