

BARONY OF BENINGTON

in the parish of Benington
in the county of Hertfordshire



BARON OF BENINGTON
IN THE PARISH OF BENINGTON
IN THE COUNTY OF HERFORDSHIRE

The UK's Leading Authority on manorial and feudal titles is the MANORIAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

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We research Manorial and Feudal titles (Lord of the Manor and Barony) for their historical history and lineage of holders. Most manorial titles originated around 1080 and were issued by William the Conqueror to his right hand men in battle.

The term 'Lord of the Manor' came about in the 16th century. Before that the manors and castles with administrative duties were held by barons.

Many titles appear to be dormant and unused for several hundred years, but in reality, this is not the case much of the time. A manorial title found in the historical history via online platforms such as British-History, may look to be dormant as its history is not detailed after a certain time in the past, but the reality is that many titles do have current holders up to today. The Church holds hundreds of titles as indeed Universities up and down the country hold hundreds of titles, families of nobility are sitting on hundreds of titles, some titles are escheat (returned to the Crown) others are held by Parish, Town and County Councils, many titles are held within normal families. There is not any requirement under the law to register a manorial title.

Unfortunately, this has led to several platforms selling titles of which they simply do not own.

If you are interested in purchasing a title from a company/platform, then it is best to refer to our website: www.manorialtitlesbeware.com for free advise and help/

We can research the validity of a title for you.

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There is controversy over this title as a company/platform called Manorial Counsel Ltd sold a title by the name of Barony of Benington in the parish of Benington in the county of Hertfordshire

Manorial Counsel Ltd did not own this title and their client has purchased an invalid title which has been fraudulently registered on the Official Gazette by Manorial Counsel's Solicitors, Hattons.

This research of the history and the lineage of the Barony of Benington will show you that it is held today by the family of the last holder in the British-History records. It also proves that Manorial Counsel Ltd had no right to sell the title and their solicitors had no right to register the title on The Gazette.

Full details can be viewed: [Barony of Benington | manorialtitlesbeware](#)

Other Notices

BARONY TITLES

TAKE NOTICE that exclusive hereditary rights derived from the following title:

Feudal Barony Title of Benington, Hertfordshire have been conveyed The Honourable David Edward Ashton-Lewis of Australia on the 22nd July 2019.

It should be noted that the title has been created by legal process, not through a re-grant or re-establishment by the Crown.

All enquiries to Manorial Counsel Limited, The Icon, Daventry, NN11 0QB

Solicitors acting; Hatton Solicitors, 1 Sheaf Street, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 4AA. SRA number 125364 (ref Hatton's) as agents for and on behalf of Manorial Counsel Limited England and Wales 8464518 The iCon, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 0QB.

As you can see on this notice the solicitors, Hattons, had the cheek of placing the dignity of 'Honourable' before their clients name??? The dignity of Honourable is for peerage titles and not feudal titles.

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BENINGTON

Belintone (xi cent.); Beninton (xii cent.); Beniton (xiv cent.).

The parish of Benington has an area of 3,060 acres, of which 1,769 acres are arable land, 838½ acres permanent grass, and 129½ acres wood. ([fn. 1](#)) The greater part of the parish is over 300 ft. above the ordnance datum, and rises at two points in the north at the upper end of the village, and in the east where Benington Lodge is situated, to over 400 ft. The River Beane forms the western boundary of the parish and the road from Walkern to Watton runs parallel to it. The road from Aston to Benington crosses this, and in the centre of the latter village divides, turning north to meet another branch from the Walkern road, and south towards Hebing End and Whempstead. No railway passes through the parish, the nearest station being Knebworth, 4½ miles south-west. The subsoil is chalk and clay.

There are many chalk-pits in the parish, six of which are still in use, and two gravel-pits in the southwest. The village stands upon a hill, with St. Peter's Church, the manor-house called the Lordship, and the remains of the castle surrounded by a moat standing in a park on the western side of the road. On the south side of the village green is a row of 16th-century timber and plaster and tiled cottages. One of them, known as the Priest's House, has the timber work exposed. The rectory, which stands to the north of the church, is an interesting brick house of two stories with attics. Over the main entrance is the date 1637, which probably indicates the date of building. Towards the end of the 17th century a wing was added at the back and further additions have been made in more recent years. It contains original staircases with square newels and turned balusters and some good 18th-century panelling. Attached to the rooms on the first floor are 'powder closets.'

