Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



A page from the Domesday Book held in the National Archives at Kew, London.

The Domesday Book

The Domesday Book, also known as "The King's Book" and "The Great Book of Winchester" is the report of a survey of England made 1086-87 and presented to William the Conqueror. It is divided between The Great Domesday, covering 31 counties between the Channel and the River Tees, and The Little Domesday, covering Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. All landowners, great and small, royalty, noblemen, bishops, abbeys, monasteries, small churches and plain people were included. No one escaped. In the Little Domesday, not only land holdings, but slaves, livestock and items such a plows were included.

The Domesday Book was a boon to 11th century tax collectors, and continues to been a great reference source for scholars of both English and church history.