

## Late eighteenth-century suit rolls for the manor of Wem

Suit rolls are the lists of names of those who were expected to attend a session of the manorial court. Exactly how they were prepared, or who they were supposed to contain is obscure and perhaps even depended on the practice of an individual manor or even an individual steward, or his clerk, or whoever was delegated with the task of compiling the roll. The rolls were used as a check on attendance at the court, or whether the person sent apologies (essoins) or merely failed to appear (default). In theory the last two conditions entitled the lord to a fine.

The bills offer some indication of the grounds of inclusion. Whilst some of the lists are described as being of the inhabitants of the township, those lists for Cotton (of which there are two for successive years) are specific that they are the inhabitants aged from 12 to 70. That for Horton is described as the inhabitants aged 12 and over. These headings did encourage the view that they were militia lists, but they have been marked with notes of attendance at the manorial court. That there was an upper limit after which attendance was excused is conformed by the Wem list where some people have the note 'past age' against their names.

Women were not expected to attend. It is striking that there appear to be no examples of female heads of household named. It is a moot point whether the lists were intended to include servants.

The Wem suit roll from the mid-1780s was used three times and each name marked on each occasion. The abbreviations are 'ap.' [appeared] 'ess.' [essoined] or 'd.' [defaulted]. These have **not** been transcribed. In some cases additional comments were added: 'removed', 'gone away' or simply 'dead'. These are included in the following transcript. For the first pages the notes of attendance or excuse follow the name of the person. But from page 00, the clerk who maintained the list wrote the attendance at one of the three courts to the left of the name with the heading 1786. Thereafter there are only two entries following the name.

Whoever wrote the roll had a functional education and could write, but not spell. Indeed, his spelling is atrocious and phonetic. Some names need to be guessed at. He also had great difficulty forming his letters, especially the capital R which he wrote as two disconnected letters so on first sight the letter appears as 'Pr'. The wayward orthography and the amendments made to the list make this something of a trial to transcribe and so occasional errors will be excused by the reader.

In its form, the document consists of three sheets of paper, folded vertically and placed one within the other. They were then held together with a pin inserted through the gutter.

The transcript of the bills for the out-parishes was made by Joyce Pownall and revised against the originals by Richard Hoyle. He transcribed the Wem township list and takes full responsibility for any misreadings.

The original documents are in the custody of Shropshire Archives, 2495, box 50 118, 139, 140, 141, 142, 164, 165, 168, 170 and are reproduced here with their permission.

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June 2021

SA, Acc. 2495 (Sprott), box 50/118

[p. 1]

A list of the inabbtanc [sic] of the township of Wem

John Harris tanner	Joseph Gebb
Pise Jones	John Watkis blacksmith
Robert Salesbery - removed	John Allisson
Richard Powel	John Watkin shoemaker
Thomas Powel	Thomas Berkes
John Powel	John Berkes
John Powel wever	William Berkes – removed
Chals Powel	Jo[se]ph Berkes
Thomas Tomson	Thomas Smith shoemaker jun.
William Booths	James Edwards
John Garvis	John Stubs
Edward Kinnaston	William Austin, sen. – removed
Thomas Wollo sen.	William Austin jun. – removed
Thomas Wollo jun.	Abram Powel
William Wollo	Roger Chalton
Chals Powel inkeeper	Chals Prince
Thomas Davis	Jo[se]ph Prince
Mr Walter Bettenson	[p. 3]
William Hales	Mr Thomas Sanland
William Gilkins	Mr Thomas Higgines [sic] sen.
Thomas Prise	Mr Thomas Higgins jun.
Mosses Peeller – removed	Mr William Higgins
Thomas Harris curren – removed	Mr Petter Higgins
William Harris shoemaker – removed	Mr Thomas Lannans – removed
Joseph Pelves [?]	Mr William Pidgon
Richard Morris	John Hales – removed
Chals Kinnaston	John Brisco
John Williams lab.	Frances Higeson
William Hevvert - gone	Gorge Walford esq.
[p. 2]	Mr John Swanwick
Owen Roberts Esq.	Mr Samuel Wamesley
Frances Richards	Mr William Alldersley
Robert Jones – removed	John Harder
Jonnathan Trsille [?]	Robert Bellengam
John Jenks	Robert Harris
James Brown	John Sandand shoemaker
John Gros	Frances Owen
William Sharratt	John Kinnaston
Richard Sharratt copper	Timmethe Parker
Frances Sharratt	Andrew Howerd
John Bellengam	Phillip Ierland
Bengemen Grome	Danell Besford
Thomas Maddox	William Jenks
Gorge Leth	Thomas Griffiths inkeeper [struck through]
John Leth	John Borrow
	Robert Hales

