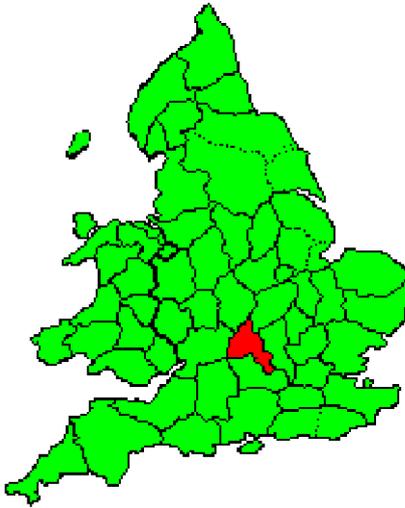


# OXFORDSHIRE



Oxfordshire lies to the north-west of London. It is bordered to the south by Berkshire, to the west by Gloucestershire, to the north by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, and to the east by Buckinghamshire. In 1974 parts of Berkshire were transferred to Oxfordshire, which is why the modern county as illustrated on the left is slightly larger than the one on the right.

The major town is Oxford, where jurisdiction over weights and measures was in the hands of the University from medieval times, and was not formally transferred to the Corporation until 1868. The other Ancient Boroughs were Banbury, Chipping Norton, Henley, and Woodstock. All were active in the business of inspecting weights and measures, although Chipping Norton effectively handed over to the county in 1858, and Henley and Woodstock seem to have done very little. After the Act of 1878, only Oxford and Banbury continued to operate as Weights and Measures Authorities. The county itself was rather slow to obtain the new Imperial Standards, and there were several changes to the arrangements for inspection before the police force was set up in 1857.

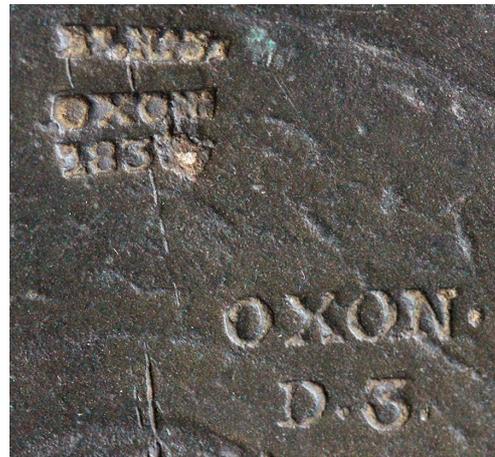
As in some of the nearby counties, the work of regulating weights and measures seems to have been entrusted traditionally to local ironmongers, whitesmiths and braziers, until a specialist scale maker, Gale and Son, appeared in Oxford in 1850. In the 20th century there was a long-running competition between Avery and the local firm of Kirk & Co, which ended, inevitably, in victory for Avery in 1936.

**A: Inspection by the County of OXFORDSHIRE**

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1830	One set of standards [431] verified.		<i>Inspectors 1834-43</i>
1834	Three more sets verified [472, 482-3]. There were four inspectors, each covering several petty sessional divisions.	<b>OXON 1834</b>	1. Oxford (central area) Frederick Sadler 1834-35 George Keates 1835-36 George Cook 1836-43
		<b>OXON 1835 Di No2</b>	2. Witney (north-west area) Isaac Lawrence 1834-43
		<b>OXON D-3</b>	3. Deddington (north-east area) Daniel Hartley 1834-38 Benjamin Mason 1838-43
			4. Watlington (southern area) Thomas Barnes 1834-38 William Barnes 1838-43
1843	It was decided that there should be one inspector for the whole county. He was also responsible for the county bridges.		<i>Inspectors 1843-51</i> Pryse Agar Holloway 1844 Thomas Fardon 1844-51



¶ Detail from a 4oz bronze weight. The CO OXON mark is unidentified. It may be a verification mark (pre-1834) or a mark stamped on the county's working standards. Similarly, the crowned OX mark is unidentified.



¶ This one-pound bronze weight is a remarkable survival from the 16th century and has a crowned h (Henry VII/VIII) stamped on the front. The marks shown here were stamped on the reverse in the 19th century: three variants of the Oxfordshire, District No 3 mark.



¶ A 1lb brass weight stamped in Oxfordshire by one of the inspectors appointed in 1834. The other marks are stamped by the maker (probably a Birmingham firm) and indicate that the weight was made in the reign of William IV (1830-37) and conforms to the Imperial Standard.

