

wife of John Bennett, and Anne, the wife of Henry Spencer, the only children of Wolley Leigh, and they obtained a decree by which it was set aside, as having been obtained by fraud and by undue influence of William Vade. In Feb., 1744, this decree was affirmed on an appeal to the House of Lords. His will,<sup>1</sup> which is drawn in accordance with the foregoing settlement, is dated 30th Jan., 1736, and was proved by William Vade on 17th Nov., 1737. He appointed him sole executor, and bequeaths to him all rents due at his death, and all his personalty, with remainder to his son John Vade.

Wolley Leigh, the father of Mary Bennett and Anne Spencer, the two claimants, was second son of Sir Thomas Leigh by Hannah, the daughter of Anthony Rolfe. He was born 21st July, 1664, and married on 15th Feb., 1704, Mary, daughter of Mr. Hunt, an attorney of Hevingham, co. Norfolk.<sup>2</sup> His will is dated 16th Sept., 1715, and was proved by Mary Leigh, his widow, on 11th Oct., 1716. He describes himself as of Hevingham, co. Norfolk, gent.; leaves to Mary, his loving wife, whom he appoints sole executrix, all his messuages and lands in Tuttington and Aylsham; to his two daughters, Mary and Anne, 500*l.* apiece. He seems to have lived at Hevingham, and was buried there. In the nave of that church, by the entrance of the chancel, says Blomefield,<sup>3</sup>—

“Crest, a lion couchant, Leigh of Surrey, arg. on a chevron, sab., three lions rampant, or, impaling Hunt of Norfolk, per pale vert, and or a saltier counter-changed, on a canton gul a lion passant of the 2nd.”

“Here lieth the body of Wolley Leigh Esq.; he died the 26 day of December 1715 Aged 52.”

<sup>1</sup> P. C. C., 254, Wake.

<sup>2</sup> She remarried, in 1716, Mr. James Smith, of Blickling, gent., and was buried at Hevingham, where there is a slab to her with the following inscription:—“To the Memory of Mary, the wife of James Smith, of Blickling, Gent., before the Widow of Wolley Leigh, of this Parish, Esq., an affectionate wife, an indulgent and tender mother, and in Piety and every other duty of life so exemplary and just, she lived beloved and died greatly lamented by all who knew her, the 21st May, 1758, Ætat. 73.”

<sup>3</sup> *Hist. of Norfolk*, vol. vi. p. 378.