

# 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*

## Sir Richard Grobham, Knight

Inquisition taken at Salisbury, 9th March, 5 Charles I [1630], before Nathaniel Augar, esquire, escheator, after the death of Sir Richard Grobham, knight, by the oath of Francis Topp, gent., William Walker, gent., Anthony Davis, gent., George Acridge, gent., Robert Sweaving, gent., Christopher Merifield, gent., Robert Stringnell, gent., William Wimbleton, gent., John Nott, gent., Maurice Whiteborne, gent., Robert Joles, gent., Thomas Tutt, gent., and Anthony Arthur, gent., who say that

Sir Richard Grobham, long before his death, was seised in fee of the manors of Great Wichford alias Wishford alias Muchell Wichford alias Wishford, Barwick St. Leonard alias Cold Barwick, Priors Bemerton, Comptons Bemerton, Westkington alias Westkeynton, Netleton Combe alias Combe Compton, Netherhaven, and Harklestone, of the prebend of Uphaven . . . . of the rectory and church of Enford, of a messuage and 20 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 40 acres of furze and heath, in Longstreet in the parish of Enford, formerly belonging to John Barnaby, of the free chapel of Barwick St. James, of the hundred and borough of Heighworth, of the hundred of Malmesbury, of 2 messuages, 3 cottages, in Eastknoyll, Stop, and Fownthill Gifford, and of common pasture for 10 cows and one bull in Eastknoyll, called Sommer Lease, and of divers messuages in Upton Lovell, and 50 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 400 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood, and 400 acres of furze and heath in Great Wichford alias Wishford alias Muchell Wichford alias Wishford, Barwick St. Leonard alias Cold Barwick, Bemerton, Quidhampton, Southnewton, Stowford, Westkington alias Westkeynton, Netleton, Combe, Compton, Longstreet, Enford, Netherhavon, Harkleston, Uphaven, Russall alias Rushall, Upton

Lovell, Cudyll (?), Knoyll, Stopp, Founthill Gifford, Asserton alias Asherton, Barwick St. James, Heighworth, and Malmesbury, co. Wilts. Of the fairs and markets to be held within the manor of Barwick St. Leonard alias Cold Barwick ; of the manors of Chedworth, Yanworth, and Compton Abdale, co. Gloucester, of the rectory and church of Sithney alias Synney, co. Cornwall, of the manors of Plympton Grainge alias Plympton Ridgway, and Southole alias Southould, co. Devon, of the hundred of South Tawton, the borough of Seale alias Zeale, and certain lands in Plympton Mary, Plympton Morrice, Plympton Ridgway, Maker, Southole, Hartland, South Tawton, and Seal, in co. Devon, of the manors of Stathe, Saltmore, Burbadge alias Burtpadge, and Bridgewater, of the hundreds of Kingsbury and Whitstone, and of lands in Stath, Saltmore, Gregory Stoke, Burbadge, Bishoppes Lyddiard, Bridgewater, North Petherton, Wembdon, Kingsbury, and Whitstone, co. Somerset ; of the messuage and farm of Lackford Richardes, and lands in Lackford Richardes, Lackford Abbottes, Lackford Abbesse, Somborne and Stockbridge, co. Southampton, and of a farm called Heyshott Ferme alias Upper Court, co. Sussex ; of the manor of Purfleete, co. Essex ; of the manor of Bromsgrove, co. Worcester ; of the rectory of St. Neotes, co. Huntingdon ; and of all tithes called Bardney tithes in Beckingham, Sutton, and Henton alias Fenton, co. Lincoln, and of the tithes of Elmessett, co. Suffolk.

