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dow·a·ger  (dou ə-jər)

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n.

1. A widow who holds a title or property derived from her deceased husband.
2. An elderly woman of high social station.

[Obsolete French *douagière*, from *douage*, dower, from *douer*, to endow, from Latin *dōtāre*, from *dōs*, *dōt-*, dowry; see **dō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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