Beyond the village to the north the road rises to Box Hall, with Cabbage Green a short distance to the east. Along the road turning south-east from the centre of the village is Benington Place, surrounded by a large park, the residence of Mr. Richard Hargreaves, J.P., and south of it the hamlet of Hebing End, , in which is Benington House,

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the residence of Mrs. Parker, widow of the late Rev. James Dunne Parker, LL.D., D.C.L. To the west of Hebing End is Burn's Green, and to the south Cutting Hill. Great Brookfield Common, Lamsden Common, and Leatherfield Common lie in the south of the parish, with Small Hopes Wood and Stocking Spring to the north of the last. Moon Leys Spring is on the south-eastern border. Slipes Farm is situated a little to the west of the Lordship Park.

The inclosure award made in 1858 is in the custody of the rector. [\(fn. 2\)](#)

Field-names mentioned in 1638 are Dane Field, Peate Croft, Puckellshedge Field, Great and Little Brooke Field, Lether Field, Popp-hill Field, Baddmeads, Paddocks Penn, Ox Shott Hill, Stocking Corner Shott, Chisill Hill, Beaddales Bush, Langdale Shott, Stowdale and Rowdale Shott. [\(fn. 3\)](#)

CASTLE

Nothing is known of the history of *BENINGTON CASTLE*. The earthworks may have been thrown up by Peter de Valognes, when Benington became the head of the Valognes barony. [\(fn. 4\)](#) They were in all probability defended in the usual way by a timber tower on top of the mound or 'motte,' which was surrounded by a moat. There was a bailey to the east and within an outer ward on the south the church may have been included. [\(fn. 5\)](#) Roger de Valognes, son of Peter, was a partisan of Geoffrey de Mandeville during the period of anarchy in Stephen's reign. He was present with Mandeville at Stephen's celebrated Easter court in 1136, and died in 1141 or 1142. It was this Roger who probably built the masonry works of the castle, upon the earthworks possibly thrown up by his father, for had the earthworks been made in his time they would not have settled sufficiently to carry the masonry walls in Stephen's reign. The keep (*turris*) of the castle was destroyed by Henry II as an adulterine or unlicensed castle in 1177, the charge for the 100 picks used in its demolition being rendered in the Exchequer accounts. [\(fn. 6\)](#) The castle, which as a masonry building can only have had an existence for some forty years

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was never rebuilt. [\(fn. 7\)](#) The ruins, which yet remain above the ground, consist of the bottom courses of the 12th-century keep, destroyed in 1177, rising only to a height of about 2 ft. 6 in. above the ground. It measures about 44 ft. by 41 ft. externally, the walls, which are of flint rubble with ashlar dressings, being from 7 ft. to 8 ft. in thickness with two pilaster buttresses about 4 ft. wide projecting 2 ft. at each angle and one in the middle of each wall. The bailey was surrounded by a curtain wall, fragments of which have been found.

Although the castle was abandoned, the lords of Benington continued to have a residence here probably on the site of the existing house.

MANOR

BENINGTON was the head of a Saxon lordship of some importance, which extended apparently into Sacombe, Layston, Ashwell, Hinxworth and Radwell. [\(fn. 8\)](#) It was held in the time of Edward the Confessor by Ælmar or Æthelmar, and before him possibly by Æfric of Benington. [\(fn. 9\)](#) William the Conqueror granted the lands of Ælmar to Peter de Valognes, who was sheriff of the county in 1086. [\(fn. 10\)](#) Peter de Valognes, as successor to Ælmar, made **Benington the head of the Valognes barony, which was sometimes styled later the honour of Benington.** Here we find he had 6½ hides in demesne and a park for beasts of the chase, and here either Peter or his son Roger [\(fn. 11\)](#) built the castle. [\(fn. 12\)](#)

Roger, who probably died in 1141 or 1142, [\(fn. 13\)](#) had two sons, Peter, who died about 1158, [\(fn. 14\)](#) and whose wife's name was Gundrea, [\(fn. 15\)](#) and Robert, who held the **barony of Valognes** during the reign of Henry II, [\(fn. 16\)](#) and who died about 1194. [\(fn. 17\)](#) Robert de Valognes was succeeded by Gunnora, his daughter. She married Robert Fitz Walter, but kept the name of Valognes, [\(fn. 18\)](#) and died before 1238. The estates next came to Christiana de Valognes, Gunnora's daughter, [\(fn. 19\)](#) who married William de Mandeville.

