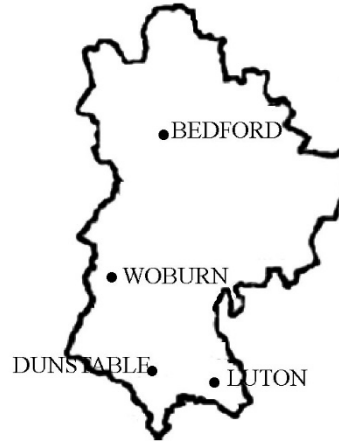
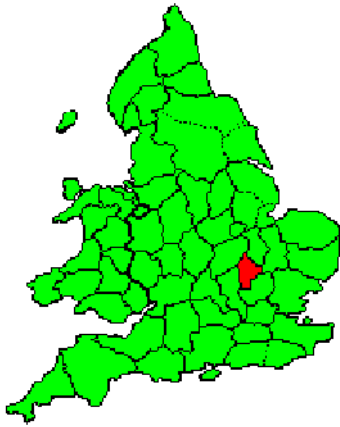


BEDFORDSHIRE







Bedfordshire is a small county that does not clearly belong to any major region. It is bordered to the south by the home counties of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, to the north and east by the East Anglian counties of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, and to the north-west by the Midland county of Northamptonshire.

The only ancient borough is the county town of Bedford, where inspection of weights and measures was traditionally combined with the county. In the middle of the nineteenth century the market towns of Dunstable and Luton became municipal boroughs. Dunstable remained fairly small and ceased to be a Weights and Measures Authority in 1889, but in the twentieth century Luton grew into a large industrial town, with its own university and airport. The small town of Woburn was under the jurisdiction of the Duke of Bedford as Lord of the Manor, and standards were issued in 1851.

The origins of the trade in Bedfordshire can be traced back to the Kilpin family, ironmongers of Bedford. Various members of the family were appointed as examiners for the county under the Act of 1795, keepers of the county standards in 1826, and inspectors for the county and the borough of Bedford in 1834/5. They were superseded as inspectors in 1836, but the family firm continued to have responsibility for maintaining the county standards until at least 1859. It was not until the beginning of the twentieth century that a specialist scale maker appeared in the county, John Franks moving north from Watford in Hertfordshire to Luton. Soon afterwards the Avery empire spread to Bedford and Luton.

A: Inspection by the County of Bedfordshire

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
	Before 1825 examiners were appointed for the hundreds.		9 hundreds: Stodden, Barford, Willeys, Redbornestoke, Wixamtree, Biggleswade, Clifton, Flitt, Manshead.
1825	One set of standards [46] obtained.		
1834	Inspector appointed.		T. and B. Kilpin received the standards in 1825, and were appointed as inspectors in 1834. The 'star-shaped' mark is probably theirs; it has 8 or 10 rays, and may represent a spur-rowel.
1840	County police force set up.		In 1836 the Kilpins were succeeded by Solomon Sheppard.
1848/9	Two more sets of standards [986, 1014] obtained. Six superintendents of police appointed as additional inspectors.		The letter S is almost certainly his mark. He was the sole inspector until 1848, when the six superintendents of police were appointed as additional inspectors, although the county had only three sets of standards.
1859	Fourth set of standards [1278] obtained for use in No3 Divn. Four WM districts (not the same as the police districts): 1. Bedford (inc Sharnbrook). 2. Biggleswade. 3. Luton 4. Woburn	 	When Sheppard died in 1859, the post of adjuster of weights and measures fell vacant [BTI 5/2/59; LTA 9/4/59]. The situation was regularised by obtaining one more set of standards and making four WM districts.
1874	Three short sets of standards [1525-7] obtained for use in Divisions 1, 6 and 4. The seven police superintendents were inspectors of WM for their divisions, as listed below.		
1877	The Woburn division was combined with Leighton Buzzard.		



