

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*

Katherine Mompesson

Delivered into Court 11th November, 16 Charles I.

Inquisition taken at New Sarum, 14th Sept., 8 Charles I [1632], before William Guydott, esq., escheator, after the death of Katherine Mompesson, late the wife of Thomas Mompesson, esq., by the oath of Anthony Davies, gent., John Thorpe, gent., George Acrigg, Giles Compton, Leonard Browne, Thomas Willson, John Butcher, Ralph Tomlynes, Robert Sweving, Richard Easton, Henry Paige, Thomas Wollford, Bartholomew Foster, Thomas Hurcott, and William Earleigh, who say that

Thomas Mompesson and Katherine were seised in right of the said Katherine, to wit, to her and her heirs of the moiety of the manor and lordship of East Winterslowe alias Roche Courte in East Winterslowe, Middle Winterslowe, West Winterslow, and Alderburie.

The said Thomas entered into the same after his marriage with the said Katherine, and they had issue Thomas Mompesson, junior.

The said moiety of the manor of East Winterslowe is held of the King in chief, by knight's service ; it is worth per annum nothing during the life of the said Thomas Mompesson, the father, but afterwards it will be worth per ann., clear, £6.

Katherine Mompesson died 17th January, 5 Charles I [1630] ; Thomas Mompesson, junior, is her son and next heir by the said Thomas, the father, and was then aged 13 days.

The said Thomas Mompesson, the father, still survives at the City of New Sarum.

Inq. p.m., 16 Charles I, pt. 1, No 78. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.