

The text for this document came from the “About”, “Historical Introduction”, “Proper Names” and “Glossary” tabs of the PoNE website.

Historical Introduction and Research Questions

The Anglo-Scottish wars which began in 1296 mark a watershed in the history of Britain. In 1296, Edward I deposed the Scottish king, John Balliol, and, mobilizing the massive resources of the English state, strove to annex Scotland to the English crown. In 1314, Edward’s son, Edward II, was decisively defeated at the battle of Bannockburn by Robert Bruce. A few months later, the Scottish parliament banned anyone in Scotland from holding land in England. The English conquest had failed, but it left deep marks. England and Scotland were now severed politically and socially as never before. We still live with the consequences in the twenty-first century.

The paradox of these developments is that they came at end of a long period of Anglo-Scottish peace. Between 1217 and 1296 no hostile armies went to war across the border. The peace was cemented both by the marriages of the sister of King Henry III of England (1216-1272) to King Alexander II of Scotland (1214-1249), and of his daughter to King Alexander III (1249-1286). The realms were united by their coinage. Indeed, there were more English coins circulating in Scotland than there were Scottish. They also (according to one view) had a very similar ‘common law’ with legal procedures in Scotland developing very much on an English model. Meanwhile, both lay lords and religious houses held land on both sides of the border and owed allegiance to both the king of England and the king of Scotland. In this perspective, the destruction of a harmonious Anglo-Scottish *modus vivendi* came as a bolt from a clear blue sky, being very much the result of contingent events, especially the failure of the direct line of the Scottish crown after the death of Alexander III in 1286. But is this perspective the correct one? Another view is that beneath the superficial harmony, profound changes were taking place. An increasing sense of Scottish identity and history were both unifying the Scottish realm and setting it apart from England. At the same time, the demands of the English crown for overlordship over Scotland were persistent and intensifying. Here were the seeds of the future conflict.

The social and political context of the Scottish Wars of Independence is the subject of the Breaking of Britain project. The project’s northern England wing takes the people of the three northernmost counties, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and examines their relationship with English royal government. Was that government regarded by the northern peoples as a burden or benefit? The burden would come, of course, from the financial exactions of the crown; the benefit from the crown’s role in maintaining the peace, dispensing justice and facilitating the settlement of disputes through the procedures of the common law. These questions are given a particular edge when asked of the far north. The seat of royal government was Westminster. The king’s major residences and the normal sweep of his itinerary were likewise in the southern half of the country. How far then did kings have power to exact money from the far north? How far, likewise, did litigants from the northern counties seek to bring their cases before the bench and the court ‘*coram rege*’? Was the north subject to or remote from the normal courses of royal government?

Such an exploration leads on to further questions. How aware were the Scottish people of the

situation south of the border? How many had direct experience of it through landholding in the northern counties? If they were aware, how did that influence their attitudes to the critical question of entry into the English state? Did they see the English state, exemplified in the northern counties, as fundamentally different from their own. Did they look apprehensively at the burdens imposed by the English crown? Did they look enviously and eagerly at the benefits of the common law? And can, anyway, one talk of a homogenous 'people' either in Scotland or in northern England. Might not royal government be regarded very differently according to class, role and gender?

In order to explore these questions, the northern England wing of the project is creating a unique data base. The database will also enable local historians, genealogists, school children, university students, and all those interested in the northern past to explore a whole range of issues of their own. Nothing like the database has been prepared before for any English county. It is a unique resource.

About PoNE

This database of the people in the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland is drawn from two types of material, one financial and one legal.

Financial

The database records every single person, community and institution in the three northern counties found as owing money to the crown in the exchequer's pipe rolls between 1217 and 1286. These rolls are preserved in The National Archives at Kew. The exchequer audited annually the debts owed the crown and recorded the results on documents called pipe rolls. Not all the money owed the king passed through the exchequer's audit but a large proportion of it did and thus is found on these rolls. Rather like modern tax returns, the rolls thus reveal the financial relationship between the king and his subjects. The normal form is for the roll to record the name of the debtor, the reason for the debt, the amount paid in (if any) and the amount still owed. The database records all this information. Since the pipe rolls survive in continuous sequence, with one for every financial year, it is thus possible to trace the history of debt from its inception to when it is paid off, written off or pardoned. The database runs from the start of the reign of King Henry III (his first pipe roll is for the financial year 1217-1218) to the pipe rolls for 1285-1286, 1286 being the year in which King Alexander III of Scotland died, and a new phase in Anglo-Scottish relations began.

