

**ON THE ARMING OF
LEVIES IN THE HUNDRED OF
WIRRAL, IN THE COUNTY
OF CHESTER; PP. 4-16**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649297924

On the Arming of Levies in the Hundred of Wirral, in the County of Chester; pp. 4-16 by Joseph Mayer

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOSEPH MAYER

**ON THE ARMING OF
LEVIES IN THE HUNDRED OF
WIRRAL, IN THE COUNTY
OF CHESTER; PP. 4-16**

✓
War 4098.59.5

ON THE

ARMING OF LEVIES

•
IN THE

HUNDRED OF WIRRAL, IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER,

AND THE

INTRODUCTION OF SMALL FIRE ARMS AS WEAPONS OF WAR
IN PLACE OF BOWS AND ARROWS.

BY

JOSEPH MAYER, F.S.A.,

F.R.S.N.A.,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF PARIS,

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETIES OF ANTIQUARIES OF NORMANDY,

THE WEST OF FRANCE, THE MORINI, THE SOCIETY OF

EMULATION OF ARREVILLE, &c., &c., &c.

LIVERPOOL:

T. BRAKELL, PRINTER, COOK STREET.

1858.

- Ric' Stanton, a byll and a scull.
- Walshaye. Willm Byrde, a byll, jacke, and scull, sworde and daggar.
 Widdowe Aunsdayle, a byll, jacke, sallett, sworde, daggar.
 Rob^t Aunsdayle, a caliver, flaske, and tutch boxe, a sworde
 and daggar.
- Thornton. Willm Parre, a byll and murrion.
 Roger Berye, a caliver, flaske and tutchboxe, moule, burganet,
 sworde and daggar.
 John Guddicar, a byll.
 Nicholas Harrisoune, a platte coate, murrion, bill, sworde
 and daggar.
 Willm Lenarde, a byll, sallet, sworde and daggar.
 His brother Thomas, a bowe and arrowes.
 Geoffrey Jumpe, a bill.
 Robert Pemberton, a byll, sworde and daggar.
 Hugh Bordema, a byll and jacke.
 Ric' Burscoe, a byll, jacke, sworde and daggar.
 John Rylande, jacke and byll and murrion.
 Ric' Genien
 Willm Whitlodge } Douson of arrowes.
 Widowe Parre }
- Roudle Bewma, a byll, jacke, sworde, daggar and sallet.
 James Gurleye, a caliver, flaske, tutchboxe, moule, sworde,
 daggar, burganet.
 John Bellin, a byll, sworde, dagga^s and scull.
 John Worall, a sworde and dagga^s.
 John Lens, a byll.
 John Dutton.
- Leighton. Willm Cocks, a byll, murrion, jacke sworde and daggar.
 Widowe Garrat, a bowe, haulfe sheaffe of arrowes, scull and
 byll.
 John Coulton, a byll and murrion.
 Willm Marrowe, a byll.
- Thursteston. Willm Watmo, a bowe, vij arrowes, sworde and daggar.
 Simonde Byrde, a byll, sworde and daggar.
 Ric' Booll.
 Widowe Benot, a pollaxe.
- Erbye. Thomas Totty, a byll, sworde, daggar and murrion.

The next letter is headed with a description of the armature of a light horseman.

" For Lights Horsme "

A geldinge wth stronge saddle and lethere harness, and for the ma a coralet furnished, northern staffe, a casse of pistols, a sworde and dagger, and evere pte of the armour to be good and sufficient.

After my veris hartie comendations havinge yesterday received at four of the clocke, in the afternone beinge the xjth days of this October, letters of expedicon from the righte honorable lo: levetenat of this countie whereby it appeth that by the advertisement of a post veris latlye arrived the courts wth lettres of credite the Queene Ma^{tie} is informed that the Kinge of Spaine hath p'sentlye a great nomber upon the seas yea and shippes, noe fewe in accompts have bene descried, wth a full determination to invade thi^s Reale & arrive ether to Irelande Scotlande o' both, o' some othe' such place as shall be thought fittest for landinge & effectinge y' his intended violence & force upon us wth by God's assistance and our indeavoure I hope shall easelie be suppress. And fo' as much as my Lo: letenat by expsse direction from Her Ma^{tie} hath straitlie charged and comanded me in S' John Savagé his absence on her highnesse behalf to answere the burden the Queene ma^{tie} laied upon him for the service of this countie. And by his said Hon: letres hath enjoyned me, that wth all expedicon after the recepte hereof I shoulde pceede to the musters & trainings as well of the 600 selected footeme, as of the horseme, chargeable uppo the gent', soe as upon the soden, the trainede mē horsmen and others of this shieir may be in readinesse, to wthstande and impeache the landinge and force of anie fo'ren power, o' enemie what soever. Therefore in her Ma^{tie} name & by vertue of the saide lres, I most straitly charge and comande you & everie of you, that you make redie all such me, horses, and furniture thereto belonginge as you are severallie charged fo' her Ma^{tie} service; and the same to bring o' sende to Northwyche upon Mondaye beinge the vjth of November nexte there to be vedede & mustered & also delived over unto the Captaine y' shall take charge thereof for the answeringe of the p'sent service, w^{ch} hadde bene erre nowe, but in respecte of the dearth past and forbearinge of the harvest time, whereof sayll you not, as upon y' aleadgeances you will answer. Dated at Cholmelye the xijth of October, Anno 1587."