¶ A 2oz bronze weight marked with a crown, CB, and 'star', almost certainly the mark of the Kilpins of Bedford, c1834-35. The weight also bears the Founders' marks, showing that it was originally made in London during the reign of George II (1727-1760).

¶ A 4oz bronze weight with the mark of a crown, CB, and S, which probably signifies Solomon Sheppard, inspector for the county 1836-59. This weight was made in London in the reign of William IV (1830-1837).



Police superintendents as inspectors 1848-1890

1848 –1859: six police districts, plus civilian chief inspector

The six districts listed in 1848 [QSM] were:

1-Bedford, 2-Amphill, 3-Biggleswade, 4-Bletsoe (Sharnbrook), 5-Luton, 6-Woburn.

Although each of the six superintendents was appointed as IWM, there were only three sets of standards, and the three inspectors that were most active were W. Graham (Sharnbrook), H. Ison Jebbett (Biggleswade), and W.R. Young (Woburn) . Young was involved in an appeal case in 1850 [1].

James Bates (Amphill) was also named as an IWM in 1850, and when Samuel Pope was appointed in Luton in 1855 he too was made an IWM.

1859-1873: four WM districts, not the same as the police districts

1. Bedford & Sharnbrook

William B. Graham (&1859-63 in Sharnbrook, 1863-73 in Bedford).

2. Biggleswade

Henry Ison Jebbett (1859-62)
Henry Hards Jebbett (1862-67)
George Smith (1867-73)

3. Luton

Samuel Pope (&1859-73)

4. Woburn

William R. Young (&1859- 68)
William Shepherd (1869-73&)

1874-1890: seven police districts (Woburn combined with Leighton for WM in 1877)

1. Amphill:

George James (1874-90)

2. Bedford:

Abraham Kennedy (1874-88)
Henry Quenby (1888-90)

3. Biggleswade:

George Smith (&1874)
William Bedlow (1874-87)
Frederick Smith (1887-90)

4. Leighton Buzzard:

W. Knight Clough (&1874-77)
William Shepherd (&1877-90)

5. Luton:

Samuel Pope (&1874-77)
Edmund Tydeman (1877-90)

6 Sharnbrook:

*James Carruthers (1874-85)
Frederick Smith (1886-87)
Henry Quenby (1887-88)
Ebenezer Cain 1888-90)

7. Woburn:

William Shepherd (&1874-77&)

*James Carruthers had previously worked as IWM in Bucks.

County of Bedford.

Return showing the Divisions from which each of the
Standard Weights & Measures were received





Individue & Division N ^o	Denomination of Standard & Division Rec ^d from					
	Weights			Measures		
	56 to 14	7 to 1 lb	8y to 1 dr	Bushel & Peck	$\frac{1}{2}$ Bushel Ail to $\frac{1}{2}$	Quart to 1 peck
Indiv. Div 1	1	2	1	1	2	2
986 " 2	2	1	2	2	4	4
1014 " 3	4	4	4	3	3	3
1278 " 4	3	3	3	4	1	1

Upon referring to our Books we find that in 1865 the Weights in
N^o 1 Division were the same as are now sent up,
When these Standards were returned in 1859 they passed through
the hands of Mr Kilpin who might have examined them and not
returned them to the proper Boxes.

¶ A document found in the Bedfordshire archives, dating from c1870, possibly at the time when the four WM districts were being replaced by the seven police districts. It refers to the possibility that 'Mr Kilpin' had mixed up the four sets of standards in 1859.



¶ A 1oz brass weight stamped with the mark of the County of Bedford, District 3. It is not clear whether this refers to the period 1859-73, when District 3 was based in Luton, or 1874-78, when it was based in Biggleswade.

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1879	Numbers 8-14 issued.		<i>Allocation of numbers in 1879:</i> 8 Ampthill 9 Bedford 10 Biggleswade 11 Leighton Buzzard 12 Luton 13 Sharnbrook No. 14 was not used? In 1891 No.9 was reallocated to Cornwall, and No.14 to Bradford.
1889	Bedfordshire CC formed.		
1891	One qualified inspector for the whole county; at least one police officer continued. No.8 was the only number used, the other numbers being transferred or withdrawn. Two sets of standards [2205, 2214] issued.		
			
