

## 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*

## George Packer

**Inquisition** taken at Chilton Folliat, 19th January (?), 16 Charles I [1641], before John Brinsden, gent., coroner, upon view of the body of George Packer, gent., there lying dead, by the oath of Mark Fowler, Roger Smith, Richard Collins, Thomas Addams, Thomas ---, Stephen Edward, William Fatt, John Stromel, Thomas Pearse, John Tanner, Richard Hill, Joseph \_\_\_\_, Thomas Sharpe, Robert Parkes, Henry Williams, Anthony Elton, John Rowland, and Thomas Reeves, who say that

Hugh Boham, of the University of Oxford, gent., on the 30th December, 16 Charles I [1640], at Chilton Folliat was carrying a gun charged with gunpowder and haileshott, prepared to kill birds, which he was holding under his right arm and tunic: which said gun went off casually, against the will of the said Hugh, and struck the said George Packer in the right leg [crus], giving him a mortal wound 6 inches deep and 3 inches wide, whereof he languished at Chilton from the said 30th December until the 18th day of January then next following, on which last-mentioned day he died.

The jurors say that the said Hugh by accident shot the said George, as is aforesaid, against the peace of the King.

The said gun is worth 10s., and remains in the custody of the inhabitants there.

At the time of the said accident the said Hugh had not goods, lands, or tenements to the knowledge of the jurors.

**Inq. p.m., 16 Charles I, pt. 34, No. 18.**

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