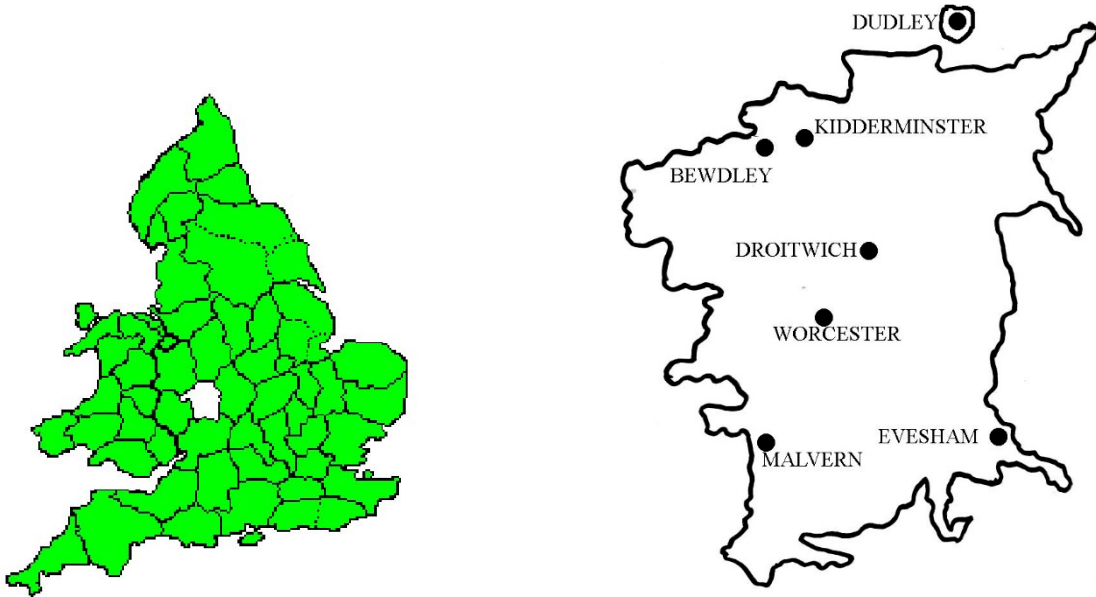


WORCESTERSHIRE





The county of Worcestershire lies in the 'the heart of England'. It stretches from the suburbs of Birmingham in the north-east to the Malvern Hills in the south-west. It is bordered by Shropshire and Staffordshire to the north, Warwickshire to the east, Gloucestershire to the south, and Herefordshire to the west.

The county police force was set up in 1840 and police officers acted as inspectors of weights and measures from 1848 onwards. There were five ancient boroughs, Bewdley, Droitwich, Evesham, Kidderminster, and Worcester, all of which had jurisdiction over weights and measures for part of the nineteenth century. In 1865 the town of Dudley (which lay in a detached part of the county) became a municipal borough. Its rapid growth meant that, along with Worcester, it was granted the status of a county borough in 1888. Kidderminster, although remaining a municipal borough, was also a Weights and Measures Authority until 1974.

In the north of the county the metal trades were greatly affected by the proximity of Birmingham. An important factor was that brass going to Birmingham from the works in Bristol was carried by boat up the River Severn to Bewdley, and thence by cart to its destination. Thus large quantities of this vital raw material were available in Bewdley, which itself became a focus for metal working [2]. By the end of the nineteenth century weights were being produced in large numbers in both Bewdley and its neighbour, Kidderminster.

A: Inspection by the County of WORCESTERSHIRE

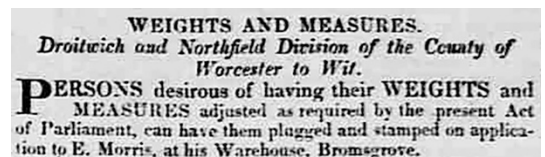
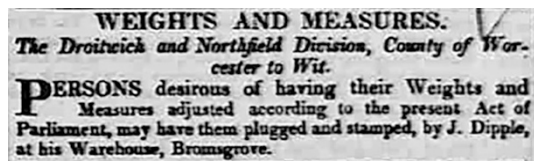
Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1826	1 set of standards [313] issued; several examiners.		In 1795 there were 5 hundreds of the county. Later the county was divided into 10 divisions, which were combined into 7 for WM purposes in 1834.
1834	7 inspectors appointed; 1 more set of standards [567] obtained.		
1835	6 sets of standards [597, 681-2, 724, 758-9] obtained.		<i>Inspectors 1834-48</i> (some had previously been examiners):
1842	A separate division set up for Dudley.		<i>Hundred House (1)</i> Thomas Tyler (1834-44) George Green (1844-47) <i>Worcester (2)</i> Richard Stockall (1834-36) Richard Knott (1837-47) <i>Pershore (3)</i> William Hooper (1834-47) <i>Upton (4)</i> George Boulter (1834-41) John Day (1841-47) <i>Kidderminster, (Dudley), and Stourbridge (5)</i> Charles Mathews (1834-36) William Craig (1836-44) John Cutler (asst) (1844) Alfred Walters (1844-47) <i>Droitwich and Northfield (6)</i> John B. Crane (1834-35) --- Grainger (1836) Thomas Haynes (1836-47) <i>Blockley (7):</i> Thomas Snow (1834-45) William Marshall (1845-
1848	<p>The police superintendents took over as inspectors of WM. 5 more sets of standards [995-998, 1000] issued, to make up 9 complete sets.</p> <p>The early county marks are small and the words were almost illegible. The larger version may have been introduced when the police took over in 1848.</p>		<i>Dudley (8) 1842 onwards</i> Joseph Cooke (1842-47) Peter Minty (1847)