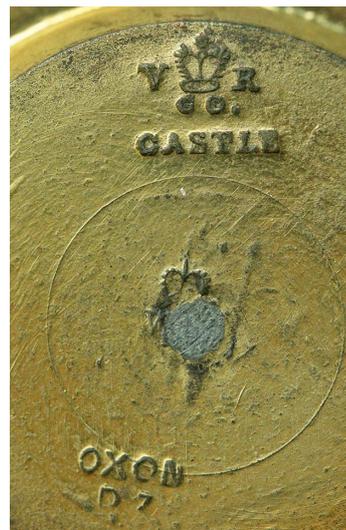


¶ A 1lb iron weight with a copper plug stamped in Oxfordshire, District 1. This probably refers to the central area from 1834 to 1844 but it may refer to Petty Sessional Division No. 1 (Bampton East), which was a WM division from 1851 to 1879.

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments		
1851	The sole inspector was dismissed. A superintending constable was appointed for each petty sessional division between 1851 and 52 and, with the exception of Ploughley, was nominally the inspector of weights and measures. In fact the work was often done by a deputy or a local tradesman. One new set of standards [1075] was acquired. The five sets were supposed to be shared between the divisions, and some were to be kept by local tradesmen.		<b>Local tradesmen</b> W. Penbryton of Nettlebed, keeper for Henley and Watlington 1851-53. G. Whetton of Deddington, keeper for Banbury-Bloxham and Wootton N 1851-53.		
1852	Inspection said to be impossible in some divisions due to lack of standards [OJ 10/4/52].	<b>OXON</b> <b>D-3</b>			
1854	Three short sets of standards [1116-8] acquired, and soon afterwards two more [1126-7]. There were now ten sets, one for each division. Notice given that only the appointed IWMs may adjust and stamp weights and measures [OCBBG 25/2/54].				
<b>Inspectors 1851-57</b> <i>* denotes superintending constable</i>					
<p><i>1. Bampton East (Witney)</i> *Thomas Whitlock 1851 *Robert Mitchell 1851 -1855 * James Tyrell 1855-57</p> <p><i>2. Bampton West (Burford)</i> * William Massey 1852-57</p> <p><i>3. Banbury &amp; Bloxham (Banbury)</i> *Joshua Burton 1851-57</p> <p><i>4. Bullingdon (Oxford)</i> *Robert Hitchman 1852-55 *Henry Barker 1855-57 Charles Yates 1852 [Sbk] Thomas Hawtin 1854 [Sbk, 1116]</p>			<p><i>5. Chadlington (Chipping Norton)</i> *David Smith 1851-57 T. Phipps, assistant 1852 Joseph Lakin 1856 [Sbk]</p> <p><i>6. Henley (Henley)</i> *Matthew Moran 1851-54 * Francis Knock 1854 - 57 John Tomlinson, assistant 1851 Lewis Coates 1854 [Sbk, 1127]</p> <p><i>7. Ploughley (Bicester)</i> Richard Castle 1851 -57 [1852 G, 1854 K].</p>		<p><i>8. Watlington (Watlington)</i> *Job Smith 1851-54 *Thomas High 1854-57 John Tomlinson, adjuster 1851-4</p> <p><i>9. Wootton North (Deddington)</i> *Daniel Harwood 1851-55 *William Dixon 1855-57 Charles Mason, assistant 1852 William Burton 1854 [Sbk,1117]</p> <p><i>10. Wootton South (Woodstock)</i> *James Race 1851-2 *James Edwards 1852-57 Joseph Bowen 1854 [Sbk, 1118] Robert Jones 1854 [Sbk, 1126]</p>



¶ A 11lb pound bronze weight, originally stamped in the reign of Queen Anne (1702-14). It bears the later marks of Richard Castle, the Inspector for the Ploughley (Bicester) Division of Oxford (1851-57); Castle, a gun-smith, white-smith and bell-hanger, was the only inspector in this period who was not the Superintending Constable of his district. His mark is coupled with the VR/CO. mark used by the City of Oxford, in the period 1868-79; were all his weights later verified in Oxford or did he use this earlier to signify the County of Oxford? Finally the weight was verified in the Northern District of Buckinghamshire (VR115) in the period 1879-89.



¶ Details from the 11lb weight above and an (8 oz) brass weight, illustrating two variants of the Castle stamp. The 8 oz weight also has the mark of the City of Oxford and the OXON D7 mark of the Ploughley district of Oxfordshire.

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1857	County police force set up; police take over inspection. There were 10 police divisions (see below), and some of the inspectors of WM had previously served as superintending constables, or assisted in WM duties.		The inspector of weights and measures was an officer of the county police force; the force was established with only three superintendents so that an inspector, or sergeant, was appointed but, increasingly, the superintendents assumed the role.
1867	10 police officers acting as inspectors.		
1879	No.113 issued. It is often seen on weights with Bucks marks. It was used only 1879-1889,		
1880	Nos. 367-375 issued.		

