



Coroners Bills 1752-1796 Great Bedwyn

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 of 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	
1774	22-Aug	Bartholomew	Richard	Clare	William	An old man; Returning from Tottenham was found dead in an inclosure called Town Field		23	1	17	3	
1786	13-Jan	Cope	Robert	Clare	William	Hanged himself to a tree in his garden; Lunacy	Brail	28	2	1	0	
1791	02-Jan	Grobetti	Benjamin	Clare	William	Repairing to his chambers for his wonted rest, fell down the stairs and was killed. No one lived in the house with him.		25	1	18	9	Native of Switzerland and a much respected schoolmaster
1780	03-Aug	Martin	Thomas	Clare	William	Riding on a horse very fast was thrown and killed		25	1	18	9	

1775	27-Jun	Meaden	Alexander	Clare	William	Had been violently exerting himself playing fives and, as imagined, thereby ruptured a blood vessel, as he soon after suddenly died.		22	1	16	6	
1775	20-May	Payne	William	Clare	William	Killed by a ploughshare, the horses taking fright in Den Field	Harding Farm	24	1	18	0	
1789	27-Jun	Smith	Thomas	Clare	William	Was digging chalk-stone in a quarry at Wolf Hall in Great Bedwyn, the upper part of which fell in and instantly killed him	Burbage	19	1	14	3	
1789	25-Feb	Tucker	George	Clare	John	Returning on horseback from thence to his home at Froxfield the night before was drowned in a stream near Great Bedwyn; Accidental death		24	1	18	0	