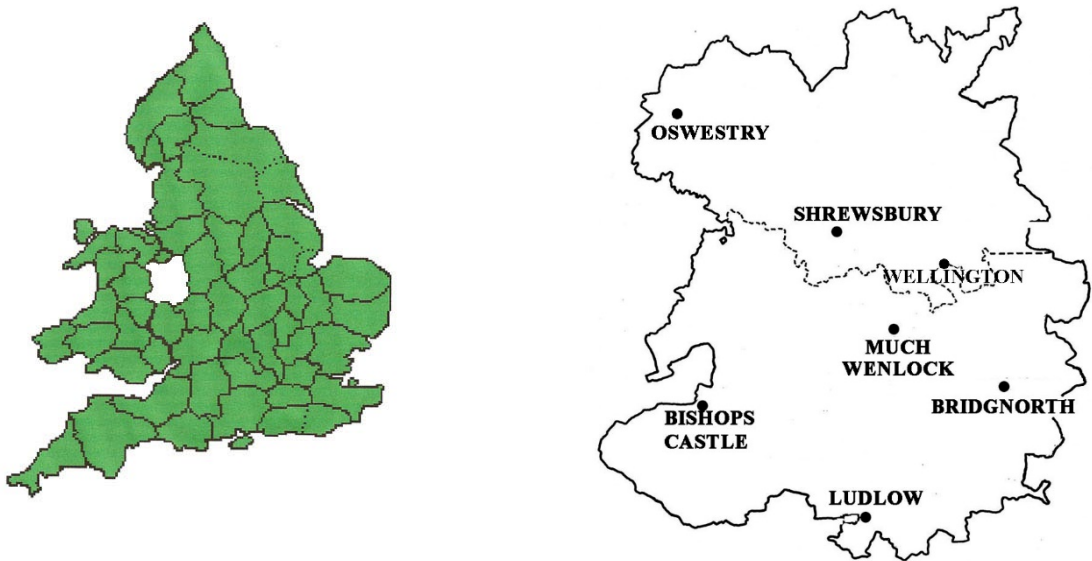


SHROPSHIRE






Shropshire is a mainly rural county, bordered to the west by several Welsh counties. To the north it is bordered by Cheshire, to the east by Staffordshire, and to the south by Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The county was originally known as Salop, and this name is often seen on old weights and measures.

The county was exceptional in that it did not employ its police force for the inspection of weights and measures until 1887, and then only briefly. There were several ancient boroughs that had separate jurisdiction in the 19th century. Shrewsbury was the largest town, and it continued as a separate authority until 1974. The 'Borough' of Wenlock had jurisdiction over a large and scattered area of the county, including the famous iron works at Coalbrookdale, but it appears that inspection was always carried out by the county officers. The boroughs of Bridgnorth, Oswestry and Ludlow were all active until 1889, but there is no evidence of activity at Bishops Castle, although it is reported that an inspector was appointed there in 1835.

In the Victorian era large firms of ironmongers and agricultural engineers supplied weighing machines and weights to farmers and shopkeepers. There were very few specialist scale makers in the county before the arrival of Avery in the 20th century.

A: Inspection by the County of SHROPSHIRE (officially known as SALOP until 1980)

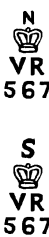
Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1801	First WM examiners appointed.		In 1816 an examiner named James Davies is mentioned.
1826	One set of standards [86] issued.		<i>Inspectors 1834-1886</i>
1834	One inspector appointed.		Samuel Farlow (1834-38) Joseph Higgins (1838-39) John S. Pate (1839-42) John Hunt (1842-50 retired due to ill-health)
1850	Second set of standards [1045] issued. Two divisions (North and South) set up, with civilian inspectors.		Edward Evans (S. Division 1850-1875) Francis Whittaker (N. Division 1850-1875; then for the entire county 1875-1886). [QS 18/10/86].
1875	Following the retirement of inspector Evans, Whittaker became inspector for the whole county.		Whittaker's initials FW are sometimes found with the SALOP marks.
1882	Non-uniform mark still in use [AR].		
1886	Whittaker retired after 36 years.		<i>Police superintendents as inspectors 1886-90</i>
1887	The police divisions were increased to eight and the superintendents of police became inspectors. [QS 15/1/87].		<i>A: Shrewsbury</i> T. Edwards <i>B: Oswestry</i> George Gough (1887); J. Langford (1887-90) <i>C: Whitchurch</i> John Edwards <i>D: Wellington</i> William Gallier <i>E: Bridgnorth</i> William Walters <i>F: Church Stretton</i> Th. Caswell <i>G: Pontesbury</i> Robert Straffen <i>H. Ludlow</i> John Simcox

