

## 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*

## Agnes Spring

**Inquisition** taken at the Devizes, 3rd September, 4 Charles I [1628], before Michael Tetcombe, esq., escheator, by virtue of his office, after the death of Agnes Springe, late the wife of William Spring, senior, by the oath of Edward North, gent., William White, gent., John Stephens, Richard Filkes, Robert Tresher, John Harris, George Downinge, John Tyllinge, Edward Bayley, John Gyles, Robert Haskins, Nicholas Sanford, Philip Bucher, and John Blanford, who say that

William Spring, senior, and Agnes his wife, in right of the said Agnes, were seised of one messuage, 4 cottages, and 45 acres of land, meadow, pasture, and wood, and 10s. rent in Escott.

So seised, they had issue William Springe the father, who afterwards and in the lifetime of the said William and Agnes married Praxida Burster, and had issue William Springe, junior, his son and heir-apparent. Afterwards the said William the father died, and the said William and Agnes survived him.

The said premises are held of the King in chief by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, 26s. 8d.

Agnes Springe died 20th October, 20 James I [1622]; William Springe, junior, is her kinsman and next heir, and was aged at the death of his said grandmother 15 years 9 months and 16 days.

The said William Springe, senior, died 19th November last past.

The said Praxida too the issues of the said premises from the death of the said William, senior, up to the day of the taking of this inquisition.

**Inq. p.m., 4 Charles I, pt. 27, No. 177.**

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