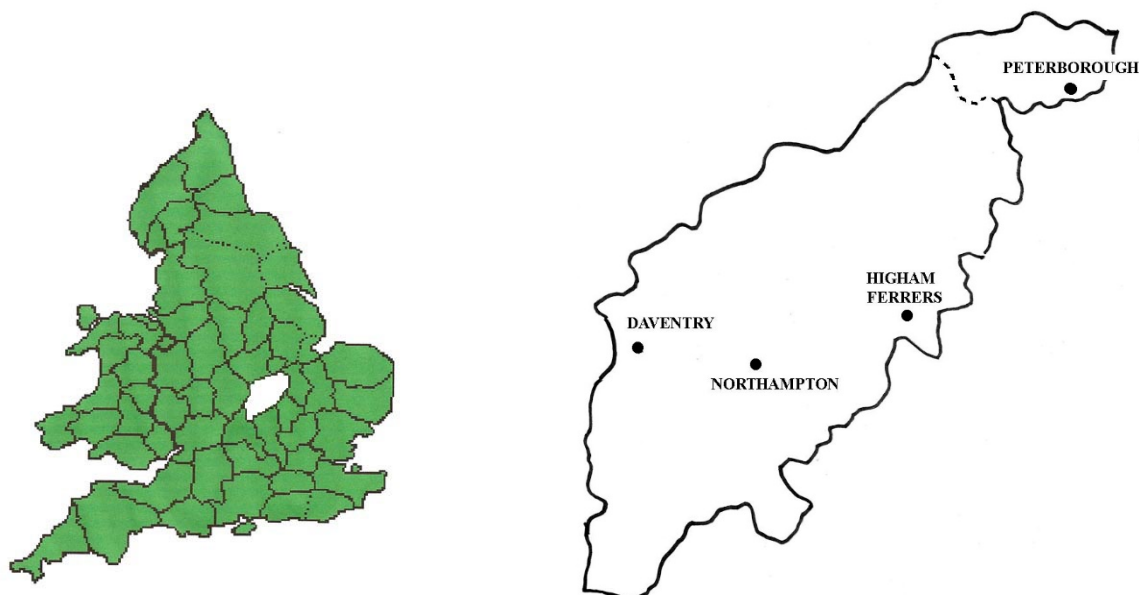


NORTHAMPTONSHIRE and the SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH







Northamptonshire is one of the central counties of England. To the north and west are the Midland counties, to the east the counties of East Anglia, and to the south the ‘home’ counties that surround London. In fact nine counties in all have a common border with Northamptonshire, and for these reasons it is hard to place it in a regional context.

The administrative structure is complicated by the existence of the ‘Soke’ of Peterborough, the area to the east of the dotted line on the map. The Soke was traditionally governed separately from the rest of the county, although geographically it was regarded as a hundred in Northamptonshire. The city of Peterborough itself was an ancient borough, and in 1874 it took over from the Soke as the local authority for several purposes, including weights and measures. There were three other ancient boroughs, Daventry, Higham Ferrers and Northampton, of which only the last remained as a weights and measures authority after 1889.

From the 1820s onwards there were several foundries in Northampton, and the name of John Brettell has been seen stamped on weights from the William IV period. There was also a specialist scalemaker, William Stanley, in Peterborough.

The anomalous status of Peterborough was resolved in the 1960s and 1970s, when the Soke was first united with Huntingdonshire, and then absorbed into the enlarged county of Cambridgeshire. Nevertheless, the records of Peterborough are retained in the Northamptonshire Record Office.

