

# 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 de Mucheldevre 1330

Writ of Amotus, 26 February, 3 Edward III.

Wilts. Inq., taken at New Salisbury, 1 April, 3 Edward III, [1330]

He held no lands or tenements in fee &c. in the County. But while he was with Hugh le Despenser, the younger, after the banishment lately decreed against the said Hugh in the parliament of King Edward II, by the maintenance and power of the said Hugh and by his oppression, the said Robert violently ejected Henry Burry from a messuage, 3 virgates of land, 8a. meadow, and 17s. in rent in Laverstoke ; whereof there are held of the king in chief, a messuage and 1 virgate of land, by service of finding a foot forester for keeping the King's forest at Claryndon, and 2 virgates of land, the meadow, and rent, are held of Margaret de Wodefold, by service of 50s. 8d. yearly. For the aforesaid Henry Burry was of the faction (querela) of Thomas, late Earl of Lancaster, for prosecuting the aforesaid Hugh le Despenser; and so the said Robert entered upon the said lands &c. and retained them until the Sheriff of Wilts. Restored them the said Henry by the King's writ, to hold them as before, as was ordained and agreed in the parliament at the King's coronation. The said Robert, in like circumstances, ejected John de Farlegh from a messuage and 107a. land in Pitton and Farlegh, which are held of Thomas Cosyn by service of 7s. 2d. yearly ; to which the said Sheriff similarly restored the said John. The said Robert also, in like circumstances, ejected Thomas Cosyn from a messuage, 90a. land, 1a. meadow, and 20a. wood in Pitton, which are held of the abbess of St. Mary's Winchester, by service of 100s. yearly; to which the said Sheriff similarly restored the said Thomas. The said Robert also, in like circumstance, ejected John de Lucy of Farlegh

from 40a. wood in Farlegh, which are held of John de Wynterbourne, by service of 1/2lb. of pepper; to which the said Sheriff similarly restored the said John de Lucy.

If the said Robert de Mucheldevere held any other lands or tenements in fee in other counties than Wilts., the John, son of the said Robert and Alice, his wife, aged 15 years, is his next heir.

**C. Edw. III. file 15 (22.)**