Mr John Griffiths  
William Higgeson  
Hennerey Kemp  
Mr John Henshaw  
[p. 4] [IMG\_7564]  
Mr Thomas James  
Mr Steven Skarbarra  
Thomas Flemmen  
Ambrous Gilbert  
Richard Vickers  
Andrew Borrowes  
Mr Thomas Barns  
John Drowre  
Phillip Drowre  
John Dackin  
William Dackin [struck through]  
Samuel Dackin  
Joseph Trever  
Mr Richard Sharratt  
Gorge Tiller  
Thomas Fardo  
Robert Gad  
Thomas Jenken  
Thomas Sanland  
Richard Higgeson  
Edward Heley  
Richard Hughs  
Thomas Hughs  
William Howerd  
Thomas Homferson - past age  
Frances Owen blacksmith – removed  
Thomas Peesiek - past age  
Thomas Stones - gone  
John Cottam  
Mr Thomas Pidgen  
Thomas Davies [?] backer  
James Holey  
[p. 5]  
John Owen  
John Masson – removed  
Edward Masson  
Athar Jones  
Joseph Smith – gone away  
William Parkeson [amended to John then  
struck through]  
Hennerey Pellen  
John Harris  
Robert Rogers  
Thomas Wilkensson  
Samuel Griffiths

Gorge Griffiths - dead  
John Griffiths – removed  
Mr Richard Downnard – removed  
John Robbinson  
William Powel  
Richard Asley  
Chals Asley  
William Phillips  
Chomlen [sic] Lewis  
Thomas Powel shoemaker  
Samuel Powel  
Huge Lewis  
James Willbrom  
Thomas Walkis  
Thomas Harper  
John Evans  
Thomas Harris shoemaker  
Crispin Watkis  
John Watkis shoemaker – removed  
[p. 6] [IMG\_7566]  
[Headed] 1786  
Joseph Evans  
Joseph Garrat [struck through]  
John Wolfe  
Richard Forgam  
John Harper [struck through]  
John Watkis shoemaker – removed  
Thomas Asley  
Richard Clark  
John Hompick  
Mr William Basnet  
Mr William Peolley[?]  
Thomas Thennel [struck through]  
Thomas Nickkels  
Samuel Jones  
Robert Gregery  
Thomas James  
[blank] Asley [struck through]  
Edward Harris  
William Wever  
Thomas Wever  
Samuel Parker  
John Pidgen  
William Hughs  
Thomas Dickken Esq.  
[One line blank except for a smudged  
surname]  
Thomas Fenton [?]  
William Robborts [struck through]  
Chales Green

John Williams  
John Lewis  
Edward Harris jun.  
William Harris [struck through]  
[p. 7]  
[Headed] 1786  
John Dod Esq.  
Bengemen Hoollbrook  
Joseph Golden  
William Bickerton [struck through]  
Joseph Sanland  
William Ashford  
Thomas Homston  
Thomas Harris  
John Brothall  
William Bather  
Thomas Wicherley  
Bengemen Gollins  
Samuel Bellengam [struck through]  
Edward Richards  
Mr John Larrans  
John Davis  
Thomas Davis [struck through]  
William Cook  
Richard Williams  
Samuel Forgam sen.  
Samuel Forgam jun.  
Thomas Randles - dead  
Thomas Rage  
Jerremiea Reey  
Mr Samuel Bettenson  
Robert Cottam  
Edward Petters - removed  
Thomas Hales  
William Hands  
Richard Bather [struck through]  
[p. 8]  
[Headed] 1786  
Thomas Elkes  
Robert Stubs  
Joseph Ashford  
Gorge Ashford  
William Ashford  
Thomas Howerd  
John Howerd  
Andrew Howerd [struck through]  
Thomas Griffiths sen. Mason [struck through]  
Frances Sanland – past age  
John Sanland

