

Translation of the WRIT from the Court of Chancery to the Escheator
instructing him to make the Inquisition Post Mortem of William Southmede

Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France & Ireland,
Defender of the Faith and supreme head on earth of the church in England and
Ireland greeting to his Escheator in the county of Devon.

Whereas William Southmede one of our tenants in chief has died as we under-
stand, we command that you take into your hands without delay all lands
and tenements of which the same William was seized in his demesne as of fee
in your Bailiwick on the day that he died, and that you cause them to be
kept until we shall have commanded you otherwise, and that by the oath of
worthy and lawful men of your same Bailiwick (by whom the truth of the matter
can be better known) you diligently inquire how much land and tenements the
same William held of us in chief both in demesne and in service on the said
day on which he died, and how much of others and by what service and how much
those lands and tenements are worth yearly in all issues over and above
reprises, and on what day the same William died and who is his next heir and
of what age. And the Inquisition thereof, clearly and openly made, do you
send to us in our Chancery without delay under your seal and the seals of
those by whom it has been made with this writ. I myself being witness

At Westminster 15 March (4th regnal year) = 1550/1