



Inquisition

Box

HUGH SPEKE, esquire

Delivered into Court 22nd May, 1 Charles I

Inquisition taken at Chippenham, co. Wilts, 15th March, 22 James I [1623-4], before Nicholas YHonge, gent., excheator, after the death of Hugh Speake, esquire, by the oath of Gabriel Gouldney, the elder (illegible), John Fabyan, Gabriel Gouldney the younger, Stephen Orrell, Edward Stafford, William Mesham, Anthony Baldwyn, Thomas Butler, William Kytto, Michael Bollwell (?), John Spencer, Edward Godby, Henry Gouldney, and (illegible), jurors who say that

Hugh Speake, Sir John Moreley, knt., Edward Morley, and James Kirton, esquires, were seised in their demesne as of fee of the manor of **Box**, Wilts, lately belonging to Edward Earl of Hertford, deceased, and on the 26th May, 7 James I [1609], by indenture for the sum of £300 paid by the said Hugh Speke, they sold the said manor of Box to William Wollascott, esq., Thomas Wollascott, gent., and to the said Hugh Speke, to hold to them and their heirs for ever. Afterwards, in the lifetime of the said Hugh Speke, the said Thomas Wollascott died, and the said William and Hugh survived and were seised, etc.

The jurors also say that the said William Wollascott and one Henry Samborne, and Anthony Elmes, esq., were seised of the manors of **Box, Agard and Haselbury**, in Wilts, and the rectory of Box and Haselbury, and the advowson of the vicarage of Box, and levied a fine on the feast of Ascension, 11 James I [1613], between Humphrey Hawes and Thomas Purcell, gent., plaintiffs, and the said William Wollascott, Henry Samborne, and Anthony Elmes, deforciant, of the last-mentioned premises, by the names of the manors of Haselbury and Box alias Bocks, alias Books, and 20 messuages, 20 cottages, 2 dovecotes, 40 gardens, 40 orchards, 1300 acres of land, 140 acres of meadow, 800 acres of pasture, 200 acres of wood, and £6 rent in Box, Haselbury, **Wadsick alias Waddeswicke, and Ditcheridge**, and the free fishery in the water of Box, the rectory of Box and Haselbury, and the advowson of the vicarage of the church of Box ; by which same fine, the premises were acknowledged to be the right of the said Humphrey, as that which he, and the said Thomas, had of the gift of the said plaintiffs, to the use of the said Hugh Speke, from Michaelmas, 10 James I [1612], for 80 years, if the said Hugh should so long live, with reversion to George Speke, son and heir apparent of the said Hugh, and to Elizabeth then wife of the said Hugh, and the heirs male of the body of the said George ; for default of such issue, to the use successfully of Henry Speke, the second son, and Francis Speke the third son of the said Hugh, with divers other remainders. By virtue of which fine, etc., the said Hugh Speke was seised of the manors of Box, Agard, and Haselbury, and other the premises mentioned.

And the jurors also say that one William Horton, esq., was seised of a tenement, arable lands, meadow, feeding and pasture, woods, underwoods, common of pasture, and heredit in Box, late in the tenure of William Rawlyns, the inheritance of Edward Horton, esq., deceased, uncle of the said William Horton ; and the said William Horton, being so seised, on the 30th January, 7 James I [1609-10], he, together with Tobia Horton, his daughter and heir apparent, and Barbara his wife, by an indenture and fine made in Easter term, 8 James I [1611], conveyed and assured the last recited promises to the aforesaid Hugh Speke and William Wollascott, and their heirs for ever.

The jurors also say that one Henry Woodman was seised of 2 small closes of land called "Tyle Quarres," containing 6 acres, and of one coppice and one parcel of land containing (illegible), near "Kingsmore Coppice" parcel of the

inheritance of Thomas Hunt, and are in Haselbury and Box aforesaid ; and of 3 cottages (illegible) and Box aforesaid, lately in the tenure of Thomas B. (illegible) the elder, Richard Beaser and William Keynes, together with 3 gardens and one close called "Orchard close," and 2 acres of land in the common fields there (illegible) for all their cattle ; and the said Henry Woodman being so seised, on 30th January, 7 James I [1609-10], conveyed the last recited premises to the aforesaid Hugh Speke and William Wollacott, and to their assigns for ever.