Thomas Gregory  
Gorge Maddox  
John Maddox  
Joseph Maddox – past age  
John Blantarn  
Robert Meers  
John Hugs  
Edward Price  
John Pollit sen.  
John Pollit jun. [struck through]  
Edward Austin  
John Chetto  
Thomas Chetto  
Samuel Newns [struck through]  
Thomas Shore  
William Dane  
Edward Howerd  
John Howerd  
Robert Felton  
[p. 9]  
[Headed] 1786  
Mr William Jeffres  
John Watkin ropmaker  
Thomas Watkin ropmaker  
William Senton  
James Watkin  
William Wever  
John Wever  
Edward Evans  
Richard Evans [struck through] – removed  
John Smith – gone away  
James Maddox sen  
Thomas Hilborn  
Gorge Edg  
Thomas Griffiths joiner [mason written over]  
James Maddox jun.  
Bengemen Copper  
Thomas Bentley  
Hue Mannen  
James Vauhn  
Mr James Forgam  
John Woodfind  
Robert Davis  
John Jones  
Richard Vauhn  
Richard Antolat [struck through]  
Edward Wincer  
Danell Watkis  
Richard Moore [struck through]

William Thornell  
Richard Evans [struck through]  
Thomas Evans labber  
[p. 9]  
Thomas Leey  
John Both – removed  
Gorge Parton  
Thomas Asley – removed  
Samuel Jenkes – removed  
William Pollit

Thomas Short [and] John Jackson  
presented as towndae [?]

[p. 10-11 blank]

[p. 12] Contemporary endorsement 'Manor  
of Wem suit roll'.

/139 [IMG\_9430]

Doquetted, 'Aston Oct. '99'.

A list of the inhabbitance of Aston

George Powell  
Thomas Bayley  
John Jones  
Richard Groom  
John Lamb  
William Ebrey  
Arthur Shingler  
Georg Addams  
Thomas Furbow  
Richard Hamlet  
John Dulson  
David Ruschose  
John Cerey  
Thomas Walfford  
William Mathus  
John Evans  
Thomas Powell  
William Aughtain  
John Elkes  
John Astley  
William Hales  
John Jones  
Richard Williams  
Thomas Groom  
Edward Ebrey

John Abbot  
Pettey Constable

/140 [IMG\_9431]

A list of the inhabitant in the Township of Wolverley

John Hassall  
John Dickin  
Thomas Wilkinson  
Joseph Bickley  
Richard Wilson  
John Philips  
Josiah Harper

John Groom Constable

/141 [IMG\_9432]

A List of the Names of Newtown 1799

Thomas Tomkin  
Henry Hunt  
Thomas Hunt  
Edward Huntbatch  
William Wild  
Joseph Halman  
William Sparrow  
Edward Morris  
Thomas Harper  
Richard Hamlet  
John Chidley  
George Chidley  
William Haycocks  
Robert Pate  
Thomas Harris  
Joseph Thomas  
Edward Roberts  
John Wright  
William Wright

/142 [IMG\_9433]

Doquetted 'Horton Oct. '99'.

A List of the Inhabitants of the Township of Horton

William Hamson sen.  
William Hamson jun.  
William Hamson  
Jeffrey Chistur  
William Davies  
William Fleet  
Richard Williams  
A. Darlington sen.  
Abraham Darlington jun.  
Joseph Ravenscroft  
James Price  
John Williams sen.  
John Williams jun.  
David Rogers  
Thomas Stockall  
John Stockall  
John Brown  
Thomas Hales

Col. 2

John Beckett



Thomas Morgan  
William Blakway  
John Blakway  
William Chistur

/164. [IMG\_9434]

Doquetted 'Cotton Oct'. '98'.

A true list of the inhabitants of the Township between the age of twelve and seventy years  
the Court Leet and Court Barron of Sir William held at Wem on Monday the 15th of October  
1798

George Wilkinson  
Richard Moreton  
John Clawley  
John Jennings  
John Keay  
John Watkin jun.  
John Lith Farmer  
Joseph Lith  
Joseph Swanwick  
Isaac Phillips  
Rowland Groom  
William Price  
George Price  
Enoch Witticur  
Edward Ashley  
John Ashley  
George Groom  
Thomas Morris  
Richard Furber  
John Sewbrook  
Edward Kynaston sen.  
Thomas Kynaston  
Edward Kynaston jun.  
William Ashley  
Edward Williams  
John Williams  
John Watkin sen.  
Robert Watkin  
John Davies  
Robert Davies Butcher  
Robert Davies wheelwright  
John Simpson Flaxdresser  
Richard Hatton sen.  
Richard Hatton jun.  
Samuel Moreton  
Thomas Barnett  
John Simpson Farmer

Edward Ikin  
Joseph Ikin

[col. 2]