A1: Inspection by the County of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1826	1 set of standards [348] issued.		
1834	3 inspectors appointed, 3 sets of standards [532,535,551] issued.		<p>In 1834 there were seven petty sessional divisions, and three inspectors were assigned, as follows.</p> <p><i>Inspectors 1834</i> <i>Brackley, Daventry</i> James Bartlett <i>Northampton, Towcester</i> Thomas Sanders <i>Kettering, Oundle, and</i> <i>Wellingborough</i> John Keen 1835: Joseph Caulcutt was appointed for <i>Wellingborough</i>. [NM 23/11/35].</p> <p>The same inspectors probably served until 1840.</p> <p>After the police took over the districts were numbered (see list on p.3):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brackley 2. Daventry 3. Towcester 4. Northampton 5. Wellingborough 6. Kettering 7. Oundle.
1835	Another set [797] issued.		
1840	Police force set up; seven divisions, superintendents acted as WM inspectors.		
1844	One set of standards [926] issued.		
1848	Two more sets of standards [1001-1002] issued for use in Brackley and Kettering divisions.		
1860	Two more police divisions added, but WM districts unaltered?		
1879	Seven numbers issued: 149-155; probably 149 to No.1 district and so on. By this time the WM inspectors were not always the superintendents of police.		



Police officers as inspectors 1840-1889

Initially the police superintendents acted as inspectors of WM, but later the role was given to an officer with the rank of police inspector. Confusingly, some of these inspectors later became superintendents, and may (or may not) have continued as inspectors of WM.



<p>1. Brackley Thos. Johnson (1842-) Geo. Dewdney (-1847-48-) J. Symington (-1849-) William Crisp (-1854-) John Baillie (-1864-) Charles Botterill(-1869-77-) Samuel Sanford (-1885-) Daniel Norman (-1889)</p> <p>2. Daventry (=Weedon) William Stock (1842-) Alex Mackey (-1847-) Samuel Sanson (-1861-63-) John Bailie (-1876-) Charles Botterill (-1889)</p> <p>3. Towcester John Grant (1842-) Robert Kirby (-1847-) George Nowers (-1849-) James Hurst (-1869-) George Wallis (-1877-) Daniel Norman (-1876-89)</p>	<p>4. Northampton Charles Young (1842-49-) Geo. Williamson (-1876-81-) John Alexander (-1889)</p> <p>5. Wellingborough Luke Knight (1842-49-) Lewis Poole (-1876-77-) John B. Martin (c1876-85), John Bailie (1885-89)</p> <p>6. Kettering (and Little Bowden*) William Thomas (1842-49-) William Stokes (-1876-) Charles Botterill (-1881-) Robert Hensher (-1889)</p>	<p>7. Oundle(and Thrapston*) Jas. Ambridge (1842-54) J.F. Noble (-1864-) Geo. Williamson (-1869-) Joseph Evans (-1874-) Robert Kitchen (-1876-79-)</p> <p><i>*The Little Bowden and Thrapston police divisions were formed in 1860, but did not have separate WM inspectors.</i></p>
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¶ On the left, a weight with several Northamptonshire marks: the crowned NC, the Victorian mark for District 6, and the uniform mark 153 used from 1880 onwards. On the right, the mark for District 7.

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1889 1890	<p>Northamptonshire CC formed. Two divisions set up with new numbers: Northern (Kettering) 525 Southern (Towcester) 526</p> <p>The S. division office moved to Northampton before 1914, and a chief inspector was appointed.</p>	 	<p>1889: Nos.154,155 transferred to Durham County.</p> <p><i>Qualified inspectors:</i></p> <p><i>Northern division (1890-1937)</i> S. Clowes (q1890-99) T. Mattinson (1899-1914?) A.E. Webb (q1914-24) A.E. Waller (1924-37 then chief)</p> <p><i>NW division (1937-)</i> F.H. Lightfoot (1937-) F.J. Evans (1948-62 then chief)</p> <p><i>NE division (1937-)</i> D. Thompson (1937-)</p> <p><i>Southern division (1890-)</i> T. Mattinson (q1890-99 moved to N division) F. Caulton (1899-37 also chief inspector 1914-37) E.T. Hawley (1937-)</p> <p><i>Chief inspectors:</i> F. Caulton (1914-37) [MR 37:179] A.E. Waller (1937-62) [MR 37:143; 62:129] F.J. Evans (1962-74) [MR 48:48:3; 74:110]</p>
1937	<p>N division split, offices for NW and NE divisions both in Kettering. No.636 issued. Numbers in use: NW 525 NE 636 S 526</p>		
1974	<p>Northampton CC takes over from Northampton CB</p>		



