



## Coroners Bills

1752-1796

### Little Somerford

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	
1752	03-Jul	Alloway	Richard	Waylen	William		Little Somerford	18	1	13	6	
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 and then died	Devizes Common Prison		1	0	0	Late of Little Somerford, on 17th January, committed 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

												Joseph.
17721	12-Jan	Strange	Sarah	Clare	William	Many marks of violence; Mary Strange, her mother-in-law [stepmother] was charged with killing her by ill treatment and starving	Little Somerford	18	1	13	6	