



Coroners Bills 1752-1796

Devizes

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 of 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	
1762	07-Mar	Baily	William	Clare	John	Fell from a horse in a fit into a pond called the Crammer and was drowned; Accidental death	Devizes, Green (St. James)	0	1	0	0	
1764	17-Dec	Baker	John	Clare	John	Drowned in or near the Avon; Accidental	Bradford-on-Avon	12	1	9	0	Late of Devizes

						death						
1756	19-Feb	Batt	David	Clare	John	No marks of violence; natural death	Devizes, Common Prison		1	0	0	Late of Urchfont; Committed for felony by John Turner Esq., J.P. on 23rd January
1757	12-Feb	Brown	Oliver	Clare	John	On or about 1st February he was seized with a violent fever of which he languished for 12 days	Devizes, Common Prison		1	0	0	Late of Little Somerford; Committed in 17th January by Sir Robert Long, Bt., J.P., being charged on the oath of Joseph Fry and John Reynolds with feloniously stealing a piece of sawn timber, the property of the said Joseph Fry
1767	28-Dec	Chappel	John	Clare	John	Natural death	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Prisoner for felony
1760	03-Apr	Cleverly	John	Clare	John	Upon view of his body it was found he was poisoned. The poison procured and administered to him by Francis Phillips of Devizes, labourer; Manslaughter Victim	Devizes	0	1	0	0	At Salisbury Assizes on 19th July 1760, Francis was discharged for lack of prosecution
1767	26-Mar	Collins	Henry	Clare	John	Natural death	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Committed by John Bythesea, esq., for stealing 2 ducks, the property of Thomas Brown of Atworth
1764	01-Nov	Drew	William	Clare	John	Found dead in an outhouse, a gathering in his throat	Devizes	0	1	0	0	Late of Etchilhampton
1754	13-Aug	Eaden	Joseph	Clare	John	Killed by a horse dragging him	Devizes	0	1	0	0	
1759	29-Sep	Eaden	Joseph	Clare	John	Dropsy	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Prisoner
1753	10-Jan	Field	William	Clare	John	Aged over 90; Natural death	Devizes, Common Gaol		1	0	0	Late of Charlton, Malmesbury; Committed for Felony
1766	11-	George	Ann	Clare	John	Aged about 12 days;	Devizes,	0	1	0	0	

	Apr					thought to have been injured by Ann George its mother; no marks of violence; Fit	Bridewell					
1768	11-Aug	Greenland	Ann	Clare	John	Mixed a large quantity of arsenic, a deadly poison, with some treacle, swallowed it and killed herself; Felo de se (suicide)	Devizes	0	1	1	0	
1766	15-Jan	Greenland	Matthew	Clare	John	Epidemic Fever	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Prisoner for debt
1771	25-Jun	Greenland	Richard	Clare	William	On 24th June; Killed by a horse running over him	Devizes, St. Mary Chapelry	0	1	0	0	
1767	26-Jun	Gregory	John	Clare	John	A new-born bastard of Ann Gregory, single woman; languished for a few hours and then died; Natural death	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Late of Melksham; committed by the commissioners of the court of request
1769	21-Mar	Hopkins	John	Clare	John	Natural death	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Prisoner for debt
1766	05-Jul	Hunt	Isaac	Clare	John	Died on 5 July; Died of a Fever	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Late of Bremhill; Committed by R. Ashe Clark, J.P. for felony
1763	31-Jan	Huntly	Richard	Clare	John	Crushed to death by a waggon	Devizes, Nursteed	2	1	1	6	
1771	06-Jul	Jennings	William	Clare	William	Died on 3rd July; Thrown from a horse and crushed to death by the wheels of a waggon	Devizes, St. Mary Chapelry	0	1	0	0	Resident of Melksham
1765	04-Nov	King	John	Clare	John	Died on 3rd November; Natural death	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	

1770	12-Jun	Lausley	Thomas	Clare	John	Not 6 months old; Natural death	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	With Mary Mausley, his mother, was sent to the prison by Edward Poor, esq., J.P., she being charged with being an imposter by Mr. Edmund Daniel and Roger Gater, Ludgershall parish officers
1766	09-May	Long	William	Clare	John	On 8th May died of an epidemic fever that reigned in the prison	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Committed for debt by order of the commissioners of the court of request for Bradford, Melksham and Whorlesdown hundreds
1764	19-Jan	Marks	Roger	Clare	John	Killed by a waggon	Devizes	0	1	0	0	Late of Trowbridge
1772	31-Jan	Mitchell	George	Clare	William	Prisoner; Died of Fever	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	
1754	29-Jun	Orchard	Jacob	Clare	John	Pecked headlong into a pan of suds and was drowned	Devizes, Green	0	1	0	0	
1762	05-May	Overton	Palmer	Clare	John	Drowned herself in a well; lunacy	Devizes	0	1	0	0	Wife of Thomas Overton
1753	26-Jan	Peirce	Ruth	Clare	John	In a great quarrel was struck dead with a lie in her mouth; Visitation of God	Devizes		1	0	0	
1766	31-Mar	Pern	Robert	Clare	John	Consumption	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Late of Castle Combe; Committed by James Montagu, Esq., for divers misdemeanours
1763	06-Oct	Phipp	Frances	Clare	John	Threw herself into a well and drowned; Lunacy	Devizes	0	1	0	0	
1753	27-Jun	Rose	Joseph	Clare	John	Fell in well and drowned	Devizes, Green		1	0	0	
1752	11-Dec	Shepherd	William	Clare	John	Natural death	Devizes, Common Gaol		1	0	0	Late of Kington St. Michael; Committed for Felony

1756	10-Nov	Snelgrove	Mary	Clare	John	No marks of violence; Natural death	Devizes, Common Prison	0	1	0	0	Late of Codford St. Peter; Committed for Assault by John Mattox, Esq. J.P.
1766	03-Jan	Southernwood	Jeremiah	Clare	John	Fever	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Committed by Thomas Hedges, Esq., being charged on the oath of William Comly, for stealing some oak board, the property of Lord Chedworth
1757	19-Jan	Symms	John	Clare	John	Natural death	Devizes, Common Prison		1	0	0	Late of Erlestoke
1762	30-Apr	Tily	Nathaniel	Clare	John	Hanged himself; Lunacy	Devizes	0	1	0	0	
1766	12-Jul	Tutt	Herman	Clare	John	Fever	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	Late of Malmesbury; Committed on 27 May by Edmund Wilkins, gent, J.P. for Malmesbury, for writing and publishing a paper threatening the life of Thomas Gray, gamekeeper to the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire
1756	12-Oct	Usher	Sarah	Clare	John	Accidental Death	Devizes	0	1	0	0	
1761	04-Dec	White	William	Clare	John	Natural death	Devizes, Bridewell	0	1	0	0	