¶ A bronze 8oz local standard weight inscribed

DODDINGTREE HUNDRED 1796.

Doddingtree was one one of the five hundreds of the county. The marks GR III and the chequerboard signify that it was verified at the Exchequer in London. There are also later marks for the county of Worcestershire, suggesting that the weight was used as an ordinary trade weight in the mid-19th century.



¶ Two advertisements from the Worcester Herald, 28 February and 7 March, 1835 respectively.

¶ Detail from a bronze 8oz weight, showing the early version of the county mark SIGILL COMIT VIGORN and the district number 2.



Police officers as inspectors 1848-1890

The divisions were numbered but the numbering seems to have been altered several times.

<p><i>Worcester</i> Miles Overend (1848-49) Richard Humphries (1849-51) William Freeman (1851-57) James Phillips (1857-76) George Checketts (1877-89) Alfred Tyler (1889-90)</p> <p><i>Bromsgrove (Redditch)</i> William Forty (1848-53) John Bevan (1853-73) Alfred Tyler (1873-79) William Jeffrey (1879-1890)</p> <p><i>Halesowen (Oldbury)</i> --- Graham (1848-49) Miles Overend (1849-72) Henry Kemp (1873-81) Charles Hardman (1881-88-)</p> <p><i>Stourbridge (Kidderminster c.1870))</i> Henry Burton (1848-57&) William Freeman (1857-78) John Wheeler (1879-90)</p>	<p><i>Hundred House, Tenbury, (Stourport c. 1870) (Witley)</i> George Taylor (1848-57) William Forty (1858- John Raby (-1860-76) Charles Hardman (1876-1881) William Stanton (1881-1885) Alfred Pugh (1885-90)</p> <p><i>Stourport and Kidderminster (until 1870)</i> John Be(a)van (1849-53) William Forty (1853-57) George Taylor (1858-59) William Stanton (1859-70)</p> <p><i>Northfield (Kingsheath)</i> Richard Humphries (1849) --- Graham (1849-55) Richard Humphries (1855-1876) Alfred Tyler (1879-89)</p> <p><i>Pershore (Evesham)</i> William Harris (1848-70) William Stanton (1871-81) Henry Kemp (1881-90)</p>	<p><i>Upton</i> William Freeman (1848-51) Richard Humphries (1851-55) George Checketts (1855-77) George Turner (1877-87) James Wasley (1887-89)</p> <p><i>Dudley</i> Joseph Jewkes (1848-57) Henry Burton (1857-81, transferred to borough of Dudley in 1881)</p> <p><i>Shipston on Stour/Blockley (sergeants of Police)</i> Richard Humphries (1848-49) James Phillips (1852-54) James Thompson (1854-57) James Phillips (1857) S. Booth (1858)</p>
Police continuing as unqualified inspectors 1890 – c.1904		
<p>Worcester Alfred Tyler (1890-92) John Wheeler (1892-1900) James Wasley (1901-1904-)</p> <p>Bromsgrove William Jeffrey (1890-1902)</p>	<p>Stourbridge John Wheeler (1890-92) Alfred Pugh (1892-1904-)</p> <p>Pershore Henry Kemp (1890-92)</p>	<p>Witley Alfred Pugh (1890-93)</p> <p>Northfield James Wasley (1890-1900)</p>





¶ A later version of the county mark (c.1850-90?) stamped on a 2oz brass weight. The number 5 signifies the police district, probably Stourbridge.



¶ Close-up of the SIGILL COMIT VIGORN mark on a brass weight.

¶ Two 1oz brass weights stamped with the county number 534 in the reign of Edward VII, 1901-1910.



