

# 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 Longe, esquire*

**Inquisition** taken at Marlborough, 6th October, 11 Charles I [1635], before *Nicholas Yonge*, gent., escheator, after the death of *Edmund Longe*, of Lynham, esq., by the oath of *William Burges*, *Robert Kingsman*, *John Purnell*, *Thomas Bacon*, *John Waterman*, *Peter Smith*, *Batholomew Smith*, *William Wake*, *Robert Smith*, *Thomas Coster*, *William Church*, *Richard Webb*, *Richard Webb* alias *Richman*, *William Cooper*, and *Thomas Beale*, who say that

*Edmund Longe* was seised of all those messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments lying in Lynham and Littlecott called Great Oxlease, Little Oxlease, Cowleaze, Great Huish, Longe Huish, the thirtie acres, Frith leaze, Maddesleaze alias Madgeleaze, Horscrofte, upper Churchmore, Nether Churchmore, the Fower acres meade, Frith grove, broad Huish, Wilcottes Cliffe, the Ore Littlecottes hill, the Church field, lying in several enclosures and the Twelve acres; and of all the other messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Lyneham and Littlecott, which were lately conveyed by *Carey Rawleigh*, knight, *John Longe*, esq., the said *Edmund Longe* named in the writ, and *Egremont Thynne*, esq., to *Richard Longe*, and his heirs.

So seised, the said *Edmund Longe*, by indenture dated 9th December, 17 James I [1619], made betwwen himself and *Richard Longe*, then is son and heir-apparent, of the one part, *Martha Miles*, widow, late the

wife of *William Miles*, deceased, late of Elmestrey in co. Gloucester, gent., of the second part, and *Henry Shuter* of Chippenham, gent., *Walter Buckle*, of Christian Malford, gent., *Martin Ravenscroft*, of Shipton Moyne in co. Gloucester, clerk, and *Philip Sheppard*, of Horsley, in co. Gloucester, gent., of the third part, in consideration of a marriage then to be had between the said *Richard Longe* and *Mary Miles*, daughter of the said *William* and *Martha Miles*, for a competent jointure to be made for the said *Mary*, agreed that he the said *Richard* would be seised of the said premises to the following uses, to wit, as to the close of pasture called the Woodleaze, containing 8 acres, the close or parcel of pasture called the Morres Huish alias the West Leaze, containing 16 acres; the close of pasture called the Upper Huish alias the Oxe Huishe, containing 16 acres; the close of land and pasture as it is now divided into 2 parcels called Broad Huishe, containing 40 acres; the close of pasture called the Longe huishe alias Newtons Huish, containing 11 acres; the closes called the Maddesleaze and Frithleaze, containing 24 acres; the close of pasture containing 22 acres, parcel of the land called the Thirtie acres; the parcel of pasture called Littlecottes Hill, containing 50 acres; the parcel of pasture called the Oare, containing 50 acres; the parcel of land called Wellcotes Cliffe, containing 40 acres; and all that parcel of land or pasture called the twelve acres, being parcel of the premises beforehand granted to the said *Henry Shuter*, *Walter Buckle*, *Martin Ravenscrofte*, and *Philip Sheppard*, to the use of the said *Edmund Longe* and his heirs until the said marriage shall be solemnized, and afterwards to the use of the said *Edmund* for the term of his life, if the said *Richard* so long shall live; afterwards to the use of the said *Richard* and *Mary* and their heirs male, for the jointure of the said *Mary*; for default, to the use of the said *Richard* and his heirs male; for default, to the use of *Walter Longe*, gent., younger son of the said *Edmund* and his heirs male; for default, to the use of the heirs female of the said *Richard Longe*; for default, to the use of the heirs female of the said *Walter*; and lastly for default, to the use of the right heirs of the said *Richard* for ever. As to the 29 acres of pasture in Churchfeild, 12 acres of land in Blacke mead, 19 acres of pasture called Inlandes, 12 acres of pasture called Middlehill, and 10 acres called Horscrofte, lying in Lyneham, to the use of the said *Edmund Longe* for his life; after his decease to the use of the said *Walter Longe* and his heirs male; for default, to the use of the said *Richard Longe* and his heirs male by the said *Mary*; for default, to the use of the heirs male of the said *Richard*; for default, to the use of the heirs female of the said *Walter*, with remainder successively to the heirs female of the said *Richard* and to his right heirs for ever. As to the residue of the premises, to the use of the said *Edmund Longe* for his life; after his decease to the use of the said *Richard* and his heirs male by the said *Mary*, with remainders as above.

*Edmund Longe* was likewise seised of the rectory and parsonage of Lyneham, sometime parcel of the possessions of the lately dissolved Monastery of Bradenstocke alias Bradstocke, with all the tithes of grain and hay, and all other tithes and profits thereto belonging, growing and renewing in Lyneham, Bradstocke, Clacke, Preston, and West Tokenham; all the demesne lands which were in the possession of the said Priory at the time of the Dissolution; and all those several lands, closes, and meadows in Lyneham called the Wood leaze, the Hewishe, the West leaze, the nether and over Cowleaze, the Church close, the New meade, the long meade, the little mead, and the Culver mead.

So seised, the said *Edmund* and *Richard Longe*, by indenture [date not given], and for the consideration aforesaid, agreed with the said *Martha Myles* and her heirs that they would be seised of the said premises last mentioned to the following uses, to wit, as to the said rectory and tithes, except called the Longe mead and Pigges Hay, parcel of the said rectory, with the capital messuage of the said rectory, and all the buildings etc., thereto belonging, and all the tithes growing upon the lands in the occupation of the said *Edmund Longe*, to the use of the said *Richard Longe* for his life, if the said *Edmund* so long shall live; after his (Richard's) decease, then as to all the tithes growing upon the premises limited for the jointure of the said *Mary*, to the use of the said *Richard* and *Mary* and their heirs male; for default, to the use of the said *Richard* and his heirs male; for default, to the use of the said *Walter Longe* and his heirs male; for default, successively, to the use of the heirs female of the said *Richard*, the heirs female of the

said *Walter*, and the right heirs of the said *Richard* for ever. As to the said lands called the Longe mead and Pigges Hay with the messuages, buildings etc., before excepted, and all other tithes growing on the premises late in the occupation of the said *Edmund* to the use of the said *Edmund* for his life; after his decease to the use of the said *Richard* and his heirs male by the said *Mary*, with remainders as above. As to the residue of the said premises, to the use of the said *Edmund* for his life; after his decease. To the use of the said *Richard* and his heirs male by the said *Mary*, with remainders as above.

*Edmund Longe* had three sons, to wit, *Henry* the eldest, *Richard* the second, and *Walter Longe* the third son; the said *Henry* died in the lifetime of his said father, leaving issue *Katherine* his only daughter. All the said premises are held of the King in chief by the service of the 10th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per annum, clear, £15.

*Edmund Longe* died 12th July last past; the said *Katherine Longe* is his kinswoman and next heir, that is to say, only daughter of the said *Henry*, son of the said *Edmund*, and was then aged 20 years and more.

**Inq. p.m., 11 Charles I, pt. 21, No. 23 "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**