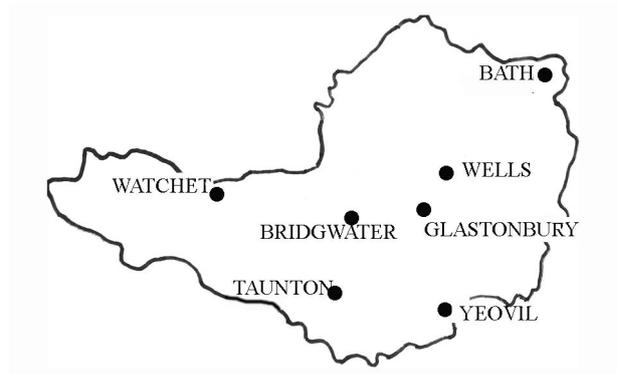
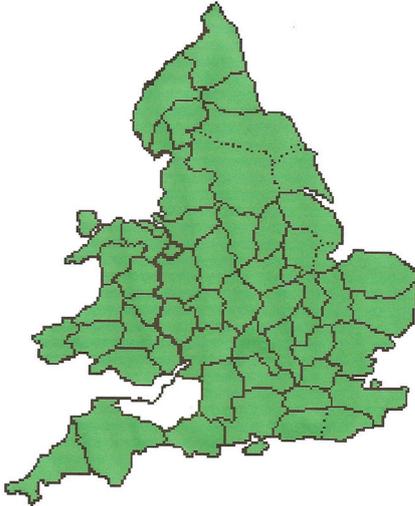


SOMERSET



Somerset is a medium-sized county in the West Country of England, bounded to the north mainly by the sea. To the north-east it borders the City of Bristol in Gloucestershire. The adjoining county to the east is Wiltshire, to the south, Dorset, and to the west, Devon.

The main towns are Bath, Bridgwater and Taunton. The last (being the county town) never had separate jurisdiction over weights and measures, but Bath and Bridgwater continued to appoint their own inspectors into the twentieth century. There were also Municipal Boroughs at Glastonbury, Wells, and Yeovil, and in the nineteenth century there remained two significant manorial jurisdictions, at Watchet and Wiveliscombe.

The trade was based originally in Bristol, where brass was manufactured, and there was a brassfoundry operating in Bridgwater by the middle of the eighteenth century. There was also a long history of metalworking in Frome, where the Cockey family were inspectors and manufacturers of weights at various times.

A London scalemaker, Samuel Warmisham, set up in Bath around 1859, and the trade flourished thereafter. In Taunton, the Cullen family were scalemakers for over 60 years.

A: Inspection by the County of SOMERSET

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1825	1 set of standards [297] issued.		John Passmore, Head Constable for Bath Forum hundred, acted as inspector of weights and measures from 1826-34 on the authority of the Court Leet [BC 12/10/26, 9/10/34]
1834	Two inspectors appointed for each of 7 districts (no numbers); 6 more sets of standards [601, 616, 665, 687-8, 726] issued.		<p>Inspectors 1834-58:</p> <p>The numbers are those allocated in 1835.</p>
1835	1 more set of standards [793] issued; 1 inspector appointed for each of seven numbered districts.		<p>Bath (1) Henry Marsh (1834) John Passmore (1834-53) William Lewis (1854-58)</p> <p>Frome (2) Edward Cockey (1834-) Henry Cockey (1834-) Lawrence Hagley (1844-58)</p> <p>Wrington (3) William Gingell (1834-58) William Wallis (1834)</p>
1856	County police force set up, initially 14 districts [3].		<p>Wincanton (4, Ilchester, Yeovil) Francis King (1834)</p>
1858	<p>WM inspectors dismissed and the superintendents of police appointed to replace them. Standards transferred from Axbridge, Wells, Glastonbury and 1 new set [1244] issued.</p> <p>District 15 (Yeovil) set up.</p>		<p>John M. Long (1834-52) George Stokes (1852-58)</p> <p>Ilminster (5, Langport) Robert Tapscott (1834-53) Thomas Webb (1834) James Kelway (1853-1858)</p> <p>Dunster (6) Thomas Lucas (1834) John Paull (1834-58)</p>
1859	4 more sets of standards [1256-9] issued.		<p>Taunton (7) Benjamin Ackland (1834) William Kingsbury (1834-)</p>
1882	Non-uniform mark in use [AR].		<p>John Kingsbury (-1853) John Woollen (1853-1858)</p> <p>Wells (8, not listed 1835) - Rexworthy (- 1841) John Kelway (1842-1858)</p>

¶ 2oz brass weight stamped by a Somerset County inspector, probably around 1835. The denomination has been stamped later.