The jurors also say that one John Moxsam was seised of 3 parts (?) (illegible) lying in the common fields of Haselbury and Box aforesaid, containing 2 acres, one acre lying in "Chappellfield," and abutting upon "Coniger wall," near "le gate," on the west and upon "Bradforde way" [on the east?]; and another lying in the same field, "in proxima cultura" (illegible), north and south between "Haselbury Land" formerly of Sir Walter Longe, knight, upon the west . . . and the lands, late of Henry Long, gentleman, late in the tenure of John Clarke, containing half-an-acre, and the other piece of land lying in "le Quarrefield" near "le oulde churche," and containing half an acre. And the said John Moxsam, so being seised, on 8th June, 8 James I [1610], by his indenture enfeoffed therewith the aforesaid Hugh Speke and William Wollascott to hold to them, their heirs and assigns for ever.

And the jurors further say that on Anthony Bawldwyn was seised of 2 several tenements in Box with (illegible) as yet, or late, in the occupations of Margaret Gregorie and William Marten and of one other tenement, with a curtilage, orchard and garden, and 3 acres of arable land pertaining, in Box, to aforesaid tenement near adjoining, late in the tenure of John Baylie, deceased, or his assigns ; and the said Anthony Baldwin being so seised, on the 29th April, 11 James I [1613], by indenture, bargained and sold the said tenements to Hugh Speke and George Speke and to their heirs for ever.

And the jurors further say that the said Hugh Speke was seised of all those lands and tenements and being in Bathneston, alias Baneaston alias Batheston, in Somersetshire, late in the tenure of Giles Sheppard (illegible) and by fine, in Trinity, 14 James I [1616], between the said Hugh Speke and John Kerrye, plaintiffs, and John Walter and Joan his wife, deforciant, the said John Walter and Joan acknowledged the premises to be the right of the said Hugh Speke and John Kerrye (illegible) by virtue of which the said Hugh Speke and John Kerrye and their heirs were seised for ever.

The Jurors further say that the said Hugh Speke and Sir Thomas Estcourt, knt., and William Workeman were seised of all that tenement in **Waddeswicke**, in Wiltshire, formerly in the tenure of Richard Beaser, and of those closes of arable land, meadow, feeding, and pasture in Waddeswicke, Box and Haselbury, aforesaid, to the same tenement belonging, viz. one close of pasture called "le orchard," containing one acre, one meadow to the aforesaid tenement near adjoining, containing one acre, one close called "Barne close," one close called "Water meade," containing 6 acres, 2 closes called "le over Hutchins" and "le lower Hutchins," containing 8 acres, 2 closes called "le lower leazers (?)," containing 10 acres, one close called "Huntinge Crofte," containing 3 acres, one coppice of wood called "le Grove," containing 6 acres, one close called "le Quarre close," close to the said coppice (illegible), containing 4 acres, one close called "Bradeley," containing 6 acres, one close called "Umdells," containing 5 acres, 2 closes called "Wolleys," containing 6 acres, one close called "Innockes," containing 8 acres, together with 18 acres of arable land in the field called "Tile quarre field" and "Chappell field" in Box aforesaid, and 8 acres of land in the field there called "Box field," and one parcel of land containing one acre, late in the tenure of the said Richard Beaser called "le Quarre," lying at "Haselbury Quarre," this side (citra) the way (?) towards "Crook's Mill," abutting upon the lands of ___ Bonham, esq., on both sides. And the said Sir Thomas Estcourt and William Workeman, being so seised, on 4th June, 6 James I [1608], by indenture, sold to William and Thomas Wollascott, their heirs and assigns for ever, the aforesaid tenement with appurtenances in Waddeswicke.

And the jurors further say that the said Hugh Speke and one Richard Cowley were seised of a tenement with appurtenances, situated in the tenure of Thomas Browne (?), and of one close of pasture and arable land to the same belonging, called "Orchard Close," containing 2 acres, and of 2 acres of land in the fields of Box aforesaid ; one called "Quarrefield," on the east side of an acre belonging to Anthony Long, gent., with common of pasture in the fields aforesaid, for 25 sheep and 2 "rother beastes;" and being so seised, the said Richard, on 8th Sept., 6 James I [1608], enfeoffed therewith the said William and Thomas Wollascott to hold to them and their heirs for ever.

