

Manor of Sames, Parish of Cottenham, Cambridgeshire.

Legal Note: The present lord of the manor owns only the title. He does not have any piece of land. He does not have or pretend to have any kind of rights over any land in the manor area.

¶ Presentation of the Lord of the Manor of Sames

Who am I?

I am named Emmanuel VESPIER, I am a French man, born in the seventies, in Normandy, and with a majority of Norman ancestors. I am even lucky I could trace my genealogy till William the Conqueror, making me so the very remote cousin of lot of English people. I am married and have children and works for my life, like everybody (No I do not have peasants to exploit a large piece of land for me!)

Why did I get this Manor of Sames title?

I am a big fan of history (but I do not pretend to be an historian). And like lot of history liking people, I was dreaming of possessing one day a very old historical item.

Just imagine you own a sword from 12th century, a sword you would know the history, who fought with it, at which battle, etc... A manor title is the same to my point of view. Except that, being an incorporeal hereditament, instead of needing the care and protection of a physical object that you place behind a vitrine and do not touch, the title needs to be maintained by its usage.

After the Conquest by William, the feudal system set in place was so that the feudal link had to be renewed each time the overlord or the vassal were changing. Over the course of time, the manors became inheritable, and could be sold. The service as knight in exchange of the fee disappeared. The large powers of the Lord of Manor were progressively reduced. As an example, justice became a royal court and judge prerogative. The Manorial court progressively took only care of land exchange inside the Manor. This was specially the case in Cottenham, after some agreement in sixteenth century between population and the lords of the various manors, including Sir Hinde.

Since 1925, the old tenure of land as Copyhold has disappeared and so the manorial court became meaningless for property exchange.

The UK governmental web site (HM Land registry) tells

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/manors/practice-guide-22-manors>

« Manors are of ancient origin dating from before Norman times. The extent of the manor was usually determined by the original grant from the Crown or superior lord. A manor was self-contained with its own customs and rights within its defined area.

There are three separate elements of manors that can affect HM Land Registry:

- *lordship of the manor: whoever owns the lordship of the manor is entitled to refer to themselves as lord of that manor, for example, Lord of the manor of Keswick*
- *manorial land: because a manor was a defined area it included the physical land within that area. Such land could either be freehold or leasehold*
- *manorial rights: rights which were part and parcel of the manorial title and which were usually kept by the lord on disposal of parts of the manorial land, for example, the right to hunt, shoot or fish*

These elements may exist separately or be combined. The lordship title cannot be subdivided, but the manorial land and the manorial rights can be. »

Regarding Sames manor, **there are no rights registered**, so do not worry, I will **not** come to hunt, shoot, fish, or dig for minerals in your garden!!!

I do not own any physical land in Cottenham (or anywhere else in UK).

And the title itself is not recorded in HM Land registry as it was not mandatory (and it cannot be recorded now days, the limit date is passed since years). We may suppose the only Lords of Manor who recorded their title were those who had some rights associated they wanted to preserve.

Some privately owned registers are recording the titles, as a kind of tentative to organise the market. Sames manor is recorded in <https://www.officialmanorialtitleregister.co.uk/> and in the register books published by the Manorial Society of England and Wales <https://www.msoew.co.uk/> (with deposit to the British Library).

Some of the companies feeding the market are playing with the will of people to be « nobilified ». Some advertise you can get better place in restaurant and all kind of such « become a VIP » things. It does not appear to be the case of the one I did use to buy the title, which looks more history oriented.

If it's true the UK citizens can get the lord of manor title written in their passport, it's not the case for me (I am French). I do not add it to any business card either (I have no need of business cards for my job or life).

I am just very pleased to hold this piece of history after it was held by dozens of identified persons before, some being historical personage.

I am very pleased to preserve this piece of history by making it alive as I bear the title.

I am pleased if I can, for history, re-enact some of the past elements : As an example, I have decided, after I bought the title, to take an oath of fealty to the lord paramount of every manor in England, His Majesty the King (of course this oath is limited to my acts and speeches as lord of manor, I am still a French citizen).

The manor of Sames was a part of the manors of Ely abbey in Cottenham in Domesday survey. When the Ely abbot became also Ely new Bishop, these manors passed to the bishop possession and, later, a portion was infeudated as a manor that took the name of SAMES (by deformation of the SAHAM family who was among the first lords). The Bishop of Ely was remaining the overlord. Sames was held by knight service.

So if feudality had not been suppressed, I would be, as Lord of the Manor of Sames, a vassal of the Bishop of Ely by knight service. This was the Bishop before Henry VIII: I am not sure that the overlordship, if still existing at this time, after having been taken by the King from the Catholic Church's Bishop, was affected to the Church of England's Bishop. This should be checked in archives and laws of that period.

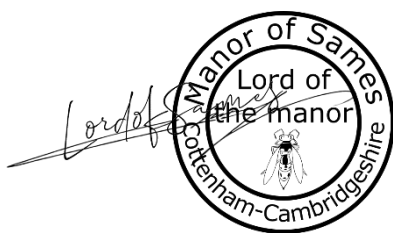
So, you probably understand better, now, why I bought the Lord of the Manor of Sames title: Not to be a pseudo-VIP, but for the passion of history.

I hope to be able to come and pay a visit to Cottenham and see the place named SAMES COURT.

I wish every inhabitant of the manor of Sames and the parish of Cottenham, the best for themselves and the one they love.

With all my best regards,

Emmanuel, Lord of the Manor of Sames.



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