¶ 4oz bronze weight stamped by the inspector for Somerset County, District No.2, Frome. The weight also has the London marks showing that it was made by a member of the Founders Company in the reign of William IV. This weight has no indication of the denomination.



¶ 2oz brass weight, stamped SOMERSET 4 DISTRICT, probably indicating Wincanton before 1858. On this weight the denomination is shown by the number 2 only, with no reference to 'ounces'.



Police officers as inspectors 1858-90

<p><i>1 Weston</i> Thomas Morgan (1858-86) William Balkwill (1887-90)</p> <p><i>2 Frome</i> George Summers (1858-60) Edward Deggan (&1861-83) Samuel Durham (&1883-87) Joseph Williams (&1887-90)</p> <p><i>3 Axbridge</i> Edward Deggan (1858-60&) Benjamin Elmes (1861) Henry Gillbanks (1861-90)</p> <p><i>4 Somerton</i> Charles Smith (1858-60&) Stephen Sheppard (1861-63&) Charles Smith* (1863-66) John Drewett (1866-76&) John Hardwick (1877-82) William Giles (1882-90)</p> <p><i>5 Ilminster</i> William Bloxham (1858-59&) Robert Everitt (1859-75) Patrick Gerity (1876-85&) William Self (&1885-90)</p>	<p><i>6 Williton</i> Thomas Bradshaw (1858-59) William Mear (1859-82) William Self (1882-85&) Wiliam Sticklan (1885-90)</p> <p><i>7 Taunton</i> John Goldsmith (1858-82) Cresant Jeffs (&1884-87) Samuel Durham (&1887-90)</p> <p><i>8 Temple Cloud</i> James Everdell (1858-62) James Emson (&1863-87&) Mark Rutherford (1887-90)</p> <p><i>9 Long Ashton</i> Edward Jones (1858-76) John Drewett (&1876-90)</p> <p><i>10 Wincanton</i> Robert Davies (1858-59) James Emson (1859-62&) Stephen Sheppard (&1863-82&) Joseph Williams (1882-87&) William Stoker (1887-90)</p>	<p><i>11 Dunster</i> Samuel Medicotte (1858-66) Samuel Durham (1866-83&) Edward Deegan (&1884-85) Patrick Gerity (&1885-90)</p> <p><i>12 Bridgwater</i> George Dowde (1858-60) Cresant Jeffs (&1861-84&) Joseph Vowles (1884-90)</p> <p><i>13 Glastonbury</i> Philip Crampton (1858-59) William Bloxham (&1859-68) John Bisgood (1868-90)</p> <p><i>14 Wiveliscombe</i> Cresant Jeffs (1858-60 &) Grantham Giddy (1861-64) John Ross (1864-90)</p> <p><i>15 Yeovil</i> Charles Smith* (&1860-82) Stephen Sheppard (&1882-87) James Emson (&1887-90) * Jointly with Somerton (1863-66)</p>
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¶ Detail of the mark for Somerset District No. 7 (Taunton), as used by the police from 1858 to 1889.

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1889	Somerset CC formed.		<i>Qualified inspectors:</i>
1890	Numbers issued; three districts: 1. Bath 575 2. Wells 576 3. Taunton 577		<i>Taunton district</i> J. Hayward (1890-1897 retd)
1891	Wells office moved to Bridgwater.		<i>North East district</i> J.J. Bellamy (1890-1924) [MR 24:43, 46:147] A.W. Butlin (1924-27) H.F. Hardiman (1927-1956)
1897	Districts combined into two: North-East (Bath) 575 South-West (Bridgwater) 576 The senior inspector in each division was designated as a 'chief inspector'.		F.W. Marston (1930-45, at Weston-super-Mare 1945-55)
1929	SW office moved to Taunton.		<i>South West district</i> N.W. Crick (1890-1924) A.S. Turier (1924-1954) [MR 55:3] T.H. Maguire (1929-1954) C.H. Canvin (1954-) G. Cottee (1938-69)
1945	New district set up, with office in Weston-super-Mare.		<i>Chief inspectors (see note in column 2):</i> F.W. Marston (1955-69) [MR 75:3] G. Cottee (1969-74) [MR 74:50] Edgar Munday (1974-86)
1974	Trading Standards Department set up.		

