

CHAPTER 20 – LISTS, ROLLS AND RETURNS

Certificates of Muster, 24th March 1539

At a time when war with the continent of Europe seemed imminent Henry VIII ordered all beacons to be repaired on the coasts, all castles to be sufficiently supplied with ordnance, inquiries to be made as to the numbers of ships and marines in every port, and general musters to be determined throughout the kingdom. It is this last precaution which affected Stapleford.

Pursuant to a Royal Commission issued 1st March 1539 a Muster was held on the 24th of that same month by the Commissioners for the Broxtowe Wapentake, Sir John Willoughby, Sir Nicholas Strelley, and Roger Greenhalgh. The return for Stapleford is given below; the prefix letter “a” (archer) and “b” (billman) denote that the person was able for war in such a capacity. In addition, Robert Teverey was required to furnish horse and harness for two men, and Peter Martell likewise, for one man. John Greene had no designation and is not included in the totals.

Stapulford

a Robert Teverey horse and harness for ij men

b Peter Martell horse and harness for a man

b Robert Chambers

a Roger Burton

a John Pymme

a Robert Sadbotham

b John Chambers

John Grene

Sum of ye harness ij men

Sum of ye archers ij

Sum byllmen ij¹

¹ E36/47 p90

Taxation Returns

Taxation is a wide ranging subject and does not, in detail, concern the history: sufficient it is that a selection of the various returns that exist be included to illustrate its effect upon those of the parish whose unfortunate it was to find themselves in the baleful gleam of the taxman's eyes.

Danegeld

The ancient tax was the Danegeld, levied intermittently before the coming of the Conqueror and then accounted for by the Sheriff, as if it had been a settled revenue, for many years afterwards and was originally a fixed tax on every hide of land. The early Pipe Rolls give indication of what Stapleford's contribution was, for unlike its neighbour, Sandiacre, where Peter de Toli was pardoned 24 shillings to the Danegeld in 2 Henry II (1155-56), Stapleford would be part of the lands of William Peverel – in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire – which, as a whole, were pardoned £7:9:0 in the same year.²

Scutage

As time went on the need for further taxation became necessary and this was met by widening the basis for it. One means was Scutage: formerly personal attendance in Knight service, this was troublesome and inconvenient and in time tenants (who were liable to it) found means of Compounding for it and making monetary satisfaction in lieu. It later came to be levied by Assessment on every Knight's fee.

Richard de Camera paid 3 marks for the 3rd Scutage of King John in 1203 and as Richard de Stapleford paid 2 marks Scutage of Wales in 1212 and 3 marks Scutage of Poitou in 1215. His successor, Geoffrey de Eccleston, paid 2 marks Scutage of Kerry in 1229 and his successor, Richard de Heriz paid 3 marks Scutage of Wales in 1259. There were other sources of revenue known as Aids; payments allowed by Parliament for specific reasons and one such occasion was when Richard de Heriz paid 3 marks as Aid to the King for knighting his eldest son (later Edward I) in 1254.

Lay subsidies

After these came the Lay Subsidies and intermixed with them on various occasions Poll Tax which, when levied, brought many more people within the taxman's net. By means of such lists, (and when they contain sufficient, or any, names). some idea of the wealth and standing of the villagers can be formed. Subsidies, or Aids, were granted by Parliament to the Crown on various occasions for royal or imperial purposes and were levied upon landowners in respect of the annual value of their lands and upon other persons in respect of their movable goods (which included

² PR 2 Hen II.

crops) on their gross value. Persons having goods of less than a certain value were exempt.

Lay subsidy of 1327

The earliest Lay Subsidy extant which gives names of Stapleford taxpayers in the Assessment to the Twentieth of 1327. The tax was a twentieth of the value of movable goods or personal property with exemption up to 10 shillings worth, thus the lowest amount of tax payable would be 6d. The list contains but 7 names and obviously many are missing. It is known that a considerable proportion of the taxable population escaped assessment for one reason or another.³

Stapleford⁴

John de Mounteny	3s 0d
John de Stapleford	2s 6d
Richard de Stapleford	2s 0d
Margery le Heriz	4s 0d
John son of Lucy	12d
Robert Aubrey	12d
Geoffrey son of Ralph	18d
Total	<u>15s 0d</u>

Poll Tax 1377

The next Return which should have been of great interest to us is the Poll Tax of 1377. This tax was a flat rate of 4 pence a head, with a man and wife counting as one for this purpose. Often quoted by historians and genealogists for the value it gives in naming the inhabitants of a village, the return for Stapleford is useless in that respect for it only gives the total number of persons taxable, i.e. 81, and the total amount they contribute, i.e. 27 shillings. The money was delivered to the Collector, John del Ker, at Nottingham on Saturday 11th April 1377 by William Aubreysone the constable accompanied by Thomas de Birton and Richard Balle.⁵

Poll Tax of 1381

The Poll Tax of 1381 is also non-existent for Stapleford, as are many other subsidies including the one of 1524, the would be all embracing one since 1377. We really are down on our luck!

