



Inquisition

West Cowlston

Charles Danvers, esquire

Inquisition taken at Marlborough, co. Wilts, 28th March, 3 Charles I [1627], before *William Gydatt*, esquire, escheator, after the death of *Charles Danvers*, esquire, by the oath of *John Sadler*, gentleman, *John Spencer*, gentleman, *Silvester Cooke*, gentleman, *William Lewis*, *Thomas Hide*, *Bartholomew Smith*, *Thomas Freeman*, *Hugh Chanler*, *Alexander Dismer*, *Thomas Collens*, *Mark Fowler*, *Robet Smith*, *Thomas Hitchcockes*, *Nicholas Hebert*, and *Thomas Cullereen* (?), who say that

Charles Danvers was seised of and in one moiety of the manor of Bayton and Cowlston otherwise West Cowlston, co. Wilts, and of the moiety of 6 messauges, 300 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, and 20 acres of wood in Baynton, Edington, Tynhead, Cowlston, and Stoke in the said county, and of common of pasture for all cattle in Edington aforesaid. And the said *Charles Danvers* and *Mary* is wife were seised, he in his demesne as of feetail, and she in her demesne as of free tenement for term of her life, remainder to her said husband and the heirs of his body, remainder to *Francis Jones* and the heirs of his body remainder to the right heirs of Joan Jones, widow, deceased, mother of the aforesaid Charles Danvers, for ever – of and in the other moiety of the aforesaid manors, and 6 messauges with appurtenances and of certain entire closes (integis clausis) of meadow and pasture in the parish of Steeple Ashton, co. Wilts, containing 34 acres, called "West Adnell" and "Stert Meadowes", now and time out of mind parcel of the aforesaid manors of Bayton and Cowlston.

Charles Danvers was, in his lifetime, son and heir of the said Joan Jones, widow. The said *Charles* and the said *Mary* his wife were seised-- he in his demesne as of fee, and she in her demesne as of free tenement for term of their lives-- of 30 acres of pasture called "Broadcroft", in the parish of Steeple Ashton, also parcel of the manors aforesaid.

Charles Danvers was also seised of 24 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, and 2 acres of wood called "Stoke and Lessam Landes," lying in the vills and parishes of Steeple Ashton and Stoke, formerly in the occupation of *Roger Crooke* and *Richard Perrett*, and common of pasture for all cattle in Stoke, which now are and time out of mind have been parcel of the manors of Baynton and Cowlston aforesaid. *Charles Danvers* was also seised of 4 messauges, 2 cottages, one toft, one barn, 6 gardens, 6 orchards, 60 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, 8 acres of wood, and 20 acres of furze and heath, and common of pasture with appurtenances in Baynton. Cowlston, West Cowlston and Edington, in the respective tenures of *Edward Blake*, *Christopher Wilkins*, *Richard Stuckell* and *William Stowl*. And of 16 acres of meadow called "Spenders Broadcroft" in Baynton aforesaid, now or late in the occupation of Sir *John Lambe*, knight.

Charles Danvers purchased to himself and *Mary* his wife the said moiety of the said manors of Baynton and Cowlston, and the said closes called "West Adnell" and "Stert Meadowes," and the pasture called "Broadcroft" as jointure for the said *Mary*, and in recompense of her dower; the same *Mary* and is at Baynton.

Charles Danvers made his will on the 14th October, 1626, by which he gave "one full third part" of all his "lands of inheritance" to his eldest son *Henry Danvers*. The will continues :- "And as for the wardship of his body and land, which of right, after my decease, falleth to the Kinges Majestie, I do hereby, humbly desire the Right Honourable the Earl of *Danby* to become a suitor to his Majestie for the same, at the cost and charges of my executors, earnestly beseeching his Lordship that, as he hath conferred many honourable favours on me in his life, so he will be pleased to be carefull of my sonnes vertuous education after my death; and that his Lordship will further vouchsafe to give and bestowe eight hundred pounds of my said sonnes marriage portion (if he can obtain so much for his portion) unto and amongst eight of my daughters, yet unmarried, to be equally divided amongst them".

The other 2 parts of the said lands (except those in Lessam and Stoke) he devised to his wife during her widowhood, and towards the education of 7 of his younger children, viz, *Edward, Charles, John, Silvester, Elinor, Lucy, and Grace Danvers*. On the death or marriage of his widow, he devised such of his lands "not already made in joynture" to his wife, with the exception aforesaid to his son *Henry Danvers*, to hold to him and his heirs as so long as he continued to pay the aforesaid *Edward and Charles Danvers* £15 a year each, and to the said *John, Silvester, Elinor, Lucy and Grace* £10 a year each, which payments were to begin on each child attaining the age of 21 years; in the meantime they were to have their maintenance only by the said lands. If the aforesaid *Henry* should not perform the covenant of the will in this respect, then the brothers and sisters of the said *Henry* were to enjoy for their lives so much of the land aforesaid as should be worth £15 a year or £10 a year, according to bequests just mentioned; the inheritance of those lands to remain to the said *Henry* and his heirs. The lands in Lessam and Stoke the testator devised to his daughters *Elizabeth and Mary Danvers*, their heirs and assigns, unless their brother *Henry* shall – on their respectively attaining the age of 21 years – pay to each of the £200, in which case the last mentioned lands are given to the said *Henry* and his heirs for ever.

The manors of Baynton and Cowlton and the 6 messuages, 300 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture and 20 acres of wood in Baynton, Edlington, Tynhead, Cowlston, and Stoke, and the said closes of meadow and pasture called "West Adnell" and "Stert Meadows" and other the premises parcel of the manors of Baynton and Cowlton, are held of the King in chief by knight's service, by the 40th part of a knight's fee. One moiety of the manors of Baynton and Cowlton and of other the premises last mentioned, except the said closes called "West Adnell" and "Stert Meadows" and the pasture called "Broadcroft," are worth per annum, clear, £5. The said closes and pasture, above excepted, and the other moieties of the manors aforesaid and of other premises are worth per annum, clear, £7. The said 4 messuages, 2 cottages, one toft, one barn, 6 gardens, 6 orchards, 60 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 8 acres of wood, and 20 acres of furze and heath in Baynton, Cowlston, West Cowlston and Edlington are held in free and common socage of *Thomas Lambert and Robert Drew*, esquires, as of their manor or farm in Cowlston called "Fostrill Ferme" by fealty and the annual render of 11 ounces of pepper, and not in chief or by knight's service; and are worth per annum, clear, 40s.

Of who the aforesaid pasture called "Spenders Broadcroft" in Baynton, in the parish of Edlington, is held or by what service, the jury are ignorant; it is worth, per annum, clear, 4s.

Charles Davers died at Baynton on 21st October, 2 Charles I [1626]; *Henry Danvers* is his son and next heir, and was then aged 18 years 5 months and 9 days.

Mary Danvers, widow of the said *Charles Danvers*, survives at Baynton aforesaid.

Inq. p.m., 3 Charles I, p.t. 3, No. 36. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.