

## 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 Hungerford, esquire.

Delivered into Court 18th May, 15 Charles I.

**Inquisition** taken at Devizes, 27th July, 12 Charles I [1636], before Hugh White, esq., escheator, after the death of John Hungerford, esq., by the oath of William Norden, gent., Samuel White, Richard Filkes, John Steevens, Thomas Sloper, John Purnell, John Thorner, John Harves, Edward Fowle, Benedict Hancock, Giles Mill, Robert Kingsman, and Henry Bould, who say that

John Hungerford was seised of the manors of Cadman Studley alias Studley Hungerford and Dorneford Magna alias Dorneford Hungerford, with all their rights, members, and appurtenances in Cadnam, Bremble, Studley, Calne, and Dorneford; 10 acres 3 roods of land, on acre of meadow, and 2 acres of pasture in Broadtowne, in the possession of Richard Speckman for his life; one close of pasture in Cricklade called Rabbettes, containing 4 acres, in the tenure of Richard Burdge; 2 messuages and 2 closes of meadow called Culver Close and Tuckers Hey, containing one acre, and 8 acres of land in Chelworth Magna and Chelworth parva, in the tenure of Walter Kempster; one messuage in Cricklade in the possession of Richard Burge; one messuage and one orchard there and 9 acres of meadow in Southmeade in Cricklade, in the tenure of Richard Burge; a manor or capital messuage in Christen Malford alias Christon Malford alias Xpian Malford, with all the messuages, mills, lands, etc., thereto belonging in Christen Malford and Segry; and the manor of Chilton, co. Berks.

The said John Hungerford being seised, a fine was levied at Westminster in the octaves of St. Hilary, 4 Charles I [1628], between John Prettyman, knt., and Walter Bouchier, esq., plaintiffs, and the said John Hungerford, deforciant, of the manors of Cadnam Studley alias Studley Hungerford and Dorneford Magna, and of 20 messuages, 10 cottages, 3 water mills, 3 dovecotes, 300 acres of land, 300 acres of meadow, 400 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood, 100 acres of furze and heath, 20s. rent and common of pasture for all beasts in Cadnam, Bremble, Studley alias Studley Hungerford, Calne, Dorneford magna, Cricklade, Chelworth magna, Chelworth parva, Broadtowne, and Christen Malford; the manor of Chilton and 10 messuages, 200 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 100 acres of furze and heath, and common pasture for all beasts in Chilton, whereupon the said John Hungerford acknowledged the said premises to be the right of the said John Prettiman as those which he and the said Walter had of his gift, and the same remised to them and to the heirs of the said John for ever: which said fine was levied to the uses following :- As to the capital messuage, farm, and demesne lands called Berilles, then in the possession of the said John Hungerford, situate in Studley Hungerford and Calne, and all the mills, lands, and tenements there in the tenure of Anthony Mors, baker; and all those parcels of land there called Hurst, then in the tenure of John Wickwar alias Clarke, to the use of Edward Hungerford, son and heir of the said John, for the joint lives of the said Edward and John; and after the death of one of them, then as to the capital messuage called Berills and other the premises in Studley and Calne, in the tenure of the said John

Hungerford, to the use of Elizabeth Hungerford, wife of the said John, for her life; after her decease, to the use of the said Edward Hungerford and Susan Prettyman, daughter of the said John Prettyman, and the heirs male of the said John by the said Susan; for default, to the use of the said John Hungerford and his heirs male; for default, to the use of the said John and his heirs for ever. After the death of the said John or Edward, then as to the said mills, lands, and tenements in the tenure of the said Anthony Mors and John Wickwar alias Clarke, to the use of the said Elizabeth Hungerford for her life; after her decease, to the use of the said John or Edward for his life; after his decease, to the use of the said Edward and his heirs male by the said Susan; for default, to the use of the said John Hungerford and his heirs male; and for default, to the use of the said John Hungerford and his heirs for ever. As to those 2 closes of meadow and pasture called Cadnam Leazes, containing about 80 acres, situate in Cadnam and within the parish of Bremble, to the use of the said John Hungerford, for the joint lives of the said John and Edward; after the death of either of them, then to the use of the said Susan for her life, in the name of her jointure; after her decease, to the use of the survivor of the said John or Edward for his life; after his decease, to the use of the heirs male of the said Edward by the said Susan; for default, to the use of the said John and his heirs male; and for default, to the use of the said John and his heirs for ever. As to the manor or mansion house with a curtilage, garden, and orchard, situate near the mill of the said John Hungerford, in Christen Malford, to the use of the said John for the joint lives of the said John and Edward; after the death of one of them, then to the use of the said Susan for the joint lives of the said Susan and Elizabeth Hungerford; after the decease of either of them, to the use of the survivor of the said John or Edward for his life; after the death of the said survivor, to the use of the said Edward Hungerford and his heirs male by the said Susan; for default, to the use of the said John and his heirs male; and for default, to the use of the said John and his heirs for ever. As to the residue of the manor of Cadnam Studley and all other the premises in Cadnam, Bremble, etc., etc., to the use of the said John Hungerford for his life; after his decease, to the use of the said Edward Hungerford and his heirs male by the said Susan; for default, to the use of the said John and his heirs male; and for default, to the use of the said John and his heirs for ever. As to the manor of Chilton and other the premises there, to the use of the said John; and after his decease, to the use of the said Edward Hungerford and his heirs.

The manor of Cadnam and all other the premises in Cadnam and Bremble are held of Mary Countess of Westmoreland as of her hundred of Chippenham, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty and the yearly rent of 21d., and are worth per ann., clear, £16. The manor of Studley and all other the premises in Studley and Calne are held of John Duckett, esq., as of his manor of Calne, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty and the yearly rent of 2s., and are worth per ann., clear, £14. The manor of Dorneford magna and all other the premises there are held of Edward Earl of Hertford as of his manor of Ambrosbury magna, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty and the yearly rent of 2s., and are worth per ann., clear, £10. The premises in Broadtowne are held of Francis Goddard, esq., as of his manor of Cleve Pipard, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty and the yearly rent of 6d., and are worth per ann., clear, 12d. The close of pasture in Cricklade called Rabbettes is held of – Trenchard as of his manor of Chilworth, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty and the yearly rent of 4s. 4d., and is worth per ann., clear, 5s. The 2 messuages and 2 closes called Culvers Close and Tuckers hey in Chelworth magna and Chelworth parva are held of the King in free burgage, as of his borough of Cricklade, by the yearly rent of 12d., and are worth per ann., clear, 7s. 6d. The messuage in Cricklade in the tenure of Richard Burge is held of the King in free burgage, as of his said borough of Cricklade, by the yearly rent of 2s., and is worth per ann., clear, 5s., 6d. The messuage and orchard in Cricklade and the 9 acres of meadow in Southmead there are held of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury as of their manor of Abingdon Court, in free and common socage, to wit, by the yearly rent of 2s., and are worth per ann., clear, 2s. The manor or capital messuage and other the premises in Christen Malford and Segry are held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich, co. Kent, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty only, and not in chief or by knight's service, and are worth per ann., clear, 40s. The manor of Chilton and all other the premises there are held of the King as of his Castle of Windsor, co. Berks, in free and common socage, to wit, by fealty and the yearly rent of 4s. 4d., and are worth per ann., clear, £13 15s. 4d.

John Hungerford died at Cadnam on Tuesday, 29th day of March last past; Edward Hungerford is his son and next heir, and was then aged 35 years and more. Elizabeth, late the wife of the said John Hungerford, still survives at Cadnam.

**Inq. p.m., 15 Charles I, pt. 1, No. 132. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.**