

BRIDGES
in the Chester County Pleas,
CHES 29/1–22
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Little Budworth

In April 1306 in the county court, David son of William de Huxley called out John son of Warin le Grosvenor senior for the death of Richard son of Robert de Pulford, David's nephew. He said that at midday on Sunday 10 April 1306 in the township of (Little) Budworth, in the forest of Mara (Delamere), at a place in front of Warin's gate, where Warin lives in Budworth in the forest, 40 paces to the south of that gate and 40 paces west, John came with bow and arrow and shot Richard on his right side nearly in the middle of his back, making a mortal wound a thumb's length long and half a thumb broad, and six thumbs deep; from which wound Richard died between noon and vespers of that day. The shaft of the arrow was 24 thumbs long; the iron arrowhead was a small hooked head two thumbs long and almost a thumb broad; the arrow was fletched sewn and bound with feather. The arrow was worth three farthings. The bow was of yew, six feet long and two thumbs broad, and was worth eightpence. The bowstring was linen yarn, six feet long, worth a farthing. John held the bow in his left hand and shot the arrow with his right. All these details were necessary to bring an appeal for murder.

David raised a hue and cry after John, including the four neighbouring townships, i.e. Lowe, Marton, Utkinton and Wetenhall (all in Eddisbury hundred). John came to court but refused to say anything, as though mute. The coroners and the gaoler testified that, coming to court and in prison, John had been speaking as normal: so he was sent back to gaol and put on diet, i.e. was brought to the brink of starvation. After a month or so he found himself able to speak, and denied the murder, and David's charge was dismissed on two technicalities – that he had not specified the width of the fletch or the colour of the feather. David was committed to gaol for false claim.

The matter was then taken up by the court itself, and the jury found as follows. That John son of Nicholas de Huxley, Nicholas his brother and Richard de Pulford came on Sunday 10 April 1306 to Budworth, close to the walk mill. A walk mill was a fulling mill fed by a stream in which the woollen cloth was prepared by treading. John, Nicholas and Richard way;aid Robert son of Simon de Rode there and beat him, and then went to Budworth church and heard mass. After church they went to the house of Thomas de Budworth and ate. Warin le Grosvenor junior came to his father's house in had dinner, after which he went with some carpenters into the woods looking for building timber, and then they returned to his father's house. John, Nicholas and Richard came out of Thomas's house and went through Warin's gate, and then John said that he was going to speak to a certain woman, Kate his wife's sister, and went across the

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bridge there into the courtyard. Then Kate came and said that she had come to speak with them and beg them not to come closer; and they answered that they would come in. Then, seeing that the people in the house had shut the door lest they enter, and then they opened the door and Warin le Grosvenor junior and John and Henry his brothers afterwards came out, Warin and John armed with bows and arrows, Henry with an axe, because they saw John and his gang with bows drawn. John immediately seized Warin and they grappled. Richard hit Warin with a sword on the head, breaking his sword. Henry, seeing his brother Warin in peril, struck Richard on the head with his axe; and turning back on him, Richard struck Henry with his sword and killed him. John, Warin's brother, told Richard to surrender, but he said "Not to thee". So John Grosvenor shot Richard and killed him, and then fled. John Huxley captured John Grosvenor as a felon and he was taken to Chester castle.

There is a stream running down below Oulton to Cotebrook; perhaps the walk mill and bridge were there.