1974	The WM Office was in Shire Hall, Bedford until 1949, when it moved to Gadsby Street [Archives CA8/774]. Bedfordshire CC takes over from Bedford and Luton.		<i>Qualified inspectors:</i> A.W. Poole (q1891-1916) A.W.H. Poole (q1899/1900, in Beds 1903-16, chief 1916-47) [MR 03:301; 47:28; 58:96] E.K.Udy (chief 1947-72-) [MR 33:115; 47:3]



¶ An 8oz brass weight stamped with the Bedfordshire number 8, 1879-1901.

B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the County of Bedfordshire

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Bedford	AncBo MB:1835	B	39	s:1831 [436] r:1864 n:1879-1974

The Kilpins, a family of ironmongers, who were examiners and inspectors for the county, were appointed as inspectors for the borough in 1834. The borough had no quarter sessions from 1835 until about 1846; the county inspector Solomon Sheppard was appointed, by the Recorder, to act as inspector for the Borough in 1847 [BM 13/2/47]; he continued in post as hallkeeper and IWM until his death in 1859 [BTI 5/2/59].

Richard Stennett was superintendent of the borough police force (1851-69) and was appointed IWM on Sheppard's death [BTI 19/2/59]. He was listed in 1885 [K]. Arthur Poole was cited as the IWM in 1887 [BTI 1/1/87]. In 1890/1 both Poole and Alfred Merrie qualified, and Poole became inspector for the county, Merrie for the borough. In 1899, Merrie successfully applied to become the Borough Sanitary Inspector, A.W.H. Poole, son of the County Inspector, being appointed in his stead [BM22/9/99]. His appointment was contentious - he was under the minimum age stipulated in the advertisement for the post – and within a year tendered his resignation [BM 26/1/1900]. When the post was re-advertised, William Fuller was appointed [BM 20/4/1900], passing the BoT exam that year [BM 16/11/1900], and he continued until 1916. Merrie then resumed as inspector of WM, retiring in 1926. He was succeeded by E. Craven (1926-29, moved to Accrington), T.E. Cole (1929-52) [MR 67:130], and R.M. Wells (1952-74) [MR 52:47,179; 75:107].




¶ Detail from a 1 lb brass weight, showing the non-uniform verification mark for the Borough of Bedford, together with the mark for the Lewes District of West Sussex.



¶ The standard apothecaries weights acquired by the Borough of Bedford in 1880.



¶ A 2oz brass weight stamped with the uniform verification number (39) assigned to the Borough of Bedford. ER 39 indicates the reign of Edward VII (1902-1910) and GR 39 indicates his successor George V (1910-1936). Strictly speaking, the latter mark should have been stamped on the back of the weight, according to the regulations in force from 1907 onwards.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Dunstable	MB:1864		212	s:1868 [1424] n:1879-1889

The mark represents a conical ale-muller and chain, which (by a strange combination of circumstances) became the symbol of the borough. Benjamin George was superintendent of police from 1865 to 1889. He served as IWM 1869-89 [LTA 13/2/69;1890 K] when the borough was disqualified, because its population was less than 10,000. After that the county inspector continued to be described as being also the inspector for the Borough of Dunstable. This must be understood to mean that the borough was within his district, not that he derived authority from the Borough Council. As late as 1950, the number 8 was listed as applying to Bedford County and the Borough of Dunstable.



