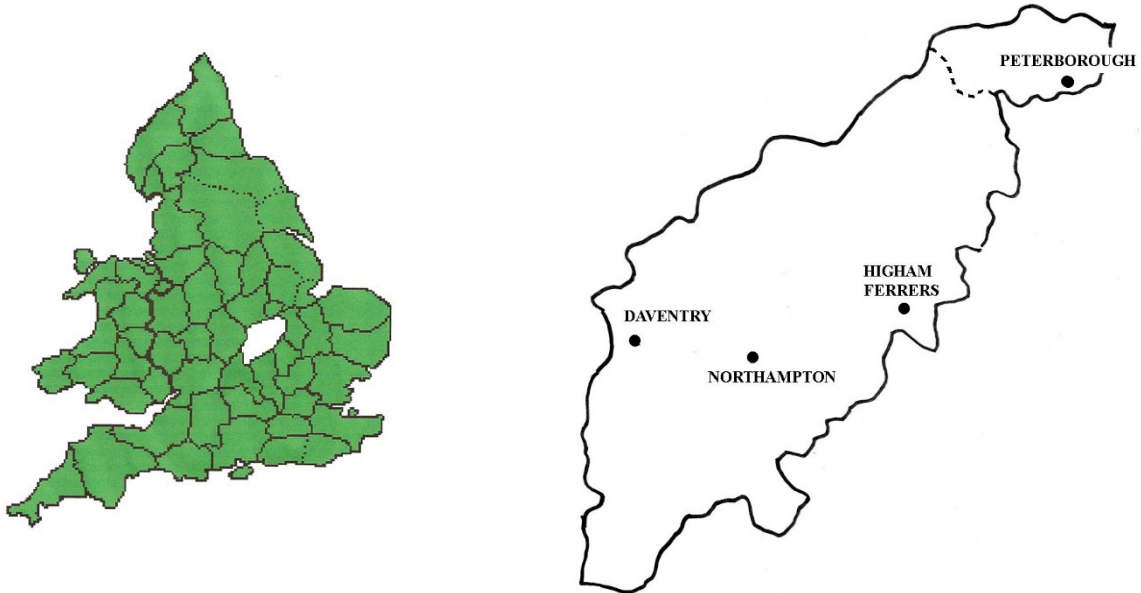


# **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE and the SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH**






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 1830s onwards there were several brass and iron foundries in Northampton, and in conjunction with local ironmongers they supplied scales and weights. 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.

## A: 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><b><i>Inspectors 1834-1840</i></b>  <i>Northampton, Towcester</i>  Thomas Sanders  <i>Brackley, Daventry</i>  James Bartlett  <i>Kettering, Oundle, and</i>  <i>Wellingborough</i>  John Keen</p> <p>In 1835, Joseph Caulcutt was appointed for <i>Wellingborough</i>.</p> <p>The same inspectors probably served until 1840. The districts were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brackley</li> <li>2. Daventry</li> <li>3. Towcester</li> <li>4. Northampton</li> <li>5. Wellingborough</li> <li>6. Kettering</li> <li>7. Oundle.</li> </ol>
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.

#### **Northampton**

Charles Young (1842-49-)  
Geo. Williamson (-1876-81-)  
John Alexander (-1889)

#### **Wellingborough**

Luke Knight (1842-49-)  
Lewis Poole (-1876-77-)  
John B. Martin (c1876-85),  
John Bailie (1885-89)

#### **Towcester**

John Grant (1842-)  
Robert Kirby (-1847-)  
George Nowers (-1849-)  
James Hurst (-1869-)  
George Wallis (-1877-)  
Daniel Norman (-1876-89)

#### **Weedon (= Daventry)**

William Stock (1842-)  
Alex Mackey (-1847-)  
Samuel Sanson (-1861-63-)  
John Bailie (-1876-)  
Charles Botterill (-1889)

#### **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)

#### **Kettering (and Little Bowden\*)**

William Thomas (1842-49-)  
William Stokes (-1876-)  
Charles Botterill (-1881-)  
Robert Hensher (-1889)



#### **Oundle (and Thrapston\*)**

Jas. Ambridge (1842-54)  
J.F. Noble (-1864-)  
Geo. Williamson (-1869-)  
Joseph Evans (-1874-)  
Robert Kitchen (-1876-79-)



*\*The Little Bowden and Thrapston divisions were formed in 1860, but did not have separate WM inspectors.*



¶ 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><b><i>Qualified inspectors:</i></b></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><b><i>Chief inspectors:</i></b> 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><b>Inspectors 1835:</b> William Stanley (ironmonger) George Bristow (head constable in the Soke 1836-56, and listed as IWM in 1841 [P] and 1854 [K])</p> <p><b>Inspectors 1857-1889:</b> Henry Bayly (CC 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><b>Qualified inspectors:</b> J.J. Cole (q1913 in Ireland, 1925-1962) [MR 62:191]</p>
1835	Two inspectors appointed.		
1857	Proper police force set up.		
1866	The Chief Constable was inspector for the Soke and City.		
1874	The City separated from the Soke and set up its own police force.		
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 by the joint authority of the City and Liberty before 1874.

