

in litigation between the king and the abbot, which remained like a millstone tied to the necks of the successive lords of Perton.

So by a Pipe Roll record of 1166, we find that the Manor of Perton was held by one John de Perton, as one of the King's Serjeants, by what was known as a tenure of grand serjeantry. The title of King's Serjeant was bestowed upon him in relation to his tenancy of the Manor of Perton, and it entailed upon its owner the following services. He was to hold his own "Castle of Perton" as one of the defences of the Welsh Marches or borders; and he was liable to be summoned to attend the king, in time of war, in Wales, at his own cost, for eight days, with, in addition to his own horse and armor, fully equipped, another horse and rider without caparisons, but the rider to carry lance, sword, and hanbergeon; and if detained longer than eight days, he was to be maintained at the king's cost, and to receive eight pence a day as wage. Over and above this Welsh service, he was liable to be called upon to attend the king, in his wars beyond the seas, but in this case at the expense of the king. The Pipe Roll records the fact that John Pertona had paid in a composition of half a mark to the treasury; this was probably for a fine under the forest laws; Perton having been one of the villis fined, and the entry is as follows:—*Johan. Pertona reddit compotum de dimid. marc. in thesaurio.* His name does not occur again until the Pipe Roll of 1187, when he was fined one pound for trespassing in the Royal Forest of Kinver with greyhounds, without a warrant. In the latter part of his life he was engaged in litigation with the abbot and monks of Combe Abbey in Warwickshire, respecting the latter's rights to water in a cut or millstream from the Smestow River in Trescote, which formed part of the Perton fee. Now these lands and mill had been given to the monks of Combe Abbey by William Fitz Wido and the gift had been further confirmed by the chief land-lord Gervase Paganel baron of Dudley: the lands given are variously styled two hides and two carucates; but it can hardly have been the former, as this was the full extent of Trescote Manor, so the word hide must have been a mistake of the transcriber of the record. A portion of Trescote had been acquired shortly before by John de Perton, in addition to that appurtenant to Perton, and hence the above litigation. The initial letter of John de Perton's wife's christian name appears as A on the above deed, but its following letters are now illegible, appearing like Amice, but there does not appear any further notice of her. He undoubtedly died on 1192-3, for in the latter year we find his son and successor taking up his relief.

Sir Ralph de Perton, knight, son and heir of John according to the Pipe Roll of 1193-4, succeeded to his deceased father, as tenant *in capite* of the Manor of Perton. "*Ranulphus de Peritona reddit compotum de ij marc pro relievo suo. In thesauro j marc. et debet j marc.*" And again, "*Ranulphus de Peritona reddit compotum de j marc. pro relievo suo. In thesauro liberavit.*" Ralph de Perton renders a fine of two marks, for the relief. He has paid into the treasury one mark and he owes one mark." Ralph de Perton has rendered his fine of one mark (the balance) for his relief, and he has received an acquittance from the treasury." This Ralph was, like his father, a king's serjeant, holding Perton by the service of eight day's attendance with the king's army in Wales in time of war, at his own cost, with a horse without caparisons, that is unarmored; the rider to carry lance, and sword, and hanbergeon. And if detained beyond eight days, he was to receive wages, and be maintained at the cost of the king. In 1194-97