John Ratcliff  
John Bowen  
John Lith Lathcleaver  
Thomas Rodenhurst  
George Rodenhurst  
Thomas Griffith  
Matthew Griffith  
Samuel Madley  
Charles Smith  
James Steventon  
Robert Sandland sen.  
Robert Sandland jun.  
Thomas Madley woodcutter  
William Edge  
Thomas Callcott  
John Barnett  
Charles Barnett  
Thomas Hussey  
James Turner  
William Jones  
Thomas Heath  
Thomas Madeley Sawyer  
Richard Madeley  
William Groom  
Richard Groom  
Arthur Montford  
Robert Ashley  
John Serjeant  
John Ralph  
Thomas Brooker  
George Whitfield  
John Sevett [?]  
Thomas Groom  
John Callcott  
Samuel Weston  
James Jervis  
James Lunt  
John Chalenor  
Robert Millington sen.  
Robert Millington jun.  
Richard Jones

John Callcott, Stephen Davies Petty Constables

/165 [IMG\_9436]

A List of all the Male inhabitants in the Township of Horton from the age of 12 years -Taken this 15th day of October 1798.

Trim Kent  
John Kent  
Abraham Darlington  
Joseph Ravenscroft  
James Price  
Richard Jefferies  
William Chesters  
Richard Williams  
John Williams sen.  
John Williams jun.  
James Evans  
John Browne  
Thomas Stockall  
John Stockall  
William Blakeway  
John Blakeway  
Thomas Morgan

Abraham Darlington  
Constable

/168 [IMG\_9437]

A true list of the inhabitants of the Township of Cotton between the age of twelve and seventy years delivered in at the Court Leet and Court Barron of Sir William Pulteney Bart held at Wem on Monday the 14th day of October 1799

Thomas Ashley  
Robert Ashley  
Peter Ashley  
Richard Moreton  
Richard Almon  
John Henshaw  
Samuel Henshaw  
John Heny  
John Walkin jun.  
George Walkin  
John Lyth Farmer  
Josh. Lyth  
Isaac Phillips  
Timothy Phillips  
Josh. Swanwick

Rowland Groom  
George Price  
Enoch Witticus [?]  
Edward Ashley  
John Ashley  
Thomas Ashley  
George Groom  
Thomas Morris  
John Newbrok sen.  
Edward Kynaston  
Thomas Kynaston  
Edward Kynaston jun.  
William Ashley  
Edward Williams  
John Williams  
John Walkin  
John Davies  
Robert Davies Butcher  
Robert Davies wheelwright  
John Simpson Flaxdresser  
Richard Hatton  
Richard Hatton jun.  
Samuel Morton  
Thomas Barnett

[col 2.]

John Simpson  
Joseph Heath  
Edward Ikin  
Joseph Ikin  
John Ratcliff  
John Bowen  
John Lyth  
Thomas Rodenhurst  
George Rodenhurst  
Richard Rodenhurst  
Samuel Madeley  
Thomas Griffiths  
Mathew Griffiths  
Charles Smith  
James Steventon  
Robert Sandaland  
Robert Sandland jun.  
John Chidlow  
John Barnett  
Charles Barnett  
Thomas Hussey  
James Turner  
William Jones  
Thomas Heath

Thomas Madeley  
Richard Jones sen.  
John Jones  
Richard Jones jun.  
John Serjeant  
Stephen Davies  
John Ralphs  
William Groom  
Arthur Mountford  
Robert Ashley  
Thomas Brookes  
George Whitfield  
John Nevett  
John Newbrook jun.

[col 3]

John Callcott  
Samuel Weston  
James Jervies  
James Lunt  
John Chalinor  
John Barnfield  
Robert Millington  
Robert Millington jun.

John Callcott, William Edge, petty constables

/170 [IMG\_9438]

Doquetted, 'Tilley and Trench Oct. '98.

List of the Names of the Inhabitants of the Township of Tilley and Trench in the parish of Wem & County of Salop

Mr Thomas Jeffreys  
Richard Newnes  
John Birch  
Thomas Harper  
Andrew Dawse  
William Groom  
David Wilson  
Mr John Hales  
Mr Thomas Barker  
Thomas Worrall  
Thomas Abbotts  
Richard Lewes  
George Edge  
John Foster  
Thomas Higgins  
Philip Orre

Philip Hales  
John Johnson  
William Deakin  
Thomas Bromley  
Henry Price  
Thomas Brown

[c.2]  
Roger Brown  
Mr Joseph Cook  
Thomas Jones  
Richard Edge  
John Williams  
Francis Sherratt  
Samuel Minshall  
George Abbotts  
Joseph Jones  
Richard Filkin  
John Hales  
John Elkes  
[?] Hill