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Christiana died without issue in 1233, [\(fn. 20\)](#) when her estates were divided between three heiresses—Lora, who married Henry de Balliol, Christiana the wife of Peter de Maigne, [\(fn. 21\)](#) and Isabel, who married David Comyn. [\(fn. 22\)](#) Benington was appor-tioned to Lora and her husband, [\(fn. 23\)](#) who died some time before 1272, [\(fn. 24\)](#) and whose son Alexander de Balliol held it in 1278. [\(fn. 25\)](#)

In 1303 Alexander de Balliol conveyed the manor to John de Benstede and his heirs. [\(fn. 26\)](#) This John was king's clerk at the time of the grant, and in 1307 keeper of the wardrobe. [\(fn. 27\)](#) In 1309 he was appointed one of the six justices for the Common Bench, and held this appointment until 1320. [\(fn. 28\)](#) In 1311 he received leave of ab-sence to go to Rome on the king's business. [\(fn. 29\)](#) In 1315 he was again sent abroad with Thomas de Cantebrugge to carry the king's instructions to Almaric de Craon, Seneschal of Gascony, Amaneus Lord of Lebret, and other officials in Gascony and Aquitaine. [\(fn. 30\)](#) In 1317 he was appointed one of the two commissioners of array for Hertfordshire. [\(fn. 31\)](#) In 1319 he was again sent 'beyond seas,' [\(fn. 32\)](#) and died in 1323. [\(fn. 33\)](#) His widow Parnel held Benington in dower during her life, [\(fn. 34\)](#) outliving their son Edmund, who apparently died about 1338, [\(fn. 35\)](#) her own death occurring before April 1342. [\(fn. 36\)](#) The custody of John, her grandson, Edmund's son and heir, aged ten, was granted to Walter de Mauny. [\(fn. 37\)](#) John died in 1359, [\(fn. 38\)](#) his widow Parnel retaining a third of the manor in dower until her death in 1378. [\(fn. 39\)](#) The remainder of the manor passed meanwhile from John's eldest son John, who died in 1376, to his brother Edward, [\(fn. 40\)](#) to whom Parnel's portion reverted after her death in 1378. [\(fn. 41\)](#) The manor was held at this time as a third of two knights' fees. [\(fn. 42\)](#) Edward died in 1432, [\(fn. 43\)](#) and Benington was held by his widow Joan during her life, the reversion being settled on their son Edmund. [\(fn. 44\)](#) Edmund died in 1439, his heir being his grandson John, [\(fn. 45\)](#) to whom the whole manor reverted on the death of Joan in 1449. [\(fn. 46\)](#) John's son William, who succeeded his father in 1471, being then a minor, [\(fn. 47\)](#) evidently fought on the Yorkist side against Henry VII, for he received a

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pardon 'for all offences' in 1485. [\(fn. 48\)](#) Before this he had sold the reversion of the manor, provided that he died without issue, to Edward IV; but after the change of dynasty he conveyed it to trustees to uses unspecified in his inquisition. In 1485 he died childless and his aunt and heir Ellen succeeded. [\(fn. 49\)](#) One Edmund or Edward Benstede, presumably the nearest male heir, claimed the manor, having seized the deed of entail, which was locked in a chest at the time of William's death. [\(fn. 50\)](#) Joyce daughter of Sir Edmund Dudley also put in a claim, stating that William Benstede had left the manor to her for life by will, with remainder to Edward Benstede, but the trustees of William Benstede refused to surrender the manor to her. [\(fn. 51\)](#) In 1486 Edward Benstede released all his right in the manor to Sir William Say. [\(fn. 52\)](#) Next year Ellen Benstede, who was actually in possession, conveyed the manor to Sir William Say, [\(fn. 53\)](#) who, on account of William Benstede's sale of the reversion, had to obtain a pardon for acquiring the manor in 1488. [\(fn. 54\)](#) In 1486, the year previous to the actual conveyance of the manor, Ellen Benstede and Sir William Say seem to have held alternate courts there, [\(fn. 55\)](#) probably because the transaction was in progress.

