

## APPENDIX VI

### *Inquisitio Post Mortem on Sir William Laxton*

Chancery. Inquisitions post mortem Series II (C. 142). File 112. No. 93.

(a) Writ dated 10 May 1558 directed to the eschaetor in the County of Kent to hold an inquest on the death of Sir William Laxton.

(Note. As in theory all land belonged to the Crown, a royal official, the Eschaetor, was maintained in each county to claim certain dues on the death of landowners and to make sure that the in-coming heir satisfied the rights of the Crown: on receipt of a writ it became his duty to summon a jury to inquire into and report on oath the extent and value of the land held by the deceased, his heir and his testamentary dispositions. Such a sworn verdict, the *Inquisitio post mortem*, had no concern with the causes of the death, into which in cases of doubt or violence the Coroner inquired. Until the modification of the feudal law in 1540, land had not been subject to testamentary disposition (32 Henry VIII *cap.* 1).)

Philippus et Maria dei gratia rex et regina Anglie Hispaniarum Francie utriusque Sicilie Jerusalem et Hibernie Fidei defensores archiduces Austrie duces Burgundie Mediolani et Brabancie Comites Hapsburgi Flandrie et Tirolis, Escaetori suo in comitatu Kancie Salutem. Precipimus tibi quod per sacramentum proborum et legalium hominum de balliua tua per quos rei veritas melius sciri poterit diligenter inquiras que terre [*sic*] et tenementa Willelmus Laxton miles defunctus tenuit de nobis in capite tam in dominico quam in seruicio in dicta balliua tua die quo obiit et quantum de aliis et per quod seruicium et quantum terre et tenementa illa valeant per annum in omnibus exitibus et quo die idem Willelmus obiit et quis propinquior heres ejus sit et quante etatis Et quis vel qui terras et tenementa illa a tempore mortis predicti Willelmi occupauit vel occupauerunt ac exitus et proficua inde percepit vel perceperunt quo titulo qualiter et quo modo Et inquisitionem inde distincte et aperte factam nobis in Cancellariam nostram sub sigillo tuo et sigillis eorum per quos facta fuit sine dilatione mittas et hoc breue Teste nobis ipsis apud Westmonasterium decimo die Maii annis regnorum nostrorum quarto et quinto.

(b) Inquisition taken at Deptford on 15 May 1558 after the death of Sir William Laxton by virtue of the foregoing writ by the oaths of the jurors named therein.

(Liberata fuit curie vicesimo quarto die Maii annis sequentibus per manus Jacobi Clerke seruientis escaetoris.)

**Kancia Inquisicio indentata capta apud** Deptford in comitatu predicto decimo quinto die Maii regnorum Philippi et Marie dei gratia regis et regine Anglie Hispaniarum Frauncie utriusque Sicilie Jerusalem et Hibernie fidei defensorum archiducum Austrie ducum Burgundie Mediolani et Brabancie comitum Haspburgi Flaundrie et Tirolis quarto et quinto Coram Ricardo Tebold armigero escaetore dictorum dominorum regis et regine in comitatu predicto virtute breuis dictorum dominorum regis et regine de inquisicione capta post mortem Willelmi Laxton militis eidem escaetori directi et huic inquisicioni consueti per sacramentum Thome Hunt Jacobi Johnson Thome Walker Thome Ward Galfridi Grenham Roberti Hastlynges Johannis Sharpe Johannis Giles Johannis Webster Roberti . . . Willelmi Clarke Ricardi Allyn Johannis Dorrant et Johannis Wallys **qui dicunt** super sacramentum