17:352: 12 April 1306

Dauid fil' Will'i de Huxl' appellat Joh'm fil' Warini le Grouenour senioris de morte Ric'i fil' Rob'i de Pulford nepot' p'd'ci Dauid fil' Will'i de Huxl' int'fecti q'd vbi p'd'cus Ric'us fil' Rob'i de Pulford nup nepos p'd'ci Dauid fil' Will' de Huxl' fuit in pace d'ni n'ri Comitis Cestr' die d'nica px^a post f'm Pasch' anno regni Reg^s E. xxxiiij.¹ ad diem meredianam in villa de Budeworth' in foresta de Mara vid' in vna placea ante porta' Warini le Grouen' senioris versus Austrum p spaciū porte p'd'ce p'd'ci Warini le Grouen' senioris vbi idem manet in Budeworth' in foresta de la Mare viginti pedum ho'im in longitudine versus Orientem p quadrag' pedes ho'is in longitudi'e & versus Boream p quadrag' pedes ho'is & versus ptem Occidentalem p quadr' pedes ho'is; ibi ven' p'd'cus Joh'es fil' War' le Grouen' senior' felonit' vt felo d'ni n'ri Com' Cestr' & cont^a pace' d'ni n'ri Com' & dignitate' gladii sui, die anno hora & loco p'd'cis & sagittauit cu' quodam arcu corda & sagitta p'd'cm Ric'm fil' Rob'i de Pulford nup nepote' p'd'ci Dauid fil' Will'i de Huxl' in pte dextra fere in medio dorso & fecit ei vna' plaga' mortale' vnde plaga fuit de longitudi'e vni^s pollicci ho'is & de latitudi'e dimid' pollicci ho'is & de pfunditate sex pollic' ho'is de qua plaga obiit die & loco sup^ad'cus int' meridie' & hora' vespar & vnde [blank] illius sagitte fuit de Boulo² in longitudi'e de .xxiiij. polliccis ho'is & ferru' fuit smalhoketheued vnde longitudo ferri fuit duor poll' ho'is & latitudo ferri fuit vni^s pollic' ho'is & flechia fuit pennata de penna ante consuta & ligata cu' filo & serico prec' [blank] q^art' p'ciu' ferri. q^a. p'c' pennar fili & serici. q^a. p'c' sagitte integre .iiij.q^a. & arcus fuit de yuo de longitudine sex pedu' ho'is & latitudo illi^s arcus duor pollic' ho'is & dimid' & grossitudo arc^s sex pollic' ho'is p'c' arcus .viiij.d' & corda arcus fuit de lino in longitudi'e sex p[ed] ho'is p'c' corde .q^a. & illu' arcu' tenuit in manu sinistra & cu' manu sua dextera sagittauit p'd'cm Ric'm fil' Rob'ti de Pulford & in continenti p^st morte' p'd'ci Ric'i fil' Rob'i de Pulford nepotis p'd'ci Dauid de Huxl' sic int'fecti p'd'cus Dauid fil' Will'i de Huxl' leuauit hutes' & clam' versus p'd'cm Joh'em fil' Warini le Grouenour senioris quasi felone' d'ni n'ri Com' Cestr' ad

¹ Sunday 10 April 1306

² shaft

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quatuor villas p̄pinquiores vid' Lowe, M' ton', Vtkinton' & Wetenhale & de p' d' cis villat' ad Coronatores & de Coronatorib^s quousq' p' d' cus Joh' fil' Warini le Grouen' senior' ad sectam p' d' ci Daudid fil' Will' i de Huxl' attach' fuit hic in cur' d' ni n' ri Com' Cestr', et si p' d' cus Joh' es fil' Warini le Grouenour senioris p' d' cam feloniam vult cognosc'e; pulcrum ei videt'. & si vult dedic'e. p' d' cus Daudid fil' Will' i de Huxl' patus est ad pbandu' p' d' cam feloniam versus vrsus³ p' d' cm Joh' m fil' Warini le Grouen' senior' quasi felonem d' ni Com' Cestr'; sicut homo ad pacem cont^a felone' d' ni Com' Cestr' in quocu'q' modo ista cur' considerabit de morte p' d' ci Ric' fil' Rob' i de Pulford nup nepotis p' d' ci Daudid de Huxl' felonit' int'fectu cont^a pacem & dignitatem d' ni Comit' — Pleg' de ps'; Rob' us de Huxl' & Rog' us de Clotton'

Et p' d' cus Joh' es fil' Warini p' sens in cur' quasi mutus se gerit n^c aliquid respondere curavit q^amq^am pl'ies ta' p ptem q^am p curia' requis' fu'it. Et quia testatu' est tam p Coronatores Com' q^am p Custodes Gaole q' d idem Joh' es veniendo ad Com' loquebatur & adhuc pot'it si volu'it, consider' est q' d p' d' cus Joh' s comittet' p' sone forti & dure ad dietam quousq' & c'. Postea ad Com' die M^{art}s p^xa post f'm s' ce T' nit' p^x sequens⁴ p' d' cus Joh' fil' Warini supstes venit & similit' p' d' cus Daudid de Huxl', & idem Daudid petit iud' m de p' d' co Joh' e tamq^am no' def' Et p' d' cus Joh' fil' War' it'ato quasi mut' se gerit n^c aliquid respond'e curavit q^amq^am pl'ies ta' p pte q^am p Curia' requis' fu'it. Et testat^s est p Custodem Gaole p' d' ce q' d idem Joh' es ven' & c' loquebat' & adhuc pot'it si volu'it. cons' est q' d p' d' cus Joh' comitet' it'ato p' sone forti & dure quousq' & c'. Postea ad Com' die M^{art}s p^xa post T' nslac' om s' ci Thome m^{ar}is p^x sequente⁵, ven' p' d' ci Daudid & Joh' es & p' d' cus Daudid iterato appell' ip' m vt p' us Et p' d' cus Joh' es ven' & def' om' iodam feloniam & quicquid est cont^a pace' & dignit' glad' d' ni Com' & petit sibi allocari de hoc q' d idem Daudid no' facit menc' om in apello suo de grossura flechie neq' de colore pennar flechie. I' o cons' est q' d p' d' cus Joh' es eat quiet' ad sectam p' d' ci Daudid & idem Daudid p falso apello comit' gaole