	Events	Marks	Comments
1889	Worcestershire CC formed. The county took over from Bewdley and Droitwich.		<i>Qualified inspectors:</i> <i>Southern District (Evesham)</i> D.C. Critchley (q1892/3-1905) John E. Harris (q1901/2 in Wakefield)(1905-11) [MR 15:152] A. Greening (q1902 in Kidderminster)(1910-21&)
1890	Number 534 issued. WM remained under control of the Chief Constable. A new set of standards [2175] issued.		<i>Mid District</i> <i>(Stourbridge/Bewdley)</i> A.A. Spencer (q1900/1-1912&) F.J. Cope (q1904/5) (1908-12-) E. Poulson (-1916-21)
1908	Three districts, Northern, Mid, Southern. The Mid district used the old Bewdley number, 221.		<i>Northern District</i> <i>(Oldbury/Northfield/etc)</i> A.E. Ball (q1892/3-1900) E. Poulson (q1901/2-1913&) P. Mobbs (q1908-12-) A.A. Spencer (-1916-21)
1922	Districts reorganised: 1 Stourbridge 2 Stourport 3 Worcester 4 Evesham		<i>No.1 District (Stourbridge)</i> A.A. Spencer (&1922-32-) [MR 60:159] <i>No.2 District (Stourport)</i> F.J. Cope (&1922-35 then chief) <i>No.3 District (Worcester)</i> E. Poulson (&1922-32-) <i>No.4 District (Evesham/Kings Heath)</i> A. Greening (&1922-36-) E.A. Spencer (1928-38) C.R. Owen (1939-?) W.A. Pearce (1941-64) [MR 75:62]
1935	WM transferred to civilian department, under a chief inspector.		<i>Chief inspectors:</i> F.J. Cope (1935-1938) [MR 60:88] E.A. Spencer (1938-65) [MR 65:271] C.R. Owen (1965-74, then chief of the joint authority) [MR 65:270]
1936	Only 3 districts.		
1945	No.610 issued		
1946	No.537 issued		
1974	Authority transferred to the new county of Hereford & Worcester		

COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

Weights & Measures Office,

Bewdley,

1909.

Exley. Bewdley Foundry.
To Worcestershire County Council, Dr.

:- FOR :-

Verification and Stamping of Weights, Measures & Weighing Instruments

				Statutory Fee	
9.					
10 ^{lb}	456.	weights	stamped		1 16
11 ^{lb}	456	"	"		1 16
16 ^{lb}	791	"	"		1 14 7
17 ^{lb}	1074	"	"		2 4 9
25 ^{lb}	1323	"	"		2 17 11 1/2
26 ^{lb}	250	"	"		10 11
35 ^{lb}	465	"	"		1 14 6
12 ^{lb}	469	"	"		1 5 8
				<i>f</i>	14 4 1/2


CHEQUES & P.O.s TO BE MADE
TO THE ORDER OF SPENCER.



Received 8th July 1909
A.A. Spencer

¶ This is a receipt from A.A. Spencer, the inspector for the 'Mid' district of Worcestershire, dated July 1909. It acknowledges the payment of £14 0s 4½d from Mr Exley of the Bewdley Foundry for putting the inspector's mark on weights, measures and weighing instruments. The number of weights stamped is substantial (over 5000 in a month), suggesting that they were being sold on to others in the trade. See Section C for more details.

B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the County of WORCESTERSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Bewdley	AncBo MB:1835 cp		221	s:1849 r:1860 n:1879-1889

The mark depicts an anchor and padlock, part of the arms of the borough.

In 1843, despite the fact that the borough held no standards at that time, Charles Allen was mentioned as the inspector [WC 1/3/43]. Six years later, in 1849, a short set of standards [1021] was issued to the Town Clerk, and William Trigger, an auctioneer and publican, was appointed as IWM [WC 1/8/49]. By 1854, another auctioneer and publican, Thomas Southerton was in post [WC 13/9/54], but in 1857 the Town Council agreed that a new inspector should be appointed [WC 12/8/57]. The person appointed was the aforementioned Charles Allen, who was reported to be active in 1858. He continued until his death in 1866.

At this stage the Town Council decided that the head constable, P. D. Maynerds (HC 1861-67), should be the inspector. Maynerds' successor James Fisher (HC 1867-82) was appointed IWM in 1867 [WC 11/5/67], although he illegally pocketed the fees [WJ 4/4/68]. The number 221 was issued to Bewdley in 1880. Fisher continued in post until 1882, when the police force was amalgamated with the county force. A police sergeant, James Herman, was listed as IWM in 1884 [K], whilst in 1888 it was George Payne [K].

In 1889 the borough was disqualified as a WMA, but the WM office in Bewdley continued to operate, under the county inspector for the Stourbridge district, and the 221 mark was used there. Many weights were being made at Bewdley, and stamped by the local inspector before being sold, which explains why the Bewdley number 221 is relatively common.

In 1901, when there was an amalgamation of the Stourport office, it was decided that the borough of Bewdley should remain under the supervision of Supt Pugh, of the Stourbridge division, whilst the remainder of the Stourport division was transferred to the Worcester division. The Bewdley office was closed around 1914.

BEWDLEY.

INSPECTION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—The opinion given by Mr. Whitmore (upon a case laid before him by the Committee of County Magistrates) that the power of appointing inspectors of weights and measures in boroughs having original jurisdiction, still remains with those boroughs, has given great satisfaction to the inhabitants of Bewdley, who, are naturally desirous of maintaining their privileges intact. We understand that they would have endeavoured to maintain this right under any circumstances; and this opinion, to which the County Magistrates appear inclined to submit, must have been an exceedingly pleasant piece of intelligence at Bewdley. Last week a new set of standard weights, scales, and measures, arrived in the town, and in a short time an inspector will be appointed.


