

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 Norborne, esquire.

Delivered into Court 21st November, 13 Charles I.

Inquisition taken at Devizes, 27th July, 12 Charles I [1636], before Hugh White, esq., escheator, after the death of John Norborne, esq., by the oath of William Norden, esq., Samuel White, Richard Filkes, John Stevens, Thomas Sloper, John Purnell, John Thorner, John Harves, Edward Fowle, Benedict Hancoke, Giles Mills, Robert Kingsman, and Henry Bold, who say that

John Norborne was seised of one capital messuage and 2 tenements situate in Studley within the parish of Calne; 21 acres of land, 30 acres of pasture, 8 acres of meadow, 4 acres of wood, and 2 closes of pasture, containing 6 acres in Stocke within the parish of Calne; divers other messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Stocke, Studley, and Calne; and 2 other closes of pasture, one whereof is called Machins and the other Normans, containing 4½ acres of land in Studley within the parish of Calne.

All the said premises are held of – Hungerford, esq., as of his manor of Studley Hungerford, by fealty, suit at court, and the yearly rent of 1½d., and are worth per annum, clear, £15.

John Norborne died 21st November last past; Humphrey Norborne, esq., is his son and next heir, and was then aged 50 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 13 Charles I, pt. 2, No. 13.

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