Legal

The database records all the litigation from the three northern counties which came before the central courts between 1219 and 1274 as recorded in their plea rolls. Again these rolls are kept in The National Archives. There were two central courts. One was the 'bench' or, as historians often call it, the 'court of common pleas' which was based at Westminster. The other was the court 'coram rege', or, as historians call it, the court of 'king's bench', which was the court which travelled with the king. The bench dealt largely with civil pleas over property. The court 'coram rege' might deal with these too, and could also deal with any matter the king wished. It heard cases which concerned the rights of the crown, and cases (often of trespass) which concerned royal officials. This legal database begins in 1219, the year from which the plea rolls of the bench survive after the suspension of the court during the civil war. The plea rolls of the court 'coram rege' begin in 1234, the year in which the

court began its continuous life. The legal database runs down to 1274, the year in which Edward I returned to England after his crusade and took up the reins of government.

Editorial Information: Proper names

The conventions used to standardise names in the People of Northern England database have followed those conventions used by PoMS (the People of Medieval Scotland database), which can be viewed [here](#). Because the two databases are linked it was necessary to keep proper names in PoNE as similar as possible to our standards already established in PoMS. There have been some exceptions based on differences in Scottish and English conventions, which are explained below. It is important to keep in mind that PoMS is a decidedly Scottish database while PoNE is English.

The following general guidelines have been carried over from the PoMS project:

- Where there is a modern recognisable form of a name, this version has been preferred.
- If a name does not appear in a recognisable modern form, but was common in the middle ages, we have adopted standardised spellings based on the orthography of the period, avoiding archaic ‘classical’ forms of names. Our standard forms attempt a balance between vernacular linguistic consistency and the orthography which is suggestive of contemporary pronunciation.
- If a name is completely obscure, we have tended to use the spelling found in the source itself.

For forenames

In general, vernacular forms have been preferred over Latinate ones. Thus, we have changed Avicia to Avice, Joanna to Joan, and Amabilia to Amabel. Note, however, that we have retained Matilda rather than Maud, based on the orthography in the sources. Also, we have preferred Cecilia to Cecily, based on modern preference.

For surnames

The ‘headline form’ of the name is the one you see at the top of the person page. We have attempted to make these forms as easy to understand to the broadest range of people as possible. If the surname is one which is current in the modern world, or is famous historically, such as Bruce, Balliol, Heron, etc., we have used this ‘modern’ version of the name. If the family name is less well-known today, we have attempted to use the version most standard in works of British history, such as ‘de Vieuxpont’.

Please note that as a general rule, toponymic surnames are given with ‘of’ if the place-name is in Britain or Ireland, and ‘de’ if the eponymous place is on the Continent (also for ‘de’ plus a saint’s name, exceptions being St Bees (Westmorland) and St Albans (Hertfordshire)). ‘De’ is also used for unidentified places.

Differences between PoNE and PoMS

There are some exceptions to the standardisation of proper names based on differences in Scottish and English conventions. For example, the surname Muschamp, as it appears in Scottish sources, is more commonly known as Muskham in English sources, Muskham being a town in Nottinghamshire. For this reason, it appears as Muskham in PoNE and Muschamp in PoMS. Another surname is Ros. The Ros family in PoMS had associations with Ayrshire and was different from the Ros family of England. The English Ros family took its name from Roos in Yorkshire, and thus is called 'of Roos' in the PoMS database. In the PoNE database, however, we have kept the more familiar 'de Ros' surname with 'of Roos' placed in brackets to indicate its Yorkshire origins and also to highlight the connections in PoMS. Other differences include the forename Margery (PoNE) and Marjory (PoMS), Margery being the more common spelling in English sources, and spellings of some titles, e.g. 'marischal' (PoMS) versus 'marshal' (PoNE). In terms of occupational surnames, the people in PoNE will appear with a modernised, capitalised surname – which reflects how the title is used in the source. In PoMS, the form 'William, clerk', was preferred (original form e.g., Willelmus clericus), while PoNE the same person will appear William Clerk (original form e.g., Willelmus le Clerk). Persons with an occupation surname that includes a toponymic, such as William Clerk of Newcastle, will be given the title 'clerk of Newcastle'.

