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Seizure of Arms in the County of Gloucester in 1684

by J. Maclean
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SEIZURE OF ARMS IN THE COUNTY OF
GLOUCESTER IN 1684.

BY

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Read at Cirencester, 29th August, 1877.

GREAT religious and political excitement disturbed this country during the latter part of the reign of King Charles II. Intrigues and conspiracies, plots and counter-plots, were of constant occurrence. In 1669 the Duke of York acknowledged his conversion to Romanism, and, in consequence, became an object of aversion to many persons. Some years afterwards a Bill even passed the House of Commons to exclude him from the throne. The King's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, was set up as his rival, and around these personages, respectively, conspiracies gathered. In 1682 the Duke of Monmouth made a progress through the country of almost royal splendour, which gave grave offence, and he was held to bail. In the following year the plot called the Rye House Plot was discovered, having for its alleged object the assassination of the King and Duke of York and securing the Crown to the Duke of Monmouth. The Earl of Essex, Lord William Russell, Lord Howard of Escrick, Algernon Sydney, and others were arrested, but the Duke of Monmouth escaped and fled into Holland; Lord Essex died in the Tower, but Russell and Sydney were executed. The Duke of Monmouth was afterwards pardoned and returned to Court. He made a confession of his offences, which, having afterwards endeavoured to explain away, he was again banished, and retired to Holland. This left the Duke

of York in the ascendant. In 1684 much disquietude continued to prevail, and the Lords Lieutenants of the several Counties were directed to seize the arms of persons disaffected to the Government. This was communicated to Lord Dartmouth, Master-General of the Ordnance, by the Earl of Sunderland, Principal Secretary of State, on the 2nd June, with instructions that such of the arms as were useful for arming the Militia should be kept for that purpose, and that the rest should be sent to such places as were mentioned in a certain list enclosed. In respect to the county of Gloucester, the arms were directed to be left in the charge of Mr. Nicholas Webb, Postmaster, at Gloucester.

It is not unlikely that, to a great extent, the names of the persons suspected were derived from a document discovered among the papers of the Earl of Shaftesbury upon their seizure in 1681. It contained a list of friends and opponents in every shire, alphabetically arranged under the respective heads of "worthy men," and "men worthy" ["of hanging, as was understood"]

The schedule of the arms seized shows but a very indifferent collection. Many of them consist of old blunderbusses, swords without scabbards, and other useless and obsolete weapons, fowling-pieces, &c., and leads to the conclusion that the suspected persons were very badly armed, or succeeded in eluding the Government search:—

An Account of Armes, Armour, and Ammunition Seized and taken from Dangerous & disaffected persons in y^e Several Cittys and Counties, and in the Several Places hereafter mentioned, viz.,

Civit. Bristol.—

James Holloway & Moxon House	{	Firelock	1
		Bandaleers	1, & 1 Buffe
		Swords	2
		Foils	3
Oliver Moseley	{	Fowling-piece	1
		Rapiers	2

Alex. Thompson	{	Pike	1
		Cutlesse	1
		Belt	1
		Long Gun	1
Jno. Washbrough	{	Partizan	1
		Hanger	1
		Rapier	1
		Belt	1
Mr. Jno. Richardson	{	Rapiers	1
		Brass Pistoll	1
Mr. Ric. Higgins	{	Brass Pistoll without a lock	1
		Pike	1
Mr. Walding	{	Fire Armes	2
		Pistoll	1
		Rapier	1
Mr. Tho. Speed	{	fowling-pieces	2
		firelocks	1
		Sword	1
Robert Churchman		Firelock	1
Ozziell Browne		Sword	1
Mr. Thomas Scroope	{	Fire Armes	2
		Swords	2
		Bandaleers	1
		Belt	1
Symon Stoakes	{	Pike	1
		Belt	1
		Sword	1
Robert Bodenham	{	fire Armes	27
		Swords	9
		Belt	1
		Bandaleers	1
David Phillipps		firelocks	1
William Weaver	{	Musquetts	2
		Carbine	1
		Backswords	3
		Bandaleers	2 setts
		Belts	2
		Partizan	1
Thomas Vezey	{	Musquett	1
		Swords	2
		Bandaleers	2 setts
		Belt	1
Thomas Evans		Bill	
Jno. Cumberbatch	{	Musquetts	2
		Sword	1