In 1506 Sir William Say settled Benington on William Blount Lord Mountjoy, [\(fn. 56\)](#) the husband of his daughter Elizabeth, but Sir William outlived them, and upon his death in 1530 [\(fn. 57\)](#) the manor passed to Henry Earl of Essex, the husband of his second daughter Mary. In 1539 it was delivered to their daughter Anne and her husband, Sir William Parr, [\(fn. 58\)](#) from whom she was divorced in 1543. [\(fn. 59\)](#) In 1553 Sir William Parr Marquess of Northampton was attainted for doing homage to Lady Jane Grey and his lands were forfeited to the Crown [\(fn. 60\)](#); however, as the manor had been settled on him with remainder to his wife, Anne's interests [\(fn. 61\)](#) were safeguarded by a grant made to Robert Rochester and Edward Walgrave for a term of forty years. [\(fn. 62\)](#) After her death in January 1570–1 [\(fn. 63\)](#) Benington was granted to Walter Viscount Hereford, [\(fn. 64\)](#) who became Earl of Essex in 1572, and was her cousin and nearest heir. [\(fn. 65\)](#) Walter died in 1576, bequeathing the manor as a jointure to his wife Lettice,

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([fn. 66](#)) who afterwards married Sir Christopher Blount. She outlived Robert, her son, whose widow Frances married Richard Earl of Clanricarde ([fn. 67](#)) and seems to have held the manor in dower. ([fn. 68](#)) She joined with her son Robert Earl of Essex in conveying it to Sir Charles Adelmare or Caesar in 1614. ([fn. 69](#)) Charles was the third son of Sir Julius Caesar, who took the surname of Caesar from his father Caesare Adelmare, an Italian physician of Treviso, near Venice, who settled in England about 1550. ([fn. 70](#)) Sir Charles Caesar and his eldest son Julius both died of smallpox in 1642, and the manor passed to the second son Henry, ([fn. 71](#)) who was succeeded by his son Charles. ([fn. 72](#)) Charles died in 1694, ([fn. 73](#)) and his son Charles in 1741, ([fn. 74](#)) after whose death the manor was sold by trustees to Sir John Chesshyre in 1744. From him it passed to his nephew John Chesshyre, ([fn. 75](#)) who held it in 1774 ([fn. 76](#)) and was succeeded by his son, ([fn. 77](#)) also named John, before 1786. ([fn. 78](#)) In 1826 the last John Chesshyre sold Benington to George Proctor, who was succeeded by his son Leonard in 1840. ([fn. 79](#)) Leonard was still holding it in 1894, but before 1899 was succeeded by Arthur Procter Pickering, who died in 1902. **In 1905 Mr. Arthur F. Bott, the present lord of the manor, acquired it by purchase from Mr. Pickering's successor. ([fn. 80](#))**

It has remained to this day in the family of Mr Arthur F Bott

The Benington Lordship in Hertfordshire started life as a medieval castle, but has been transformed over the centuries into a comfortable house with ambitious neo-Norman additions and continues to thrive under owners Richard and Susanna Bott. James Bettley explains more, with photographs by Paul Highnam.

This was taken from a Country Life Article February 16, 2019.


Richard and Sussana Bott are the heirs to the titles of Lordship of Benington and Barony of Benington.

