

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 Parsons alias Frowde.

Inquisition take at Hendon, 4th January, 13 Charles I [1638], before William Mores, gent., escheator, after the death of Edward Parsons alias Frowde, by the oath of Edward Pinfold, gent., Alexander Dowle, George Banister, Thomas Shergold, William Heavill, George Steevens, Richard Fryer, John Clement, John Hooper, Warder Chamberline, George Freeth, John Thring, William Gray, Robert Bowles, and Francis Edwards, who say that

Edward Parsons alias Frowde was seised of one messuage, tenement, or mansion house, situate in Seggehull alias Seggehill; one barn, stable, and other buildings thereto belonging; one garden, 3 orchards, 22½ acres of meadow, and 41½ acres of pasture in Seggehull to the said messuage appertaining.

The said premises are held of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors know not, and are worth per annum, clear, 20s.

Edward Parsons alias Frowde died 31st October last past; John Parsons alias Frowde is his son and next heir, and was then aged 30 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 13 Charles I, pt. 2, No. 12.

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