A2: Inspection by the Liberty of the Soke of PETERBOROUGH

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1826	Standards [113] issued for the 'Soke and City'.		<p>Inspectors 1834-56 William Stanley (ironmonger) and George Bristow (head constable). Stanley served only briefly because he sold weights, but Bristow served until c1856, and was listed as IWM in 1841 [P] and 1854 [K].</p>
1834	Two inspectors appointed.		
1857	Official police force set up.		
1866	The Head Constable was inspector for the Soke and City.		
1874	The City became a MB, set up its own police force, and took over WM in the Soke.		<p>Inspectors 1857-1889: Henry Bayly (HC 1857-76, said to be IWM in 1866)</p> <p>William Brooke, police supt., listed as IWM in 1869 [K].</p> <p>James Hurst, police supt, listed as IWM in 1874 [W], then acted for the City only.</p> <p>Joseph Scotney [1876 H].</p> <p>Christopher Blackman, insp. of police [1890 K] inspector of WM 1892 [AR]. He was not qualified but continued until 1925.</p> <p>Qualified inspectors: J.J. Cole (q1913 in Ireland, 1925-1962) [MR 62:191]</p>
1879	Number 330 issued. Used with shield mark showing keys on the left, swords on the right.		
1890	The Soke becomes a separate administrative county.		
1922	Office in London Road, Peterborough; later moved to 36 Queen Street.		
1962	Joint arrangement made with Huntingdonshire. In 1965 Peterborough and Huntingdon formed a single county unit.		
1974	United with Cambridgeshire and Ely.		





¶ A brass weight stamped under the joint authority of the City and Liberty before 1874.

B1: Localities with separate jurisdiction in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Daventry	AncBo MB:1835 ncp			s:1826 [119]
<p>In 1834 William Blundell, marble mason, was appointed as the inspector [NM 27/12/1834]. Samuel Royle was listed as inspector of police and IWM in 1874 [W]. The mark shown above (without the date '35') was still in use in 1882 [AR]. In 1885 [K] Henry Sanders, a police constable, was listed as the IWM. The borough was disqualified a WMA in 1889, because its population was less than 10,000.</p>				
Higham Ferrers	AncBo Unref MB:1883		---	s:1844 [925]
<p>The mark is rare. It was listed as being still in use in 1882 [AR].</p> <p>The 1844 standards were issued to James Felce, constable, who was still in that post in 1861 [M]. No other specific records have been found, but there is a suggestion that the county police officer for Wellingborough division, John B. Martin, was appointed as IWM by the borough in the 1870s and 1880s.</p> <p>In 1889 the borough was disqualified as a WMA because its population was less than 10,000.</p>				



¶ Left: a bronze weight stamped with the 'DAVENTRY 35' mark. Right: the hand and conjoined HF marks for Higham Ferrers, stamped on a bronze 4oz weight.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Northampton	AncBo MB:1835 CB:1888			s:1826 [122] 1834 [543] 1859 [1255]
			156	
			625	156:1879-1974 625:1910-1974

The first mark has been seen on weights with other Northamptonshire marks, and is presumed to be the earliest mark of the borough. The second mark has been seen on a brass weight. It seems to represent a castle on a mound, supported by two lions rampant, which is exactly the device occurring in the arms of the borough.

In 1826 standards were issued to Samuel Wickings. In 1834 he was still in post as inspector [NM 20/12/34]. By 1849 William Stanton was the inspector [NM 5/5/49], and in 1859 standard weights were issued to him [Sbk]. He was still the inspector in 1863 [S], but by 1871 [MC] it was George Beattie. In 1876 [H] Thomas Swain was listed as IWM and 'inspector of detectives'. In 182 [AR] and 1893 [L] John W. Jones was reported to be the inspector. His address was given as the Fire Station, so he may have been the chief of the fire brigade. In 1896 [AR] and 1903 [K] Orlando J. Bates was the inspector, with an address at the police station.

Apparently the first qualified inspector was F. S. Walden, who qualified in 1908 and served as chief inspector until 1946 [MR 46: 27]. He was followed by E.C. Stratford (1946-72-).



¶ Two weights with marks for the Borough of Northampton.