Also, it is important to remember that the rolls contained in PoNE are fundamentally different than the charters of PoMS. Scribal errors are common place in the rolls, whereas in charters the scribes tended to be more careful about spelling. Where one man may be called William in one entry of a plea roll concerning a specific case, the same man is called Roger in another entry. Moreover, in one case there appears a man called Gilbert son of Augustine, and is referred to as Gilbert son of Agnes in a separate entry regarding the same case. Scribes may even spell names differently in the same entry. For this reason, some people will be found in the database with two different forenames or even different surnames. Where possible, other evidence has pointed to the correct name and we have been able to rectify this. Differences between the manuscripts will usually be noted either in the entry itself or on the person page.

Glossary

A

- Accused (role) – one who is accused in a court of justice.
- Acquitted (role) – one who is acquitted of a debt by another.
- Acquittor (role) – one who acquits another of part of a debt.

- Addressor (role) – the person who addresses a brief or letter.
- Advowson, confirmation of right of (debt type) – payment made by debtor for confirmation of their right to nominate a person to a specified church or benefice.
- Agistment (debt type) – proceeds of pasturage in the king's forest.
- Agreement – the instrument of the conclusion of a dispute between two parties, establishing terms of agreement.
- Aid (debt type) – feudal payments due to the king, for example for the knighting of the king's son or the marriage of the king's eldest daughter.
- Amercement (debt type) – a financial penalty imposed by justices.
- Amercement to private institution through a liberty (event) – sum due for amercement paid to private institution (e.g. abbey) on account of their holding a liberty rather than to the king.
- Another person (debt type) – debtor owes debt on behalf of (an)other individual(s).
- Annotation (event) – noting when the Exchequer clerks have annotated a debt in the roll, with one or more of the following marks: 'a', 'b', 'd', 'p', 'in pullo', 't', 'x', 's'. In the following roll the sheriff might make a payment for all debts annotated with the letter 't'.
- Approver (role) – one who confesses a crime and then accuses another.
- Assart (debt type) – debtor owes money for having assarted (totally cleared) land in the king's forest for private use resulting in the creation of new arable land. Debtors charged with assart in one pipe roll may be charged with the rent of the assart in subsequent rolls.

- Assessor of tallage (role) – the men sent to assess the tallage (land tax) due on lands held from the king.
- Assize, fine to have (debt type) – payment made in return for having one's case heard before the assize.
- Assize, removal from – payment made in order to be removed from an assize, presumably to be removed as a juror of the grand assize.
- Association, fine for having – payment made for having a justice of his/her own choosing to add to the panel of a commission.
- Attaint, writ to attaint 12 jurors (debt type) – payment for a writ of attaint used to inquire whether a jury had given a false verdict in a trial.
- Attorney (role) – a person appointed by a litigant to act in his or her place in legal proceedings.

B

- Bail (debt type) – pledges promised bail (usually money) to guarantee the attendance of a suspect at court. When the suspect failed to attend, the pledges were required to pay the bail.
- Barker (title) – aka bercher, tanner; one who tans leather
- Bench, case transferred to (debt type) – individuals could purchase writs to transfer cases to the court of the king's justices at Westminster (the Bench). This debt is for the purchase of such a writ.
- Beneficiary (role) – a person mentioned as having received land which is now in dispute.
- Bovate (or oxgang) – an area of land which could be ploughed in one year by one ox; equivalent to an eighth of a ploughgate, 13 acres.
- Bracer (title) – aka brewer; may also relate to a worker in brass.

