



# *Inquisition*

## *Stert*

**JOHN TOPPE, esquire.**

Delivered into Court 16th February, 8 Charles I [1633].

Inquisition take at Twyford, 1st February, 8 Charles I [1633], before William Guidott, gent., escheator, after the death of John Toppe, late of Stockton, co. Wilts, esq., by the oath of Robert Fisher of Twyford, gent., Ralph Merifeeld, Robert Giles, William Smith, John Cooper, John Hickes, William Ratford, edmynd Baldwyn, Thomas Hall, John Luckins, John Baker, and John Baldwyn, who say that

John Toppe was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Stokton, in **Stokton**, and in **Eastcodford**, co. Wilts, with its rights, members, and appurtenances, and of the capital messuage, in which the said John lately dwelt, and 11 virgates of land, meadow, and pasture in Stockton, to the said manor belonging and being parcel thereof, formerly severally called Giffords, Farlyes, and Ludlowes ; and of the view of frankpledge of all the inhabitants and residents within the parish of Stockton, and all things which to view of frankpledge belong, to the said manor belonging and pertaining, and of free warren in Stockton ; of 2½ perches of land in Stockton, lately purchased of John Hooper, lying near the highway leading from Stockton to Eastcodford ; of one cottage, one garden, and one orchard in stockton, now in the tenure of Joan Davys, widow, for term of divers years ; of one messuage, a cottage garden, orchard, and half an acre of land by estimation, in Stockton, lately called Kellawayes tenement, lately purchased of Henry Kellaway, esq., Robert Kellaway, and Sir Edward Wardor, knt., now in the occupation of William Knight ; of 4 acres of land lying in the west fields of Stockton, Iryshmans Lands, purchased of Thomas Mompesson, gent. ; of the annual fee rent of 6s. to the said manor of Stockton belonging, issuing from the capital messuage, and 7 virgates of land, meadow, and pasture of Christopher Poticarye, gent., in Stockton, called Eyres Landes ; of the yearly free rent of 4s. 5½d. to the said manor of Stockton belonging, issuing from the messuage and lands of the said Christopher Poticarye in Stockton, now or lately called Pypers, in the occupation of Abraham Langley ; of 2 messuages and 3½ virgates of land, meadow, and pasture in Eastcodford, in the several tenures of Dorothy Wort, John Ingram, Thomas Wort, John Wort, and John Maton, for term of divers years ; of four messuages, 26 acres of land, meadow, and pasture in Eastcodford aforesaid, in the several tenures of John Worte, John Cooke, John Ingram, William Ingram, and John Harvye, for a term of divers years, unexpired ; of 3 roods of land in Eastcodford, now in the tenure of William Crowch, for term of divers years ; of several lands, meadows, and pastures in Eastcodford, containing by estimation 8 virgates, whereof a parcel is called Smyths Lands, another parcel Eyres Landes, late in the possession of the said John Toppe ; of 12 acres of meadow in Eastcodford, called Redmead and Rushes ; of the farm of **Codford alias Codford Marye** in Eastcodford, containing by estimation 200 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 200 acres of furze and heath ; of two acres of covert land with the water, called Comptwell Streame, in Eastcodford ; of all the water called Comptwell Streame ; of a piece of covert land with the water, and a parcel of water running between Stockton and Eastcodford, upon which stands a weir, lately erected by the said John Toppe.

Being so seised, by fine levied at Westminster and by indenture tripartite of the 8th February, 3 Charles I [1628], between the said John Toppe of the first part, Sir Thomas Hannon, knt., and Elizabeth, his daughter, of the second part, and John Toppe, esq., son and heir apparent of the said John Toppe, of the third part, the said John Toppe, in consideration of the marriage to be had between the said John Toppe, the son, and the Said Elizabeth, conveyed and assured the aforesaid premises called Smythes Landes and Eyres Landes and the

said farm of Codford alias Codford Marye to the use of the said John Toppe, the father, and John, the son, jointly for their lives, and afterwards to the use of Elizabeth Hannon for life for her jointure and in recompense of her dower ; remainder to John Toppe, the son, and the heirs of his body ; remainder to the said John Toppe, the father, and his heirs. And by the said fine and indenture the said John Toppe conveyed and assured the aforesaid manor of Stockton and the premises aforesaid in Eastcodford called Redmead and other the premises in Stockton and Eastcodford aforesaid to the use of himself for life, and afterwards to the use of John Toppe, his son, and the heirs male of his body ; remainder to the heirs male of the said John Toppe, the father.

