

Overview

At the end of the Anglo-Saxon period Nately Scures was held by Edwin directly of the king. After the Norman Conquest the overlordship was in held by the de Port, followed by their descendants the St John and then Paulet families.

The manor itself was held from at least the mid 12th century by the de Scures family. Nately Scures passed through marriage to the Uvedale family in 1381 when it was inherited by Sybil, the sister of John de Scures and wife of John Uvedale of Titsey (Surrey). The Uvedale family held it for three centuries until it descended again via the female line to the Griffin family. In 1787 the manor was sold to the Carleton lords of Dorchester. As of 2015 the manor is owned by the earl of Malmesbury.

From the 16th century onwards there is some evidence regarding the lesser land owners in Nately Scures, though there is little evidence for the continuity of these estates. The messuage known as Holt House during the 16th century and the farm known as Water End in the 18th century are the only pieces of land for which there is documentation for more than one landowner.

Overlordship

Before the Norman Conquest Nately Scures had been held of Edward the Confessor by Edwin. In Domesday (1086) the manor was assessed at 2½ hides when it formed part of Hugh de Port's Hampshire possessions and was held of him by Ansketil.¹ The overlordship of the manor continued with Hugh de Port's descendants for many centuries. In 1275 John de St John was overlord with Roger de Scures holding one knight's fee in Nately Scures of him.² In 1316 the vill of Nately was recorded as being held by another John de St John.³ In 1428 John Uvedale held land in Nately Scures of lord St John, as of his barony of Basing.⁴ Nately Scures continued to be held of the manor of Basing as late as 1617 when William Paulet, marquess of Winchester was overlord.⁵

Scures Family

¹ *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*, eds. A. Williams and G.H. Martin (London, 2002), 107.

² *Hundred Rolls*, ii, 221.

³ *Feudal Aids*, ii, 313.

⁴ *Feudal Aids*, ii, 344.

⁵ C142/354/122.

During the reign of Edward the Confessor Nately Scures was held by Edwin and in 1086 was held by Ansketil.⁶ Nately Scures is likely to have formed part of the four knights' fees in Hampshire which Matthew de Scures was holding of John de Port in 1166.⁷ Matthew's descendant, Roger de Scures, son of James de Scures⁸, held one knight's fee in Nately Scures and Woodgarston in 1275.⁹ As lord of the manor Roger's kinsman, John Scures, knight, presented a rector during the episcopate of John Stratford (1323-33)¹⁰ and his successor William Edington on 22 May 1349.¹¹ In 1346 was recorded holding ¼ knight's fee in Nately Scures and Woodgarston.¹² On his death in 1353 the manor passed to his son John who presented to the church on 23 August 1361¹³ and held the manor until his death in 1381.¹⁴

Uvedale Family

After the death of John de Scures in 1381 the manor passed to his sister Sybil and it was through this descent that the manor came into the hands of the Uvedale family who held the manor for nearly three centuries. Sybil married John Uvedale of Titsey (Surrey), sheriff of Hampshire from 1388 to 1399. Their son, John Uvedale who probably inherited at some point before April 1410 sat as an MP for Hampshire.¹⁵ The Uvedale family were prominent members of the Hampshire gentry for several centuries. Thomas Uvedale was a man-at-arms (someone of sub-knightly status who was not an archer¹⁶) in the retinue of the earl of Norfolk during Henry V's conquest of Normandy in 1417.¹⁷ After the death of his father around 1440¹⁸ he became lord of the manor and as such presented to the church during the episcopate of

⁶ *Domesday Book*, 107.

⁷ *Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, 208. The book of fees does not list specific holdings. The original Hampshire VCH suggested that Nately Scures formed part of the four fees, presumably because of Mathew de Scures' surname. The supposition is plausible and there is little reason to doubt it.

⁸ *CCR, 1272-1279*, 340 notes that Roger de Scures was the son of James de Scures, though the manor of Nately Scures is not actually mentioned in this document.

⁹ *Hundred Rolls*, ii, 221.

¹⁰ BL, Egerton MS. 2032, fol. 66d.

¹¹ *The Register of William Edington, Bishop of Winchester, 1346-1366, Part 1*, eds. Dom S. F. Hockey, Hampshire Record Series, viii (1986) no. 526.

¹² *Feudal Aids*, ii, 332.

¹³ *Register of William Edington*, no. 1295.

¹⁴ *Wykeham's Register*, ii, 329.

¹⁵ *HoP, 1386-1421*, iv, 699-700.

