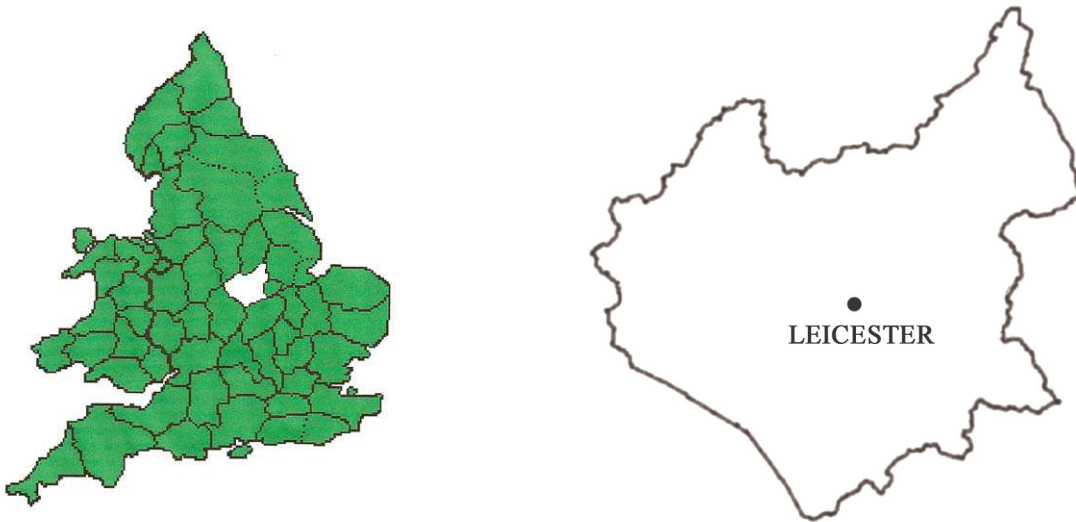


LEICESTERSHIRE






Leicestershire is medium-sized county in the centre of England. It is bordered to the north by Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, to the east by Lincolnshire and Rutland, to the south by Northamptonshire, and to the west by Warwickshire.

The county is dominated by the Borough of Leicester, where weights and measures have been controlled by local officials since the middle ages [1]. The county appointed five inspectors in 1834, but the number soon dwindled to one, Samuel Hester, who remained in office until the police took over in 1857/8.

The trade too was concentrated in Leicester. James Caparn, a brazier, was working at the Weights and Measures Office around 1820, and numerous local tradesmen were involved in the trade in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. . Some simply adjusted weights and repaired scales, but others, such as Marshall and Son, and Whitehead and Honey, became specialists.

A: Inspection by the County of LEICESTERSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1815	Examiners were appointed for the six hundreds.		
1826	One set of standards [316] issued.		Samuel Hester of Leicester was listed as a county inspector in 1827 [LD].
1834	<p>Five inspectors, formerly examiners, appointed for the six hundreds, but no more standards obtained.</p> <p>It is probable that only Samuel Hester remained in office after c1836.</p>		<p>Inspectors 1834: <i>Sparkenhoe:</i> Samuel Hester <i>Framland and Guthlaxton:</i> John Billings <i>West Goscote:</i> John Henson <i>East Goscote:</i> Thomas Penn <i>Gartree:</i> John Sanderson</p>
1840	Police force set up, but not used for WM duties		In 1835 [P] William Jolly was said to be the adjuster for the county, and in 1847 [S] he was the 'standard keeper'. Samuel Hester was the only inspector mentioned in 1854 [M] and 1855 [K].
1857	Police take over inspection. 4 sets of standards [1204-7] obtained, and 3 more 1858-60 [1230-1, 1292].. There were 7 police districts.		The peacock is part of the arms of the Dukes of Rutland. The 5 th Duke was Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 1799-1857. The mark shown has been recorded with numbers up to 5, and a simplified version has been seen with No.7, which may have been used initially by the police.
1880	New district of Belvoir set up.		
1881	<p>Nos. 400-407 issued, probably allocated as follows.</p> <p>400 Leicester 401 Ashby-de-la-Zouch 402 Loughborough 403 Lutterworth 404 Melton Mowbray 405 Market Bosworth 406 Market Harborough 407 Belvoir.</p>		



¶ Two brass weights verified by the county of Leicestershire. The one on the left has the peacock mark and the district number (4 = Lutterworth?) . The one on the right was probably stamped by a police officer acting as the inspector of weights and measures.