This appeal to the nobility, gentry and yeomen of the Hundred was

responded to with alacrity; voluntary contributions to a large amount were sent in to the Treasury; and, amongst other contributors, I find recorded most of the catholic families, represented by the Venerable Rowland Stanley, of Hooton, Poole and Whitmore, Bunbury and Massey, who rallied round the standard of the Queen, and thus gave proof of their loyalty and patriotism. There was also a levy made on the property in the Hundred, which shows the poverty of that part of the county at this time.

"The rentes of all the townshippes wythin the hundreth of Warroll wythin y^e pishes here after named.

The p ^{is} he of Wallesye.....	xxvij ^{li}
The p ^{is} he of Bydston & Forde	xxxvij ^{li}
The p ^{is} he of Wytchurche (Wood Church)	xlvi ^{li} xj ^s
The p ^{is} he of Bevyngton	lij ^{li} xix ^s iiij ^d
The p ^{is} he of Brunbrove	xxxv ^{li}
The p ^{is} he of Estam.....	lxxviii ^{li} vj ^s viij ^d
The p ^{is} he of Stoke	lij ^{li} xvij ^s viij ^d
The p ^{is} he of Backforde	lxj ^{li} ij ^s iiij ^d
The p ^{is} he of Shotweke	lxiij ^{li}
The p ^{is} he of Burton	xxiiij ^{li}
The p ^{is} he of Neston	lxxxix ^{li} xiiij ^s iiij ^d
The p ^{is} he of Heswalle.....	xxvij ^{li}
The p ^{is} he of Thurstynton	xij ^{li} vj ^s vj ^d
The p ^{is} he of West Kyrkebye	lxix ^{li} viij ^d
Over Church, Upton	} xv ^{li} vj ^s
Stanlo	

sumā totalis, seven hundreth poundes syxe shelynges and syxe pense.

We have for seven hundreth poundes seven score pounde to be levied, whyche ys foure Shelynges the pounde vj^s vj^d over xv^d. For xliij byll mē after senē nobles a pyse the whoule sume fore score and xvij^{li}.

It' for xiiij bowe mē after foure markes a mā cometh to xxxvij^{li} vj^s viij^d (endorsed.)

"The muster bokes vth the rentall of all the landes w^{ch}in the hundreth of Worroll."

Although the Spanish Armada was totally destroyed by Admiral Howard and the storm in 1588, and the country had been restored to comparative quiet, it appears that the unsettled state of the rest of Europe

generally, required the armed forces of the English to be assembled at stated periods, in order to be in readiness against any sudden emergency; and here we have an order from Earl Derby relating to another muster which appears to have been deferred for some time in consequence of the great dearth that then existed.

"After my verie hartie commendacons: this day I receyved lres from there lls of her Ma^{ty} most honorable pyvy counsell: whereby I ame (on her highnes behalfe) charged p^{re}sently and without all delay to put in redines all such forces whatsoever as have bene required since my commission of Lyve-tennancie: In respects wherof thies are in her highnes name straightly to charge and commande you that p^{re}sently upon your receyts hereof you put in aredines such demi lances and lighte horses with there ryders armor and furniture, as by former direccoⁿ from me yo^u are chargeable w^hall soe as the same may be shewed before me (upon further warning by my lres) or such as shalbe appoynted for that svic^e at any tyme after the 24th of these p^{re}sente sufficientes and meete for svic^e as her Ma^{ty} shalbe occaconede, to ymploy them: Not fayling as yo^u will answer the neglecte thereof at your uttermoste pill.

Lathome my house this 10th of January, 1589.