#### Police officers as inspectors 1857-90

The officers moved between divisions regularly. The ‘&’ mark before or after the date indicates transfer from or to another division. \* indicates Superintendent of Police.

Several of these officers, Joseph Bowen, William Burton, Lewis Coates, Thomas Hawtin, Joseph Lakin and Charles Yates had assisted the Superintending Constables to perform their WM duties, before 1857.

<p><i>1. Bampton East (Witney)</i>  *Francis Knock (1857-64)  *Charles Howarth (&amp;1865-67&amp;)  *Philip Cope (&amp;1867-76&amp;)  *William Whadcoat (&amp;1876-84)  *Francis Keal (1884-88&amp;)  *William Leech (&amp;1888-90)</p> <p><i>2. Bampton West (Burford)</i>  Joseph Ekins (1858-60)  William Lamb (1860-63)  Richard Jones (1863-72&amp;)  William Burton (&amp;1872-81&amp;)  William Morgan (1882-90)</p> <p><i>3. Banbury &amp; Bloxham (Banbury)</i>  William Whadcoat (1857-58&amp;)  Frederick Dackus (1858-59)  *William Whadcoat (&amp;1859-76&amp;)  *Philip Cope (&amp;1876-81&amp;)  *William Burton (&amp;1881-82)  *David Wyatt (&amp;1882-90}</p>	<p><i>4. Bullingdon (Oxford)</i>  *Richard Fernsby (1857-60)  Charles Yates (1860-83)  Thomas Hawtin (1860-79&amp;)  Henry Hawtin (1882-88&amp;)  Stephen Sutton (1883-88&amp;)</p> <p><i>5. Chadlington (Chipping Norton)</i>  *Thomas High (1857-58)  *Charles Howarth (1860-65&amp;)  *Joseph Lakin (1865-81)  *Philip Cope (&amp;1881-88)  *Stephen Sutton (&amp;1888-90)</p> <p><i>6. Henley (Henley)</i>  Joshua Burton (1857-61)  *Philip Cope (1861-67&amp;)  *Charles Howarth (&amp;1867-70)  *Lewis Coates (&amp;1870-88)  *Francis Keal (&amp;1888-90)</p> <p><i>7. Ploughley (Bicester)</i>  *Thomas Moulden (&amp;1857-79)  *Joseph Bowen (&amp;1879-90)</p>	<p><i>8. Watlington (Watlington)</i>  *Thomas Mouldon (1857&amp;)  *Henry Seers (&amp;1857-84)  *Thomas Hawtin (&amp;1884-90)</p> <p><i>9. Wootton North (Deddington)</i>  *Henry Seers (1857-58&amp;)  *William Whadcoat (&amp;1858-63&amp;)  Joseph Bowen (1863-70&amp;)  William Burton (1870-72&amp;)  Richard Jones (&amp;1872-78)  David Wyatt (1878-82&amp;)  William Leech (1882-88&amp;)  Henry Hawtin (&amp;1888-90)</p> <p><i>10. Wootton South (Woodstock)</i>  Lewis Coates (1859-70&amp;)  Joseph Bowen (&amp;1870-79&amp;)  Thomas Hawtin (&amp;1879-84&amp;)  John Oakley (1884-90)</p>
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Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1889	Oxfordshire CC formed.	☪ VR 367	
1890	All numbers except 367 withdrawn; the ten police officers continued as IWMs for one year, with “expert help” from W&T Avery, but the system proved impractical. Standards [2119] issued.	☪ ER 367	<i>Qualified inspectors:</i> R. Doubleday (qualified 1890 in Bootle, 1891-1928) W. Slatcher (1928-51) [MR 51:172] E. Thompson (1936-1963) chief 1951-63 [MR 63:194] H.W. Bishop (1964-72?-) [MR 64:59]
1891	Qualified inspector in post.		
1925	The county inspector was appointed as inspector for Banbury, when the borough force was disbanded.		
1974	New Oxfordshire CC takes over from Oxford CB.		



¶ Detail from a 1 oz brass weight, showing the uniform verification number VR367 (1880-1901), together with the VR6 of Birmingham. The reverse shows many date codes of the form G8.

## B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the County of OXFORDSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Banbury</b>	AncBo MB:1835 qsb	<b>BAN 1873 BURY</b>	547	s:1828 r:1868

The non-uniform mark has been recorded with dates from 1828 onwards, when the standards [416] were obtained. Before this date, it had been the custom to appoint two local tradesmen as sergeants-at-mace, ale tasters, and inspectors of WM, and this practice continued for most of the 19th century. The persons appointed were: Robert Gardner and William Wise (1828-43), William Hutchings and William Wise (1844-51), William Hutchings and Daniel Dixon (1851-57), Thomas Ward Boss and Daniel Dixon (1858-80). From 1881 to 1889 Dixon held the post alone, and in 1890 the superintendent of police, Daniel Preston, took over. Number 547 was allocated at this time, and a new set of standards [2218] was issued.