¶ An article from the *Worcester Journal* of 18 July 1849.




¶ This 1/2 lb brass weight was stamped in Bewdley with the borough's mark of an anchor and padlock, used up to 1879. The weight must have been used in the West Country, because it has also been verified by the authorities in Plymouth and the county of Cornwall.



¶ Detail from a brass 1/4 lb weight, showing the anchor and padlock, and one from a 4oz brass weight, made and stamped in Bewdley, during the period 1880-1901

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Droitwich	AncBo MB:1835	 ?	211	s:1862 n:1879-1889
<p>The mark is not confirmed.</p> <p>Droitwich was made a municipal borough in 1835, but was not given the right to hold a commission of the peace, and so it could not operate as a WMA. However the right was granted subsequently, and may have been the reason for the acquisition of standards [1335] in 1862. There was a small borough police force, and Thomas Harris, sergeant of police, was the initial inspector. He indicated his intention to resign in 1867 [WC 9/10/67]. He was followed as IWM by Alfred Stait (HC 1867-74) [WC 9/10/67] and then by John Colley (HC 1874-81), who was listed in 1876 [K]. The borough force was amalgamated with the county force in 1881, but the number 211 was assigned around that time, and may have been used up to 1889 when the borough was disqualified because the population was less than 10,000.</p>				

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Dudley	Mkt Town MB:1865 cp CB:1888		521	s:1827 n:1889-1974


Dudley was geographically detached from the main part of Worcestershire and was officially transferred to Staffordshire in 1966. The mark represents Dudley Castle.

Rather surprisingly, Dudley did not become a municipal borough in 1835, and the authority of the old Court Leet seems to have prevailed. In 1827 a set of standard weights [397] was issued to 'Williams & Sons of Dudley, for private use'. The receipt was probably Philip Williams, owner of the Union Colliery in Oldbury [1835 P]. At the same time standard weights and measures [398-9] were issued, for the 'Town and Parish', to the Clerk of the Market, J. Hillman. These standards had a complicated history [WJ 9/6/55]. In about 1834 they were acquired by the Mayor, using a grant of £140 from the Poor Rate and another £50 from the monies received from fines. However the county authorities effectively confiscated the standards and they were sent to the Exchequer for reverification in 1848. By 1855 they were being used by Joseph Jewkes, the inspector for the Dudley division of the county.

The town was eventually granted borough status in 1865, and Henry Burton, superintendent of the county police, acted as the IWM for the borough 'consolidated with the county' in 1876 [K]. In 1881 the borough acquired new standards [1708] and appointed Burton as its own IWM; Burton was still listed in 1892 [AR], finally retiring in 1893 [WC 25/2/93]. T.C. Brown (q1890/1 in Salop) was the inspector from 1895 until his death in 1915 [MR 15:240]. I.J. Jupp qualified in Dudley in 1911 and was listed as the IWM from 1916 until 1932. He was succeeded by L.A. Cave (1932-65) [MR 65:54], and G.H. Harvey (1965-72) [MR 65:59].



¶ A 1 oz brass weight, showing a representation of Dudley Castle.


Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Evesham	AncBo MB:1835 cp		---	s: 1835

The mark represents the arms of the borough, a coronet above a wheatsheaf, flanked by two feathers. Edward Baylis was appointed IWM for the borough in 1835, and standards [795] were issued in that year. In 1841, Mr William Arton, inspector of the borough police was appointed IWM [WJ: 22/4/41] whilst James Douglas, of the borough police, was listed as IWM in 1850 [K]. The borough police force was amalgamated with the county in 1850, and thereafter the inspector was a superintendent of the county force. However, the borough retained its authority, and continued to use its own mark; in 1867, Superintendent Harris of the Pershore division was appointed IWM for the borough [WJ 16/11/67], whilst in 1873 and 1879 [L] the superintendent of the Pershore division, William Stanton, was listed as IWM for the 'Evesham petty sessional division including the borough'. Although Stanton transferred to the Hundred House Division in 1881, William Ganderton, a police sergeant, was listed as the IWM for Evesham in 1880 [K], and again in 1884 [K]. The borough lost its authority in 1889 because its population was less than 10,000.

The **Manor of Evesham** also obtained standards [849] in 1837. See later for details.



¶ Details from a bronze 1 lb weight, showing the coronet, two feathers and wheatsheaf of the Borough of Evesham mark. Also a later brass 1 oz weight, where the mark is encircled, and the number 10 represents the division of the county.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Kidderminster	AncBo MB:1835 cp		224	s:1831 r:1867 n:1879-1974


Standards [442] were issued in 1831.

