his uncle's death in 1389 he resold Perton to Sir Humphrey Stafford, for 240 marks, by a deed, at present in the Wrottesley collection. By the escheator's accounts and from an inquisition taken in 1425 John de Perton son of Walter is found to have been in possession of Perton and Trysull, when the widow Margaret must have been dead; and it is stated that John de Perton had alienated the Manor of Perton, without the necessary royal license to Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick and his bailiff and their heirs and assigns for ever.

Henceforth the history of this Manor is a tangled skein of heterogeneous threads that cannot clearly be untwisted. First Stebbing Shaw, who had evidently never seen the *post mortem* inquisition on Sir John de Perton's death, mixes up his wrong side of the blanket children with the offspring of his brother Walter Perton of Stirchley, and Margaret his wife, in the most hopeless fashion and he has been followed by William Hardwicke of Bridgnorth, who, at any rate, should have learned how undependable the former was in his facts and dates. In 1389, we find by a deed in the Wrottesley collection, that John de Perton of Stirchley, father of Leo, quits all claim to Perton in trust to John Swinnerton, John Hampton, and Richard Leveson, who in turn conveyed it to Sir Humphrey Stafford, knight, of Hook, and Elizabeth his wife; witnesses, Ralph de Stafford, Giles de Hyde and Richard Leveson. In 1396 Thomas de Perton of Stirchley, brother of the last named John of Stirchley, quits all his claim and interest in Perton, to the aforesaid trustees, who in like manner conveyed it to Sir Humphrey Stafford; and in 1420 the Manor of Perton was conveyed to the attornies of Sir Humphrey by William de Perton, son of Lionel, who, as we have seen already, had acquired the Barnhurst interest in 1370. In the face of all this we find in 1425, as before mentioned, that the same William de Perton resold the Manor of Perton, without license, to the Earl of Warwick, and a parson relative or bailiff and to their heirs and assigns. Thenceforth follows a muddle of complication from the litigation of opposing claimants; amongst which the one fact is clear that the patrimony of Perton, Trescote and Trysull, had passed for ever from its ancient line of owners who had been in possession uninteruptedly for a period of over 350 years.

A writ from Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, custos of the kingdom during the king's absence, dated from Westminster, 16th February 1425, states that "divers dissentions and strifes have arisen between Humphrey Stafford knight, and John Throckmorton (Steward of the Earl of Warwick) and John Baysham, (Beauchamp), clerk, in consequence of John Throckmorton and John Baysham shortly after the king's passage into Normandy, having ejected the said Humphrey de Stafford from the Manor of Perton." The said John de Baysham, having been summoned before the council and examined, it appeared that William de Perton being seized as of fee of the manor, held of the king *in capite*, had alienated it without license to Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, and to John Baysham, clerk. Sir Humphrey de Stafford having produced Sir William Clinton, knight, and Sir Thomas Carren, knight, as sureties for the profits of the Manor, in the event of William Perton's title being proved to be good, the escheator is ordered to remove his hand. The Staffords thus recovered the manor and we may thereby assume that William de Perton, son of Leo, son of John, son of William de Perton of Stirchley and Margaret was the last of his name that was even nominal owner of the manor, and he who was apparently living in 1425, is said to have