Postea p' d' cus Joh' s ad secta' p' d' ci Com' +requis' qual' r+ de p' d' ca feloniam se velit aquietari dicit q' d no' est inde culpabil' & de hoc ponit se sup p' riam vid' sup Will' de Venables Ric' m de Som' ford Ric' m de Anderton' Ric' m de Mu' shul Rob' m de Kenian & Rob' m de Rowton' & om' s al' in pannello contentos calu' pniauit. I' o cons' est q' d p' d' cs Joh' com' Gaole & saluo custod' vsq' ad p^x Com' & q' d int' im h' eat victualia sua necc^a ia tamq^am acceptator co' is leg'. Et p^r. est vic' q' d ven' fac' & c'.

Villate de Budeworth', Vtkynton', Lowe & Wetenhale p' sentant & dicunt sup sacr' m suu' q' d Joh' es fil' Nich' i de Huxl' Nich' us fr' ei^s & Ric' us fil' Rob' i de Pulford venerunt die d' nica in Octab' Pasch' hoc anno⁶ apud Budeworth' ppe le Walkmulne & ibide' obuiau' erut Rob' to fil' Simon' de Rode & eum ibidem verberauerut & de illo loco pexeru't ad eccl' iam de Budeworth' & audieru't missam Et de eccl' ia iueru't ad domu' Thome de Budeworth' & ibide' comederunt. Et Warinus le Grouen' iunior venit ad domu' p' ris sui in eade' villa & statim post p' ndiu' cu' quib^s d' carpentariis iuit in boscu' de querendo meremiu' ad edificand' & c'. & postea rediuit ad domu' p' d' cam p' ris sui. Et p' d' ci Joh' Nich' us & Ric' us abierunt de domo p' d' ci Thome & veneru't p porta' Warini le Grouen' senior' & tunc dixit p' d' cus Joh' es de Huxl' q' d iret locutu' cu' quadam Muliere Kate sorore vx' is sue & iuit simul cu' sociis suis vlt^a pontem ibidem vsq' in curia'. Et tunc venit p' d' ca Kate & dixit q' d venire loqui cu' eis & supplicauit eis ne accederent ppinquius & ip' i responderunt q' d venient

³ sic

⁴ Tuesday 31 May 1306

⁵ Tuesday 12 July 1306

⁶ Sunday 10 April 1306

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&c'. Extunc vide'tes illi qui fuer' in domo clausurunt hostiu' d'ce domus ne int^arent. Et qu' postea apieru't d'cm hostiu' & Warin^s le Grouen^r iunior & Joh' fr' ei^s cu' arcub^s & sagittis & Henr' fr' ei^s cu' quadam secure abieru't d'cam domu' qa vider' p^rd'cos Joh'em & alios socios suos h'ntes arcus extendent' &c'. Et p^rd'cus Joh'es Huxl' statim cepit p^rd'cm Warinu' p^r rect^o & ide' Warinu' cepit eundem Joh'm eodem modo dicentes vt^rq' eor^u quid vis mecu' &c'. Et tunc ven' p^rd'cus Ric'us fil' Rob'i de Pulford & pcussit d'cm Warinu' cu' gladio suo in capite & fregit d'cm glad' suu' &c'. Et statim venit Henr' le Grouen^r videns piculu' fr'is sui pcussit d'cm Ric'm cu' quad' secure in capite. Et p^rd'cus Ric^s reuertens se pcussit p^rd'cm Henr' cu' gladio suo & occidit eu' &c'. Et p^rd'cus Joh's frat' Ric' Warini rogauit d'co Ric'o de Pulford q'd redderet se paci & ip'e dixit, no' tibi &c'. Et statim p^rd'cus Joh's fr' p^rd'ci Warin' sagittauit cu' quadam sagitta p^rd'co Ric'o & eu' int^rfecit &c' & statim fugit & p^rd'cus Joh'es Huxl' cepit eum tamq^am felonem & ductus fuit ad Castr' Cestr'.