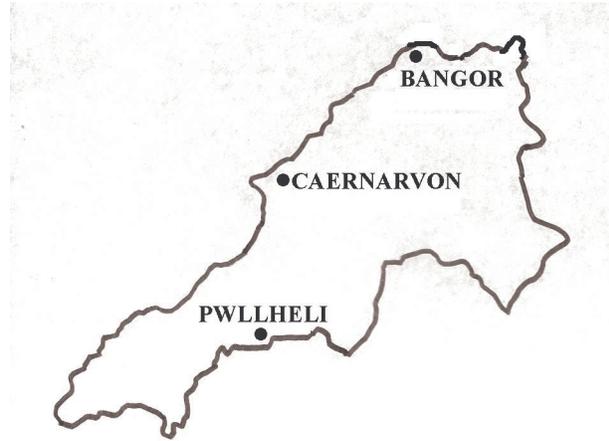


CAERNARVONSHIRE



Caernarvonshire is a county on the coast of North Wales. It is separated by a narrow strip of water from Anglesey to the north-west, and to the east and south it is bordered by Denbighshire and Merionethshire. Although remote from the larger centres of government, it has always been well-regulated and there are extensive records of the activities of the examiners of weights and measures dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The county police force took over responsibility for inspection in 1858, and continued until 1897, when civilian inspectors were appointed.

The boroughs of Caernarvon and Conway may have had separate jurisdiction at one time, but after 1835 they were under the control of the county. Pwllheli took over jurisdiction briefly from 1860 to 1879, but did not persist.

In 1974 the counties of Caernarvonshire, Anglesey and Merionethshire were merged into the single administrative county of Gwynedd.

Note on spelling. The traditional spelling was Carnarvon(shire). It was formally changed to Caernarvon in 1923, and since 1974 the accepted spelling has been Caernarfon.

A: Inspection by the county of CAERNARVONSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1825	Set of standards [Indenture 1] issued for the 'Caernarvon District'.		The mark, an eagle with wings displayed, associated with the name of Owen Gwynedd, is part of the arms of the county.
1826	Three more sets [162, 176,181] issued.		Inspectors 1835-1858 *Indicates inspectors who had previously been examiners.
1835	Another set [761] issued.		<i>Bangor</i> William Hughes* (1835-) Robert Williams (1844-45-) Beaver Roberts (-1853-)
1849	Standards [1015] issued for the 'Nevin District'.	 C. No. 2	<i>Caernarvon</i> Thomas Williams* (1835-44) Thomas Rowlands (1845-48) Robert Jones (1848-56-)
1855	Standard weights [1159] issued.		<i>Pwllheli (Nevin)</i> Evan Evans* (1835-48) David Davies (1848-58)
1857	County police force formed. Probably took over inspection soon afterwards. Two sets of standard measures [1252-1253] were issued in 1858.		<i>Tremadoc (hd. of Eifionydd)</i> Ellis Owen (1835-51 resigned) John Roberts (-1856-58-)
1866	Five police superintendents acted as WM inspectors.		<i>Conway</i> In 1835 the inspector was appointed by the borough, but the county soon took over.
1882	Non-uniform mark in use [AR].	ARVON 	John Jones (1836-37-) Ann Jones (widow of John, -1844-50-)
1890	Nos.515-519 issued.		William Davies (1854-56-) Several other marks have been tentatively associated with this county, and more research is needed.



¶ Two early weights verified in Caernarvonshire. The one on the left is a bronze weight, with the GR marks of the examiners before 1830. The two eagles are local marks and may also have been stamped before 1835 or even before 1826. The weight on the right has a mark that was still in use in 1882 [AR], and was probably stamped by a police officer.

Inspection by police officers 1858-1897		
<p><i>Bangor</i> John Jones (-1860-) H. Roberts (-1893-96-)</p> <p><i>Carnarvon</i> Stephen Davies (1860-68-) *Lewis Prothero (1870-1880) Cornelius Davies (-1881-96-)</p> <p>*Lewis Prothero was Deputy Chief Constable from about 1878 to 1894, when Cornelius Davies took over.</p>	<p><i>Pwllheli</i> John Walters (1860) H.D. Williams (-1880-) John Jones (1883) Hugh Hughes (-1893-95-)</p> <p><i>Portmadoc (Tremadoc)</i> Cornelius Davies(-1860-) (Division merged with Pwllheli c1870.)</p> <p><i>Conway</i> John Evans (1860-68-) H.D. Williams (-1893-)</p>	<p>In 1893 [AR] five police officers were listed as being authorised to adjust. In 1895 [S2] Cornelius Davies was said to be the only IWM for the county, but in 1896 [AR] both Davies and Roberts (Bangor) were listed.</p> <p>The police were eventually replaced by two civilian inspectors in 1897/8.</p>

¶ An eight ounce brass weight verified in Caernarvonshire towards the end of the nineteenth century. The word ARVON is visible, together with the VR 518 mark that was used only from 1890 to 1897. The numerous date marks are typical of Caernarvonshire weights from this period.



Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1897/8	Two inspectors qualified. Nos.518 and 519 obsolete. Numbers in use: 515 Southern district 516, 517 Northern district. Around 1948 E.T. Edwards was appointed as Chief Inspector, and an additional inspector was appointed for the Southern District.		<p><i>Qualified inspectors</i> <i>Northern District</i> (Bangor) David Griffith (q1897-1938) R. Roberts (1939-1972-)</p> <p><i>Southern District</i> (Caernarvon) H.V. Davies (q1898-1929) {unidentified} (1929-1938) E.T. Edwards (1939- , then chief) E.J.Griffith (-1950-)</p> <p><i>Chief inspectors</i> E.T. Edwards (-1950-56-)</p>
1974	Authority transferred to the new Gwynedd CC		

Mr DAVID GRIFFITH, Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Northern District of the County of Carnarvon, reports to the Weights and Measures Committee:—

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to submit my third annual report, together with statistical tables, for the financial year ended 31st of March, 1901, in accordance with Clause 12 of the Regulations adopted by the County Council under the Weights and Measures Act, 1889.

The total number of weights, measures, and weighing instruments submitted for verification during the year amounted to 14,834. Of this number 536 were condemned or rejected, and 14,298 were stamped.

Compared with the previous year, there were 181 less weights, 80 more measures, and 140 more weighing instruments brought in for verification.

During the year one set of standard weights from 56lb. to ½ dram respectively, and three standard scales of 56lb., 7lb., and 1lb. capacity respectively, were adjusted by Messrs

W. & T. Avery, London, and verified by the Board of Trade (Standards Department), and proper cases for their custody have been supplied, at the total cost of £12 6s 9d.

The balance of expenditure over receipts was £78 0s 2½d, which is £12 0s 5d less than last year, and £31 17s 3d less than the year previous to that one.

¶ Report of David Griffiths, the Bangor inspector, for 1900-01, reprinted in the *Monthly Review* [MR 01:135].

B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of CAERNARVONSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<p>Caernarvon.was an ancient borough and also the county town. The records of the borough [XD1/3] include an inventory of weights and measures from the eighteenth century, but there is no record of the issue of Imperial Standards. It may be assumed that the borough functioned jointly with the county after1826.</p>				
<p>Conway was an ancient borough, also known as Aberconway. The county return for 1835 states that the inspector for the Conway District had been appointed by the magistrates for the borough. However, the inspector was reporting to the county authorities by 1836.</p>				
Pwllheli	AncBo MB:1835 ncp		---	s:1860 [1304]
<p>A separate borough police force was established in 1857, around the same time as the county force. This may have been the reason for the decision to inspect weights and measures, and hence to obtain standards. In fact the force only ever had one officer: Robert Williams (1857-69), who was listed as IWM in 1868 [S1]), and William Hughes (1869-79). who was listed as IWM in 1878 [E].</p> <p>In 1879 the police ‘force’ was absorbed by the county, which also took over the inspection of weights and measures.</p>				

C: The trade in Caernarvonshire

BANGOR	
Pooley	First noted in 1898 [cover of MR]. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 317 High Street <1911>
CAERNARVON	
Avery	First noted in 1908 [Hbk] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 38 High Street <1908-1910>• 17 Palace Street <1932-1965> Avery's acquired the business of Cartwright & Co. for £30 in January 1935.
Cartwright	Cartwright & Co., listed as scale repairers in 1936 [B]. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shirehall Street <1936> Acquired by Avery in 1935.

References for Caernarvonshire

Published works

Directories

P. Pigot's Directory of ...North & South Wales. [N78] 1844.

S1. Slater's Directory of ... North & South Wales. [ST34] 1858, [ST48] 1868.

S2. Slater's Directory of North and Mid Wales. [ST1694] 1880, [ST1695] 1895.

E. Eyre's Wales Register and Guide. [ST1693] 1878

C. Cope's North Wales Register and Guide. [ST1701] 1907-1938.

B. Bennett's Business Directory of North Wales. [ST1705] 1911-1936.

Original documents

Gwynedd Record Office, Caernarfon

XD1/3: Order Book of the Carnarvon Borough Council 1757-1782, containing an inventory of the corporation weights and measures.

XD2/20777, 20779, 20783: Letters to Lord Newborough regarding the appointment of an inspector in 1844, following the death of Thomas Williams.

XQA/P/11/1: A bundle of documents relating to Weights and Measures, 1857-1876.

XQS/*: Quarter Sessions Records. Includes many references to the payment of inspectors 1819-1861.