



# *Inquisition*

## *Littleton*

*Thomas Somner*

Delivered into Court 8<sup>th</sup> May, 10 Charles I

***Inquisition*** taken at Amesbury, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 8 Charles I [1632], before William *Guidott*, esq., escheator, after the death of Thomas Somner, by th oath of *Robert Kingman*, gent., *William Francklyn*, gent., *Edward Dismer*, *John Waterman*, *Thomas Costerd*, *Stephen Smithe*, *Thomas Beale*, *Thomas Smythe*, *Silvester Cooke*, *Thomas Pike*, *Lewes Audley*, *William Withers*, *John Aven*, *William Sayer*, *Lawrence Stagge*, *Aldam Winckworth*, and *John Browne*, who say that

Thomas Somner was seised of 3 messuages situate in Littleton in the parish of Steepleashton; 2 mills there called Pashions Mills; 1 close of pasture called Leyland, containing 40 acres; 1 close of pasture called the Hooke, containing 20 acres; 1 close of pasture called the Lye, containing 16 acres, 3 closes of meadow near the said mills, late in the several tenures of the said *Thomas Somner*, *William Pashion*, *Roger Prior*, and *Thomas Fickettes*; 2 closes of pasture or meadow there called Barcroft and Barcroftes meade, with 1 close called Lacoctes thereto adjoining; 1 close of meadow there called Hedmeade; 3 closes caleed Courtley, Parkes, and Gumfryes, situate in the parish of Melksham; 1 close of meadow there called Panters; 1 parcel of land adjoining a certain place called Cock Reynoldes; 1 messuage in Newton, and divers lands and tenements thereto belonging lying in Melksham; and 2 mills and 6 acres of land in the parish of Seend.

So seised, the said *Thomas Somner*, by indenture dated 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2 James I [1604], made between myself of the one part, and *John Stratton*, then of Seagry, now deceased; *Robert Stratton*, then of Foxham in the parish of Christian Malford, now deceased; *John Somner*, then of Seend, now deceased; and *Thomas Longe*, of Semington, yeoman, of the other part, for the considerations in the said indenture expressed, conveyed to the said *John*, *Robert*, *John*, and *Thomas* the said 3 messuages in Littleton, the 2 mills called Pashions mills, the closes called Leylandes, the Hooke, and the Lye, and the 3 closes near the said mills; to hold to them and their heirs, to the use of the said *Thomas Somner*, for his natural life; after his decease, to the use of *Christiana*, then his wife, for her life, in the name of her jointure; after her decease, and for default, to the use of the right heirs of the said *Thomas* for ever.

The said Thomas Somner made is will 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1631, whereby he bequeathed as follows :-

To my wife, *Christiana*, I give for the term of her life all the right anf title to my now dwelling house, together with the mills, pasture, and meadow thereto belonging; also 3 grounds of meadow and pasture called Parkers, Gumfryes, and Courtley, in Melksham. To *Thomas Somner*, son of my brother *Alexander*, I give the fee simple of the house and lands in Newton called Naishes; if he die, I will that the same

remain to his sisters, namely, *Ann, Mary, and Jane Somner*. To my brother *George Somner* I bequeath, within one year after my death, all my lands, tenements, houses, mills, and grounds lying in Seend, in the parish of Melksham.

The 3 messuages and 2 mills in Littleton, the 3 closes of pasture called Leylands, Hookes, and the lye, and the 3 closes near the said mills, are held of the King, by fealty only, in free socage and not in chief, and are worth per annum, clear, £10. Of whom the said two closes of pasture called Barcroft and Barcrofts meade are held the jurors know not: they are worth per annum, clear, 20s. Of whom the close called Laoockes, the close called Hedmeade, the 3 closes called Courtley, Parkers, and Gumfryes, the close called Panters, the 2 grain mills, and the 6 acres of land in Seend, are held the jurors know not: they are worth, respectively, per annum, clear, 12d., 2s., 20s., 12d., and 13s. 4d. The messuage and lands in Newton are held of the King in chief, by knights service, and are worth per annum, clear, 20s.

*Thomas Somner* died at Littleton 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 7 Charles I [1631] without heirs of his body; *Edward Somner* is his brother and next heir, and was then aged 56 years.

The said Christiana still survives at Littleton.

Inq. p.m., 10 Charles I, pt.2, No. 65. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.