¶ Details from an 8 oz brass weight. The detail on the left shows the conical ale-muller and chain of the Borough of Dunstable, together with the VR12 County mark of the Luton District (1879-91); the weight also carries the VR212 mark used in the Borough of Dunstable in the period 1879-89, together with the VR/97/8 mark, used in 1897, and the VR8 mark used more generally in the County in the period 1891-1901. The detail on the right focusses on the conical ale-muller and chain, flanked by the initials BD, of the Borough of Dunstable, and the VR12 mark.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Luton	Manor MB:1876 CB:1964		327	s:1837 [847] s:1878 [1622] n:1879-1974

In 1837 standards were verified for the Manor of Luton and the Hundred of Flitt and delivered to the Steward of the Manor; Francis Butterfield was named in the Court Leet papers as the IWM [LR 5/5/77]. It is recorded [4Rep: 37] that they were subsequently “presented” to the parish by the Lord of the Manor and sold by the churchwardens in order to buy sacramental plate. Various meetings of the Town and Parish Councils in 1877 ascertained that the weights had been sold, the monies paying for the widening of the south path in the churchyard [LTA 7/4/77]. Consultation of the Court Leet papers resulted in the legal opinion that the standards had been loaned for use in the market, becoming redundant subsequent to the 1859 Act of Parliament, and were sold with the approval and consent of their owner, the Marquis of Bute [LR 7/7/77]. No standards were in use in 1866.

In 1878 new standards were issued to the Head Constable, D. Jaquest, acting on behalf of the borough. He continued to act as IWM until 1891, when A.E. Slough qualified as inspector for Luton. He was also inspector for the Borough of *St Albans (Herts)*. He retired in 1923 [MR 23: 158] and was replaced by G.A.R. Densham, who later became chief inspector until his death in 1949 [MR 49:300]. W.E. Crouch (1935-1973) succeeded him as chief inspector in 1950 [MR 73:186].



¶ A 2oz brass weight from the reign of Edward VII (1901-1910), showing the uniform verification number 327 of the Borough of Luton.



¶ A box of working standard weights used in the Weights and Measures Office in Luton. They would have been used by the inspector and his assistants on a daily basis, and regularly compared with the local standards.



Woburn The Duke of Bedford claimed jurisdiction over the town of Woburn and obtained standards in 1795. New Imperial standards [1057] were verified in 1851, and the weights have survived, together with the scales from 1795. No evidence of inspection has been found, and the responsibility had passed to the county by 1866.



¶ Box containing the 1795 scales for the Town of Woburn, together with the weight standards issued in 1851.



¶ The 1851 standard weights from the box shown above. The largest one (8oz) is stamped with the Exchequer marks, and engraved FRANCIS DUKE OF BEDFORD 1851.



¶ The left-hand copper scale pan carries the inscription TOWN OF WOBURN 1795 and the right-hand one is marked SEWELL & YOUNG MAKERS LONDON.

C: The trade in Bedfordshire



¶ Detail from a 1lb brass weight, showing the non-uniform mark of the Borough of Bedford and the name W.W. Kilpin.

BEDFORD	
Kilpin	<p>W.W. KILPIN</p> <p><i>On a stack of averdepois weights with Bedford borough marks</i></p>
	<p>In 1791 [Universal British Directory] a John Kilpin was listed as an ironmonger in the High Street, and he was probably the man of that name who served as an examiner for the county until his death in 1803 [QSR]. In 1826 Thomas and Benjamin Kilpin were appointed as keepers of the county standards, and in 1834 both the county and the borough appointed them as inspectors [QSM]. Benjamin died in 1835 [BG 28/3/35], Solomon Sheppard was appointed IWM in 1836 but almost certainly the firm of Messrs T and B Kilpin continued to adjust weights. In 1838, the ironmongery changed its name to Kilpin and Son, when Thomas' son William was taken into partnership [HPBG 20/1/38]. Two years later, it was known as W.W. Kilpin; despite numerous advertisements, there was no specific mention of weighing machines, scales or weights. But the document illustrated on p. 5 indicates that Kilpin was definitely still involved with the standards in 1859 and it is likely that he supplied and serviced the scales used by local traders. In 1867 [M] William Wells Kilpin was described as trading as an ironmonger, brassfounder, and many other things. In 1872, the partnership of W.W. Kilpin and Edward Billson was announced [BM 21/9/72], the firm being known as Kilpin and Billson; the announcement claims that the company was established in 1747. When Kilpin died in 1875 [BM 14/8/75], Billson continued to trade as Kilpin & Billson and the business was still running in 1910 [BTI 4/11/10].</p>

W. W. KILPIN

DESIRES to inform his Customers and the Public generally that he has taken into Partnership Mr. EDWIN BILLSON, who has for several years taken an active part in the management of his Business; and he ventures to hope this arrangement will meet their approval, and ensure to the Firm a continuance of that confidence and kind favor which he has himself so long enjoyed.

