

DERBYSHIRE RESEARCH

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DERBYSHIRE PAPISTS 1693-1767

Most of us are familiar with the interesting and informative booklet *The Derbyshire Papist Returns of 1705-6*, by Richard Clark, which is on sale in the Derbyshire Record Office. I thought it would be useful to index all or most of the names occurring in the same series of documents either side of 1705-6: that is, 1693 and 1720/22, (1980 ref: 094484 onwards).

Q/S 2/4-34

Also included in the index are all the entries for Derbyshire from a volume (Ref 356) held at the Diocesan Record Office, Lichfield, which lists Papists resident in the diocese in 1767. These were part of a nation-wide survey. The Catholic Record Society has just published, in "a handsome volume", the returns for all the country, except Chester which is already in print (See *The Catholic Ancestor* Vol 3 No 1 Feb 1990). Most of the returns, one gathers, are purely numerical. For Derbyshire, however, the information given, though at times patchy, is invaluable. Apart from name and age, the length of residence in the parish is often given (indexed thus: 65/35 i.e. age/residence). Sometimes the lists are annotated to the effect that all those named were born in the parish or were old inhabitants of it (e.g. Nuthurst). These remarks are not indexed, but can generally be assumed when age only is shown (thus: 30/-; residence only thus: /22). Also given are occupations/statuses and -often- ages/residence of wife, children, and servants. Occasionally grandchildren are mentioned, though generally not named. As with unnamed children these usually appear so, for example, "2 sons, 1 daughter, eldest 12", (indexed as: "Eliza John's 2s, 1d, 12"). Where confusion might exist between two fathers of the same name, their ages have been added (thus: (43)).

The Constables' returns together with the 1767 survey, and the entries in the booklet mentioned above, give an indication of the strength of Catholicism in Derbyshire over at least two generations. In 1870, i.e. about a century before the survey indexed here, the Coepton religious census (according to Rev. C.J. Cox) revealed that, apart from London, the diocese of Lichfield had the largest number of Papists in England. For example, in the Derbyshire parishes of Nuthurst and West Hallam, a quarter of the population over sixteen years of age were Catholics. (See *DAF* Vol 7, 1895.1)

This index is a finding-aid only, not a letter-for-letter transcription. Because the Constables' returns were made more than once a year, some names will appear twice, though generally I have tried to avoid repetition unless further information, such as a wife's name, is added. Place names have been modernised. Christian names given in full or abbreviated as space allows. Most surnames are given as found, and, as one would expect, the spelling is variable.

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