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(formerly the Records Branch of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society)

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FOR THE YEAR 1980

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Volume XXXVI is offered to the President of the Society, Professor R.B. Pugh, as an acknowledgement of his work on its behalf since its birth in 1937. The Society records its thanks to Ralph Pugh’s friends and colleagues, too numerous to name individually, who have made contributions to, or suggestions for, this presentation volume. Particular thanks, however, are due to two of his American friends, Miss Charlene K. Roise and Mr P.D. Rushing, for allowing their portrait of Ralph Pugh, taken in 1980 on the rostrum of the statue of George VI in the Mall, to be used as the frontispiece.

Dr R.F. Hunnisett, whose edition of Wiltshire Coroner’s Bills, 1752–1796, forms the basis of this volume, has asked that the County Archivist of Wiltshire, Mr M.G. Rathbone, and the Senior Assistant Archivist, Mr K.H. Rogers, be thanked for their advice on the numbering of the bills and for answering queries about ancillary records. He also wishes to thank Professor Pugh himself for help with identifying place names, Mr C.H.C. Whittick for information about contemporary Glamorgan and Sussex bills, Miss Frances Backhouse for helping to check the typescript and to read the proofs, and Dr D.C. Cox, honorary general editor 1976–9, for his interest during the early stages of the work.

The Wiltshire Records Committee most generously allowed the bills to be transferred from the County Record Office and deposited at the Public Record Office for Dr Hunnisett to work upon. The bills, which are unpublished Crown copyright material, are printed here in calendar form by the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office. Grateful thanks are due both to the British Academy and to the Wellcome Trust for making generous grants towards the cost of printing.

*December 1980*  

*JANET H. STEVENSON*
RALPH BERNARD PUGH
AN APPRECIATION

RALPH PUGH is a good subject: his personality presents the bold features and strong lines which a portrait painter is glad to find in a face. To write an appreciation of him is a challenge, the more so because the writer is aware that the subject will be his sternest critic, quick to notice any weakness of structure, any misunderstanding of evidence, any inaccuracy of detail, any infelicity of style. One of his former colleagues at the Public Record Office warned a new member of the Victoria County History staff, ‘He’s a hard taskmaster. He doesn’t suffer fools gladly.’ Those who have worked with him may have been intimidated by his high standards of sanity, seriousness, and unswerving logic, but they know nevertheless that those qualities never deflect the persistence of his kindness and friendship.

To record the events and achievements of a man’s career does not necessarily tell much of his personality. St Paul’s School and the Queen’s College, Oxford, with first class honours in Modern History, indicate a sound education and academic ability above the ordinary. Fifteen years in the Civil Service, primarily as an Assistant Keeper of the Public Records but including six years in the Dominions Office, denote an administrator able to bring practical experience to the understanding of administrative history. Establishing a county record society and editing its publications declare a devotion both to the county and to historical research; books and articles attest the scholarship of their author, whose distinction was recognized in his appointment as editor of the Victoria County History, as lecturer (later supernumerary fellow) of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and as Professor of English History at London University.

Scholarship is his great passion, to be pursued nationally, internationally, and in his beloved Wiltshire, as witnessed by his Raleigh lectureship, his visiting fellowships in the U.S.A. notably twice at Princeton, and his presidency of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Of his writing in various fields it is impossible not to mention his monumental and pioneering Imprisonment in medieval England or the relatively short How to write a parish history, described by its publishers as a sixth edition of a work first issued in 1879 but in fact a completely new book, enjoining high standards in an activity often regarded as suitable for the amateur and the dilettante. To the teaching of diplomatic, in classes which he helped to establish in the University of London for research students and future archivists, he brought unstinting care and meticulous planning. He is a great promoter of causes, not only those connected with historical studies, as with his continuing concern for the work of the Public Record Office and with the initiative and drive which he gave to the committee on the central records of the Church of England, but also broader interests, as exemplified by his eight years on the Council of the National Trust.
His outstanding and characteristic achievements, however, have been his work for the V.C.H. and the Wiltshire Record Society. The Record Society is a local not a national institution and is much smaller than the V.C.H. in the scale of its endeavours, but whereas the structure which he built for the V.C.H. stands on old foundations, and is buttressed by the University of London and other powerful bodies, the Record Society is his own creation on new ground.

Others with whom he has generously tried to share the credit for the formation in 1937 of the Records Branch of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society have denied that they were more than his willing supporters. It was with characteristic tact that he started the Society as an offshoot of the W.A.N.H.S. The good relations which he has maintained with the parent body meant that the nominal change from Records Branch to Wiltshire Record Society in 1967 made little practical difference. To found a new society requires imagination, persistence, and application; to keep it going without any lowering of standards through hard times (the Records Branch was only two years old at the outbreak of the Second World War) calls for the same qualities in a more sustained if less intensive way. Everyone who has been actively concerned with the Record Society is aware that far beyond being at various times its Honorary Secretary, General Editor, Chairman, and President, Ralph Pugh has been its driving and controlling force. The world of historical research knows the Wiltshire Record Society as one of the best, probably the very best, of local record societies, both for the quality and for the regularity of its publications. Those achievements are principally his doing.

Besides serving those offices, keeping his colleagues up to the mark, and counselling the editors of particular volumes, he has edited four texts for the Society, setting standards for others to emulate. His editions of *Feet of fines, Edward I and Edward II* (the first volume published by the Society) and of the *Court rolls of Adam de Stratton's manors* (volume xxiv), though typical of the plain but necessary fare of local record societies, were done with ingenuity and new insight. *Gaol delivery and trialbason trials, 1275–1306* (volume xxxiii) covered ground that was less well trodden. The *Calendar of Anthrobus deeds before 1625* (volume iii), behind its forbidding title, is useful for local history in Wiltshire but is much more important as the textbook which gave structure to the diplomatic of conveyancing. All four editions illustrate his devotion to historical scholarship and his love for Wiltshire, learnt from his father's family and particularly from his uncle, C.W. Pugh, in Devizes.

It was through Wiltshire that he came to the V.C.H. The series had started in 1899 as a private enterprise, had nearly expired from the inadequacy of its financial support in 1909, and from then on had survived precariously until it was given to the University of London in 1933. Long-term arrangements for the management of the project were not made until after the Second World War; they were fashioned then as a collaboration, of which Ralph Pugh and others concerned with Wiltshire were the initiators, between the University and various local bodies. In 1945 Swindon Corporation consulted him,
among others, about its wish to sponsor local history, and he persuaded it to approach London University with a view to joining with other local authorities in the county to form a committee that would finance the V.C.H. in Wiltshire. At that time the University could not hope to employ a salaried central staff of more than two assistants in addition to the General Editor, and the method adopted in Wiltshire of using local funds to provide editorial staff for a particular county was soon followed elsewhere. By 1949 when Ralph Pugh, already joint honorary editor of the Wiltshire V.C.H., became General Editor of the entire series two other counties had formed V.C.H. committees and a third was negotiating to do so. During his editorship the expansion continued, so that by the time of his retirement in 1977 eleven counties were collaborating with the University of London and the total full-time staff numbered thirty-three.

Important as the organizational growth of the V.C.H. has been, and the relative security thereby afforded, the extension of its content and subject-matter has been as significant for its reputation. The volumes of the V.C.H. which were being prepared for publication in 1949 showed little development or improvement compared with those published forty years earlier. In the ten years from 1949 there were far-reaching changes, particularly in the topographical volumes. Besides planning those changes, the General Editor encouraged in the staff of the V.C.H. the confidence and enthusiasm to carry them out. An exacting taskmaster he may have been, but he was also most loyal to his colleagues and particularly patient with the younger ones who were still finding their feet, imbuing them all with something of his own feeling for scholarship. His predecessor William Page liked to say that he had founded a school of local history; Ralph Pugh established the discipline of topography. (He would have preferred Camden's word, chorography, but knew that it was too arcane.) As editor, more than as professor, he has been a great teacher.

Administrator, scholar, author, editor, teacher: those words and the factual record of his achievements by no means give his picture in its full colours. English scholarship has produced, and has been enriched by, some tough, quirky, eccentric, contentious characters. None of those epithets quite applies to him, yet he belongs in the tradition. He looks back to earlier generations for standards higher than contemporary ones, though there is something contemporary about his role as a partisan fighter, almost an urbane guerrilla, in the cause of historical scholarship. He does not belong to any organized body of troops; he is his own man, standing out from the common flock, and although he is part of the establishment he is always ready to oppose it.

The clarity of mind and purpose which informs his published works with their characteristic authority and originality is perhaps most obvious in the variety, accuracy, and range of his vocabulary. Precision of thought and exactitude of knowledge seem to be fighting to escape the limitations of the English language. Why use a vague or uncertain native expression when a foreign one would do better? Readers and interlocutors are sent scurrying to
their dictionaries, often in vain, by a battery of words and phrases in Latin, Greek, French, and German, thankful that Italian and the Slavonic tongues are not also on tap. Pinpoint accuracy requires in addition the recruitment of technical terms and archaisms: listeners have suppressed giggles on hearing of prisoners enlarging themselves. In the opposite direction vocabulary is stretched to bring in what he calls 'jazzy' words to make even academic prose vivid and immediate. The concern to get words right has also led to what sometimes seems an obsession with the neglected English forms of medieval forenames, to a delight in the oddities of the pronunciation of English place names, and to the banishment of words that others are in the habit of using wrongly or excessively.

The care with individual words perhaps overshadows a complementary and more pervasive attention to the underlying structure of writing. Even when highly technical or matter-of-fact Ralph’s writing possesses not only clarity and precision but balance, a carefully regulated pace, and a sense of priority. He has struggled to inculcate the same standards in others. One junior colleague to whom he was giving an excellent lunch to celebrate her promotion received at the appropriate moment not the expected words of praise but the advice to read Cicero as a means to necessary improvement in prose style.

It would be wrong to give the impression that the high standards which Ralph upholds are exclusively concerned with history or with literary expression, or that he is a relentless critic either of himself or of others. Springing from his deeply held Christian beliefs, the virtues of humility and charity temper his passion for doing things and having things done properly. That passion nevertheless exists. As an undergraduate he is said to have got his way without upsetting his opponents because he was unfailingly correct. At the Dominions Office, which allowed his return to historical employment in 1946 with reluctance, he won the reputation of maintaining order in the information service. His care to adopt the most appropriate means or method extends from his intellectual activities through professional and social behaviour to mundane things like clothing and food and drink.

It is not unnatural that one who has devoted most of his life to the study of English history, and especially of local history, should have been an enthusiast for foreign travel and things foreign, and should have learnt much from them. ‘And what should they know of England, who only England know?’ His xenophilia (a neologism which it is hoped he will enjoy) includes a strong sense of community with European culture and a regretful awareness that in England art and scholarship lack the respect and influence that they are accorded in other countries. A notable object of his interest and affection, surprising some of his older friends, is the United States of America, and particularly cosmopolitan New York, but while a few American idioms have entered his speech, paralleling the European polyglottism, no one has yet detected a transatlantic twang to balance the extended R of his adopted Wiltshire.

Unremitting in his firmness of purpose, he has never courted popularity or feared hostility. ‘The trouble with Ralph,’ says one friend, a family man, ‘is
that he has never learned to reel with the punches.’ Perhaps that is his strength. As a bachelor, without brothers and sisters, he has something of the Spartan warrior stripped for battle. His single-minded and uncompromising pursuit of objects which he knows to be right has had a large measure of success. Fainter-hearted friends and colleagues can only be thankful that, when they have been ready to give up what seemed to be an unequal struggle, he has gone on to show that it could be won.

He is as pertinacious in his friendships. Each period of his life and each sphere of his activity seems to have provided him with lasting personal links. His concern for his friends embraces their families, his ear is attentive to their problems, and in particular his voice is ever ready to encourage and further their scholarly pursuits. The list given below of his own publications cannot refer to the many books and articles by others which would have been less well done, perhaps have remained unfinished, and in some cases never have been begun without his prompting, insistence, and advice. Historical scholarship owes Ralph Pugh a debt for much more than his own work.

C.R.E.

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compiled by Susan M. Keeling

Thanks are due to *History, The Listener, The Periodical, The Times, The Times Literary Supplement*, and the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* for permission to give details of articles which were originally published anonymously.

Works are listed under the year of publication. Where no other details are given the place of publication is London. The following abbreviations have been used:

*Bull. I. H. R.* Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research

*E. H. R.* English Historical Review

P. R. O. Public Record Office

*T. L. S.* The Times Literary Supplement

V. C. H. Victoria County History

*W. A. M.* Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine

(from 1975 Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine)

*W. A. N. H. S., Rec.* Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Records Branch, to 1966

*W. R. S.* Wiltshire Record Society, from 1967
1930

1936
‘Charles Gordon, Tunis’, *Notes and Queries*, clxx. 298.

1938

1939
*Abstracts of feet of fines relating to Wiltshire for the reigns of Edward I and Edward II* (W.A.N.H.S., Rec. Branch, i).

1940

1946

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1953

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1954

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1955

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‘Quod Dominus conjunxit cartophylax non separet’, *Archives*, iii. 39–42.


*Victoria History of Wiltshire*, i(l), ed. R.B. Pugh and Elizabeth Crittall.

*Victoria History of Wiltshire*, v, ed. R.B. Pugh and Elizabeth Crittall.

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1958


1959


1960

The crown estate. An historical essay (H.M.S.O.).


1961


1962

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1966


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1969

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1971


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1973

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'The Victoria County History', *Univ. of London Bull.* xxiv. 5–7.


1976

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Obituary of Philip Styles, *The Times*, 10 Nov. 1976, 18 (publ. anon.).


1977

‘Greach or creag’, *Notes and Queries*, ccxxii. 459.


1978


‘The Victoria County Histories’, *Local Historian*, xiii. 15–22.


1979


1980


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INTRODUCTION

Historical Background

County coroners were established in England in 1194, and thereafter an ever increasing number of boroughs and liberties obtained the right to have coroners of their own. Medieval coroners had important and colourful duties. As well as holding inquests upon dead bodies, they presided at the ceremony of abjuration of the realm at which felons who had taken sanctuary were permitted to leave the country with impunity; they attended the county court to legalize and record the promulgation of outlawries and the process leading up to it; and their presence was necessary at appeals (private accusations) of felony, including appeals of approvers (accusations by felons against their accomplices). They also had to attend a multiplicity of superior courts with their records. Additionally, there was no limit to the number and variety of administrative duties which they might be required to perform on special orders, and the county coroners had often to act in place of the sheriff.

In the middle ages, therefore, coroners had something approaching full-time employment, but they were unpaid. Indeed, it was a punishable offence for them to take fees for performing their duties or to refuse to act without payment, although the offence was commonly committed. Not until 1487, by which time many of their earlier functions had atrophied, were they permitted to take fees, and then only for holding inquests resulting from murder or manslaughter: they were to have 13s. 4d. from the goods and chattels of the homicide or, if he had none, from any amercements imposed on a township for his escape. It was still an offence to take money for holding inquests into other kinds of death, which were always the greatest number. The position remained unchanged long after the coroners' duties had become effectively limited to holding inquests on dead bodies. Ultimately, however, by the statute 25 George II cap. 29, it was enacted that from 24 June 1752 coroners should be paid £1 for every inquest held outside gaols in any place in England which contributed to the county rates and also 9d. for every mile they had to travel from their usual dwelling-place to take it, but that the total payment for holding an inquest on anyone dying in gaol was not to exceed £1. Those fees were to be paid out of the county rates by order of the justices of the peace at their quarter sessions. In cases of homicide the coroners were still to receive, in addition, the old fee of 13s. 4d., as laid down in 1487. Boroughs and other areas not contributing to the county rates were excluded.

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3. Hunnisett, Medieval coroner, 118–33.
5. e.g. stat. 1 Hen. VIII c.7.
from the new regulations, although they were empowered to continue any local arrangements they had previously had for paying their coroners. The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 extended the new county system, slightly modified, to all boroughs. Inquest and travelling fees continued to be paid until coroners became salaried officials on 1 January 1861.

