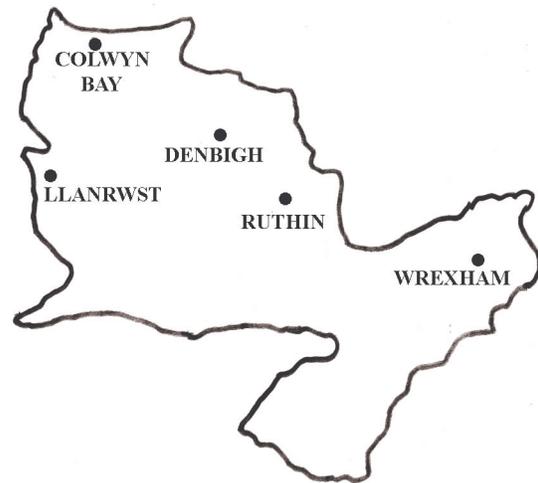


DENBIGHSHIRE



Denbighshire is a county in North Wales. It has a small coastal region, but is mainly bordered by the Welsh counties of Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire and Flintshire. The last is in two distinct parts and between them there is a boundary with the English county of Cheshire.

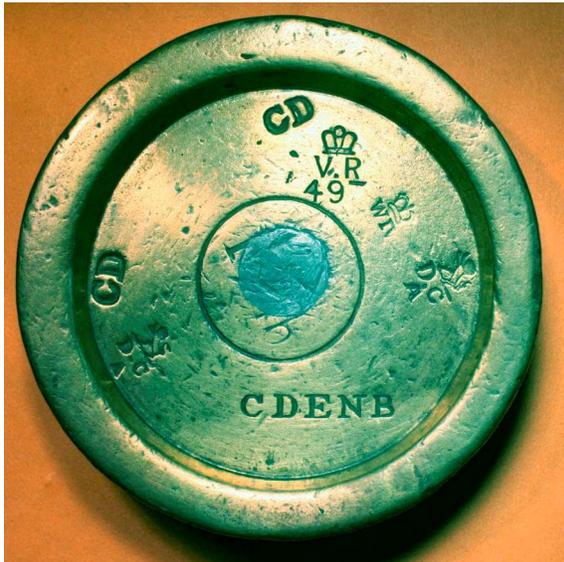
The county had one inspector from 1835 until 1859, when the police force took over. In 1892 it was decided to employ full-time qualified inspectors. The largest town in the county was Wrexham, which became a municipal borough in 1857, but always relied on the county for regulation of its weights and measures. The ancient borough of Denbigh did take responsibility for a short period only (1846-58).

The trade in Wrexham was traditionally carried on by whitesmiths and ironmongers, but at the turn of the century Avery's gained a foothold in the town. The tourist trade led to rapid growth of Colwyn Bay in the north-west of the county and, later in the twentieth century, specialist scale makers were working there too.

In 1974 Denbighshire became part of the new county of Clwyd.

A: Inspection by the county of DENBIGHSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1826	One set of standards [325] obtained.		John Lewis, examiner, c1815.
1835	One inspector for the whole county.	CD	<p><i>Inspectors 1835-1858</i></p> <p>Thomas Overton, auctioneer, of Ruthin (1835-)</p>
1840	County police force set up.	CDENB	John Parry Hughes, whitesmith of Wrexham (1839-1858)
1859	Second set of standards [1274] obtained. Two police superintendents acted as inspectors.	 D - C A	<p><i>Police inspectors 1859-92</i></p>
1867	'C' division, Llanrwst , set up. Standard weights [1395] issued.		<p><i>A Division (Wrexham):</i></p> <p>John Bradshaw (1859-75)</p> <p>William Wilde (-1877-92)</p>
1868	Three police superintendents acted as inspectors.	 D - C B	<p><i>B Division (Denbigh):</i></p> <p>Edward Pugh (1859-70)</p> <p>Thomas Tudge (1871-80)</p> <p>Thos. Vaughan (1880-92)</p>
1882	Old marks still in use.		<p><i>C Division (Llanrwst)</i></p> <p>Thos. Hammonds (1867-92)</p> <p>Edward Jones (1892)</p>
1886	Three police divisions operating as WM districts [AR 1886].		
1890	Nos. 497-499 allocated.		
1892	Wilde and Vaughan continued as inspectors during discussion of future arrangements.		