And being so seised the same Sir Richard Grobham by is indenture dated 30 January, 2 Charles I [1627], between the same Sir Richard Grobham of Great Wishford, of the one part, and George Whitmore, esquire, citizen and alderman of London, George Howe and Thomas Brent, servants to the said Sir Richard, of the other part, covenanted to levy a fine of the premises to the uses following, that is to say, to the use of the same Sir Richard and his assigns during his natural life at his disposal, and after his decease the manors of Wichford, Westkington, Nettleton, and Combe, the rectory of Enford, the messuages and lands in Longstreet in the parish of Enford, and all manors, lands, etc., in Wishford, Muchell Wishford, Westkington, Nettleton, Combe, Compton . . . ., co. Wilts, and the manors of Chedworth, Yanworth, Compton Abdale, to the use of Dame Margaret Grobham, his now wife, for term of her life in the name of jointure, and as to the manor of Barwick St. Leonards alias Cold Barwicke and the tenements in East Knoyll, Stopp, and Founthill Gifford, the premises called Baldons Hills and Trapnells More, and pasture for 10 cows and one bull in a pasture called Sommerlease in East Knoyll, to the use of the executors of his last will during the life of John Grobham, gent., brother of the said Sir Richard, to be employed for the benefit and livelihood of such person, and to such use, as the said Sir Richard Grobham should appoint, and as to the manors of Burbadge and Bishops Lyddyard to the use of Dame Margaret Grobham, Christopher Potticary, of Stockton, co. Wilts, clothier, John Grobham, of Bromfeilde, co. Somerset, yeoman, John Bampton, of Nunton, co. Wilts, yeoman, John Bower, of Great Wishford, John Howe, George Howe, and Thomas Brent, servants of the said Sir Richard, in trust and to employ the profits thereof to the maintenance of the Almshouses erected by the same Sir Richard in the manor of Burvadge alias Burtpadge ; and as concerning the residue and reversion of the premises, to the use of the executors of the last will of the said Sir Richard, until George Grobham, son of the said John Grobham, of Bromfeild, co. Somerset, should attain the age of 22 years, to be used as by some deed or the will of the said Sir Richard should declare, and the to the use of the same George Grobham and the heirs male of his body, and in default, to the use of the said executors, until the second son of the said John Grobham, begotten or to be begotten on the body of Agnes, now his wife, should attain the age of 22 years, and the to the use of the said second son of the said John Grobham and the heirs male of his body, and in default, to the use of the said executors for their lives or the longest liver of them, to be employed as in the last will of the said Sir Richard should be declared, and then to the use of the right heirs of the said Sir Richard for ever.

And the same Sir Richard was seised of the manor of Steeple Langford and of 4 messuages, 20 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Steeple Langford and Tucking Langford, co. Wilts, which the said Sir Richard, on 1st June, 4 Charles I [1628], purchased to him and his heirs, of Nicholas Mussell, gent. ; and of the manor and advowson of the church of Osmington, co. Dorset, and of certain lands in Stockton, co. Durham, and lands in co. Pembroke.

A third part of the manor of Wishford was formerly parcel of the possessions of the monestry of Maidenbradley, and held of the King by knight service, to wit, the fortieth part of a knight's fee, and the other two parts are held of the King as of the Duchy of Lancaster, by the service of one knight's fee ; the manor of Barwick St. Leonards alias Cold Barwick is held of the King by knight service, and is worth by

the year, clear, £6 6s. 8d. ; the manor of Bemerton is held of the King in chief ; and the residue of the manors of Priors Bemerton and Comptons Barwick, and premises in Bemerton, Quidhampton, South Newton, and Stowford are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, in free and common socage, and not in chief nor by knight service, and are worth by the year, clear, £15 ; the manor of Westkington is held of the King in chief by the service of an eighth part of a knight's fee, and is worth by the year, clear, £20 ; the manor of Nettleton is held of the King in chief [faded] ; the prebend of Uphaven is held of the King as of the manor of East Greenwich, and is worth by the year, clear, 40s. ; the rectory of Enford is held of the King in chief, by the tenth part of a knight's fee, and is worth by the year, clear, 100s.; the free chapel of Barwick St. James, and other the premises in Barwick St. James, are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, by fealty, in socage and not in chief nor by knight service, and are worth by the year, clear, 5s. ; and the hundred and borough of Highworth, and the hundred of Malmesbury, are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, in free and common socage, and not in chief nor by knight service, and are worth by the year, clear, 20s.

Sir Richard Grobham died on 5th July, 1629, and Margaret, late his wife, survives him ; John Grobham is his brother and next heir, and at the death of the said Sir Richard was of the age of 60 years and more.

**Inq. p.m., 6 Charles I, pt. 3, No. 53. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**