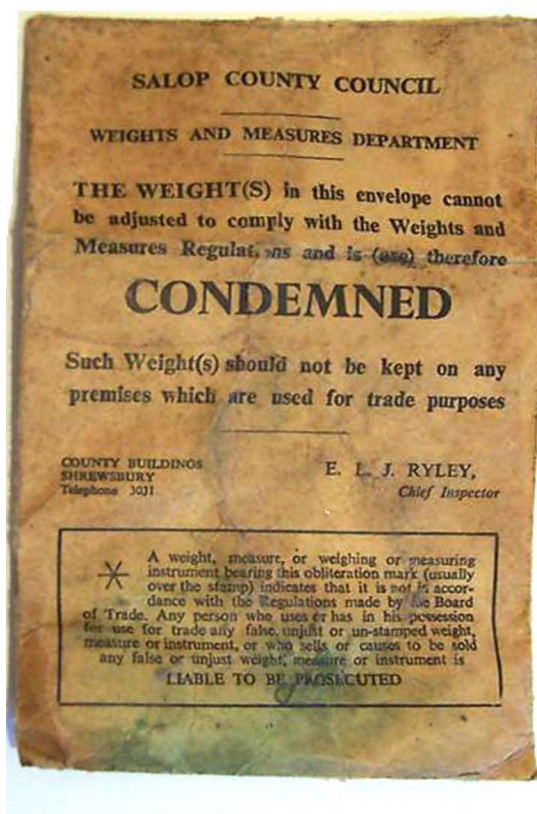


¶ A brass weight made in Birmingham in the period 1826-30. There are two county marks of the crown and SALOP, one of which has been over stamped with the initials of Francis Whitaker, a county inspector from 1850 until 1886.

¶ A 1oz brass weight with SALOP marks, probably c1860-90.




Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1889	Salop CC formed.		The N and S marks were used with No. 567, 1890-1935.
1890	No. 567 issued. Civilian inspectors for two divisions appointed. Both offices were in Shrewsbury, but separate.		Qualified inspectors:
	By 1912 the office for the Southern Division had moved to Shifnal.		<i>Northern Division 1890-1935</i> T. Aldersley (q1890/1-1919) [MR 19:20] T. Whitlock (1919-24) A.G. Strother (1924-35, then deputy chief 1935-45) [MR 24:43, 53:197]
1935	Divisions united under one chief inspector [MR 35:63].		<i>Southern Division 1890-1935</i> Thomas Brown (q1890/1-92) E.J. Symonds (1892-1923) H. Birchanall (1923-35)
1950	No.567 still in use.		<i>Chief Inspectors 1935 onwards:</i> H. Birchanall (1935-51) [MR 51:200] E.L.J. Ryley (1951-71) [MR 53:92; 72:2]
1956	County formally takes over WM authority from Wenlock.		
1974	Trading Standards Department formed.		



¶ A weight 'condemned' by E.L.J. Ryley, chief inspector for the county Council 1951-71.

B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of SHROPSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Shrewsbury	AncBo MB:1835 qsb		556	s:1839 [864] r:1865 n:1891-1974

In 1588 standards went sent to Shrewsbury, and these were used jointly by the town and the county for many years. In 1826 the Exchequer refused to reverify them and the county acquired a set of the new Imperial Standards. The borough had use of them, but in 1838 it was decided that it should acquire a new set of its own [SC 3/8/1838].

