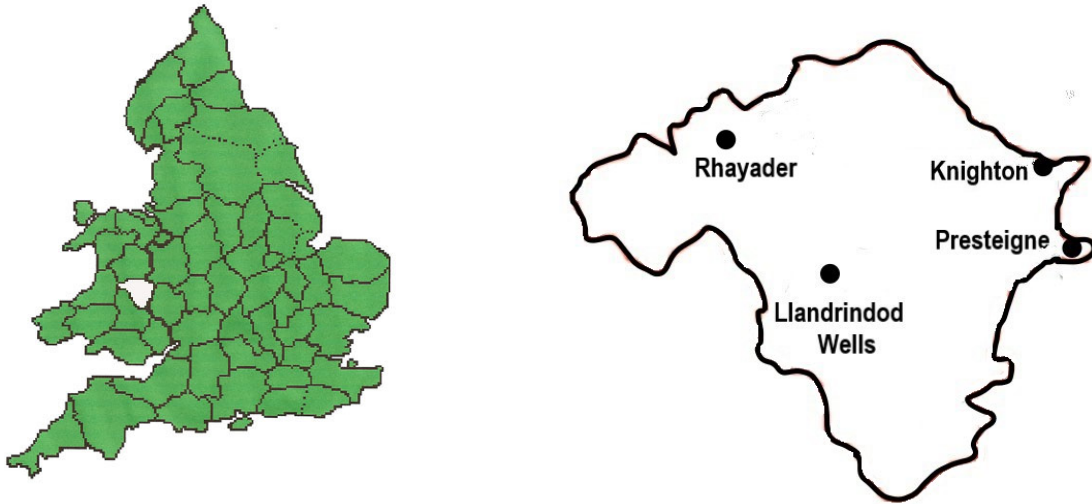


RADNORSHIRE





Radnorshire is a small county on the Welsh border. On the Welsh side it is bounded by Montgomeryshire, Cardiganshire and Breconshire, and on the English side by Shropshire and Herefordshire. The population is small and the main activity is agriculture.

There is no record of imperial standards being obtained by the county in the 1820s, although the borough of Rhayader did receive a set in 1829. The county appointed an inspector in 1835, and there are records of standards issued in 1848 and an inspector working in 1852. The county police force was set up in 1857 and took over responsibility for inspection almost immediately. The first qualified inspector, W.J. Bufton, was appointed in 1891, but was forced to resign because he had lied about his age.

The market towns of Presteigne and Knighton may have had some jurisdiction over weights and measures in the pre-imperial period, and subsequently they would have been home to ironmongers who sold scales and weights. In 1965 the Birmingham firm of Setten and Durward moved to Llandrindod Wells. This firm produced office equipment of all kinds, including scales and weights, but it is not known that they did so in Wales.

A: Inspection by the County of Radnorshire

| Dates | Events | Marks | Comments |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 1835 | One inspector for the whole county, but no standards recorded. Possibly the Rhayader standards [417] were used. | | <i>Inspectors 1835-1857:</i> Thomas Beaumont (Presteigne) (appointed 1834/5) William? Went (Presteigne) (active 1852 [S], d.1857) |
| 1848 | First record of standards [1009] being issued for the county. |  | This mark is unconfirmed. Another mark, crown/VR/CR may also belong to Radnorshire. |
| 1857 | County police force set up; two police superintendents act as WM inspectors. | | Although the County had its own police force, the chief constable was also the CC for Herefordshire 1857-68. <i>Police officers as inspectors in 1868:</i> |
| 1879 | No.321 issued |  | Knighton: Supt Joseph Constance Presteigne: Sgt Charles Downing |
| 1891 | First qualified inspector appointed. | | <i>Qualified inspectors:</i> W.J. Bufton: (q1891: 1891-92) (see below) |
| 1907 | Office at Llyswen. | | James Campbell: (q1892/3, 1892-1903) |
| 1922 | Office in County Buildings, Llandrindod Wells. | | C.S.W. Powell: (q1904/5, 1905-1922, 1926-51) [MR]. R.P. Gough: (q1921, 1922-26) R.W. Price: (1951-72-) [MR] |
| 1974 | Authority transferred to Powys County Council | | |

KNIGHTON.—On Thursday last Mr Went, inspector of weights and measures for the county of Radnor, attended the market in company with the proper authorities, and we are glad to say that on testing the butter, &c., then on sale at the Cross, with the standard weights, not a single instance of deficiency in weight was found.