¶ Inspector Edgar Munday carrying out an inspection. The presence of bananas indicates that the date is probably in the 1960s or 1970s.



B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the County of SOMERSET

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Bath	AncBo MB:1835 qsb CB:1888		38	s:1826 r:1864 [112]
				n:1879-1974
<p>The first mark shown is seen on bronze weights and was probably used before 1834. The inspector appointed in 1834 was John George, who continued until his death in 1862 [BC 6/2/62]. The initials JG have been seen stamped on the reverse of a weight with the BC mark (see picture).</p> <p>William England was appointed the inspector in 1862 with an annual salary of £100 [BC 13/3/62], raised to £150 (1866), which would suggest that the inspection was his main occupation, although he is also described as the sub-editor of the Bath Journal [BC 30/3/65]. He acted until his death in 1871 [BC 26/10/71].</p> <p>James Williams was appointed the inspector in 1872. His son Albert, appointed as Assistant Inspector in 1888 [BC, 17/5/88], qualified in 1891, although James never qualified. They served together until 1903, and Albert acted alone from 1904 until 1906. W.A. Radford, who had qualified in Brighton in 1903/4, was inspector from 1907 until 1913, C.E. Hair was chief inspector from 1913 until 1948 [MR 48:59], T.H. Fallon from 1948-1960 [MR 48:74, 60:60] and J.J. Storey from 1960 through 1972 [MR: 60: 278].</p>				
Bridgwater	AncBo MB:1835 qsb		378	s:1836 [821] n:1880-c1930
<p>In 1835 the two market surveyors acted as inspectors. In 1839, Joseph Francis was reappointed as the IWM [SCG 26/1/39]. Edward Cogle Priest was appointed as IWM by the Recorder in 1848 [SM 8/7/48], as was James Boulting, a painter and plumber, in 1853 [TC 3/2/69], and he is listed in 1859 [HH] and in 1875 [K]. He served until 1876.</p> <p>Charles Sendell was appointed as inspector in 1877 [BC 8/2/77]. He was recorded as a housepainter in 1881 [Census], and was listed as the IWM from 1883 [K] until 1899 [MYBk], although he did not qualify.</p> <p>He was succeeded by William Kitch, who qualified in 1899/1900, and served until 1921, when authority was transferred to the county. The number 378 was still listed for the borough in 1928, but not in 1939.</p>				



¶ John George was the inspector for Bath from 1834 until about 1861. The weight shown above has his initials stamped on the reverse. Vivian's Directory of 1852 gives the times of his attendance at the office.

298	BATH ANNUAL DIRECTORY.
CITY WATERWORKS OFFICE, 6, ORANGE GROVE. <i>Superintendent, Mr. Mitchell.</i> Open from 10 to 5.	
TREASURER'S OFFICE, GUILDHALL. <i>Treasurer, Captain B. Peach.</i> <i>Clerk, Geo. Watts.</i> Open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from 11 to 3.	
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES' OFFICE. <i>City Inspector, Mr. John George.</i> <i>Office, 2, Church street, Abbey green. Open, Tuesdays and</i> <i>Fridays, from 10 to 1, and 2 to 4.</i>	



¶ A 1lb brass weight stamped by the Bridgwater inspector before 1880.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Axbridge	AncBo Unref Dis:1886		---	s:1825

Another mark, the letters AX above G surmounted by a crown, has also been attributed to Axbridge.

Axbridge is a small town that claimed to be a borough and acquired a full set of standards [21] in 1825. It was not granted the status of a municipal borough in 1835, but the sergeant-at-mace, Levi Bender, was appointed as IWM. It is likely that the standards were transferred to the county c1858, and in 1866 it was reported that the inspector was a police superintendent, presumably the county officer for No.3 district.

Glastonbury was given the status of a municipal borough in 1835 and acquired standards [910] in 1843. The borough police force was amalgamated with the county force in 1856, and inspection was probably transferred at that time.

Taunton was not considered as a borough in 1835, but it became a MB in 1877. The borough council tried to exclude the county inspector from its market as late as 1891, but Taunton was not formally a WM Authority.

