

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 Wilde, gentleman.

Inquisition taken at Devizes, 23rd August, 18 Charles I [1642], before Richard Mason, esq., escheator, after the death of Thomas Wilde, gent., by the oath of Robert Kingsman, gent., Will Roberds, gent., Edmund Potter, William Purrier, William Parrett, Stephen Flower, Richard Greenfield, Thomas Engles, Thomas Flower, Thomas Jonson, Giles Mills, Richard Clarke, Amos Hoope, and Philip Stronge, who say that

Thomas Wilde was seised of one capital messuage, tenement, and farm, situate within the parish of Yatton Keynell, commonly called Keynes Farme, lately purchased of Arthur Sherston; 4 acres of meadow and 12 acres of pasture in Yatton Keynell, lately purchased of Thomas Bishopp and Agnes, his wife; the manor of Yatton Keynell alias Yeatton Kenyell, and the yearly rent of 2s. to the said manor belonging; one fulling-mill called Longe Deane Mill, 2 meadows containing 4 acres called Longe Deane meadows; and one close called Cliffe close, containing 2 acres, lying together in Castle Combe.

The said capital messuage and all other the premises in Yatton Keynell called Keynes Farme are held of the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster, by knight's service, and are worth per ann., clear, £3. The premises in Yatton Keynell purchased of the said Thomas Bishopp and Agnes, his wife, the manor of Yatton Keynell, and all other the premises there are held of the King as of his said Duchy, by knight's service and are worth per ann., clear, 3s. 4d. The said fulling-mill and other the premises in Castle Combe are held of John Scroope, esq., as of his manor of Castle Combe, by fealty, suit at court, and the yearly rent of 14s. 4d., and are worth per ann., clear, 5s.

Thomas Wilde died 15th April last past; Thomas Wilde is his son and next heir, and was aged 12 years on the 1st day of May last.

Elilizabeth Wilde, late the wife of the said Thomas, still survives at Yatton Keynell.

Inq. p.m., 18 Charles I, pt. 1, No. 25.

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