Police officers as inspectors c.1857-1900

1. Leicester 400

Thomas Burdett (-1861-70-)
 John Moore (1875-81-)
 Thomas Peberdey (-1887-)
 James Ormiston (-1890-)
 Thos. Wainwright (-1892-)
 A qualified inspector from 1893.

2. Ashby-de-la-Zouch 401

Thomas Ward (-1861-77)
 Wm. Holloway (-1880-96)
 A qualified inspector from 1896.

3. Loughborough 402

Samuel Hague (1858-70-)
 Thos. Peberdey (-1875-81-)
 Thomas Smith (-1887-1901)
 A qualified inspector from 1902

4. Lutterworth 403

John Deakins (-1860-67-)
 Thos. Rowlett (-1872-81-)
 James Brewitt (-1887-96-)
 Combined with Leicester c1906.

5. Melton Mowbray 404

(and Belvoir up to c.1880)
 John Platts (-1860-75)
 Wm. Goodman (1876-81-)
 James Holloway (-1887-90-)
 Thomas Bott (-1892-96-)

6. Market Bosworth (Hinckley) 405


John Moore (-1861-75)
 William Holloway (1875-)
 John Chapman (-1877-90)
 A qualified inspector from 1891.

7. Market Harborough 406


John Iliffe (-1861-70-)
 Jas. Holloway (-1874-81-)
 Thomas Bott (-1887-91)
 A qualified inspector from 1892.

Belvoir (separate inspector c1880-90 only) 407

James Brewitt (-1880-81-)
 William Allen (-1887-90)
 Re-united with Melton Mowbray.

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1889	Leicestershire CC formed; inspection remains with police. Qualified inspectors were appointed gradually. Numbers allocated to inspectors, not districts.		Qualified inspectors: <i>Leicester</i> George Leach (q1892/3-98) Levi Bowley 400 (1898-1928-) F.W. Myers 404 (q1906-34-) <i>Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Coalville)</i> J.J.C. Minns (1896--99) A.H. Percival 401 (1902-32-) J. Jeffery 405 (-1939-) B.F. Sleigh 405 (-1950-)
1896	Four qualified inspectors, and four unqualified.		<i>Loughborough</i> A. Bissill 403 (q1902-12-) J.W. Mee 405/7 (-1916-25-) F.G. Smith 406 (-1922-) W. Appleby 403 (1932-39-) P.G.Dewhurst 403 (-1950-)
1912	Five district offices: Leicester 400, 404 Coalville 401 Loughborough 403 Melton Mowbray 405, 407 Hinckley 406		<i>Melton Mowbray</i> J.W. Mee 405/7 (q1909-12-) A. Bissill 403 (-1916-28-; also Rutland 1924-50) [MR50:136]
1916	Same offices, but inspectors switched.		<i>Market Bosworth (Hinckley)</i> J. Grainger (q1890/1-96-) F.G. Smith 406 (q1899/00-16-) W.Winter 404 (-1935-56-)
1922	Four district offices: Leicester 400, 404 Coalville 401 Loughborough 405, 406, 407 Melton Mowbray 403		<i>Market Harborough</i> J.J.C. Minns (q1891/2-96) Levi Bowley (1896-98) George Leach (1898-1911) [MR 11:91]
1932	First chief inspector appointed.	 63 EIR 404	Chief inspectors: G.G. Powell 400 (1932-56) [MR 56:164] F.W. Arnold (1956-72-) [MR 56:132]
1950	Inspection transferred from police to new WM Department. Nos. 400, 401, 403, 404, 405 in use [MR 50:87].		
1974	Authority for Leicester and Rutland County transferred to new Leicestershire CC.		

B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of LEICESTERSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Leicester	AncBo MB:1835 CB:1888 qsb		110	s:1826,1858, 1876 n:1879-1974

The mark is a flower with five petals (also known as a cinquefoil) which is part of the ancient arms of the city.

The ancient borough of Leicester was already supervising local weights and measures in medieval times [1]. An Act of 1815 extended the right of appointing examiners to boroughs, and by 1818 [P] there was a Weights and Measures Office in the Market Place. The examiner was James Caparn, a brazier and tinman (see also the Trade section).