Archival History

The payments introduced in 1752 had an effect on both the nature and the survival of coroners’ records. Although much can be learnt from a variety of sources about medieval coroners and their work, only a small proportion of their own records has survived. Wiltshire conforms to the general pattern. Apart from a few scattered inquests and other individual cases summoned for special reasons into Chancery and King’s Bench and still to be found on the files of those courts, the medieval Wiltshire coroners are represented today by only 14 fourteenth-century rolls, of which 8 belonged to county coroners, 3 to coroners of Salisbury, and 1 each to coroners of Devizes, Wilton, and of the abbot of Battle’s liberty of Bromham. For the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries most Wiltshire coroners’ inquests survive on the indictment files of the court of King’s Bench, as do those of most other counties, although, also in common with many counties, their inquests in cases of murder and manslaughter which resulted in trials at assizes are no longer extant because the relevant assize indictment files do not survive. Very few coroners’ records survive from the first half of the eighteenth century, because the practice of sending inquests into King’s Bench had virtually been abandoned. Because of the continued absence of western circuit indictment files, the Wiltshire coroners’ work is now almost entirely unknown. That the dearth of information does not persist throughout the century and beyond is due to the decision to pay coroners for holding inquests.

To establish their entitlement to payment, coroners immediately adopted the practice of regularly presenting bills at the quarter sessions. The typical bill lists and summarizes, in chronological order, the inquests held by the coroner since the submission of his previous claim — or, if relevant, since his election to the office, or since the commencement of the system on 24 June 1752. As will be seen, the summaries exclude some details which were in the formal written inquests, but since hardly any inquests survive the bills are an

1 5 & 6 Wm IV c. 76 s. 62.
2 Stat. 23 & 24 Vic. c. 116 s. 4.
4 Listed ibid. 346.
5 One stray indictment survives from 1729 (ASSI 25/1/1), but it is not for homicide.
6 The only express mention of an election in the Wiltshire bills printed in this volume is to that of William Clare in the heading to his three inquests in bill 31, the earlier part of which is the last bill of his predecessor John Clare.
7 The only surviving Wiltshire bill beginning at the commencement of the new system is William Waylen’s sole bill (1), but his successor, John Clare, erroneously stated in his first bill (2) that it contained his inquests taken ‘since the commencement of the late Act of Parliament for settling the fees’.
unrivalled source for the activities of the eighteenth-century coroner and for the types of death which came within his jurisdiction, as well as throwing much incidental light on social and economic conditions. Moreover, whereas for previous periods one can never be certain that one has the entire record of any coroner’s activities, however apparently complete the surviving manuscript material, there can be little doubt that every extant bill lists every inquest held by the coroner concerned during the period it covers: it is inconceivable that he would have omitted to claim for any inquest which he had held. As will also be shown, not only does a high proportion of eighteenth-century Wiltshire bills survive, but almost all the rest can be to some extent reconstituted. They were compiled and submitted at the quarter sessions by the two county coroners, one acting in the northern part of the county and one in the south, and by the coroners of the manor of Corsham and the borough of Wootton Bassett, places which, although having coroners of their own, were subject to the statute concerning fees because they contributed to the county rates. Marlborough and Salisbury, the only other Wiltshire places still with their own coroners, did not contribute to the county rates and have therefore left no coroners’ bills, although there is a series of original Marlborough inquests extant for the years 1773–1835.

It seems that all the eighteenth-century Wiltshire bills were originally kept with the quarter sessions rolls of the terms at which they were submitted, as those of many other counties still are. The quarter sessions rolls of that period are not physically rolls but bundles from which it is easy to remove individual items. It has been suggested that most of the coroners’ bills of the years 1752–96 were so removed during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Certainly they have formed a separate class in the Wiltshire Record Office for many years. During the preparation of this book a thorough search of the relevant quarter sessions rolls revealed 22 more bills of 1796 or earlier, all from the 1780s and 1790s. They were also detached in 1978 and united with the others. The artificial class of Coroners' Bills thus now contains all the bills known to survive from the years 1752–96. It has the

1 Devizes had ceased to have its own coroner in the early sixteenth century: J. Waylen, *Chronicles of the Devizes...* (London, 1839), 186.
2 G22/1/204. Associated documents survive with the inquests, including drafts, precepts, jury panels, warrants to gaolers, and depositions. A few of the inquests are published in *Presentments of the grand jury of the quarter sessions, feet and law days held at Marlborough 1706 to 1751, and some 18th and early 19th century inquests.* ed. B.H. Cunnington (Devizes, 1929), 46–54.
3 e.g. *Guide to the Bedfordshire Record Office* (Bedford, 1957), 1; *Guide to the Flintshire Record Office* (Flints. Co. Co. 1974). 4 Mr Christopher Whittick has found that the same is true of Glamorgan.
4 I am grateful to Professor R.B. Pugh for the suggestion that the person responsible may well have been B.H. Cunnington who is known to have ‘spent much time in the nineteen-twenties surveying, methodizing, and also “weeding” the Quarter Sessions records’: Wiltshire quarter sessions and assizes, 1736, ed. J.P.M. Fowle (W.A.N.H.S., Rec. Branch, xi), p. xiii.
5 The class, under the title Lists of Coroners’ Inquisitions, is described in M.G. Rathbone, *Guide to the records in the custody of the clerk of the peace for Wiltshire* (Wilt. Co. Co. 1959), 22.
6 They are now bills 52–6, 67, 71–6, 78, 111–13, 120–2, 131, 138, 144. The survival of these few bills on the quarter sessions rolls after the others had been removed misled J.P.M. Fowle into thinking that their being there represented ‘special treatment’ of them and an ‘innovation after 1782’: *Wilt. q.s. and assizes, 1736,* p. xi.
reference A5/2/1 and the individual bills are numbered from 1 to 144 in the order in which they are printed here. The coroners' bills surviving from the years 1797–1823 are still filed with the quarter sessions rolls. From 1823 until the system of payment of fees came to an end in 1860 the bills were filed with the corresponding vouchers in the incomplete class known as Bills and Vouchers.1

Related Records

The vouchers themselves are of considerable interest and importance. They were drawn up at the quarter sessions at which the coroners presented their bills for examination and certified them on oath.2 When the examining justices were satisfied that a bill was accurate and its individual claims were justified, the usual practice was for them to sign it with a note that it had been 'examined and allowed' or words to that effect,3 although sometimes they merely signed it and they not infrequently omitted the date.4 Eleven of the 140 bills printed here are unsigned, 7 of them Corsham and Wootton Bassett bills (123, 128–30, 141–3) and the others very early county bills (2–4, 9). Of the rest, 122 are signed by two justices, 2 (79, 112) by three, and 5 (26, 126–7, 131–2), of which 4 are Corsham bills, by only one. When a bill had been approved, the clerk of the peace signed and dated the resulting voucher, which consisted of an order to the county treasurer, requiring him to pay the coroner the sum allowed on his bill. It was presumably given to the coroner, whose responsibility it then was to claim the money either in person or by proxy. The voucher was usually signed by the recipient when he was paid, either at the foot or on the dorse or on an attached sheet.

There should be a voucher to correspond to every bill, but the earliest to have survived is one based on a bill (40) allowed in the Michaelmas sessions 1775 and there are some gaps in the series between 1776 and 1796. As well as confirming that the sums allowed were paid in their entirety, the extant vouchers provide additional useful information. They give the date of the quarter sessions order, which, as already mentioned, is by no means invariably on the bill; the date on which payment was made; and usually the name of the recipient. Although payment was frequently made within a week or a fortnight of the order, and sometimes on the following day, it was not unusual for some months to elapse. Exceptionally the delay might amount to almost a year,5 and William Clare was paid for two bills (40–1) on 12 June 1776, one on an order of the preceding 16 April and its predecessor on an order of 3 October 1775.6 Such delays must have resulted from the coroners

1 I am indebted to Mr K.H. Rogers for information about the nineteenth-century bills.
2 The swearing of the coroner was occasionally noted on the bill by the justices: e.g. nos 85, 88, 92–3, 140.
3 'Examined and allowed' was the most common usage. It was normally followed by the names of the examining justices, 'by the court' occasionally preceding them (e.g. bill 114). Other terminology included 'allowed' (99); 'allowed by the court' (116); 'seen and allowed' (91); 'examined and settled' (90); 'examined and approved' (101); and 'examined by the court' (118).
4 Nos 103, 113, for example, have signatures alone.
5 E.g. A5/1/6/1782, no. 20: order for payment 24 Apr. 1781, payment made 11 Feb. 1782.
6 A5/1/6/1777, nos 7–8.
being in no hurry to claim the money. It is probably significant that the county coroners were paid much more speedily as the century wore on, when the larger number of inquests held would have put them in greater need of reimbursement. In 1793, however, two more of William Clare's bills (71–2) were paid at the same time. They were originally pinned together and the total of the second (for July to October) was written beneath that of the first (for January to July) and added to it. They were jointly examined and allowed at the Michaelmas sessions and, although no vouchers survive for 1793, the treasurer's account shows that Clare was paid a single sum to cover both.\(^1\) The heading of the second bill states that it contains Clare's inquests taken since the quarter sessions held at Warminster on 18 July, which would normally mean that he had presented his previous bill then. Why he failed to do so is unknown. Again for no known reason, another of William Clare's bills (55), which totalled £47 17s. 6d. and whose payment was authorized on 24 April 1784, was paid in two instalments—£30 on 17 May and the balance on 20 September.\(^2\)

Two further vouchers are of interest. At the Hilary sessions 1778 the treasurer was ordered to pay Alexander Forsyth £18 6s. 3d., the total of his bill (105) for taking 14 inquests as south Wiltshire coroner, and also the further sum of £5 19s. 8d. 'for some extraordinary expenses paid by him in and about the execution of his said office'. He was paid the whole £24 5s. 11d. on 12 March.\(^3\) The £5 19s. 8d. includes the £4 4s. of bill 106, which accordingly becomes less enigmatic than it would otherwise be, but a similar bill for £1 15s. 8d. is missing.\(^4\) Another voucher, on 17 April 1792, required the payment to William Clare of 12s. 6d. and 6s. 6d., as expenses incurred in conveying to gaol two persons charged with homicide.\(^5\) Those sums were treated separately from the remainder of his bill (70), which is the subject of another voucher of the same date,\(^6\) because they represent what was obviously a compromise solution to a dispute. William Clare had always previously claimed, without challenge, payment of a shilling a mile as the rate at which he had paid local officials for taking people so accused to gaol. On this occasion the two items (1838–9) were deleted from his bill, but he was ultimately allowed half his claim.\(^7\) He made no further claims for such expenses during our period.\(^8\)

The coroners normally received their payments in person and signed the note of receipt, but there were exceptions. On 10 April 1793 a Thomas Winch received £26 7s. 9d. on behalf of Alexander Forsyth on a bill which does not

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1 W.R.O., Treasurer's Accts, 1794.
2 A5/1/6/1785, no. 5.
3 A5/1/6/1778, no. 8.
4 W.R.O., Q.S. Minute Books, 1763–81, p. 582.
5 A5/1/6/1793, no. 6.
6 ibid. no. 5.
7 The voucher nevertheless orders payment of the reduced sum 'as by the coroner's bill examined and allowed by this court': ibid. no. 6.
survive.1 There is no evidence whether or not Forsyth received his payment himself the next year,2 as he had always previously done, but on 22 April 1795 the younger Alexander Forsyth received £18 12s. 3d. for him on his last bill (120).3 The coroner was dead in about a month.4 His successor, William Whitmarsh, is represented by only two bills (121–2) in this volume and received payment on each through a George Whitmarsh.5 The coroners of Corsham and Wootton Bassett seem to have been paid by proxy far more commonly than their county colleagues — for three of their five bills for which there are vouchers. John Eacott’s agent received £1 on 10 April 1777 for a Wootton Bassett inquest held by Eacott;6 on 11 February 1782 Elizabeth Merrell received £1 for William Mitchell for a Corsham inquest;7 and on 15 January 1794 Nathan Atherton, clerk to a Mr Munday of Hungerford, received £1 for one held by John Hunt at Wootton Bassett.8

The information provided by coroners’ vouchers can be supplemented by three other classes of records, Quarter Sessions Order and Minute Books, and Treasurer’s Accounts. The class of Treasurer’s Accounts has few gaps and the individual accounts have few omissions. Although less detailed than the vouchers, the accounts record the payments made on nearly all the coroners’ bills and the sessions at which the orders were made. Their value is, of course, greatest for those years for which there are no vouchers. They show, for example, that payment of George Whitmarsh’s last bill (94) was made to his executrix, of Henry Thresher’s only bill (95) to his executors, and of John Clare’s section of his last, and his son’s first, bill (31) to his administrators.9 The quarter sessions order book for 1737–54 and the quarter sessions minute books for the rest of the century contain ‘orders on the treasurer’, ultimately under that heading, which include orders for the payment of many coroners’ bills. Although the series of books is unbroken, they record fewer of those orders than do the treasurer’s accounts and provide little additional information.

Taken together and used in conjunction with the extant coroners’ bills, the classes of Bills and Vouchers, Treasurer’s Accounts, and Quarter Sessions Order and Minute Books can tell much about those bills which have not survived. That information is set out in tabular form in the appendix (2804–7) in the order in which the bills would have been printed had they survived. It is impossible to know if all the missing bills for Corsham and Wootton Bassett are listed there. So few inquests were held in those two places that there must often have been lengthy periods when none was held. On the other hand, five of the thirteen extant Corsham bills (128–9, 131–2, 138) and one of the six for Wootton Bassett (143) are represented neither by vouchers nor in the

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1 A5/1/6/1794, no. 7.
2 The voucher has no receipt except for the date: A5/1/6/1795, no. 9.
3 A5/1/6/1796, no. 29.
5 A5/1/6/1797, nos 37–8.
6 A5/1/6/1778, no. 5.
7 A5/1/6/1782, no. 20.
8 A5/1/6/1795, no. 11.
9 W.R.O., Treasurer’s Accts. 1768, 1772.
treasurer’s accounts, despite the fact that the earliest of them was authorized as late as 1778. With one possible exception, however, the appendix contains all the missing bills of the county coroners. The exception is the south Wiltshire bill for June 1752 to January 1753 since there are neither vouchers nor a treasurer’s account covering 1752. The fact that the quarter sessions order book makes no mention of such a bill is not conclusive evidence that none was ever presented. There are 15 missing north Wiltshire bills as against 78 still surviving. For south Wiltshire the figures are 4 and 44. To express it in terms of time, the missing northern bills total 6 years 9 months and the southern ones only 3 years 7 months out of slightly over 44 years.

The vouchers, treasurer’s accounts, and quarter sessions records perform two further services. First, they make possible the assignment to their correct years of those bills which are otherwise not readily datable. A surprisingly large number of bills contain no mention of a year anywhere upon them, but the year or years of most of them can be deduced from internal evidence: from homicide cases which are recorded in the western circuit gaol books as having been tried at subsequent assizes, or when inquests are dated by both days of the week and days of the month which coincide in only one year or in only one possible year. A few bills, however, provide no such clues and have to be dated from the corresponding vouchers, accounts, or orders, which, secondly, give a good idea of the work-load of particular coroners during periods from which their bills have not survived. It is usually impossible to deduce exactly how many inquests were held at such times by the county coroners because of the variations in the distances travelled. For Corsham and Wootton Bassett, however, whose bills never contained more than four inquests and where little or no travelling was involved, one can always be confident of the exact number. Indeed, their vouchers often specify that the payment was for a single inquest1 and two Wootton Bassett vouchers provide additional information. One gives as much detail as the bill itself (144)2 and the other, although less detailed, is more valuable because the related bill is missing: it states that the payment, authorized on 7 October 1794, was for an inquest held by Benjamin Franklin on view of the body of Sarah Lansdown who was found dead in the borough.3

Quarter Sessions

The south Wiltshire coroners normally presented their bills once a year, their north Wiltshire colleagues every six months. There were almost certainly two reasons for their differing practices. One was that the northern coroners regularly held three times as many inquests as did those in the south, their expenses were consequently higher, and they were therefore in more urgent need of reimbursement. The other was that the southern coroners’ area of jurisdiction was considerably the smaller. That not only resulted in shorter journeys, which further increased the disparity in the expenses incurred; it

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1 e.g. A5/1/6/1778, no. 5.
2 A5/1/6/1795, no. 11.
3 A5/1/6/1795, no. 12.
also meant that only one of the four towns where quarter sessions were normally held, Salisbury, lay geographically within the southern coroners' district, although the city was outside their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the southern coroners all lived in or near Salisbury. They therefore found it convenient to compile annual bills and to present them at the Salisbury sessions. Exceptionally, in 1753 the quarter sessions were held at Wilton and in 1758 and 1763 at Amesbury instead of at Salisbury, and in 1769 at Chippenham instead of Devizes. Otherwise until 1785 the Hilary sessions were held at Salisbury and the Easter sessions at Devizes, but in 1786 the venues were switched. The result is a regular series of southern bills running from January to January until 1785, interrupted only twice: in July 1763 George Whitmarsh submitted a bill (89) at Warminster for the preceding six months and the following January another half-yearly one (90) at the Salisbury sessions; and in 1767 two southern coroners died in office, which resulted in two short bills (94–5), although even they were presented at the Salisbury sessions of Hilary 1768. The change of venue led to Alexander Forsyth continuing the same bill (114) for fifteen months, from January 1785 to April 1786, after which the annual sequence was resumed but with the bills running from April to April. Only in 1796 was that pattern changed: William Whitmarsh, a recently elected coroner, presented a bill (122) at Marlborough Michaelmas sessions which covered the six months since Easter.

