

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*

Edward Pleydell, gentleman.

Inquisition taken at Devizes, 24th April, 9 Charles I [1633], before *William Herbert*, esquire, escheator, after the death of **Edward Pleydell, gent.**, by the oath of *John Hitchcockes*, gent., *Samuel White*, gent., *Robert Flower*, *Thomas Weston*, *Thomas Sloper*, *Michael Casewell*, *John Dike*, *Walter Rose*, *William Stephens*, *William Sherwood*, *Edmund Potter*, *Thomas Flower*, *John Thorner*, *William Grafton*, *John Cheyney*, *Simon Moyce*, *Matthew Hedd*, and *Giles Myles*, who say that

Edward Pleydell was seised of one messuage situate in the parish of **St. Mary de Cricklad**, and one virgate of land to the same belonging lying in the fields and meadows of **Cricklad**, **Chelworth**, and **Calcott**, now or late in the tenure of *Robert Watkins*; one separate close of pasture in Chelworth called Ballowes, containing 7 acres, to the said messuage belonging; one messuage and 3 closes of pasture, called Newntons, Wadwyns, and Huntens, containing 6 acres, with the lands, meadows, pastures, and feedings to the said messuage belonging, containing altogether one virgate of land, now in the tenure of *William Withers*, lying in **Chelworth Magna** and **Chelworth Parva**; one several close of pasture there called Morgans, containing 10 acres, with 15 acres of meadow to the said close belonging; 4 acres of meadow lying in Northmeade in Chelworth Magna, belonging to a certain close called Wildreys *alias* Wilfords.

So seised, the said *Edward Pleydell*, by charter dated 5th August, 6 James I [1608], assured the said messuage and virgate of land in the tenure of the said *Robert Watkyns* and the said close called Ballowes to the use of himself for the term of his life; and after his decease, to the use of *Robert Pleydell*, one of his sons and his heirs male; and for default, to the use of the heirs of him the said *Edward* for ever. He also assured the premises in the tenure of *William Withers*, the close called Morgans, the meadow thereto belonging, and the 4 acres of meadow in Northmeade to the use of himself and his heirs male by *Margaret Lawrence*, afterwards his wife; for default, to the use of the said *Robert Pleydell* and his heirs male; and for default, to the use of the right heirs of the said *Edward* for ever. *Thomas Pleydell* is the son and heir male of the said *Edward* by the said *Margaret Lawrence*, and at the time of his father's death was aged 23 years and more.

The said *Edward Pleydell* was likewise seised of one cottage and one close of pasture called Crawley Leyes *alias* Stonidge Leaze, containing 16 acres, lying next Lorwynch, sometime parcel of the manor of Canonbery *alias* Canbery in the parish of Berkley, co. Gloucester; and so seised, he, by charter dated 7th April, 1 Charles I [1625], granted the said premises to *Thomas Lawrence*, gent., and *Thomas Saunders* and their heirs, to the use of himself for his life; and after his decease the remainder thereof to the said *Robert*, his son, and his heirs male; for default, the remainder thereof to

Henry Pleydell, another of the sons of the said *Edward*, and his heirs male; and for default, the remainder thereof to the right heirs of the said *Edward* for ever.

