

## 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*

## Robert Bull

**Inquisition** taken at Devizes, 23rd August, 18 Charles I [1642], before Richard Mason, esq., escheator, by virtue of his office, after the death of Robert Bull, by the oath of Robert Kingsman, gent., William Roberdes, gent., Edmund Potter, William Purrier, William Parrett, Stephen Flower, Richard Greenfield, Thomas Engles, Thomas Flower, Thomas Johnson, Giles Mills, Richard Clarke, Amos Hoope, and Philip Stronge, who say that

Robert Bull was seised of that part and parcel of the messuage then late in the tenure of John Bull, jun., in Broughton, as follows, to wit, the Kytchen, the Forth-house, and the Whithouse; one close of pasture called greate Citties, containing 2 acres lying near a lane called Bremble Lane; one close of pasture called little Citties, containing about one acre, near adjoining the close, late in the tenure of Robert Alderwicke; and 3 acres of arable land, whereof one lies in a field called Chessellfield, near a bridge called Gayesbridge, another lies in Hales by the bridge called Stonybridge, and 2 half-acres lie in a field called Anfield: all which said premises are situate within the parish of Groughton Gifford, and were late in the tenure of the said John Bull, jun., and sometime were parcel of the lands and tenements of William Bruncker, knight, deceased, father of Henry Bruncker, and were purchased by the said Robert Bull of the said Henry Bruncker, esq., and of Henry Fanshawe, knight.

So seised, the said Robert Bull made his will the 26th day of August, 1625, and thereby bequeathed as follows:- I will that Anne, my wife, shall have the use of my house, garden, orchard, and all my lands during her widowhood only, towards the bringing up of my children; after her marriage or decease, the same shall remain to William, my son, and his heirs for ever. If the said William die without issue the said premises to remain to my second son and his heirs for ever, and so to the third and fourth sons upon like default.

All the said premises are held of the King as of his Castle of Devizes, by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee is not known, and are worth per annum, clear, 10s.

Robert Bull died 29th August, 1 Charles I [1625]; William Bull is his son and next heir, and is now aged 41 years.

**Misc. Inq. p.m., 18 Charles I, pt. 29, No. 31.**

**"Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**