

# 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 de Putton 1320

**Inquest** before the King's escheator at New Sarum, 4th January, 14 Edward II [1320], by the oath of Thomas le Chaumberlayn, Richard le Rede, Thomas Cosy, Stephen Hiulon, Thomas Parveor, Gilbert Vyring, Ralph de Hertinge, John de Tyringham, Richard atte Okes, Peter le Shereve, Willilam Hude, and Nicholas Aunes, who say that

John de Putton died siesed in his demesne as of fee of one messuage and 20 acres of land in Putton, and there are held of the King in chief by the service of keeping the King's park of Clarendon as one of the foresters of the fee. The said messuage and land are worth per annum, clear, according to the clear value thereof, 3s. 6d. besides the said service.

William de Putton is the son and next heir of the said John de Putton, and is aged 26 years and more.

**Chan. Inq. p.m., 14 Eddward II, No. 6.**

**"Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1908, edited by Edw. Alex Fry.**