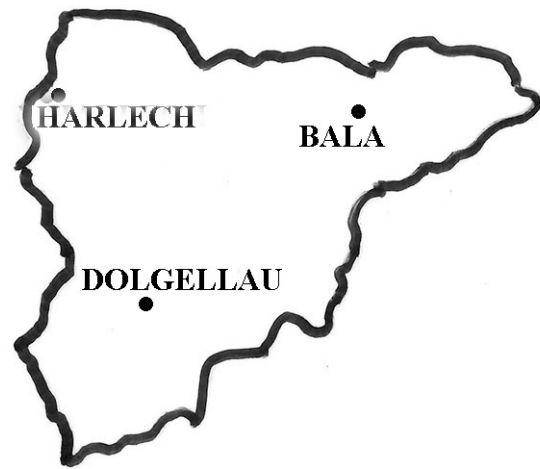
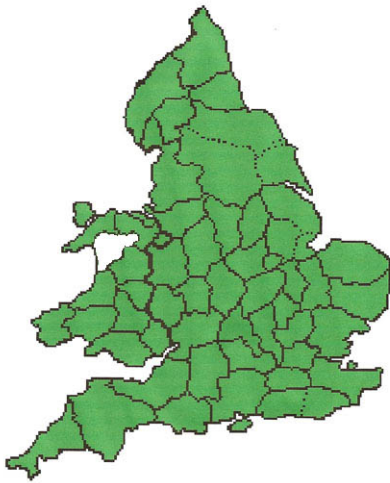






## MERIONETHSHIRE



Merionethshire lies in north-west Wales. It is bounded to the west by the Irish Sea, to the north by Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire, and to the east and south by Montgomeryshire and Cardiganshire. The county was almost entirely devoted to agriculture, and there was very little industry.

The inspection of weights and measures is noteworthy for the length of service of its official inspectors. Robert Jones, a stationer from Dolgellau, was appointed in 1825 and continued until 1857, when he was replaced by Owen Hughes, a superintendent in the police force. In 1891 a qualified inspector, Edward Evans took over, and served until 1938 when he was succeeded by R.T. Edwards. These four men thus covered the 150 years from the adoption of the imperial standards in 1825 to the reform of local government in 1974.

## A: Inspection by the County of MERIONETHSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1825	One set of standards [49] issued.		Richard Jones appointed IWM in Dolgellau [QS].
1835	Another set of standards [691] issued; one inspector for the whole county.		<b><i>Inspectors 1835-57</i></b> Richard Jones was the sole inspector appointed in 1835, and was listed in 1844 [D].
1855	A short set of standards [1133] sent to Richard Jones, inspector [SBk].		At some point a second inspector was appointed. In 1852 Richard Jones applied for the post of IWM for the hundred of Ardudwy, and I.B. Jones was recorded as the inspector at Bala in 1853 [QS].
1857	Police take over inspection. Superintendent acts as IWM for the whole county, based in Bala.		<b><i>Inspectors 1857-1890</i></b> Owen Hughes, Superintendent of Police, was listed as IWM in 1868 and 1883 [S]. In 1869 it was reported that he had held office for ten years [C: 9/1/69].
1880	Another set of standards [1676] issued.		The C.M marks are also seen without the surrounding circle. Date letters up to L occur.
1881	No.383 issued.		
1891	Qualified inspector appointed, based in Towyn.		<b><i>Qualified inspectors</i></b> Edward Evans (q1891-1937) [MR 38:3] R.T. Edwards (1938-74) formerly of Denbighshire [MR 74:51]
1938	Office moved to Dolgellau. [MR 38:3]		
1974	Merionethshire divided between the new county councils of Clwyd and Gwynedd.		



¶ Detail of a brass weight showing two versions of the C.M mark used in Merionethshire. The OSY mark shows that the weight was also stamped in Oswestry, and the letters WV are the initials of William Vaughan, who was the inspector there in the 1860s.

¶ Another C.M mark, this one with a circular frame.



¶ Two versions of the uniform mark with the number 383. The significance of the letters X M flanking VR is not known.

## **B: Localities with separate WM jurisdiction in the county of MERIONETHSHIRE**

**Bala, Dolgellau, and Harlech** were market towns, and Bala was classed as an unreformed borough in 1835, but disqualified in 1883. It is possible that **Bala** and **Dinas Mawddwy** had pre-Imperial standards, but there is no evidence of WM activity after 1826.

## **C: The trade in Merionethshire**

No evidence of a specialised trade in scales and weights has been found. The frequent occurrence of the Oswestry mark on Merionethshire weights suggests that the many shopkeepers and farmers obtained their scales and weights from that place.

## **References for Merionethshire**

### ***Published works***

#### *Directories*

D. *Directory of ... N. & S. Wales ...* [N78] 1844

S. *Slater's Royal National Commercial Directory of ... North Wales ...* [ST 48, 62] 1868, 1883.

#### *Newspapers*

A. *Aberystwyth Times Cardiganshire Chronicle and Merionethshire News.*

C. *Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard.*

### ***Original sources***

*Gwynedd Archives, Meirionnydd Record Office (Dolgellau)*

QS. Meirionnydd Quarter Sessions Records

ZQS/M/1825, 1826; correspondence about the new imperial standards.

ZQS/H/1826/25: appointment of Richard Jones as IWM in Dolgellau.

ZQS/T/1827- : records of many convictions for WM offences.

ZQS/ M/1834-1836: appointment of Richard Jones as sole inspector for the county.

ZQS/M/1852-53: some further appointments.

ZQS/M/1870-73: many references to the activities of Owen Hughes as IWM. .