Wells was designated as a municipal borough in 1835, when standards [671] were obtained and Robert Davies was appointed as the inspector. There was a borough police force but little is known about it. Inspection was probably transferred to the county police c1858.

Yeovil	AncBo MB:1854 cp		247	s:1835 n:1879-1889
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A mark consisting of a crown and the letters BY has been tentatively attributed to Yeovil, Yeovil had an ancient charter, but it did not become a municipal borough in 1835. However, in that year standards [690] were acquired for the use of the portreeve. The status of municipal borough was granted in 1854, and there was a borough police force for a short time, until it was amalgamated with the county force in 1859. By 1862 [TC 13/8/62] Supt Smith of the County Police was acting as the inspector. The borough retained its authority, and a separate number (247) was issued in 1879. In 1880 [WG 7/5/80] Supt Smith received a salary of £4 per annum from the Borough Council for his WM duties. The arrangement continued until his death in 1883. Stephen Harris was appointed as the inspector in 1883 [WG 9/11/83], in preference to Smith's successor as superintendent of the county police, and was listed in 1889 [K].

The borough was disqualified as a WMA in 1889 because its population was less than 10,000.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Watchet & Williton	Manors			s:1826 r:1856

The Earls of Egremont were Lords of the Manors of Watchet and Williton, and some of their standards from 1766 are still extant. Imperial standards [323] were obtained in 1826 and inspection remained under the control of the Court Leet until 1866 at least. At that time, four local tradesmen acted as inspectors: in 1868, two acted in Watchet and two in Williton [TC 4/11/68].

The Court Leet still continued to function on a ceremonial basis, meeting at the Bell Inn, until its auction in 1922 [WT 6/1/22]. 'Inspectors of weights and measures' were being appointed as late as 1948 [MR 48:26].

Wiveliscombe A short set of standards [858] was issued in 1837 for the use of the portreeves in this Manor. The portreeves had acted previously as IWMs, their authority being reaffirmed in 1834 [TC 3/9/34]. The two portreeves were elected annually at the Court Leet but, in 1865, they were warned that if the inspection were not carried out properly, the WM inspection would be transferred to the police [SM 21/11/65]; the inspection was done [SM 26/12/65]. The standards were reverified in 1873, and it is possible that inspection was transferred to the county at that time.

¶ On the right is a notice showing that the Watchet Court Leet was engaged in the verification of weights and measures in 1847. The mark W4W that is presumably theirs is shown on a 4oz bronze weight below.



Parish of Watchet and Borough of Watchet
of the County of Somerset
NOTICE

Is hereby given, that the COURT LEET with the view of Frankpledge of the Reverend William Cookesly Thompson, Clerk; the Reverend Joseph Street, Clerk; Robert Biddulph, Esquire, and Lawrence Walker, Esquire, (surviving Trustees of the last Will and Testament of the Right Honorable George Earl of Egremont, deceased,) will be held at *the Bell Inn Watchet in the said Parish and Borough*

on *Tuesday* the *27th* day of October, instant, at *10* o'clock in the *forenoon* when all Persons resident within the said Manors, and having in their possession weights and measures used by them in their trade or business, are required to attend, and bring with them their said weights and measures, that the same may, by the Leet Jury, be viewed and compared with the weights and measures of the Court Leet.