The inspector appointed in 1834 was Samuel Farlow, who became superintendent of the borough police force when it was formed in 1836, and was also the county inspector for a few years. . He was replaced by John Vaughan, a tailor, in 1837 [SC 14/4/1837]. When Timothy White was appointed in 1846 Vaughan initially refused to hand over his records, but eventually the problem was resolved and White took over [ESJ 21/10/1846; 11/11/1846; 13/1/1847].


Timothy White committed suicide in 1857 [SC 15/5/1857] and John Hughes, the chief constable of the borough police force was appointed [SC 29/5/1857]. When Hughes retired in 1870 an ironmonger, Peter Owen, was appointed [OA 13/7/1870]. He resigned in 1872 and the post reverted to the police with the appointment of police sergeant Thomas Farr [SC 16/2/1872], who continued until his retirement in 1895 [K].

He was followed by qualified inspectors: B.R.Croxtan (1896-1904) [MR 04:305], and C.S. Herd (1904-13) [MR 04:286, 13:166] who died in office. W.C. Heas was the inspector (1914-50) [MR 76:3], being temporarily replaced by W.T. Stead during the Great War. R.P. Holdaway was the chief inspector from 1950 until the service was amalgamated with county in 1974 [MR 75:62].



¶ *Left:* A brass weight with the mark of Shrewsbury. As there is no indication of the denomination it probably dates from the early Victorian period.

Right: A brass 8oz weight with several Shrewsbury marks. The weight was made in the reign of George IV (1820-30). The date 1879 was stamped when Shrewsbury was still using the old heraldic mark, but there are also marks with the number 556 introduced in 1890.

Wenlock	AncBo MB:1835 qsb	 WENLOCK	---	s:1853 [1107] r:1865
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The Borough of Much Wenlock had jurisdiction over a large and scattered rural area outside the boundaries of the town itself. This area included the Coalbrookdale works at Ironbridge.

It seems that the borough shared an inspector with the county from 1835 onwards, although separate standards were issued in 1853. This arrangement continued until Wenlock ceased to be a WM authority in 1956.

The mark shown was used until 1889, after which the verification mark was the same as for the southern division of the county.



¶ A brass weight with the WENLOCK mark. There is also a mark for the Southern division of the county, which was used in the Wenlock area in the reign of Edward VII (1901-1910).

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Bridgnorth	AncBo MB:1835 qsb	 VR BN	---	s:1835 [721] r:1866

The mark is similar to the old seal of the borough, except for the fact that the castle has only two towers, not three.

In 1835 Thomas Nock (yeoman), Edward Goodall (head constable) and George Evans (town crier) were appointed as inspectors. The official borough police force was set up in 1836, with Goodall and Evans among its members, and they were jointly appointed as inspectors of weights and measures. Goodall died in that year but Evans continued as inspector and was listed in 1856 [K].

The police force was reformed in 1856, and subsequently the superintendent acted as IWM. John Cole was superintendent 1857-87 and was listed as IWM in 1861 [H] and 1880 [S]; Charles Childs, superintendent 1887-89, was listed as IWM in 1888 [Po]. In 1889 the police force became part of the county force, and the borough ceased to be a WMA.

TO
MILK SELLERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
That it is Illegal to sell MILK otherwise than by the
Imperial Measure, and that Persons so doing are liable to
a Penalty of not exceeding

FIVE POUNDS,

All Unstamped Measures are liable to be seized and
forfeited, and Persons having them in their possession are
also liable to a penalty of not exceeding FIVE POUNDS.

JOHN COLE,
Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the Borough of Bridgnorth.
Bridgnorth, April 12, 1861.

In consequence of the above Notice, we, the undersigned Milk Sellers
of the Borough of Bridgnorth, do hereby agree to sell New Milk, imperial
measure, at 3d. per quart, commencing on 1st of May.