In 1826 standards [173] were issued for the use of the inspector, John Brooks. He was also appointed as inspector under the Act of 1834, although in 1835 [P] the ‘adjuster’ for the borough was Jonathan Mallett. By 1843 [C] William Baines was listed as the IWM; and he continued, to serve at least until 1867 [B]. Thomas Woollerton, a gas fitter, was IWM by 1870 [H]. He received a new set of standards [1608] in 1876, and. was mentioned in directories up to 1891 [K], and in 1892 [AR].

Tom Harry Woollerton, son of Thomas, qualified in 1890/1, and was the only inspector in 1896 [AR]. But by 1898 he was replaced [MR 98:46] by J.J.C. Minns, who was listed in 1899 [W2]. Minns had qualified in 1891/2 and had served as a county inspector. He was still in post in 1928 [Hbk]. His successor as chief inspector was J.A. Arnold (q1905/6 in Reigate) who had been in Leicester since about 1908. Subsequently the chief inspectors were W. Gray (1940-69) [MR 69:250] and F.V. Hammond (1969-74) [MR 69:163].

¶ A 2oz brass weight with the cinquefoil mark of the Borough of Leicester, c1850-1880.



C: The trade in Leicestershire

LEICESTER	
Caparn	CAPARN LEICESTER <i>Seen on bronze weights</i>
	James Caparn, brazier and tinsmith [1794 LD]. In 1818 [P] his address is listed as the 'Weights and Measures Office'. Caparn died in 1820 and the business was carried by his widow Ann in partnership with James Shardlow [1822 P], at the same address. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market Place <1818-1822>. It is likely that Caparn was an official inspector for the borough, as well as a maker/retailer. The Caparn and Shardlow partnership was dissolved in 1832.
Wilson	WILSON & CO <i>On 4lb iron block weight with Leicester mark.</i>
	Possibly Richard Wilson & Co., iron and brass founders, and engineers. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charles Street [1835 P].



¶ A one-pound bronze weight with the mark of James Caparn, and a form of the cinquefoil mark for the Borough of Leicester.

<p>Marshall</p>	<p>George Marshall, furniture broker and scale maker [1847 S]; succeeded by G. Marshall & Son [1867 B advt]; succeeded by William H. Marshall [1891 K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 Church Gate <1847-1898. <p>Acquired by Avery in 1898, but the name Marshall was used for some years afterwards.</p> <p>George H. Marshall, scale maker [1899 W2].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 Evington St <1899-1903>
<p>Fox</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">R.E. FOX LEICESTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>On a 1lb iron weight</i></p> <p>Robert E. Fox, apprenticed. to an ironmonger [1881 Census], scale maker [1900 W2].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 114 Belgrave Gate <1900>.



G. MARSHALL & SON,
MAKERS AND ADJUSTERS
**SCALES, WEIGHTS, WEIGHING MACHINES, PATENT
STEELYARDS, MEASURES, &C.,
AND GENERAL MECHANICS,
41, Church Gate, Leicester.**
Repairs of every description warranted.
SCALES AND WEIGHTS TRIED FREE OF CHARGE.
N.B. DEALER IN GROCERS' FIXINGS.

¶ A 2oz iron weight with the name of Marshall, and an advertisement for the firm which appeared in Buchanan's Directory of 1867.

<p>Avery</p>	<p>Acquired firm and premises of George Marshall 1898.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 Church Gate 1898- 1901> • 58 Halford St <1903> • 48/50 Rutland St <1908-1926>. • 95 Belgrave Gate <1965>. <p>The second address was occupied by Deacon in 1909.</p>
<p>Johnson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T.E. JOHNSON LEICESTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>On brass weights</i></p> <p>Thomas Edgar Johnson, scale maker [1912 K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Charles Street <1912-1914> • 11 Charles Street <1915>.
<p>Webb</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W & S</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>On a 4oz brass weight with Leicester mark</i></p> <p>F. Webb & Son, ironmongers etc [1887 W2 advt], scale makers [1899 W2] [1904 KN advt]..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 High Street <1887-1899> • 15 Cank Street <1903-1916>
<p>Whitehead and Honey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WHITEHEAD & HONEY LEICESTER</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">WHITEHEAD & HONEY LEICESTER</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">W & H LEICESTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>On brass and iron weights</i></p> <p>Thomas O. Whitehead. and Frederick W. Honey (b<1873> in Torquay; in Bristol [1901 Census]), proprietors of Whitehead & Honey, scale makers [1908 K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Yeoman Street <1908> • 138 Belgrave Gate <1908-1926>. <p>In January 1907 the firm's suggested improvement for counter scales was the subject of BoT notice 44. They seem to have moved to Bristol c1926, when the second address was taken over by the Leicester Scale Company.</p>

