

Lay subsidy of 1545

These lists are based on publications of the Thoresby Society volumes IX and XI. There were several articles in these volumes.

Taxation was on the greater of goods (4d in the pound from £1 to £5, 8d in the pound from £5 to £10, 16d in the pound from £10 to £20 and 2s in the pound above £20) or income from real estate (8d in the pound from £1 to £5, 16d in the pound from £5 to £10, 2s in the pound from £10 to £20 and 3s in the pound above £20). Half the tax on valuations up to £20 was paid in the first year with a quarter each in the other two years and above £20 was paid in three equal payments.

1545 was the last of these years. In the old Danelaw it was collected on by wapentake basis (by hundred elsewhere). The wapentake commissioners appointed a collector and issued lists of valuations of taxpayers from whom he should collect the appropriate sums. Pairs of lists were issued.

The introduction to the documents, published in article on the wapentake of Skyrack, explains: "*The financial straits of the government are illustrated by the second list [dated Jun 30] here printed (p.150), which is really earlier in date than the first list [dated Oct 20], though it refers to the same instalment. It had been found necessary to raise a large sum by calling upon a number of persons to pay this instalment in advance, and the second list gives the names of such persons to pay this installment in advance, and the second list gives the names of such persons for the wapentake of Skyrack. It was not an unknown thing for Henry VIII to require from his richer subjects such a payment in advance, and then to obtain from Parliament an Act cancelling his liability to allow for such prepayment, and leaving the unlucky contributors still responsible for the instalment they had already paid*". Holmfirthers seem to have escaped this fate.

For Aggbrig and Morley the lists are printed in chronological order. The first is dated Jun 20 for Morley and Jun 30 for Aggbrig and is of persons values at land of £5 above or goods of £10 above. The second, combined list was dated Oct 26.

The commissioners for Morley were Henry Savile, John Tempest, Arthur Key (*sic*) and Tristram Bollyng. The commissioners for Aggbrigg were Henry Savile, Thomas gryce (*sic*, capitalisation of names was erratic, here and in the lists of taxpayers.), John Pek and Roger Mallett. The collector was Robert fournes of Mirfield.

There were only two entries for Holmfirth in the first list so both listas have been combined here and ordered by surname and tax due. There were 50 people taxed in Holmfirth compared to 105 people or couples in 1379. There are two instances of *ux[or]*, wife. It's not clear whether these were the wives of living husbands or widows where *vid[ua]* might have been expected. *Vid* doesn't seem to be used elsewhere but where, in other villis, the husband's name is given they don't, on the basis of a small sample examined, seem to correspond with any of the men listed. On the whole, therefore, it seems likely that they were widows.

It's notable that half the assessments were due on "land" rather than goods. Although land was copyhold and thus had rent payable to the manor this was a customary rent and by this time much smaller than a commercial rent. Manorial tenants could, therefore, sub-let at a profit and many had acquired holdings adequate to make that worth doing as opposed to attempting to farm the land

themselves. Thomas Earnshaw was one and this entry from the manorial roll of 1550 gives some indication of what the commercial rent might be (allowing for the fact that this was an arrangement between members of his own family):

[Holme]: Thomas Ernshaie by John Hadfeld, tenant and sworn, surrendered into the lord's hands one annuity or annual rent of 20s issuing from one messuage and 20 acres of land and meadow in the tenure of John Ernshaie: to the use of Antonia Ernshaie, Jane (Jahanne) Ernshaie and Joan (Johanne) Ernshaie daughters of the said Thomas and their assigns at the death of William Ernshaie for a term of 10 years thereafter under the conditions following, namely that if Humphrey Ernshaie, son and heir of the said Thomas, pays Antonia, Jane and Joan or their assigns £10 of legal English money within 12 years after the date of this court, then the present surrender will be void and without any permanent force or effect. Agreed. Entry fine 12d.

The rent of 20s pa was sufficient to account for half of his assessment.

| Forename | Surname | Other | Goods or Land | Valuation £ | Tax d. |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| Robertus | benere | | Land | 2 | 4 |
| Ricus | beuer | | Goods | 3 | 3 |
| Johes | beuer | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Thoms | birdsill | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Willms | bolland | | Goods | 2 | 2 |
| Thoms | brodhed | | Land | 3 | 6 |
| Edmundus | brodhed | | Land | 2 | 4 |
| Johes | brodhed | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Johes | Castill | | Land | 2 | 4 |
| Gilbtus | Castill | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| | Castill | Ux | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| George | Castill | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| | Charlisworth | Ux | Goods | 10 | 3s 4d |
| Laur | Charlisworth | | Goods | 4 | 4 |
| Thos | Charlisworth | | Land | 2 | 4 |
| Willms | Charlisworth | | Goods | 2 | 2 |
| Georg | Cook | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Ricus | Crosland | | Goods | 4 | 4 |
| Johes | genn | | Goods | 13 | 4s 4d |
| Jacobus | genn | | Goods | 3 | 3 |
| Johes | gren | | Goods | 2 | 2 |
| Henricus | gren | | Goods | 2 | 2 |
| Johes | gren | of grenhowse | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Johes | gren | de holm | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Johes | gren | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Xprus | haight | | Goods | 2 | 2 |
| Jacous | haight | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Laur | haight | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Henricus | heward | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Willms | hynchclyff | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Robtus | hynchlyff | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Petrus | Key | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Ricus | littilwood | | Land | 2 | 4 |
| Johes | littilwood | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Thoms | littilwood | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Thoms | littilwood | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Johes | Moorhous | | Land | 3 | 6 |

| Forename | Surname | Other | Goods or Land | Valuation £ | Tax d. |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Johes | Moorhous | clothier | Land | 2 | 4 |
| Jones | morehous | | Goods | 3 | 3 |
| Laur | norton | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Willms | Roberts | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Gilis | Robt | | Goods | 2 | 2 |
| Thoms | Roids | | Land | 2 | 4 |
| Stephus | Rowley | | Goods | 2 | 2 |
| Thoms | Rydyng | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Willms | Speight | | Goods | 1 | 1 |
| Johes | Swalo | | Goods | 3 | 3 |
| Thoms | Tynker | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Johes | Tynker | | Land | 1 | 2 |
| Willms | yernshay | | Land | 2 | 4 |