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 Sherston Magna

Surname	Given Name	Status	Notes
Bayly	Nicholas		Archer
Longe	Nicholas		Archer
Paris	Jamys		Archer
Bascafyld	Richard		Archer
Clark	Richard		Archer
Chappe	John		Archer
Bushell	Nicholas		Billman
Hobbis	Nicholas		Billman
Clarke	John		Archer
Clark	Willyam		Archer
Clarke	Robart		Billman
Cruger	William		Archer

Gosye	John		Archer
Estmede	John		Archer
Hybbard	John		Billman
Carter	Thomas		Billman
Hackborn	William		Archer
Horte	John		Archer
Drewe	Robert		Billman
Horte	Edward		Billman
Walker	James		Billman
Corke	Robert		Billman
Longe	Edward		Billman
Elkoxe	Roger		Billman
Noett	Thomas		Archer
Brynkeworth	Edward		Billman
Cruger	Thomas		Billman
Hort	William		Billman
Holborowe	Robert		Archer
Plumer	William		Billman
Gye	Philip		Billman
Lewis	Robert		Billman
Shepparde	Thomas		Billman
Walter	William		Billman
Seymer	Wyllyam		Billman
Issegre	Robert		Archer
Issegre	Richard		Archer
Issegre	William		Archer
Rodyford	Thomas		Archer
Phyllypps	Wyllyam		Billman
Chappe	Wyllyam		Billman
Drewe	Nicholas		Archer

The whole Lybertye hathe in a redynes a horse, vj harnes, with other small wepyns.

For other transcripts of these records visit Rootschat