Frank Hatcher (CC 1900-13) qualified as a WM inspector in 1904/5. He was succeeded in both posts by Fred Wilson (CC 1914-25, q1909 in Rotherham). In 1925 the borough police force was wound up, and the county inspector of WM was appointed. The number 547 was still used, and this arrangement probably continued until the borough was formally disqualified as a WMA in 1965.



- ¶ Detail from an 8 oz bronze weight, stamped with the London Founders marks, in the reign of George IV, and the later Banbury 1834 mark, when Robert Gardner and William Wise were the sergeants-at-mace.



¶ 2oz brass weight stamped BANBURY 1873.  
At this time the inspection in Banbury was done by the sergeants-at-mace,  
Thomas Ward Boss and Daniel Dixon.



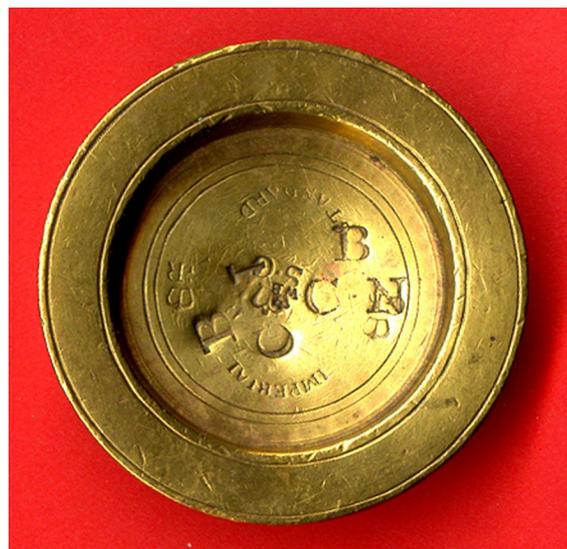
¶ 1oz brass weight stamped in Banbury with the uniform mark  
adopted by the borough in 1890. The initials VR indicate that it was stamped before 1902.  
The chief constable of the borough police force was the  
inspector of weights and measures in this period.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Chipping Norton</b>	AncBo MB:1835 ncp	<b>B C N</b>	---	s:1834 r:1863 [540]

The inspectors appointed under the Act of 1834 were Thomas Gulliver, ironmonger (who soon resigned), and George Draper, blacksmith, whose appointment was repeated in the Borough Council Minutes for 1836 [BOR/1/5/A1]. In 1843 the Council recommended that ‘the police officer’ be appointed as IWM. This was presumably the Mr Williams who was replaced by Charles Yates in 1847. In 1853/4 both Yates and David Smith, the superintending constable, were involved in WM duties, but Smith was said to be the IWM.

The Borough Police Force became part of the county force in 1857, and Thomas High, an officer in the county force, took over as IWM. He was dismissed by the county in 1858, as a result of ‘not satisfactorily accounting for monies received by stamping weights and measures’ [3]. It appears that the inspection was in the hands of the county police from this time onwards, and in 1862 the borough council agreed to dispose of their standards. In 1864 the adjustment of weights and measures in the Town Hall was said to be ‘injurious to the floor and the table’. The crowned initials WB and SG have been seen on weights stamped BCN, and may indicate that the local excise officers, William Bishop [1847 K, 1854 K], and Samuel Garrett [1863 DA] were acting as adjusters.

After the passing of the 1878 Act the borough formally decided to relinquish its authority for weights and measures.



- ¶ 4oz brass weight stamped B over C N, indicating the borough of Chipping Norton. There are also smaller stamps of a crown over WB and a crown above SG, which may be the initials of excise officers for the borough.

**Henley Standards** [234] were acquired in 1826 by the Lord of the Manor, Admiral William Peere Williams-Freeman. Henley was also an Ancient Borough, and an inspector, Robert Webb, was appointed under the Act of 1834. The borough was ‘unreformed’ in 1835. Admiral Freeman sold up the Fawley Court Estate in 1853 [BC 2/7/53]. Authority had been transferred to the county before 1867, when Philip Cope, superintendent of police for the Henley Division of Oxfordshire was the inspector.



