



Coroners Bills

1752-1796

Potterne

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	
1773	03-Mar	Alexander	William	Clare	William	Suddenly died in his garden near Potterne Wood	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1775	12-Jul	Applegarth	Alexander	Clare	William	Swallowed over 3 pints of distilled spirits called brandy and rum and instantly killed himself; Lunacy	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1778	01-Aug	Archard	Mary	Clare	William	Murdered in the night; For a further inquiry and getting witnesses, adjournment to 11th August; Murder by a person or persons unknown.	Potterne	2	2	3	0	Including costs of adjournment

1781	20-Jan	Barry	James	Clare	William	A man whose name appeared to be James Barry; Found dead in a barton at the side of the road, set up with his back against a rick. Many convincing circumstances proved he did not die there but was brought and placed there. Adjournment to 22nd January for further information. The man was taken up as a rogue and vagabond in the parish of St. Giles in the Fields, Middlesex, and lawfully passed thence to Somerset in order to be taken to his parish in the city of Cork in Ireland. In being so passed, he was taken up and conveyed in a stage-waggon in which, being very weak and infirm, he died somewhere about Devizes. The driver most imprudently carried him on and in the night took him from the waggon at the said place and set him up against the rick.	Potterne	2	2	3	0	Including cost of adjournment
1787	01-Feb	Bond	Isaac	Clare	William	Suddenly died at his daily work	Potterne	3	1	2	3	
1754	04-May	Bond	John	Clare	John	Fell into a pan of water and was drowned	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1789	18-Sep	Bridle	Richard	Clare	William	An old man; being alone in a house, was found dead; no marks of violence	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1796	10-Mar	Burgess	Jane	Clare	William	Returning from Potterne to her home at Devizes alone in the night, fell and died in Copse Ground; No marks of violence	Bishops Cannings, Wick	1	1	0	9	
1774	10-Aug	Chiffence	Edward	Clare	William	Infant; Left alone in a room by its mother, was found dead by her.	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1780	02-	Edwards	George	Clare	William	Killed by a fall from his horse	Potterne	2	1	1	6	

	Oct											
1753	08-Jan	Ellis	James	Clare	John	Late of Marston; Labourer; Killed by the fall of a hayrick upon him.	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1793	27-Sep	Ferris	Edmund	Clare	William	Suddenly seized and died in a garden belonging to the George Inn	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1775	18-Jul	Fielding	John	Clare	William	Found dead in his house, having been ailing and infirm	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1779	24-Nov	Fue	William	Clare	William	Killed by the wheels of a waggon passing over his head	Potterne, Wick	3	1	2	3	
1783	18-Oct	Glass	John	Clare	William	Aged under 8; d not been justly treated by his father, William Glass, but suffered to ramble, wander, and beg from place to place, lying under hovels, etc., and at length died at his father's house facts collected and appearing against the father and mother-in-law [step-mother] not amounting to any degree of homicide, the deceased being also of a roving, perverse disposition, it was found that from his wandering and bad lying he was sadly infested with vermin and otherwise much diseased in body, chiefly of dropsy, and thereof died.	Potterne, Wick	4	1	3	0	
1755	02-Oct	Halling	Jane	Clare	John	Fell into a mill-pond and was drowned	Potterne, Whistley	2	1	1	6	
1753	11-Sep	Hamms	John	Clare	John	Subject to fits; on September 10th Fell into a ditch and was drowned	Potterne, Ridges Common	3	1	2	3	
1754	07-Oct	Hern	Alice	Clare	John	Fell into Larborough Brook and was drowned	Potterne, Larborough	3	1	2	3	
1792	15-Mar	Hiscock	James	Clare	William	Found dead on Roundway Down, the evening preceding was returning to his home at Potterne	Bishops Cannings, Devizes Green	1	1	0	9	

						from Calne in the dark, the weather being severe, and died.						
1757	13-Mar	Hitchcock	William	Clare	John	Recte Natural; (Natural Death)	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1793	11-Aug	Hobbs	John	Clare	William	An old man; Residing usually in a cottage or hut alone, was found dead; No marks of Violence	Potterne, Hartmoor	1	1	0	9	
1789	22-Oct	Hunt	Martha	Clare	William	Found dead in a tenement of the house; being a visitor there and sitting up all night for want of a bedroom and having previously drunk too freely of strong beer, fell from her chair with her face into some wood ashes and was suffocated.	Potterne, The Mudhouse	2	1	1	6	
1752	13-Jul	Marshman	William	Waylen	William		Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1771	19-Jun	Offer	John	Clare	William	On 18th June crushed to death by the wheels of a cart	Potterne, Stroud Common	3	1	2	3	
1778	15-Jul	Palmer	John	Clare	William	Hanged himself; Lunacy	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1753	26-Jan	Peirce	Ruth	Clare	John	Late of Potterne; From the visitation of the great and almighty God in a great quarrel was struck dead with a lie in her mouth.	Devizes	0	1	0	0	
1795	9/1	Prosser	Thomas	Clare	William	Late of the 9th Regiment of Dragoons; Shot and wounded himself in the body with a pistol charged with gunpowder and shot, so that he almost instantly died; Lunacy	Potterne	3	1	2	3	
1783	27-Jul	Quelford	George	Clare	William	Found dead in a room at the Organ Inn; Sudden natural death	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1774	07-Apr	Robins	Ezekiel	Clare	William	Returning from bull-baiting in Potterne, drank a large quantity of rum and was thereby killed	Devizes	0	1	0	0	
1764	05-	Rook	Charles	Clare	John	On October 3rd died by excessive	Potterne	2	1	1	6	

	Oct					drinking of spirituous liquor called Geneva.						
1762	04-Jan	Street	Samuel	Clare	John	Gentleman late of Devizes; Died on 3rd January; Cut his throat; lunacy	Potterne, Hartmoor	1	1	0	9	
1774	08-Aug	Underwood	Anthony	Clare	William	Late of Potterne; Thrown from his horse and instantly killed	Woodborough	8	1	6	0	
1779	07-Aug	Underwood	William	Clare	William	Hanged himself	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1786	26-Feb	Waylen	Thomas	Clare	William	An old man; Found dead in his house	Potterne	2	1	1	6	
1778	22-Dec	Weeks	James	Clare	William	Threw himself into a millpond and was drowned; Lunacy	Potterne	2	1	1	6	