



Coroners Bills 1752-1796

Charlton, Malmesbury

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	
1753	10-Jan	Field	William	Clare	John	Aged over 90; Natural death	Devizes, Common Gaol	0	1	0	0	Of Charlton; Committed for Felony
1762	25-Feb	Hayward	Benjamin	Clare	John	Found dead on Charlton Common; Inclement weather	Charlton (Malmesbury), Stonehill	24	1	18	0	
1765	03-	Skuse	Isaac	Clare	John	Fell from a house and	Charlton	23	1	17	3	Thatcher

	Feb					dislocated the vertebrae of the neck	(Malmesbury)				
1767	02-Sep	Stoneham	Thomas	Clare	John	Crushed today by the fall of a barn upon him	Charlton (Malmesbury)	22	1	16	6