

# Inquisitions post mortem

- Sworn enquiries into the lands held at their deaths by direct tenants of the crown (tenants-in-chief)
- Survive from about 1236 to 1660 (when feudal tenures were abolished) in more-or-less continuous series at the National Archives
- Usually created by *escheator*
- Designed to record and enforce royal feudal rights, especially
  - *Wardship*, when a tenant died and their heir was not of full legal age
  - *Primer seisin* and *relief*, when an heir was of full age
- Related documents:
  - *Proofs of age*
  - *Assignments of dower*

## Thomas Hunton, Gentleman

Delivered into Court 2nd May, 14 Charles I.

Inquisition taken at the city of New Sarum, 14th September, 8 Charles I [1632], before William Guidott, esq., escheator, after the death of Thomas Hunton, gent., by the oath of Anthony Davis, gent., John Thorpe, gent., George Acrigge, Giles Compton, Leonard Browne, Thomas Wilson, John Butcher, Ralph Tomlyn, Robert Sulvinge, Richard Easton, Henry Paige, Thomas Woolford, Bartholomew Foster, Thomas Hurcott, and William Eireleighe, who say that

Thomas Hunton was seised of one messuage and tenement in East Knoyle alias Knoyle Episcopi, called Lyghe, and of divers lands, pastures, and hereditaments to the same belonging, late in the tenure of William Dewe, deceased, and sometime parcel of the possessions of the late Chantry of Compton Paunceford, co. Somerset.

The premises are hold of the King in chief by the service of the 40th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per annum, clear 20s.

Thomas Hunton died at Knoyle Episcopi, 27th November, 7 Charles I [1631] ; James Hunton is his son and next heir, and was then aged 30 years and more.

**Inq. p.m., 14 Charles I, pt. 2, No. 78. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**