

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*

Philip Tyce, Gentleman

Delivered into Court 19th January, 8 Charles I [1633]

Inquisition taken at New Sarum, 25th September, Charles I, before William Guidott, gent., escheator, after the death of Philip Tyce, gent., by the oath of Edward Fawlcner, John Reeves, Leonard Browne, Thomas Turner, Hurcott, John Hillman, John Wyate, Edward Bynder, John Butcher, Robert Munday, Thomas Willson, Richard Enston, and Robert Hole, who say that

During the life of [the said Philip Tyce], William Grove, late of Shaffton, co. Dorset, gent., deceased, and Thomas Awbrey, of Chadenwich, co. Wilts, gent., deceased, were seised to them and their heirs the manor of **Seggehull alias Segghill**, co. Wilts, which they held of the Queen in chief by knight service by the 100th part of a knight's fee.

Being so seised, by indenture 25th April, 16 Elizabeth [1574], the said William Grove and Thomas Awbrey enfeoffed Thomas Tyce father of the aforesaid Philip, of one messuage and half a virgate of land in Segghull and of 15 ½ acres of land and pasture in Segghull, and half a virgate of land in the tenure of the said Thomas Tyce or his assigns ; which messuage and other the premises last mentioned were parcel of the aforesaid . . . Segghull. To hold to the same Thomas Tyce, his executors, administrators or assigns, for his natural life, and after his decease, for the term of 41 years, and after the completion of the said term to wholly remain to the aforesaid Philip Tice, son and heir of the said Thomas, and the heirs of his

body, and for default of such issue, then to the first and next son of the said Thomas, and the heirs of their bodies, with other remainders. To hold of the said William Grove and Thomas Awbrey, as of the manor of Segghull, by fealty only and 16d. yearly for all rents, suits, services, and demands, with the reversion thereof to the said William Grove and Thomas Awbrey.

The jurors further say that the said Thomas Awbrey having died, the reversion of the premises last mentioned wholly came to the aforesaid William Grove as of fee and right.

The jurors further say that the said Thomas Tyce died 1st December, 37 Elizabeth [1594], after having made his last will, by which he appointed Christiana, his wife, his executrix. And the said Christiana, after the said Thomas, entered upon the aforesaid premises, and was and yet is seised thereof for the remainder of the said term.

The Jurors further say that the said William Grove having died in the lifetime of the said Philip Tice, the reversion of the premises aforesaid and the residue of the aforesaid manor descended to John Grove, as son and heir.

The said John Grove died 2nd January, 4 Charles I [1629], and Mary, now the wife of John [Lowe], Margaret Grove, and Jane Grove, daughters and coheirs of the aforesaid William Grove, brother [sic] of the said John Grove, were kinswomen and next coheirs of the said John Grove, and the aforesaid Mary and Margaret were at the time of the death of the said John Grove, their uncle, of full age, viz. of the age of 14 years and more, and the said Jane was of the age of 11 years and more.

The jurors further say that the aforesaid manor is held of the King in chief by the service of a hundredth part of a knight's fee. And the aforesaid manor and the rent of 16d. are now in the King's hands, viz. : the thrid part of the said manor by reason of the minority of the said Jane, and the other two parts for default of livery of the aforesaid John Lowe [sic] and Mary, his wife, as in right of the same Mary and Margaret Grove.

The jurors further say that the said Philip Tyce was seised in his demesne as of fee of all the tithes, as well greater as lesser, of whasoever kind coming from the lands, etc., belonging to the vicarage or rectory of **Tysbury**, co. Wilts, and of and in all houses, barns, fruits, profits, commodities, etc., to the same vicarage or rectory pertaining.

Being so seised, the same Philip, by indenture 5th February, 6 Charles I [1631], between the said philip on the one part, and Nicholas Tyce, the younger son of the said Philip, on the other part, enfeoffed the said Nicholas thereof to him and his heirs ; remainder thereof to Edward Tyce, son of the said Philip, and to the heirs of his body ; remainder to John Tyce, another son of the said Philip, and the heirs of his body, with reversion thereof to the said Philip. By virtue whereof the said Nicholas is now seised of the said tithes, ets., in his demexne as of fee tail.

The jurors furhter say that the aforesaid tithes, etc., are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, in free and common socage and not in chief, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 5s. But as to the tenure of the aforesaid messuages and other the premises in the first indenture mentioned, the jurors say (if upon the whole matter the law requires it) that they are held of the King as of his manor of Segghull in his hands, as aforesaid, by service, fealty, and 16d. yearly ; but if the law otherwise requires it, then the said premises are held of the manor of Segghull, viz., of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee they are ignorang ; and they are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 20s.

The said Philip Tyce died on the 24th [?] August, 7 Charles I [1631], and Robert Tyce is his son and next heir, aged, at the time of the death of his father, 30 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 8 Charles I, v.o., No. 47. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.