



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 Liberty of Kingswood



Surname	Given Name	Status	Notes
Adys	John		Billman
Atkyns	Nicholas		Archer
Barratt	Richard		Billman
Barratt	Thomas		Archer
Bisshopp	Thomas		Archer
Browne	Jamys		Archer
Buff	George		Archer
Butt	Hughe		Billman
Davys	Richard		Billman
Dowdiswell	John		Archer
Hewis	Edmund		Archer
Hycks	Thomas		Archer

Jackson	John		Archer
Kyng	John		Billman
Lewys	Wylyyam		Archer
Merik	Wylyyam		Archer
Myllman	John		Billman
Nette	Thomas		Billman
Payne	Robert		Billman
Pokyng	Wylyyam		Billman
Pylatt	Richard		Archer
Rymer	Richard		Billman
Specks	John		Billman
Spycer	Frauncys		Billman
Spycer	John		Billman
Stephins	Richard		Archer
Taylor	Thomas		Billman
Vynar	Wylyyam		Billman
Webbs	Wylyyam		Archer
Wheler	John		Billman

The whole Lybertye hathe in a redynes a Horse, iij Harnes, iij bows, and iij sheff of Arowes, with other small wepyns.

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