Benj. Warren	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Emanuell Feather	{	Sword	1
		Belt	1
Symon Tovey	{	Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
Jno. Deverell		Partizan	1
Danl. Fletcher	{	Halbert	1
		Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1 sett
..... Badger		Rapier	1
Edward Tucker	{	Swords	2
		Bandaleers	1 sett
Thomas Hall		Halbert	1
William Wakes	{	Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1
		Swords	1
Thomas Saunders	{	Musquetts	1
		Pistolls	1 pair
		Swords	3
		Belts	2
		Bandaleers	2 setts
Anthony Wood	{	Pike	1
		Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1 sett
		Sword	1
Godfrey ffanathram	{	Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1 sett
		Sword	1
..... Barnes	{	Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1
William Shepherd	{	Musquett	1
		Birding-piece	1
		Rapier	1
		Collor Bandaleer	1
		Belt	1
Widdow Deane	{	Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
John Bond		Bandaleer	1 collo'
John Mott	{	Musquetts	2
		Swords	2
		Pike	1

Hugh Cornish	}	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
		Bandaleers	1
John Tucker	}	Swords	2
		Pike	1
Abell Edwards	}	Sword	1
		Belt	1
Henry Glisson	}	Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
Robert Henley	}	Rapier	1
		Hanger	1
		flowing-piece	1
Charles Plummer	}	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
		Bandaleers	1
Mr. Walter Stephens	}	Musquett	1
		Pike	1
		Swords	2
		Pistolls and Holsters	1 pair
Erasmus Dole		Brass Gumm	1
Thomas Morgan	}	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Benjamin Adlam	}	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1
James Cole	}	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
George Lott	}	Musquet	1
		Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1
John Bowman		Musquett	1
John Day	}	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Richard Legg	}	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1
Henry Parsons	}	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
John Saunders	}	Pike	1
		Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1
		Swords	2

Mr. Henry Roe	{	Musquett	1
		Back Rapier	1
Mr. Francis Howle		Pike	1
Richard Higgins	{	Musquett	1
		Birding Piece	1
		Rapiers	2
		Back Sword	1
		Long Back Rapier without Scabbard	1
Mr. Bright	{	Pike	1
		Scimiter, without scabbard	1
Mr. Saml. Hunt	{	Musquett	1
		Hanger	1
George Williams	{	Sword without a scabbard	1
Willm. Dickason	{	Musquett	1
		Rapier	1
Mr. Michl. Pope		Hanger	1
Mr. Henry Gibbs		Pikes	2
Mr. John Hurne	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1
Widdow Driver & Mr. Whetstoue	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
Gregory Bush	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Hanger	1
Mr. Henry Gibbs		Pikes	2
Mr. Sheward		Pike	1
Jno. Hardiman, Junr.	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Mr. Humphrey Cossley	{	Pike	1
		Swords	3
		Musquett	1
William Window	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Thomas Wall	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Anthony Bullock	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Richard Paine	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1

Saml. Jacob	{	Musquett	1
		Pike	1
		Swords	2
Thomas Baily	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Robert Curtis		Pike	1
Thomas Saunders		Pike	1
Richard Dennis	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
Saml. Greenway		Pike	1
Mr. Rawleigh Sadler		Pike	1
James Swettnam		Pike	1
Mr. Roycraft	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
James freeman, Jun.	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
Giles Gough	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Pistoll	1
Phillip Read	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
Saml. Hollister	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
Thomas Edwards	{	Blunderbuss	1
		Musquetts	2
		Swords	3
Andrew June		Musquett	1
John Harris	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
Mr. Alexr. Dolman	{	Blunderbuss	1
		Pistolls	2
Mr. Summers	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
Charles Jones		Birding-piece	1
John Grant	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
		Bandaleer	1
Saml. Tether	{	Musquett	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
		Bandaleers	1