The first northern bill (1), that of William Waylen, is not typical because he died in office and it was submitted by his executors at the Trinity 1753 Warminster sessions. Otherwise, except that John Clare's first bill (2) ran from November 1752 to April 1753, the northern coroners also had an unvarying time-table to Michaelmas 1785: they presented their October–April bills at Devizes at Easter and their April–October bills at Marlborough at Michaelmas. The rhythm was not disturbed even by John Clare's death, his son and successor William adding his own inquests to John's last bill (31) until it was time to present it at the Easter sessions at Devizes. After 1785 there was less regularity. During the rest of our period William Clare submitted 26 bills: 15 covered six months, 10 three months, and 1 nine months. He lived in Devizes and submitted a bill there at Hilary term every year apart from 1792 when for some reason he continued a bill (70) for nine months and presented it, also exceptionally, at Salisbury at Easter. His other bills were presented either at the Trinity sessions at Warminster or at the Michaelmas sessions at Marlborough. Both places lay within his district, although Marlborough was outside his jurisdiction. The last three years, 1794–6, saw a reversion to a uniform pattern, with six-monthly bills submitted at the Hilary and Trinity sessions at Devizes and Warminster respectively.

There are too few bills for Corsham and Wootton Bassett for any firm pattern of presentment to be discernible, although it is probably significant that the Corsham coroners seem to have submitted theirs indifferently at Devizes, Marlborough, and Warminster, taking only one (130) to Salisbury.
The few extant or known Wootton Bassett bills were all presented at either Devizes or Marlborough.

**The Bills: compilation and arrangement**

The Wootton Bassett and Corsham bills are in many respects untypical, doubtless because so few inquests were held in those places. The normal practice of the Wootton Bassett coroners was to submit the original inquisitions to the justices — usually one at the time, but two (2800–1) together at the Easter sessions 1768.¹ The amount of the claim is never noted on the inquests: it must have been thought unnecessary as no travelling was ever involved and the coroners were merely paid the basic £1 inquest fee. They all, however, contain the note of examination and allowance, except 2800 which is covered by the note on 2801. The five inquests are all written on paper cut indented at the top. The first three (2798–800) appear to be in the same hand, which must be a clerk’s because three different coroners were involved: the first two are signed and sealed by the coroner and all the jurors, 16 and 14 respectively;² and the third by the coroner and by the foreman on behalf of the 16 jurors. The fourth inquest (2801), although held only a month after the third and presented with it a month later, was written by another clerk. It is signed and sealed by the coroner and by the foreman on behalf of the 12 jurors. The fifth inquest (2802) is in another hand, not surprisingly since it was held almost twenty years after the fourth. It shows a reversion to earlier practice in that it is signed and sealed by the coroner and each of the 12 jurors. The last Wootton Bassett return (2803) is quite different. It was made by the same coroner as the one before, but after the lapse of six years. Written on paper in yet another hand, it consists basically of a summary of the inquest with the addition of the amount claimed, £1. To that extent it is therefore much more like a conventional bill, but it begins with a letter from the coroner, John Hunt, to the J.P.s at the quarter sessions to be held at Marlborough on 8 October 1793, requesting them to order the treasurer to pay the bill for the inquest. The existence of the letter suggests that the coroner may not have attended the sessions in person, although there is no other indication of that: the bill is annotated by the justices in the normal fashion and the fact that Hunt received his payment by proxy³ is probably irrelevant.

The Corsham coroners held more inquests than did those of Wootton Bassett, 25 as against 6 in the surviving bills. One consequence was that, although on eight occasions they claimed for a single inquest, they presented other bills for 3 (three times) and 4 (twice). The first bill (123) is headed ‘County of Wilts. Manor and liberty of Corsham Regis’; and its 4 inquests all begin ‘An inquisition indented taken at Corsham on [date] before [coroner] on the body of . . .’ and end ‘the jury on their oaths found . . .’. That form is

¹ ibid. 1768.
² Two William Brewers, father and son, were among the jurors of the second inquest. The father was presumably the former coroner whose bill has not survived (2807).
³ A5/1/6/1795, no. 11.
followed in most subsequent bills, whether they contain several inquests or only one, with occasional minor variations.\(^1\) Bills 131 and 132, which contain single inquests, are indented, as is bill 137 which has 4, and bill 132 is unusual in being signed by the coroner, but only bills 133 and 138 depart radically from the norm. The least of their abnormalities is that they are on paper whereas all the others are on parchment. Bill 133 is headed ‘The treasurer of the county of Wilts. to Mark England Stump as coroner of Corsham debit’; its entries all begin ‘To an inquisition taken ...’, but consist basically of the date, name of the deceased, and sum claimed. The bill ends:

Wilts. To the worshipful his majesties justices of the peace at Warminster, 11 July 1786. Having taken the annexed inquisitions in the town of Corsham aforesaid, I beg the favor of your worship to order your treasurer to pay me the contents of the above bill, which will your worship’s obedient servant, Mark England Stump, coroner of Corsham aforesaid. There follows the justices’ usual note of allowance. The original inquests are still with the bill. Written on parchment and indented, they are signed and sealed by 12 jurors of the manor.\(^2\) The third inquest was written at two different times, details having been inserted in spaces left blank. The other exceptional Corsham bill, the last of the series (138), consists of two pieces of paper. The first begins ‘The said county is indebted to me, Mr Mitchell, for ...’ and has a summary of one inquest, the sum claimed, and the note of its allowance by the justices. The second sheet contains what looks like a rough draft of the full inquest except that it is signed by the fifteen jurors.\(^3\) It is not indented, although said to be; it began in skeleton form and was very badly filled in, with much deletion and consequent infelicity; and it is endorsed with the signed deposition of a witness.

The first Corsham bill (123), Edward Mitchell’s of 1761, is written in a different hand from any of the others. His next bill (126), of 1771, could, however, have been written by the same person who wrote all William Mitchell’s bills (124–5, 127, 130, 138), which span the years 1768–94 but which nevertheless appear from his signature\(^4\) not to have been written by William Mitchell himself. The inquest attached to his last bill was definitely written by someone else. Edward Mitchell’s bills of 1784–5 (131–2) were written by that coroner, as his signature on the second of them shows. None of the other bills is in his hand, which may mean that the coroner of bills 123 and 126 was another man of the same name. John Stump’s first two bills (128–9) are written in one hand and his third (137) in another which appears from his signature as a juror on inquests 2790 and 2797 to have been his own. Finally, it is clear that Mark England Stump wrote his own bill and that the three accompanying inquests were written by someone else.

The county coroners’ bills show much greater uniformity, particularly in the case of north Wiltshire. William Waylen’s solitary bill (1) is the excep-

\(^1\) e.g. in bill 128 the entries end ‘the jury on their oaths according to the evidence say ...’.
\(^2\) The first juror, doubtless the foreman, of the first inquest (2790) is John Stump, presumably the coroner of bills 128–9 and 137.
\(^3\) The first signature is again that of John Stump.
\(^4\) A3/1/6/1782, no. 20.
tion, doubtless not only because it was the first bill for the district but also because it was compiled after his death, possibly by an executor. It is headed 'The account of William Waylen, gent., late one of the coroners for the county of Wilts.' Each entry is in two parts, the first beginning with the date and then 'Fee [due] for taking an inquisition . . .', and the other beginning 'Travelling expenses . . .'. The first entry mentions that the fee was 'pursuant to the late Act of Parliament' and that the travelling expenses were 'at 9d. a mile allowed by the said Act'. The only details recorded about the inquests, however, are their dates, venues, and the names of the deceased.

The bills of his successor, John Clare, are much more informative. The survival of one of his original inquests, the only one held by a county coroner known to survive from our period, enables a comparison to be made between the full inquest and his reduced rendering of it in his bill.

Inquest

Wiltshire to witt. An inquisition indented taken at the burrough of Devizes in the county of Wilts, aforesaid on the twenty sixth day of January in the twenty sixth year of the reign of our sovereign lord George the second, by the grace of God of Great Brittan, France, and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc., before me John Clare, gent., one of the coroners of our said lord the king for the county aforesaid, upon view of the body of Ruth Peirce, late of Pottern in the said county, widdow, then and there lying dead, and upon oath of Richard Anstie, William Slade, Gabriel Bartlett, Robert Phipp, Richard Williams, John Williams, Ambrose Portch, Joseph Akers, William Hillier, Robert Hayward, Joseph Chandler, William Lewis, good and lawfull men of the county aforesaid, who, being sworn and charged to inquire how, in what manner, when, and where the aforesaid Ruth Peirce died and came by her death, upon their oaths aforesaid do say and present that on the twenty fifth day of January in the twenty sixth year aforesaid between the hours of ten and eleven of the clock in the forenoon of the same day a great quarrell arose between four women in the market place at the burrough of Devizes aforesaid whose names was Elizabeth Slade, Sarah Slade, Mary Parker, and the aforesaid Ruth Peirce, who joined togather and bought one sack of wheat of one Farmer Nathaniel Alexander at the price of seventeen shillings, which makes four shillings and three pence each. When the farmer summed up the dividends it wanted three pence of the price agreed, for which by evidence it appeared to be this Ruth Peirce's right to pay. She the said Ruth was accused with it. She declared she had paid it and called upon the Almighty for wittness and wished she might drop down dead that minnet if she had not paid it. The raish wish was repeated a second time and immediately from the visitation of the great and almighty God was struck dead upon the same. And as no marks of violence appeared upon view of the body, the aforesaid jurors do present that the aforesaid Ruth Peirce died as aforesaid and not otherwise. In witness whereof as well I the aforesaid coroner as the jurors aforesaid

1 W.R.O. 529/208. It was formerly in Devizes Museum.
have interchangably set our hands to this inquisition. the day, year, and place first abovewritten.

John Clare, coroner.

Bill (2: entry 12 below)
Inquisition 9. Taken at the burrough of Devizes on Fryday the 26th day of January upon view of the body of Ruth Peirce, late of Pottern. Virdict from the visitation of the great and almighty God in a great quarrel was struck dead with a lye in her mouth. Fees £1 0s. 0d.

The dramatic circumstances of the death led to much comment at the time and doubtless account for the survival of the inquest, but there is no reason to think that the relationship between the inquest and the bill’s summary of it is therefore exceptional. The amount of detail provided in the bills varies from coroner to coroner and even from one case to another; and some coroners also used more words than others to convey the same information. Thus one occasionally encounters the phrases ‘not being of sound mind, memory, and understanding, but lunatic and distracted’, and ‘not having the fear of God before his eyes, but moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil’, where usually one finds a simple verdict of lunacy in the first case and of felony, felo de se, or self murder in the second. Again, unspecific natural deaths are described variously as ‘natural death’, ‘visitation of God’, ‘ab visitatione Dei’, ‘natural death by the visitation of God’, and so on; and William Clare occasionally used ‘died of a sudden ab visitatione Dei’ (e.g. 1017, 1035, 1714). Murders and manslaughters show the greatest variations: sometimes long and graphic descriptions are given, notably by William Clare, whereas in other cases there is merely the bald statement ‘murder by [name]’ and for one (1217) the verdict would not have been known without its record at the assizes. The Ruth Peirce summary is typical in that it omits the date of death, and jurors’ names are never given. Deodands and their values are also consistently omitted, although it is often possible to guess what objects or animals were adjudged deodand.²

The Ruth Peirce inquest and all John Clare’s bills (2–31), except the last which was compiled after his death, are written in a single hand which his signature on the inquest confirms was his own. They are all parchment documents, unlike Waylen’s bill which is on paper, and they all, except the posthumous one, have an essential similarity in format and wording. The heading to his second bill (3) can be taken as a specimen.

Wilts. to witt. A true copy of the inquisitions taken by me John Clare, one of his majesties coroners for the county aforesaid, since the second of May when the last bill was delivered.

Thereafter the same form of words is used virtually unchanged throughout the series, but with the date of the bill’s commencement normally specified in terms of a particular quarter sessions. Clare always meticulously dated every inquest by both the weekday and the day of the month, but mentioned the

² Hunnisett, ‘Coroners’ bills’.
year nowhere in 12 of his 29 bills, although in 3 of the 12 the examination is dated by the year. Only twice did he give the year in the body of a bill, otherwise only in the heading. The Ruth Peirce inquest was held in Devizes, where Clare lived, and consequently involved no travelling, but in his early bills Clare always stated that the distances he travelled to other places were from Devizes. Soon, however, he adopted the practice of putting that in one or two entries only (e.g. in bills 8–9) and then frequently omitted it altogether (e.g. 10). In his later bills (e.g. 30) the word 'miles' is often reduced to 'm' or left out. The inquests in each of his bills are numbered in their order of entry, but his claim for reimbursement for a subpoena for a doctor and other expenditure incurred by a murder inquest is entered unnumbered at the end of bill 12 (222).

John Clare's posthumous bill (31) must in the present context be regarded as William Clare's first since John's last inquest is followed by a new heading and William's first three inquests. Whether or not the rest of William Clare's long series of bills (32–78) were written by him is uncertain. At first sight they appear to be in two different hands, but that may be an illusion accentuated by the change from parchment to paper with bill 45. It is not impossible that he wrote them all himself. The use in all the headings of the expression 'inquisitions taken by me' is not proof that he did, as will be shown in the discussion of the bills of Alexander Forsyth. But those entries which contain decisions to adjourn an inquest, to make a journey, or to exhume a body have all the immediacy of direct speech, and one even uses the personal pronoun.\(^1\) It is difficult to believe that they were not Clare's work. On the other hand, there is miscopying in some of the bills (37, 40, 44, 49), and notably of 'ur' as 'in', which it is hard to believe could have been perpetrated by someone who had recently been to the places concerned. Thus Hursted is rendered as Hinstede (968), Burton Hill as Binton Hill (1041), and Purton as both Pinton and Penton (880, 1213). Similarly, in one entry (1475) Hare Street appears as Haresspeat. Unfortunately Clare's signature against the total in bill 59 does not help to answer the question as to who wrote his bills. It must accordingly remain open.

A detailed description of William Clare's bills is unnecessary. They do not differ markedly from his father's. Headings and entries follow the earlier pattern and change little over the years. The main development was that William Clare provided an increasing amount of detail about many inquests towards the end of the period. That and the greater number of inquests make his later bills larger than the earlier ones. By the late 1780s it was occasionally

\(^1\) 'Was sent for by the parish of Box . . . it was judged the most right way of proceeding . . . I myself also went and first informed the mayor . . . attended his enquiry of the same . . . '(1377). Cf. ' Took a journey to Highworth, being sent for to Castle Eaton . . . but . . . declined taking up the body for a view' (871); 'This afternoon set out for Great Bedwin, was overtaken by a messenger . . ., proceeded as far as Burbage, was there credibly and satisfactorily informed . . . So from thence for the sake of expedition sent my warrant for burying the body without a view and returned' (1053); 'Miles 40, being obliged to go the road through Tedbury to get post horses' (1430); 'Was called to Warminster . . ., but, being confined from indisposition, my brother, as a surgeon, attended and . . . left my certificate for burying the body' (1482); 'Afterwards repaired with all expedition to Limpley Stoke in the parish of Bradford, having had notice by a post letter from the officer . . . ' (1759).
necessary to use the dorse of the bill (e.g. 63–4), and from 1791, with the exception of two (72–3) which span only three months each, his bills are either written on both sides of a single sheet (71) or continue onto a second. The second sheets of two bills (69, 74) have entries on the dorse, and one bill (70) even consists of three sheets, although it covers nine months. The sheets of each bill were originally joined at the top left corner (some sewn, others pinned) and many still are.