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Footnotes

- [1.](#) Statistics from Bd. of Agric. (1905).
 - [2.](#) *Blue Bk. Incl. Awards*, 63.
 - [3.](#) *Herts. Gen. and Antiq.* ii, 108–9.
 - [4.](#) See Assize R. 323; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 290.
 - [5.](#) For an account of the earthworks of the castle see *V.C.H. Herts.* ii, 112.
 - [6.](#) Pipe R. 23 Hen. II, m. 9.
 - [7.](#) In the extents of the manor in the 14th and 15th centuries there is no reference to the castle, only a capital message is returned (Inq. p.m. 17 Edw. II, no. 43; 11 Hen. VI, no. 38; 11 Edw. IV, no. 57).
 - [8.](#) *V.C.H. Herts.* i, 276.
 - [9.](#) *Ibid.* 276 n.
 - [10.](#) *Ibid.* 336b.
 - [11.](#) Dugdale, *Mon.* iii, 343.
 - [12.](#) See above.
 - [13.](#) Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, 172.
 - [14.](#) *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, p. cxciv.
 - [15.](#) *Ibid.* i, 362.
 - [16.](#) *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 281.
 - [17.](#) *Genealogist*, vi, 2.
 - [18.](#) *Ibid.*; *Excerpta e Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 317.
 - [19.](#) Clutterbuck, *op. cit.* ii, 278, quoting Register Priorati de Binham (Cott. MSS. Claud. D. xiii, 183); G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.
 - [20.](#) *Genealogist*, vi, 2.
 - [21.](#) See *Excerpta e Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 317.
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- [22.](#) It was not known whose daughters these heiresses were, and the whole history of the Valognes barony was in much confusion till Mr. Round put it right in the *Ancestor* (no. xi) in 1904. He there showed that the three co-heirs were the daughters of Gunnora's first cousin, Philip de Valognes of Panmure, Chamberlain of Scotland, who died in 1219. He considered Christiana wife of Peter de Maigne to be the youngest. He also showed that Gunnora was not the mother (as stated by Dugdale) of Robert Fitz Walter, so that the two baronies did not descend together.
- [23.](#) *Testa de Nevill* (Rec. Com.), 281.
- [24.](#) G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.
- [25.](#) *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 281; Assize R. 323, 325; *Feud. Aids*, ii, 430.
- [26.](#) *Cal. Pat.* 1301–7, p. 165 (licence for alienation); Chart. R. 32 Edw. I, m. 6 (confirmation of grant).
- [27.](#) *Cal. Close*, 1307–13, p. 26.
- [28.](#) *Ibid.* p. 231; 1317–21, p. 508.
- [29.](#) *Ibid.* 1307–13, p. 321.
- [30.](#) *Ibid.* 1313–18, pp. 103, 303, 328.
- [31.](#) *Ibid.* 1317–21, p. 96.
- [32.](#) *Ibid.* p. 317.
- [33.](#) Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Edw. II, no. 43.
- [34.](#) *Cal. Close*, 1323–7, p. 296; Chan. Inq. p.m. 16 Edw. III, no. 30.
- [35.](#) *Cal. Close*, 1341–3, p. 432.
- [36.](#) *Ibid.* 5 Chan. Inq. p.m. 16 Edw. III, no. 30.
- [37.](#) *Cal. Close*, 1341–3, p. 432.
- [38.](#) Chan. Inq. p.m. 33 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 110.
- [39.](#) *Ibid.* 2 Ric. II, no. 11; for court held by her see Ct. R. portf. 177, no. 8.
- [40.](#) Chan. Inq. p.m. 50 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 9.
- [41.](#) *Close*, 2 Ric. II, m. 22.
- [42.](#) *Feud. Aids*, ii, 443.
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[43](#). Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Hen. VI, no. 38.

[44](#). *Cal. Pat.* 1429–36, p. 251; Close, 11 Hen. VI, m. 3.

[45](#). Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Hen. VI, no. 43.

[46](#). *Ibid.* 27 Hen. VI, no. 27.

[47](#). *Ibid.* 11 Edw. IV, no. 57.

[48](#). *Cal. Pat.* 1476–85, p. 543.

[49](#). *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 28.

[50](#). Early Chan. Proc. bdle. 76, no. 33.

[51](#). *Ibid.* no. 124.

[52](#). Anct. D. (P.R.O.), A 4673. This Edward died childless in 1518 holding lands in Benington of Sir William Say. His heir was John Ferrers (Chan. Inq. p.m. [Ser. 2], xxxiv, 35).

[53](#). Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B 356.

[54](#). Pat. 4 Hen. VII, m. 7.

[55](#). Ct. R. portf. 177, no. 11.

[56](#). Close, 21 Hen. VII, pt. ii.

[57](#). Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), li, 50.

[58](#). Ct. of Wards, Misc. Bks. dlxxviii, fol. 372 d.

[59](#). G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

[60](#). *Ibid.*

[61](#). See Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdles. 8, no. 97; 12, no. 45; 22, no. 24; Chan. Decree R. 36, no. 28.

[62](#). Pat. 3 & 4 Phil. and Mary, pt. xii, m. 42.

[63](#). G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

[64](#). Pat. 12 Eliz. pt. iv, m. 18.

[65](#). *Ibid.*

[66](#). W. and L. Inq. p.m. xviii, 39.