In 1857, it was reported that Supt Merrifield, who acted as the IWM, should be removed from his role as superintendent of police [WC 7/10/57]. A year later, James Gifford (HC 1853-68) was appointed as IWM [WJ 20/2/58] and the standards were verified. He was followed by Capt C.J. Hampton (HC 1869-73), appointed as IWM in 1869 [WJ 16/10/67], George Haigh (HC 1873-84), who was listed as IWM in 1876 [K], and George Ebury (HC 1884-87), who was listed as IWM in 1884 [K].

Edwin Bennett (HC 1887-1918) qualified as an inspector in 1889/90 and was listed as IWM in 1900 [K], see also [MR 18:109]. Standards were obtained in 1890 [2153] and in 1891 [2237]. William Vaughan (q1912 in Surrey) was the inspector from 1914 to 1950 [MR 67:291]. He was followed by R.L. Bloor (1950-68) [MR 68:268] and G.T. Gordon (1968-72-) [MR 68:292].



¶ Detail from a brass ½ lb weight, showing the non-uniform Kidderminster mark, alongside one from a brass 1 oz weight, showing the uniform Kidderminster number.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Worcester	CCorp MB:1835 CB:1888		264	s:1825 [60] 1856 [1167] n:1879-1974

In 1834 John Williams was appointed as the inspector; the old set of standards was sent for repair. Williams continued as the inspector until his death in 1845. Joseph Orchard, one of the Mayor's Officers was appointed in Williams' place, assisted by a Mr Tilt. In 1847, Tilt was relieved of his duties as assistant IWM, that role passing to Serjeant Sanders [WC 13/1/47]. Orchard was willing to resign in 1856 [WJ 9/2/56], the role passing to John Smith, also one of the Mayor's Officers: new standards [1167] were obtained that year. John Smith was regularly listed as IWM until he was replaced as IWM in 1889 by Reuben Harper [WJ 8/6/89].

Reuben Harper was succeeded as IWM in 1910 by W.R. Mathews (q1908 in Walsall) [MR 23:159]. Mathews was still in post in 1936 [MR 36:211; 37:3], and was followed by J. Beer (1937-74) [MR 37:59; 76:135].



¶ The mark used by the Borough of Worcester, like the one used by the county, was based on the traditional three pears. These examples are taken from brass 1 lb and ½ oz weights.



¶ The 8oz weight from a set of Worcester local standards, indenture number 2418. This weight was first marked in 1905 and may be a replacement provided when an earlier set was reverified.

Minor jurisdictions in Worcestershire

Stourbridge is a Market Town. Standards were issued in 1826 [364], for the use of J. Moseley, the standing overseer. These standards were put up for sale by private contract in 1843 [WC 15/2/43]. In 1855 Supt Henry Burton of the County Police was acting as the IWM, allegedly ‘under the Town Act’ [WC: 21/11/55], although the status of this authority was doubtful. In practice the County Police continued to be responsible for the inspection, until it was taken over by the qualified inspectors in the 1890s.

Evesham Part of Evesham was under a manorial jurisdiction which acquired standards [849] in 1837. There were several other manors in the vicinity that received standards at around the same time, but they were in the neighbouring county of Gloucestershire. The standards were issued to Elizabeth Ackerley, the Lady of the Manor in each case.

Cutsdean A manorial jurisdiction that received standards [845] in 1836, but the Lord of the Manor here was W.D. Pierce.

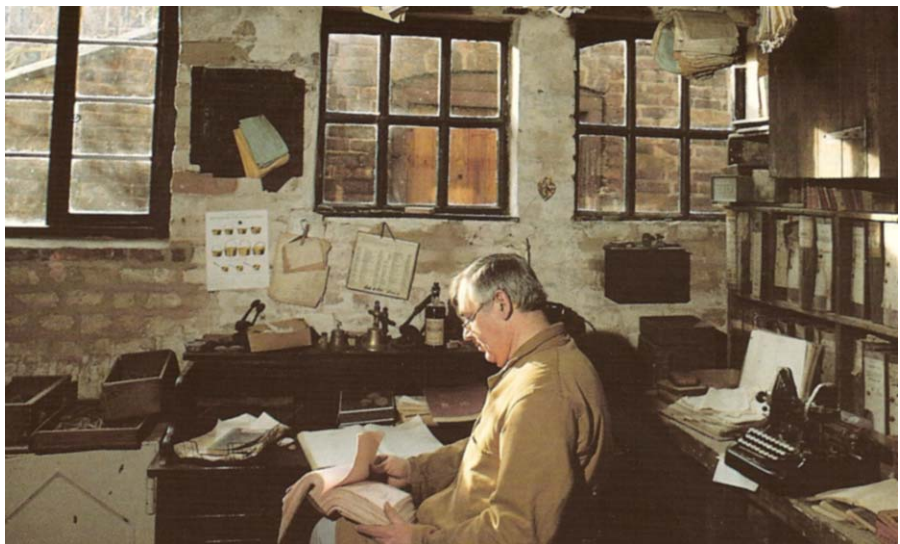
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.
TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,
STANDARD WEIGHTS and MEASURES, viz. :—
ONE IMPERIAL YARD, COPPER MEASURES
 from One Bushel to Half a Gill, ten in number; **BRASS**
WEIGHTS from Fifty six Pounds to Quarter Ounce, thirty
 ten in number; **Two Pair of SCALES AND BEAMS.**
 The above are in excellent condition, are the property of
 the Overseers of the Township of Stourbridge, and may be
 seen on application to Mr. Joel Maurice, Longlands. If not
 disposed of in the interim, they will be offered by **PUBLIC**
AUCTION, at the TALBOT HOTEL, on FRIDAY, the
Third of March, at four o'clock in the afternoon,
 Stourbridge, Feb. 14, 1843.

