



## Coroners Bills 1752-1796

### Box

County coroners were introduced in England in around 1194 once established other boroughs and liberties sought the right to have their own coroner. Often in Medieval times the coroner also assumed the role of the sheriff and his duties weren't limited to holding inquests on dead bodies although almost a full time post they were unpaid for the duties apart from those that were deemed murder or manslaughter when they would receive 13s. 4d. From the 24th June 1752 a law was passed allowing the coroner to claim £1 for every inquest they attended not held in a gaol and also to claim 9d per mile travel allowance from the place of residence. Inquests held in any gaol were performed at a rate totalling no more than £1. These costs were to be paid from the county rates. In cases of homicide the coroner also received the former fee of 13s. 4d. The coroners submitted their bills at the quarter session sittings for approval.

Year	Date	Surname	Given Names	Coroner		Details of Inquest	Place of Inquest	No. of Miles Travelled	Coroners Bill			Notes
				Surname	Given Names				£	s	d	
1773				Clare	William	Paid to the tithingman of Box for conducting Thomas Smith to Devizes Bridewell for killing	Box	14		14	0	
1771	27-Aug	Brown	James	Clare	William	On 22nd August fell from the roof of a stage coach, which caused his death	Box, Kingsdown Hill	15	1	11	3	
1756	04-	Brown	William	Clare	John	Killed by a fall from his horse	Box	13	1	9	9	

	Feb											
1759	16-Oct	Cockey	Robert	Clare	John	Died on 15th October whilst at work in a quarry part fell upon him and killed him.	Box	14	1	10	6	
1768	01-Dec	Ford	Ann	Clare	John	On 30th November hanged herself; lunacy	Box	14	1	10	6	
1764	02-Mar	Frankombe	John	Clare	John	Found dead in the road; no marks of violence; Natural death	Box, Wadswick	14	1	10	6	
1759	26-Feb	Newman	William	Clare	John	Fell into a quarry-pit 44 feet deep and was killed	Box	14	1	10	6	
1771	08-Apr	Norman	William	Clare	William	On 7th April found dead in a barton or yard belonging to Mr. John Lee at Hatt; Too much strong liquor	Box, Hatt	12	1	9	0	Late of Bath, Somerset
1773	16-Jun	Webb	John	Clare	William	Feloniously killed by Thomas Smith; Thomas Smith was taken to Devizes Bridewell by the tithingman of Box, and at Salisbury Assizes on 21st July 1773, being charged with John's murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be burnt on the hand and discharged	Box	14	1	10	6	
1758	28-Mar	Webb	Thomas	Clare	John	Found dead in a ground; no marks of violence; Accidental Death	Box	13	1	9	9	