³ W G Hoskins. The Midland Peasant. p71

⁴ PRO E 179/159/4

⁵ PRO E 179/159/27.

Lay subsidy 1547

The first of our Tudor Lay Subsidies begins with the one granted to Henry VIII in his 37th year (1545-6) but not collected in Broxtowe Hundred until March 1547 (1 Edw.VI) and contained only three names.

Stapulforth⁶

Misteris Tevery vidna in lands	£24	24s
Robert Tevery gent. in lands	£4	8s
Robert Sidbotham in benis	£5	3s 4d
Total of the tax		<u>35s4d</u>

Subsidies are now becoming something of a farce and for the remainder of the 16th (and pre-Cromwell 17th) centuries the Lay Subsidy lists are important for family history only. They are not the slightest value as an index of population.⁷ These later subsidies still fell upon only a few of the principal farmers and the assessments in lands were similarly based upon ancient valuations for inquisition purposes that bore no relation to the improved values of Elizabeth days.⁸

Lay subsidy 1570-1 13 Eliz I

Stapleforthe⁹

Roger Storer in goods	£3	5s 0d
John Clark in lands	30s	4s 0d
John Tevery gent in lands	£5	13s4d
Total		<u>22s4d</u>

Lay subsidy 1596-7 30 Eliz I

Stapleforthe¹⁰

John Tevery gent in lands	£5	20s
Isabella Clarke, widow, in lands		4s
Agnes Storer, widow , in goods	£4	8s

⁶ PRO E 179/159/168

⁷ W G Hoskins. T L A S Vol XX p57. [Transaction of the Leicester Archaeological Society]

⁸ W G Hoskins Midland Peasant p 177

⁹ PRO. E 179/160/207

¹⁰ PRO E 179/160/244

Lay subsidy 1621-22 19 Jas I

Stapleford ¹¹			
Gervase Teverey, Esq. in lands	£20		26s 8d
John Broadbent, gent in lands	30s		2s
George Clarke in lands	20s		1s 4d
Luke Falkner, in goods	£3		3s

Lay subsidy 1682-29 4 Chas. I

Stapleford ¹²			
Gervas Teverey, Esq., in lands	£10	£2	
Luke Faulkner, in goods	£3	8s	
Gervas Jackson in lands	30s	6s	
George Clarke in lands	20s	4s	
Total		£2	18s 0d

Up to now assessments had fallen only on a very few householders but the monthly ones of the Civil War years and after fell more heavily and widely; they continued after the Restoration but were less severe. Notes on these, as well as on the Hearth Tax Return, (another form of Subsidy of Restoration years), are continued in the chapter on the “Parish Constable”. The Hearth Tax was repealed in 1680; the year before which a lay subsidy of 3 shillings in the pound was granted for one year by Parliament to King William and Queen Mary £for the necessary defences of their Realms”. This particular list contains 33 names (including that of the vicar) but there are two notable omissions – no Towle and no Smedley. It was collected early in 1689 and the total for the year was £51:3:6, (paid quarterly); the Assessors were George Jackson and Henry Hooley; the Collectors, William Glew and Moses Atkin. ¹³

Land Tax Returns

With the turn of the century, we come to the Land Tax Returns. Land tax was a rate of 1s, 2s, 3s or 4s in the pound, not on quantity but on a yearly value: farmers or occupiers were to be charged and to deduct it out of their rents to their landlords. Assessors and Collectors were appointed in every parish to assess and levy the money which was then paid to the Receiver General for onward transmission to the Exchequer. A poundage of 3d in the pound was allowed for collecting. Papists were liable to be doubly taxed.

¹¹ PRO. E 179/160/282

¹² PRO E179/160/299

¹³ PRO E 179/254/34A

The return of 1700 for Stapleford gives no names of the persons taxed, only the amount of £10:0:4d, (paid quarterly), and the names of the two Collectors, Henry Oldershaw and John Attenborrow. ¹⁴

In 1773 the quarterly sum for Stapleford was £15:1:11/2, and the Assessors, who were also the Collectors on this occasion, were John Musson and T. Roughton-not Stapleford men this time. ¹⁵ There are also returns still extant for 1780, 1795, 1810 and 1825 lodged in the County Record Office at Nottingham. These are fairly lengthy and list the names of the owners of the land, the occupiers, and the amount assessed.

¹⁴ PRO. E182/763

¹⁵ E 182/768