- Bread sold against assize (debt type) – bread of insufficient weight, as determined by the king, sold.
- Buried without view (debt type) – the bodies of people who suffered sudden or unnatural deaths could not be buried until they had been viewed by the coroner at his inquest. It was an offence to bury the body before the inquest took place.

C

- Call to warrant – in cases, an event recording when a defendant calls a warrantor to guarantee the defendant in possession of land in dispute.
- *In capite* – to hold land 'in chief', or directly from the king.
- Carucate (ploughgate) – an area of land which could be ploughed in one year by a team of eight oxen (eight oxgangs); usually equivalent to 104 acres.
- Cashier (role) – an individual to whom a payment is paid.
- Certification, fine to have a (debt type) – payment to have a certification of an assize.
- Champion (role) – one who is put forward by a litigant to duel on the litigant's behalf.
- Charter, confirmation of – payment made for a charter to be confirmed e.g. a charter of a previous king to be confirmed by the present king.
- Charter (recorded on roll) – payment made to have a charter recorded on the justices' roll.

- Charter (renewal of) – payment made to have a charter renewed.
- Chattels – moveable property and possessions (i.e. not land).
- Chirograph – a document (agreement) in which two versions were made on one parchment and then divided across the heading 'Cyrographum' with one side being given to the first party of the agreement and the other to the second party.
- *Cissor* (title) – one who cuts, whether it be a die-cutter, tailor, carver or similar. This title is used when it cannot be deduced what the occupation actually is.
- Common fine – fine imposed by justices in eyre on a whole community e.g. the county community of Northumberland.
- Confirmation – payment made to have an unspecified confirmation e.g. of a gift or charter. Confirmations of a previous king's charters were often sought on the succession of a new king.
- Concealment – fine due for concealment, e.g. of stolen goods.
- Contempt – fine due to unspecified contempt.
- Contempt of a judge – fine due for contempt done to a justice in eyre.
- Cordwainer (title) – shoemaker; unlike a cobbler, who repaired shoes.
- Custody – usually of lands. On the death of tenants-in-chief (who held their land of the king) custody of their lands could be granted to another during the minority of the heir in return for a substantial payment.

- Customs, trespass against –trespass/transgression committed against the customs.

D

- Debtee (role) – one to whom the debt is owed.
- Debtor (role) – one who owes a debt.
- Debtor (previous) – one from whom a debt was previously due. Although it is common in the pipe rolls for a debtor to continued to be named as liable for a debt even many years after his/her death, in some cases the pipe rolls reflect the current situation more accurately, the clerks having updated the rolls to name the person(s) from whom they are actually trying to extract the debt.
- Defendant (role) – aka deforciant, respondent; a person against whom another is bringing action in court.
- Disseisin –the act of unlawfully dispossessing a person from their property, usually land.
- Distrain – the legal seizure and detention of a chattel, originally for the purpose of thereby constraining the owner to pay money owed by him or to make satisfaction for some wrong done by him, or to do some other act (e.g. to appear in court).
- Dower – the proportion of her deceased husband's property due to a wife for the remainder of her life. Widows paid for the right to enter into their dower.
- Duel – judicial duel, a literal fight for property rights with champions fighting on behalf of the plaintiff and defendant.

E

- Enfeoffment (infetment (Scot.)) – giving possession of heritable property, the evidence of which is an instrument of sasine.

- Escheat – to forfeit property by crimes or by death of the holder without heirs.
- Essoiner (role) – a person who excuses a litigant from court.

F

- Failure to proffer – fine due from sheriff for failing to offer his county accounts at the Michaelmas Exchequer.
- Fair, fine to have – voluntary payment offered in return for the right to hold a fair at a specified place and on specified days each year.
- Fee – tenure of land subject to the return of specific payments or services to the lord from whom it is held.
- Fee and Heritage – The tenure of land in perpetuity by right of inheritance in return for a continuing annual payment of a fixed sum of money to the owner of the land.
- Fine – an offering to the king in return for a royal favour or for the purchase of a writ, or just to avoid the king's displeasure or regain his good will.
- Forester – the keeper of a forest.
- Forinsec service – foreign or extrinsic service: a service due to some person other than the tenant's immediate lord; usually due to the king.
- *Flemgirth* – Sanctuary given to fugitives.
- Frussure – the breaking up of land within the king's forest.

