

The Final Settlement

1284

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THE FINAL SETTLEMENT, 1284

'Dissension arose between the monks of St Swithun's at Winchester and Nicholas, bishop of the same place [1268-1280] ... upon which the said bishop took into his own hands the manors of the priory ... from 19 May until 1 August' (Stevenson 1856, 383).

'Alverstoke, which belongs to the prior' was further the subject of an audacious memorandum attributed to Bishop Nicholas of Ely. In defiance of the Alverstoke charter of liberty, he commanded 95 Alverstoke men to report to the bailiff of Fareham for one boon day in autumn to reap the bishop's corn. There were penalties for lateness, poor work and bad weather (Deedes 1915-24, ii, 649). The prior appealed to the king. Finally, in 1284 Edward I, who wished to acquire a royal manor on the Isle of Wight, ordered Bishop John of Pontoise to cede his manors on the Isle of Wight to the crown. In exchange the king offered him the priory's manors of Alverstoke and Gosport, and Droxford and Havant. The deal was part of the final settlement of a long dispute that William the Conqueror had set off in 1070 (Goodman 1927, No. 451). The bishop of Winchester remained lord of the manor of Alverstoke until 1927, when it became part of the new diocese of Portsmouth.

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