Given under my hand this *nineteenth* day of *October* 1847

Law Walker

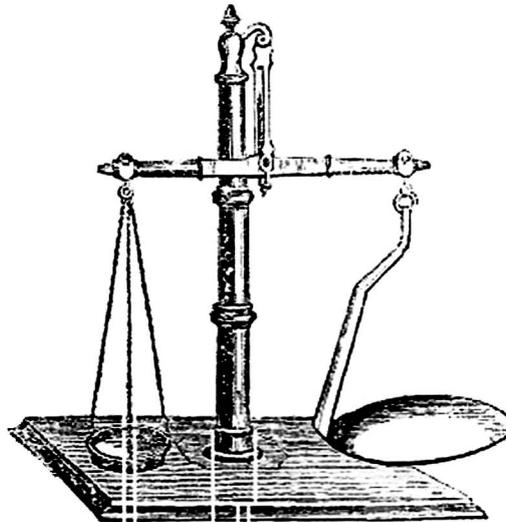
C: The trade in SOMERSET

BATH	
Warmisham <1859-1893>	Samuel Warmisham, branch of the <i>London</i> firm [advt 1859 L]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 New Orchard St <1859-1893>. Succeeded by Warmisham and Shepherd [1895 L].
Everett <1892-1900>	Charles B. Everett , manager for Warmisham [1888/9 L]; scale maker [1892/3 L]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Kingsmead St <1892-1900>. Died 1899?
Shepherd <1895-1900>	SHEPHERD BATH <i>On 2oz brass weight</i>
	Henry John Shepherd, manager for Warmisham <1892-1893>; proprietor of Warmisham & Shepherd <1895-1900>, at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 New Orchard Street <1895-1900>. Shepherd died in 1900 [BC 17/1/1901].
Gillard <1901-1930>	W. GILLARD BATH <i>On 1lb iron weight</i>
	William Gillard, scale maker [1901 L], at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Wells Place <1901> • 18 (15) St James Parade <1902-1908> • 6 Lower Borough Walls <1909-1912> • 5 Dorchester St <1913-1930>
Pabst <1902-1909>	Pabst & Co. scale makers [1902 L], at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 Monmouth St 1902-1909; Succeeded by G.H. James at same address.
James <1910-1967>	G.H. JAMES SCALE MAKER BATH
	George H. James, scale and weight maker [1910 L] successor to Pabst & Co , at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 Monmouth St <1910> • 5 Kingsmead Square <1911-1939> • 86 Walcot St <1940-1967>.
Avery <1914->	First noted 1914 [K] at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 Walcot Street <1914-31>

¶ On the right is an advertisement for Samuel Warmisham's business in Bath [1859 K]. At the turn of the century the business was run by Henry Shepherd. His name appears on the weight shown below, with the Bath verification mark ER 38.



THE BATH SCALE AND WEIGHING-MACHINE MANUFACTORY.



S. WARMISHAM,
Scale, Weight, Weighing-Machine, and Steel Mill
Manufacturer,

OF 64, BISHOPSGATE STREET, CITY, LONDON,
(Business Established in 1747).

Grocers' Tea Canisters and Coffee Boxes: also, Tobacco and Snuff Jars
of every description made to order.

Registered Weighing-Machines and Weights for Gentlemen's Kitchens, as used in London.
*N.B.—Scales and Weights kept in Repair at Moderate Charge by Yearly Contract, in Town or Country.
Old Mills Re-cut to equal new.*

¶ Right: a 11b iron weight with the name of William Gillard, early twentieth century.



Below: a 2oz brass weight with the name of G.H. James, c1920.



BRIDGWATER	
Street & Pyke <1773-1800>	In the 1770s a large brass foundry in Bridgwater was being run by Robert Street and Thomas Pyke. They advertised that they had acquired Standard Weights and were making large numbers of scales and weights for checking gold coins according the Acts of 1773-76. Pyke was mayor of Bridgwater 1790/91 and 1810/11.
Evans <1906>	Evans, scale maker [1906 K] at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 Camden Road. Gone by 1908.
Pooley <1919-39>	Henry Pooley & Sons, [1919 K] at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Salmon Parade <1919-39>
FROME	
Cockey <1834>	COCKEY FROME <i>On a 56lb iron bar weight</i>
	The Cockey family were metal workers in Frome from about 1685 onwards.. In the early nineteenth century Edward Cockey set up a very successful ironfoundry in Palmer Street, and in 1834 he and his son Henry were appointed as inspectors for the Frome district of the county. The firm's name has been seen on large cast iron weights. In 1844 [BC 4/7/44] Lawrence Hagley, a relative of Edward Cockey's wife, was appointed the inspector in Frome.
TAUNTON	
Kallend <1861-83>	Kallend & Son, engineers and scale beam makers [1861 K], [1866 K] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Bridge St <1861-1883>.
Cullen <1906-1972>	F. Cullen & Co., scale makers [1906 K] at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50/51 Upper High Street <1906-1972>. Latterly run by Edgar W. Cullen and C.E. Cullen [advt 1968 KT].
Goldsworthy <1935-39>	L.W. Goldsworthy, scale maker [1935 K], at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Horse Lane <1935-1939>
Avery <1935-68>	First noted 1935 [K], at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 High St <1935> • 102 Station Road <1939-1968>
WESTON-SUPER-MARE	
Avery <1956-74>	First noted 1956 [K-WSM] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 Drove Road <1956-74>.

