

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*

Henry Caffey

Delivered into Court 21st May, 15 Charles I.

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

Henry Caffey was seised of one messuage, one cottage, and 40 acres of land, meadow, and pasture in Pirton and Pirton Kaynes.

Of whom or by what service the said premises are held, the jurors know not; they are worth per ann., clear, 40s.

Henry Caffey died 5th August, 8 Charles I [1632]; Elizabeth, wife of William Whitehed, Mary, wife of – Lambert, sisters of the said Henry, and Henry Floyde, son of Rowland Floyde and Margaret, his wife, deceased, another sister of the said Henry, are his next coheirs, the said Elizabeth and Mary were then aged 21 years and more, but of what age the said Henry Floyde then was is not known.

Inq. p.m., 15 Charles I, pt. 1, No. 127.

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