

Holt Wiltshire

(c. 1243–1361)

- **Robert de Holt (fl. 1252):** The first major figure. He was the one who secured the "Free Warren" (hunting rights) and the license for the annual fair on St. Catherine's Day. He effectively established the family as the "Lords of the Manor."
- **John de Holte (fl. 1316–1334):** Likely the son or grandson of Robert. He is the "John" you found complaining about poachers. In 1334, he was wealthy enough to get a license for a private chapel in his manor, meaning he didn't want to walk to the main parish church with the commoners! John de Holte conveyed (sold) the manor to **William of Edington**. Edington wasn't a relative; he was the Bishop of Winchester and one of the most powerful men in England (the Lord Chancellor).
- **Michael de Holt (fl. 1361):** Recorded as the heir of John

The Peak of their Power (1250–1350)

During the time of **Robert de Holt** (the 1252 Fair) and **John de Holte** (the 1316 Poaching incident), the family were "Knights of the Shire." This meant they weren't just farmers; they were the local law.

- **The Park:** In 1316, for John to have a "park" meant he had a **Royal License to Enpark**. This was a huge status symbol—it meant he had the King's permission to fence off land and keep deer, which was usually reserved for the high nobility.
- **The Church:** They likely funded the early 12th-century chapel you mentioned. In medieval England, building a chapel was the ultimate way for a family to "brand" a village as their own.
- **The Arms:** *Argent, three lions rampant gules, a label azure. (may refer to the de Lisle family who once held the manor and not Holt)*