¶ A one-pound brass weight made in the reign of William IV and stamped with a succession of Denbighshire marks. The CD and CDENB marks were probably stamped by John Parry Hughes, the sole inspector for the county from c1839 to 1858.

¶ Extract from the *North Wales Chronicle*, 14 May 1850, reporting that John Parry Hughes had prosecuted 36 local tradespeople for using unjust weights and measures.

ABERGELE PETTY SESSIONS.—On the 4th instant, before J. Ll. Wynne, junior, and P. W. Yorke, Esqrs., George Hollingwood, and Mary *alias* Catherine Moore, were charged on the oath of Harriet Hughes, of Abergele, with stealing from a dwelling-house, one linen shirt.

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Mr. John Parry Hughes, of Wrexham, Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the County of Denbigh, summoned no less than thirty-six of the tradespeople of Abergele, and of the surrounding villages, for having in their possession unjust and illegal weights, measures, scales and beams. They were all fined in sums varying from four pounds to ten shillings.

JOHN PARRY HUGHES,
W H I T E S M I T H A N D B E L L H A N G E R,
T O W N - H I L L , W R E X H A M ,

RETURNS his sincere thanks for the patronage bestowed upon him by the gentry and inhabitants of Wrexham and its vicinity, for nearly half a century, and begs to announce that he has Let his Front Shop to MR. DANIEL JONES, Ironmonger, from the firm of Matterson and Huxley, Coventry.

J. P. HUGHES having taken his Son into partnership, they will carry on their business as Whitesmiths and Bellhangers, on the premises as heretofore, and hope to merit a continuance of their favours.

Locks and keys fitted and repaired. Gutta Percha Speaking Tubes fitted in Offices and Buildings.

J. P. H. having been for 20 years inspector of Weights and Measures for the County of Denbigh, begs to inform the public generally that he still continues to adjust weights and measures, scales, steelyards, weighing machines, &c.

¶ Announcement that John Parry Hughes will continue to adjust weights and measures, after the police took over the official duty of inspection (*Wrexham Advertiser*, 2 July 1859).

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1893	One inspector qualified		<i>Qualified inspectors:</i> Robert Griffiths qualified in 1892/3, but was dismissed for drunkenness.
1894	Two more inspectors qualified. Offices: Ruthin (Western district) Wrexham (Eastern district). From 1894 to 1951 the numbers were used as follows: 497 Eastern district 498-499 Western district	 	<i>Western district</i> John Clarke Jones (q1894-c1925, then chief) D.W. Griffith (q1909-1932, then chief) W. Lewis (1933-1963) [MR 63:51, 70:76] <i>Eastern district</i> Noah Price (q1894-1922-) J.W. Bache (1914-20) [MR 50:129] T.H. Evans (1921-1951, then chief)
c1925	Chief inspector appointed, head office in Colwyn Bay.		<i>Chief inspectors</i> J. Clarke Jones (c1925 -1932) D.W. Griffith (1932-51) [MR 32:211; 51:3] T.H. Evans (1951-65) [MR 65:79] D.H. Owens (1965-)
1932	The Western district office moved from Ruthin to Colwyn Bay.		
1974	Authority transferred to Clwyd County Council.		



¶ A one-pound brass weight stamped with the pre-uniform mark for District A (Wrexham), and the uniform number 497 adopted in 1890. The symbols A 6 are a date code.

B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of DENBIGHSHIRE

Denbigh was granted the status of a municipal borough in 1835. A short set of standards [943] was issued in 1846. In 1854 it was reported that Daniel Davies had been re-appointed as inspector by the Town Council. The borough police force was merged with the county force in 1858, and the standards were probably transferred to the county at that time.

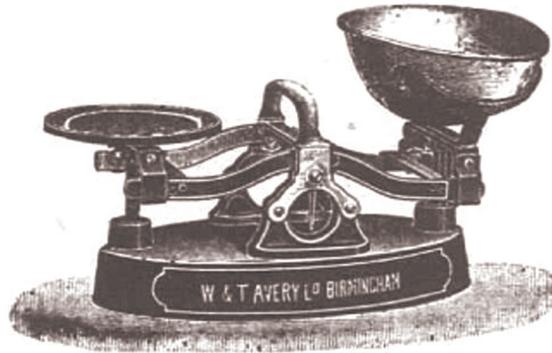
Wrexham became a municipal borough in 1857, but was content to rely on the county authorities for regulation of its weights and measures.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING. DENBIGH, NOV. 9TH. —
There was a full attendance of the Council, and the late Mayor, Richd. Owen, Esq. was re-elected, being nominated by J. Parry Jones, Esq. and seconded by Jno. Hughes, Esq. The re-appointment gave general satisfaction, and after this business, was disposed of, the following were again fixed upon, viz.:—Mr. Hugh Hughes, market inspector and collector; Mr. Daniel Davies, inspector of weights and measures; Richard Roberts, sergeant-at-mace and Mayor's porter; John Jones, town crier, and to have a person to assist him; Mr. John G. Williams was also appointed again to look after and regulate the Town-hall clock. The general annual business and accounts were entered into and arranged.

