

# 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*

## Alan de Plokenet 1299

**Inquisition** made at Sarum on Wednesday next before the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, 27 Edward 1 [1299], of the lands and tenements of the which Alan de Plokenet was seised in his demesne as of fee in co. Wilts on the day that he died, by the oath of William le Dun, Thomas le Chamberleyn, Thomas le Rede, Henry le Frye, Walter le Warde, Walter Thomas, Thomas de Benneyr, John Hulon, John de Caneford, Adam le Frankeleyn, John Cole, and Henry Haras, who say that

The said Alan was seised in his demesne as of fee on the day that he died of the manors of Langeford, Mobbervyle, Whaddene, and Westtharham, in the said county. The said Alan held nothing of the King in chief in the said county, but he held the said manors of the heir of Robert Walrund, who is in the wardship of the King, for half a knight's fee by knight's service.

### Langeford

The site of the court of Langeford, with the garden and curtilage, is worth per annum 2s. There is there one carucate of land in the demesne containing 80 acres of land, and each acre is worth per annum 4d. : sum 26s. 8d. There are there 40 acres of land, and each acre is worth per annum 2d. : sum 6s. 8d. Also 14 acres of meadow in the demesne, and each acre is worth 2s. per annum : sum 18s. There is there a certain several pasture in the demesne, and it is worth per annum 3s. There is there of the rent of assize of free tenants, to wit, of Walter Warde, who holds one virgate of land by the service of paying per annum

at the feast of St. Michael 10s., and at the Nativity of the Lord 1 *lb* of cummin : sum 10s. 0½d. Walter ate Brigge holds freely half a virgate of land by the service of paying per annum at the feast of St. Michael 6s. 7d., and at the Nativity of the Lord 2½d. : sum 6s. 9½d. Walter Thomas holds freely 9 acres of land by the service of paying per annum 1 *lb*. of pepper at the feast of St. Michael : sum 12d. John de Molendino holds freely 6 acres of land by the service of paying per annum 3s. at the feast of St. Michael, the Purification of the Blessed Mary, Hockday, and the feast of St. John the Baptist equally. John Aygnel holds 5 acres of land freely by service of paying per annum at the feast of St. Michael 12d. Margeria de Kyngesnull holds free one meadow by the service of paying per annum at the feast of St. Michael 6d. William le Dun holds freely 5 acres of land by the service of paying per annum at the feast of St. Michael 12d. Henry de Glaston 15½ acres of land there by the service of paying per annum at the feast of St. Michael 1½ *lbs*. of cummin : sum ¾d.

There are there 3 customars, each of whom holds one messuage and 8 acres of land, and pays per annum at the feast of St. Michael 5s., and one of them pays at the same term 6d. more : sum 15s. 6d. Also each of them gives at the feast of St. Martin for chersete one cock and 3 hens, and they are worth 4d. : sum 12d. There are there 10 cottars [coterelli], and they pay per annum at the feast of St. Michael 20s. Also each of them gives at the feast of St. Martin one cock and 3 hens, and they are worth per annum 4d. : sum 3s. 4d. This is there one water-mill, and it is worth per annum 6s. 8d. The pleas and perquisites there are worth 2s. per annum. Sum of the value of the said manor by the year £6 18s. 2¾ d.

### Whadden

The capital messuage of the said manor of Whaddene with the garden and curtilage is worth per annum 2s. There is there one carucate of land in the demesne containing 100 acres of land, and each acre is worth by the year 2d. : sum 16s. 8d. There are there 20 acres of meadow in the demesne, and each acres is worth per annum 12d. : sum 20s. There is there of the rent of assize of free tenants, to wit. Walter Tropynel holds half a virgate of land by the service of paying per annum at the feat of St. Michael 1 *lb*. of pepper : sum 12d. Roger Tropynel holds half a virgate of land by the service of paying per annum at the feast of St. Michael 6d. William Loustok(?) holds 3 acres of land by the service of paying per annum 12d. at two terms, to wit, at the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary and at the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary equally. Robert le Poleter hold freely one virgate of land by the service of paying per annum 13s. 4d. at the said two terms. James Edmond holds half a virgate of land by the service of making two suits by the year.

There are there 6 customars, each of whom holds half a virgate of land and pays per annum 5s. at the said two terms : sum 30s. Each of them shall plough 2 acres of land at the winter sowing or at "ramag," or shall give 8d. : sum 4s. There are there 7 customars, each of whom holds 10 acres of land and pays at the said two terms of the year 2s. 6d. : sum 17s. 6d. Each of them shall give at the feast of St. Martin one cock and 3 hens, and they are worth per annum 4d. : sum 2s. 4d. Each of the said 6 and 7 customars shall give per annum for works in Autumn 2s. : sum 26s. There are there 4 cottars, and they pay per annum at the said two terms equally 8s. Two of them owe for chersete, to wit, at the feast of St. Martin each of them one hen, price 1d. : sum 2d. All the said customars and cottars shall give at the feast of St. Martin to the larder 6s. 8d. The pleas and perquisites are worth per annum 2s. There is there a certain free chapel with gift whereof belongs to the lord, and it is worth per annum 5 marks. Sum of the value of the said manor, £7 14s. 2d.