The jurors further say that the said marriage was solemnized after the making of the said indenture and before the 1st May then next, at Southwark, near London.

The jurors further say that the said John Toppe was seised in his demesne as of fee of all those tithes, as well great as less of whatever kind arising, in **Stert** in the parish of **Urclant alias Urchfont**, co. Wilts, lately purchased of Richard Nicholas, gent.

Being so seised, by indenture 18th January, 3 Charles I [1628], the said John Toppe demised the aforesaid tithes to Richard Swayn and Robert Swayn, to hold immediately after the death of John Toppe [sic], second son of the said John, the father, for the term of 99 years, if Elizabeth, wife of the said John, the second son, should so long live, upon trust for the use of the said Elizabeth during her life.

And afterwards the said John Toppe, the father, made his last will, dated the 26th July, 1632, by which he bequeathed to his second son, John, his heirs and assigns for ever, all his tithes in Steert aforesaid.

The jurors further say that the said John Toppe, the father, was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Grandon, co. Somerset and Wilts, and also common of pasture for 10 cows and one heifer in Roddendowne and Thikthurne, co. Somerset, and also of common of pasture for all beasts in the forest of Froomsellwood and Eastwoodlandes, co. Somerset, to the said manor belonging, lately purchaed of James Sparke, gent.,

Being so seised, by indenture 18th January, 3 Charles I [1628], the said John Toppe demised to the said Richard Swayn and Robert Swayn the said manor of Grandon (except one close of meadow called Pitcherhayes, containing by estimation 9 acres), to hold immediately after the decease of John Toppe, the second son, for the term of 99 years, if the said Elizabeth should so long live.

The jurors further say that they are ignorant of whom the aforesaid messuage, cottage, and premises in Stockton, in the occupation of William knight, and the said cottage and premises in the tenure of Joan Davis, the aforesaid 4 acres of land in Stockton called Iryshman's Lands, are severally held ; they are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 6s. 8d. ; the manor of Stockton and other the premises in Stockton aforesaid are thel of the King by knight service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors are ignorant, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, £7. Of whom or by what services the aforesaid two messuages, 3½ virgates, 4 acres and 3 roods of land, meadow, and pasture in Eastcodford, in the several tenures of Dorothy Wort, John Ingram, Thomas Wort, and John Maton, are held the jurors are ignorant ; they are worth, beyond reprises, 30s. 'the aforesaid premises called Eyres Landes in Eastcodford and the said 3 roods of land in the occupation of William Crouch in Eastcodford are held of the King in chief by knight service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors are ignorant, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 20s. The aforesaid four messuages and 26 acres of land, meadow, and pasture in Eastcodford, in the several tenures of John Cooke, John Ingram, William Ingram, and John Harvye ; the aforesaid 12 acres of meadow in Eastcodford called Redmead and Rushed, and the aforesaid premises in Eastcodford called Smythes Landes, are held of Sir Giles Mompesson, knt., as of his manor of Codforde Marye, in free and common socage, by fealty, suit of court, and the yearly rent of \_\_\_\_, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 40s.; the aforesaid farm of Codford alias Codford Mary and other the premises in Eastcodford are held of the King in chief by knight service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors are ignorant, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, £3. Of whom or by what service the aforesaid manor of Grandon and common of pasture are held the jurors are ignorant ; they are worth yearly, beyond reprises, viz., the said close called Pitcherhayes is worth yearly, beyond reprises, 2s. and the residue thereof 20s. ; of whom the aforesaid tithes in Stert are held the jurors are ignorant ; they are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 10s.

The jurors further say that Elizabeth, wife of the said John Toppe, son and heir of the said John Topp, the father, and the said John Toppe, his brother, second son of John, the father, and Elizabeth, his wife, survive.

The said John Toppe died 13th August last [1632], and John Toppe, esq., in the indenture tripartite named, is his son and next heir, aged 36 years.

**Inq. p.m., 8 Charles I, pt. 3, No. 133. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**