In format the major contrast between the bills of the two Clares is that William normally used wider pieces of parchment or paper and entered his inquests in two columns. He began the practice in his first full bill (32) and only occasionally (40–5, 58) reverted to the earlier one, usually when there were relatively few entries. With one exception (33) the heading is written across both columns. The first column was usually totalled and the sum carried over to the top of the second (and similarly from column to column in the later bills). Occasionally, however, the first one was not totalled separately (e.g. 47), or both columns were totalled individually and the two totals were added together at the foot of the second (e.g. 57). Bill 64 is exceptional in that its inquests were totalled and two further items of expenditure (1647–8) were entered below the total later, probably by a clerk at the quarter sessions, and added to it to give the sum total of the claim. Elsewhere all the entries were added together irrespective of their nature. Only the inquests are numbered, and that is done for every bill. The numbers were probably on the original inquests retained by the coroner, because in an entry (1569) of an adjourned inquest early in a new bill William Clare referred to the original sitting by its numbered entry in the previous bill. Such separate entries of adjournments, and entries concerning journeys made by the coroner which did not result in inquests (e.g. 725), are never numbered, although they appear in their correct chronological positions in the bills; neither are those relating to payments made by the coroner to other officials, which are always added at the end (e.g. 775–6). In one bill the entry of an adjournment (1692) was at first given a number. The error was soon spotted. The number was erased and those of the next few inquests were corrected. Beginning with his second complete bill (33), William Clare discontinued his father’s practice of recording the day of the week with the date of each inquest and his own innovation of giving the date of death or of the finding of the body, but only five of his bills (34, 43, 45–6, 51) have no year anywhere upon them. He never stated that his journeys were made from Devizes. Exceptionally he signed his name against the total of bill 59.

The south Wiltshire coroners were less informative than the Clares, as is evident from the printed text. There is no evidence as to who wrote George Whitmarsh’s first two bills (79–80). He may have written them himself. The use of ‘by me’ in the headings is not proof that he did, because it also appears in many of his other bills which are all in another hand. That hand was certainly not his since the last of them (94) was compiled after his death, although the heading of one of its predecessors (87) ends, uniquely: ‘Witness my hand Geo. Whitmarsh, one of the coroners for the said county’. The
inquests in eleven of the sixteen bills are numbered, but in neither of the first
two. Most of the headings are long and vary little. But two bills, the one just
cited (87) and the posthumous one (94), have considerably shorter headings
and omit some information contained in the others, such as that distances
were from Wilton. All Whitmarsh’s bills are on parchment and only one (91)
has any entries on the dorse.

Henry Thresher’s sole bill (95) is another posthumous one. It is written in
conventional form on parchment in an unique hand and has two points of
interest. First, he is called in the heading ‘late coroner for the south part of
the said county’. That is the only reference to either of the county districts in
the coroners’ bills. Secondly, the distance he travelled to the county gaol,
three miles, is nearly always recorded, although, correctly, he made no claim
for the journey. There is no mention on the bill of where his journeys began.

Alexander Forsyth’s bills appear to have been written by three different
people, as follows: bills 96–101, 105–11, 116, and 118 in hand 1; bills 102–4 in
hand 2; and bills 112–15, 117, and 119–20 in hand 3. Hand 1 is almost
certainly Forsyth’s own: it is the only one that bears any resemblance to his
signature on vouchers; and it occurs the most frequently and throughout
nearly the whole of his 27 years of office, but, perhaps significantly, not at the
very end when his health was failing. As described above, he then received
payment by proxy and died shortly after submitting his final bill. The un-
usually frequent alternation of scribes is not reflected in the form or contents
of Forsyth’s bills. Bill 106 may be ignored here. As already explained, it is
not a normal bill. It contains one entry only, of the kind which appear
unnumbered in William Clare’s bills. The entries in the other bills show
remarkable uniformity. They are numbered in every bill but one (103). The
headings are mostly similar to George Whitmarsh’s, although there is greater
variation and often less information in those of Forsyth’s later years. Some
(108, 116–18, 120) then omit the fact that distances were from Salisbury, and
two (109, 111) even leave out the coroner’s name although it is on the dorse of
bill 109. The unique bill 106 and the otherwise conventional bill 107 are on
paper, 107 folded to form four pages, but all the others are of parchment.

The two final southern bills, those of William Whitmarsh (121–2), are also
of parchment and also vary little in form and content from those of his
predecessors. The inquests are numbered. The first heading states that
distances are from Wilton, the second does not. The bills are written in
different hands, neither of which is the same as those of Forsyth’s bills.

Mention has already been made of the note of examination and allowance
by the J.P.s which appears on nearly all the bills. The J.P.s were remarkably
uncritical, particularly given the blatant manner in which most coroners
flouted the law. They not only allowed payment for items of expenditure not
covered by the statute, but they often did not bother to check that claims for
individual inquests were correct and that the bills were accurately totalled.
Very few of the bills were amended upon examination by the justices. John
Clare, probably the most honest of the coroners, was the only one whose

¹ For an expansion of the points summarized in this paragraph see Hunnisett, ‘Coroners’ bills’.
mileages and consequent claims were reduced at all regularly. That was in the early years of the operation of the system when the justices took their responsibilities more seriously than they did later. A few of William Clare’s earlier bills were similarly corrected, but the only other challenge to any other bill came in 1792 when, as described above, two claims for reimbursement for sums paid by William Clare to constables for taking suspects to gaol were deleted from his bill (70). Many other bills have alterations, but they were made during or shortly after compilation, to correct errors of copying or calculation. Some of John Clare’s bills have such corrections, and one of his son’s (54) has an abnormally large number, apparently made when read through after completion.

**Districts**

Technically, county coroners were elected for service in the whole county and could operate anywhere in it, but in practice each soon came to act mainly in a certain part. In some counties recognized coroners’ districts evolved, with firm boundaries, which survived all changes in the occupancy of the coronerships. Elsewhere boundaries were less well defined and districts varied according to where the coroners for the time being happened to live.¹ Wiltshire was among the counties which had no permanent and recognized coroners’ districts in the middle ages.² What the position was in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries only a detailed study of the surviving inquests would show. It would be interesting to know whether the districts of the late eighteenth century had existed for some time or had only recently been established. In other words, was the stability of the period 1752–96 and beyond a new phenomenon, caused by the chance election of one sequence of coroners who happened to live in Devizes and of others who lived in Wilton and Salisbury; or were coroners deliberately sought from those places because they were convenient centres from which to officiate in what had become traditional districts?

Whatever the answer may prove to be, the coroners’ bills show that from 1752 to 1796, regardless of who the coroners were in a particular year, there was a constant boundary between the two county jurisdictions which was generally but not slavishly respected. It ran, in a direction slightly north of east, from Maiden Bradley on the western border to Ludgershall and Chute on the east, to name the parishes in which the northern coroners acted exclusively; or from Stourton to North Tidworth where only the southern ones operated. The only places along this boundary in which both northern and southern coroners held inquests were Longbridge Deverill and Heytesbury, which were mainly northern parishes; Orcheston St George, mainly a southern one; and Boyton, Codford St Peter, Netheravon, and Chute Forest. It is just possible that even those places had areas to which only one of the

² V.C.H. Wilts. v. 15. 27–8.
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coroners would have been summoned. For some reason the southern coroners held a number of inquests at Warminster and the neighbouring parishes of Corsley and Bishopstrow, which were definitely within the northern district, although not far from the boundary, and in which the northern coroners usually acted. Otherwise a coroner sat in the other district only during some emergency and notably during a vacancy. There is no southern bill for 1752, when John Clare succeeded William Waylen in the north. The only other northern vacancy was between the coronershps of John and William Clare. It lasted for less than a month, during which time the only inquest held in the north by Alexander Forsyth, the southern coroner, was on the body of John Clare himself (2346). It is unknown why George Whitmarsh held an inquest at Trowbridge in May 1762 (2213), but that is the only other time a southern coroner is known to have sat in the north. The northern coroners acted in the south more often because there were more southern vacancies during the period. Two occurred in 1767, occasioned by the deaths of George Whitmarsh and Henry Thresher and together lasting some three months. John Clare held eight inquests in the south during the first (529, 531-2, 534-6, 539, 541) and five more during the second (552-3, 556, 559, 561). There was a third vacancy in 1795 between the death of Alexander Forsyth and the election of William Whitmarsh when William Clare held four inquests in the south (2008, 2010, 2012, 2017).

The imbalance between the two districts is their most noticeable feature. It is not only that the northern coroners were responsible for a much larger area than their southern colleagues, although that, coupled with the fact that Devizes was well to the south of the district, meant that their journeys were up to 38 miles compared to 26 miles for the southern coroners. The northern district also contained most of the more densely populated places, which produced the highest number of inquests. There was nowhere in the south, apart from Fisherton Anger where the county gaol was situated, that could compare for sudden or unnatural mortality with Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge, Westbury, Melksham, Devizes, Chippenham, Calne, Preshute (in which lay Marlborough bridewell), and many other northern places. It is true that Corsham, Wootton Bassett, and Marlborough, which had their own coroners, were all in the north, but that almost certainly saved the northern coroners far less work than the southern ones were saved by their exclusion from Salisbury. The bills, both extant and as reconstituted in the appendix, show only 27 inquests to have been certainly held by the Corsham coroners in the 44 years and only 9 by those of Wootton Bassett, while the surviving Marlborough inquests for 1773-96 total 17. Moreover, although the northern coroners held no inquests in Corsham and almost certainly none within the borough of Marlborough, the Clares held at least eight in Wootton Bassett (301, 564, 627, 633, 821, 881, 884, 1746), surprisingly in that the mayors were ex officio coroners there and there should consequently have

1 Fuller details about the vacancies will be found in the next section of the introduction.
2 G22/1/204, nos 1-17.
3 Marlborough bridewell was just outside the borough, in Preshute, where other inquests were held whose venues are described in terms of Marlborough (e.g. 900, 1033, 1205, 1721).
been no vacancies. By contrast, county coroners held only two inquests in Salisbury, in June and July 1796 (2765, 2770). The coroner was William Whitmarsh. George Whitmarsh had earlier held one (2284) three miles from Wilton at a venue described, uniquely, as 'near Salisbury', but doubtless just outside the city, as, indeed, the two later ones may have been.

The outlying parts of Wiltshire did nothing to help restore the balance. It is true that the southern coroners seem to have been responsible for holding inquests at Shinfield and Swallowfield in the east of Berkshire and sat there five times after travelling between 50 and 54 miles (2189, 2242, 2325, 2504, 2645), whereas the northern coroners were called only twice to Hurst which meant journeys of 58 and 59 miles (1014, 1735). But the latter also held all the inquests in Charnham Street in Hungerford and also in Kingswood over the Gloucestershire border, which were far more numerous although involving shorter journeys. Two unexpected inquests may be mentioned here. One (1086) was held by William Clare at Midford, which was strictly in South Stoke in Somerset. It was probably taken just inside Wiltshire, at Limpley Stoke. The other (2512) was said to have been taken by Alexander Forsyth at East Wellow. East Wellow was always in Hampshire, unlike West Wellow, part of which was in Wiltshire until 1894. Perhaps East was written in error.

The work-load of the county coroners gradually increased during the second half of the eighteenth century until it was twice as heavy in the 1790s as in the 1750s. The increase affected both districts equally, but their imbalance meant that the northern coroners consistently held three times as many inquests as did their southern colleagues, an average of 57 and a maximum of 82 a year compared with 17 and 32. Moreover, the southern numbers are inflated by some 80 deaths occurring in Fisherton Anger gaol, which involved no coroner in journeys of more than three miles, as against 45 comparable deaths in Devizes bridewell; and the northern figures must be considered in the light of the fact that the deaths were not spread evenly over the year, so that the Clares were often obliged to hold two or more inquests at different places on the same day. They had other professional commitments, which doubtless led them, illegally, to treat Sunday as a normal working day and even to sit on Christmas Day and Good Friday.

The strain on the county coroners was not eased until well into the nineteenth century. In the 1830s Devizes regained its own coroner and Malmesbury began to exercise the right, granted in 1696, for its alderman to act as coroner for the borough. In 1843 the detached parts of Wiltshire were placed within the jurisdiction of the Berkshire and Gloucestershire coroners,
to which counties they were transferred completely in the following year.¹ Most helpful of all, on 9 February 1843 a writ issued to the sheriff of Wiltshire requiring the election of an additional county coroner, and Richard Munk- house Wilson was accordingly elected on 6 March.² Nevertheless, an imbalance between districts and uncertainty as to their boundaries persisted until 1860 when the county was divided into three defined jurisdictions of roughly equal size — north, mid, and south Wiltshire.³

The Coroners

Wootton Bassett was like Marlborough in that the mayor was ex officio coroner of the borough.⁴ There was therefore an annual change of coroner, by election on the Friday before Michaelmas.⁵ It must have been a matter of pure chance if a particular mayor had any expertise relevant to the coronership, since mayors, as elsewhere, were chosen from the more eminent inhabitants. It was perhaps because of that that, as recently mentioned, the county coroners were sometimes summoned and, indeed, held as many inquests in the borough as did the local coroners. The only Wootton Bassett coroners whose bills survive are Thomas Rich, 1765 (139); William York, 1766 (140); Oliver Carter, 1768 (141-2); and John Hunt, 1787, 1793 (143-4). Three others presented bills which have not survived: William Brewer in 1764, John Eacott in 1777, and Benjamin Franklin in 1794 (2807). None of them is known to have had any obvious qualifications for the office. Thomas Rich was a yarn-maker⁶ and Oliver Carter a gunsmith.⁷ Inevitably in a small borough the civic dignities rotated among members of the same few families. Two Yorks, two Eacotts, and two Brewers were mayors and coroners in the second half of the eighteenth century, and those known to have submitted bills held office as follows: John Eacott 1754-5, 1776-7, 1791-2; Oliver Carter 1757-8, 1760-1, 1767-8; William Brewer 1763-4, 1770-1; Thomas Rich 1764-5; William York 1765-6, 1769-70, 1787-8; Benjamin Franklin 1777-8, 1783-5, 1793-4; and John Hunt 1786-7, 1792-3.⁸

The two earliest bills compiled by coroners of the manor of Corsham have not survived. A Mr Mitchell presented the first in 1754 and a Thomas Mitchell, possibly the same man, the second in 1758 (2806). All the other

¹ By stats 6 Vic. c.12 s.2; 7 & 8 Vic. c.61.
² C 202/231, no. 29.
³ W.R.O., Q.S. Minute Books, 1858-62, under Trin. 1859 and Mich. 1860. A misinterpretation of this source led to the statement in V.C.H. Wilts. v. 234 that the third county coroner was not introduced until 1859.
⁴ In Salisbury the city bailiff was coroner: P. Barfoot and J. Wilkes, The universal British directory of trade, commerce and manufacture (1793-8), under Salisbury.
⁷ ibid., will of Oliver Carter of Wootton Bassett, dated 6 Apr., proved at Salisbury 27 July 1784. A William York was a witness. It may have been the same Oliver Carter of Wootton Bassett who is listed without date in B. H. Cunnington. ‘Clock and watch makers of Wiltshire of the 17th and 18th centuries’, W.A.M. xlviii. 313.
⁸ Gingell, Wootton Bassett, 140.
known bills are extant. The coroners were Edward Mitchell, 1761, 1771, 1783, 1785 (123, 126, 131-2); William Mitchell, 1768, 1769, 1773-4, 1780, 1792 (124-5, 127, 130, 138); John Stump, 1777-8, 1789-91 (128-9, 137); and Mark England Stump, 1785 (133-6). Obviously, as in Wootton Bassett, the office rotated among relatively few people from even fewer families. Mark Stump, for example, is thought to have been John's younger brother. The greater number of inquests they held may have led to their building up an expertise unknown to the Wootton Bassett coroners. Hence, perhaps, unlike Wootton Bassett, Corsham seems never to have considered it necessary to call in the county coroners.

The striking thing about the county coroners is that they all had medical qualifications, which rendered them highly suitable for the office. Wiltshire may well have been unique in this respect in the eighteenth century. All three north Wiltshire coroners were described as surgeons, William Waylen also as an apothecary. Like his successors, he lived in Devizes and belonged to an eminent Devizes family many of whose members were medical men. He had been elected coroner on 1 November 1745 after the death in office of Richard Smith. He held only three inquests after the introduction of fees, the last (3) on 29 August 1752. He signed his will on 4 October and was buried in St John's churchyard in Devizes four days later. The writ for his replacement as coroner issued on 23 October and John Clare was elected on 21 November. He was an obvious choice. He not only lived in the same place but was a doctor there, having earlier been apprenticed to Joseph Needham, another Devizes surgeon, for six years from 8 January 1740. He remained in office until 28 February 1771 when he was thrown from his horse in the night between Poulshot and Seend Lane and found dead. Alexander Forsyth, the southern coroner, held the inquest at Devizes on 2 March and recorded a verdict of accidental death (2346).