### B1: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Daventry</b>	AncBo MB:1835 ncp	 		s:1826
<p>In 1835 William Blundell, marble mason, was appointed as the inspector. Samuel Royle was listed as inspector of police and WM in 1874 [W], and the non-uniform marks shown above were 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>				
<b>Higham Ferrers</b>	AncBo Unref MB:1883		---	s:1844
<p>The mark is rare, but it does exist, and it was listed as being still in use in 1882 [AR]. Standards [925] were issued in 1844 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>				



Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Northampton	AncBo MB:1835 CB:1888			s:1826 r:1865
			156	156:1879-1974
			625	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 seems to represent a three-towered castle on a mound, supported by two lions rampant. That is exactly the device occurring in the arms of the borough.

In 1826 and 1834 standards were issued to Samuel Wickens, the inspector, who was still in post in 1835. William Stanton was listed as IWM in 1854 [K], and in 1859 [Sbk] standard weights were issued to him. 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 1892 [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	
<b>Peterborough</b>	AncBo MB:1874		486	s:1875 n:1889-1974
<p>In 1874 the City of Peterborough became a Municipal Borough, set up its own police force, and obtained standards [1566]. 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	
Bretell	<p style="text-align: center;">I. BRETELL IRONMONGER NORTHAMPTON</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seen on a bronze trade weight</i></p>
	<p>John Bretell, ironmonger [1823 P, 1841 P]. Adjusted the weights for the Borough of Daventry [NM 12/11/36].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercers Row</li> </ul> <p>Bretell also established the Lion Foundry [2]. The ironmongery firm continued as Bretell Bros. [1847 K, 1849 W], and then as Bretell and Roberts [1854 K]. Bretell died around 1850 and Roberts died in 1868, when the firms were bought by <b>Mobbs</b>.</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 &amp; Co. was wound up in 1929.</p>
Pooley	<p>First noted 1898 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish St [1898 K, 1903 K, 1914 K]</li> </ul> <p>Became part of <b>Avery</b> in 1913 but continued under the old name.</p>
Avery	<p>First noted 1903 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53 Gold Street [1903 K].</li> <li>• 28 Marefair [1914 K, 1940 K]</li> <li>• 86 Bridge Street &lt;1965&gt;</li> </ul>



¶ A one-pound bronze weight stamped with the name of John Bretell, an ironmonger and the owner of the Lion Foundry in Northampton, c1835.



¶ 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
	<p><i>Seen on a 1 lb brass weight</i></p> <p>William Stanley, ironmonger, was appointed inspector for the Soke and the City in 1834. It is almost certain that he sold scales and weights at that time. He may have been related to the Stanleys who worked in the scale trade in London, Cambridge and Norwich.</p> <p>In 1847 [K] William Stanley was listed as an ironmonger and in 1854 [K] as an agricultural implement maker. Gone by 1861.</p>
Hardy	<p>Robert Hardy was an ironmonger and brazier in 1847 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrow Bridge Street [1847 K, 1854 K].</li> <li>• Priestgate [1861 M, 1876 H].</li> </ul> <p>Hardy &amp; Sons were braziers and tinplate workers at the second address in 1890 [K] and 1903 [K]. The firm, as scale repairers, was acquired by <b>Avery</b> in 1913.</p>
Avery	<p>Took over Hardy's firm 1913.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Priestgate &lt;1914&gt;</li> <li>• 4 Trinity Street [1940 K]</li> <li>• 417 Lincoln Road &lt;1965&gt;</li> </ul>

**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.*



¶ Advertisement from the *Stamford Mercury* for 12 December 1834. On the right, the name STANLEY stamped on a 1 lb brass weight with the marks for the Soke of Peterborough and Huntingdonshire.

KETTERING	
<b>Lewis</b>	<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"> <li>• Queen Street Ironworks</li> </ul> <p>Advertised weighing machines for sale [<i>Northants Evening Telegraph</i>, Oct-Dec. 1900], [Hbks 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>
<b>Avery</b>	<p>First noted 1940 [K]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Dalkeith Place &lt;1940&gt;</li> <li>• 22 Dalkeith Place &lt;1965&gt;</li> <li>•</li> </ul>



¶ 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.

### *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  
NET: Northampton Evening Telegraph  
SM: Stamford Mercury

### *Original Documents*

#### *Northants 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.