

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*

William Gould, esquire.

Inquisition taken at Devizes, 17th March, 15 Charles I [1640], before John Sevyor, gent., escheator, after the death of William Gould, late of Alston alias Alvedeston, esq., by the oath of Thomas Sloper, gent., John Worsdale, Robert Heskins, Thomas Withers, John Briant, John Eyles, Edward Hope, Christopher Pullen, Walter Mayo, Walter Reade, Giles Milles, William Robertes, and Ambrose Zely, who say that

William Gould was seised to him and his heirs male of a capital messuage and farm in Alston alias Alvedeston called Parham's Farme, and divers lands, meadows, etc., etc., thereto belonging.

So seised, a recovery was suffered of the said premises against the said William Gould by John Moore, esq., and Robert Moore, gent., in the Court of King's Bench at Westminster in Michaelmas Term, 7 James I [1609], by the names of one messuage, 200 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 400 acres of pasture, and 4 acres of wood in Alvedeston, which said recovery was suffered to the uses following: as to the said capital messuage, 2 several closes of pasture called the Greate sandes and the Little Sandes, parcel of the said farm, situate on the south part of the highway leading from Alvedeston to the town of Barwicke St. John, except such parts of the said closes as are held by copy of court roll, and as to divers parcels of arable land, meadow and pasture, lying on the north part of the said highway called Shap closes, Sheates meads, Long meade, Coome close, Greate Gaston, Litle Gaston, Broadlease, Northfeild, and 'depasturation' in the north part of the said farm, to the use of the said William Gould for his life; after his decease to the use of Elianor Gould, wife of the said William, for her life for her jointure; and after her decease to the use of the said William named in the writ, and his heirs for ever. As to the residue of the said capital messuage not limited for the jointure of the said Elianor, to the use of the said William Gould and his heirs for ever, as by certain indentures dated 1st October, 7 James I [1609], made between the said William Gould of the one part, and the said John and Robert Moore of the other part, more fully appears.

The said premises are held of Thomas Gawen, esq., as of his manor of Northington, in free and common socage, by fealty, suit at court, and the yearly rent of 10s., and are worth per annum, clear, 60s.

William Gould died at Alvedeston 21st August, 14 Charles I [1638]; William Gould is his son and next heir, and was then aged 15 years 5 months and 20 days.

The said Eleanor, late the wife of the said William Gould, still survives at New Sarum.

Inq. p.m., 15 Charles I, pt. 29, No. 18.

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