

# 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*

## JOAN NOYES, Widow

Inquisition taken at Devizes, 1st August, 21 James I [1623], before Tobias Rose, escheator, after the death of Joan Noyes, widow, by the oath of Thomas Willowbie of Laventon, gent., Ferdinand Huse, gent., William Manderell, gent., William Norden, gent., Thomas Sloper, gent., Brian Nashe, gent., Robert Child, gent., Philip Wheller, gent., Abraham Laurence, gent., John Style, gent., Robert Willobie, gent., John Harnas, gent., and Robert Heskins, gent., who say that

Joan Noyes was seised in her demesne as of fee of the manor of Blackswells in Whitparish, co. Wilts. Of one messuage, 4 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, and 3 acres of wood called Strathfords in Whitparish ; of 12 acres of land, called Hyde Field and Mussoote, in Whitparish ; of one messuage, 10 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 5 acres of wood in Knoyll Episcopi ; of one messuage, 30 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 20 acres of wood in the several tenures of John Gosling, John Cox, and [blank] Tutt, widow, called Standen in Chute, co. Wilts ; and of 20 acres of pasture in the tenure of the said John Gosling, called Chashames, with appurtenances in Chute aforesaid ; of the manor or capital messuage of Cheesenbury with appurtenances, 180 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 12 acres of pasture in Chessenbury ; of one messuage, 160 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 2 acres of pasture in Uphaven, co. Wilts ; and of one messuage, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and one fulling mill in Russall ; also of 2 messuages, 82 acres of land, and 5 acres of meadow in the several tenures of Roger Wellobye, gent., and Paul Coleman in Eastlavington ; also of one

messuage, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 6 acres of wood, called Helme in Remesbury.

And the jurors further say that the said manor of Blackswell in Whitparish is held of Thomas Cabell, gent., in free socage, as of his manor of Whelpley, co. Wilts, by the yearly rent of 5s., and is worth yearly, beyond reprises, £3 ; the aforesaid messuage, 40 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, and 3 acres of wood called Stratfords in Whitparish are held of Edward Saintbarbe, esq., in free socage, as of his manor of Alderston, co. Wilts, by the yearly rent of 3s., and they are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 20s. ; the aforesaid 112 acres of land called Hide Feilde and Muffootte, in Whitparish, are held of Sir Lawrence Hyde, knt., in free socage, as of his manor of Cowfeilde, co. Wilts, by the yearly rent of 2s. 6d., and they are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 6s. 8d. ; and the aforesaid messuage, 10 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 5 acres of wood in Knoyll Episcopi are held of Launcelot, Bishop of Winchester, in free socage, as of his manor of Knoyll Episcopi, by the yearly rent of 10s., and are worth clear by the year, beyond reprises, 20s. ; the aforesaid messuage, 30 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 20 acres wood in the several tenures of John Goslynge, John Coxe, and [blank] Tutt, widow, called Standen, in Chute, are held of Sir John Phillipott, knt., in free socage, as of his manor of Chute, by the yearly rent of 10s., and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 26s. 8d. ; the aforesaid 20 acres of pasture called Chashmas, in Chute, are held of Edward Skillinge, esq, in free socage, as of his manor of Fosbury, by the yearly rent of 5s., and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 10s. ; the aforesaid manor or capital messuage of Chessensbury, 180 acres of land, 12 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of meadow in Chessensbury are held of [blank] Brewning, esq., in free socage, as of his manor of Chessensbury, by the yearly rent of 4s. 8d., one pound of pepper and one pound of cumin, and aere worth yearly, beyond reprises, 40s. ; the aforesaid messuage, 160 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 2 acres of pasture in Uphaven are held of Edward Hungerford, esq., in free scoage, as of his manor of Uphaven, by the yearly rent of 48s. 8d., and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 30s. ; the aforesaid messuage, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and the fulling mill in Russall are held of Henry Pole, esq., in free socage, as of his manor of Russall, by the yearly rent of 10s. and one poiund of pepper, and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 13s. 4d. ; the aforesaid 2 messuages, 82 acres of land, and 5 acres of meadow in the several tenures of Roger Willowbye, gent., and Paul Coleman in Eastlavington are held of Sir John Dautesey, knt., in free socage, as of his manor of Eastlavington, by the yearly rent of 21s., and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 30s. ; the aforesaid messuage, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 6 acres of wood called Helme, in Remsbury, are held of William, Earl of Pembroke, in free socage, as of his manor of Remsbury, by the yearly rent of 8s. 4d., and are worth yearly, beyond reprises, 10s.

The said John Noyes died 16th October last [1622], at Wayhill, co. Southampton.

William Noyes, gent., is her son and next heir, aged 40 years and more.

**Inq. p.m., 7 Charles I, pt. 1. No. 82. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**