

them at three weeks from Easter. At Easter 1330 Hugh son of John de Perton, sued Thomas de Tefford for £15, the arrears of an annual rent of thirty shillings, which he owed to him. Thomas did not appear, and the Sheriff returned that he was a clerk, and as it was testified that he held a benefice within the see of Lincoln, a mandate was sent to the said bishop to produce him at the octaves of Michael. W. Hardwicke states that John de Perton died in 1330, though the writ of *diem clausit extremum* on his death is not dated until July 9th 1332, when the usual particulars anent the Manor are given. It states that William de Perton is his eldest son and heir, and is 34 years of age and upwards. He had enjoyed the estate for a period of 45 years, and was about 69 years of age at death; his children from Felicia his wife have been already enumerated, and by his second wife Margaret he does not appear to have had any. By his opportune death he must have escaped much obliquy in consequence of the tax swindle case, though his son and heir, when called upon, would probably have to pay the fine incurred, in full. He was almost certainly dead in 1330, for about Michaelmas of that year, Ralph Bassett of Drayton, granted permission to William de Perton to enclose the wood of Harewood, within the fee of Perton, and to maintain it as a park in future. This deed which is in Norman French is dated from Patingham, on Monday after the feast of saint Michael 1331, and is witnessed by Sir Philip de Somerville and Sir Thomas le Rous, knights, Roger Hillary, Roger de Wodenham, and John de Bentley; and previous to this release, the tenants of Patingham had rights of common, except during pannage and crop seasons, within the wood in question.

William de Perton the son and heir was accepted in homage, by the king, in a writ of 31st July following the *post mortem* inquisition. This William is already a prominent figure in records prior to his father's death in 1330. He does not appear ever to have been knighted, and probably never bore arms personally, though his name is of frequent occurrence in judicial proceedings as a justice of assize, and this so much as to make it highly probable that he had been educated for the law as a profession, possibly having originally had an elder brother who died prematurely. His name occurs as a justice assigned to take assizes in Staffordshire in 1334, 35, 38, 39 and 40. The Subsidy Roll of 1327 gives him as the principal land owner of Trysul, and in a deed now at Wrottesley, dated 1340 he styles himself lord of Tresel as well as of Perton. This would be as heir to his mother Felicia, and of her nephew John who died without issue in 1447; but the Stirchley property and part of that at Trescote had already been conveyed to himself and his wife by deed of gift, from the father, probably in order to avoid the succession duty which would otherwise have been payable. In 1331 a plea roll records that the Sheriff of Staffordshire had been ordered to arrest Walter de Perton in Shropshire (this was William's uncle parson Walter, rector of Stirchley in 1310 and prebendary of Perton in Tottenhall collegiate church of saint Michael in 1329, who died February 22nd, 1349) and to produce him before the King's bench court, to answer for the death of John de Derleye, of which he had been appealed in Derbyshire by Matilda, widow of the said John, and who had withdrawn from her appeal; and likewise to arrest Roger de Wednesleye the younger, Thomas Ithel of Staffordshire, William de Perton of Shropshire, William Pare of Fossbrook in Staffordshire, Ralph de Spencer, and Robert Buttok of Wednesleye, for aiding and abetting the said Walter. And a precept was sent to the Sheriff and the coroners of Derbyshire, to return the day, year and place, where the felony had been committed. The Derbyshire Sheriff