- ¶ Set of four standards issued in 1826 to Admiral William Peere Williams-Freeman, Lord of the Manor of Fawley Court, Henley. Each standard bears its denomination 14 Avoir, 7 Avoir, 4 Avoir and 2 Avoir respectively on the handle. The shoulder carries the cypher of George IV, dated 1824, and the Exchequer mark, on each side of the handle. The side is engraved with 1826, the date of issue of the standards, whilst the base is inscribed W P Williams Freeman/Henley Oxford.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Oxford</b>	University AncBo MB:1835			s:1826
	CB:1890		120	n:1879-1974

The University was responsible for Weights and Measures in Oxford from the 14th century onwards, an arrangement that led to many disputes. In 1771 a joint committee of the University and the Corporation was set up to supervise the market. Two members of the University were appointed annually as Clerks of the Market. They received the new standards [121] in 1826 and supervised inspection with the assistance of the Inspector of Corn Returns, John Castell. (See the notice below; also [1], [2]). The first mark shown above was used in the reign of William IV (1830-37). John Castell still held this role in 1835 [OJ 17/10/35].

William John Parker was appointed as Inspector of Corn Returns to the University and City of Oxford in 1837 [OJ 4/2/37], and was listed as IWM in 1842 [P]. He continued in post, until his death in 1857 [OJ 9/5/57], when he was succeeded by Henry Parker [OJ 13/6/57]. The standards were formally handed over to the Corporation at the end of 1868. There was an inter regnum of fifteen months before Charles Head (CC 1869-97) was appointed IWM, for one year in the first instance [OJ 26/3/70]. However, until the First World War, the University Clerks of the Market would meet the relevant police officer and together they would test the weights within the Market [2]; thus, Henry Parker was still listed in 1874 [MC], at the WM office in Broad Street and continued as Inspector of Corn Returns until his death in 1878 [OJ 2/2/78].

The first qualified inspector (q1898/9) was C.E. Harriss, a police officer but not chief constable. He was followed by Alfred Appleyard, (1902-05), William V. Nicholas (1905-1911) [MR 05:152], and Herbert Hilton (1912-1915). From 1915-56 C.R. Fox (q1911 in Ireland, CC 1924-56), was the chief inspector of WM, although latterly there were several civilian inspectors under his command. In 1956 the WM office was removed from the police department and R.E. Dust, an inspector since 1938, became chief inspector [MR 56:151], continuing until 1972.



¶ Detail of a weight with the Oxford City marks (VR CO, 1868-79, and VR 120 1880-1901). There are also earlier marks for Banbury Borough and the D9 (Wootton North) Division of Oxfordshire.



¶ Detail from a 4oz brass weight, showing the Oxford City mark (1868-79), together with the date 68, signifying 1868 when the Corporation, rather than the University, became responsible for verification within the City.

¶ Announcement by the Clerks of the Market about the arrangements for the new standards of 1826 [QSW/24].

## UNIVERSITY AND CITY OF OXFORD.

### *New Weights and Measures.*

**T**HE *Clerks of the Market* give notice, that the Standard Weights and Measures verified at the Exchequer will be deposited, for the space of one month from the date hereof, in the hands of Mr. *Bush*, High Street, Oxford. All persons dealing by Retail, and by Weight and Measure, who may wish to purchase new Weights and Measures, or adjust and compare their Weights and Measures with the Standard Weights and Measures, are referred to Mr. *Bush*, who will regulate and supply them with the same; and also affix to the Measures the University Stamp, under the direction and inspection of the *Clerks of the Market*, and Mr. *John Castell* of Broad Street, lately appointed Inspector of Corn Returns.

Notice is hereby given, that from and after the 21st day of April next, the penalties of the Act will be strictly enforced against all Shopkeepers, Publicans, and other Dealers who shall have in their possession defective Weights and Measures or unequal Balances.

JOHN GUTCH } Clerks of  
WILLIAM BROWN } The Market.

OXFORD,  
March 31, 1826.



¶ A weight stamped in Oxford under the jurisdiction of the University.  
The University's mark is stamped over a smaller maker's mark,  
(WR) indicating a weight made in the reign of William IV (1830-37).

**Woodstock:** was an Ancient Borough, unreformed in 1835. It was reported that it had appointed two inspectors in that year, James Prior and Richard Morris, but there is no record of standards being obtained. It was reported in 1847 that the office of IWM for the borough was now vested in Mr T. Fardon, the County Inspector, [OJ 27/11/47] and James Edwards, the County Inspector, was listed in 1854 [K].

From 1864 to 1874 Lewis Coates was listed in directories as the inspector of WM. He was the inspector in the county police force, stationed at Woodstock. After the passing of the 1878 Act the borough formally relinquished its authority over weights and measures..

