



Coroners Bills

1752-1796

Britford

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	No. of Miles Travelled	Coroners Bill			Notes
				Surname	Given Names			£	s	d	
1794	30-JUn	Brownjohn	Thomas	Forsyth	Alexander	Drowned in the Avon; Accidental death	2	1	1	6	
1765	05-Oct	Foster	James	Whitmarsh	George	Found Drowned; Accidental Death	6	1	4	6	
1779	11-Sep	Glyn	Mary	Forsyth	Alexander	As supposed, fit	3	1	2	3	
1793	11-	Gray	George	Forsyth	Alexander	Natural death	2	1	1	6	

	Sep										
1773	23-Aug	Herring	Thomas	Forsyth	Alexander	Killed by a skittle-bowl; Accidental death	2	1	1	6	
1786	07-Jun	Lake	Edward	Forsyth	Alexander	Drowned; Accidental death	2	1	1	6	
1760	03-May	Loveless	Unknown	Whitmarsh	George	Murdered by Elizabeth Loveless its mother	5	1	3	9	Elizabeth was acquitted of murdering her male bastard child at Salisbury Assizes on 19th July 1760 on both the indictment and inquest
1777	13-Jan	Luke	Thomas	Forsyth	Alexander	Natural Death	2	1	1	6	
1786	05-Jun	Newman	William	Forsyth	Alexander	As supposed, fit	2	1	1	6	
1774	29-Apr	Smith	Samuel	Forsyth	Alexander	Killed by falling out of cart at Britford	0	1	0	0	Samuel was from Fisherton Anger
1771	19-Apr	Tosier	William	Forsyth	Alexander	Found dead in a field; As supposed Apoplexy	2	1	1	6	
1777		Unknown	Unknown	Forsyth	Alexander	A child found murdered at Britford	Expenses occurred by the inquest taken at 3 different adjournments and by the constable and bailiff in bringing the murderers to justice.	4	4	0	This was possibly the death which resulted in the trial of Betty Best at Salisbury Assizes on 8th March 1777. She was acquitted murdering a female bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest.
1778	01-Apr	Unknown	Unknown	Forsyth	Alexander	A new-born male child; Found drowned; Murder	2	1	1	6	