### Westharham

The capital messuage of the said manor of Westharham with the garden is worth per annum 12d. There is there one dovecote, and it is worth per annum 3s. Also one carucate of land containing 142 acres of land, and each acre is worth per annum 4d. : sum 47s. 4d. There are there 14 acres of meadow in the demesne, and each acres is worth per annum 2s. : sum 28s. There is there a certain several pasture in the demesne, and it is worth per annum 17s. 2d. There is there the rent of assize of free tenants, to wit, Richard Pynnok holds 4½ virgates of land, one water-mill, and one fulling-mill, by the service of paying per annum 40s. 1d., to wit, at Michaelmas, Christmas, Easter, and Midsummer equally. Robert Edmond

holds 2 virgates of land by the service of paying per annum 2 *lbs.* of wax at Michaelmas : sum 12d. Vincent Grount [? Gromet] holds half an acre of land by the service of paying per annum at Michaelmas 6d. Stephen de Bryghtmerstone holds 3 virgates of land by the service of paying per annum at Michaelmas 1d. Richard de Lutegarshale holds 2 virgates of land by the service of paying 1d. at Michaelmas. Matilda Husse holds one place of land by the service of paying per annum 1 *lb.* of wax at Michaelmas : sum 6d. The Master of the Hospital of St. Nicholas of Sarum holds 6 Bovates of land at Gerardestone by the service of paying per annum 6d. and 1 *lb.* of cummin worth ½d. : sum 6½d. Henry Ancher holds one meadow and one pond by the service of paying per annum 7 sticks of eels and 7 “shafteles” or 3s. at the feast of All Saints, and by the service of ploughing one acre of wheat and one acre of barley, and the ploughing of the same is worth 4d. beyond reprise : sum 3s. 4d. John de Stanton holds 5 virgates of land for the term of his life by the service of paying per annum on gillyflower at Michaelmas.

There are there three customars, each of whom holds 14 acres of land and pays per annum 10s. at Michaelmas, Christmas, Easter, and Midsummer equally ; one of them pays per annum 12d. at the said four terms : sum 31s. There are there 9 holding half-virgates, each of whom pays per annum 5s. [? 15d.] at the said four terms equally : sum 11s. 3d. There is there one customar who holds one croft and 3 acres of land by the service of paying per annum 6s. at the said four terms equally. Also one customar who holds one acre of land by the service of paying per annum 18d. at the said four terms equally. Also one cottar who holds one place of land, and pays per annum 2s. 7d. at the said terms. Also one cottar who pays per annum for one cottage 3s. at the said four terms. All the said customars and cottars give at the view of frankpledge by the year at the feast of St. Martin 2s., and at Hockday 2s. : sum 4s. There is there one water-mill, and it is worth per annum 26s. 8d. The pleas and perquisites are worth per annum 2s. Sum of the value of the said manor, £11 10s. 7½d.

Alan de Plokenet is the son and next heir of the said Alan, and is aged 22 years and more.

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**Inquisition** made at Sarum on Wednesday next before the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, 27 Edward I [1299], of the manor of Saltertone in co. Wilts, of the which Alan de Plokenet was seised on the day that he died, by the oath of William le Dun, Thomas le Chamberleyn, Thomas le Rede, Henry le Frye, Walter Warde, Walter Thomas, Thomas de Beuver, John Hulon, John de Caneforde, Adam le Frankeleyn, John Cole, and Henry Haras, who say that

The said Alan held the said manor at the will of the King and of the demise of the King for the sustentation of John Walerand, heir of Robert Walerand.

The capital messuage of the said manor with the garden in worth per annum 12d. There is there a dovecote, and it is worth per annum 18d. There are there 2 carucates of land containing 140 acres of land, and each acres is worth per annum 2d. : sum 23s. 4d. There are there 18 acres of meadow in the demesne, and each acre is worth per annum 2s. : sum 36s. The demesne pasture on the hill is worth per annum 12s. There is there the rent of assize of free tenants, to wit, of William Rouk, who holds half a virgate of land by the service of paying 6s. at the feasts of St. Michael, the Purification of the Blessed Mary, and Pentecost, equally. Clarice de Nywetone holds one virgate of land by the service of paying per annum at the said 3 terms 10s. equally.

### Customars

There are there 15 customars, each of whom holds half a virgate of land containing 20 acres, and pays per annum 3s. at the said 3 terms equally : sum 75s. Also each of them gives for autumnal works 2s. 8d. at the feast of St. Michael : sum 40s. There are there 3 customars, each of whom holds half a virgate of land, and they pay in common 20s. at Christmas, Easter, and Midsummer equally. They also give by the year to the larder at the feast of St. Nicholas 3s. There are the 3 cottars, each of whom pays per annum 2s. at the feasts of St. Michael, the Purification of the Blessed Mary, and Pentecost, equally : sum 6s. One cottar of the aforesaid 3 cottars pays per annum 6s. at the said 3 terms equally. Two of the said

cottars give chersete at the feast of St. Martin, to wit, one of them one cock and 2 hens, and the other one cock and one hen, and they are worth 5d. Each of the 3 gives for autumnal works at Michaelmas 8d. : sum 2s. There are there 2 cottars, and each of them gives at the said 3 terms 12d. : sum 2s. Each of them gives at the feast of St. Martin one cock and one hen, and they are worth 2d. : sum 4d. All the said customars give yearly at the feast of St. Nicholas 18s. 8¾d. to the larder. All the said customars give yearly for a certain meadow 3s. at Michaelmas, Christmas, Easter, and Midsummer. The pleas and perquisites are worth per annum 12d. Sum of the value of the said manor, £13 7s. 3¾d.

**Chan. Inq. p.m., 27 Edward I, No. 54.**

**“Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem,” 1908, edited by Edw. Alex Fry.**