## C: The trade in Oxfordshire

<b>BANBURY</b>	
<b>Avery</b>	<p>W &amp; T Avery, Ltd was first noted in 1920 [K], at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Horsefair &lt;1920&gt;</li> <li>• 8 Bridge Street &lt;1924-60&gt;</li> <li>• 5c George St &lt;1965-73&gt;</li> </ul> <p>There is no record of their being there in 1974.</p>
<b>OXFORD</b>	
<b>Bush</b>	<p>According to a proclamation issued in 1826 by the Clerks of the Market ‘Mr Bush’ in the High Street had temporary custody of the standards. He would regulate and adjust the weights and measures of ‘persons dealing by Retail’, and also ‘affix the university stamp’ [QSW 24]. By 1830 [P], the firm was known as Bush and Pilcher, ironmongers, and in 1839, Charles Pilcher announced that he was taking James Gill, Jr, into partnership [OJ 19/10/39]. The address in 1842 [P] was 5 High Street but, by 1870 [OJ 7/5/70], the firm of Gill &amp; Co, was trading as an “Ironmongers”, at the same address; the firm finally closed its doors in 2010, after trading as an “ironmongers for 480 years” [OT 8/7/2010].</p>
<b>Gale</b>	<p>In 1850, Thomas Gale and Son advertised [OJ 18/5/50] that they had taken premises at 4, Market Street, Oxford, alongside those in Globe Road, Mile End, London. Thomas Gale senior took the opportunity to thank his clients for their support over the last 26 years. Thomas Gale junior, ba.1828 in London, is recorded as a scale maker [1851 Census] and must be the ‘Son’ in Gale and Son, scale makers [1852 G]; he seems to have been responsible for the running of the Oxford Branch, with his wife Sarah working alongside him. In 1851, the firm was advertising for an apprentice in Oxford [OJ 28/6/51]. Thomas Gale (Sen?) is also recorded as a scale maker in <i>Marlow, Bucks</i> in 1854 [K, Bucks].</p> <p>The firm was at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Market Street &lt;1850-1854&gt;.</li> </ul> <p>Subsequently the firm was listed under the name of Thomas Gale jnr but, in 1861, the suicide of Thomas Gale, in the waiting room at Didcot Station, was reported [OJ 16/3/61]. His wife Sarah took over the running of the business [BG 16/5/61]. In 1877, her son Thomas was described as a scale-maker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Ebbe’s Street &lt;1861-1868&gt;,</li> <li>• Thames Street [1876 H], 1877 [OJ 12/5/77].</li> </ul>

**T**GALE and SON, Scale Makers and Manufacturers of all sorts of Weighing Machines, 4, Market-street, Oxford, and 2, North-terrace, Globe-road, Mile-end, London, beg to inform their friends and tradesmen in general that they have taken the above Shop in Oxford, and hope, by strict attention to business, combined with the best articles, they shall be favoured with their support.

T. Gale, son., takes this opportunity of returning thanks for the favours conferred upon him for the last 26 years.

✂ Scales and Weights kept in repair by the year, on reasonable terms.

¶ Advertisement taken from Jackson's Oxford Journal, 18 May, 1850, p. 1

**NOTICE**

**A**LL Persons having claim on the late Mr. THOMAS GALE, Scalemaker, St. Ebbe's Street, Oxford, are requested to forward their accounts immediately to Mrs. GALE; and all persons indebted to the said deceased are respectfully requested to settle their accounts without delay.

**SARAH GALE,**  
SCALE-MAKER AND WEIGHING-MACHINE MAKER,  
ST. EBBE'S STREET, OXFORD.

**B**EEN respectfully to inform her Friends and the Public, that she is still carrying on the business, and hopes to be favoured with their continued support.

¶ Two advertisements, taken from the Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette of 4 May, 1861 and the Banbury Guardian of 16 May, 1861 respectively, as Sarah Gale takes over her husband's scale making business.

<b>Humm</b>	<p>James Humm, ba 1837 in Essex, scale maker [1880-85 V] [1881 Census], at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 Pensons Gardens &lt;1880-1891&gt;.</li> </ul> <p>James Humm is listed as a scale maker at the above address in the 1891 Census but, in the 1901 Census, both he and his son Frederick James are scalemakers at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46 Paradise Street &lt;1891-1908</li> </ul> <p>J. Humm does not reappear in directories until 1905-1910 [KO]; both he and his son are listed as scale makers in the 1911 Census but that is the last reference to them as scale makers.</p>
<b>Kirk and Latimer</b>	<p>Kirk Latimer &amp; Co. were scale makers in Reading, used by the City to repair the weighbridge in 1893 [OWN 15/11/93]. They established an Oxford branch in 1894 [V], at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 New Inn Hall St 1894-1896</li> <li>• 1 Corn Exchange Bldgs, George St 1896-99.</li> </ul> <p>In 1898/9, Frederick M. Latimer, ba.1868 in Newington, London, scale maker, took on the firm's branch in <i>Reading (Berks)</i>, but by 1901 [Census] he was working as a scale maker in <i>Stroud (Glos)</i>. The Oxford branch continued as Kirk &amp; Co (see below).</p>

