

## 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*

### *John Neck, senior, yeoman*

**Inquisition** taken at Devizes, 16th August, 1 Charles I [1625], before *Nicholas Young*, gent., escheator by virtue of his office, after the death of John Neck, senior, late of Esterton in the parish of Lavington Forum, yeoman, by the oath of *William Longe*, *Robert Langford*, *Thomas Yerburye*, *William Wilkins*, *John Stokes*, *John Tellinge*, *Thomas Ruttie*, *John Davis*, *John Steevens*, *John Mintie*, *William Stileman*, *Daniel Deverell*, and *Matthew Hulbert*, who say that

*John Neck*, senior, and *John Hobbes*, of Esterton, yeoman, were seised of one messuage, 1½ virgates of land, and one farundel of land in Esterton, sometime in the occupation of *Good Hurle*, widow.

And so seised, they by deed dated 26th March, 12 James I [1615], conveyed the said premises to *William Sloper*, then son of *John Sloper*, sometime of Rundway, deceased, and to his heirs for ever.

The said premises are held of the King as of his manor of Kingston Lacy by knight's service, and not in chief, but by what particular services is not known, and are worth per annum, clear, 10s.

John Neck, senior, died 20th September, 12 James I [1624]; John Neck is his eldest son and next heir. And was then aged 30 years and more.

The said William Sloper and John Hobbs still survive.

**Inq. p.m., 1 Charles I, pt. 13, No.135 “Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem,” 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**