MESSRS. KILPIN & BILLSON,

In announcing their Partnership,

WISH to inform all who may favor them with their commands that strict personal attention will be given to them in all cases; and, as it will always be their earnest endeavour to carry out every branch of their Trade with efficiency and despatch, they hope to meet with the same kind patronage and support which has been liberally awarded for so many years to the old Establishment.

IRONMONGERY

AND

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT

WAREHOUSES,

HIGH STREET, BEDFORD.

JULY 1st, 1872.

ESTABLISHED 1747.

ESTABLISHED 1747

TELEPHONE No. 7.

KILPIN & BILLSON

IRONMONGERS,

*Gas, Electric & Hot Water
Engineers, Plumbers.*

SHOWROOMS

FOR ELECTRIC FITTINGS, BATHS
AND LAVATORIES.

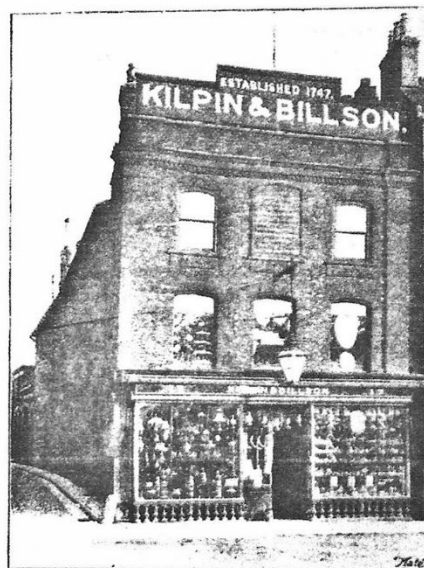
KITCHEN RANGES, MARBLE AND WOOD MANTEL PIECES,
TILED REGISTER GRATES, HEARTHES AND PANELS.

648

17, High Street, Bedford.

lx.

¶ Advertisement from the Bedford Mercury of 21, September, 1872, p. 1.



¶ Advertisement for the Kilpin and Billson business.

HENRY PAIN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL IRONMONGER, HIGH STREET, BEDFORD,
(Opposite the Corn Exchange,)

BEGBS to call the attention of Farmers, Corn Dealers, Maltsters, and others, to his Stock of **WEIGHING MACHINES AND WEIGHTS, MEASURES** of all kinds, and **SACKS**, ready for the coming season.
4LB. FOUR BUSHEL SACKS, 1s. 6d. EACH; 5LB. FIVE BUSHEL DITTO, 1s. 9d. EACH.
H. P. has just received an Assortment of Terra Cotta Coolers for Water, Wine, Butter, Tobacco, &c., highly suitable to the present hot state of the weather.
Estimates given for all kinds of Gas Fittings, Fencing, Building Work, &c. Piping and Guttering fixed to order.

Moderator Lamps, Colza Oil, Lamp cottons, Gas-fittings, Pamphotistic Lanterns, Sacks, Weighing Machines, Weights and Measures can be obtained of
HENRY PAIN,
General and Furnishing Ironmonger,
HIGH-STREET, BEDFORD;
ALSO EVERY DESCRIPTION OF
IRON AND BRASS BEDSTEADS.

¶ Two advertisements from the Bedford Mercury; the first one ran from 9 August to 4 September, 1858, followed by the second one from 15th November, 1858 to 7 March, 1859.