¶ Advertisement from the *Worcestershire Chronicle* of 15 February, 1843

C: The trade in Worcestershire

BEWDLEY	
Bancks and Stokes c1835-1873	<p>The Bancks family were pewterers who moved to Bewdley in 1697. By the 19th century the pewtering side of the business was in decline, but in 1828 Christopher Bancks took William Stokes into partnership. The firm continued as brassfounders under the name of Bancks and Stokes [1835 P]. In 1861 [Census] William Stokes was described as master worker. There is only circumstantial evidence that the firm made weights at this time, although weights were later to become one of their main products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load Street < 1851-73>
Smith <1876-1894>	<p>By 1879 [advt L1] George T. Smith & Son (late William Stokes) advertised as brassfounders and makers of all kinds of weights. The 'Son' was John Smith, who built up the business but died in 1893.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17, Load Street <1876-1894>. <p>At the same address in 1892 [advt K], taken over in 1894, but continued to trade under the old name until 1911.</p>
Stephenson <1912>	<p>The Stephenson family of Wednesbury held a mortgage on the brassfoundry premises from 1875 onwards, and foreclosed in 1894. The business continued to operate under the Smith name for some years, but latterly it was listed as Stephenson Bros [1912 K], and catalogues were issued in that name. At some stage the firm was owned by a Reverend Tonks of Dowles, and probably managed by H.J. Exley, who was the owner by 1914 [2].</p>
Exley <1904-1964	<p>H.J. Exley and his family, who also had an ironmonger's shop at 58 Load Street, had acquired 17, Load Street by 1912 [K], continued to produce weights at the brass foundry until 1964.</p>

¶ The office at the Bewdley brassfoundry, now part of Bewdley Museum,



G. T. SMITH & SON
 (Late WILLIAM STOKES),
GENERAL BRASSFOUNDERS,
AND MANUFACTURERS OF
 Maslin Kettles, Polished London Skillets, & Preserving Pans,
 MORTARS AND PESTLES,
 YARD, HOUSE, AND HAND BELLS,
 ALL KINDS OF AVOIRDUPOISE, TROY, AND OTHER WEIGHTS, LASSO RINGS,
 MACHINE BRASS CASTERS, &c.
LOAD STREET, BEWDLEY.

¶ The advertisement shown above is taken from Littlebury's Directory of Worcestershire for 1879. The one on the right is from a guide to Bewdley published in 1925. . It shows the front of Exley's ironmonger's shop, not the brassfoundry.

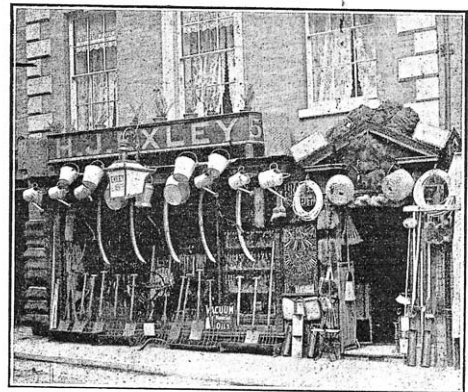
Telegrams : " Exley, Bewdley, "

H. J. EXLEY,

Iron, Steel and Oil Merchant.

WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND MANUFACTURING

IRONMONGER.



BRASS FOUNDER.

Manufacturer of British and Foreign Brass Weights,
 Scale Pans and Fittings, Brass Maslin Pans,
 Kettles, Skillets, and Saucepans, House, Yard
 and Dinner Bells.

Load Street, BEWDLEY

DUDLEY	
Avery	<p>First noted 1900 [K], at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Mill Street <1900-08> • 127 Stafford Street <1911-16> • 180 High Street <1921-40>
Smith	<p>Harry and Thomas Smith were listed as weighing machine manufacturers in 1908 [Hbk]. They may have been related to G T Smith and John Smith of Bewdley.</p> <p>By 1916, Thomas was running the weighing machine business whilst Harry had set up independently (see below). By 1924 the firm was trading as Thomas Smith and Son.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queens Cross <1908> • 111 High Street <1911> • 163 High Street <1912-24> • 4 King Street <1928-40> <p>Harry Smith worked as a scale maker at 17 Trindle Road <1916-36>. In 1928 he also had premises at 16 Freeth St., <i>Oldbury</i> and 65 Union St., <i>Wednesbury</i>.</p>
Griffin	<p>A. H. Griffin & Co were listed as weighing machine manufacturers in 1921 [K] and 1922 [BoT Notices].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 101a, King Street <1921-28> • Fountain Street <1931-40> <p>Also in <i>Coventry</i> and <i>Hereford</i>. Acquired by Avery in 1938.</p>
Gorton	<p>W.S. Gorton & Son, Ltd were listed as scale and weight makers in 1924 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eve Hill Ropery <1924-28>

