

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 Verdun 1274

Extent made at Wivelsford of the lands of Sir John de Verdun in the Hundred of Wanderdich on Saturday next after the feast of All Saints 2 Edward 1 before Sir Stephen de Druey escheator in the County of Wilts by the oath of Roger de Seresey, William Lendi, Walter le Blond, Michael Scot, Walter Pachet, Henry le Templar, Henry de Seresey, Thomas le Frankelayn, Geoffrey de Wodeford, Peter de Hale, Richard Vivas, and Robert le Hopere who say that there are there of arable land 80 acres and that each acre is worth 5pence and 9 acres of meadow and each acre is worth 18 pence and there is there pasture for 6 oxen and the pasture of each is worth 3d. Also pasture for 300 sheep and the pasture of each is worth one halfpenny. Of rent of assize per annum 3 pounds 4 shillings also the easements of the court and garden are worth 2shillings. The said manor is held by the service of keeping one wax candle before the high altar of the Blessed Mary in the church of Sarum to burn by day and night forever.

The said John was seised in his demesne of the said manor on the day that he died. Theobald de Verdun is the son and next heir of the said John de Verdun and is of full age.

Chanc Inq pm 2 Edward 1 No. 347(1)