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- [67.](#) G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*; Feet of F. Herts. East. 37 Eliz.
- [68.](#) Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 1 Jas. I; Mich. 11 Jas. I; Feet of F. Herts. Mich. 11 Jas. I.
- [69.](#) Ibid. Herts. Hil. 11 Jas. I; Recov. R. Hil. 11 Jas. I, rot. 56.
- [70.](#) *Dict. Nat. Biog.*
- [71.](#) Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dcclxxiv, 20.
- [72.](#) Chauncy, op. cit. 80.
- [73.](#) Ibid.
- [74.](#) Clutterbuck, op. cit. ii, 286–7.
- [75.](#) Ibid.; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*
- [76.](#) Com. Pleas Recov. R. Hil. 14 Geo. III, m. 38.
- [77.](#) Clutterbuck, op. cit. ii, 287.
- [78.](#) Ibid. 286–7; Recov. R. Trin. 20 Geo. III, rot. 363.
- [79.](#) Cussans, op. cit. *Broadwater Hund.* 128.
- [80.](#) Information supplied by Mr. A. F. Bott.
- [81.](#) *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 281; Assize R. 325.
- [82.](#) Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Hen. VI, no. 38.
- [83.](#) Chart. R. 33 Edw. I, no. 75.
- [84.](#) Pat. 3 Ric. II, pt. ii, m. 32.
- [85.](#) *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, v, g. 559 (29).
- [86.](#) Information from Rev. W. Mills.
- [87.](#) Dimensions: chancel, 33 ft. by 17 ft. 6 in.; north chapel, 33 ft. by 13 ft. 6 in.; nave, 48 ft. 6 in. by 26 ft.; west tower, 14 ft. square.
- [88.](#) *V.C.H. Herts.* i, 336*b*.
- [89.](#) Pat. 31 Edw. I, m. 8; Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Edw. II, no. 43; *Cal. Close*, 1323–7, p. 296; Chan. Inq. p.m. 50 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 9; 17 Hen. VI, no. 43; 27 Hen. VI, no. 27; Anct. D. (P.R.O.), A 4673; Pat. 12 Eliz. pt. iv, m. 18; Feet of F. Herts. Hil. 11 Jas. I; Recov. R. East. 7 Will. and Mary, rot. 162.

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90. Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

91. Bacon, *Liber Regis*.

92. *Clerical Guide*.

93. Recov. R. Hil. 14 Geo. III, rot. 327–8; Feet of F. Herts. East. 26 Geo. III; *Clerical Guide*.

94. *Clerical Guide*.

95. *Clergy List*.

96. Information from the Rev. W. Mills.

97. *Herts. Gen. and Antiq.* ii, 107–8.

98. Urwick, *Nonconf. in Herts.* 573.



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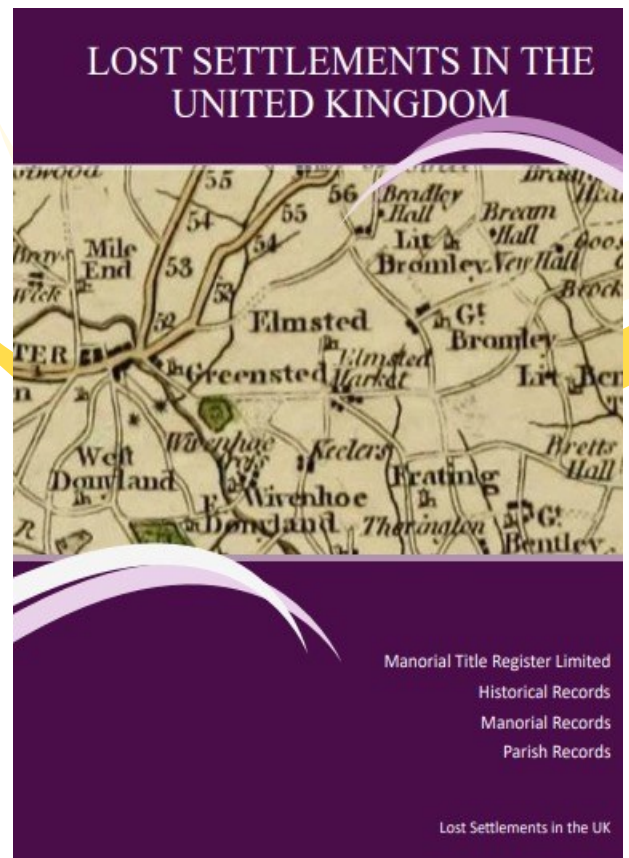
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