William Clare was elected to succeed his father on 19 March on a writ of 6 March. He continued as coroner throughout the remainder of the period and, indeed, until 1823 when a writ of 1 February ordered the sheriff of Wiltshire to remove him from office because he was unable to perform the duties by reason of his great age and infirmity. A further writ of 3 February ordered the election of a successor and William Adye was duly elected on

1 H. Brakspear. The church of St Bartholomew at Corsham in Wiltshire (Devizes, 1924). 69-70.
3 W.R.O., Cons. Sarum, will of William Waylen.
6 C 202/133, no. 2; bill 1.
7 ibid.; C 202/133, no. 2: bill 1.
8 e.g. one Dr William Waylen died at Devizes on 22 Jan. 1777 and another was in practice there in the first part of the nineteenth century: Annals of Devizes, ed. Cunnington, ii. 257; Pigot, National commercial directory (1822, 1830), under Devizes surgeons.
9 C 202/133, no. 2.
13 C 202/159, no. 7.
11 February. William Clare had then been coroner for virtually 52 years, and father and son between them for an unbroken span of over 70 years. William Clare was also a surgeon and lived at 23 Market Place, Devizes, a house which still has the figure of Aesculapius in a recess over the doorway. He died in 1829, aged 82, as was recorded on his monumental tablet in St James's church, Southbroom. He had a brother, Robert, who was also a surgeon and who on one occasion viewed a body on William's behalf although without taking an inquest (1482). William's successor, William Adye, was removed from office on a writ of 12 July 1841 because he had gone to live in Sydney, New South Wales, and did not intend to act as coroner again. His successor, elected on 9 August, was George Sylvester of Trowbridge, who proved a controversial coroner. He remained in office until late 1873 when he resigned. Frederick Thomas Sylvester was elected in his place on 26 November.

The south Wiltshire coroners were equally suitable for office. George Whitmarsh was a Wilton surgeon and apothecary who was regarded as 'skilful in his profession and eminent in his practice'. The writ on which he was elected does not survive and it is therefore impossible to say how long he had been in office before the commencement of his first bill (79) in January 1753. He held his last inquest (2294) on 24 May 1767, died on 21 June aged 60, and was buried on 29 June. On 15 July a writ issued for an election and Henry Thresher was elected on 11 August. He also lived at Wilton, where he owned mills and was clearly a man of substance. He also owned the Crown Inn in Devizes and so may well have been the ‘Henry son of Robert Thresher of Devizes who was apprenticed to two Corsham clothiers, in 1715 and 1718. However that may be, by the time he became coroner he was an apothecary. His cases span barely 2½ months, 23 August to 4 November 1767 (bill 96). He signed his will on 4 November and was buried nine days later, leaving two children under 21. A writ for another election therefore issued on 1 December, and on 29 December 1767 Alexander Forsyth of Salisbury was elected and began a tenure of office which lasted some 27½ years.

Forsyth was a surgeon who was involved in smallpox inoculation in Salisbury in the late 1760s and to whom the bodies of felons hanged after death were sent. He was also a Corsham clothier and a member of a prominent family. Forsyth was a surgeon who was involved in smallpox inoculation in Salisbury in the late 1760s and to whom the bodies of felons hanged after death were sent. He was also a Corsham clothier and a member of a prominent family. Forsyth was a surgeon who was involved in smallpox inoculation in Salisbury in the late 1760s and to whom the bodies of felons hanged after death were sent. He was also a Corsham clothier and a member of a prominent family.
conviction at Salisbury assizes were sometimes delivered for 'dissection and anatomization' (e.g. 1142, 1346, 1827). He held his final inquest (2746) on 6 March 1795 and, as already noticed, his son Alexander collected the payment on his last bill on 22 April.\(^1\) A writ for a new coroner issued on 2 June because Forsyth was dead, and William Whitmarsh was elected on 16 June.\(^2\) Another Wilton man and an alderman of the town, he was probably from the same family as George Whitmarsh, the earlier coroner, since he was also a surgeon and apothecary.\(^3\) As already mentioned, another George Whitmarsh received payment of William's bills.\(^4\) He may well have been William's brother\(^5\) and possibly the Downton surgeon who died in 1825.\(^6\) William died in office on 21 May 1810, aged 66,\(^7\) was buried on 26 May,\(^8\) and was succeeded on 25 July by a Robert Powell Whitmarsh, who was elected on a writ of 8 June.\(^9\)

**The Inquests**

It would be impossible within the confines of a short introduction to comment adequately on the inquests printed in this volume. Some idea of the uses to which they can be put has been given elsewhere.\(^10\) Here particular mention should be made of the evidence they provide of the manner in which the various coroners performed their duties and how, to varying degrees, they successfully manipulated the statute 25 George II cap. 29 to their financial advantage: by claiming for longer journeys than were warranted, for travelling to hold inquests in gaol, for holding adjourned sittings, for two or more journeys when all the inquests were held at one place and on the same day, for making journeys which did not result in inquests, and for reimbursement of money paid to local officials and others. Some of those claims were not unreasonable; others were by any standards unethical; all were strictly illegal.

The inquests have a wealth of information for the social and economic historian, whether studied as a group or individually. For example, the infanticides and other infant deaths provide an interesting illustration of social attitudes in eighteenth-century Wiltshire, especially towards unmarried mothers. The suicide cases would also repay detailed investigation, particularly the incidence of verdicts of lunacy and felo de se (about 8 to 1) and the ratio of men to women (2 to 1). There is a much greater preponderance of men over women as subjects of inquests generally, between 3 and 4 to 1,

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1. A5/1/6/1796, no. 29.
5. George Whitmarsh of Ditchampton had three sons, including a George and a William: W.R.O., Arch. Sarum, will of George Whitmarsh, dated 4 Dec. 1792, proved at Salisbury 7 Dec. 1797.
10. Hunnisett, 'Coroners' bills'.
which itself is of social significance. The deaths in gaol provide further evidence of the unhealthy conditions that prisoners had to endure. William Clare adjourned one inquest (1557) in Devizes bridewell because the deceased was so emaciated, and the verdict, after attributing the death to inclement weather and lack of sustenance, added the rider that the daily allowance of a twopenny loaf was 'a very short and scanty one, inadequate to and insufficient for the support and maintenance of the body of any man'. As a result the prisoners' allowance was increased. William Clare adjourned two other inquests: one (1564, 1569) to ensure that a foot-bridge from which a man had fallen to his death in the Bristol Avon was widened and strengthened; and the other (1881) to arrange for improved working methods in a quarry in which a man had died. The deaths by misadventure reflect much of the life of the times and illustrate the manifold hazards that confronted eighteenth-century man at work and at play, at home, in the street, and in the fields. The surprisingly large number of deaths from inclement weather are an interesting if subsidiary source for the student of micro-climatic conditions. More negatively, the inquests highlight the backwardness of forensic medicine in England. Autopsies are said to have been performed for only eight of the 2,779 inquests, and less than a quarter of the natural deaths were attributed to specific causes.

The temptation to comment on particular inquests must be resisted. Many have individual points of interest, but none is outstandingly important. There are no notorious murders and no national figure required the attention of the Wiltshire coroners. The inquest on Ruth Peirce is by far the best known. Others might prove to be more interesting than the bare summaries on the bills suggest when they are supplemented from other sources such as newspaper reports, diaries, wills, and even parish registers. It is probably the various categories of deaths, however, not individual inquests, which will best repay further study. To facilitate their analysis, the subject index contains a break-down of each category.

Editorial Note

As explained and illustrated above, the coroners' bills contain only summaries of the original inquests, although the amount of detail provided varies from coroner to coroner and according to the nature of the case. The succinctness of many of the entries renders further compression difficult. The variations, however, make some degree of standardization desirable. As printed here, therefore, the bills closely resemble their full manuscript text, but with the common-form element presented in as uniform a manner as possible and any unnecessary words or phrases omitted. Thus whatever words or phrases are used in the manuscript and wherever they appear there, verdicts have been standardized and given at the end of the descriptive

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1 Waylen, Chronicles of the Devizes, 318.
2 e.g. the diary of George Sloper, 1753–1810, which records many of the Devizes deaths: Annals of Devizes, ed. Cunnington, ii. 248–80.
passage. ‘Lunacy’ and ‘felo de se’ are used for the two kinds of suicide; ‘accidental death’ for misadventures, but only where it is otherwise unclear that the death was accidental; ‘natural death’ for unspecific natural deaths; and so on. The age of the deceased and any description of him, such as ‘subject to fits’, have, however, been placed immediately after his name. The phrase ‘no marks of violence’ has been used throughout, whether it is in the manuscript in that form or expanded (e.g. ‘no marks of violence appearing on the view’) or reduced (e.g. ‘no violence’).

With the exception of the common-form passages and occasional instances of tautology, repetition, and verbosity, the wording and, it is hoped, the flavour of the originals have been preserved. The longer and more unusual the entries, the less it has proved possible to abbreviate them, but such entries are few. The typical relationship between manuscript and printed text may best be appreciated by seeing two representative entries in both versions. The first is from one of John Clare’s bills (2) and the second from one of William Clare’s (32).

**Manuscript**

Inquisition 8. Taken at Coat on Thursday ye 25th day of January upon view of the body of Katherine Harper, late of Coat, widdow, who on ye 24th day of January was found dead in a field leading from Coat to Devizes. Virdict from the visitation of God died in a fitt of the apoplexy. Being two miles from Devizes. Fees 1:1:6.

**Text**

II 25 Jan. 1753. Coate. Katharine Harper, late of Coate, widow: on 24 Jan. found dead in a field between Coate and Devizes; apoplexy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

**Manuscript**

2nd. Inquisition at East Grafton on Thursday the 11th April upon view of the body of John Sheffard who on the 9th day of April, not being of sound mind etc., in a certain place called Pyke’s Coppice hanged himself. Verdict lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

**Text**

692 11 Apr. 1771. East Grafton. John Sheffard: on 9 Apr. hanged himself in Pyke’s Coppice; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

A much stricter degree of uniformity has been imposed upon the headings of the bills than upon their contents. As shown above, the wording of the headings and the information they contain vary considerably. That information has been set out in this volume in a standardized form, and certain pieces have been included when they do not appear in the manuscript headings or even anywhere in the originals. For example, the year has been supplied when omitted from either the heading or the entire bill, just as it has been supplied, when necessary, for the entries. Even the coroner’s name has had to be supplied in a few headings. All headings to county bills are printed with the coroner’s place of abode, in the form ‘distances from Devizes’, whether the manuscript gives it there or in one or more of the entries or not at all. The Corsham and Wootton Bassett coroners, of course, can be assumed to have
lived in those places. It is the Corsham headings, however, which have had to be changed most radically to conform to the desired pattern, and headings have had to be composed for the Wootton Bassett inquests which were presented as bills because they had no headings originally. To the headings proper has been added whatever else is written on the bill that does not relate to a particular entry. Usually there are two such items: the total, and the note of its allowance after examination by the J.P.s. Both, of course, are at the end of the entries in the originals, and the allowance is sometimes on the dorse, but it is more convenient to have them in the heading in the printed version. The bill headings, which always end with the brief documentary reference printed within square brackets, have not been given entry numbers. Persons, places, and, occasionally, subjects occurring in them are indexed by reference to all the entries in the relevant bills.

Square brackets have been used sparingly. Apart from enclosing the document references, they serve two main purposes. One, to avoid footnotes, is for brief editorial comments printed in italics within entries: a definition of an unusual word; a correction of a date; a note that the weekday and day of the month are incompatible. The other is for supplementary information, which always appears in roman type at the end of the relevant entries: cross-references to related entries, and summaries of trials at Salisbury assizes resulting from the deaths.\(^1\) Dates and other details supplied in some headings and entries, whether they can be deduced from the bill itself or are derived from other sources, have not been given square brackets. Similarly words omitted in error, usually prepositions, or deliberately, as 'miles' frequently is, have been supplied silently; grammar has been corrected without comment; and deletions, interlineations, and other corrections made by the compiler have not been noted. In short, the editor has been as self-effacing as possible. Eighteenth-century coroners' bills do not merit an elaborate critical apparatus. Thus no mention is made here of the use of the dorse of a bill or the beginning of a new sheet.

In the text all surnames are printed in their manuscript forms, but they have been grouped under standardized forms in the index according to modern principles.\(^2\) Many of the names did not need to be changed and few more than slightly. The index of persons therefore contains few cross-references, but all the manuscript variations are given after the standard form. Forenames, however, have been standardized in the text to their most common modern spellings. Only aberrant or highly unusual manuscript forms have been printed — in round brackets, in the text only. In the index persons with the same surname and forename are distinguished by repetition of the forename. Persons described in the text as of certain places are not so indexed: both they and the places are individually indexed with simple references. Persons described in terms of others — husbands, parents, masters, etc. — are also not so indexed, but both persons are indexed individually in each case, even when

\(^1\) Where there are no such summaries the western circuit gaol books contain no record of a trial.

one of them never occurs in the text in his own right but merely to define the other. Unnamed persons so defined, usually infant sons and daughters, are, however, indexed jointly with the named relation. Occupations of persons are not included in the persons index; they form an entry in the index of subjects. Offices, on the other hand, are given after the appropriate names in the index of persons, as are military ranks, peerages, and the titles knight and baronet, but not gentleman and esquire.

All identifiable places are printed in their modern forms in the text. In those few cases where identification proved impossible, the manuscript spelling is printed in single inverted commas, usually with a possibility or alternatives suggested after it in square brackets. Otherwise only very unusual or aberrant manuscript forms are given in the text, in round brackets after the modern ones; but all forms occurring in the originals will be found in round brackets after the modern spelling in the index. Most of the Wiltshire coroners were meticulous in assigning tithings, townships, and chapelrys at which inquests were held to their correct parishes. Such lesser places have been described by those words only when they are in the original. They are indexed under their ancient parishes as constituted at the time of the bills, with cross-references from their own names. Occasionally the coroners made a mistake, calling a place a parish when it was not or assigning a lesser place to a wrong parish. In the first case the word 'parish' has been retained in the text and in both cases the error is corrected in the index. The word 'parish' is not otherwise preserved in the text; neither are 'precinct' and 'liberty', sometimes used by William Clare and Alexander Forsyth respectively as synonyms for it. It can be assumed that when one place is said to be in another, the latter is a parish and usually so described in the manuscript. Fields and other minor features have also been given their modern spellings in the text, again with any manuscript variants after them in the index. Many such minor place names, however, either have not survived or are not well documented. They have been left in their manuscript forms when, as is usually the case, those are reasonable ones. When they consist wholly or in part of adjectives and common nouns they have been changed, usually only slightly, to conform with modern spelling; and those that incorporate family names or the names of larger Wiltshire places have had those elements respectively standardized and modernized. Again the manuscript forms are preserved in the index. A very small number of probably aberrant minor place names could not be so treated and have been printed unchanged within single inverted commas in both text and index. It is usually clear from the text in which parishes the minor places lay. They are therefore indexed under those parishes. Cross-references from their own names are included only for those minor places at which inquests were held and for those whose parishes are not given in the text.
NORTH WILTSHIRE BILLS

Bill of William Waylen, gent., presented by his executors; distances from Devizes; total £4 10s.; allowed by Robert Long and Thomas Batson, 2 May 1753. [A5/2/1/1]

1 3 July 1752. Little Somerford. Richard Alloway. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2 13 July 1752. Potterne. William Maishman. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since the commencement of the Act for settling fees; distances from Devizes; total £19 0s. 6d. [corrected from £18 19s. 6d.] [A5/2/1/2]