## APPENDIX VI

suum quod diu ante obitum predicti Willelmi Laxton in dicto breui nominati dictus Willelmus Laxton fuit seisitus in dominico suo vt de feodo de et in quatuor messuagiis quatuor cotagiis octo gardinis duobus columbariis centum acris terre centum et sexaginta acris prati trescentis acris pasture decem acris bosci centum et viginti acris iamprorum et bruerie cum pertinenciis in Snaue Ivechurche Snargate et Brokeland in dicto comitatu Kancie et predictus Willelmus sic inde seisitus existens quedam finis inde inter alia leuata fuit in curia dominorum [*sic*] regis et domine regine nunc apud Westmonasterium in Crastino Ascencionis domini annis regnorum dicatorum domini regis et domine regine nunc secundo et tercio coram Roberto Broke Humfrido Broune Edwardo Saunders et Willelmo Stamford militibus justiciariis dicatorum dominorum regis et regine inter Johannem Suthcott generosum et Nicholaum Luddyington ciuem et grocerum London querentes et predictum Willelmum Laxton militem et Johannam vxorem eius deforciantes de predictis quatuor messuagiis quatuor cotagiis octo gardinis duobus columbariis centum acris terre centum et sexaginta acris prati trescentis acris pasture decem acris bosci et centum et viginti acris iamprorum et bruerie cum pertinenciis in Snaue Ivechurche Snargate et Brokeland in comitatu Kancie per quam quidem finem postea scilicet in crastino Sancte Trinitatis annis regnorum eorundem regis et regine supradictorum placito [*sic*] conuencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem curia scilicet quod predicti Willelmus et Johanna recognouerunt tenementa predicta inter alia esse ius ipsius Johannis vt illa que iudem Johannes et Nicholaus habent de dono predictorum Willelmi et Johanne et illi remiserunt et quietum clamauerunt de ipsis Willelmo et Johanna et heredibus suis predictis Johanni et Nicholao et heredibus ipsius Johannis imperpetuum Et preterea iudem Willelmus et Johanna concesserunt pro se et heredibus ipsius Willelmi quod ipsi warrantizabunt predictis Johanni et Nicholao et heredibus ipsius Johannis tenementa predicta inter alia contra omnes homines imperpetuum et pro hac recognicione remissione quieta clamacione warrantia fine et concordia iudem Johannes et Nicholaus concesserunt predictis Willelmo et Johanne predicta tenementa inter alia Et illi eis reddiderunt in eadem curia habenda et tenenda eisdem Willelmo et Johanne de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per seruicia que ad predicta tenementa pertinent tota vita ipsorum Willelmi et Johanne et eorum alterius diucius viuencium et post decessum ipsorum Willelmi et Johanne (et eorum alterius diucius viuencium Et post decessum ipsorum Willelmi et Johanne) predicta tenens [*sic*] inter alia remanebunt rectis heredibus ipsius Willelmi tenenda de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per seruicia que ad predicta tenementa pertinent imperpetuum prout per recordum finis predictae juratoribus predictis in euidencia ostense plenius liquet virtute cuius idem Willelmus Laxton et predicta Johanna adtunc vxor eius fuerunt inde seisiti videlicet predictus Willelmus in dominico suo vt de feodo et predicti Willelmus et Johanna in dominico suo vt de libero tenemento Vterius juratores predicti dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Willelmus Laxton et Johanna vxor eius diu ante obitum ipsius Willelmi et tempore mortis predicti Willelmi fuerunt seisiti videlicet sibi et heredibus dicti Willelmi Laxton de et in diuersis terris et tenementis in Lotseham in comitatu predicto videlicet de vno molendino aquatico vocato C . . . mill et sex acris prati eidem pertinentibus et adiacentibus nuper perquisitis de Ricardo Page milite modo in tenura Antonii Lysny et de vno messuagio et octo acris terre modo in tenura Emery Elery ac de alio messuagio et duodecim acris terre nuper perquisitis de prefato Ricardo Page milite modo in tenura siue occupatione Johannis Parsons Et predictus Willelmus Laxton et Johanna sic de omnibus et singulis premisis seisiti existentes idem Willelmus Laxton apud Londonium obbiit et predicta Johanna ipsum superuixit et se tenuit intus per ius accrescendi et fuit et adhuc est inde seisita in dominico suo vt de libero tenemento que quidam [*sic*] Johanna modo in plena vita existit

