



# *Inquisition*

## *Codford*

**John Topp, esquire.**

***Inquisition*** taken at the City of New Sarum, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 16 Charles I [1640], before John Sevyor, gent., escheator, after the death of John Topp, late of Stockton, esq., by the oath of John Windover, gent., William Monday, Edward Fauconer, Andrew Pewde, Richard Hill, John Gilbert, Thomas Sevyor, William Suckler, Richard Sherfield, John Barrowe, James Edmondess, George Ackrey, John Payne, John Note, and William Hayter, who say that

John Topp was seised of the manor of Stockton in Stockton and East Codford ; the capital messuage wherein the said John then lived ; 11 virgates of land, meadow and pasture in Stockton to the said manor belonging, parcels thereof being hertofore severally called Giffordes, Farlowes, and Ludlowes ; view of frankpledge of all the inhabitants there, to the said manor belonging ; free warren there, 2 ½ pasture of land there lately purchased of John Hooper lying near the way leading from Stockton to East Codford ; one cottage, one garden, one orchard there, now in the tenure of Joan Davis, widow, for the term of divers years yet to come ; one messuage, cottage, garden, orchard, and ½ acre of land there lately called Kellaways Tenement, lately purchased of Henry Kellaway, esq., Robert Kellaway, and Edward Warder, knight, now in the occupation of William Knight ; 4 acres of land lying in the west fields of Stockton called Irish mews lands, purchased of Thomas Mompesson, gent. ; the yearly free rent of 6s. to the said manor of Stockton belonging, issuing out of the capital messuage and 7 virgates of land, meadow and pasture, of Christopher Potticary, gent., in Stockton called Eyres landes ; the yerly free rent of 4s. 3½d., to the said manor belonging, issuing out of the messuage and lands of the said Christopher there called Pipers, now in the occupation of \_\_\_\_ Langley ; 2 messuages and 3½ virgates of land, meadow and pasture in East Codford in the several tenures of Dorothy Wort, John Ingram, Thomas Wort, John Wort, and John Maton for the term of divers years yet to come ; 4 messuages, and 26 acres of land, meadow and pasture there, in the several tenures of John Wort, John Cooke, John Ingram, \_\_\_\_ Ingram, widow, and Jeremiah Cockerhill for divers years not yet finished ; 3 rods of land there now in the tenure of William Crouch, for divers years yet to come ; 12 acres of meadow there called Red Meade and Rushes ; 2 acres of land there covered with water called Comptwell Streame ; all the said water calle Comptwell streame ; one piece of land covered with water and parcel of the river running between Stockton and Codford, where upon stands a “weare” lagely built by John Topp, father of the said john named in the writ, to him and his heirs male ; for default, the remainder thereof to the heirs male of the said John Topp, the father ; for default, the remainder thereof to the said John Topp named in the writ and his heirs for ever.

The said John was seised of the several lands, meadows and pastures in East Codford containing 8 virgates, whereof one parcel was called Smithies landes, and the other parcel Eyres landes late in the possession of the said John ; the farm of Codford alias Codford Mary, containing 200 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 200 acres of furze and heath, for his natural life, with remainder after his death to Elizabeth, his wife, for her life for her jointure, the remainder thereof to the said John named in the writ and to his heirs for ever ; also of the manor of Grandon in co. Somerset and Wilts, and common of pasture for 10 cows and one “juventa” in Rodden Downe and Thickethorne in co.

Somerset, and common of pasture for all beasts in the forest of Froom Selwood and East Woodlandes in the said county to the said manor belonging, purchased of James Sparke, gent.

Afterwards the said John Topp made his will dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1638, as follows:-

*I give to my brother Edward Topp and his heirs the house and tenement in Codford St. Mary that William Crouch now holds and all my right and estate to the premises : to hold until the end of the several original leases thereof ; also my manor and farm called Grundon in co. Somerset, and all my lands, etc., in the said county.*

Of whom the premises in Stockton in the occupation of William Knight, the cottage in the tenure of Joan Davis, and the 4 acres of land there called Irish mews lands are held the jurors know not : they are worth per annum, clear, 6s. 8d. The manor of Stockton and all the premises there are held of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee is not known : they are worth per annum, clear, £7. Of whom or by what service the premises in East Codford in the several tenures of Dorothy Worte, John Ingram, Thomas Worte, and John Maton are held is not known : they are worth per annum, clear, 30s. The premises there called Eyres land and the 3 roods of land in the occupation of William Crouch are held of the King in chief, by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee is not known : they are worth per annum, clear, 20s. The premises in East Codford in the several tenures of John Cooke, John Ingram, \_\_\_\_\_ Ingram, widow, and Jeremiah Cockerill, the 12 acres of meadow there called Redmead and Rushes, and the premises there called Smithes landes are held of Giles Mumpesson, knight, as of his manor of Codford Mary, in free and common socage, by fealty, suit at court, and a yearly rent, and are worth per annum, clear, 40s. The farm of Codford alias Codford Mary and all other the premises in East Codford are held of the King by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee is not known, and are worth per annum, clear, £3. Of whom the manor of Grundon and the common of pasture are held is not known : they are worth per annum, clear, 22s.

John Topp died 13<sup>th</sup> March last past, without heirs of his body ; John Topp, esq., son of the said John Topp, father of the said John named in the writ, is his brother and next heir, and was then aged 38 years and more.

The said Elizabeth, late wife of the said John Topp, still survives.

**Inq. p.m., 16 Charles I, pt. 29, No. 23. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**