¶ Report in the *Silurian, Cardiff, Merthyr and Brecon Mercury and South Wales General Advertiser* 10 April 1852. Inspector Went had checked the weights in use at the market in Knighton and (remarkably) had found no errors.

Weights & Measures Office
Llandrinidod

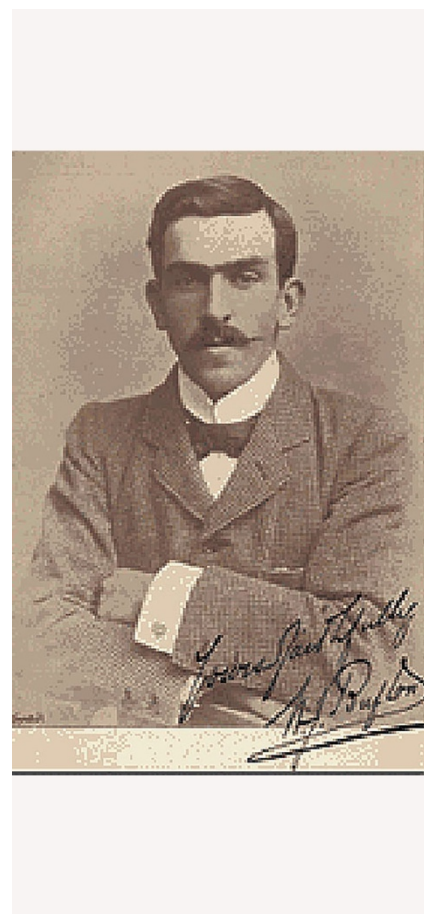
To the Hon: Chairman & Members
of the Radnorshire County Council

My Lord & Gentlemen

In reply to the question of
Herrman G. Rogers I must admit
that there was a misrepresentation
on my side. Having been sent
from home when I applied for
the Office and not being certain of my
exact age I put an approximate
not thinking that it would materially
matter being that there was no
age requested. I done it without
any consideration as to the consequences
& without due thought to the action
and I very much regret the error which
I have committed.

My Lord & Gentlemen
Yours faithfully
J. Bufton

In reply to Councillor Henry Hoyle the
Inspector stated that at the time he applied
for the appointment his age was 18 and
that he had represented it to be 22.
The Inspector intimated his desire
to resign the appointment.
Councillor Henry Hoyle proposed and
Herrman G. G. Rogers seconded and it was
that the resignation of the Inspector of
Weights and Measures be accepted.



¶ Extracts from the Radnorshire County Council Minutes of Friday, 22 April 1892, relating to Bufton's resignation as Inspector of Weights and Measures for Radnorshire.



- ¶ Weights with Radnorshire verification marks are rare. This mark, GR 321, is on the reverse of a 4oz brass weight, also stamped in the neighbouring County of Montgomeryshire.

B: Localities with separate WM jurisdiction in the county of RADNOR

Rhayader A short set of standards [417] was issued for the market town of Rhayader in 1829. It is possible that this set was used by the county, since it had no standards of its own. Knighton and Presteigne are recorded as having pre-Imperial Standards.

References for Radnorshire

Published works

Directories

K: Kelly's Directory of South Wales and Monmouthshire (1895-1926).

Newspapers

[S] *Silurian, Cardiff, Merthyr and Brecon Mercury and South Wales General Advertiser*.
10 April 1852 Note of a visit by Inspector Went to Knighton.

[BR] *Brecon and Radnor Express and Carmarthen Gazette*
29 April 1897, 29 October 1897 Mentions reports from Inspector Campbell.

[ME] *Montgomeryshire Echo*
24 January 1891, 2 May 1891 Activities of Inspector Bufton.
19 June 1906, 1 February 1908, 7 March 1908 References to Inspector Powell.

[MX] *Montgomeryshire Express*
10 February 1891, 5 May 1891, 5 January 1892, 31 May 1892, 2 August 1892 Activities of
Inspector Bufton.

Online

A Young Man about Town: the Diary of W J Bufton ([a-day-in-the-life.powys.org.uk/
eng/cult/eu_wjbufton.php](http://a-day-in-the-life.powys.org.uk/eng/cult/eu_wjbufton.php))

Original documents

Powys Archives, Llandrindod Wells

R/QS/*: Radnorshire Quarter Sessions, Minute books etc. (Not searched, but may contain details of appointments of inspectors up to 1889.)

R/QS/S/1171: appointment of Thomas Beaumont as treasurer and trustee of the Presteigne Friendly Society, 8 January 1831.

R/QS/S/4047-4050: documents relating to the new Imperial Standards, 1824-25, apparently not acted on.