¹⁶ Recent research has shown that at times the terms 'esquire' and 'man-at-arms' in the muster rolls was, to some extent, interchangeable though as the Hundred Years War wore on, the number of esquires also referred to as men-at-arms decreased: Adrian R. Bell, Anne Curry, Andy King & David Simpkin, *The Soldier in Later Medieval England* (Oxford, 2013), 95.

¹⁷ TNA, E101/51/2 m. 27; http://www.medievalsoldier.org/search_musterdb.php

¹⁸ *HoP, 1386-1421*, iv, 699.

William Waynefleet (1447-86).¹⁹ William Uvedale, esquire, was attainted for his involvement in the duke of Buckingham's rebellion against Richard III in 1483, though the attainder was reversed by Henry VII at his first parliament in 1485.²⁰ Before his death in 1528 William Uvedale enfeoffed the manor for the use of his wife Dorothy. Only a small annual income was allotted to William's eldest son, Arthur, either because of his extravagant spending habits or his idiocy. William had left 'the reparation of the several manor-places and the charges necessary for the good order and rule of the manors, lands and tenements'²¹ to his brother (Arthur's uncle) Thomas and his younger son John. The fact that he was taken to court in 1530 by his creditor Edward North of London, gentleman, concerning a debt of 1000 marks²² give further credence to the claim he was financially irresponsible. The claim by the family historian that Arthur died at some point between July 1537 and January 1538 is erroneous as he was still a JP in Hampshire in June 1540.²³ The fact he was serving as a JP may be evidence that Arthur was indeed extravagant in his spending and not an idiot. Arthur was alive as late as 1544 and was succeeded by his son William who was probably still a minor at the time, though the precise date at which that occurred is uncertain. William served as an MP for Hampshire in the 1563 parliament.²⁴ He died on 2 June 1569 and was succeeded by his son William, aged nine²⁵ who himself died in 1616.²⁶ The final male Uvedale to hold the manor was William Uvedale, knight, who held several local offices in local government though never lacked any active enthusiasm for involvement and was only a 'passive parliamentarian.'²⁷ Before his death in 1652 William had alienated this estate, settling it upon Frances, his second daughter by his first marriage.²⁸

Griffin and Henley Families

Frances married Edward Griffin of Braybrooke and Dingley, Northamptonshire, knight, and was bequeathed £20 in her father's will.²⁹ It was through this marriage that Nately Scures

¹⁹ BL, Egerton MS. 2034, fol. 51d.

²⁰ *Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous, 1442-1485* (London, 2003), no. 500. For attainder see: *PROME*, xv, 23-34. For reversal see: *PROME*, xv, 102-7.

²¹ *HoP, 1558-1603*, iii, 545-6.

²² TNA, C241/282/26.

²³ *L&P Hen. VIII*, xv, no. 321 (47a); *HoP, 1558-1603*, iii, 545-6. This mistake appeared in the 1911 entry for Nately Scures.

²⁴ *HoP, 1558-1603*, iii, 545-6.

²⁵ TNA, C142/154/103.

²⁶ TNA, C142/354/122.

²⁷ *HoP, 1604-1629*, vi, 599-600.

²⁸ *Surr. Arch. Coll.* iii, 127.

²⁹ TNA, PROB 11/241, f. 36.

came into the possession of the Griffin family with Edward Griffin, knight, who was recorded as owning the manor in 1668.³⁰ Edward was succeeded by Anthony Henley who served as Whig MP for Andover between 1698 and 1700 and who died in 1711.³¹ The Henley family had been established as a member of the local gentry by Anthony's father who had bought the nearby manor of Northington, and proceeded to build a grand new country house at the Grange there.³² His eldest son, Anthony, died without any surviving issue and therefore all of his estates passed to his second son Robert, created earl of Northington in 1764.³³ When he died in 1772 he was succeeded by his only son Robert who died unmarried in 1786.³⁴

Carleton Family

Following the death of the last earl of Northington, the manor was sold in 1787 by Jane, dowager countess of Northington, widow of the first earl, along with her daughters and co-heirs of the earl, Lady Bridget Tollemache, Lady Jane Aston, Mary, dowager countess of Legonier and Lady Elizabeth Eden to the Honourable Richard Howard and Brook Watson, trustees of Guy Carleton, first lord Dorchester.³⁵ Carleton had a prominent military career serving in the Seven Years War and the American War of Independence and was twice Governor of Quebec. He was promoted to the peerage in 1786 (the year before he purchased the manor) and was governor of Quebec until 1796. He spent most of his retirement in Hampshire before his death aged 84 on 10 November 1808.³⁶ Presumably in preparation for the sale of the manor, a survey was taken on 24 March 1787 of all of the trees in the manors of Greywell and Natley Scures.³⁷ The manor remained in the hands of successive members of the Carleton family. Between 1859 and 1875 Guy Carleton, third baron Dorchester, was

³⁰ TNA, CP43/342 rot. 163.

