

Fontmell Magna

Dorset Hearth Tax

Transcribed by Chris Bellers

Transcribed from 'Dorset Hearth Tax Assessments 1662-1664' edited by C. A. F. Meekings (1951) pages 24, 25 and 122.

The Hearth Tax was levied in England and Wales from 1662-1689. It was a tax of 2 shillings each year on each fireplace, hearth or stove in houses worth more than 20 shillings (£1) a year, and the occupier of which was a local ratepayer of church and poor rates. The tax was payable in two instalments: 1 shilling on Lady Day (25th March) and 1 shilling on Michaelmas (29th September).

The assessments and returns were prepared by parish constables. Those exempt from the tax were also listed, but paupers were often excluded. Only the assessments for 1662-1666 and 1669-1674 were delivered into the Exchequer. Outside these periods, the collection of tax was "farmed out" to private tax collectors who paid a fixed sum to the government in return for the privilege of collecting the tax. They were not required to send their assessments into the Exchequer. The Hearth Tax was an unpopular tax and widespread evasion led to many names being omitted from the records. The only complete assessment for Dorset to survive is the assessment for Michaelmas 1664.

Dorset Hearth Tax Due att Michas 1664

SHASTON DIVISION

HUNDRED OF SIXPENNY HANDLY

[f.5d.]

East Funtmill Tithing 43 modo 42

Phillip Hext	v
James Turner	ij
William Davye	ij
William Lambert	ij
John Vyncent	v [f.10.]
William Munckton	vij
Thomas Plowman	j
Thomas Young	ij
Richard Vyncent	j
James Styll	ij
William Vyncent	iiij
Christopher Lovell	ij
John Hascoll	ij
Peter Vyncent	ij
William Plowman	j
Edmond Ward	j

West Funtmill Tithing 47

Mr. John Potter	vij
Thomas Hascoll	ij
Robert Plowman	iiij
James Styll	viiij [<i>f.10d.</i>]
Richard Viltam	j
William Monck	ij
Francis Doune	ij
Marke Sprague	iiij
George Haskoll	ij
William Potter	iiij
Richard Styll	iiij
Robert Andrewes	ij
William Snooke	iiij
John Foote	iiij

Hargrove Tithing 63 modo 61

Mr. William Hurman	v
Christopher Bowden	ij
Robert Rident	ij
Henry Fiskett	j
Robert Butt	iiij
John Spencer	iiij
Robert Hart	j
Joane Metyard widø	iiij
William Lush	iiij
James Burt	ij
Christopher Horder	j <i>Paup'</i> [<i>f.13.</i>]
John Collens	v
Mr. Jeremiah Mussell	v
Nicholas Fowles	iiij
Robert Styll	iiij
Mr. Thomas Fry	iiij
Thomas Michell	iiij
John Guller	iiij
Ebbett Munckton widdowe	iiij
Mathew Russell and William Ridout	ij
Mr. Thomas Hext	ij
William Styll	ij

1673 Ladyday Assessment

Although this assessment has been damaged by decay and many place names cannot be identified, the following analysis is possible:

Sixpenny Handley Hundred, 653 hearths

West Orchard [40] (17)

East Orchard [54] (17), 8 exempt persons.

East Melbury 44 (14) and West Melbury 54 (22), together 11 exempt persons.

Hargrove [51] (21), 9 exempt persons.

West Compton [41 (16)]

East Compton [23 (14)]

West Fontmell 44 (18) and East Fontmell 42 (22), together 30 exempt persons.

West Iwerne 55 (26) and East Iwerne 45 (20), together 17 exempt persons.

Minchington 48 (16)

Handley 112 (50), 11 exempt persons.

The first number is the total of chargeable hearths. The number following in round brackets is the number of chargeable entries. Figures in square brackets are conjectural.