



## Coroners Bills

1752-1796

### St. Mary's, Devizes

County coroners were introduced in England in around 1194 once established other boroughs and liberties sought the right to have their own coroner. Often in Medieval times the coroner also assumed the role of the sheriff and his duties weren't limited to holding inquests on dead bodies although almost a full time post they were unpaid for the duties apart from those that were deemed murder or manslaughter when they would receive 13s. 4d. From the 24th June 1752 a law was passed allowing the coroner to claim £1 for every inquest they attended not held in a gaol and also to claim 9d per mile travel allowance from the place of residence. Inquests held in any gaol were performed at a rate totalling no more than £1. These costs were to be paid from the county rates. In cases of homicide the coroner also received the former fee of 13s. 4d. The coroners submitted their bills at the quarter session sittings for approval.

Year	Date	Surname	Given Names	Coroner		Details of Inquest	Place of Inquest	No. of Miles Travelled	Coroners Bill			Notes
				Surname	Given Names				£	s	d	
1771	25-Jun	Greenland	Richard	Clare	William	On 24th June; Killed by a horse running over him	Devizes, St. Mary Chapelry	0	1	0	0	
1771	06-Jul	Jennings	William	Clare	William	Died on 3rd July; Thrown from a horse and crushed to death by the wheels of a waggon	Devizes, St. Mary Chapelry	0	1	0	0	Resident of Melksham