³¹ *HoP, 1690-1715*, iv, 327-9.

³² M. Deveson, 'The early history of the Grange, Northington', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*, 25 (2005), 202-3.

³³ James Sambrook, 'Henley, Anthony (1666/7-1711)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/12927>, accessed 31 March 2015]; Peter D. G. Thomas, 'Henley, Robert, first earl of Northington (c.1708-1772)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/12931>, accessed 11 May 2015]. Note: the 1911 edition erroneously states that Robert was the third son of Anthony Henley. The third son was in fact Bertie who was named as the second son in the previous edition.

³⁴ G. F. R. Barker, 'Henley, Robert, second earl of Northington (1747-1786)', rev. Gerard O'Brien, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, May 2009 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/12932>, accessed 31 March 2015].

³⁵ HRO, 39M30/1/1. ODNB details on him

³⁶ James Sturgis, 'Carleton, Guy, first Baron Dorchester (1724-1808)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/4674>, accessed 11 May 2015]

³⁷ HRO, 44M69/E18/1/99, unnumbered item.

recorded as the lord of the manor in Hampshire street directories.³⁸ The manor was then held by his widow³⁹ until she was succeeded by her daughter Henrietta Carleton, first baroness Dorchester of Greywell Hill, Winchfield.⁴⁰ After her death in 1925 the manor descended to her son Dudley Carleton, baron Dorchester.⁴¹ He was lord of the manor of Natley Scures when it was absorbed by the parishes of Hook and Newnham in 1932. He had no male heir and on his death in 1963 the title again became extinct. His elder daughter Hon. Diana Carleton inherited the Natley Scures estate and with her husband William Harris, 6th Earl of Malmesbury, became formal lord of the manor. Their only son, James Carleton Harris, became 7th Earl in 2000 and is the present titular lord of the manor of Natley Scures. Their family seat is Greywell Hill House in next-door Greywell, the manor coupled with Natley Scures in 1788.⁴²

Lesser Estates

Holt House

The messuage known as Holt House was first mentioned in 1584 when it was granted to Richard Amlien by Richard Godfrey of Natley Scures, taylor and George Godferi, tanner.⁴³ In 1601 William Amblin, yeoman, enfeoffed Holt House to Richard Amblin.⁴⁴ Richard later enfeoffed Holt House along with three closes called Great Combe, Little Combe and New Mede Close to Thomas Kyng of Upton Grey, yeoman, Edward Smythe of Natley Scures, wheelwright, Richard Godfrey and Richard's own daughter Chrystian Wheeler, wife of James Wheeler, on 30 April 1610.⁴⁵

Water End

The farm known as Water End which was in the parishes of Basing and Natley Scures was held by Charles Paulett, second duke of Bolton who leased the farm for 99 year or three lives

³⁸ White's *Dir. Hants .and the Isle of Wight (1859)*, 497; *Kelly's Post Office Dir. Hants (1867)*, 632; *Kelly's Post Office Dir. Hants (1875)*, 187.

³⁹ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1878)*, 334; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1885)*, 889; *Kelly's Dir. Hants, Wiltshire and Dorset (1889)*, 357; *Kelly's Dir. Hants (1895)*, 419; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1898)*, 414.

⁴⁰ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1903)*, 240; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1907)*, 264; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1915)*, 297; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1923)*, 229.

⁴¹ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1927)*, 301; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1931)*, 302; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1935)*, 311; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1939)*, 329.

⁴² L. G. Pine, *The New Extinct Peerage 1884-1971*, 105-106

⁴³ HRO, 59M87/32.

⁴⁴ HRO, 59M87/40. The Richard Amblin named in this document is possible the Richard Amblin named in the previous transaction.

⁴⁵ HRO, 59M87/34.

to Richard Kinchin of Water End on 25 March 1711.⁴⁶ Water End was again leased on the same terms by the third duke to John May of Shevrill, yeoman, on 14 April 1730.⁴⁷

