

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*

John Saynesbury.

Inquisition taken at Devizes, 20th November, 10 Charles I [1634], before *Francis Guydott*, gent., escheator, after the death of *John Saynesbury*, by the oath of *John Bartlet*, gent., *William Shergoll*, *Robert Townsend*, *John Brumdsen*, *Robert Child*, senior, *John Paynter*, *Edward Carter*, *Thomas Shergoll*, *John Erwood*, *Henry White*, *Thomas Graunte*, *Thomas Winkworth*, and *William Giddins*, who say that

John Saynesbury was seised of 3 messuages, 1 toft, 54½ acres of land, 36 acres of pasture, and common pasture for 90 sheep in **Escott** and **Urchfounte**, which are held of the King in chief by knight's service, and are worth per annum, clear, 40s.

John Saynesbury died 12th September last past; *John Saynesbury* is his son and next heir, and was then aged 40 years and more.

Inq. p.m., 10 Charles I, pt. 2, No. 101. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.