BEDFORD (continued)	
Pain	Henry Pain took over the Ironmongery Department of J & F Howard in 1857 [BM 10/10/57] and the following year he ran the two advertisements above. He entered into partnership with Edward Moulton, of Newark on Trent to form the firm of Pain & Moulton in 1867 [BM 13/7/67]; three years later, the partnership was dissolved, the business passing to Edward Moulton [BM 8/1/70; 15/1/70] and, by July of that year, Pain had moved to Northampton [BM 11/7/70].
Page	E. Page & Co (late Williams) first advertised as Agricultural Implement Makers at Victoria Iron Foundry in 1858 [BM 18/3/58] and continued as such; they were however listed as scale repairers in the High Street in the 1910 Handbook.

Avery	<p>In 1908, the offer of W & T Avery to test and service the weighbridge half-yearly was accepted [<i>BR 21/01/08</i>] and they were listed in 1914 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Midland Rd <1908-20 > • Priors Street <1922-55> • 22 Cauldwell St <1955-76>.
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LUTON	
Franks	<p style="text-align: center;">J.M. FRANKS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>On a 4oz brass weight with Luton marks.</i></p> <p>John Franks, b<1873>, was employed as scale maker in <i>Watford (Herts)</i> [1901 Census], and listed as a scale maker in 1903 [K] at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Castle Street <1903-08>. <p>These premises were occupied by Avery by 1910 [K and Hbk].</p>
Avery	<p>W & T Avery took over Franks premises c1910, at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Castle Street <1910-14> • 30 King Street <1939> • 184-190 Park Street <1965>.
Jones	<p>Jones Bros. were listed as scale makers in 1940 [K] at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 Park St. <1939-50> <p>They had gone by 1960.</p>



¶ 4oz brass weight with the name of J.M. FRANKS. The Luton verification mark ER327 has been cancelled. The word LUTON may have been part of the verification mark, rather than the mark stamped by Franks. According to the Regulations of 1907 the stamping of a maker's name in letters larger than the denomination was illegal, and verification mark should be stamped on the reverse, so this weight can be dated to the period 1902-07.

Luton and District Year Book and Almanack for 1905.

SCALES,

Weights and Weighing Machines

FOR ALL TRADES.

REPAIRS by Contract

OR OTHERWISE

A Speciality.

J. M. FRANKS.

Milk,
Oil or Seed

MEASURES.

Butchers' Cutlery. Ham & Beef Knives.

19, Castle Street, LUTON.

¶ Advertisement from the Luton and District Yearbook of 1905.

References for Bedfordshire

Published works

1. G.F. Allwood. *Appeal Cases under the Weights and Measures Acts*. London: Butterworth, 1906, p.11. Case involving inspector W. Young.

Directories

- K Kelly's [Post Office] Directory of Bedfordshire ... (N112, ST178) 1848 onwards
- Cr Craven's Commercial Directory of the County of Bedford etc (ST177) 1853
- C Cassey's Gazetteer and Directory of Bedfordshire etc (ST41) 1863.
- M Melville's Directory of ... Bedfordshire etc (ST46) 1867
- H Harrod's Directory of Bedfordshire etc (ST55) 1876
- BD The Bedford Directory (ST179-182) 1866-1939
- LY The Luton Year Book (ST184) 1904-1923.

Newspapers

- BG Bucks Gazette 1835
- BM Bedfordshire Mercury 1844-1900
- BR Bedford Record 1905-08
- BTI Bedford Times and Independent 1859-1916
- HBPG Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette 1838
- LBO Leighton Buzzard Observer and Linslade Gazette 1885-86
- LTA Luton Times and Advertiser 1855-95.

Original documents

Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service

- QSR Quarter sessions rolls, vols 18-27 contain several references to WM, 1800-1826.
- QSM Minutes of quarter sessions, containing appointments of inspectors, 1834-75.
- QAV2 Bundle of documents relating to the inspection of weights and measures, 1825-91.
- PSWM Documents relating to WM convictions at Petty Sessions.
- X250/2 Woburn standards in 1795: receipt from the Exchequer to John Young, maker.