WILLIAM TOWNSHEND JOHN PRICE EDWARD BARKER MARY JORDAN JOHN SHIPMAN SAMUEL HALDING ANN DAVIES	THOMAS GARBETT HENRY EVANS SARAH ADAMS ALLEN CHARLTON THOMAS FARMER GEORGE BARKER RICHARD WILKES
--	---

Clement Edkins, Printer, Bridgnorth



¶ *Left:* a notice published by John Cole in 1861 insisting that milk should be sold by the Imperial measures.

Above: a brass weight with the Bridgnorth mark, probably stamped around 1850.

Oswestry	AncBo MB:1835 qsb		---	s:1835 [729] 1855 [1163] r:1866
<p>Henry Hughes, gentleman, was appointed under the Act of 1834, having served previously, and was still in post in 1842 [P]. In 1843 the county inspector. John Hunt was appointed to act for the borough [ESJ 20/9/43], and he continued until he retired in 1850. In 1853 the new Oswestry Fairs and Markets Act led to the issue of new standards. These were issued in 1855 to Edward Williams, the gaoler [Standards Book], who was listed as the inspector in 1856 [K].</p> <p>William Vaughan, whitesmith and bellhanger [1851 K], was authorised to act as inspector in 1861 [SC 7/6/61, OB/F88/1] and he was listed in 1870 [K]. He continued until his death in 1876, aged 65. He was followed by John Richards, listed in 1877 [MC] and in 1880 [S]. Authority was handed over to the county in 1889, but in 1891 [K] Thomas Dutton was listed as the inspector,</p>				



¶ *Above left:* a weight stamped with the Oswestry mark and the initials of the inspector, John Hunt, who was also the county inspector.

Above right: a weight stamped with various marks, including the Oswestry mark and the initials of the inspector, William Vaughan, 1861-1876.

Right: A letter from William Vaughan replying to complaints, *Oswestry Advertiser*, 17 October 1866.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to the enquiries made by "A Complainer" in your last week's paper, allow me to say—

1st. There is no fixed charge for adjusting weights, and for this simple reason, that scarcely any two weights take precisely the same amount of time and material in their adjustment.

2nd. When I was appointed Inspector, it was proposed at the Council meeting that I should visit the shops, &c., every six months.


3rd. It is the practice of both Borough and County Inspectors to have a place to which weights and measures may be taken to be adjusted. I am surprised that "A Complainer" is not aware of that.

4th. Until they are done, all Inspectors, I believe, adopt the same plan—"First come, first served." I don't recollect ever detaining any weights or measures longer than the actual time it took to adjust them.

If "A Complainer" requires any further information on the subject, I refer him to the Act of Parliament relating to Weights and Measures, passed on the 13th August, 1859.

I remain, dear sir, yours truly.

WILLIAM VAUGHAN,
Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Borough of Oswestry.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Ludlow	AncBo MB:1835 qsb	 ?	---	s:1849 [1026] r:1867

The inspector appointed for Ludlow under the Act of 1834 was Joseph Powell Bradford (1785-1851), of Leominster in Herefordshire, which is about 20km from Ludlow. He was also appointed inspector for Leominster and probably used their standards. The JPB mark may have been used in either locality. The Ludlow Borough Police Force was established in 1836, and in 1844 it was reported that James Cooke, possibly a member of the force, was the inspector [HJ 1/5/44].

In 1849 the borough acquired its own standards. Police Constable Fox was mentioned as the inspector in 1850, but his conduct was unsatisfactory and he was suspended [HJ 19/1/50]. Thomas Tipton was appointed in his place [HJ 18/9/50]. Tipton was listed as the inspector in 1856 [K], based at the police station but not the superintendent of the borough police. Henry Biggs, superintendent 1855-65, was listed as IWM in 1861 [H] and 1863 [K]. George Brookes was superintendent from 1865 to 1885, and was listed as IWM in 1868 [S] and 1880 [S]. James Wheatstone was superintendent 1885-88, with John Simcox taking his place from 11 October 1888 to 31 March 1889, when the police force was amalgamated with the county force. The borough's jurisdiction over weights and measures ceased around this time, due to its small population, but in 1891 [K], Simcox was listed as police superintendent 'for the borough and the county', and the inspector.