5 30 Dec. 1752. St Margaret's in Preshute. John Brown, waggoner: killed by a waggon. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
7 8 Jan. 1753. Potterne. James Ellis, late of Marston, labourer: killed by the fall of a hayrick upon him. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
8 10 Jan. 1753. Devizes common gaol. William Field, late of Charlton, aged over 90, committed for felony: natural death. £1 [corrected from £1 0s. 6d.]
[At Salisbury assizes, 13 Apr. 1753, Jane wife of James Taylor was acquitted of murdering Rachel, an infant: ASSI 23/6.]
11 25 Jan. 1753. Coate. Katharine Harper, late of Coate, widow: on 24 Jan. found dead in a field between Coate and Devizes; apoplexy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
12 26 Jan. 1753. Devizes. Ruth Peirce, late of Potterne: from the visitation of the great and almighty God in a great quarrel was struck dead with a lie in her mouth. £1.
[See above, pp. xxxix–xl.]
13 5 Feb. 1753. Dilton. William Gollidge, late of Dilton, weaver: on 3 Feb. found dead on Dilton Marsh Common; cold weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
15 10 Apr. 1753. Hilperton. John Pead: on 9 Apr. drowned himself in a pond; lunacy. 8 miles. £6s.
16 19 Apr. 1753. Poulshot. Francis Sansbury, aged 2: on 18 Apr. drowned in a ditch. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since 2 May 1753; distances from Devizes; total £18 0s. 3d. [A5/2/1/3]

18 9 May 1753. South Marston near Highworth. Margaret Wells, spinster: on 7 May fell into a well and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
20 12 May 1753. Norton Bavant near Warminster. William Feltham: on 10 May fell behind the wheel of a mill and was killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
21 22 June 1753; the jury not agreeing, adjourned to 25 June. Pewsey. Jane wife of John Munday, wheelwright: manslaughter by John and by Sarah Munday, her sister-in-law, as supposed. With the adjournment, 24 miles. £1 18s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 2 Aug. 1753, John and Sarah were discharged, their indictments being returned 'ignoramus': ASSI 23/6.]
22 27 June 1753. Devizes Green. Joseph Rose: on 26 June fell into a well and was drowned. £1.
23 6 July 1753. West Kington. A male infant bastard, supposed to be born of the body of Mary Banning, who was apprehended in a stable in a very weak condition and, being immediately sent to bed, she languished for an hour and died: special verdict. 20 miles. £1 15s.
24 29 July 1753. Easton Grey. Benjamin Smith: accidentally killed by a gun. 20 miles. £1 15s.
25 31 July 1753. Chiseldon. Francis Berry: killed by a fall from a load of thorns. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
26 5 Sept. 1753. Oaksey. Thomas Reynolds: fell into a well and was killed. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
27 6 Sept. 1753. Bradford on Avon. George Beal, gent.: on 5 July was out shooting when his gun accidentally went off and killed him. 12 miles. £1 9s.
28 11 Sept. 1753. Rudge Common in Potterne. John Hamms, subject to fits: on 10 Sept. fell into a ditch and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions; distances from
NORTH WILTSHIRE

29 30 Oct. 1753. Holt. Thomas Carington: killed by the fall of a waggon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
30 9 Nov. 1753. Stert. Thomas Kinman: killed by a tree. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
31 19 Nov. 1753. Bradford on Avon. Sarah Hibbard: fell into a fire and was burnt to death. 12 miles. £1 9s.
33 19 Dec. 1753. Bournelake. Mary Mills: fell into a brook and was drowned. 25 [altered from 27] miles. £1 18s. 9d. [altered from £2 0s. 3d.]
34 4 Jan. 1754. Broughton Gifford. Martha Russel: on 3 Jan. threw herself into a well and was drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
36 18 Jan. 1754. East Chisenbury. Leonard Durnford: on 17 Jan. hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
38 20 Feb. 1754. Ogbourne St Andrew. Thomas Mott, aged about 2: fell into a well and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
39 26 or 28 Mar. 1754 [MS Tuesday, 28 Mar., but 28 Mar. was a Thursday]. Stanley. Daniel Jones: fell into the river and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
40 1 Apr. 1754. Swindon. Elizabeth Law: accidental [? recte natural] death. 18 [altered from 20] miles. £1 13s. 6d. [altered from £1 15s.]
41 3 Apr. 1754. Lydeway. John Eaden: on 2 Apr. died on the road; apoplexy. 4 miles. £1 3s.
42 7 Apr. 1754. Cricklade. Mary Snell: fell into a pond and was drowned. 23 [altered from 25] miles. £1 17s. 3s. [altered from £1 18s. 9d.]
43 12 Apr. 1754. Heywood in Westbury. John Dowell, aged 2: fell into a brook and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
44 14 Apr. 1754. Calstone Wellington. Thomas Palmer: fell into the ‘tapple-pit’ of a mill and was crushed to death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 24 Apr. 1754; distances from Devizes; total £346s. 8d. [recte £347s.]; the 6s. is written over an erasure and the 8d. over 0d.]; allowed by E. Bayntun and John Powell, 9 Oct. 1754. [A5/2/1/5]
45 4 May 1754. Potterne. John Bond: fell into a pan of water and was drowned. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
46 11 May 1754. Trowbridge. William Grant: manslaughter by Thomas
47 13 May 1754. Westwood. William Smith: accidentally drowned in the Avon. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
48 19 May 1754. Sutton Veny. Sophia Arnold: killed by the fall of a piece of timber. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
49 29 May 1754. Ogbourne St George. A female infant bastard: murder by Sarah Eatwell, its mother. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 27 July 1754, Sarah was acquitted: ASSI 23/7.]
50 3 June 1754. Chippenham. Elizabeth Jarman: accidental [recte natural] death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
51 26 June 1754. Chippenham. Elizabeth Reeves: fell into a ditch and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
52 29 June 1754. Devizes Green. Jacob Orchard: pecked headlong into a pan of suds and was drowned. £1.
53 4 July 1754. Inglesham. John Chamberland: murder by persons unknown. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
54 15 July 1754. Lacock. Sarah Humphiries: fell into a well and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 27 July 1754, all 4 were acquitted of Elizabeth’s murder on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]
56 1 Aug. 1754. East Coulston. Thomas George: accidental [recte natural] death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
57 2 Aug. 1754. Warminster Common. Martha Cooper: accidentally killed by a gun. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
58 5 Aug. 1754. Grittenham. Sarah Vines: fell into a pond and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.
59 11 Aug. 1754. Cleverton. Hannah Woodward: on 10 Aug. hanged herself; lunacy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
60 12 Aug. 1754. Compton Bassett. A female infant: murder by Martha Anderson, its mother. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1755, Martha wife of Richard Anderson was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]
63 8 Sept. 1754. Calne. Ann Heath: killed by a horse. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
64 15 Sept. 1754. Marridge Hill. Robert Crewes: killed by a wagggon. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
66 24 Sept. 1754. Bishop's Cannings. William King: killed by a waggon. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
67 1 Oct. 1754. South Marston. John Part: fell into a pond and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
68 7 Oct. 1754. Larborough in Potterne. Alice Hern: fell into Larborough Brook and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions; distances from Devizes; total £16 0s. 6d.; allowed by John Turner and John Powell, 9 Apr. 1755. [A5/2/1/6]

69 26 Oct. 1754. Hodson. Ann Brown: killed by the fall of a tree. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
70 30 Oct. 1754. Chittoe. Henry Burton: killed by the fall of a stone wall. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
71 14 Nov. 1754. Littleton Drew. Daniel Miles: accidentally fell down with his knife in his hand and stabbed himself. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
73 2 Dec. 1754. Melksham. Anthony Weeb: accidentally killed by a gun. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
74 22 Jan. 1755. Christian Malford. William Pain: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
76 18 Feb. 1755. Hilmarton. A male infant: found in a stone-pit; notwithstanding the most diligent search, it could not be found from what body it came or by whom it was put there; special verdict. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
77 23 Feb. 1755. Broughton Gifford. A female infant bastard, supposed to be born of the body of Ann Mortimer: Ann was accessory to its death by not having proper assistance during her delivery. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1755, Ann was acquitted of the child's murder: ASSI 23/7.]
79 19 Mar. 1755. Sevington. Nathaniel Lane: on 15 Mar. stabbed himself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions; distances from Devizes; total £33 3s. 6d.; allowed by G. Hungerford and John Garth. [A5/2/1/7]

80 12 Apr. 1755. Chippenham. Elizabeth Pollard: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
81 15 Apr. 1755. Cricklade. David Wilson: accidentally drowned in the Isis. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
5 May 1755. Stockham Marsh. Alice Willis: fell into a pond and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
24 June 1755. Tytherington. Sarah Baggs, aged about 2: pecked headlong into a tub of water and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
4 July 1755. Highworth. Giles Hoare: fell out of a tallet into a tub of wash and grains and was suffocated. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
7 July 1755. Southbroom. John Johnson: accidentally drowned in Drew's Pond. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
16 July 1755. Sandy Lane. A person unknown: accidental [? recte natural] death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
27 July 1755. Wexcombe in Great Bedwyn. Robert Reynolds, aged 2: drowned in a tub of water. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
28 July 1755. Chute. John Cook: killed by a fall of a hayrick. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
8 Aug. 1755. Widdenham Mill in Colerne. Hannah Killing: fell into the mill-pond and was drowned. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
15 Aug. 1755. Kington St Michael. Joan Hearth: poisoned by eating a preparation made up to destroy rats, not knowing it to be poisonous. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
26 Aug. 1755. Chippenham. John Lyon: manslaughter. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 13 Mar. 1756, John Wesson was acquitted of murdering John Lyons on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]
16 Sept. 1755. Cowage in Hilmarton. John Pinnigar: killed by a waggon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
17 Sept. 1755. Chiseldon. Thomas Looker: killed by a waggon going over his head. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
22 Sept. 1755. Calne. Mark Weston: killed by a waggon squeezing him against a bank. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2 Oct. 1755. Whistley. Jane Halling: fell into a mill-pond and was drowned. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions; distances from
Devizes; total £42 10s. 6d. [as altered]; allowed by Robert Long and John Turner, 28 Apr. 1756. [A5/2/1/8]

102 12 Oct. 1755. Farleigh Wick. James Little: fell into a pond and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
103 23 Oct. 1755. Everleigh. Elizabeth Nicholas: on 22 Oct. threw herself into a well; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.
105 17 Nov. 1755. Easton Grey. Elizabeth Vizzard: found dead with a female infant by her side; for want of proper assistance in her delivery she languished and died. 20 miles. £1 15s.
106 18 Nov. 1755. Easton Grey. A female infant, supposed to be born of the body of Elizabeth Vizzard: no marks of violence; died for want of proper care. £1.
107 28 Nov. 1755. Mildenhall. William Proute, late of Marlborough: fell into the Kennet and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
108 17 Dec. 1755. Warminster. William Colbourn: on 16 Dec. cut his throat; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
109 19 Dec. 1755. Haydon Wick in Rodbourne Cheney. Thomas Greenaway: found dead under a hayrick; severe weather. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
110 2 Feb. 1756. Crudwell. James Clarke: going from Malmesbury to Crudwell and being very much in liquor, fell into a 'flaishet' of water and dirt and, nobody being present to assist him, was suffocated. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
111 4 Feb. 1756. Box. William Brown: killed by a fall from his horse. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
112 13 Feb. 1756. Maggot Mill in Highworth. William Angle: unfortunately shot by George Walker, he not knowing the gun to be loaded. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
113 16 Feb. 1756. Calstone Wellington. Thomas James: found dead in a field between Cherhill and Calstone Wellington; no marks of violence; natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
114 18 Feb. 1756. Chippenham. John Lippiate: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
116 2 Mar. 1756. Warminster. Henry Wallis: fell from his horse and was killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
118 18 Mar. 1756. Lattion. A female infant: found in Charlham Brook which parts Wiltshire and Gloucestershire; a great many marks of violence; murder by a person or persons unknown. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
119 2 Apr. 1756. Cricklade. John Dunn: found dead in Southam Field in Lattion; apoplexy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
3 Apr. 1756. Brokenborough. Isaac Pitt, gent.: killed by a house falling upon him. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.


6 Apr. 1756. Seend Cleeve. Alice Stokes: killed by Betty Stokes, her daughter-in-law. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 31 July 1756, Betty wife of Hugh Stokes was discharged after the indictment was marked ‘ignoramus’: ASSI 23/7.]

8 Apr. 1756. Melksham. Susannah Hulbert: murder by Grace Arlet, her mistress. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 31 July 1756, Grace wife of Aaron Arlet was discharged after the indictment was marked ‘ignoramus’: ASSI 23/7.]

14 Apr. 1756. Wootton Rivers. Mark Edwards, aged over 85: found dead in Totteridge Cow Leaze; no marks of violence; natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

19 Apr. 1756. Studley. William Watts: murder by Jacob Sparrow. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 31 July 1756, Jacob was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]


27 Apr. 1756. Cow Bridge Mill. Elizabeth Poole: went to dip up some water at the mill-pond, pecked headlong into it, and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

27 Apr. 1756. Crudwell. Susannah Godwin: fell from a bridge between Hankerton and Crudwell and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions; distances from Devizes; total £28 9s. [A5/2/1/9]

29 Apr. 1756. Market Lavington. David Naish: fell in a stream called Broad Well and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2 May 1756. Chute Lodge. William Scroggs, esq.: thrown from his horse and killed. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.


4 June 1756. St Margaret's. Mary Robinson: fell into the Kennet and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

7 June 1756. Wanborough. Robert Cutbeard, aged about 3: pecked into a pond and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

21 June 1756. Chippenham. James Bullock: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


25 June 1756. ? Chalford (Chalcotsford). Mary Papps: fell into the said ford and was drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
137 27 June 1756. Wind Hill near Longleat. William King: killed by a timber-carriage. 20 miles. £1 15s.
138 22 July 1756. Cow Lane in Calne. Thomas Oady: fell into the mill-pond and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
139 30 July 1756. Stockham Marsh. Rahab (Reab) Trimnell: on 28 July hanged herself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
140 30 Aug. 1756. Melksham Forest. John Parsons: on 29 Aug. accidentally drowned in the Avon. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
141 30 Aug. 1756. Edington. Thomas Pyke: on 28 Aug. found dead in the Edington to Tinhead road; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
142 2 Sept. 1756. Lydiard Millicent. Sarah Ellisson: killed by a waggon. 20 miles. £1 15s.
143 18 Sept. 1756. Winterbourne Bassett. George Mills: killed by a waggon. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
144 18 Sept. 1756. Calstone Wellington. Christian James, aged 2: pecked into a tub of scalding wort and was drowned and suffocated. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
145 23 Sept. 1756. Froxfield. Ann Waglin: pecked headlong into a well and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 6s. 6d.
146 27 Sept. 1756. Latton. Henry Hodges: accidental [\text{recte natural}] death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
147 28 Sept. 1756. Bulkington. William Wiltshire: killed by a fall of a rick. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 5 Oct. 1756; distances from Devizes; total £38 2s.; allowed by R. O'Neale and J. Bythesea. [A5/2/1/10]
148 8 Oct. 1756. Atworth. Mary Little: fell into a brook and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
150 29 Oct. 1756. Aldbourne. William Mitchel: accidental [\text{recte natural}] death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
152 30 Oct. 1756. Holt. Joseph Cullis: killed by a waggon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
153 6 Nov. 1756. West Lavington. James Wordly: killed by an oven falling upon him. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
155 19 Nov. 1756. Yatesbury. James Patrick: fell into a pond and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.
156 22 Dec. 1756. Highworth. Mary Haggard: on 20 Dec. cut her throat;
lunacy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

157 26 Dec. 1756. Calne. Frances Stone: threw herself into a well; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

158 27 Dec. 1756. Studley. A woman unknown: found dead under a hedge; accidental [? recte natural] death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


160 10 Jan. 1757. Holt. Jane Butcher: murder by Richard Hawkins, Ann his wife, and Abraham Long, all of Trowbridge. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d. [At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1757, all 3 were acquitted of the murder on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]


164 9 Feb. 1757. Ramsbury. William Evans: cut his throat; lunacy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

165 12 Feb. 1757. Devizes common prison. Oliver Brown, late of Little Somerford, on 17 Jan. committed by Sir Robert Long, bt, J.P., being charged on the oath of Joseph Fry and John Reynolds with feloniously stealing a piece of sawn timber, the property of Joseph: on or about 1 Feb. he was seized with a violent fever of which he languished for 12 days and then died. £1.

166 10 Mar. 1757. Collingbourne Ducis. Be...ony Lewis [Be...ony is written Beony with a mark of abbreviation above the eo]: accidental [? recte natural] death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

167 13 Mar. 1757. Potterne. William Hitchcock: accidental [? recte natural] death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.


