

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*

Jordanus de Larkestok 1304

Inquisition taken before the King's Escheator at Sarum, 6th May, 32 Edward I [1304], if it be to the damage of the King or others if the King should grant to Jordan de Larkstok that he may enfeoff Robert de Miccheldeure of one messuage, one virgate of land, 3 acres of meadow, and 8s. rent in Larkstok, by the oath of Robert Walraund, Philip Godu, William Noble, Stephen de Beauner, John de Lucy, John Hulon, Stephen Hulon, John Pratt, John de Gameford, John de Nevylle, Thomas Dunpol, and John le Prest, who say that

It is not to the damage of the King or others if the King should grant to the said Jordan that he may enfeoff the said Robert de Micheledevre of the said premises : to hold to him and his heirs of the King and his heirs by the services thereof due and accustomed for ever.

The said premises in Larkstok and other tenements there, out of which the said rent is forthcoming, are held of the King in chief by the serjeantry of keeping the King's forest of Claryngdon, and are worth per annum 10s.

“Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem,” 1908, edited by Edw. Alex Fry.