Bishops Castle: It was reported that this Ancient Borough had appointed an inspector, Matthew Griffiths, in 1835, but there is no record of standards, or any other WM activity. Bishops Castle was an unreformed borough until 1883, when it received a municipal charter.

C: The trade in Shropshire

SHREWSBURY	
Corbett	<p>Thomas Corbett established his ironfoundry in 1865.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perseverance Works, Castle Foregate <1865-1910> <p>From about 1872 to 1881 the firm was known as Corbett and Peele, and this name is seen on iron weights. Corbett was listed as weight maker in 1910 [Hbk].</p>
Howe	<p>William Howe is listed as an ironmonger in the 1871 Census. In 1883 he took over the long-established firm of J.G. Spence, dealer in agricultural machinery. He advertised the sale of weighing machines (among many other items) in July of that year [SC 20/7/83].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Chester Street and 13 Castle Foregate <1883> <p>Weights with Howe's name are very similar in style to those of Corbett and Peele, and it is likely that they were the makers.</p>
Kinsey	<p>Henry Kinsey, scale maker [1895 Kelly advt].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mardol Quay <1895-1913> <p>Latterly the firm was run by Rowland H. Kinsey. The Kinseys may have been related to Edward Kinsey, IWM for Gloucester 1890-1925.</p>
Avery	<p>First noted 1908.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 Primrose Street <1908-1910> 115 Frankwell <1965>



¶ Two similar 2lb iron weights bearing the names of Corbett & Peele and W. Howe.

WILLIAM HOWE SUCCESSOR TO **J. G. SPENCE,**
Ironmaster, Engineer, Builder, Maker of Iron Bridges, Galls, &c.
 CHESTER STREET, SMITHFIELD ROAD, and 13, CASTLE PORTEGATE, **SHREWSBURY.**



Illustration of a horse-drawn carriage, likely a haymaker or similar agricultural vehicle.



Illustration of a steam engine, possibly a portable engine or a small stationary engine.



Illustration of a steam engine, possibly a portable engine or a small stationary engine.



Illustration of a steam engine, possibly a portable engine or a small stationary engine.



Illustration of a horse-drawn carriage, likely a haymaker or similar agricultural vehicle.



Illustration of a horse-drawn carriage, likely a haymaker or similar agricultural vehicle.



Illustration of a horse-drawn carriage, likely a haymaker or similar agricultural vehicle.



Illustration of a horse-drawn carriage, likely a haymaker or similar agricultural vehicle.

Crosskills and Bells' Carls and Waggon, Hay Collectors, Drag Rakes, Hay Rakes, Hay, Digging, and Manure Forks, Spades and Shovels, Corn Mills, Oil Cake Mills, Turnip Cutters, Weighing Machines, Winnowers, Sack Hoists and Trucks, Horse Gears, Engines, etc. etc.

A LARGE STOCK OF RANGES, BEAM AND REGISTER GRATES

W. H. is now selling off the stock of Lawn Mowers, Garden Seals, Traps, Arches, Wire Netting, Hinges and Working Machines.


Address—WILLIAM HOWE, 6, CHESTER STREET, SHREWSBURY.

¶ William Howe's advertisement in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 20 July 1883. Weighing Machines are mentioned in the bottom-left corner.

1895.]

COUNTY ADVERTISEMENTS.

19

V.  R.

H. KINSEY,

PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC

SCALE & WEIGHING INSTRUMENT MAKER,
MARDOL QUAY, SHREWSBURY.

Adjuster of Board of Trade Inspector's Scales & Assay Balances.