B2: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the Soke of PETERBOROUGH

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Peterborough	AncBo MB:1874		486	s:1875 [1566] n:1889-1974
<p>In 1874 the City of Peterborough became a Municipal Borough, set up its own police force, and obtained standards. The inspectors were James Hurst (CC 1874-89) to whom the standards were issued, and who was listed as IWM in 1874 [W], and John W. Lawson (CC 1889-1909), listed as IWM in 1890 [K].</p> <p>The first qualified inspector was J. Watson (CC 1909-15) who had qualified in 1900/01 in Oldham. He was succeeded by W.S. Covell (q1913-57) [MR 57:251] and then Geoffrey Roberts (1957-66), who left to become chief inspector for Poole [MR 66:155].</p> <p>Subsequently the inspectors were J.W. Gowler (1966-72-) and Edward Bell.</p>				



¶ A 2 ounce brass weight stamped by both the city (ER 486) and the Soke of Peterborough (330, with the shield mark).

C: The trade in Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough

NORTHAMPTON	
Brettell	<p style="text-align: center;">I. BRETTELL IRONMONGER NORTHAMPTON</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seen on bronze trade weights</i></p>
	<p>John Brettell was an ironmonger [1823 P, 1841 P] and an ironfounder. In 1836 he was paid by the Borough for adjusting weights and providing new stamps [NM 12/11/36].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercers Row <p>Brettell established the Lion Foundry [2]. He died in 1843 and the ironmongery business was continued by his sons under the name of Bretell Brothers [NH 23/9/1843; 28/10/43]. It then became Bretell and Roberts [1854 K]. Roberts died in 1868 and the firms were bought by Henry Mobbs.</p>
Mobbs	<p style="text-align: center;">H. MOBBS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seen on a 7lb iron bar weight</i></p>
	<p>Henry Mobbs took over both the Lion Foundry and the Bretell and Roberts ironmongery business in 1868 [NM 4/6/68, 6/6/68]. The foundry produced a wide range of cast iron items, including weights. Henry Mobbs & Co. was wound up in 1929.</p>
Pooley	<p>First noted 1898 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish St [1898 K, 1903 K, 1914 K] <p>Became part of Avery in 1913 but continued under the old name.</p>
Avery	<p>First noted 1903 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 Gold Street [1903 K]. • 28 Marefair [1914 K, 1940 K] • 86 Bridge Street <1965>



¶ A one-pound bronze weight stamped with the name of John Brettell and the county marks for the William IV period,



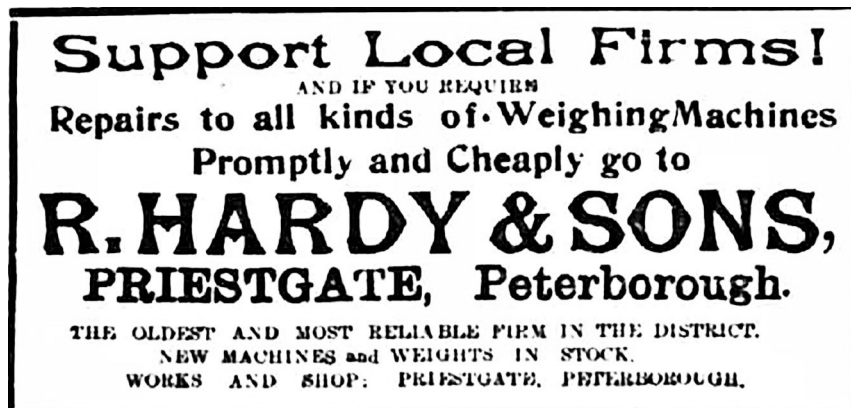
¶ A 7 lb iron bar weight made at Henry Mobbs' Lion Foundry in Northampton, c.1870-80. The copper plug has the verification mark of Holland in Lincolnshire.

