



Inquisition

Devizes

Griffin Nicholas, gentleman.

Inquisition taken at New Sarum, 18th August, 11 Charles I [1635], before Nicholas Young, gent., escheator, after the death of Griffin Nicholas, gent., late of **Rundway**, within the parish of **Cannings Episcopi**, by the oath of John Windover, gent., Andrew Pewde, Anthony Davis, John Greene, Giles Freeman, Richard Easton, Edward Fawconer, Thomas Turner, Bartholomew Foster, Thomas Wolford, Thomas Wilson, Ralph Tomlyns, William Hayter, William Eareley, and John Butcher, who say that

Before the death of Griffin Nicholas, Thomas Townsend was seised of 1 messuage and 1 close of meadow thereto adjoining, containing $\frac{3}{4}$ acre ; 1 "severll Sheepe Downe," containing 7 acres of pasture and $20\frac{3}{4}$ acres of arable land, lying in the common fields of **Rundway** and **Bedborow** within the parish of **Cannings Episcopi** : all which said premises are called Clements.

So seised, the said Thomas Townsend, on the 1st May, 14 Eliz. [1572], conveyed the said premises to the said Griffin Nicholas and his heirs for ever.

The said Griffin was likewise seised of 1 close of pasture called Breach, containing $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres ; 1 close of meadow called Littlemeade, containing 1 acre ; 1 underwood called Ivery Grove, containing 2 acres ; 1 "serverall Sheepe Downe" called Collers Downe, containing 11 acres of pasture ; 1 close of pasture lying next to a certain place called Hutchins Stil, containing 4 acres ; 1 close of meadow containing $\frac{1}{2}$ acre adjoining the close last mentioned ; 1 close of pasture called the Gore, containing 5 acres ; $8\frac{3}{4}$ acres of arable land lying in the common fields of Rundway and Bedborow : all which premises last mentioned are called Colleys, and are situate in Rundway, Bedborow, and Cannings, within the said parish of Cannings Episcopi ; 1 messuage, 1 orchard, 1 curtilage, 1 "severall Sheepe Downe" called Crayes Downe, containing $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres of pasture ; $13\frac{3}{4}$ acres of arable land lying in the common fields of Rundway and Bedborow : all which premises last mentioned are called Crayes ; 3 several messuages lying in Rundway and Southbroome in the several tenures of Simon Brendye, Simon Batchelor, and John Thomas ; 1 messuage in the borough of **Devizes**, then in the tenure of Philip Strong, gent. ; 4 several messuages in the said borough in the several tenures of Thomas Bartlett, John Watton, senior, John Eaton, and Walter Reade.

So seised, the said Griffin Nicholas made his will 18th October last past, and thereby bequested, inter alia, the said premises called Clementes ot Elizabeth Forsith, wife of John Forsith, of Abery, until Thomas Forsith, her son, should attain the age of 21, with remainder successively to the said Thomas Forsith, Nicholas Forsith, and Robert Forsith, sons of the said Elizabeth, for the terms of their lives, and to their heirs for ever.

He also bequeathed the said messuage, orchard, and curtilage, parcel fo the premises called Crayes, except a barn standing upon the said curtilage, together with free egress and regress to and from the

same with men, beasts, etclk and except 40 feet of ground [fundi] lying next before that door of the said barn which then adjoined the said orchard, to the said Elizabeth Forsith for her life, with remainder thereof to the said Robert Forsith and Thomas Forsith for their lives, and with remainder to Thomas Nicholas, of Rundway, gent., and his heirs for ever.

Testator bequested the said messuage in the tenure of Philip Strong, gent., to Thomas Horton, of Devizes, gent., for his life, with remainder successively to Thomas Horton, son of the said Thomas, and to Mary Horton, daughter of the said Thomas, for the terms of their lives, with remainder to the said Thomas Nicholas and his heirs for ever.

The premises above excepted and all the residue of his lands, etc., the said Griffin devised to the said Thomas Nicholas and his heirs for ever.

The said premises called Clementes are held of the King in chief by knight's service, to wit, by the 200th part of a knight's fee and by the yearly rent of 12d., and are worth per annum, clear, 5s. The premises called Colleys are held of Robert Drewe and John Grubbe, esquires, as of their manor of Canninges Episcopi, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty, suit at court, and the yearly rent of 5s. only, and are worth per annum, clear, 6s. 8d. The premises called Crayes are held of the said Robert Drewe and John Grubbe, as of their said manor, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty and suit at court only, and are worth per annum, clear, 2s. 6d. The 3 several messuages in the tenures of Simon Brendye, Simon Batchelor, and John Thomas are held of the said Robert Drew and John Grubbe, as of their said manor, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty, suit at court, and the yearly rent of 6d. only, and are worth per annum, clear, 3s. The said messuage in the tenure of Philip Strong is held of the King as of his borough of Devizes, in free burgage, by fealty and the yearly rent of 15d. only, and not in chief nor by knight's service, and is worth per annum clear, 2s. The 4 several messuages in the tenures of Thomas Bartlett, John Watton, senior, John Eaton, and Walter Reade are held of the King as of his said borough, in free burgage, to wit, by fealty and the yearly rent of 2s. 6d. only, and not in chief nor by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, 4s.

Griffin Nicholas died at Rundway, 13th March last past, without issue ; Robert Nicholas, of the borough of Devizes, esq., is his kinsman and next heir, to wit, eldest son of John Nicholas, late of Devizes, gent., deceased, eldest brother of the said Griffin, and was then aged 39 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 11 Charles I, pt. 1, No. 71. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.