



## Coroners Bills

1752-1796

### St. James, 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	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	
1753	27-Jun	Rose	Joseph	Clare	John	Fell in well and drowned	Devizes, Green	0	1	0	0	