



Inquisition

Kington St Michael

Edward Bell, yeoman

Inquisition taken at Marborough, 29th March, 18 Charles I [1642], before *Richard Mason, esq. escheator*, by virtue of his office,, after the death of *Edward Bell, yeoman*, by the oath of *Robert Kinsman, senior, Robert Kinsman, junior, John Smith, Thomas Treberet, Aldam Winckworth, Thomas Ingles, Edward West, Clement Smith, Richard Grinfeild, Thomas Kaynton, William Purrier, Thomas Rayman, William Parrat, Stephen Johnson, Anthony Greenaway, and John Fowler*, who say that

Edward Bell was seised of one messuage or cottage lying in Kington St. Michael and Kington St. Marie, late in the tenure of *Elizabeth Smith*, widow, now deceased, and now in that of *John Smith*, her son, together with one garden and curtilage containing about 10 perches, lying within a pasture called Fernells or Vernollis Downe, and one plot or parcel of Vernollis Downe to the said messuage near adjoining, bounded by the residue of Vernollis Downe for *William Wirge*, and now in the possession of the said *William*, containing about 11 acres; one messuage or cottage built upon the said 11 acres by the said *William Wirge*, together with an orchard and garden thereto adjoining; 3 closes of arable land and pasture called Vernolles Downe, otherwise Upper Vernolles, containing, altogether about 60 acres; all the tithes whatsoever from time to time growing upon the premises; and one messuage newly built situate on Vernollis Downe, together with one barn, one stable, and other buildings to the said messuage belonging; all which said premises are within the parish of Kington St. Michael's or Kington St. Mary's. And were some time in the tenure of Nicholas Taylor, deceased.

So seised, the said Edward Bell, made his will the 10th December 1640, and thereby bequeathed as follows:- I give to my friends John Gale, of Bullhide, in the parish of Kington St. Michael, and William Tanner, of the same, yeomen, my 2 messuages or cottages now in the occupation of *William Wirge* and *John Smith*, in the said parishes of Kinton St. Michael and St. Mary, heretogore parcel of a pasture ground called Vernolls, and also my messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in the said parishes called Vernolls great Downe, as it is now divided into several parcels; also all that part of my downe shooting upon *John Gale's* Vernoll from the north-west corner of the hedge adjoining great Vernolls, directly to the brake of the said *John Gale*, called Vernoll brake, containing about 8 acres, lying in the said parishes. To hold for the term of 21 years immediately after my decease for the payment of my debts, and then to

dispose of the residue of the profits thereof for the preferment of my 2 young daughters, *Ruth* and *Johan*. As to the residue of all my lands lying in the said parishes, I leave the same to descend to my heir at the common law as a full third part of all my lands.

All the said premises are held of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors know not and are worth per annum, clear 13s. 4d.

Edward Bell died at Kington St. Michael, 24 th December, 16 Charles I [1640]; *Edward Bell* is his son and next heir, and was aged 5 years on the 20th day of April, 16 Charles I [1640].

Ruth Bell, late the wife of the said *Edward*, still survives.

Inq. p.m., 18 Charles I, pt. 30, No. 87. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.