And the jurors further say that one John Walker was seised of a tenement, garden and orchard in Batheaston aforesaid, late in the tenure of John Brewer (illegible), and of another close called "Ramescombe," containing 1½ acres, one close of pasture called "Rowlease" alias "Crafte," containing 3 acres, one close of pasture called

"Hobbes Downe" (illegible), one close called "Ratforde," containing one acre, and of 13 acres of arable land in "le Estefield de Batheaston," and 13 acres in "le Westfield de Batheaston," also in the tenure of the said John Brewer. And being so seised the said John Walker, by indenture of 19th April, 7 James I [1609] (illegible), conveyed the premises to the aforesaid William and Thomas Wollascott and their heirs for ever.

And the jurors further say that the said Sir William Bullen was seised of (torn away) now or late in the tenure of Robert Jones, and of those closes, pieces and parcels of land in Box and Haselbury aforesaid (illegible and torn), in the occupation of William Coffyn alias Rarby (?) and afterwards in the tenure of John Walter ; and of and in the piece of land in Box and Haselbury aforesaid (torn), now or late in the tenure of John Martin, "freemason" ; and so being seised, the aforesaid Sir William Bullen by his (torn away) 8 James I [1610-11], conveyed and assured the premises to the said John Kerry and Thomas Wollascott, to have them and their assigns (torn away) for ever.

And the jurors further say that one George Mison was seised of one cottage and one parcel of enclosed land called "Stauckleys," containing 5 acres, and of a parcel of land containing one acre ; and of the enclosed lands called "Whitewood Peece," containing 4 acres, and of an acre of arable land lying below "Cocklereave Hedge" and abutting upon "Whitewood Peece," an acre of meadure or pasture (illegible) "Weaverne Brooke," within a meadow below "Great Engolls," which premises are situated in Box aforesaid ; and of an annual rent of 8s. issuing and payable out of one acre of meadow lying in "Engolls meadowe," in Box aforesaid, and being so seised, the said George, on 5th (?) November, 2 James I [1604], conveyed the premises to Henry Samborne, William Wollascott and Anthony Elmes, to hold to them, their heirs and assigns for ever.

And the jurors further say that George Mison, William Mison and John Mison were seised of one messuage, 10 cottages, 10 gardens, 24 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture and common of pasture in Box aforesaid, and so being seised, the said George and William conveyed their purparties of the premises to the aforesaid John Kerry and John Winchcombe, of Henwick, in Berkshire, gent., and to their heirs and assigns for ever ; and the said John Kerry and John Winchcombe being so seised by these purparties, and the aforesaid John Mison, of his purpatory, levied a fine in Trinity term, 22 James I [1624], as between George Speake, son and heir apparent of the aforesaid Hugh Speake, plaintiff, and the aforesaid John Mison, deforciant, of the purparty of the aforesaid John, by the name of a third part of one messuage, etc., by which same fine John Mison acknowledge his purparty to be the right of the aforesaid George speake.

And the jurors futher say that the aforesaid purchase made by the said William and Thomas Wollascott of the aforesaid Sir Thomas Estcourt, knt., and William Workeman, and that made by the aforesaid William and Thomas Wollascott of the said Richard Cowley ; and that made by them of John Walker ; and that made by John Kerry and Thomas Wollascott of the aforesaid Sir William Button, knt. ; and that made by Henry Samborne, Willilam Wollascott and Anthony Elmes, of the said (illegible) ; and that made by the said John Kerry and John Winchcombe of the said George and Willilam Mison ; and that made by George Speake of the said John Mison ; were made by the said William Wollascott, Thomas Wollascott, John Kerry, Henry Samborne, Anthony Elmes, John Winchcombe, and George Speake, upon the rerquest of the said Hugh Speake, and with his money, and that they accordingly permitted him to have and receive the issues and profits of the premises during his life.

