



# *Inquisition*

## *Melksham*

**John Lowe, esquire.**

Delivered into Court 30<sup>th</sup> July, 18 Charles I [1642]

**Inquisition** taken at the City of New Sarum, 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 8 Charles I [1632], before William Guydott, esq., escheator, after the death of John Lowe, esq., by the oath of Arthur Davies, gent, John Thorpe, gent, George Acrigg, Giles Compton, Leonard Browne, Thomas Willson, John Butcher, Ralph Tomlyne, Robert Swering, Richard Easton, Henry Paige, Thomas Woollford, Bartholomew Foster, Thomas Hurcott, and William Earlyghe, who say that

John Lowe was seised of 6 Messuages, one cottage, one dovecote, one orchard, 140 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture and common of pasture for all beasts in **Melkesham**, purchased by him of Henry Broncker, esq., and Gertrude, his wife ; 5 messuages, 5 gardens, 30 acres of land, one acres of pasture, and common pasture for all beasts in **Semyngton, Steple Ashton, and Littleton**, purchased of Thomas Longe, and Alice, his wife, and Robert Flower, and Edith, his wife ; 4 meadows, 18 acres of pasture, and common of pasture for all beasts in Semyngton, Littleton, and Steeple Ashton, purchased of the said Thomas Longe and Robert Flower ; the manor or **Orcheston St. Mary** ; the advowson on the church of Orcheston St. Mary ; a farm in **Martyn and Titpitt**, commonly called Twyde ; a pasture there called the Sheepsleight, occupied with the said farm ; and all the tithes of the said farm and pasture.

So seised, the said John Lowe, by indenture dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 44 Eliz. [1602], made between himself of the one part, and Thomas Hyde, S.T.P., and one of the resident canons of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, now deceased, of the other part, for the performance of an agreement made between them by deed dated 8<sup>th</sup> September then last past, and for a jointure to be made for Elizabeth, then the wife of the said John Lowe and daughter of Thomas Hyde, conveyed the said 6 messuages and other the premises in Melkesham, Semyngton, Steple Ashton, **Hilperton**, and **Whaddon** to the said Thomas Hyde, by the name of the capital message, mansion house, and farm of Semyngton, commonly called Semyngton Farm, and all other the premises purchased of the said Henry Broncker, except 5 messuages now or late in the several tenures of Joan Lowe, widow, Robert Hancocke, Henry Longe, Thomas Longe, and William Longe ; to the use of the said John Lowe and Elizabeth, his wife, and their heirs for ever.

Afterwards the said John Lowe, by another indenture dated the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 22 James I [1624], made between himself of the one part, and John Grove, then of Ferne within the parish of Dunhed, St Andrew, esq., now deceased, and William Grove, then of Shastebury, co. Dorset, esq., now deceased, of the other part, in consideration of the marriage then to be had between John Lowe, son and heir-apparent of the said John Lowe named in the writ, and Mary Grove, daughter of the said William Grove, and for the jointure of the said Mary, granted to the said John and William Grove and their heirs the said manor of **Orcheston St. Mary**, certain feedings called the Newe Leazes, a meadow called West-meade in Semyngton, containing 25 acres, parcel of the premises purchased of Thomas Longe and Robert Flower, except the advowson and right of patronage of the rectory and parish church of Orcheston ; to hold to

them and their heirs, to the use of the said John Lowe the son for his life ; with remainder after his death to the said Mary Grove for her life, for her jointure ; with remainder successively in tail made to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and every other son of the said John Lowe by the said Mary ; with remainder to all the daughters of the said John by the said Mary and their heirs ; with remainder thereof to the use of the said John Lowe named in the writ and his heirs for ever.

The said John and Mary had issue John Lowe the eldest son, William Lowe the second son, and Edward Lowe the third son, and one daughter Mary, all of whom still survive at the city of New Sarum.

The said John Lowe, by another indenture dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4 Charles I [1629], made between himself of the one part, and Anthony Weekes and William Kente, esq., of the other part, for the better satisfying of his debts and legacies to be appointed by his last will, and for the sum of 10s. to him in hand paid, bargained and sold to the said Anthony Weekes and William Kente the said farm called Twyde, the said pasture called Sheepsleight, and the tithes thereto belonging to Martyn and Titpitt, to hold for 21 years, beginning at Christmas then last past, they paying therefor yearly to the said John and his heirs 4d. ; and also to William, then Earl of Pemborke, and his heirs, so much yearly rent as the said John Lowe used to pay him, to wit, £1 15s., at the account day [ad dies compti] of the said Earl at Wilton.

The said farm of Semyngton, and all other the premises in Semyngton, Melkesham, Steple Ashton, Littleton, Hinton, Hilperton, and Whaddon, are held of Walter Longe, esq., as of his manor of Steple Ashton, in free and common socage, by fealty only ; the said premises called Semyngton Farm and other the premises conveyed to the use of the said Elizabeth are worth nothing during her life, but afterwards they will be worth £5 ; the said 5 messuages and other the premises in Semyngton, not conveyed to the said Elizabeth, John, or Mary, are worth per ann., clear, 10s. The premises in Semynton called the New Leazes and West Meade, and other the premises there granted to the said John Lowe, jun., and Mary, his wife, are worth nothing per ann. during their life, but afterwards they will be worth 10s. The manor of Orcheston St. Mary and the advowson of the church there are held of William Earl of Salisbury, as of his honour of Gloucester, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, and are worth per ann., clear, nothing during the lives of the said John and Mary, but afterwards they will be worth £3. The farm and the sheepsleight called Twyde, and other the premises in Martyn and Titpitt, are held of the King as of his manor of Bulford, in free and common socage, by fealty only ; they are worth per ann., clear, during the said term of 21 years, 4d., and afterwards they will be worth £3.

John Lowe died at New Sarum 8<sup>th</sup> February, 7 Charles I [1632] ; John Lowe is his son and next heir, and was then aged 28 years and more.

The said Elizabeth, late the wife of the said John Lowe named in the writ, and the said Mary, wife of the said John Lowe the son, still survive at the City of New Sarum.

**Inq, p.m., 18 Charles I, pt. 1, No. 26. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**