170 29 Mar. 1757. Belcombe Brook Meadow in Bradford on Avon. Elizabeth Chapman: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

171 3 Apr. 1757. Seagry Mill. James Stokes: fell into the mill-pile and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

172 3 Apr. 1757. Chippenham. Matthew Stephens: on 28 Mar. cut himself across the belly, of which wound he languished 3 days and died; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

173 5 Apr. 1757. Melksham. Thomas Devill: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
174 11 Apr. 1757. Penleigh Common. Margaret Maggot Neat, aged about 11, apprentice to Thomas Bridgman, broad-weaver: murder by Thomas. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 22 July 1757, Thomas was acquitted of murdering a Mary Neat on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 4 Oct. 1757; distances from Devizes; total £42 13s.; allowed by E. Goddard and R. O'Neale.
[A5/2/1/11]

175 15 Oct. 1757. All Cannings. John Hiscock: killed by a fall of a barn. 4 miles. £1 3s.
177 21 Oct. 1757. Kellaways. Mary Dovey: threw herself into a pond and was drowned; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
178 29 Oct. 1757. Coate. John King: killed by a horse. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
179 6 Nov. 1757. Studley. Ann Grandier: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
180 7 Nov. 1757. Rode. Thomas Mayor: fell into a pond and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
181 12 Nov. 1757. Chippenham. Sarah Godsell: on 8 Nov. received a violent blow on her head from John her husband, of which she languished for 24 hours and then died; manslaughter. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 4 Mar. 1758, John was acquitted of Sarah's murder on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]
182 15 Nov. 1757. Bishop's Cannings. John Doust: found dead in a barn; no marks of violence; accidental (?) natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
183 29 Nov. 1757. Sopworth. James Harris, aged about 4: fell into a pond and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.
184 30 Nov. 1757. Winsley. John Wiltshire: on 28 Nov. found dead in the road from Bradford on Avon to Bath; no marks of violence; accidental (?) natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
185 25 Dec. 1757. Thornhill in Clyffe Pypard. George Stephens: found dead in a field in Clyffe Pypard; no marks of violence; accidental (?) natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
186 3 Jan. 1758. Lacock. Revd Mr Walter Williams: on 2 Jan. hanged himself; lunacy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
187 29 Jan. 1758. Aldbourne. John Chequer: on 27 Jan. threw himself into a well; lunacy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
188 31 Jan. 1758. Marden. William Peirce: no marks of violence; accidental (?) natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
189 1 Feb. 1758. Draycot Foliat. Philip Stone: killed by a piece of timber. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
190 11 Feb. 1758. Pythouse. John Snow: killed by a horse. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.
191 20 Feb. 1758. Broom's in Yatton Keynell. James Tyley: hanged himself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
195 5 Mar. 1758. Purton. A female infant bastard, supposed to be born of the body of Ann Jourdan: murder by Ann. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
[See also 222. At Salisbury assizes, 15 July 1758, Ann was convicted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest and was sentenced to be hanged on 21 July, her body to be delivered to Nathaniel Wick, surgeon, to be dissected and anatomized: ASSI 23/7.]
196 9 Mar. 1758. Goatacre in Hilmarton. John Hayward: found dead in a field in Hilmarton; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
199 17 Mar. 1758. Trowbridge. Thomas Harris: killed by a cart. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
200 22 Mar. 1758. Bradford on Avon. William Gulliver: received a blow on the left side of his head which fractured his skull and occasioned his death; John Gulliver, a kinsman, threw a stick at a horse and by chance it glanced over the horse's nose and struck William; accidental homicide. 12 miles. £1 9s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 15 July 1758, John was acquitted of William's murder on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]
201 28 Mar. 1758. Box. Thomas Webb: found dead in a ground; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
202 1 Apr. 1758. Savernake Park. Thomas Pead: cut his throat; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.
203 2 Apr. 1758. Wilsford. Gabriel North: found dead in Wilsford Mead; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 4 Apr. 1758; distances from Devizes; total £30; allowed by John Garth and William Freke. [A5/2/1/12]
204 8 Apr. 1758. Bishopstone. Sarah Tichener: no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
205 17 May 1758. Boreham. Elizabeth Whatley: on 16 May fell into a brook and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
206  19 May 1758. Dilton. John Hooper, aged about 2: on 17 May fell into a brook and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
207  16 June 1758. Aldbourne. Richard Barret: killed by a fall of a house. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
208  16 June 1758. Enford. Christian Rickets: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
209  17 June 1758. Hankerton. Mary Boulton: found dead in her house; she accidentally fell down the stairs and killed herself. 24 miles. £1 18s.
210  24 June 1758. Chute. Thomas Norris: found dead in the Chute to Newbury road; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
211  30 June 1758. Brokenborough. Mary Sanders, aged about 2: pecked headlong into a pail of water and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
212  8 July 1758. Chippenham. Betty Taylor: pecked headlong into a pond and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
213  21 July 1758. Lacock. John Turner: on 20 July hanged himself; lunacy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
214  22 July 1758. Ramsbury. Christian Sheppherd: killed by a stone thrown at him by Thomas Dizon; manslaughter. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 17 Mar. 1759, Thomas was acquitted of manslaughter on the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]
216  11 Aug. 1758. Purton. Thomas Harbet: found dead in a ground; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.
217  21 Aug. 1758. Chippenham. Joseph Ashe: threw himself into the Avon and drowned himself; felo de se. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
218  25 Aug. 1758. Wroughton. John Coventry Hill: accidentally killed by a gun going off unawares at half-bent. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
220  19 Sept. 1758. Steeple Ashton. Samuel Mayal: hanged himself; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
221  26 Sept. 1758. Atworth. Mary Brown: killed by a horse running over her. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
222  Upon Ann Jourdan’s murdering her bastard child: for a subpoena for Dr Kinnear and others, tickets for the same, etc., service, £1 1s. [See 195.]

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 3 Oct. 1758; distances from Devizes; total £28 2s. 9d. [corrected from £28 4s. 3d., the total of the claim before 233 and 241 were amended]; allowed by John Jacob and E. Goddard. [A5/2/1/13]

223  7 Nov. 1758. Bishopstone. Thomas Clifford: fell from his horse and dislocated his neck. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
224 11 Nov. 1758. Bowden Hill in Lacock. Robert Brinkworth, aged about 2: fell into a pond and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.
225 17 Nov. 1758. Stanton St Quintin. Joseph Peacock: killed by a waggon. 16 miles. £1 12s.
226 29 Nov. 1758. Etchilhampton. Christian Gibbs, aged about 3: fell into a tub of scalding water and bran and was drowned and suffocated. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
227 2 Dec. 1758. All Cannings. Alice Markes: no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
228 2 Dec. 1758. Swindon. John Mills: killed by a waggon crushing him against a wall. 20 miles. £1 15s.
229 10 Dec. 1758. Market Lavington. Thomas Smith: cut his throat; lunacy. 5 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
230 12 Dec. 1758. Easton. John Hopgood: hanged himself; felo de se. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
231 19 Dec. 1758. Chirton. Mary Burgess: accidental [? recte natural] death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
232 25 Dec. 1758. Trowbridge. Samuel Walter: killed by fighting with William End, blacksmith; manslaughter. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
233 12 Jan. 1759. Lyneham. Thomas Norris: fell in a ditch of water and was drowned. 15 [altered from 16] miles. £1 11s. 3d. [altered from £1 12s.]
234 7 Feb. 1759. Warminster. William Knoak: threw himself into a well; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
235 11 Feb. 1759. Crookwood. Edward Anderton: starved to death; Thomas Edwards and Ann wife of Edward Anderton was [?] accessory. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 17 Mar. 1759, Thomas and Ann were acquitted of Edward's murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]
236 23 Feb. 1759. Bulkington Mill. William Gamble, aged about one: fell into a fire and was burnt to death. 4 miles. £1 3s.
237 26 Feb. 1759. Box. William Newman: fell into a quarry-pit 44 feet deep and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
238 3 Mar. 1759. Warminster. William Webb: hanged himself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
239 4 Mar. 1759. Bradford on Avon. William Saunders: a mark of violence appeared on the right side of his head near the temple; he died of that hurt which he received the day before by falling out of a hayloft. 12 miles. £1 9s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 28 July 1759, John, charged with Richard's murder on both the indictment and the inquest, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be burnt on the hand: ASSI 23/7.]
241 22 Apr. 1759. Leigh. Philip Hayward: threw himself out of a window and killed himself; lunacy. 12 [altered from 13] miles. £1 9s. [altered from £1 9s. 9d.]
242 25 Apr. 1759. Melksham. Jane Aprice: fell under the wheel of a cart loaded with dung; the wheel went over her head and crushed her to death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 24 Apr. 1759; distances from Devizes; total £38 7s. 9d.; allowed by Edward Pleydell and W. Liddiard, 3 Oct. 1759. [A5/2/1/14]

243 11 May 1759. Granham Farm in Savernake Park. Stephen Pyke: on 9 May, as supposed, shot himself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

244 15 May 1759. Christian Malford. William Greenaway: on 14 May drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

245 25 May 1759. Snarlton in Steeple Ashton. Robert Marks: on 23 May killed by a roller running over him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

246 26 May 1759. Chute Forest. Major Bayly: killed by a fall from his horse. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

247 27 May 1759. Everleigh. Mary Noise: found dead in a field called Everleigh Warren; no marks of violence; accidental [?] recte natural death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

248 2 June 1759. Baydon. Diana Chandler: cut her throat; lunacy. 24 miles. £1 18s.

249 4 June 1759. Limpley Stoke. William Hackler: killed by a gravel-pit falling in upon him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

250 29 June 1759. Aldbourne. Ann Symkins: hanged herself; lunacy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

251 30 June 1759. Collingbourne Kingston. Elizabeth Wilson: killed by falling out of a chamber window into the street. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.


253 9 July 1759. Yatton Keynell. Benjamin Cains: found dead in the Castle Combe to Yatton Keynell road; no marks of violence; accidental [?] recte natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

254 10 July 1759. Eastcourt in Crudwell. Joseph Hicks: found dead on the Eastcourt to Minety road; no marks of violence; accidental [?] recte natural death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

255 18 July 1759. South Wraxall. Ann Frith: killed by a waggon turning over upon her. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.


257 25 July 1759. Bremhill. William Wallinger: drowned in a pond belonging to the Revd Mr Newton Ogle, or Canon Ogle, of Bremhill; accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

258 29 July 1759. Pewsey. Eleanor (Eloner) Dear: fell into the mill-stream and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

259 4 Aug. 1759. Steeple Ashton. Thomas Sully: pecked headlong into a brook and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.
16 5 Aug. 1759. Wanborough. Stephen Baily: killed by a fall of a cart loaded with hay. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
261 10 Aug. 1759. Baldham Mill. A person unknown: found dead in Baldham Brook; no marks of violence; he fell into the brook and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
262 13 Aug. 1759. Stert. Dinah wife of George King: killed by George. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1762, George was acquitted of Dinah's murder on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]
263 14 Aug. 1759. Collingbourne Kingston. Joseph Piper: fell from the limbers of a loaded wagggon which went over him and caused his death. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.
264 17 Aug. 1759. Purton. Edmund Bathe: killed by a horse. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
265 29 Aug. 1759. Upavon. Elizabeth Giffard: hanged herself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
266 24 Sept. 1759. Broad Hinton. Richard Hayward: killed by a wagggon running over his head going down Hackpen Hill. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 2 Oct. 1759; distances from Devizes; total £44 9s. 6d. [recte £44 8s.]; allowed by E. Goddard and John Jacob. [A5/2/1/15]

269 16 Oct. 1759. Box. Robert Cockey: on 15 Oct. was at work in a quarry and part of it fell in upon him and killed him. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
270 31 Oct. 1759. Upavon. Richard Harris: killed by a kick of a horse. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
271 7 Nov. 1759. Kingswood. William Kethro: accidentally killed himself by falling upon a knife that he carried in his coat pocket and wounding himself in the thigh. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
272 1 Dec. 1759. Ogbourne St Andrew. John Beake: on 29 Nov. hanged himself; felo de se. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
273 9 Dec. 1759. Hilmarton. Adam (Adham) Southwood, aged about 4: fell into a tub of wort and was drowned and suffocated. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
274 11 Dec. 1759. Ogbourne St Andrew. A female infant bastard, supposed to be born of the body of Ann Hale: Ann was a cripple from a paralytic stroke; nobody was present when she was delivered and the infant fell to the ground and beat in its skull which caused its death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
276 21 Dec. 1759. Bolton Mill in Somerford Keynes. William Beard: drawn into the cogs and lantern of the mill and crushed to death. 28 miles. £2 1s.


278 14 Jan. 1760. Sutton Veny. A woman unknown: died travelling along the road; severe weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.


281 1 Feb. 1760. Wanborough. Thomas Bargman, late of Little Hinton: found dead in a field called Wanborough Marsh; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 24 miles. £1 18s.

282 6 Feb. 1760. Rowde. Robert Stevens, late of Lacock: on 5 Feb. fell from a cart loaded with goods belonging to John Talbut, esq., of Lacock and the near-wheel went over his body and crushed him to death. 2 miles. £1 ls. 6d.

283 9 Feb. 1760. Chippenham. A male infant bastard, supposed to be born of the body of Sarah Smith of Bradford on Avon: still-born and not at its full time. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

284 22 Feb. 1760. Kington St Michael. Charles Brown: killed by a heifer's running her horn into his leg and separating its large artery; he died immediately from the effusion of blood. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

285 24 Feb. 1760. Moredon in Rodbourne Cheney. William Sloper: on 22 Feb. cut his throat; felo de se. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

286 26 Feb. 1760. Hartham. Jane Rawlins: on 25 Feb. fell into a basin of water in a garden and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

287 1 Mar. 1760. Stert Mill. Robert Mitchell, aged about 2: fell from a bridge into a rivulet called the mill-tail and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

288 3 Mar. 1760. Soley in Chilton Foliat. Stephen Walters: killed by the kick of a horse. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

289 12 Mar. 1760. Bishop's Cannings. John Offer: found dead in a barn; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

290 12 Mar. 1760. Overton. Henry Daviss: fell from a haystack and struck his head against a piece of timber, fractured his skull, and died on the spot. 12 miles. £1 9s.


292 28 Mar. 1760. Seend. Frances Myall, late of Edington: found dead in a barn; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 4 miles. £1 3s.

293 30 Mar. 1760. Calne. Jane Lane: found dead in an outhouse; accidental [? recte natural] death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

294 3 Apr. 1760. Devizes. John Cleverly: upon view of his body it was
found that he was poisoned, the poison procured and administered to him by Francis Phillips of Devizes, labourer; manslaughter. £1.

[At Salisbury assizes, 19 July 1760, Francis was discharged for lack of prosecution: ASSI 23/7.]

295 5 Apr. 1760. All Cannings. James Russ, aged about 2: fell into a tub of scalding wort and was scalded to death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

296 11 Apr. 1760. Bourton. Hester Myntie, aged about 4: fell into a pond and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

297 11 Apr. 1760. Milton Lilborne. Elizabeth Pearse: on 10 Apr. hanged herself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 6 Oct. 1761; distances from Devizes; total £46 4s. [as altered]; allowed by W. Willy and E. Goddard. [A5/2/1/16]

298 31 Oct. 1761. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Bennet: on 30 Oct. pecked headlong into a tub of water and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

299 2 Nov. 1761. Calne. Robert Weston: killed by a waggon. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

300 10 Nov. 1761. Stockley in Calne. A woman unknown: found dead under a hayrick; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

301 10 Nov. 1761. Wootton Bassett. John Hunt: killed by fighting with Eli Rowly of Swindon; manslaughter. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1762, Eli was acquitted of manslaughter on the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]


303 4 Jan. 1762. Hartmoor in Potterne. Samuel Street, gent., late of Devizes: on 3 Jan. cut his throat; lunacy. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

304 4 Jan. 1762. Avoncliff. Mary Bowden: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

305 8 Jan. 1762. Heytesbury. Mary Yates: fell down a staircase and killed herself on the spot; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.


308 11 Jan. 1762. Bishop's Cannings. John Mabbot: killed by a stone-quarry falling in upon him. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

309 15 Jan. 1762. Charnham Street, Hungerford. Thomas Jesset, late of Eddington, Berks.: found dead in Chilton Foliat Field; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d. [Mileage and fee altered.]