APOTHECARIES' BULLION AND DISPENSING SCALES,

Steelyards, Draming Machines, and every description of Weighing and Measuring Appliances.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

H. K. holds his Indentures endorsed and signed as a Competent workman, etc.

¶ Advertisement for Henry Kinsey, from *Kelly's Directory of Shropshire* 1895.

WELLINGTON, COALBROOKDALE, TELFORD	
Coalbrookdale	<p>COALBROOKDALE C^O</p> <hr/> <p>C. B. D</p> <hr/> <p>C.B.DALE <i>Seen on iron weights</i></p> <p>The famous iron works at Coalbrookdale was part of the extensive area under the jurisdiction of the Borough of Wenlock. By the middle of the 19th century the company was primarily engaged in making useful and decorative cast iron objects. Most of the weights bearing the Coalbrookdale name seem to date from this period, but the firm was still listed as making weights in 1910 [Hbk]. The company became part of Allied Ironfounders in 1929.</p>
Avery	<p>First noted 1910 [Hbk] at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 New Street, Wellington <1910-13> • 1 High Street, Wellington <1965>
Victor	<p>In the early 1960s the prominent designer Robert Welch (1929-2000) turned his attention to items made of cast iron, including weights. His designs were produced by Victor Cast Ware Limited until 1999, when the firm was dissolved. Subsequently the Victor brand of weights remained in production and currently (2024) they are being marketed by the Creative Cast Iron Company. This company is based in Telford, although the items are probably being made in foundries elsewhere in the UK.</p>

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

NEW WEIGHTS & MEASURES ACT, 1889.
UNDER this New Act now coming into force—ALL SCALES AND WEIGHING MACHINES WILL REQUIRE A PLUG to be inserted in the Beams, and to be Examined and Re-Adjusted.
MESSRS. W & T. AVERY'S duly qualified men are now in attendance at the
ERCALL HOTEL, WELLINGTON,
to Plug, Examine, Re-Adjust, and Repair the Scales and Weighing Machines in the Wellington District.
Tradesmen, Farmers, and others having Scales and Weighing Instruments, should send them to the Ercall Hotel at once, so that they will be ready for the men, and thus save the expense of sending the machines to Birmingham.

¶ Advertisement published in the *Wellington Journal*, 12 July 1890. Avery's had only just begun to develop their network of local branches, but they were keen to establish a presence throughout the whole of England. Similar advertisements relating to other parts of Shropshire appeared in the *Wellington Journal* around this time.

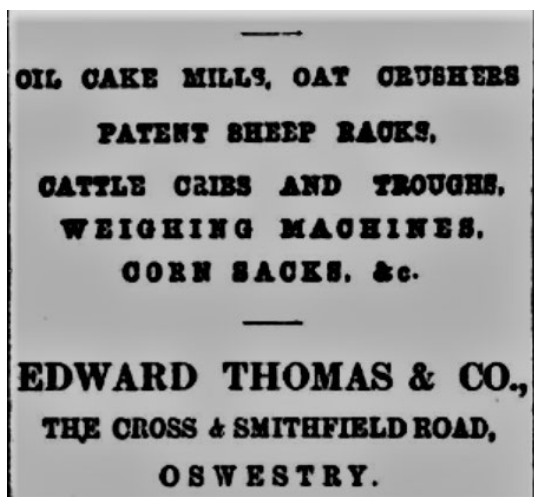


¶ Two weights made by the Coalbrookdale Company. The one on the left has been verified by the extended 'Borough' of Wenlock, which had jurisdiction in the area where the foundry was situated.

