



North Wiltshire Muster Roll Anno 30 Henry VIII (Year 1539)

In Tudor times each village was responsible for maintaining the necessary arms to defend themselves - this was known as the furnishing of harness. Muster commissioners would inspect the harness (which would include long bows, bills, salets (helmets), brigandines (torso armour) and gorgets (neck and shoulder protectors) and ensure each individual was also assessed with his quota of the cost. The muster roll records who owned the arms, along with value of land (valor terr et tent) or value of goods (valor bonorum) held by the other residents of the village who were liable to provide financial support if necessary. (These values have not been transcribed in the Wiltshire Roll)

There were two main arms used in this period. The bill had a point at one end and a blade at the side, so had a dual purpose in battle, while the bow was a long bow used for archery.



The Hundred of Chippenham The Tithing of Bremhill



Surname	Given Name	Status	Notes
Bayly	John		Billman
Bayly	John		Billman
Besar	Thomas		Billman
Bolton	Robert		Billman
Brode	John		Billman
Brode	Thomas		Billman

Butler	John		Archer
Buttler	Edward		Billman
Buttler	John		Archer
Bysy	Wyllyam		Archer
Chappman	Nicholas		Archer
Coggiswell	Henry		Billman
Cok	William		Billman
Drake	John		Billman
Frynde	Wyllyam		Archer
Grenam	Edward		Archer
Grome	John		Billman
Hadyng	John		Billman
Harrold	James		Billman
Hill	Gregory		Billman
Horseman	Richard		Archer
Love	William		Billman
Mesyn	George		Billman
Nicholls	Nicholas		Archer
Nowell	John		Billman
Nowell	Richard		Archer
Nowell	Thomas		Archer
Nowell	Wyllyam		Archer
Perse	John		Archer
Perse	Richard		Archer
Player	Philipp		Billman
Pokeston	Richarde		Archer
Popyngey	John		Billman
Poynt	Mathew		Archer
Semyng	Robert		Archer
Smyth	Henry		Archer
Symonds	John		Billman
Thedalle	Stephyn		Billman
Wallys	John		Archer
West	John		Billman
West	John		Billman
Whyte	Thomas		Billman

The whole Tything hath in a redynes ij horses, and iij harnes, with other small wepyns.

For other transcripts of these records visit Rootschat