EVESHAM	
Redding	<p>William Redding, probably related to Walter Redding of <i>Worcester</i>, was listed as a scale maker in 1928 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Oat Street <1928-32>

KIDDERMINSTER	
Tench	<p>The Tench family lived in Bewdley back in the eighteenth century, and William Tench was recorded as a brassfounder there in 1851 [Census] and 1855 [B]. The earliest known record of him in Kidderminster is the 1871 Census.</p> <p>William Tench & Co, makers of weights etc. [advt 1876 K] at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Church St <1871-1904> <p>Registered a design for 'bottle' weights 1890. Around 1904 the business seems to have been bought by the Stephenson brothers, who also owned the Smith firm in Bewdley, but soon afterwards it was taken over by Edwin Preston (see below).</p>
Preston	<p>Edwin Preston, ironfounder (firm established.1853), took over the brassfoundry business of Tench in 1904, and operated from the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Lane Foundry [1904 K]. <p>He remained at this address and was still listed there in 1936 [K]; issued catalogues in the 1920s.</p> <p>Moved to Wolverhampton in 1935, took over F.J. Thornton (scale makers) in 1976 and became part of Barr & Grosvenor (c1985?).</p> <p>Archives online at Wolverhampton [DB-47/1].</p>
Tansley	<p>Tansley Bros, repairers [1912 K], makers and repairers [1914 Be], at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20, Worcester Street <1912-14> • 32, Worcester Street <1916-40> <p>Makers of 'Kwikway' scales, mainly for agricultural purposes, with works at Prospect Hill [1949 K]. The firm of Haughty & Fathers was at this address <1924-31>.</p> <p>The firm of 'Brian Tanner' (sic) acquired by Avery in 1960.</p>
Avery	<p>First noted 1912 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinity Street <1912-1940>.

WILLIAM TENCH & CO.,

14, CHURCH STREET, KIDDERMINSTER.

MANUFACTURERS OF
MASLIN KETTLES, BELLS, WEIGHTS, ETC.
All kinds of Brass Castings, etc.

¶ The advertisement shown above appeared in Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire for 1876.

ESTABLISHED 1853.

Edwin Preston,

MANUFACTURER OF

Standard Weights and Measures,

SCALE PANS & FITTINGS.

Park Lane Brass Foundry,
Kidderminster.

(Manager and Staff late of the firm of TENCH & Co.)


Price List—January 1st, 1906.

ALL PREVIOUS LISTS CANCELLED.


DISCOUNTS ON APPLICATION.

CYLINDER WEIGHTS (Avoirdupois).

Nos. 9
& 10.



Nos. 9a
& 10a.



In Sets	1 6/4	2 11 1/4	4 18 7/8	7 31 5/8	14lbs. to 1/2 oz. 57/9 per Set.
In Dozens	3/10	4/3	5/7	9/4	8 oz. 17/10 per doz.

PLUGGING EXTRA AS IN BELL WEIGHTS.

Globe or Butchers' Weights—supplied as required.

No. 10—CYLINDER WEIGHTS (Troy).


(TO ABOVE DESIGN.)

500 97/-	300 68/-	200 35/-	100 18/6	50-oz. to 1-oz. 10/6 per Set.
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THE "PERFECT" WEIGHT.

MOST HANDY WEIGHT.
BURNISHED EDGES. NO ROUGH SURFACES.

No. 11




In Sets	1 5/6	2 10/2	4 17/8	7 30/4	14 55/10	28lbs to 1/2-oz. 1 11/6 per Set.
In Dozens	1/3	2/3	5/6	8/6	12/8	8 oz. 17/- per doz.

1 to 28lbs., 2/- per lb.


PLUGGING EXTRA AS IN BELL WEIGHTS.

¶ Two pages from a catalogue issued by Edwin Preston in 1906, soon after the firm took over Tench's business. Note that the 'manager and staff' were retained, although the factory was moved. The words 'established 1853' probably refer to the iron foundry, not the brass foundry.

32, Worcester Street,
and "STANDARD WORKS" Prospect Hill,
Kidderminster.



July 14 1931
Messrs E & J Fisher & Co
Tansley Bros.,
SCALE AND BRASS WEIGHT MAKERS.
REPAIRS TO ALL KINDS OF WEIGHING APPARATUS.



CONTRACTORS TO THE KIDDERMINSTER CORPORATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE, ETC., ETC..
Terms: Net Cash.

