

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE





Huntingdonshire is a small rural county lying between the Midlands and East Anglia. It is bordered to the south by Bedfordshire, to the west and north by Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough, and to the east by Cambridgeshire.

The ancient Borough of Huntingdon had separate jurisdiction for weights and measures for a while, but handed over responsibility when the county police force was established in 1857. There is little evidence of trade in scales and weights, possibly because many shopkeepers got their supplies from towns outside the county, such as Cambridge and Peterborough.

In 1965 the county was amalgamated with the Soke of Peterborough, and in 1974 both areas became part of an enlarged County of Cambridgeshire.

## A: Inspection by the county of HUNTINGDONSHIRE


Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1826	One set of standards issued for the County [357], and one for the hundred of Hurstingstone to Thomas Cole [126].		There were four hundreds: Leightonstone, Hurstingstone, Toseland, Norman Cross.
1834	Thomas Cole appointed inspector for the whole county.	 <b>WIV</b> <b>H-SH</b>	H-SH is an abbreviation for Huntingdonshire.
1853	Inspection transferred to the superintendent constables. Two more sets of standards issued for Toseland [1105] and Norman Cross [1104].		<p><b><i>Superintendent constables as inspectors 1853-1857</i></b></p> <p>(Thomas Cole may have continued in some capacity.)</p> <p><i>Leightonstone</i></p>
1857	Police force set up.		Thomas Simmonds (1854-5-)
1858	Another full set of standards issued [1222].	 <b>C H</b>	<p><i>Hurstingstone</i></p> <p>William Benson (-1854-)</p> <p><i>Toseland</i></p>
1867	Four superintendents of police acted as WM inspectors.		<p>Robert Hornsby (-1853-)</p> <p>Thomas Storey (-1854-55-)</p> <p><i>Norman Cross</i></p>
1879	No. 266 issued for the county.		William Preston (1853-57)
<p><b>Police officers as inspectors 1857-1907</b></p> <p>The police divisions from 1857 were based on the four hundreds, plus a 'Ramsey district', which probably did not have separate authority for inspection of WM.</p> <p>The officers marked* were listed as inspectors, but may not have had legal status, since they were not in post before 1890.</p>			
<p><i>Leightonstone (Huntingdon):</i>            John Marson (-1868-96)            John Copping (&amp;1896-1903-)</p> <p><i>Toseland (St Neots):</i>            John Copping (-1869-96&amp;)            *William Freestone (1898-1901-)            *James Griffin (-1903-)</p>		<p><i>Hurstingstone (St Ives) :</i>            Alexander Brown (-1869-),            T. Spencer (-1873-)            John Steward (-1881-85-)            Benjamin Hibbins (-1892-96-)</p>	<p><i>Norman Cross:</i>            Alfred Baker (-1868-)            R.G.Baker (-1873-)            William Allen (-1881-1903-)            who also covered Hurstingstone from c1897 onwards,</p>




¶ A brass weight stamped with the mark of the county used after 1835, probably until 1857 when the police force took over the duties of inspection. Also visible is the uniform stamp VR 266 used from 1880 until 1901.

¶ A brass weight stamped with the mark used by the police superintendents from 1857 until 1879.



1889	Huntingdonshire CC set up		<i>Qualified inspectors:</i>
1896	Four divisions as in 1867; four police superintendents acting as inspectors, under a chief inspector. There is no record of a qualified inspector until 1907.		J.A. Purser (q1907-1934) W. Avison (1935-1940) [MR 43: 123] A.E. James (c1943-55) S.R. Hargreaves (1955-59) [MR 55:83] J. Derbyshire (1959-60) [MR 60: 3] R.E. Kilsby (1960- ) [MR 60:35] After 1962 Kilsby continued as chief inspector for the joint authority.
1962	Huntingdonshire took over WM duties for the Soke of Peterborough [MR 62:191].		
1965	Huntingdonshire and the Soke of Peterborough united.		
1974	Hunts becomes part of the new Cambridgeshire CC.		