**KIRK, LATIMER & CO.**  
**24, NEW-INN-HALL STREET, OXFORD, & LONDON**  
**STREET, READING.**  
**Bona fide Manufacturers of Scales, Balances, Weighing**  
**Machines, Patent Agate Scales, Canisters, &c.**  
**Complete Grocers' and Butchers' Outfitters. Shop Fitters**  
**and Vendors of all Trade Accessories.**  
**Scales, Weights, and Weigh-bridges Repaired, Adjusted,**  
**and Maintained by Yearly Contract.**

**KIRK, LATIMER & CO.,**  
**CORN EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, GEORGE ST.,**  
**OXFORD, AND AT**  
**20, LONDON STREET, READING.**  
**BONA-FIDE MANUFACTURER OF SCALES,**  
**Balances, Weighing Machines, Patent Agate**  
**Scales, Canisters, etc. Complete Grocers and Butchers'**  
**Outfitters. Shop Fitters and Vendors of all Trade**  
**Accessories. Scales, Weights and Weighbridges**  
**repaired, adjusted and maintained by yearly contract.**

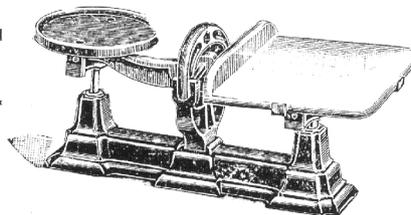
¶ Two advertisements from the Oxford Times, who ran a series of Kirk, Latimer & Co advertisements throughout 1896; the first was published in February, the second in July. In 1898, the wording was still the same.

**KIRK & CO.,**  
Scales, Balances, Weighing Machines,  
Patent Agate Scales, Canisters, &c.,  
*Corn Exchange Buildings,*  
**GEORGE STREET, OXFORD.**  
Complete Grocers' & Butchers'  
Outfitters.  
Scales and Weights Repaired,  
Adjusted and Maintained by  
Yearly Contract.

**KIRK & CO.,** SCALE AND WEIGHING  
**MACHINE MAKERS,**  
**1, Corn Exchange Buildings, George St., OXFORD.**

All Makers' Machines  
thoroughly Repaired and  
Reconstructed.

AGATE SCALES.  
CANISTERS.  
Provision Tickets.  
Butter Dishes.  
Butchers' Cutlery.



ALL CLASSES OF  
**Coal Weighing**  
**Machines.**

Fair price allowed for Old  
Scales taken in exchange  
for New.

WEIGHBRIDGES REPAIRED OR  
MADE TO ORDER.

¶ Two advertisements for Kirk & Co, the first from 1900 [KO] and the second from 1903 [K].

<b>Kirk</b>	<p>Kirk &amp; Co., scale makers [advt 1900 KO], were the successors of <b>Kirk &amp; Latimer</b>, and agents for <b>Bartlett</b> of <i>Bristol (Glos)</i>, [advert 1905 KO], at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Corn Exchange Bldgs, George St 1900-1930&gt;</li> <li>• 46 George Street (same premises?) &lt;1932-36&gt;.</li> </ul> <p>The company was in receivership as W.J. Kirk &amp; Co. in 1936 and acquired by <b>Avery</b> from the receiver. Also in <i>Reading (Berks)</i>.</p>
<b>Avery</b>	<p>First noted 1905 [KO], at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 79 George St &lt;1905-1926&gt;</li> <li>• 22 St Ebbe's St &lt;1930-1969</li> <li>• Harrow Road, Cowley 1970-76&gt;.</li> </ul>
<b>Smith</b>	<p>Adolphus R. Smith, scale maker [1932 KO] at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Bulwarks Lane &lt;1932-58&gt;</li> </ul> <p>but there is no record of him in 1962.</p>

**KIRK & CO. SCALE MAKERS,**  
*GEORGE STREET, OXFORD.*

REPAIRS TO ALL  
 CLASSES OF SCALES &  
 WEIGHING MACHINES.

*All work guaranteed to pass  
 inspectors.*

SPECIALTY:  
**MAKERS OF COAL-  
 WEIGHING MACHINES.**

A Liberal Price Allowed for Old  
 Machines taken in exchange for  
 New. (6092)



**KIRK & CO.,**

MAKERS AND REPAIRERS OF

Scales, Balances, Weighing Machines,  
 Patent Agate Scales, Canisters, &c.,  
 Corn Exchange Buildings, George Street, OXFORD.

