

# 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 Grove, esquire.

**Inquisition** taken at Salisbury, 10th April, 5 Charles I [1629], before Robet Worsham, escheator, after the death of John Grove, esquire, by the oath of John Arigge, gentleman, Roger Langley, John Banger, Thomas Simes, Edward Warde, John Eastman, Anthony Holloway, George Welstreade, Alexander Randoll, Richard Tutt, Nicholas Willilams alias Charter (sic), Simon Chayne, Edmund Snowe, Robert Sweringe, and Richard Williams alias Carter (sic), who say that

John Grove was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Sedgehil, otherwise **Sedeghill**, co. Wilts, and of one meadow called Longmore Meade, containing 10 acres, and of 30 acres of wood and underwood there ; a messuage and annual rent of 20s. there ; one messuage, one garden, one orchard, 8 acres of meadow, and 10 acres of pasture, and common pasture for all cattle in **Semley** in the same county. Of the manor or farm of Ferne otherwise Verne, in **Dunhead St Andrew** in the said county, and of divers lands and tenements called Brockwayes Land otherwise Plaister's Place, containing 20 acres of Meadow [and] 50 acres of pasture with tenement or Inn situated in the parishes of **Dunhead St Andrew and Dunhead St Mary**, called The Black Talbott. Of one messuage, 20 acres of land, and 16 acres of pasture in **Ludwell** and **Charlton**, within the said parish of **Dunhead St Mary**. Of one messuage, one garden, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and one acre of wood in Melbury, otherwise Melbury Abbes, otherwise Melbury Abbatise, Shafton otherwise Shaftsbury and Alincester, otherwise Alcester, in co. Dorset, commonly called Cookes Landes, and of common of pasture for 120 two-year-old sheep, and all other cattle in Melbury aforesaid to the said Cookes land pertaining. Of 3 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, and 9 acres of pasture in Can, co. Dorset, of a close of pasture in Melbury, co. Dorset, of one acred of land in Canfield in the same county, and of one coppice of underwood and elder, containing one acre in Can aforesaid, which last-mentioned premises are

commonly called Powell's Lands. Of one messuage, one toft, and one fulling mill in Melbury Abbes, and of 20 acres of land, 20 acres of Meadow and 20 acres of pasture in West Melbury called Porters otherwise Porters Place. Of one garden, 12 acres of land and common of pasture for 80 two-year-old sheep in Can, Shaftsbury St Rumbolls and Smethet in co. Dorset, commonly called Elliots Lands. Of one garden in the parish of St Lawrence in the borough of Shaftsbury, and of 2 messuages, 3 gardens, and half an acre of pasture in the parish of Holy Trinity, Shaftsbury.

The said John Grove, being so seised, by indenture of 9th September, 22 James I [1624], granted and confirmed to John Lowe, esq., and William Kent, gent., their heirs and assigns, all the premises in Dunhead St Andrew, Dunhead St Mary, Ludwell and Charlton aforesaid, by the name of all that capital messuage, site, farm, and demesne lands of Ferne, or called Verne, within the parish of Dunhead St Andrew, with all appurtenances, and all that tenement in the parishes of Dunhead St Andrew and Dunhead St Mary, all appurtenances call Brockwayes, or Plaister Place, and one pasture called Wheathaies, and all that messuage, tenement, or Inn called The Black Talbott in Ludwell aforesaid, and all the massuages, lands, etc., in the parishes of Dunhead St Andrew, Dunhead St Mary, Ludwell, and Charlton, in which the aforesaid John Grove had any Estate. To have and to hold the same to the said John Lowe and William Kent, their heirs and assigns, to the use of the said John Grove, and his male heirs ; remainder thereof to the use of William Grove, borther of aforesaid John, for the term of his lilfe ; remainder thereof to the use of John Grove, son of the same William Grove, for the term of his life ; remainder thereof to the eldest son, to be born, of the said John Grove, son of the same William and Mary Lowe, daughter of the said Johnn Lowe, and the heirs male of the body of the said eldest son, lawfully to be begotten, And for default of such issue to the use of the second son, who the aforesaid John Grove, the younger, should have by the same Mary, and the heirs male of the body of the said second son. Similar remainder with regard to the third, fourth, fith, sixth, and such other sons, in sucession and their heirs male, as the said John should have by the said Mary ; remainder thereof to the use of Robert Grove, gent., brother of the said John Grove, the elder, and the heirs male of his body ; remainder there of to Hugh Grove, another brother of the said John Grove, the elder ; and ultimate remainder to the right heirs of the said John Grove, the elder, for ever. By virtue of which aforesaid John Grove, the elder, was seised of the premises in his demesne as of fee, viz. to him and the heirs male of his body with the remainders as aforesaid.

The said John Grove, the elder, died at **Berry Court**, co. Wilts, on the 2nd January last past [1628-9], seised of the aforesaid manor and other premises in Sedghill, and of the tenement in Semley aforesaid, which same manor of Sedghill is and was held of the King in chief by knight's service, clear, £10 8s. 7d. And the tenement and premises in Semley are held of Thomas Lord Arundel of Wardour as of his manor of Semley in socage, by fealty, and suit of court, and are worth yearly, clear, £10.

Of whom or by what service the said manor, messuage, and other premises in Dunhead St Andrew are held the jury are ignorant, but they are worth yearly, clear, £4.

And the sid messuage or tenement called Brockways, otherwise Plaister's Place, and other the premises in Dunhead St Andrew, Dunhead St Mary, Ludwell, and Charlton, are held of the aforesaid Thomas Lord Arundel as of his manor of Dunhead in free and common socage, by fealty, suit of court, and the annual rent of 12d., and they are worth yearly, clear, 20s.

The premises of Melbury Abbes, Can, Shaftsbury St Rumboll's, and Smethet aforesaid are held of the said Lord Arundel as of his manor of Melbury Abbes in free and common socage, by fealty, suit of court, and yearly rent of 4s. 7d., and they are worth yearly, clear, 13s. 8d.

The aforesaid garden in the parish of St Lawrence in the borough of Shaftsbury, and half an acre of pasture in the aforesaid parish of Holy Trinity, Shaftsbury, are held of the borough of Shaftsbury in free socage, by fealty only for all services, and are worth yearly, clear, 3s. 8d.

The aforesaid William Grove, brother of the said John Grove, died in the lifetime of the said John ; having no other male issue than the aforesaid John, the younger, which same John, the younger, likewise died in

the lifetiem of John, the elder, without having any son by the aforesaid Mary. And the aforesaid Robert Grove and Hugh Grove, brothres of the said John, the elder, survive, and have issue male of their bodies.

Mary Lowe, now wife of John Lowe, gent., Margaret Grove, and Jane Grove, three daughters of William Grove, brother of John Grove, the elder, at the time of the death of the said John were his co-heirs. Mary was of the age of 21 years and more, Margaret of the age of 14 years and more, and Jane was of the age of 12 years on 5th February last before the taking of this inquisition.

**Inq. p.m., 5 Charles I, pt. 1, No. 104. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**