Yo^r verie louing frende,

H. DERBY.

(Superscribed)

To my loving frende
William Whitmore
Esq. Dd.

Endorsed

Earle Derby lres
to put in aredines
a light horse."

Also a letter from the Deputy Lieutenant.

"After my hartie commendacons; whereas you have received late lres from the Lo: Lieut: of thys county for the putting in p^{re}sent redines and array such demi launce and light horse as you have bin formerly charged w^hall for her Ma^{ty} service to be viewed, mustered, and trained at such places and dayes as should be prefixd unto you. Therefore by vertue of late dyrectyons unto me in the same behalfe by the sayd Lo. Lieut: delivered, I requier and charge you in her Ma^{ty} name that you send unto

Cotton heath the xith day of Februarye next by x of the clock such demi launces and lyght horse wth all thyr armor, weapons, ryders, and d. furniture, as well for your complem^t of xxvth demi launces as other wyse wth hath bin at any time heretofore eythence my Lo: lieutenncy assessed. or rated uppon you where my Lo: wilbe present in pson to take muster. Letting you will that the rest of the gent' charged wth you in that complem^t are lyke wyse written unto. And also that you put in a redines wth armor and weapons your self, servants, tennts and followers, in such serviceable sort at any time after the xxvth of Febr' next you may be viewed and mustered, before the sayd Lo: lieut: not fayling hereof as you will answere. Cholmundley thys xxvith of January 1589. I bid you hartely Farewell.

Your verry loving

Friend,

HUGH CHOLMUDELY.

W. Whitmore ar.

(Superscribed)

To my verry lovinge
frende Willm Whitmoore
Esquier, dd."

Although I do not find a list of the arms ordered to be shewn at Cotton heath on the eleventh of February, there is shortly afterwards another muster as shewn by the following document.

"This vewe was taken xx of May, (1590)."

Walisaye.	In p̄mis Willm Byrde, a sallet, scull, a byll & a hake.
	Item Rob' Ansdall, a caliv ^t , a jacks and sworde dacke.
	Item a Widowe Ansdayll, a jacks sallet.
Tranmō	Ric' Cowes, a jacks, salet, and a byll.
	Rob' Hulme, a bylle salet, chake, sword & dagge.
Poultō	Raffe Hulme, sworde, dagga' & byll.
Lauslin.	Widowe Dobbe, byll and jake.
Nesto.	Ric' White, a bowe.
	Ric' Stanton, a scull.
Thurst'	Willm Whitmō a sworde & daggar.
	Ri' Pickode, a bowe.
	John Byrde, a byll and a sallet.
	Willm Hande, a byll & sallet.
	Rich' Ball, a sworde and daggar.

Erbye.	Harrye Totty, a sworde & daggar.
Thornto	Roger Berye, a sword & daggar.
	Nich Harrison, a byll, sworde & daggar.
	Thom Lenarde, a byll, sworde & daggar.
	Hughe Bordema, a byll and bowe.
	Thom : Rylande, a chake and byll.
	Willm Whitledge, a sword & daggar.
	Willm Bellin, a scull.
	John Worall, a sworde & daggar.
Leighto	Willm Cocke, a byll, sworde & daggar.
	Widowe Garatt, a byll, bowe & scull.
	Ric' Burscove, a sworde, dagge & a jacke.
	Roule Bewma, a byll and jacke."

It will be observed how loosely these equipments must have been carried out, and how very irregularly armed the men were, so that at the muster ground they had to be drafted into companies of bowmen, billmen, &c., according to the kind of weapon they possessed, to enable them to form more compact and efficient bodies, and to act with greater effect against an enemy.

But we are now arrived at a period, when by the general adoption of fire arms into the armies of the continent, it becomes requisite to reform many of the tactics formerly bearing out the art of war, and amongst others to discontinue the bow and arrows; accordingly we find proclamations issued to prepare the people for the great change about to take place, and to reconcile them in some measure to their loss of what had so long been the favourite weapon of the country.

" Hundred de
Wyrall.

To the parson, vicar, or curate of the pishe
Church of Neston.

By virtue of lres from the Lls of hir Ma^{ty} moste ho: prive counsell unto us lately directed we will and require yo^r, That yo^r give open monyeyon and warninge upon sondays next in yo^r pishe church, That all and singuler the gent' of worships or other gent' and ffeeholders whatsoever whin yo^r pishe do pntly put into order and arraye all such armor, weapons, and other furniture what soev' as the or anie of theme ther stand chardged