

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*

Edmund de Mulford 1305

Inquisition made at Sarum, 4th May, 33 Edward I [1305], of the lands and tenements which were of Edmund de Mulford in co. Wilts on the day that he died, by the oath of John de Sutton, Thomas Chamberleyn, William le Dun, Robert Bede, John Lucy, Hugh Sineman, John de Nevill, Hugh de Jonge, John de Netheravene, John Swening, Robert Frankelyn, and John Molendinar', who say that

Edmund de Mulford held one messuage and one virgate of land in Muleford, in the said county, of the King in chief, by the service of keeping the King's forest of Clarendon with one man on foot.

The said messuage and land are worth per annum, clear, 10s. 8d.

The King transferred to his mother the Lady Eleanor, formerly Queen of England, the wardship of the land and tenements aforesaid, with the marriage and that the said Queen gave the said wardship and marriage to James Daubeney, her groom (?), and the said James sold the said wardship and marriage to William le Noble.

Anne, daughter of the said Edmund, is his next heir, and is aged 24 years, and satisfied William le Noble for her marriage, but she is not yet married, but is entirely single.

Chan. Inq. p.m., 33 Edward I, No. 1

"Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1908, edited by Edw. Alex Fry.