

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF TOTTENHAM MANOR

The Manor was held c. 1072 by Earl Waltheof and passed to his widow, Judith, niece of William the Conqueror who held it at the time of the Domesday survey. Her daughter Maud (Maltida) married David, son of Malcolm III of Scotland who was himself later King of Scotland.

David was granted Earldom of Huntingdon by Henry I with all the lands which had belonged to Waltheof including Tottenham.

To the middle of the 13th century it remained in the possession of the Scottish Royal Family. In 1254 it was divided into three parts and distributed to three claimants to the Scottish crown - Robert de Brus, John de Balliol and Henry de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke.

Balliol lost all his English lands in 1295 when he quarrelled with Edward I. His Tottenham lands were granted first to the Duke of Brittany, later to William Daubney, after which it passed through various hands until in 1449 John Gedeney died seized of it.

Bruce's portion also was sequestered by Edward I in 1306. After several changes the Bruce lands were in the hands of John Gedeney in c. 1429.

The third part remained mostly in the hands of the Hastings family until it was purchased by John Gedeney. When John Gedeney died all three manors had been reunited in one.

Bruce's manor was sometimes called Falconer's; Balliol's is termed Daubney's; Hastings is known as Pembroke's and one third part of Bruce's was known as Mocking's.

John Gedeney's family held the manor to 1512. On the failure of direct heirs it escheated to the crown. Henry VIII granted it to his groom of the bed chamber, Sir William Compton, in 1514. It was mortgaged or sold in 1600 and subsequently bought by the Earl of Dorset in 1605. Later it was sold to Hugh, Lord Coleraine and held by that family until 1749 when that last of the male line died. His illegitimate daughter was an alien (having been sent out of the country) and could not inherit. She later married James Townsend who was granted the manor. Their son, Henry Mare Townsend sold it to Thomas Smith in 1792 and he sold it to Sir William Curtis in 1805.

The original Tottenham Manor court records are written in Latin on rolls of parchment and for the period 1313-1732 are at the Haringey Central Library, Bruce Castle, Tottenham. For the period 1733 to 1852 they are at the Middlesex County Record office. Court rolls between the following dates are missing: 1539-47, 1581-1655 (except for 1 roll of 3 courts in 1615) 1683-1697 and 1709-1718.