- Fuller (title) – cloth worker

G

- Gaol delivery – the process whereby prisoners held at a gaol are tried by a commission of justices assigned for this purpose. The justices 'deliver' (or clear) the gaol of its prisoners.
- Grantor (role) – a person mentioned as having granted land which is now in dispute.
- Guardian (role) – a person who has wardship of an heir or the heir's land.

H

- Hayward – a person in charge of fences and hedges.
- Hue and cry – the calling of others to help in pursuit of a felon; those who hear the hue and cry are legally obliged to join in.

I

- Initial debtor (role) – one who originally owed the debt.
- Inquest – an official inquiry to ascertain facts in a dispute, or into the valuation of property with reference to assessments, etc.
- *Inspeximus* – a charter which recites and ratifies a charter issued by an antecessor or other person.

- In presence of (role) – a person mentioned in a source as having been present before an event
- In the time of (role) – a person mentioned in a source with reference to a previous time period (e.g. 'in the time of King Richard')
- Insufficient attachment – offence of providing men of insufficient status to act as jurors.

J

- Juror – One of a company of men sworn to deliver a verdict on a matter officially referred to them.
- Juror (role) – one who has the role of juror in an event, usually in a case.
- Justice in eyre (role) – justice appointed to hear all pleas in a group of counties. They also held local officials (e.g. sheriffs) to account for offences. After 1278 they also dealt with *quo warranto* (by what right) enquiries into local liberties.
- Justice of gaol delivery (role) – justices appointed to deliver gaols (See 'Gaol delivery', above).
- Justice of the Bench (role) – justices sitting in the king's court at Westminster.
- Justice of the forest (role) – justices appointed to the forest eyre to hear offences against the king's forest. Forest eyres were particularly lucrative for the king. For an introduction to forest law see <http://www.earlyenglishlaws.ac.uk/reference/essays/forest-law/>
- *Justiciando* – payment for having/doing justice done against an individual, or for having a writ of justice to do the same.

K

- Knight service – the obligation to provide the military service of one knight for forty days per year; could be multiplied or split into fractions.

- Knighthood, fine for respite of – payment made to postpone the assumption of the status of a knight and its associated expenses and duties.
- Knights, fine to have – payment made to have a jury.

L

- Landholder (current) (role) – in cases, a person said to hold land, usually in dispute.
- Landholder (previous) (role) - a person who is mentioned in an event as holding property before the current landholder (e.g., 'that land which Roger formerly held').
- Lands, permission to sow (debt type) – payment made for permission to cultivate land assarted within the forest.
- Licence to agree (*licence concordandi*) (debt type) – payment made for parties in a dispute to have a licence to come to an agreement. One party would usually secure the licence from the king and the other party might stand surety for the payment of his sum. The agreed settlement was called the final concord.
- Litigant (role) – in debts, a person or institution bringing a legal action about a debt. In cases, a person or institution involved in a legal action either as plaintiff or defendant.
- Litigant (previous) (role) – in cases, a person who appears in an event as a previous litigant, regardless of whether they are plaintiff or defendant. In certain cases, this role is assigned to defendants after they have been warranted by a warrantor, who then takes the place of the defendant in the case.
- Litigant in mercy (event) – an event recording when a litigant has lost in court and refers to the litigant being at the mercy of the judge's discretion in terms of punishment.
- Litigant to hold in peace (event) – recording where a case against a defendant has failed, and so the defendant can now retain possession without challenge, in other words 'hold in peace'.
- Litigant without a day (event) – an event recording when a case has been adjourned without a return date, that is, when a case is adjourned indefinitely; usually this is given together with 'litigant in mercy' with the unsuccessful party in mercy and the successful party without a day.