And moreover the jurors aforesaid say, that the said Hugh Speke was seised of a tenement, with appurtenances, in "le Slade" in Box aforesaid, and of 104 acres of land, meadow, pasture, and wood (illegible) for 300 sheep, in Box and Ditchridge, lately purchased by him of Edward Colston ; and of a messuage and curtilage, with appurtenances, and all thos lands called layland, in Witcombe and Lincombe, in Somerssetshire, containing 30 acres, whereof 20 lie on the north side of the way there called "Furseway," and abut upon the land called "le Headland de Barwick," upon the north ; and the remaining 10 acres upon the south side of the said way and abut upon the north side of the ditch called "Wandesdiche," and of a parcel of arable land lying at "Horsecombe Head," containing 3 acres, lying in Witcombe and Lincombe aforesaid, near "Wandesditch," on the north side ; and of all those sheep-grounds and pastures, containing 14 acres, lying in the parish of Witcombe, in "le Eastdowne," commonly called "Horscombe Downe," alias "South Stockesleighte," lying on the south side, near the aforesaid way called "Furseway," and abutting on the north upon "Horscombe," and of those parcels of land called "Layland" (?) containing 28 acres, lying in the parish of Witcombe and Lincombe upon "Odwood Downe," commonly called "South Stockesleighte," being on the north side of "Wandesditch" aforesaid, and abutting on the north upon the bounds calle "le Mearestones," of the division and partition of the land and soil called "the Hoggstocksleight of Lincombe," and of those 3 acres of arable land commonly called "Layland," lying in the parish of Witcombe and Lincombe, near the way leading

towards Mitford on the east sidt, and abutting upon "Horscombe Heade," on the north side ; together with all those other lands to the same messuage and curtilage pertaining, containing in all, 90 acres lying within the parishes of Witcombe and Lincombe aforesaid.

And the jurors further say that the aforesaid William Wollascott and Hugh Speake were seised of the manor of Box aforesiad, and the said Hugh Speake of the said manor of Box, Agard, and Haselbury, and the rectory of Box and Haselbury, and the advowson of the vicarage of Box aforesaid, and the said Hugh Speake and William Wollascott of the premises purchased of William Horton, Toby Horton, and Barbara his wife, Henry Woodman and John Moxsam, and the said Hugh Speake and George Speake of the premises in the occupation of Margaret Gregorie, William Marten, and John Baylie ; and the said Hugh Speake and John Kerry of the said premises in Batheaston, late in the tenure of Giles Shepheard ; and the same Hugh Speake of the premises called "Slade," and common for 300 sheep in Box and Ditchridge, and of the premises in Witcombe and Lincombe.

William Wollascott, George Speake, and John Kerry survive, and remain seised, to wit – the said William of the manor of Box, and the premises purchased of William Horton, Toby Horton, and Barbara his wife, Henry Woodman, and John Moxsam ; George Speake of the premises in the several tenures of Margaret Gregorie, William Marten, and John Bayley ; and John Kerry of the premises in the tenure of Giles Shepheard.

The manor of Box, late of the Earl of Hertford, is held of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors are ignorant, and is worth yearly 40s. beyond reprises ; the manor of Box Agard, with the premises in Box and Haselbury, purchased of Henry Woodman, John Moxsam, Anthony Elmes, Richard Cowley, Sir William Button, knt., Sir Thomas Estcourt, knt., and of John, George, and Willilam Mison are held of the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster by the service of 3s. 4d. rent, but by what other service the jurors are ignorant, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, £10 ; the manor of Haselbury is held of Charles Prince of Wales [in Inq. is taken temp. James I] as of the Honour of Wallingford, by the service of 3s. 4d. rent, but by what other service the jurors are ignorant, and is worth, beyond reprises, £6 13s. 4d. ; the rectory of Box and Haselbury, and the advowson and vicarage of the church of Box are held of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a fee the jurors are ignorant, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, £6 ; the aforesaid tenement, with appurtenances, and all thos arable lands, meadows, etc. in Box, late the inheritance of Edward Horton, are held of Edward Hungerford, esq., as of his manor of Haytesbury, by fealty only, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 20s. ; all and singular the premises in Bathneston are held of Sir William Butten, knt., as of his manor of Bathneston, in scoage, by fealty, and the annual render of half-a-pound of pepper for all exactions and demands, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 24s. ; the tenement in "le Slade" in Box, and the 104 acres of land, meadow, etc., in Box and Ditchridge, are held of the King as of the dissolved monastery of Lacocke, in free and common scoage, viz. by fealty, and the annual rent of 40s. for all service and demand, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, £3 6s. 8d. ; and the aforesiad messuage and lands in Witcombe and Lincombe are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, by fealty only, in free and common socage, and are worth yearly, in all issues, beyond reprises, 13s. 4d.

The said Hugh Speake died on the 5th January last past [1623-4].

George Speake aforesaid is son and next heir of the said Hugh Speake, and is of the age of 26 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 1 Charles I, p. 1, No. 39. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.