## B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Huntingdon</b>	AncBo MB:1835 ncp		222	s:1826, r:1834

Huntingdon is contiguous with **Godmanchester**, which was also established as a municipal borough in 1835. There are no records of Godmanchester as a separate Weights and Measures Authority, and the two places may have operated jointly. Neither borough was granted a commission of the peace in 1835.

The inspector appointed in 1835 was Charles Raikes Maile whose family held various posts for the Corporation of Huntingdon. In the Borough Records for 1837 and 1840 there are receipts for payment of salary to Daniel Maile, and in 1856 to Elizabeth Maile, in respect of duties as inspector of weights and measures. But in a directory of 1854 [H] Charles Raikes Maile himself was still listed as inspector.

After the county police force was formally established in 1857 it appears that the superintendent of the Leightonstone division acted as the inspector for the borough, and John Marson received the borough standards after reverification in 1873 [Sbk]. A separate number was issued for the borough in 1879, but it ceased to be a WMA in 1889 because the population was less than 10,000.

**St Ives** is an important Market Town in the hundred of Hurstingstone. This may be the reason why the hundred obtained separate standards in 1826. Thomas Cole, the inspector appointed for the whole county in 1835 was based in St Ives. Subsequently the superintendent constable of the Hurstingstone division was the IWM.

St Ives became a Municipal Borough in 1874, but was not a Weights and Measures Authority.

¶ A brass weight, probably made in Birmingham, stamped with mark of the Borough of Huntingdon. It is likely that the date 1835 remained unchanged throughout the period when the borough carried out inspection on its own behalf.



## C: The trade in Huntingdonshire

HUNTINGDON	
Wadsley	WADSLEY CORPORATION OF HUNTINGDON <i>Seen on a 4lb iron bar weight</i>
	George Edward Wadsley, general ironmonger, is recorded as taking an apprentice in 1882 [2892/HQA/27]. He died in 1887 at the age of 36 [1131/17], which may explain why few other records of him exist.

¶ A 4lb iron bar weight cast with the name Wadsley and, on the side, Corporation of Huntingdon. The weight may have been used as a 'local standard', although iron weights were not officially approved for this purpose.



## References for Huntingdonshire

### *Published works*

#### *Directories*

- H. Hatfield's ... Directory of the County of Huntingdon. [ST 597] 1854.
- K. Kelly's (Post Office) Directory of ... Huntingdonshire ... . [ST 598] 1854-1940.
- C. Craven & Co.'s Commercial Directory of the County of Huntingdon ... . [ST 599] 1855.
- Ca. Cassey's Directory of ... Huntingdonshire... . [ST 41] 1863.
- Ha. Harrod's Directory of ... Huntingdonshire ... . [ST 55] 1876.
- E. Eastern Counties of England Trades Directory [ST 79] 1902-1937.

### *Original Documents*

#### *Cambridgeshire Record Office, Huntingdon.*

#### Huntingdonshire Quarter Sessions Records:

- HCP/20/part (1836) Bond of Thomas Cole as IWM.
- HCP/31/part (1849) Complaint re appointment of IWM for Toseland and Hurstingstone.
- HCP/36/1 (1853) Appointment of a superintendent constable.
- HCP/36/2 (1853) Appointment of two inspectors of weights and measures.
- HCP/40/2 (1857) Applications for gratuities from the dismissed superintendent constables.
- HCP/40/3 (1857) Appointments of inspectors of weights and measures.

? (1850) Prosecutions under Weights and Measures Act (Charles Jacob, inspector).

#### Huntingdon Borough Records:

- H/9/59 (1857) Salary of £2 for inspector.
- H/11/17, H/11/19 (1837, 1839) Salary for Daniel Maile as IWM.
- H/11/41 (1856-7) Salary for Elizabeth Maile as IWM.

2892/HQA/27 (1882) Indenture for an apprentice to George Edward Wadsley of Huntingdon, general ironmonger.

1131/17 (1887) In Memoriam card for George Edward Wadsley.