

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*

Samuel Webbe

Delivered into Court 16th May, 15 Charles I.

Inquisition taken at Devizes, 20th March, 14 Charles I [1639], before Robert Worsham, gent., escheator, after the death of Samuel Webbe, by the oath of Henry Miles, gent., John Stephens, Robert Noyse, Thomas Sloper, Stephen Orrell, Thomas Sloper, Thomas Pottenger, William Hall, Robert Heskins, William Erwood, Edmund Potter, John Iles, and Thomas Nashe, who say that

Samuel Webb was seised of 2 messuages and 55 acres of land, meadow, and pasture in Southwick in the parish of North Bradley, late in the tenure of William Brownjohn and Henry Parsons; the reversion of one messuage and 34 acres of land, meadow, and pasture in Southwicke after the death of Judithe Scott and John Herriatt, who hold the same for their lives and who still survive at Bromham; one messuage called Chantry, and 10 acres of land, meadow, and pasture thereto belonging in Bromham; 10 acres of meadow there, lately purchased by one William Webb, father of the said Samuel, of Thomas White; one messuage and 10 acres of land, meadow, and pasture there lately purchased by the said William Webb of Andrew Smyth; one acre of land, formerly called Withers acres, lying in a certain field called Pillory Field in Bromham.

The 3 messuages and other the premises in Southwicke are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, co. Kent, be fealty only, in common socage and not in chief, and are worth per ann., clear, to wit, the premises in the tenure of the said William Brownjohn and Henry Parsons, 15s., and the residue thereof nothing during the lives of the said Judithe Scott and John Herriatt, and afterwards they will be worth 5s. The messuage called the Chantry and the 10 acres of land, meadow, and pasture thereto belonging in Bromham are held of the King as of his said manor of East Greenwich, in common socage and not in chief, and are worth per ann., clear, 10s. The 10 acres of meadow in Bromham lately purchased of Thomas White are held of Edward Baynton, knt., as of his manor of Bromham Battell, in common socage, and are worth per ann., clear, 10s. The premises in Bromham purchased of the said Andrew Smyth are held of the said Edward Bainton as of his manor of Bromham, in common socage, by the rent of 3s., and are worth per ann., clear, 10s. The acre of land formerly called Withers acre is held of the King by knight's service in chief, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors know not, and is worth per ann., clear, 1s.

Samuel Webb died at Bromham 24th September last past; Mary Webb is his daughter and next heir, and on the 18th day of January last past was aged 4 years and not more.

Inq. p.m., 15 Charles I, pt. 1, No. 129.

"Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.