Other Landowners

No records pertaining to the lesser landholders in Nately Scures dating from the middle ages have been located. There are several grants for messuages and other miscellaneous pieces of land which are unnamed and for which no continuity of ownership can be established. The earliest known transaction not related to the main manor was in 1565 when John Fylder of Borough Court, Odiham sold one close of land to Arthur Fylder.⁴⁸ Richard More of Odiham, gentleman, enfeoffed 50 a. in Odiham called 'Pollards' along with woodland at Nately Scures to Nicholas Yong of Polling, gentleman, on 10 June 1585.⁴⁹ Twenty acres of land 'divided into three severall closes and called reputed or known by the name of Rede land' were enfeoffed by John Collins of Nateley Scures, yeoman, to William Draper of Morrall, yeoman on 20 June 1613. The closes were called 'Edmunds and Waites land', 'Est land' and 'Redinge land' respectively.⁵⁰ On 15 September 1787 Joseph Pither of Nately Scures, yeoman, made a bond in the presence of the bishop of Winchester granting the administration of his estates to Henry Pither of Nately Scures, yeoman.⁵¹

Richard Dunce of Upton Grey, yeoman, purchased a messuage called Bentworths from John Rogers of Basingstoke, clerk, in 1695.⁵² This land was sold to John Mapleton, along with lands in Upton Grey, North Warnborough and Odiham in 1726.⁵³

The tithe returns for 1842 show that there were several other prominent landholders in Nately Scures.⁵⁴ As lord of the manor, Lord Dorchester was the largest landowner (278 a.) he only held 38 a. in hand. Much of his land was occupied by sub-tenants, most notably Joseph Duckett (167 a.) and James William Digwell (45 a.).

The second largest landowner was the honourable William Wellesley (149 a.), a local landowner from Tylney Hall in Rotherwick. His lands were occupied by William Mayhew (97 a.), George Mathew (37 a.), John Baker (14 a.), and Charles Simms (1 a.).⁵⁵ In 1854

⁴⁶ HRO, 11M49/E/B2/24.

⁴⁷ HRO, 11M49/E/B2/25.

⁴⁸ HRO, 59M87/31.

⁴⁹ HRO, 59M87/39.

⁵⁰ HRO, 59M57/35.

⁵¹ HRO, 21M65/D4/1787/50.

⁵² HRO, 20M50/22.

⁵³ HRO, 20M50/234.

⁵⁴ HRO, 21M65/F7/165/1.

⁵⁵ HRO, 21M65/F7/165/1.

Wellesley put his lands in Natley Scures along with those in Newnham, Hartley Wespall, Rotherwick, Hartley Wintney, Winchfield and Odiham up for sale.⁵⁶ In 1859 this land was conveyed to a group of trustees including Richard Edward Howard of Middle Temple, Middlesex, barrister-at-law. Annexed to this document is a further conveyance dated 30 December 1876 in which the trustees of the earl of Monington conveyed to the trustees of John Mildmay 2 a. in Natley Scures (no. 72 in tithe map) occupied by Charles Jerome along with a further 1 a. in Newnham also occupied by Jerome and 2 r. occupied by James Trimmer.⁵⁷

Another major landowner was Elizabeth Bird (51 a.) although all but three roods were occupied by William Rogers. Thomas Searl of Devizes owned 46 a. of which 42 a. was occupied by George Hewett who also signed this particular return. He also occupied 43 a. of Elizabeth Strone's 47 a. in the parish. Samuel Tyson owned 72 a. the majority of which was occupied by James Hewett (46 a.) with the remainder occupied by John Hewett of Devizes (24 a.), Andrew Gower (2 a.) and George Budd (2 r.). The Honourable Reverend Charleston held 10 a. in the parish as part of the glebe. The other major land owners were John May, esquire (54 a.), William Earle, esquire, (46 a.) and the Railway Company (28 a.).⁵⁸

The 1859 directory noted that in addition to the Carleton family, parts of Natley Scures were owned by Bird, Hewitt, Hutton and other families.⁵⁹ The only other occasion in which other landowners were mentioned in the directories was in 1878 when parts of the parish were owned by Sir Henry Mildmay and the Robertson, Hewitt, Hutton and Harris families.⁶⁰

In addition to these directories and surveys there is some evidence for land owning in Natley Scures arising from the sale of land. In 1869 Lord Dorchester sold a messuage to William Goring of Newnham, gentleman⁶¹, 1 a. of meadow to George Lamb of Woking, gentleman⁶², and a messuage and various lands of over an acre to William Essex of Hook.⁶³ In 1890 Thomas Burberry of Basingstoke, merchant purchased three messuages and various lands on the north side of Turnpike Road in Natley Scures.⁶⁴

⁵⁶ HRO, 1M88/4.

⁵⁷ All of these documents are sewn together: HRO, 10M69/T65.

⁵⁸ HRO, 21M65/F7/165/1.

⁵⁹ *White's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1859)*, 497.

⁶⁰ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1878)*, 334.

⁶¹ HRO, 14M71/T29.

⁶² HRO, 14M71/T30.

⁶³ HRO, 14M71/T31.

⁶⁴ HRO, 14M71/35.