

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*

Thomas Chafyn, esquire.

Inquisition taken at Lavington Forum, 24th September, 17 James I [1619], before *Nicholas Goldesborowe*, gent., deputy escheator, after the death of *Thomas Chafyn*, esq., by the oath of *William Pinckney*, gent., *William Beckett*, *Robert Whood* alias *Crooke*, *John Harvest*, *Philip Wheeler*, *John Mereweather*, *William Shergoll*, *John Beathell*, *Edward Shergoll*, *Edward Naishe*, *Robert Haskins*, *William Bartlett*, *William Noyes*, and *Roberty Nayshe*, who say that

Thomas Chafyn was seised of 46 messuages in the **City of New Sarum**; 22 messuages, with divers lands, meadows, and pastures with the same enjoyed, in **Warminster**; 1 messuage, with divers lands, meadows, and pastures, in **Winterslowe**, and 1 messuage, with lands, meadows, and pasture, in **Cruyton**.

The messuages in New Sarum are held of the Bishop of *Sarum*, by fealty and the yearly rent of 11s. 3d., and are worth per annum, clear, 50s. The messuages in Warminster are held of *Thomas Thinne*, knight, lord of the "Prebendaryes" court, and of other lords in Warminster, by fealty and the rent of 15s. 8d., and are worth per annum, clear, £3 6s. 8d. The premises in Winterslowe are held of *Alexander Tutt*, esq., as of his manor of Idmiston, by fealty and suit at court of the manor of Idmiston, and are worth per annum, clear, 20s. The premises in Cruyton are held of *Walter Vaughan*, knight, as of his manor of Fallersdon, by what service is not known, and are worth per annum, clear, 10s.

Thomas Chafyn died at the City of New Sarum, 25th March last past; *Thomas Chafin*, gent., is his son and heir, and was then aged 37 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 11 Charles I, pt. 3, No. 47. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.