



Isle of Man
Government

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Isle of Man Public Record Office

S107

**Records of the Isle of Man Rolls Office: Tithe
Composition Book
10 Apr 1841**

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Alternative/previous reference numbers: C109/1

Accession number: A44

Extent: 1 volume

Creator: Isle of Man; Rolls Office; [?] - 1965

Description of series: A hardback volume containing information relating to the Tithe Commutation Act, covering the landowners of each parish and the valuation of their land in accordance with the Act. The book covers the entire island, parish by parish. The volume is the corrected and confirmed valuation presented to the Court of Exchequer and deposited in the Rolls Office thereafter.

The volume comprises written entries, divided into eight columns: landowners in alphabetical order, occupiers, number of the plan (blank), names and description of lands and premises, quantities in statute measure, money value of tithe, money value of rent charge apportioned in lieu of tithe, remarks. Quantities and money value columns each subdivided into three (quantities subdivisions labelled 'A', 'R', 'P'; money value subdivisions each labelled '£', 's', 'd'). Some landowners are not listed in alphabetical order, but numbering is used to indicate their proper place in the sequence.

Administrative History: Tithe Commutation records were created as a result of activities carried out under an Act for the Commutation of Tithes in the Isle of Man in 1839 (The Tithe Commutation Act 1839).

The valuers responsible for gathering the information were nominated by agents representing the parishes, themselves elected to be agents by the Captain and landowners of each parish. There were four valuers nominated by the parish agents, and the valuers worked in pairs to gather the information of the land of the six sheadings of the island, with one pair responsible for three sheadings each. One pair of valuers was responsible for the valuation of land in the sheadings of Michael, Ayre and Garff, while the other pair of valuers had the responsibility of gathering the information of the sheadings of Glenfaba, Middle and Rushen.

In addition to the four valuers nominated by the parish agents, the Lieutenant Governor nominated a fifth valuer, to serve as chairman of the valuers and have the responsibility of periodically providing the Lieutenant Governor with reports relating to the proceedings of the valuers. All valuers had certain rights awarded to them to aid in their duties, including the right to enter land and the right to call upon people for inquiries.

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The Tithe Commutation Act 1839 meant that agricultural tithes paid to the Church were commuted to an annual cash payment based on the valuation of property. Unlike English tithe plans of a similar date each property was surveyed and drawn separately. Although most date from circa 1840 some landowners submitted earlier plans. All landowners were required to furnish the valuers with a map, plan or survey of the extent, contents and bounds of any lands under their consideration. The valuers issued a number to every map, plan or survey they received.

All the tithe estimate and valuation information was entered into volumes, one for each parish. These register - or parish estimate volumes - were delivered alongside the maps, plans and surveys to a specially convened Exchequer Court at Castle Rushen on 19 February 1841. The volumes were then deposited into the Rolls Office and open to inspection for 30 days for any objections. After the alterations had been amended the Lieutenant Governor ordered and directed competent persons to divide and apportion the said composition of £5575. This information was then entered into The Tithe Composition Book. The Book after being examined, corrected and confirmed by the Court of Appeal was then deposited in the Rolls Office on 10 April 1841.

Custodial History: Records comprising this series were originally consigned on 25 Jan 1997 at the Record Office under Section 3(8) of the Public Record Act 1999. Records were fully transferred on 10 Sep 2015, under Section 3(4) of the Public Record Act 1999.

Appraisal: Record selected for permanent preservation by Angela Haighton, Public Records Officer, in Sep 2015.

Accruals: No accruals expected.

Arrangement of series: Tithe Composition Book entries are arranged by sheading and parish.

Access Status: Open.

Access conditions: Open.

Physical description: Large number of later pages loose, indicating internal binding has split. Cover, however, is in fair condition and is in one piece.

Copyright: Crown copyright 125 years from calendar year of creation.

Related records at the Isle of Man Public Record Office:

S3 - Records of the Isle of Man Rolls Office: Tithe Commutation Plans;

S106 - Records of the Isle of Man Rolls Office: Tithe Parish Registers.

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Related reference material:

Statutes of the Isle of Man', volume II (1824-1859), p 114.

David Craine, 'The Potato Riots, 1825', 'Manannan's Isle' (1955). pp 197-209.
Background to the act.

Cyril Renshaw, 'Words and deeds in nineteenth century Kirk Michael', Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society Proceedings', volume IX, no 4, pp 543-565.
Provides background and a valuable account of a particular surveyor's life and work.

James Woods, 'A New Atlas and Gazetteer of the Isle of Man', (1867).
Property for which there is a tithe plan is indicated with a superscript.

James Woods, 'A New Atlas and Gazetteer of the Isle of Man' (1867).
Following the asylum valuation, James Woods, Surveyor to the Asylum Board, published 'A New Atlas and Gazetteer', usually known as Woods's Atlas. The parish maps in this act as a key to the manuscript asylum plans (and the tithe plans) and valuation details are also given.

'Statutes of the Isle of Man', volume III (1860-1871) p 43 and p 109.

'Statutes of the Isle of Man', volume XII (1925-1929) p 13.

'Ballamona Hospital 1868-1968 Souvenir Programme' (1968).
Background to the asylum.

Nigel Crowe, 'A New Atlas and Gazetteer: an appreciation of James Woods's Atlas and its origins', 'Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society Proceedings', volume X, no 4, pp 373-379.

Archivist Note: Series level description created by James Holmes, UCM Intern, in May 2019 under supervision by Gavin Rowan, Records & Archive Officer.

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