..... Harris	}	Birding-piece Pike	1 1
Mr Whitehead	}	Musquetts Small Gunn Swords	2 1 2
Mr. Rositer		Sword	1
John Poole	}	Musquett Sword Bandaleers	1 1 1
James Symms	}	Pistolls Sword	1 pair 1
Edmd. Reddish	}	Pike Swords Bandaleers Holsters	1 2 1 pair 1 pair
Henry Gibbs	}	Musquetts Bandaleers Swords	2 1 pair 2
Dr. Jno. Griffith	}	Musquett Bandaleers	1 1 pair
John Roworth	}	Pike Sword Belt	1 1 1
Daniell Gwillam	}	Birding-piece Backsword	1 1
Edward Martindale	}	Musquett Bandaleers Sword Belt	1 1 pair 1 1
Thomas Skinker	}	Musquett Rapier Pistoll Bandaleers	1 1 1 1 pair
Richard Hort		Pike	1
Jno. Atwood	}	Musquett Bandaleers	1 1 pair
Jno. Hollister	}	Musquett Halberts	1 2
James Wallis	}	Musquet Sword Belt Bandaleers	1 1 1 1 pair
Thomas Snelgrove	}	Musquet Bandaleers Rapier	1 1 pair 1

Joseph Whitney	{	Musquet	1
		Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
John Williamson	{	Musquet	1
		Sword	1
		Bandaleers	1 pair
		Belt	1
Thomas Dapwell	{	Pike	1
		Rapier	1
		Buffe Belt	1
Henry Sampson	{	Musquet	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
		Halbert	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
John Packer	{	Musquet	1
		Hanger	1
		Belt	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
Joseph Thompson	{	Hanger	1
		Belt	1
		Rapier	1
		Pike	1
Joseph Hyde	{	Musquet	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
John Rendall		Pike	1
William Bathe	{	Musquett	1
		Hanger	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
Edward Baugh	{	Pikes	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
		Birding Piece	1
Richard Hellier, & Waterford	{	Pike	1
		Sword	1
..... Noble		Hanger	1
Edward Terrill	{	Musquett	1
		Pike	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
Henry Hang	{	Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
		Hanger	1
		Belt	1
John Hall	{	Sword	1
		Belt	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'

Thomas Edwards	}	Musquett	1
		Bandaleers	1 collo'
		Sword	1
Nathaniell Sneid	}	Pike	1
		Sword	1
		Belt	1
Thomas Scroope	}	Musqts wch. were taken at Gunsmiths	27

County of Gloucester :

Sr. Jno. Guise	}	Backs, Breasts, & Head-peeeces	19 each
		Gauntletts	4
		Cases of Pistolls, Musquett	9, & 1 odd
		fowling Gunns	3
		Backsword	14
Mr. Jno. Langley	}	Cases of Pistolls	2
Mr. Wickham	}	Cases of Pistolls	2
		Swords	2
Mr. Creswicks	}	Cases of Pistolls	1
		Holster	1
		fowling Gunn	1
Moses Jacock	}	Case of Pistolls	1
		Headpeece	1
		Swords	2
Jeremy Holway	}	Carbine	1
		Hanger	1
Mr. Clerke	}	Cases of Pistolls	2
		Sword	1
		Hanger	1
		Holsters	1 pair
		Musquett	1
Mr. Hancock	}	Back, Breast, & Head-peece	1 each
Morris Hames	}	Musquett	1
		Case of Pistolls	1
		Pockett Pistoll	1
		Rapier	1
Olliver Brooke, of Old Sodbury	}	Cases of Pistolls	2
		Birding-peeeces	3
		Swords	2
		Blunderbuss	1
Wm. Rider, of Nymphsfield	}	Musquett	1
		Pike	1
		Buffe Coat	1

	}	Cases of Pistolls	3		
		Compl. Suite of Armor		1	
		Blunderbusses	2		
		Musquetts	2		
		Rapiers	2		
Tho. Horde, Esq.			Halberts	3	
			Backsword	1	
			Plate Sword	1	
			Black-hilted Sword	1	
			Carbine	1	
		Buffe Coat	1		
Tho. Small, of Avening	}	Small Birding Gunns	2		
		Rapier	1		
	}	Musquetts	8		
		fowling Gunn	1		
Willm. Hollyday, of Redborough			Case of Pistolls	1	
			Collo' of Bandaleers	8	
			Rapiers	2	
			Hangers	2	
John Bernard, of Stonehouse	}	Case of Pistolls	1		
		Birding Gunn	1		
Francis Bennett, of Stonehouse	}	Birding Gunn	1		
	}	fowling Gunn	1		
Wm. Clutterbuck, of Estington			Birding Gunn	1	
			Back, Breast, & Pott	1 each	
			Back Sword	1	
			Rapier	1	
	}	Case of Pistolls	1		
		fowling-peece	1		
Mr. Charles Trinder, of Burton-on-y ^e -Water			Birding-peece	1	
			Blunderbuss	1	
			Back, Breast, & Head-p'ee	1 each	
			Rapier	1	
	}	Case of Pistolls and Holsters	1		
		Case of Peekt Screw'd Pistolls	1		
Mr. Hall, of Broad Risington			fowling Gunn	1	
			Birding Gunn	1	
			Swords	2	
	}	Case of Pistolls & Holsters	1		
		Hanger	1		
Mr. Tho. Hayward, of Broad Risington			Musquett	1	
			Sword & Belt	1 each	
			Collor of Bandaleers	1	
	}	fowling Gunn	1		
		Blunderbuss	1		
		Bullett Gunns	2		
Reginald Bray, of Barrington, Esqr.			more,	1 serewd	
			Birding Guns	1	
			Silver Hilted Sword	1	
		Hanger	1		