## APPENDIX VI

ac post cuius quidem (Willelmi Laxton) mortem reuercio siue remanere [*sic*] tenementorum predictorum cum pertinenciis descendebant [*sic*] cuidam Johanne Wanton modo vxori Thome Wanton de London groceri vt consanguinee et proxime heredi ipsius Willelmi Laxton militis videlicet filie Johannis Laxton fratris predicti Willelmi Laxton militis Et predictus Willelmus Laxton sic de premissis seisitus scilicet decimo septimo die Julii anno domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo sexto et annis regnorum dominorum regis et regine nunc secundo et quarto ordinauit et declarauit testamentum et vltimam voluntatem suam in scriptis concernentem omnia messuagia terras tenementa hereditamenta sua quecumque modo et forma sequentibus **videlicet in hec verba** And as thouchyng the dysposycion of my maners landes and tenements I wyll the same yn maner and forme followyng that is to saye I geve wyll and bequethe after the decease of Dame Johanne my wyffe all my maner called Rosehalle in Sarett with all and syngular the members and appertenaunces in the countye of Hertforde and all other my landes tenements and heredytaments in Sarett in the seyd countye to the foreseeyd Nycolas Luddington and to his heyres and assynges for ever Item I geve and bequethe to the seyd Anne Lodge wyffe to the seyd Thomas Lodge Alderman after the decease of the seyd Dame Johanne my wyffe all my landes tenements rents reversiones services and heredytaments with ther appertenaunces set lying and beyng in Stoke and Naylold in the countyes of Suffolke and Essex and all other my landes tenements and heredytaments with ther appertenaunces in the seyd countyes of Suffolk and Essex **to have and to hold** all the seyd landes tenementes rents reversiones and heredytaments in the seyd countyes of Suffolke and Essex to the seyd Anne Lodge hyr heyres and assynges for ever **Item** I wyll and bequethe to the foreseeyd Wylliam Mason and to hys heyres for ever all those my too tenements with ther appertenaunces set lying and beyng in the paryshe of Aldermaye in the Cytye of London and nowe in the severall tenures and occupacions of Edward Ley marchaunt taylor and Thomas Bellyngham marchaunt taylor, the resydue of all my maners landes tenements and heredytaments wythe thappertenaunces I leave to descende after the decease of the seyd Dame Johanne my wyffe to my cosen Johanne Wanton my ryght heyre and to hyr heyres for ever according to the Kynges and quenes mayestyes lawes **prout per eandem voluntatem** juratoribus predictis super capcionem huius inquisicionis in evidencia ostensam inter alia plenius continetur Et dicunt vltorius iuratoribus [*sic*] predicti quod predictus Willelmus Laxton postea fecit quendam [*sic*] codicellam eidem vltime voluntati annexatam terras et tenementa sua concernentem ac iuratoribus predictis super capcionem huius inquisicionis in evidencia annexatam [*ostensam*] cuius quidam codicelle tenor sequitur in hec verba **A. Codycell to be Annexed** to the last wyll and testament of Syr Wyllm Laxton knyght Alderman of London made by me the same Sir Willm the too and twentye day of July in the seconde and fowrthe yeres of the reygnes of our sovereygne lord and lady Phylp and Mary and in the yere of our Lord God a thowsand fyve hundred fyfthe and syx whereas I the seyd Sir Wyllm Laxton am fully mynded to erect and founde a free gramer Scole at Owndell in the countye of Northampton to have contynuaunce for ever and the seyd free gramer Scole to be kept in the messuage or howse of late called the Gyulde [*sic*] or fraternyte howse of Owndell aforesyd whyche free Scole I wyll shalbe called the free gramer scolle of me the seyd Syr Wyllm Laxton Knyght Alderman of London and whereas my mynde will and entent ys that the scolemaster of the seyd free scolle for the tyme beyng shall have for hys stypende and wages yerely eightene poundes and the vssher of the same Scolle yerely syx pounds thyrtene shyllnynges and fower pence **And** whereas also my hole mynde and entent ys to have seven pore men perpetually to be founde att Owndell aforesyd and to have every of them eyght pence weekly towards ther mayntenaunce and releffe and also conveyent lodgeyng