**COMPLETE GROCERS' AND BUTCHERS' OUTFITTERS.**

Scales and Weights Repaired, Adjusted and  
 Maintained by Yearly Contract.

Local Representatives for Messrs. Bartlett & Son, Limited,  
 Scale Makers and Shop Fitters, Bristol.

¶ Advertisements from 1904 and 1905 respectively.  
 The 1904 one was run for four months in the Abingdon Free Press,  
 whilst the 1905 one comes from Kelly's Oxford Directory.



¶ Advertisement from Kelly’s Oxford Directory of 1925, recalling the wording of the Kirk, Latimer & Co advertisements of the 1890s.

<b>WOODSTOCK</b>	
<b>Fardon</b>	The advertisement below from the Oxford Journal of 17 May, 1851 is the only reference to Thomas Fardon acting as a supplier of weights and scales.

**T**HOMAS FARDON, late Inspector of Weights and Measures for the County of Oxford, begs respectfully to inform the public generally he has commenced the business of **ADJUSTER OF WEIGHTS and SCALES**, and trusts, from the experience he has had, to merit their support.  
 New Weights and Scales supplied, and old ones correctly adjusted, on the most reasonable terms.  
*Blanton, near Woodstock, May 16, 1851.*

¶ Advertisement from the Oxford Journal of 17 May, 1851.

## References for Oxfordshire

### *Published works*

1. Markets and Fairs, *History of the County of Oxfordshire, Volume 4, The City of Oxford*. Victoria County History (1979), pp305-312. Contains many references to original documents concerning the University and the Town.
2. R.E. Dust: History of Weights and Measures in the City of Oxford, *Monthly Review* 66 (1958) 129-131.
3. Carol Richmond: *Oxfordshire Constabulary Recruitment Register*. Witney: Oxfordshire Black Sheep Publications, 2004. Three booklets covering 1857-63, 1863-78, and 1878-1904, with information about almost all the policemen who acted as WM inspectors, and photographs of several of them.

### *Directories*

- B Billing's Directory of ... Oxon (ST115) 1854  
DA Dutton, Allen's Directory of ... Oxon ... (ST40) 1863  
G Gardner's Directory of the County of Oxford (N611, ST1148) 1852  
H Hunt's Oxford Directory (N610) 1846  
Ha Harrod's Directory of ... Oxon (ST55) 1876  
K Kelly's [Post Office] Directory of ... Oxfordshire (N112, ST20, ST1150) 1847  
1850 onwards  
KO Kelly's Directory of Oxford and Neighbourhood (ST1166) 1901-1956  
L Lascelles' Directory of the County of Oxford (ST1149) 1853  
MC Mercer & Crocker's Directory of Oxfordshire (ST54) 1874  
P Pigot's Directory of ... Oxfordshire (N73, 76) 1830, 1842  
Po Potts' Banbury Almanack (ST1154) 1890-1901  
R Banbury List and Directory (N612, ST1152) 1824-1881  
S Slater's Directory of Oxfordshire (ST28) 1850  
V Vincent's Oxford University, City and County Directory (N613) 1835.

### *Newspapers*

- AFP Abingdon Free Press 1904  
BC Berkshire Chronicle 1853-56  
BCJ Bucks Chronicle and Bucks Gazette 1861  
BG Banbury Guardian 1861  
OCBBG Oxford Chronicle and Berks and Bucks Gazette 1854  
OCRG Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette 1861-96  
OJ Jackson's Oxford Journal 1826-1900  
OT Oxford Times 1896-2010  
OUCH Oxford University and City Herald 1836-60  
OWN Oxfordshire Weekly News 1893-94  
RM Reading Mercury 1852-90.

## **Original Documents**

### *Oxfordshire Record Office*

BOR/1/5/A1. Chipping Norton Borough Council Minutes 1835 onwards. Many references to WM activity in the borough.

BOR/2/XXI/I. Banbury Manorial court rolls -1816-37. Annual appointments of WM examiners, breadweighers etc.

BOR/3/A. Includes record of receipt of standard weights for the Borough of Henley in 1805.

QSC/VIII/1. Oxfordshire Quarter Sessions WM Committee Minute Book 1843-1856.

QSW/\*\*. Miscellaneous WM documents 1826-1854. Including: QSW/23, list of places in the four districts 1834; QSW/24, notice regarding new WM in the University and City, 1826; QSW/26, notice of new regulations, with details of inspectors and their places of attendance, 1834.