Coleman	G.T. Coleman, scale maker [1899 W2], <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Cheapside <1899-1909>.
Deacon	Thomas Deacon, scale maker [1903 W2]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22½ Silver St: <1903> • 2 Upper Charles St [1910 Hbk] • 58 Halford St <1909-1914> <p>The third address was formerly occupied by Avery, who acquired the firm c1916, after which the premises were occupied by Pooley (then owned by Avery).</p>
Burford	James Burford, scale maker. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 207 Tudor Road [1909 W2] • 231 Tudor Road [1911 W2] • 145 Tudor Road [1914 W2]
Nixon	Arthur Nixon, repairer [1909,1911 W2] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Colton St.
Morgan	H. Morgan, repairer [1916 K advt] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 High Cross St. <1910-1916>.

H. MORGAN (Late LEWIS & CO.),
*Lock and Key Manufacturer, Ironmonger,
Bell Hanger, Gas Fitter, Whitesmith, &c.*
21, High Cross Street, LEICESTER.

*BELLS REPAIRED or FIXED, ELECTRIC or CRANK.
Scales, Weights or Weighing Machines Adjusted or Repaired.*
REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS NEATLY EXECUTED.

¶ Advertisement for H. Morgan, repairers of scales and adjusters of weights, from Kelly's Directory for 1916.

<p>Leicester Scale Co.</p> <p>Weighmaster</p>	<p>Successors of Whitehead and Honey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 138 Belgrave Gate <1926-1961> <p>The firm used the trade name Weighmaster, and at some point a company with this name was formed. The Leicester Scale Company was owned by Avery in 1973.</p>
<p>Jackson</p>	<p>W & T Jackson, brass founders [1885 W2]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23½ Harding Street <1885-1938> • Friday Street <1951-1969> • Pasture Lane <1971> <p>The firm made egg poises and standard measures in the 1960s The foundry closed in 1992 and their records are available. [DE 4166].</p>



¶ A set of egg-grading poises made by W&T. Jackson. There are four grades A,B,C,D, and for each grade there are two poises marked A =Accept and R = Reject.

References for Leicestershire

Published works

1. *Records of the Borough of Leicester*. Five volumes, published 1899-1965. They contain many references to the regulation of weights and measures, going back to the medieval period. For example, examination of weights and measures before the Mayor in 1443 (Vol 2, p.254).

Directories

Leicestershire Directories are particularly well represented on the Historical Directories website at the University of Leicester. Not all of those available are listed here.

- LD. The Leicester Directory. [N544-6] 1794, 1815, 1827.
- P. Pigot's Commercial Directory. [N31, 35, 47, 56, 62, 70] 1818, 1822, 1828, 1831, 1835, 1841.
- C. Cook's Guide to Leicester. [N547] 1843.
- W. White's Directory of ... Leicestershire [N541] 1846.
- S. Slater's Directory of Important English Towns. [N82] 1847.
- M. Melville's Directory of ... Leicestershire [N543, ST824] 1854.
- K. Kelly's Post Office Directory of ... Leicestershire [N126, ST 9] 1855-1941.
- W1. Wright's Midland Directory. [ST 828] 1864.
- W2. Wright's Directory of Leicester [ST830, 831] 1880-1914.
- B. Buchanan's Directory of Leicester [ST-] 1867.
- H. Harrod's Directory of ... Leicestershire [ST129] 1870.
- KN. Kelly's Post Office Directory of Nottinghamshire. [ST1124] 1904.

Newspapers

Leicester Mercury 22 September 1992. Articles on the closure of Jackson's Foundry.

Original documents

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Record Office

County

- QS4/*: Quarter Sessions Bundles 1854-83. References to appointments of inspectors.
- QS6/2/*: Quarter Sessions Order Books 1809-92. References to appointments of inspectors,
- QS31/1/4: Report on scale of allowances to inspectors, 1831.

Leicester

- 31D71/DE4384/336,337: Minutes of the Borough Court of Quarter Sessions, 1836-47, 1876-88.
- DE 4166: Records of W&T Jackson & Co. Ltd 1899-1978.