

Avon Dasset and the Lay Subsidy of 1332

Subsidies or taxes were raised periodically by the Crown, often to finance wars. On 16th September 1332 the King, Edward III, issued a writ to his 'beloved and faithful Earls, Barons, Knights, Freemen and the whole community of the county of Warwick' appointing assessors – John Ryuel and John de Peyto, junior – to collect a fifteenth (from the county) and tenth (from the cities, boroughs and Crown demesnes). The heavier burden on the towns was probably because military service and feudal dues were exacted from county landowners. The tax collectors were tasked to: assess the value of taxpayers' movable goods; decide the amount payable; collect it; and deliver it to the officials of the Exchequer. There were some exemptions of goods to be taxed: armour, riding horses, jewels and robes. In addition, anyone whose property was worth less than 10 shillings in counties and less than 6 shillings in towns was exempt. The tax was principally raised on the value of crops and stock. The 1332 subsidy was the last where there were direct assessments of the goods of individuals. In 1334 this was changed to an agreed sum that each community was expected to pay. This sum could not be lower than the amount paid in 1332.

The lay subsidies cannot be used to estimate population because of the level of evasion and exemption. However, the 1332 subsidy does give an indication of the richest landowners in Avon Dasset and also its wealth in comparison with other villages in Kineton hundred. As the subsidy was raised only sixteen years before the Black Death, it records a moment in the life of the village when it is likely that population was growing and becoming wealthier.

In a ranking of the 69 villages of Kineton hundred, Avon Dasset is 29th in the amount of tax paid and 56th in the number of tax payers. However, if the tax per head is calculated then the village comes second only behind Priors Marston whose fourteen tax payers returned £4 16s 4d to the Exchequer.

The wealthiest landowner in the village was Walter de Cantilupe who paid 10 shillings. He was probably related to the de Cantilupe family who owned lands at Aston Cantlow in Warwickshire and whose predecessors had been Bishop of Hereford and Bishop of Worcester in the thirteenth century. Roger de Mussynden who paid 4 shillings in tax could have been the Roger de Mussynden who, in 1325, disputed the right of Prior Adam of Canons Ashby to have the right of presentation to the advowson of Culworth Church.

The Lay Subsidy Roll for Warwickshire 6 Edward in 1332

Title	First Name	Surname	Shillings (s.)	Pence (d.)	Other
	Walter	de Cantilupe	10	0	
	Agnes	Huchyns	3	0	
	Roger	de Mussynden	4	0	
	John	Trusse	4	0	
	John	de Hercy	3	6	
	Sabina	Athelyne	5	0	
	John	de Balscote			1/2 mark
	Simon	de Wauer	8	0	
	Simon	le Hayward	1	6	
	Hugh	Ennok	1	6	
		Total	47	2	

The Dugdale Society Volume VI (1926)

Further Reading

William Fowler Carter (ed.), *The Lay Subsidy Roll for Warwickshire of 6 Edward III (1332)* (London: Dugdale Society, 1926)

J. B. Harley, 'The Settlement Geography of Early Medieval Warwickshire', *Transactions and Papers (Institute of British Geographers)*, 34 (1964), pp. 115-130