

of the king, would divide the earldom of Gloucester between them.²⁶

7. The wardship of Isabella, daughter of Walter de Bolebec, 1185
[From Public Record Office, London, E198/1/2, *Rotuli de Dominabus et Pueris et Puellis*, Rolls 4, 5, 11; in Latin]

Buckinghamshire. The daughter of Walter de Bolebec, who was nine years old at Michaelmas [29 September], has been in the custody of Earl Aubrey since the beginning of Lent. Her land at Whitchurch, which belongs to the fee of Walter de Bolebec, has been in the custody of Reginald de Curteni since the feast of St. John nine years ago,²⁷ and it is worth £20 a year, not counting aids, and the profits from demesne land and the garden. It is stocked as follows: three ploughs, one boar, five sows, and twenty-one piglets.

Buckinghamshire. Chesham was held by Walter de Bolebec, and for ten years has been in the custody of Reginald de Curteni, together with Walter's daughter, and it is worth £30 a year.

Cambridgeshire. The daughter of Walter de Bolebec is in the gift of the lord king and is ten years old. The vill of Swaffham Bulbeck is part of the barony of Walter de Bolebec, and his daughter is the heir, and Swaffham has been given in dower to the wife of Gilbert Basset.²⁸

8. Grant of the marriage of Belesent, daughter and heiress of Roger son of Odo, by her lord, Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford, 1173–90
[From British Library, London, Harley Charter 111 E45; in Latin]

Richard de Clare earl of Hertford greets all his men and friends, both present and future. Know that I have given and granted and by this my

²⁶ The passage shows the king's ability to override the customary division of an estate between the heiresses, Henry II doing this in the interests of providing for John. John married the youngest daughter Isabella whom he divorced in 1199. The eldest daughter Mabel married Amaury count of Evreux, and the second daughter Amicia married Richard de Clare earl of Hertford, d. 1217. In 1217 after the death of Isabella the Clare family succeeded to the earldom.

²⁷ It is likely that the feast referred to was the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on 24 June which was a usual term for the payment of rent.

²⁸ Presumably Walter's widow had been married to Gilbert Basset. It was usual for the custody of the heir and of the lands to be in different hands. These entries did not comprise the whole of Walter's barony. In 1190, Aubrey de Vere earl of Oxford paid 500 marks for permission to marry Isabella to his son Aubrey; *Rotuli de Dominabus et Pueris et Puellis de XII Comitatus*, ed. J. H. Round, Pipe Roll Society, XXXV, 1913, pp. xxxix–xli; D. M. Stenton, ed., *The Great Roll of the Pipe for 2 Richard I, 1190*, Pipe Roll Society, new series, I, p. 110.

present charter have confirmed to Hugh, brother of Master Robert de Kent, in return for his service Belesent, daughter and heiress of Roger son of Odo, together with all the land which Roger and his father Odo held of me and my father within and outside the borough of Tonbridge, namely the land at Sandhurst and 'Helham', with all appurtenances, in wood and plain, in meadows, pastures and fisheries, to have and to hold to him and his heirs of me and my heirs wholly and fully and freely and peacefully in all things by the service of half a knight for all service. And in return for this my gift Hugh has done homage and fealty to me. And in order that this my gift may be firm and permanent I have confirmed it with the present writing and with the testimony of my seal. Witnessed by Richard de Clare, John the steward, William de Watevile, Master William de Tunebrege, Master Robert de Kent, Guy son of Odo, Ralph Canutus, Ralph de Penecestre, Gilbert de Cortune, John de Clare, Richard de Marem, Hugh de Cestre, William Scurleg, John son of Godfrey, Richard of the chamber.

9. Extracts from the proof of age of Joan, daughter and heiress of William de Welles, held at Great Sampford, Essex, 23 June, 1351²⁹
 [From Public Record Office, London, C135/113/16; in Latin]

John Walram, knight, aged sixty, was examined on oath concerning Joan's age, and says that she was fifteen years old on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary last past [8 September]. He knows this because he was present as her godfather at her baptism in Great Sampford church on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, in the ninth year of the reign of Edward III [1335], and her name was written in the church's missal. This is his memory of Joan's birth and age.

Richard de Welle, aged forty, was examined on oath about Joan's age, and says that she was fifteen years old on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary last past. Asked how he knows this, he says that William de Welles, Joan's father, was at Sampford on the day of Joan's birth, and gave Richard a tenement in Sampford by a charter dated the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary in the ninth year of the present king, and he then heard how the news of Joan's birth came to

²⁹ Statements were taken from twelve jurors altogether. Joan became a ward of the Crown on the death of her father, and her wardship was granted to Guy de Brian; his attorney was summoned to the proof of age (as was the usual practice with guardians) but did not appear. John de Coggeshale paid £400 to Guy for Joan's marriage to his son Henry; J. C. Ward, 'Sir John de Coggeshale: an Essex knight of the fourteenth century', *Essex Archaeology and History*, XXII, 1991, p. 65.