## APPENDIX VI

and free howse rume and dwelling in the seyde messuage or tenement of late called the Gyulde or fraternyte howse of Owndell and whereas for the seyde godly intentes and purpose I have taken ordre and yt ys agreed betwene me and the Wardens of the comynaltye of the mystery of the Grocers within the Cytye of London and have sett owte to them in partyculers certene of my landes and tenements within the Cytye of London as well for the payment of the stypendes aforeseyde appoynted to the scole master and vssher and for the pore men as also for the reparacions and mayntenaunce of the seyde messuage or tenement of late called the Gyulde or fraternyte howse of Owndell and I nowe myndyng thaccomplishement of all the premysses and to have the same take effect according to my full mynde and entent do will devyse geve and bequeth vnto the Wardens and comynaltye of the mystery of the Grocers within the Cytye of London and to ther successors for ever all and synguler my messuages landes tenements rents reversiones servyces and heredytaments with ther appertenaunces set lying and beyng in the parysh of Seynt Swythyn at London stone and in Sherneborne Lane Seynt Nycolas lane Abchurch lane Candelwyck strete and Eschepe or elsewhere within the Cytye of London whyche I late bought and purchased of [blank] Weldon esquier to have and to hold the seyde messuages landes tenements rents reversiones and heredytaments with thappertenaunces to the seyde Wardens and comynaltye of the seyde mystery of grocers and to ther successors for ever vpon thys condycion and entent hereafter expressed and declared that is to say **I will** that the seyde Wardens and comynaltye within as convenient tyme as they may or cane shall make sute with my executors to the Kinges and Quenes mayestyes to opteyne at ther hyghnes handes the seyde messuage or tenement of late called the Guilde or fraternyte howse of Owndell aforeseyde and the same messuage or tenement beyng obteyned I wyll the same to be employed and used for the Scole howse aforeseyde and for the habytacion of the seyde seven pore mene and to be called the free Scole howse of me the seyde Sir Wyllm Laxton Knyght in Owndell aforeseyde and also I wyll that the Wardens and comynaltye of the seyde mystery of Grocers and ther successors from time to tyme for evermore shall provyde an honest and vertuous and lerned scolemaster beyng a master of Arts to teache grammer frely within the seyde scole howse to all suche as shall cum thether to lerne and also shall provyde contynually for ever one honest lerned person to be ussher of the same scole and to teache and instruct the scollers of the same vnder the seyde scolemaster And I wyll that the seyde Wardens and comynaltye of the seyde mystery of grocers for the tyme beyng shall yerely pay vnto the Scolemaster of the seyde free Scolle for the tyme beyng out of the yssues rentes and revenewes of the messagis landes and tenements aforeseyde to them bequethed for hys stypend and wages yerely eyghtene poundes at fower feastes or termes in the yere usuall within the Cytye of London by even porcions or within convenient tyme after every of the seyde feastes or termes by even porcions and shall lykwyse paye out of the revenewes and yssues aforeseyde to the vssher of the seyde scole for the tyme beyng six poundes thyrtyne shylynges and fower pence at the feastes and termes aforeseyde by even porcions or within convenyent tyme after every of the seyde feastes or termes And also I wyll that the seyde Wardens and comynaltye of grocers for the tyme beyng shall for evermore with thadvise and consent of the vicar churche wardens and fower of the best and honest parysshioners of Owndell aforeseyde for the time beyng provyde and appoynt seven pore men parysshioners of Owndell aforeseyde to be beadmen for me in the seyde messuage or howse called the free grammer scole house of me the seyde Sir Wyllm Laxton Knyght to have ther convenyent lodgeryng and dwelling theryn frely and that the seyde Wardens and comynaltye of grocers aforeseyde for the time beyng shall yerely pay out of the yssues and profetts of the foresayde landes and tenements to every of the seyde pore men thyrtye tree [sic] shylynges and eyght pence

