



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 Malmesbury The Tithing of Kemble



Surname	Given Name	Status	Notes
Bocke	Johannes	Billman	
Brown	Johannes	Billman	
Burcheman	Johannes	Archer	
Burcheman	Thomas	Archer	
Cowrtes	Thomas	Billman	
Creed	Johannes	Archer	
Deffeneche	Thomas	Archer	
Dycke	Johannes	Archer	

Galfrey	Wyllyam	Billman	
Humfrey	Wills.	Archer	
Humphrey	Nichus.	Billman	
Jaye	Johannes	Billman	
Kempe	Radus.	Archer	
Pratt	Johannes	Billman	
Pytte	Robertus	Archer	
Smyth	Wyllyam	Billman	
Taylor	Johannes	Billman	
Temberell	Johannes	Billman	
Townesende	Thomas	Billman	

The whole Tything hath in a redynes, i horse and a harnes, with other small wepyns.

For other transcripts of these records visit [Rootschat](#)