

Holt of Wimboldsley

The Holt family of Wimboldsley (also spelled Wimbaldsley, Wymbaldsley, etc., in historical records) was a medieval Cheshire gentry family holding manors and lands in Wimboldsley, Newton, Sutton, Occleston, and adjacent areas (primarily in the parish of Middlewich, Northwich hundred). They claimed descent from earlier lords of Newton and were recorded as holding lands in Wimboldsley from at least the time of King John (early 13th century), often as mesne tenants under families like the Stanleys, Tuchets/Tochets, and others.

The direct male line appears to have ended in the early Tudor period (late 15th/early 16th century), after which the Wimboldsley manor and related estates passed (via sale, inheritance, or grant) to the Cotton family and later others (e.g., Breretons, Leicesters). The family is documented in inquisitions postmortem (IPMs), charters, and pedigrees preserved in sources like the Harleian Manuscripts.

Reconstructed Pedigree (Compiled Primarily from Ormerod)

This draws from Randle Holme's pedigree (Harl. MS 2119, f. 174b) and supporting IPMs/charters. Dates are approximate where not precisely recorded; spellings vary (de Holt, del Holt, etc.). Not all siblings or junior branches are fully traced.

- **Simon de Newton** (Lord of Newton, Wimboldsley, and Sutton; early/mid-13th century).

- **Richard de Newton** (alias del Holt; removed residence to "the Holt"; living 32 Hen. III / c.1248; claimed Wimboldsley by knight's fee service).

- **Matthew de Holt** (held lands in Darneford/Newton).

- **Nicholas de Holt**

- Alice m. William de Waverton.

- Amicia m. Robert de Croxton.

- **John de Holt** (living 1297; m. Emma de Hatton; active 46 Hen. III / c.1262 and 22 Edw. I; held estates in Newton, Sutton, Wimboldsley, Curtisholme valued at ~40 marks; demised part of Wimboldsley manor to Urian de St Pierre in 1287).

- Roger de Holt.

- Beatrix de Holt (received lands in Holme in frank marriage).

- William de Holt.

- Christiana de Holt m. Richard de Croxton.

- Mabell de Holt.

- (Possible branch/connection: **John de Holt** of Wimboldsley, whose daughter Agnes de Holt m. John (son of a Haselwall/Haselwell family figure); Agnes widowed by 1304 and involved in land grants to John de Cotton — see Thurstaston Hall records.)

- **Richard de Holt** (active 2 Edw. II / c.1309 and 20 Edw. III / c.1346; associated with Agnes de Holt above?).

- (Further connections noted in charters.)

- **William de Holt** (active 25 Edw. III / c.1351, 47 Edw. III / c.1373, 13 Ric. II / c.1389; m. Johanna).

- **William de Holt** (held manors of Holt, Wymbaldsleigh, etc.; IPM 2 Hen. VI / c.1423–24; m. Johanna who survived to at least 18 Hen. VI; holdings from John Tuchet, Thomas Stanley, etc., valued at ~£17–20; included messuages in Sutton/Occleston, saltworks in Middlewich, lands in Holt/Newton).

- **Thomas de Holt** (d. 18 Hen. VI / c.1439–40; IPM recorded).

- **Sir Edward Holt, kt.** (fl. 18 Hen. VI / c.1439–40; married Jane, illegitimate daughter of Adam Bostock IV of Bostock — see Bostock family records; also noted as "Sir Edward Holt of Wimboldsley" in contemporary pedigrees).

- **William de Holt** (fl. 1 Hen. VII / c.1485–86; last direct holder in male line; Wimboldsley and other manors succeeded/passed to George Cotton by 10 Hen. VII / c.1494–95).

Notes

- Early holdings: Documented since at least King John's reign (c.1199–1216) per secondary summaries (e.g., selectsurnames.com citing local tradition; also bostock.net local histories referencing 1488/89 peace bonds involving a William de Holt of Wimboldsley as kinsman to the Bostocks).
- Land transactions: Multiple grants, demises, and IPMs detail tenures under overlords like the Tuchets (of Tattenhall/Audlem), Stanleys of Aldford, and others. By the late 15th century, estates were alienated to the Cottons (e.g., George Cotton admitted manors 10 Hen. VII; later leases/sales involving Richard Cotton, Breretons, etc.).
- Main source for pedigree: George Ormerod, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* (1819, with Helsby edition 1875–82), Vol. 3, sections on Newton & Sutton and Wimboldsley (Middlewich parish). Compiled from Harleian MSS, IPMs, and charters. (Full text available via archive.org.)

References

- Bostock family histories (bostock.net): Connections via marriage (Jane Bostock to Sir Edward Holt) and 1488/89 dispute records.
- Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire (e.g., Thurstaston Hall paper, 1923 ed.): Agnes de Holt marriage c.1300.
- General Cheshire genealogies (e.g., Harl. MSS, Randle Holme pedigrees).

The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* by George Ormerod (original 1819 edition).

The direct links to the relevant volumes (the 1819 edition, which includes the pedigrees and accounts I referenced earlier for the Holts of Wimboldsley in the Northwich hundred sections, particularly Volume 3):

- Volume 1: <https://archive.org/details/historyofcountyp00orme>

(Covers introductory material, general history, and some hundreds; full text searchable.)

- Volume 2: <https://archive.org/details/historyofcountyp02orme>

(Continues with various hundreds and parishes.)

- Volume 3: <https://archive.org/details/historyofcountyp03orme>