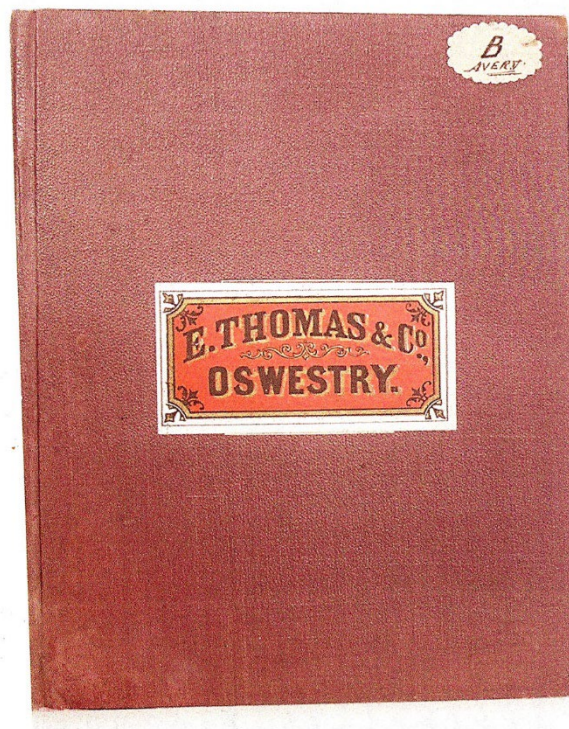


¶ Stack of Imperial weights designed by Robert Welch in the 1960s and marketed by the Victor Cast Ware company. Welch also designed a similar stack of metric weights (square-shaped) and a set of 7 cylindrical brass weights with a cast iron stand.

OSWESTRY	
Thomas	<p>Edward Thomas & Co, general ironmongers etc. [1880 S, 1891 K].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cross <1871-91 > <p>In 1871 [C] the firm was known as Thomas and Whitfield. An Avery catalogue from the 1880s has the firm's label on the front cover, suggesting that the firm acted as agents for Averys at that time. This arrangement probably ended when Averys opened their own premises in Oswestry. The Thomas firm was still in business.in the 1960s.</p> <p>. .</p>
Avery	<p>First noted 1910 [K], and remained for many years,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smithfield Street <1910-1913> • 61 Beatrice Street <1965>



¶ Part of an advertisement by Edward Thomas published in the *Oswestry Advertiser*, 24 December 1889, and an Avery catalogue used by the firm around the same time.



References for Shropshire

Published works

1. G.C. Baugh (ed.): *A History of Shropshire, Volume III*. Oxford University Press 1979.
See pages 148, 159, 196.
2. D.J. Elliott: *Policing Shropshire 1836-1967*. Brewin Books 1984.
Useful information, particularly about the borough police forces.

Directories

R. Robson's Directory of ... Shropshire [N106] 1840.
P. Pigot's Directory of ... Shropshire [N72] 1842.
S. Slater's Directory of ... Shropshire... . [N86] 1850; [ST29] 1859, 1868; [ST -] 1880.
K. Kelly's Directory of Shropshire. [ST 1176] 1856-1941.
H. Harrod 's Directory of ... Shropshire [ST -] 1861.
C. Cassey's History ... and Directory of Shropshire [ST1177] 1871, 1875.
MC. Mercer and Crocker's Directory for Shropshire [ST59] 1877.
Po. Porter's Directory for the County of Salop [ST1178] 1888.

Newspapers

ESJ: Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal.
HJ: Hereford Journal.
OA: Oswestry Advertiser.
SJ: Shrewsbury Chronicle.
WJ: Wellington Journal.

Original documents

Shropshire Archives (Shrewsbury)

County

QS/1: Quarter Sessions Order Books. Contain many references to appointments and remuneration of inspectors.

QA/13: Quarter Sessions Papers, Inspection of Weights and Measures 1838-1886.

Bridgnorth

BB/C/6/2: Bridgnorth Borough. Various papers relating to weights and measures 1670-1828

DA2/1112: Papers relating to the appointment of inspectors, 1828-36.

Shrewsbury

DA5/129/8: Shrewsbury Borough, weights and measures records 1870-1907.

Oswestry Town Council Archives

OB/F88: Oswestry Borough, several documents relating to WM., 1861-1889.

Personal communications

R.P. Holdaway: letters regarding local standards in Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Oswestry, etc. c1994.