<i>order no 9933</i>	<i>1 - 1 cwt Wood Weighing Machine Stamped</i> <i>Bygones</i>	<i>L.S.D</i> <i>2 14 -</i>
<i>9967</i> <i>c. 437 - To Messrs Hunt.</i> <i>B. H. Harrison</i> <i>Per G. W. H. Carr 11.9</i>	<i>2 - 1 cwt Wood Weighing Machines Stamped</i>	<i>5.8 -</i>
	<i>Nett</i>	<div style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> <i>8.2 -</i> </div> <i>J.H.</i>

¶ An invoice from Tansley Bros. of Kidderminster, 1931.

MALVERN	
Guy	<p>GUY & SON MALVERN</p> <p><i>On a 2lb brass flat-circular weight</i></p>
	<p>George Guy & Son, ironmongers etc. [1873/4 L2]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York House, Worcester Road <1873> • 3 Brompton Terrace, Newtown Road <1896-1911> <p>Mrs Martha Guy was listed as running the firm in 1912 [K].</p>

¶ Detail of a 2 lb brass weight sold by Guy & Son of Malvern. The verification marks of the county of Worcestershire are also visible.



STOURPORT	
Baldwin	<p>BALDWIN SON & CO</p> <p><i>On flat-circular iron weights</i></p>
	<p>The Baldwin family were iron smelters and founders, established c1780. In 1860 their foundry in Stourport became known as Baldwin Son & Co. It was amalgamated with the firm of Kenrick (Staffs) firm in 1886.</p>



¶ A 1 lb iron weight made by Baldwin Son & Co. The copper plug is stamped with the verification mark of the city of York, which must have been done before 1890 because this mode of stamping was banned in that year.

WORCESTER	
Hardy & Padmore	<p>Hardy and Padmore were a large firm of iron founders, operating from 1814 until 1967. In the mid-19th century they were listed as weighing machine makers [1868 K; 1879 L]. Presumably they made large machines for industrial or agricultural use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester Foundry, Foundry Lane <1851-1940>
Pooley	<p>First noted 1896 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goods Station, Henwick <1896-1911> • Lowesmoor <1911-40>
Avery	<p>First noted 1900 [K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11, New Street <1900-12> • 19, New Street <1916-28> • 56, Lowesmoor <1932-1936> • 6, Queen Street <1940>
Redding	<p>Walter Redding was listed as a scale maker in 1928 [K], working at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4, Queen Street <1928-36>. <p>Possibly related to Walter Redding, working in <i>Evesham</i>.</p>
Eltex	<p>The Eltex firm, founded by George Henry Elt, were makers of all kinds of agricultural equipment, including egg-grading scales and pig-weighers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eltex Works, Watery Lane <1950> <p>The firm may have been associated with the Tansley Brothers of <i>Kidderminster</i>, whose trade name 'Kwikway' appears on Eltex egg scales.</p>




ELTEX

For Britain's Finest

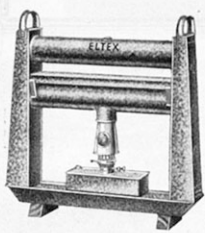
POULTRY APPLIANCES

HOVERS BROODERS WARM FLOOR BROODERS NURSERY BROODERS BATTERY BROODERS CHICK COOLERS	FATTENERS FOUNTS TROUGHS HOPPERS GRIT BOXES COOPS CORN BINS PIG WEIGHING MACHINES, ETC.
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GREENHOUSE HEATERS

AND LAMPS



CHEMICAL TOILETS

& "SANELTEX" CHEMICAL



Write for Illustrated Catalogue, Price List and Trade Terms

GEORGE H. ELT, LIMITED

ELTEX WORKS, WORCESTER

¶ The Eltex/Kwikway egg grader (with artificial egg for demonstration purposes) and an advertisement for the firm, mentioning Pig Weighing Machines.

References for Worcestershire

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2. Ann Marshall, *The Metalworking Trade in Bewdley during the 19th Century*, Bewdley Historical Research Group, Occasional Paper No.5, 2001.
3. *Bewdley Museum* [16 pp booklet], 1989. Contains pictures of the old brassfoundry.

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William Tench (Kidderminster): 1897, 1899 (see WRO material below).
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Directories

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- B. Billings Directory of the County of Worcester (ST1509) 1855.
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- M. Midland Counties of England Trade Directory (ST***) 1931.

Newspapers

WJ Worcester Journal 1820-1892.
WH Worcester Herald 1833-1871.
WC Worcestershire Chronicle 1839-1902.
Worcester Daily Times (13/12/1909) Report of a case between Rev Tonks and W.H. Stephenson, relating to the Bewdley Brassfoundry.
Kidderminster Times (13/8/1954) Article on the Bewdley Brassfoundry.

Original documents

Worcestershire Record Office

705:55/5278/43/xii. Trench catalogues 1897, 1899.

1/1/687-733. Quarter Sessions Rolls 1830-39, with many references to WM

Bewdley Museum

A quantity of (unsorted) records of the Bewdley Brassfoundry are kept at the Bewdley Museum.

Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies

DB-47/1. Archives of the firm of Edwin Preston <1905-1976>. Catalogue available online.