GOLD COIN MONEY SCALES and WEIGHTS, of various Sorts, are manufactured in the compleatest Manner, at STREET and PYKE'S Wholesale Warehouse, in Bridgewater, Somerset. They have at a great Expence and Trouble, procured from the Tower of London, Standard Weights of every Sort; and the Public may depend on the greatest Accuracy and Truth in their Scales and Weights.—They employ near 200 Hands, and compleat weekly Fourteen Hundred Sets; and are determined to sell as low, or lower than in London, Bristol, or Birmingham.

. Statical and Hydrostatical Balances, by the King's Patent. Braziers, Foundry, Tin, and Ironmongery Goods. New-invented Bath Hobb Stoves, and with Ovens, of various Sorts and Patterns, with their proper Furniture, are finished in the compleatest Manner at their Manufactory.—Clock Dial Plates finished in a curious Manner, Engraving in general by the best Hands.—Clock Makers Brass and Steel Work, Tools and Materials of the best Sorts, &c. &c.

¶ Advertisement for the coin-scales and weights made by Street and Pyke in Bridgewater, from the Gloucester Journal, 1773.

F. CULLEN & CO.
50/51 UPPER HIGH STREET, TAUNTON
 TELEPHONE 2803
SCALE MAKERS, REPAIRERS AND
MAINTENANCE EXPERTS
 ALL CLASSES WEIGHING MACHINES IN STOCK

COMPLETE DAIRY OUTFITTERS
 DAIRY SUPPLY
 LISTER — CLARE'S — MONO CONTAINERS
 FULLWOOD & GASCOIGNE MILKING MACHINES
 AND SPARES
 DETERGENTS, Etc.
 AT TAUNTON MARKET THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SCALE & WEIGHT MAKERS.

Avery W. T. Ltd. 102a, Station rd. Taunton

CULLEN F. & CO. (E. W. Cullen & C. E. Cullen) (& dairy equipment mers.) (repairers & maintenance experts), 50 & 51 Upper High st. (Tel. Taunton 2803) & New Cattle Market, Priory Bridge rd. See advert Whitfield Len (repr.), Cyril st. & 12 Vera st

¶ Cullen & Co.'s advertisement and entry in Kelly's Taunton Directory, 1968.

YEOVIL

Avery
<1910-31>

First noted 1910 [K], at
• 63 South Street <1910-31>

References for Somerset

Published works

1. *The Somerset Trading Standards Department: A Brief Illustrated History 1889-1989*. Taunton: 1989. A 56-page booklet with a mass of information, some of it confused.
2. Norman Biggs, Provincial Coin-Weights in the 18th Century. *British Numismatic J.* 74 (2004) 102-120. Gives details of the scales and weights made by Street and Pyke in Bridgwater.
3. *Somerset Constabulary Centenary 1856-1956*. A 48-page booklet with interesting details about the early days of the force.

Directories

- P. Pigot's Directory of ... Somerset (N76) 1842.
- B. The Bath Directory (N637) 1846.
- H. Hunt's Directory of Axbridge etc. (ST1200) 1850.
- V. Vivian's Directory of Bath (N640, ST1201) 1852, 1854.
- K. Kelly's [Post Office] Directory of Somersetshire (ST1195) 1861-1939.
- L. Post Office [Lewis's] Bath Directory (ST1203) 1858-1940.
- KB. Kelly's Directory of Bath and Neighbourhood (ST1209) 1904-1950.
- HH. Harrison, Harrod's Directory of ... Somersetshire (ST117) 1859.
- KT. Kelly's Directory of Taunton (ST 1215) 1928-1951.
- T. West of England and Trewman's Exeter ... (ST349) 1853-1884.

Newspapers

- GJ *Glocester Journal* (25 October 1773. Advertisement for Street and Pyke of Bridgwater. Similar advertisements appear in other West Country newspapers.)
- BC *Bath Chronicle and Western Gazette* (1826-1891).
- SM *Sherborne Mercury* (1848-1866).
- TC *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* (1833-1891)
- SCG *Somerset County Gazette* (1839)

Original documents

Somerset Record Office

- DD/DN/366, 380. Letters from John Kelway and William Passmore relating to appointment of inspectors, 1842, 1853.
- C/WM/1/13. Papers relating to the appointment of qualified inspectors, including brass discs with verification numbers.
- C/WM/1/16. List of candidates for the appointments in 1890, with personal details.