

## 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*

### Nicholas Flower.

Inquisition taken at Ambrosburie, 12th August, 10 Charles I [1634], before *Francis Guidott*, gent., escheator, after the death of **Nicholas Flower**, by the oath of *William Walker*, gent., *Anthony Davis*, gent., *Anthony Trotman*, gent., *Roger Pinckney*, *William Andrewes*, *William Barnaby*, *George Acrigge*, *John Noote*, *Edmund Day*, *William Woodford*, *Roger Prewett*, *George Jervis*, *Richard Harrison*, and *Anthony Hollway*, who say that

**Nicholas Flower** was seised of 1 messuage, 1 garden, and 1 orchard in **Littleton**, within the parish of **Steple Ashton**, late in the occupation of the said *Nicholas*; 1 close of pasture there called the Homeclose, containing 4 acres; 3 closes of pasture there called Parrockes, containing 2 acres, to the said messuage adjoining; 1 meadow there called Boremead, lying on the east side of the said messuage, containing 10 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Newelease, containing 12 acres; 1 other close of pasture there called Witecombe Mead, containing 4 acres; 1 other close of pasture there called Broadcrofte, containing 4 acres; 2 crofts of pasture there called Newcroftes, containing 6 acres; 1 other croft of pasture there called Bushie Crofte, containing 3 acres; 1 meadow there called Twynewater Mead, containing 5 acres; 1 close of arable land there called the Corne Close, containing 18 acres; 7 acres of arable land lying within the common fields of **Semington**, in the Parish of **Steepleashton**; 1 messuage, garden, and orchard in **Melksham**, late in the tenure of the said *Nicholas*; 1 close of pasture there called Caters, containing 30 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Inner Rowley, containing 8 acres; 1 other close of pasture there, containing 5 acres; 1 small meadow there, containing 1 virgate of land, lying near the said close called Inner Rowley; 1 close of pasture called Bulls lease; 2 meadows adjoining the messuage last mentioned, containing 4 acres; 2 other meadows there called Caters Meades, containing 4 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Innockes, near the said meadow called Caters, containing 5 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Bulls Leaze, adjoining the said meadows called Caters, containing 5 acres; 1 other close of pasture there called Lubbernehill, adjoining the said close called Innockes, containing 15 acres; 4 acres of arable land lying in the fields called Holbrookes fields in Melksham; 1 messuage, garden, and orchard in **Whitley**, within the parish of Melksham, late in the occupation of *Helen May*, widow; 1 close of pasture there called the Home Close, containing 3 acres; 1 other close of pasture there called the Broad Close, containing 4 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Gunnes, containing 8 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Haynes Croft, containing 12 acres; 1 close of meadow there called Hortley Mead, containing 6 acres; 1 meadow there lying in the field there called ...orlocke, containing 4 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Knowlehill, containing 7 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Goares; 1 meadow there adjoining Goares Meadow, containing 4 acres; 1 close of pasture there called

Newelease, containing 4 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Hollen, containing 3 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Westleaze, containing 20 acres; 1 meadow there called Purlepittes Mead, containing 3 acres; 1 small close there called Parrocke, containing 1 virgate of land, lying at the end of the said close called Purlepittes Meade; 1 close of pasture there called Gannox, containing 3 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Rowland, containing 4 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Ley, containing 4 acres; 1 meadow there called Murrell Mead, containing 6 acres; 1 close of arable land there called Scurlocke, containing 5 acres; 1 other close of arable land there called Subbrookes, containing 4 acres; about 5 acres of arable land there in the field called Hortley; 5 other acres of arable land there lying in the north field there; about 9 acres of arable there in the field called Chestlefield; 5 acres of arable land there in the field called Littlefield; 1 messuage, garden, and orchard there, late in the occupation of *Henry May*; 1 close of pasture there adjoining the said messuage, containing 5 acres; 1 other close of pasture there called Pudgeleaze, containing 14 acres; 1 meadow there called Westleaze Mead with the Grove, containing 6 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Gannox, containing 2 acres; 1 close of pasture there called Winseleaze, containing 6 acres; 1 close of pasture ther called Newe Leaze, containing 5 acres' 1 close of arable land there called Bridfield, containing 2 acres; and one other close of arable land there called Hortlie, containing 11 acres.

All the said premises are held of the King in chief by the service of the 100th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per annum, clear, £5.

Nicholas Flower died 11th September, 8 Charles I [1632]; Robert Flower is his son and next heir, and was then aged 50 years and more.

***Inq. p.m., 11 Charles I, pt. 3, No. 77. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.***