¶ Extract from the *Wrexham and Denbigh Advertiser*, 18 November 1854, including the re-appointment of Daniel Davies as inspector of weights and measures for the borough of Denbigh.

C: The trade in Denbighshire

WREXHAM	
Hughes	<p>John Parry Hughes, whitesmith and bellhanger, was the inspector for the entire county c.1839-1858, and throughout that time he would have supplied and adjusted weights and measures. After the police took over as inspectors in 1859, he stated specifically that he would continue to adjust weights [<i>Wrexham Advertiser</i>, 2 July 1859].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hill <1835-59>
Dolbey	<p>J. Dolbey, furnishing ironmonger and tinplate worker, advertised for sale a 'large quantity of household ironmongery' including scales and weights, in the same issue of the <i>Wrexham Advertiser</i> as John Parry Hughes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope Street <1859>.
Avery	<p>Opened new branch in 1900 [<i>Wrexham Advertiser</i> 21 July 1900, ad.].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Pen-y-Bryn <1900> • 19a Abbot Street <1908-1918> • Pentrefelin <1965>
Franklin	<p style="text-align: center;">FRANKLIN & Co. WREXHAM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seen on a brass weight</i></p> <p>Branch of Franklin Bros., the Liverpool firm, first noted 1913 [KMT].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Yorke Street <1913-49>
ASCO	<p>This firm had a branch in Wrexham in 1951, according to one of their sales catalogues.</p>
COLWYN BAY	
ASCO	<p>This firm had a branch in Colwyn Bay in 1951, according to one of their sales catalogues.</p>
Avery	<p>At 19 Conway Road in 1965.</p>



W. & T. AVERY, Ltd.,

Have Opened NEW BRANCHES at
16, PEN-Y-BRYN, WREXHAM,

AND

**125, FOREGATE STREET,
CHESTER.**

**GROGERS', BUTCHERS', & CONFECTIONERS'
OUTFITTERS.**

REPAIRS EXECUTED.

CONTRACTORS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ALL KINDS
OF SCALES AND MACHINES. 1887a

¶ Announcement in the *Wrexham Advertiser*, 4 August 1900. Avery's opened many new branches around this time, sometimes taking over existing firms, and sometimes in competition with them.

References for Denbighshire

Published works

Directories

- P. Pigot's Directory of ... North Wales [N62] 1835.
E. Eyre's Wales Register and Guide. [ST1693] 1878.
W. Wrexham Directory. [ST1717] 1886.
KMT. Kelly's [Mechanical Trades] Directory [ST2008] 1913 onwards..

Newspapers

Wrexham Advertiser

- 18 November 1854. Daniel Davies appointed IWM for Denbigh borough.
2 July 1859. Advertisements for John Parry Hughes and J. Dolbey.
23 June 1892. Discussion of future arrangements for inspection in the county.
5 August 1893. Appointment of two new inspectors, censure of Inspector Griffiths.
21 July 1900. Announcement that Avery's have opened new branches in Wrexham and Chester.

North Wales Chronicle.

- 14 May 1850, p.3. John Parry Hughes, inspector, prosecutes 36 tradesmen in Abergele for using defective weights.
8 March 1890, p.7. Lengthy report of a discussion regarding the impact of the 1889 Act on local inspection.

Original documents

Denbighshire Record Office, Ruthin.

QSD: Quarter Sessions Records, including:

- QSD/AW/2: Appeal by John Lewis, examiner, for a fixed salary, c.1815..
QSD/AW/3: Table of fees for adjusting, 1826.
QSD/AW/4,5: Indenture etc. re standards, 1826.
QSD/AW/6: Schedule of fees, c.1836.
QSD/AW/8: Schedule of fees received in Llanrwst division, 1867-91.