

The Giffard and Fortescue Family Line relating to our village

The Manor Were (Weare Giffard) belonged to the Breton Roald Adobat who became a monk in 1104. The estate was then granted to Walter Giffard 1 who, along with the Fortescues, was one of the descendants of the many Noble Lords who settled in England following the invasion of William the Conqueror.

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| 1. | Manors granted to | Walter Giffard I. | <i>'Giffard' signifies 'The Liberal' being compounded of two teutonic names 'Gif' to give, 'ard' towardness. Given the title of Lord Longueville by Richard Duke of Normandy.</i> |
| 2. | Manors devolved to | Walter Giffard II. | |
| 3. | Manors inherited by | Walter Giffard III. | <i>A crusader born 1211, married Alice de St. George. Their effigies are in the Church. There being no issue, the estate passed to Walter II's sisters.</i> |
| 4. | Manors devolved to | Elisabeth Denzill | <i>Last in line of the Giffards to hold the titles. She married Martin Fortescue. He enlarged and remodelled Weare Giffard Manor. He died in 1472.</i> |
| 5. | Manors inherited by | John Fortescue | <i>Continued building the Hall - responsible for the hammerbeam roof. b.1460 - 1503.</i> |
| 6. | “ | Bartholomew Fortescue | <i>'Patron of the Living', married Ellen. Their initials BF and EF are carved on to a pew end in the church.</i> |
| 7. | “ | Hugh Fortescue | <i>Erected the memorial in the church. Died 1661.</i> |
| 8. | “ | Colonel Robert Fortescue | <i>Defended the Hall during the Civil War. Born 1617.</i> |
| 9. | “ | Rev. William Fortescue | <i>Rector at Church 1828 - 1856. His daughter's tomb is in the Church. Born 1788 - 1856.</i> |
| 10. | “ | George Matthew Fortescue | <i>Restored Hall in 1832. Born 1791 - 1877.</i> |
| 11. | “ | Hugh William Fortescue | <i>5th Earl Fortescue.</i> |
| 12. | “ | Lady Elizabeth Baxendale | <i>Nee Fortescue. Sold Hall 1960</i> |