

## 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*

### Nicholas Hyde, knight.

**Inquisition** taken at the City of New Sarum, 17th September, 9 Charles I [1633], after the death of Nicholas Hyde, knight, late Chief Justice of the Pleas to be held before the King, by the oath of Edmund Daye, Anthony Davies, Edward Fawconer, John Greene, Thomas Hancocke, John Wendover, gentlemen, Thomas Wilson, Thomas Woolford, Augustine Creede, Ralph Thomalyn, John Butcher, William Brickett, and Robert Wraye, who say that

Nicholas Hyde was seised of the manor, capital messuage, and demesne lands of Henton Dawbney in the parish of Katherington in co. Southampton; a farm called Hormer Farm lying in Hormer in the Parish of Katherington; the manor, capital messuage, and demesne lands of Henton Burrunt, late Chatfeilds lands, situate in the said parish; the manor of Limborne in the several counties of Southampton and Sussex; a farm, capital messuage, and tenement commonly called Wade Farme, and sometime called Wade Courte, and about 100 acres of land, meadow and pasture, usually occupied therewith, and all other the lands, etc., thereto belonging in Wade, Havant, and Warblington, in co. Southampton; the hundred of Feinchdeane in co. Southampton, with all the courts, etc., thereto belonging; and the manor of Smalrudge alias Smalridge, lying in the parish of Axminster in co. Devon.

Long before the death of the said Nicholas Hyde, John Boothe, gent., was seised of three parts (in four parts to be divided) of the manor of East Bedwyne, lying in the parish of East Bedwyne alias Lyttle Bedwyne, and three parts of all the messuages, houses, lands, etc., to the said manor belonging; the arable ground called the Parler Feilde in Ease Bedwyne; the arable ground there called Marles Feilde; the coppice and woodland there called Marles Coppice; the arable ground there called Parler Deane; common of pasture and feeding there on the hill called Marrell Downe for 100 sheep and 8 beasts called rother beastes, and for 6 horsebeasts, geldings, and mares; and common of pasture for 8 rother beasts and 6 horses in the common hills and fields of Little Bedwyne.

So seised, the said John Boothe, by indenture dated 16th February, 17 James I [1620], made between himself of the one part, and the said Nicholas Hyde by the name of Nicholas Hyde of Marleborough, esq., and Laurence Hyde of the Close of the City of New Sarum, knight, of the other part, granted the said premises to the said Nicholas and Laurence and their heirs. Afterwards, to wit, in Easter Term, 18 James I [1620], the said indenture was enrolled in the Court of the King's Bench.

The manor of Henton Dawbney, the farm called Hormer, and all other the premises in Henton Dawbney and Hormer are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich in co. Kent, in free and common socage and not in chief or by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, £4. The manor, messuage, and demesne lands of Henton Burrunt are held of the King as of his said manor by fealty only, in free and common socage and not in chief or by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, £3. The manor of Limborne and the premises called Wade Farm, and the 100 acres of land therewith usually occupied, are held of the lord of the manor of Warblington in co. Southampton,

as of his said manor, in free and common socage by fealty only, and are worth per annum, clear, £3. The hundred of Feinchdeane is held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich in co. Kent, by fealty only, in free and common socage and not in chief or by knight's service, and is worth per annum, clear, 6s. 8d. The manor of Smalrudge is held of the lord of the manor of Dunster in co. Somerset, as of his said manor, in free and common socage, by the service of one pair of spurs, and is worth per annum, clear, 20s. The 3 parts of the manor of East Bedwyne and other the premises there are held of the King in chief by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors know not.

Nicholas Hyde died at Henton Dawbney, 25th August, 7 Charles I [1631]; Arthur Hyde, esq., is his son and next heir, and was then aged 24 years and more. The said Laurence Hyde still survives at New Sarum.

**Inq. p.m., 9 Charles I, pt. 21, No. 9.**

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