

Fontmell Magna

Dorset Muster Rolls

Transcribed by Chris Bellers

Transcribed from Dorset Tudor Muster Rolls: 1539, 1542, 1569 by T. L. Stoate 1978 (pages 93-94 and 158).

There was an earlier muster in 1522, plus an attempt to survey the wealth of the kingdom. Although the detailed returns do not survive for Dorset, the number of ablemen returned for Dorset was 2,834. This compares with an estimated 4,315 ablemen in the 1539 Muster, 4,236 in 1542 and 3,747 in 1569.

With a French invasion threatened, the 1539 Muster Roll was intended to list all men aged between 16 and 60 available for home defence. Men were listed according to whether they were an archer (A), billman (B), or not able (no designation), and the weapons they had (if any). "Poor subjects who have neither ability nor habiliments are omitted referring them to pray to Almighty God for your most royal estate long time prosperously and joyously to endure." (J. J. Goring)

Often, ablemen (even archers) are recorded as having no equipment of their own. This is despite edicts from Henry VIII that all men under 40 should have bows and arrows (1511) and that all men over 17 should provide himself with a bow and four arrows (1514) ó parents also had to provide boys aged between 7 and 17 with a bow and two arrows. A "shefe of arrows" (sheaf) generally contained 24 arrows. A harness was a general term for armour and could mean the plate metal "almain rivets" or the leather and metal "brigandine" (both of which protected the chest), as well as a collar, helmet and/or splints (to protect the forearm).

Dorset Muster Roll 1539

The Hundred of Sexpenhanley

In the tething of Fontmell

A	Thomas Hascall an archer	}	
A	Wilyyn Hascall an archer	}	
A	John Hascall an archer	}	have no abyments
B	Thomas Ploughman a bilman	}	
B	Henry Ploughman a bilman	}	
	Henry Hascall is no ableman butt he hathe a bow and a shefe of arrows allotty to Wyllym Hascall aforeseyd		
	Henry Ploughman sen. is no ableman butt he hathe a bow and a shefe of arrows allotty to Henry Ploughman aforeseyd his son.		
B	Thomas Vyncent a bilman and hathe a bill		
B	Henry Hyscocke a bilman	}	
B	John Daue a bilman	}	
B	John More a bilman	}	
B	John James a bilman	}	and haue no abyments.
B	Robert Browne a bilman	}	
A	Henry Skynner an archer	}	
B	Thoms White a bilman and hathe a bill		
B	John Barckle a bilman and hathe a bill		
B	Henry Yong a bilman and hathe a bowe and vj arows		
A	William Hascoll an archer and hathe a bowe		

Robert Fell is no ableman butt he hathe vj arows
 A John Styll an archer and hathe a bowe
 A William Styll an archer and hathe a bowe
 Willym Mouton is no ableman but he hathe a bowe and iiij arows
 B John Daue a bilman and hathe a bowe
 A John Swetman an archer and hathe a bowe and a shefe of arows.

Horgrove Tithing

A Robert Bemont	A has bow 6 arr	Henry Rydoute	A has bow 6 arr
B John Foyle	B has bill	John Monton	NA has pr al. rivets allotted to Hen Monton his son
B Richard Boxley	B has bow ½sh.arr		
B William Meter	B has bow 6arr		
B John Keyne	B has bow sh.arr	B Henry Monton	B has nil
B William Couerd	B has bow ½sh.arr	B John Weyte	B has bill
B Thomas Trymme	B has bill	B John Uppyd	NA has nil
A Henry Trymme	A has bow 6 arr	A William Pyllarde	A has nil
A John Bowdon	A has bow	B John Rydoute	B has nil
William Skynner	NA has bow sh.arr	B John Baker	B has nil
A Thomas Rydoute	A has bow ½sh.arr		

West Orchard Tithing

A William Combe	A has bill	A John Dubyn	A has bow
Walter Hiscoke	NA has bow sh.arr	B Thomas Dubyn	B has bill
B Roger Cose	B has bill	B Edward Tapar	B has bill
A John Combe	A has bow	B John Monton	B has bill
John Mayo	NA has 2 pr al.rivets one of which is allotted to Steven Semer	A John Bayly	A has bow 6 arr
A Stephen Semer	A has nil	B Thomas Bayly	B has bill
A John Abott	A is allotted to a pr harness of Jn Mayo	A William Sebron	B[?] has bow
		B Thomas Sebron	B has nil
		B John Smete	B has nil
A William Combe	A bow 6 arr	B John Exton	B has bill

Dorset Muster Roll 1542

For this Muster, only names (which appear to be a mixture of all three of the tithings in the 1539 Muster) are available and not their ability or equipment.

The Hundred of Sexpenhanley

Tithing of Fonntmell

John Barter	Thomas Cryne	Walter Lusshe	Henry Rydoute
Robert Bemont	John Davye	Walter Mayowe	Thomas Rydoute
Agnes Boxley wid	John Davye	William Metyar	Henry Skynner
Richard Boxley	John Dubyn	Walter Metyarre	William Skyn(ner?)
William Chaper	Robert Dunne	William Monkton	William Skynner
Thomas Collys	John Foyle	Henry Monnketon	John Styll
John Combe	Robert Garland	John Monnketon	Philip Swetnam
William Combe	Thomas Grene	Henry Monton	John Upwode
John Come jun	Henry Hascall	Henry Ploughman se	Robert Vyncent
Roger Come	John Hascall	Henry Ploughman	Thomas Vyncent
Roger Cooke	Thomas Hascall	John Plowman	John Wytte
William Couerd	Walter Hiscoke	Thomas Ploughman	
John Cryne	Henry Loder	Philip Rogers	

Dorset Muster Roll 1569

The Hundred of Sexpenhanley

Fowntemyll Tithing

A Thomas Whitt	A Christopher Metyer	P Christopher Gylle
A William Vincent	P Richard Coome	B Nicholas Crespyn
P Thomas Plowman	B Walter Come	H Robert Swetnam
B Walter Rydeowte	B Manuel Daborne	B John Metyer
B Robert Byrte	B Henry Monke	P John Upwood
P William Yellowe	A William Younge	B Henry Hascoells
B Stephen Horforde	H Richard Wylliams	B John Bradley
P John Daye jun	A John Collyns	
H Roger Weste	B William Monke	

Ablemen were Horsemen (HO), Harquebusiers (H), Archers (A), Pikemen (P) and Billmen (B).