## APPENDIX VI

whyche amounteth wekely at the rate of eyght pence and the seyd payments to be made quarterly as ys aforeseyd accompted to the seyd Scolmaster and vssher **And** furthermore I wyll that the seyd Wardens and comynaltye for the time beyng shall yerely pay and delyver or cawse to be payde and delyvered to the vicare and church wardens and too fower of the moste ancylent substancyall and honest persons paryshoners of Owndell aforeseyd for the tyme beyng fower and twentye shylynges yerely to thentent that the seyd vycar churchwardens and paryshioners or some of them shall employ and bestowe the same upon the reparacion and mayntenaunce of the seyd messuage or tenement called the fre scole of me the seyd Syr Wylliam Laxton Knyght in Owndell aforeseyd from tyme to tyme when (and as often as need shall) requyre **And** further I wyll that the seyd fre scole shalbe perpetually named and called the fre grammer scole of Sir Wyllm Laxton Knyght Alderman of the Cytye of London in Owndell and the scolemaster and ussher of the same to be named and called the scolemaster and usher of the fre grammer scole of Syr Wyllm Laxton Knyght Alderman of the Cytye of London in Owndell and the seven pore bedemen to be perpetually named and called the pore bedemen of Sir Wyllm Laxton Knyght Alderman of the Cytye of London in Owndell and I wyll that for convenyent tyme [*sic!*] ferder to expleyne and sett out the ereccon aforeseyd that all other thynges necessary towchyng the ereccon and contynuaunce of the seyd free scole and other the premysse shalbe considered and done in suche godly sorte as by the good dyscrecyon of my executryx and overseers of my last wyll and testament or by ther lerned counsell shalbe thought mete and convenyent **Prout per dictum** testamentum et vltimam voluntatem juratoribus predictis super capcionem huius inquisicionis in evidencia ostensum inter alia plenius liquet et apparet Et vltorius juratores predicti super sacramentum suum dicunt quod predicta quatuor messuagia [quatuor cottagia] octo gardina duo columbaria centum acre terre centum et sexaginta acre prati trescentae acre pasture decem acre bosci centum et viginti acre iamptorum et bruerie cum pertinenciis scituata et existencia in villis et campis de Snave Ivechirche et Brokeland tenentur [*sic*] et tempore mortis predicti Willelmi Laxton tenebantur de dictis domino rege et domina regina in capite videlicet per seruicium decime partis vnus feodi militis pro omnibus seruiciis et sciendum quod reddunt vltra reprisas triginta libras et quod predictum molendinum et sex acre prati cum pertinenciis in Lotesham tenentur et tempore mortis predicti Willelmi Laxton tenebantur de domino rege et domina regina vt de manerio suo de Widdisham in socagio per fidelitatem debitam et valent per annum in omnibus exitibus vltra reprisas quadraginta [solidos?] et quod dicta messuagia et octo acre terre modo in tenura sive occupacione dicti Emeri Elery tenentur et tempore mortis dicti Willelmi Laxton tenebantur de dictis domino rege et domina regina nunc in capite vt de manerio suo [*illegible interlineation*] in socagio pro omnibus seruiciis et demaundis et valent per annum in omnibus exitibus vltra reprisas quadraginta solidos et quod predictum messuagium et duodecim acre terre cum pertinenciis in tenura Johannis Parsons tenentur de dictis domino rege et domina regina nunc vt de manerio [*illegible interlineation*] Et dicunt insuper juratores predicti super sacramentum suum quod predictus Willelmus Laxton obiit vicesimo [*sic!*] die Julii anno domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo sexto vltimum preterito ante capcionem huius inquisicionis Et quod dicta Johanna Wanton vxor Thome Wanton est consanguinia et proxima heres eiusdem Willelmi Laxton videlicet filia prefati Johannis Laxton fratris predicti Willelmi Laxton militis et est etatis die capcionis huius inquisicionis quinquaginta annorum et amplius Et vltorius juratores predicti super sacramentum suum dicunt quod predictus Willelmus Laxton in dicto breve nominatus nulla alia seu plura terras tenementa seu hereditamenta die quo obiit habuit nec tenuit de dictis domino rege et domina regina nunc seu de alia persona aut aliquibus personis in dominico

## APPENDIX VI

reuersione nec in seruicio in dicto comitatu Kancie **In cuius rei** testimonium vni parte [sic] huius inquisitionis penes prefatum escactorem remanenti juratores predicti sigilla sua apposuerunt alteri vero parte [sic] juratoribus predictis (presentibus predictus escactor) sigillum suum apposuit die et annis predictis.

[Signed by some of the jurors, others having made their marks.]