M

- Mainpennor (role) – a person who mainprises a defendant (see below).
- Mainprise (event) – similar to bail in which a person mainprises another who is in custody so that they may be released.
- Mark – monetary unit corresponding to the English mark, and so equivalent in value to two-thirds of a pound sterling, i.e., 13s. 4d.
- Market, fine for – voluntary payment made for the right to hold a market at a specified place and on a specified day of the week.
- Marry, fine not to be distrained to – payment made by a woman for guarantee not to be made to marry at all/or against her will. Female tenants-in-chief were within the king's gift. He could give their marriages to whomsoever he pleased. This fine put that choice into the woman's hands.
- Mention, fine for having - a jury of the grand assize in a writ of right (normally about land) had to determine whether the plaintiff or defendant had the 'greater right' to the property in dispute. The plaintiff always based his claim on the rightful seisin of himself or his ancestor or predecessor in the reign of a named king. When the parties put themselves on the grand assize, the defendant could make a payment to the king for the grand assize jury to give a preliminary verdict on whether or not the plaintiff or his ancestor or predecessor had been seized in that king's reign. This is the proffer *pro habenda mencione* or *pro habenda mencione de tempore*.
- Messer (title) – occupation ranging from cutler, hayward, seller of meat or macer (Scots), depending on the origin.
- Messuage – land used as the site for a dwelling house; later the house itself and the adjacent land assigned for its use.

N

- *Non cepit* (did not take) (debt type) – payment due for failing to take [a fugitive prisoner].
- *Non habuit* (did not have) (debt type) – payment due by pledges for failing to produce in court the person they had pledged to produce.
- *Non venit* (did not come) (debt type) – payment due by those who failed to come [to court when summoned].

O

- Oaks, taking of (debt type) – offence against the king's forest.
- Offered on fourth day (event) – an event recording the appearance at court of litigants on the fourth day of the return day. In cases, the courts were required to wait until the fourth day of proceedings to allow essoins to be cast, and plaintiffs were required to be present for each of the first three days before going to the next stage of the case; therefore there is a standard phrase 'X offered himself on the fourth day against Y' in the proceedings. [\[2\]](#)
- Official (role) – a person executing instruction in the court, usually by command of the king or justices (most often the sheriff)
- Official in mercy (event) – an event recording when the official, most often the sheriff, is in mercy for not performing a particular action in a case.
- On behalf of (role) – in cases, a person who brings suit against another on behalf of a third person; often times, the third person is the king, who has someone bring suit on his behalf.

P

- Packman (title) – 'sumeter'; a groom for a packhorse?

- Paid in tallies (event) – method of recording payment.
- Paid into the Wardrobe (event) – payment made into the Wardrobe (the king's personal administrative office) rather than the Exchequer.
- Palmer (title) – a person who has been on pilgrimage to the Holy Land.
- Parker (title) – a keeper of a park.
- Passage, fine for – payment made in lieu of undertaking a journey on the king's service abroad.
- Payee (role) – one who makes a payment on behalf of a debtor.
- Plaintiff (role) – a person bringing suit against another person.
- Pledge (role) – a person who becomes surety for another in a given event.
- *Pone*, writ of (debt type) – payment to have a writ for removing a case from one court to another.
- Pound – monetary unit corresponding to the pound sterling, equivalent to 20 shillings; unit of weight equivalent to 16 ounces.
- *Precipe*, writ of (debt type) – payment to have a writ for removing a case from one court to another.
- Primary (role) – person primarily associated with factoid.

- Prisoner (role) – a person held captive.
- Purpresture (debt type) – a further offence against the vert laws for enclosing or building upon newly assarted lands.

R

- Receiving, for (debt type) – payment due for offence of receiving e.g. stolen goods or a criminal.
- Regard, Ill-done (debt type) – the regard took place every three years and was 'effectively a review of the state of the vert. The twelve regards were furnished with certain articles or questions to which they had to provide answers. They provided a complete record of wastes, assarts and purprestures which was subsequently presented at the forest eyre.' Ill-done regard was the offence, as ascertained by the justices of the forest eyre, of not having properly carried the regard. [3]
- Relief - the payment owed by tenants-in-chief to the king to gain seisin of their inheritance. The rate of relief was regulated by Magna Carta at 100s per knight's fee or £100 for a barony held of the king in chief.
- Reeve (grieve/provost) – the overseer or manager of an estate.
- Return writ, failure to – it was expected that writs delivered to an official would be acted upon and a response returned. Failure to return a writ was therefore an offence.