Benjamin Baron, of Westcott, Esq.	}	Musquetts	8
		Collors of Bandaleers	4
		Cases of Pistolls and Holsters	2
		Swords	2
		Hangers	2
		Back, Breast, & Head-p'ce	1 each
Mr. Wm. Lord, of Bledington	}	Carbine	1
		Fowling Gunn	1
		Screw'd Birding Gun	1
		Pockett Pistoll	1
S. Robert Atkins, of Lower Swell	}	Swords	2
		Hanger	1
		Cases of Pistolls	2
		Blunderbusses	2
		fowling Gunn	1
		Birding Gunn	1
Mr. Easton, of Batsford	}	Case of Pistolls	1
		Long Gunns	2
		Short Gunn	1
		Pockett Pistoll	1
Sr. Tho. Overbury]	}	Musquetts	2
		Carbine	1
		Case of Pistolls	1
		Sword	1
		Back, Breast, & Head-p'ce	1 each
Mr. Mariot, of Astcott	}	Musquett	1, & 6 new
		Long Gunn	1, without lock
		Cases of Pistolls	2
		Carbine	1

In y^r Towne of Cirencester :

In y ^r Church in a Chest, & left there by Ralph Willet and Robt. Parry, Church Wardens.	}	Musquett Bullets	1 C. weight
Mr. Cheequell, Junr.	}	Sword & Belt	1
		Bandalr. & Musqt.	1
Edward Kinge	}		each
		Birding Gunn	1
		Sword	1
Francis Ebsworth	}	Bandaleers	1
		Halbert	1
Willm. Druett		Old Sword	1
Wm. Hinton		Sword & Scabbert	1 each

Edwd. Clutterbuck	{	Musquett	1	
		Bandaleers	1	
		Sword	1	
		Belt	1	
		Old Pistoll	1	
Alexander Broad	{	Musquett	1	
		Bandaleers	2	setts
		Sword	1	
Humphry Palmer		Sword	1	
John Edwards, of y' Barton	{	Case of Pistols & Holstrs.	1	
		Carbine	1	
		Buffe Coate	1	
		fowling Peices	2	
Richard Noah		Little Birding Gunn	1	
Miles Saudys		Birding Peice	1	
Thomas Groves	{	Musquett	1	
		Little Case of Pistolls	1	
Ambrose Smith	{	Old Swords	2	
		Scabbert	1	
Wm. Clerk	{	Hanger	1	
		Backsword Blade	1	
Wm. Ebsworth		Birding Gunn	1	
Thomas Roberts	{	Musquett	1	
		Backsword	1	
James Tull		Musquett	1	
James Burge		Old Bill	1	
Ralph Willett		Sword without Scabbt.	1	} old
Dr. Marchale		Sword without Scabbert	1	
Ant ^o . Archard	{	Sword	1	
		Musquett	1	
		Bandaleers	1	
Widdow Selfe	{	Swords	2	
		Halfe Pike	1	
John Greenway	{	Old fowling Gunn	1	
		Swords	2	
		Pistoll	1	
Henry Greenway	{	Case of Pistolls	1	
		Holsters	1	pair
		Birding Gunn	1	

The Armes following were seized by Lieut. Wm. Braine, y^e names of y^e persons from whom they were taken being not yet returned :

Blunderbusses	4
Gunns, of sorts	32
Pistolls	19
Swords	9
Back	1
Breast	1
Head-peece	1
Collor of Bandaleers	1
Coller for Bandaleers	1