



# *Inquisition*

## *Steeple Ashton*

**WILLIAM JONES, esquire.**

Delivered into Court, 20th November, 2 Charles I (1626)

Inquisition taken at Westbury, 30th July, 22 James I [1624], before Thomas Rose, escheator, after the death of William Jones, esquire, by the oath of Anthony Selfe, Thomas Edwards, Ralph Selfe, Roger Coggeswell, John Wilkins, Thomas Marchmont, John Kyneton, Robert Taylor, Samuel Gibbs Thomas Bigges, John Amylles, William Forde, and John George, who say that

William Jones was seised of the capital messuage and mansion house called Brooke House with appurtenances, co. Wilts, and of ane dovecote, dairy house, slaughter house, and of divers other houses and buildings to the said house belonging, and of the garden, yard, area, and curtilage to the same belonging and near adjoining, and of one close called le Conyger Close containing 12 acres, and of 2 several closes of meadow or pasture containing 40 acres called Lyons Field and Pytsam, and of that parcel of ground containing one and a half acres called Pownde Barton, and one close of meadow or pasture called le Knappes containing 12 acres, one close of meadow called Bottome Meade containing 5 acres, one close of meadow or pasture called Lodgewoode containing 41 acres, and one close of pasture or sommerleaze being parcel of Brooke Park containing 20 acres called East Laynes, and of one close of meadow or pasture called le Home Park Meade containing 35 acres, and of a close of meadow or pasture called Middecorner Leaze containing 32 acres, and of 2 closes of meadow or pasture called Millaynes or Shortlanes containing 34 acres, and of one close of meadow called Marshmeade containing 18 acres, and of woodland or coppice called Lyons Coppice or Lyons Wood Coppice containing 45 acres, and of all that waste lane and way, and half the water running from the mill in **Brooke**, late in the occupation of William Wilkins his son, to the bridge near the aforesaid mansion house in Brooke, and the wood, trees, and bushes growing upon the same ; and of the watercourse running from the mill aforesaid to the aforesaid close parcel of Brooke Park ; and of 7s. from the profits, vivaries, fisheries, waters and watercourses, in or upon the premises with the appurtenances, situate in Brooke aforesaid ; and of the commons, common of pasture, free warren, watercourses, fishings, marshes, rents, reversions, and of 7s. from the easements, advantages, emoluments and hereditaments to the said premises belonging, purchased of Charles last Lord Mountjoy, and afterwards Earl of Devon, deceased.

Being so seised, a fine was levied in Easter term, 4 James I [1606], between Thomas Hughes, then esquire and now knight, and Robert Eyre, esquire, plaintiffs, and the said William Jones and Sefton Jones his son and heir apparent, deforciant, of the capital messuage and other the premises with appurtenances, by the name of 2 messuages, 2 tofts, one dovecot, 2 gardens, 40 acres of land, 150 acres of meadow, 150 acres of pasture, 50 acres of wood and common of pasture for all beasts, with appurtenances in **Brook, Westbury, North Bradlye, Hawking, Heywoode, Southwick, Westashton, Steepleashton, Rode and Trowbridge**. And afterwards in the said 4th year, in Easter term, a common recover was suffered of the premises under the same names, by John Smith, gentleman, and William Lavington, gentleman, plaintiffs, and the aforesaid Sir Thomas Hughes and Robert Eyre, defendants. Which same fine and recovery were had concerning the premises to the use of the said Sefton Jones and Mary Still, now wife of the said Sefton, and their heirs, with remainder to the use of the heirs of the said Sefton ; ultimate remainder to the use of the said William Jones,

his heirs and assigns for ever, as appears by a covenant in an indenture dated 12th February, 3 James I [1605], between William Jones and Sefton Jones of the one part, John Bishop of Bath and Wells (since deceased) of the second part, and the aforesaid Sir Thomas Hughes, Robert Eyre, John Smith and William Lavington, of the third part. By virtue of which fine and recovery the said Sefton Jones entered into the premises on 29th September, 4 James I [1606].

The said William Jones was also seised of a capital messuage or tenement with appurtenances in **Keevil**, co. Wilts, called Brent Place otherwise Barksdales, and of certain barns, stables, buildings, orchards and gardens to the same belonging, and of divers closes of pasture and arable land called Court Close, Garrett Close, Culverhouse Close otherwise Homeclose, Littleham and Barlye Close, and of 12 acres of arable land with appurtenances, being in the common fields of Keevil aforesaid, and of another messuage or tenement in Keevil call Hancockes, in the occupation of Robert Gore and his assigns, and of one close of meadow or pasture called Cotterells in Keevil aforesaid.

Being so seised, by a fine levied in Trinity term, 16 James I [1618], and afterwards in the octaves of Michaelmas term, 17 James I [1619], between Nicholas Carpenter and Edmund Hewes, plaintiffs, and the aforesaid William Jones and Sefton Jones, deforciant, of the messuages or tenements aforesaid in Keevil, amongst others, by the name of 3 messuages, 2 tofts, one dovecote, 3 gardens, 3 apple orchards, 40 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture and common of pasture for all beasts, with appurtenances in **Keevil, Bullington and Seende**, co. Wilts. Which fine was levied concerning the capital messuage called Brents Place otherwise Barksdale, and of all the barns, stables, cowhouse, buildings, apple orchards and garden, and of the 5 said closes, and of the 12 acres of land in the common fields of Keevil with appurtenances (amongst others) to the use of the aforesaid William Jones for life, and afterwards to Isabella his wife for life, with remainder to Henry Jones, second son of the said William, and Abigail his wife, for life ; remainder to the right heirs of the aforesaid William Jones. And concerning the messuage or tenement called Hancockes, and the close called Cotterells, with appurtenances, to the use of the said William Jones, his heirs and assigns for ever. By virtue of which fine and of conveyance dated 21st January, 15 James I [1618], between the said William Jones and Sefton Jones of the one part, the said Henry Jones and Abigail his wife of the second part, and Nicholas Carpenter and Edmund Hewes of the third part, the said William Jones entered into the premises.

The said capital messuage and other the premises in Brooke are held of the King in chief by knight's service by the 20th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per annum, clear, £10 ; the messuage called Brentclose otherwise Barksdale, with appurtenances, and the closes called Court Close, Culverhouse Close otherwise Homeclose, Littleham and Barlye Close, and the said 12 acres of arable land are worth nothing during the life of the said Isabella, but after her decease will be worth [per annum], clear, 2s. ; the messuages called Hancockes and the closes called Cotterells are worth per annum, clear, 12d. ; but by what service the messuage and other the premises in Keevil are held the jurors know not.

William Jones died at Keevil, 2nd April, 18 James I [1620], Sefton Jones is his son and heir, and was, at the time of his father's death, 44 years of age or more. The said Isabella Jones, Henry Jones and Abigail his wife, still survive at Keevil.

The issue and profits of the premises in Brooke, the messuage called Hancockes, and the close called Cotterells in Keevil, were, since the death of the said William, taken by the said Sefton Jones ; and of other the premises in Keevil, by the said Isabella Jones.

**Inq. p.m., 2 Charles I, p.1, No. 61. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**