S

- Scutage – a fee paid in lieu of military service.
- Seisin (sasine, Scot.) – handing over the possession of property in feu.
- Seisin whilst underage, fine for – it might be possible to come into lands before the legal age upon payment of a fine.

- Secondary (role) – a person indirectly associated with a factoid, e.g. a person mentioned in a source, but who has no direct role in the event.
- Shepherd – one who tends to a flock of sheep.
- Sheriff – a non-hereditary official in charge of a shire who carried out administrative duties.
- Sheriff replies in roll of body of county – this refers to a reform in pipe roll organization where longstanding and desperate debts were taken out of the main roll.
- Shilling – monetary unit equivalent to 12 pence; the twentieth part of a pound.
- Summoner (role) – one who brings a litigant to court.
- Surety – A surety was a person who put themselves forward as security for a debt or for the fulfilment of a duty (for example, in the prosecution of a legal suit or for appearance in court).[4]
- Surname (toponymic) – referring to those individuals whose surnames are identified by their place of origin, e.g. Robert of Carlisle (Carlisle is his toponymic surname).
- Surname (patronymic) – referring to those individuals who can be identified by their father's forename, e.g. Walter, son of Alan (Alan is his patronymic surname).
- Sutor (title) – a shoe cobbler or perhaps a tailor/seamstress.

T

- Tallage – a land tax and owed by the non-feudal tenants such as unfree peasants or burgesses from the towns. The English kings collected regular tallages from ancient demesne manors as well as boroughs.[5]

- Turner (title) – one who makes turned wooden objects; lathe worker.

U

- Unjust detainee (debt type) – improper use of distraint.

V

- Variation of appeal – offence due to having changed her/his account of events during the legal proceedings.
- Venison, trespass of – offence of taking beasts (venison) within the king's forest.
- Verderer (title) – an official who dealt with land in royal hunting areas, who usually investigated and recorded minor offences to the justices.
- Vert/Special vert – the laws of the vert prevented those who lived within the royal forest from using their land as they wished. Amercements were imposed for the offences of waste, assart and purpresture.
- Viewer (role) – a person assigned the task of visiting (or viewing) another person who was absent from court because of bed sickness to verify the sickness, or a person assigned to view another matter relating to a case.
- Vintner (title) – a wine merchant.
- Villein – a peasant who has given dues or services to a lord in return for land on his property; not a free-tenant.

W

- Wager of law – aka 'to wage his law twelve-handed'; a process by which a defendant denied either a claim against him or denied that he had been properly summoned. He would bring

with him eleven compurgators (usually neighbours), who swore that they believed his denial to be true.

- Ward (role) – a person, usually under age, who is in the custody of another person called a guardian.
- Warrantor (role) – a person in an event called to court to guarantee a defendant in possession of land.
- Warren, fine to have (debt type) – voluntary payment for the right to have a rabbit warren attached to a particular manor.
- Waste – a forest offence, relating to the clearing of land.[6]
- Wheeler (title) – aka wheelwright; one who builds or repairs wheels.
- Withdrawal – payment due from a plaintiff for withdrawing himself/herself, or his/her pledges from a suit.
- Witness (role) – a person who has witnessed a charter and is given in the witness list.
- Writ – a deliverable instrument, most often royal, but also produced by bishops and earls; usually addressed to a specific person or group of persons, and containing a notification and/or instruction or command; there is usually a list of witnesses.

[1] See also: *Oxford English Dictionary* (<http://www.oed.com>); Definitions are specific to Medieval Britain and changes in those definitions over time have not been noted.

[2] See P. Brand, 'Lawyers' Time in England in the Later Middle Ages' in *Time in the Medieval World*, ed. C. Humphrey, W.M. Ormrod (York, 2001), 73-104, at 79.

[3] <http://www.earlyenglishlaws.ac.uk/reference/essays/forest-law/>

[4] <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/normans/glossary.shtml>

[5] *Ibid.*

[6] <http://www.earlyenglishlaws.ac.uk/reference/essays/forest-law/>