PETERBOROUGH	
Stanley	STANLEY <i>Seen on a 1 lb brass weight</i>
	<p>William Proctor Stanley, ironmonger, was one of two inspectors appointed for the Soke and the City in 1834. He could not continue as inspector after 1835 because he sold scales and weights.</p> <p>In 1847 [K] he was listed as an ironmonger, but he also owned a large business selling agricultural machinery [1854 K], and was prominent in local affairs.</p>
Hardy	<p>Robert Hardy set up in business in 1840 and he was listed as an ironmonger and brazier in 1847 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow Bridge Street 1840-1847> • Priestgate <1861 [M] – 1913. <p>In 1890 [K] the firm was listed as Hardy & Sons, braziers and tinsplate workers. It was run by the founder's son Robert and his grandsons Walter and Robert. They became specialist scale repairers, and advertised regularly in the <i>Peterborough Standard</i> in the 1900s. Acquired by Avery in 1913.</p>
Avery	<p>Took over Hardy's firm 1913.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Priestgate <1914> • 4 Trinity Street [1940 K] • 417 Lincoln Road <1965>

W P. STANLEY, Furnishing Ironmonger, and Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Liberty of Peterborough, begs to inform those persons who have not had an opportunity of having their Weights and Measures compared, adjusted, and stamped, within the limits of his circuit, that they may by making application at his Shop from 9 in the morning till 5 in the evening; at which place New Weights and Measures of every description may be had, adjusted and stamped to the Imperial Standard by Act of Parliament.
Peterborough, Dec. 10, 1834.



¶ An advertisement from the *Stamford Mercury*, 12 December 1834. On the right, the name STANLEY stamped on a brass weight, also with marks for the Soke of Peterborough and Huntingdonshire.



¶ In the early 1900s Hardy & Sons regularly placed advertisements in the *Peterborough Standard*. The last one (shown above) appeared on 25 June 1913, just before the firm was taken over by W. & T. Avery.

KETTERING	
Lewis	<p>G. Lewis, established 1862. Makers of agricultural equipment, including sacklifters. [<i>The Engineer</i>, 15/12/1876, p.412.]</p> <p>G. Lewis and Son.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen Street Ironworks <p>Advertised weighing machines for sale [<i>Northants Evening Telegraph</i>, Oct-Dec. 1900], [<i>Hbks</i> 1908-1914], [<i>Who's Who in Engineering</i>, 1922].</p> <p>Advertising leaflets (1930s) at the Museum of English Rural Life [TR REE/P2/B1534-].</p>
Avery	<p>First noted 1940 [K]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Dalkeith Place <1940> • 22 Dalkeith Place <1965> •



¶ An advertisement for weighing machines made by G. Lewis & Son, *Northants Evening Telegraph*, 24 October 1900.

References for Northamptonshire

Published Works

1. Richard Cowley, *Policing Northamptonshire*. Studley: K.A.F.Brewin Books, 1986. See pp70-71 for details of the WM offences noted by Police Superintendent Kitchen on a tour of inspection in 1876.
2. Eric Instone, 'Northampton Iron Foundries', *Bulletin of Industrial Archaeology in CBA Group 9*, No. 12 (April 1970) 2-8.
3. Graces Guide: articles on William Proctor Stanley, Barwell and Co (re John Brettell). www.gracesguide.co.uk.

Directories

- P. Pigot's Directory of Places in ... Northamptonshire ... (N36, N71) 1823/4, 1841.
- W. Whellan's ... Directory of Northamptonshire (N571, ST1078) 1849, 1874.
- Ph. Phillips Directory of Northampton (N572) 1853.
- K. Kelly's (Post Office) Directory of Northamptonshire (N112, ST1075) 1847, 1854-1940.
- M. Melville's ... Directory of Northamptonshire (ST1076) 1861.
- S. Slater's Directory of ... Northamptonshire ... (ST42) 1863.
- MC. Mercer and Crocker's Directory of ... Northamptonshire ... (ST52) 1871.
- H. Harrod's Royal County Directory of ... Northamptonshire (ST55) 1876.
- L. Lea's Northampton Directory (ST1093) 1893.

Newspapers

NM: Northampton Mercury
NH: Northampton Herald
NET: Northampton Evening Telegraph
SM: Stamford Mercury
PS: Peterborough Standard

Original Documents

Northamptonshire Record Office

QSR/2/*: The rolls of the Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions from 1800-1899. They probably contain much useful information, but no index has been found as yet. The document QSR/2/69 is an account of WM offences in 1808.