The said *Edward* was likewise seised of one messuage called Garters place, lying in Cricklade; one parcel of pasture there containing one rood, in the lane called Horsfayre lane, to the said messuage belonging; one messuage in the east street of Cricklade, and one garden adjoining the said messuage called Dromedoryes, containing $\frac{1}{2}$ acre; one parcel of pasture called Nytingales, containing one acre, lying in the east street of Cricklade; one small close of pasture called Straw Paddock, containing 1 acre, lying in the borough of Cricklade; one messuage there in the tenure of *John Heyward*, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land lying in the fields there to the said messuage belonging; one messuage there in the tenure of *Ursula Taynter*, widow; 2 several closes of pasture and meadow called Middle Foxlakes and Water Foxlakes, containing 10 acres; 6 acres 1 rood of land and meadow to the said closes belonging in Chelworth Magna and Parva; one small close of pasture called Brandyres *alias* Brandyrons, containing 3 acres; one close of meadow called Little Foxlakes, containing 3 acres, and 2 acres of land thereto belonging; common of pasture for 6 beasts in Duddesmore, and other fields in Cricklade, Chelworth, and Calcott; one close of pasture containing 3 acres, called Frennes meade, in Chelworth Magna and Parva; one close of pasture called Greate Barrettes, containing 6 acres, in Chelworth Magna, and 4 acres and 1 rood of meadow there to the said close belonging; one close of pasture there called Kyte close, containing 3 acres and 1 acres of meadow thereto belonging; 2 acres of meadow in Little Chelworth in a place there called the Lytes; one close of pasture there called Duddesmore, containing 4 acres; one messuage, 2 water mills, and 3 small closes of meadow and pasture, and one meadow containing 16 acres in Chelworth Magna; one perch of meadow in breadth in the meadow called Northmeade, extending upon the river Thames up to Temmes furlong; - acres of wood to the said messuage and mills belonging; one small close of pasture called Wildreyes *alias* Wildfordes, containing $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres, in Chelworth Magna; one messuage and 3 virgates of land lying in **Stratton St. Margaret**; one messuage, $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land, called Salters; 4 acres 2 roods 5 poles of meadow and 7 acres 3 roods 5 poles of pasture, called Hasell Hill Close, lying in the parish of **Lydiard Tregoze**; and one messuage and one grain mill, called Badnam Milles, and 6 closes of meadow and pasture thereto belonging, containing 20 acres, in Elston *alias* Elkston, co. Gloucester.

The premises in the tenure of *Robert Watkyns* and the close called Ballowes are held of *John Hungerford*, knt., as of his manor of Purton Powcher, in free and common socage, by fealty only and the yearly rent on 21d., and are worth per annum, clear, 10s. The premises in the tenure of *William Wythers* and the close called Morgans are held of *Henry Earl Danby* as of his manor of Chelworth parva, in free and common socage, by the yearly rent of 4s. 2d., suit at court, and fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 13s. 4d. The close called Crawley Lyes is held of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors know not, and is worth per annum, clear, 10s. The messuage called Garters Place, the parcel of pasture in Horsfayre lane, the messuage in the tenure of *Ursula Taynter*, the garden called Dromederyes, and the parcel of pasture called Nytingales are held of *Thomas Earl of Berkshire* in free burgage, as of his borough of Cricklade, by the yearly rent of 4s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., suit at court, and fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 4s. The messuage in the east street of Cricklade, the 2 acres in the Lytes, and the close called Duddesmore are held of the King as of his honor of Wallingford, co. Berks, by the yearly rent of 9d. and fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 2s. 6d. The messuage in the tenure of *John Heyward* and the close called Straw Paddock are held of *Thomas Erule*, esq., in free and common socage, as of his manor of Abingdon Corte, by the yearly rent of 18d., suit at court, and fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 2s. The closes called Middlefoxlakes and Water Foxlakes and the lands thereto belonging are held of *John George*, esq., in free and common socage, as of his manor of Chelworth Magna, by the yearly rent of 2s. 6d., suit at court, and fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 5s. The close called Brandyres, Little Foxlakes, and Frennes meade are held of the King in chief by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, 12d. The close called Great Barrettes and other the premises thereto belonging are held of *Edward Goddard*, esq., as of his manor of Chelworth magna, in free and common socage, by the yearly rent of 2s. 6d. and fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 2s. The close called Kyte close is held of the lord of the manor of Stokenham, co. Devon, as of his said manor, in free and common socage, by fealty only, and is worth per annum, clear, 12d. The messuage and the mills called West Mills are held of *Neville Poole*, knt., as of his manor of Chelworth parva, in free and common socage, by fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 10s. The close called Wildreyes is held of *Nevill Masklyn*, gent., in free and common socage, as of his manor of Cricklade cum Chelworth, by the yearly rent of 12d., suit at court, and fealty only, and is worth per annum, clear, 3s.

The premises in Stratton are held of the heirs of *William* late Lord *Sandes* in free and common socage, as of his manor of Stratton St. Margaret, by the yearly rent of 8s. 4d., suit at court, and fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, 10s. The messuage called Salters is held of *John St. John*, knight and baronet, in free and common socage, as of his manor of Lyddiard Tregoze, by the yearly rent of 18d., suit at court, and fealty only, and is worth per annum, clear, 4s. The other premises in Lyddiard Tregoze are held of the King in chief by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, 2s. The premises in Elston are held of the King in chief by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, 5s.

Edward Pleydell died 14th January last past; *Edward Pleydell* is his son and next heir, and was then aged 35 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 9 Charles I, pt. 3, No. 34. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.