



Drawing from "The History of Wiltshire Constabulary"

Drawing of James Dewey, Police Constable, No 107, at Shrewton, Wilts, dated Sept 18th 1841.

This is first known drawings of a Wiltshire police constable and shows the uniform worn at the time James Dewey would have been aged about 25.

James Dewey Police Constable

James Dewey was born in Rolleston in 1814 and was baptised there on 12th June 1814 the son of William and Hannah Dewey.

James Dewey married Elizabeth Mather on the 11th February 1833 at Shrewton.

In the 1841 census, James Dewey, 25, Police constable, is living at Upton Scudamore, with his wife Elizabeth, 25, and two children, Elizabeth, 3, and Maryanne, 2.

In the 1851 census, James is living at South Damerham, a police constable, with his wife Elizabeth, and children, Mary Anne, 11, Jemima, 9, Charlotte, 6, Joseph, 5, and William, 3.

Daughter Caroline was born at Shrewton on 31st August 1852, and baptised on 7th November 1869.

The 1861 census shows him living at 101 Shrewton. James is 46, occupation shoemaker and parcel messenger, birthplace Shrewton, Elizabeth, 46, birthplace, Plymouth, Devon, and children William, 13, a shoemaker, and Caroline, 8.

In the 1871 census at Shrewton, aged 56, James Dewey, occupation is shoemaker. He is living with his wife Elizabeth, and daughter Jamimah, 27, and William, 22, also a shoemaker.

James Dewey died sometime between the taking of the census of 1871 and the sale of property in 1872 although no firm dates can be found at present.

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT

TWO FREEHOLD COTTAGES, situate at Shrewton, late the property of Mr Dewey, Boot Maker.

For further particulars, &c., treat.

Apply to Messrs Grist and Nepped, auctioneers, Valuers, Accountants, &c., Bridge-street, Salisbury and West-street, Wilton.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday, 5 October 1872

There is an entry for an Elizabeth Dewey listed at Orcheston St. Mary Rectory as being a widow age 67 working as a cook, however her birth place details do not match other census returns. There is no clear record of a death registered for James either although there are a few that match out of county.

The local press has details of a case involving James Dewey, at Damerham, in 1851:-

County Petty Sessions, Tuesday.

William Brittain and Isaac Brittain were summoned for assaulting James Dewey, at Damerham, on the 21st of May. The complainant, who is one of the county police, deposed that on the day in question there was a number of persons tipsy in the streets of Damerham, and that he took George Brittain into custody, when Isaac Brittain, his father, and the other defendant assaulted him, and attempted rescue. The Bench fined Isaac Brittain 40s. and costs, or in default six weeks imprisonment. The other defendant who did not appear, was fined £3, or in default, two months' imprisonment.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 31 May 1851

A later case at Shrewton, in 1868, involving lads damaging a thatched wall, records that James Dewey, although no longer a police constable, but then a bootmaker, still kept an eye on the local goings on, and was willing to give evidence to help out the local police if possible!