310 18 Jan. 1762. Seend Head. Francis Griffis: being very much in liquor, died from its effects while travelling along the road; accidental death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
311 25 Jan. 1762. Bromham. A female infant bastard, which Christian Hutchens, late of Bromham, single woman, privately and secretly brought forth alive and afterwards killed: murder. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1762, Christian was remanded to the next assizes because prosecution evidence was not ready; on 24 July she was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]


313 7 Feb. 1762. Woolley in Bradford on Avon. Elizabeth Sant: fell into a pond and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

314 22 Feb. 1762. Market Lavington. Thomas Holliday: found dead in a field between Imber and Market Lavington; severe weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

315 23 Feb. 1762. Stockham Marsh. Edith Smockham: found dead in the marsh; inclement weather. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

316 23 Feb. 1762. Cherhill. Thomas Chivers, late of Calne: died travelling along the road; inclement weather. 8 [altered from 7] miles. £1 6s.

317 23 Feb. 1762. Cherhill. Henry (Henery) wife of Thomas Chivers, late of Calne: inclement weather. 8 miles. £1 [altered from £1 6s.]

318 24 Feb. 1762. West Grafton in Great Bedwyn. Thomas Mackarell: found dead in a field; sudden natural death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

319 24 Feb. 1762. Ogbourne St Andrew. William Pinnock, shepherd: inclement weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

320 24 Feb. 1762. Broad Town. Ann Little: found dead in a field; severe weather. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

321 24 Feb. 1762. Broad Town. Mary Little: severe weather. 14 miles. £1 [altered from £1 10s. 6d.]

322 25 Feb. 1762. Stonehill in Charlton. Benjamin Hayward: found dead in Charlton Common; inclement weather. 24 miles. £1 18s.

323 1 Mar. 1762. Shurnhold in Melksham. John Prater: found dead in an orchard belonging to his house; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

324 7 Mar. 1762. Devizes Green. William Baily: fell from a horse in a fit into a pond called the Crammer and was drowned; accidental death. £1.

325 11 Mar. 1762. Rodbourne. William Perren: hanged himself; lunacy. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

326 12 Mar. 1762. Oaksey. Isaac Tippet: killed by a gun going off; accidental death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

327 26 Mar. 1762. Wilsford. Ann Smith: found dead in a ditch in a field in North Newton; no marks of violence; she was suddenly taken in a fit, fell into the ditch, and was drowned; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

328 1 Apr. 1762. Purton. Rebecca Halliday: hanged herself; lunacy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

329 2 Apr. 1762. Stanton St Bernard. Mary Pile: hanged herself; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

330 9 Apr. 1762. Brandy House Grounds in Bedborough tithing in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Apr. 1762</td>
<td>Devizes</td>
<td>Nathaniel Tily: hanged himself; lunacy.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>£1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May 1762</td>
<td>Devizes</td>
<td>Palmer wife of Thomas Overton: drowned herself in a well; lunacy.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>£1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 May 1762</td>
<td>Hawkeridge</td>
<td>Robert Brickel: drowned in a ditch; accidental death.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>£1 19s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May 1762</td>
<td>All Cannings</td>
<td>Daniel Maslen: killed by a kick of a colt.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>£1 13s 9d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May 1762</td>
<td>Long Newnton</td>
<td>John Bicknell: hanged himself; lunacy.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>£1 17s 3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May 1762</td>
<td>Ramsbury</td>
<td>Daniel Smith, aged 3: fell into the Kennet and was drowned.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>£1 15s 9d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June 1762</td>
<td>Froxfield</td>
<td>Alexander Platt: found dead in a field; no marks of violence; accidental death.</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>£1 16s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 June 1762</td>
<td>Netheravon</td>
<td>Bartholomew Street: found dead in an open field; no marks of violence; accidental death.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>£1 10s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 June 1762</td>
<td>Westbury</td>
<td>William Bourn: threw himself into a well and was drowned; lunacy.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>£1 9s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 June 1762</td>
<td>Warminster</td>
<td>James Warren: drowned in a pill; accidental death.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>£1 10s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June 1762</td>
<td>Latton</td>
<td>William Hender: killed by a horse.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>£1 19s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 July 1762</td>
<td>Garsdon</td>
<td>John Sparman: found dead in Broad Mead; no marks of violence; accidental death.</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>£1 16s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 July 1762</td>
<td>Nettleton</td>
<td>Mary Buckle: natural death.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>£1 14s 3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 July 1762</td>
<td>Christian Malford</td>
<td>John Keen: went into the Avon to wash and was drowned.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>£1 10s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July 1762</td>
<td>Broad Town</td>
<td>William Holloway: killed by a fall out of a hayloft.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>£1 10s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Aug. 1762</td>
<td>Kingswood</td>
<td>Deborah Purnel, aged about 2: fell from a bridge into a river and was drowned.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>£2 2s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Sept. 1762</td>
<td>Westbury</td>
<td>Samuel Sweetland: killed by a gun accidentally going off in the hands of William Bigwood; accidental death.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>£1 9s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 5 Oct. 1762; distances from Devizes; total £34 19s. 3d.; allowed by William Beach and T.H. Grubbe, 13 Apr. 1763. [A5/2/1/18]
348 19 Oct. 1762. Lacock. Joan Mitchell: thought to have been injured by her husband but evidence proved that she was in a very bad state of health before she died; no marks of violence; natural death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

349 10 Nov. 1762. Norridge. Mary Baily: on 9 Nov. hanged herself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.


351 14 Dec. 1762. Warminster. John Daniel: in fighting with a butcher, was accidentally wounded in his thigh with the butcher's steel, which wound 'turned to a mortification' [sc. became gangrenous] and killed him; accidental death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

352 26 or 27 Dec. 1762 [MS Monday, 26 Dec., but 26 Dec. was a Sunday]. Cotton in Hilmarton. A person unknown: found dead in a barn or outhouse belonging to Widow Pinnigar; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 12 miles. £1 9s.


354 13 Jan. 1763. Castle Combe. Mr William Taylor: found dead in a field; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 16 miles. £1 12s.


[At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1763, William was acquitted of John's murder on the indictment and of his manslaughter on the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]


[At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1763, Sarah was acquitted of murdering her bastard child on the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

357 8 Feb. 1763. Pewsey. Philip Seymour: cut his throat; felo de se. 12 miles. £1 9s.

358 16 Feb. 1763. Wilcot. John Tucker: killed by the kick of a horse. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

359 19 Feb. 1763. Overton. John Davis: threw himself into a well and was drowned; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

360 21 Feb. 1763. Cumberwell. Robert Perren, late huntsman to John Cooper, esq.: was riding from Bradford on Avon to Cumberwell, very much in liquor, upon a mettlesome young horse of his master's which took fright at something on the road, leapt over a high speel-gate, and threw him to the ground and killed him. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.


362 25 Feb. 1763. Catcomb. Walter Esington: fell into a pond and was drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

363 28 Feb. 1763. Sutton Veny. John House: crushed to death by a waggon running over him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

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Avon and was drowned; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

365 14 Mar. 1763. Trowbridge. Paul Grant: found dead in a necessary-house; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

366 22 Mar. 1763. Bradford on Avon. Mary Smart: found dead in Thomas Flemming’s house; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

367 25 Mar. 1763. Maiden Bradley. Abigail Thorn: found dead in the road a small distance from Maiden Bradley; it was thought that she was very full of liquor and that, while going from Maiden Bradley to her home at Yarnfield, she fell down and, nobody being present to assist her, died from the effects of the liquor. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

368 31 Mar. 1763. Nursteed. Richard Huntly: crushed to death by a waggon. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

369 1 Apr. 1763. Dauntsey. The remainsof the body of Charles Hartford: burnt to death helping to get some materials out of Peter Vines’s house that was on fire. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

370 7 Apr. 1763. Great Trowle in Bradford on Avon. Benjamin Silby, aged about 4: suffocated in a tub of scalding wort. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 4 Oct. 1763; distances from Devizes; total £30 3s. 3d. [recte £30 0s. 3d. if 375, 385, and 388 were corrected]; allowed by Thomas Hedges and James Montagu. [A5/2/1/19]

371 6 Oct. 1763. Devizes. Frances Phipp: threw herself into a well and was drowned; lunacy. £1.

372 17 Oct. 1763. Trowbridge. Mary Silby: threw herself into the Biss and was drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

373 21 Oct. 1763. Stanton Fitzwarren. Jacob Matthews: killed by a waggon running over him. 24 miles. £1 18s.


375 1 Nov. 1763. Bishopstone. Mary Harding: threw herself into a well and was drowned; lunacy. 25 miles. £1 19s. 9d. [recte £1 18s. 9d.]

376 2 Nov. 1763. Wick in Bishop’s Cannings. Stephen Hewlett, late of Heytesbury: found dead in a hovel or outhouse; accidental [? recte natural] death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

377 18 Nov. 1763. Hullavington. William Drew: found dead in a barn; accidental [? recte natural] death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

378 3 Dec. 1763. Sevenhampton. Robert Lawrence: fell into a fishpond and was drowned. 24 miles. £1 18s.

379 3 Dec. 1763 [date omitted]. Great Trowle in Bradford on Avon. A man unknown: found dead in a barn; no marks of violence; natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

380 26 Dec. 1763. Manningford Bohune. A male bastard, which Mary Smith of Manningford Bohune, single woman, on 19 Dec. brought forth alive and which was thought by the inhabitants to have come to an unjust end: no
marks of violence; natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
381 4 Jan. 1764. Snarlton in Steeple Ashton. Thomas Bartlett: found dead in Ashton Common; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
383 19 Jan. 1764. Avoncliff in Westwood parish. William Drinkwater: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
384 2 Mar. 1764. Wadswick in Box. John Frankome: found dead in the road from Chapel Plaster to Pickwick; no marks of violence; natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
385 3 Mar. 1764. Calcutt in St Sampson’s parish, Cricklade. John Cuss: killed by a cart. 26 miles. £2 0s. 6d. [recte £1 19s. 6d.]
386 5 Mar. 1764. Foxhanger’s in Rowde. William Gibson, late of Seend: found dead in a ditch; no marks of violence; severe weather. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
387 6 Mar. 1764. Westbury. A male infant, which Mary Baverstock of Westbury privately and secretly brought forth alive and afterwards, instead of nourishing, threw into a ditch of water where it perished: murder. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 4 Aug. 1764, Mary was acquitted of murdering her male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]
388 24 Mar. 1764. St Sampson’s parish, Cricklade. John Fitchew: threw himself into a pond and was drowned; lunacy. 25 miles. £1 19s. 9d. [recte £1 18s. 9d.]
389 23 Apr. 1764. Bromham. Lucy Cousens: fell into a tub of scalding lees and was suffocated. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
390 27 Apr. 1764. St Margaret’s in Preshute. Rachel Smith, soldier’s wife: riding on a baggage-waggon, fell from the waggon which went over her and crushed her to death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 2 Oct. 1764; distances from Devizes; total £51 3s. 3d.; allowed by J. Rolt and E. Goddard. [A5/2/1/20]

391 5 Oct. 1764. Potterne. Charles Rook: on 3 Oct. died by excessive drinking of spirituous liquor called geneva. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
392 7 Oct. 1764. Fort Farm in Bradford on Avon. John Rudman: killed by a fall of a tree. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
393 9 Oct. 1764. Beckhampton in Avebury. John Macdonogh, late of Tralee in county Kerry, Ireland: on 8 Oct. killed by his horse falling down. 8 miles. £1 6s.
394 19 Oct. 1764. Smallbrook in Upton Scudamore. Robert Webb: killed by being drawn into the cog-wheel and lantern of his mill. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
395 28 Oct. 1764. Melksham. Thomas Griffiths, late of Bradford on Avon: fell from the head of a waggon to the ground and the off-wheel before
went over him and killed him. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
396  29 Oct. 1764. Upavon. John Hobbs, late of Urchfont: fell into the back river and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
397  30 Oct. 1764. Stanton St Quintin. John Shergold, aged about 3: fell into a dipping-well and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.
398  1 Nov. 1764. Devizes. William Drew, late of Etchilhampton: found dead in an outhouse; a gathering in his throat. £1.
399  2 Nov. 1764. Conock. William Beasant: natural death; he had a sufficient allowance from the parish officers from the time of his being taken ill to the day of his death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
400  3 Nov. 1764. Ramsbury. William Ledyard: being at work in a gravel-pit, part of it fell in upon him and crushed him to death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
401  6 Nov. 1764. Lydiard Millicent. Revd Mr Harry Symson: on 3 Nov. shot himself through the head with a pistol, loaded with a brace of balls, which he held in his right hand; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
402  9 Nov. 1764. Brinkworth. Thomas Matthews: fell into a pond and was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
403  20 Nov. 1764. Melksham. William Parsons: found dead in a sheep-house; no marks of violence; natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
404  25 Nov. 1764. Compton Bassett. Ann Alexander: threw herself into a pond and was drowned; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
406  12 Dec. 1764. St Mary's parish, Cricklade. John Williams: fell into the Isis and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
408  18 Dec. 1764. Milton Lilborne. Charles Sanford: found dead in the road; no marks of violence; sudden natural death travelling along the road. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
410  11 Jan. 1765. Ogbourne St Andrew. John Wise, late of Lambourne: found dead in a field; lack of sustenance and the severe weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
411  21 Jan. 1765. Urchfont. Martha Pile, aged about 3: killed by a tree falling upon her. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
412  1 Feb. 1765. Highworth. Michael Jefferies: fell into a well and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
413  3 Feb. 1765. Charlton. Isaac Skuse, thatcher: fell from a house and dislocated the vertebre of his neck. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
414  6 Feb. 1765. Netheravon. Ann Ring: threw herself into the Avon and was drowned; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
415  19 Feb. 1765. Patney. A man unknown: found dead in a ditch in
Scoth Field; natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

416 25 Feb. 1765. Rodbourne Cheney. Henry Pyke, aged about 18 months: fell into a horse-pond and was drowned. 24 miles. £1 18s.

417 2 Mar. 1765. Steeple Ashton. John Whatly, an old man: found dead in Sandpits Field; travelling, as thought, from West Ashton to Steeple Ashton, he accidentally fell down in the field and, nobody being present to assist him, lay down and died; natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

418 6 Mar. 1765. Trowbridge. John Brookman: excessive drinking of spirituous liquors called geneva. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

419 13 Mar. 1765. Highworth. John Rigby: was digging stones in a quar-pit [sc. quarry] when part of it fell in upon him and crushed him to death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

420 15 Mar. 1765. Pewsey. John Harding, late one of the paupers of St Nicholas's hospital, East Harnham near Salisbury: found dead in Hatters Field in Pewsey; no marks of violence; natural death travelling along the road. 12 miles. £1 9s.

421 17 Mar. 1765. North Bradley. Richard Blanch: found dead in Mill Meadow; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

422 20 Mar. 1765. Nether Street in Bromham. Benjamin Heslop: found dead in a lane; it appeared by evidence that he fell from a horse, which was thought to have caused his death. 4 miles. £1 3s.


424 16 Apr. 1765. Cherhill. Thomas Eyeels, aged about 3: fell into a mill-pond and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

425 17 Apr. 1765. All Cannings. John Butcher: found dead in Woodway Field; no marks of violence; natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 16 Apr. 1765; distances from Devizes; total £23 10s. 3d.; allowed by Thomas Hedges and George Wroughton. [A5/2/1/21]

426 31 May 1765. Westbury. James Isley: on 30 May hanged himself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

427 3 June 1765. Lyneham. Richard Burchell: on 22 May hanged himself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

428 7 June 1765. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. William Kilmaster: fell into the Isis and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

429 17 June 1765. Manningford Abbots. Mary Snow: distracted by the effects of a frenzy-fever, threw herself into a river and was drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

430 18 June 1765. ? Chalford (Chalcotsford). William Eyers, aged 3: fell into a brook and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

431 19 June 1765. Bulkington. Katharine (Chatherine) Perry, aged about 4: fell into a pond and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

432 21 June 1765. Eastrop in Highworth. A male infant bastard, which
Alice Hiscock of Highworth, single woman, privately brought forth alive and afterwards she and Joan Hiscock her mother choked, strangled, and suffocated: murder by both. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d. [At Salisbury assizes, 20 July 1765. Alice was acquitted of the murder and therefore no action was taken against Joan for aiding and assisting her, on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

433 14 July 1765. Collingbourne Kingston. Richard Jones: killed by a waggon running over his head. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

434 18 July 1765. Mildenhall. Richard Rudman: fell into the mill-pond and was suffocated. 16 miles. £1 12s.

435 21 July 1765. Southwick. William Barnes, aged about 3: fell into a tub of scalding wort and was drowned and suffocated. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

436 28 July 1765. Urchfont. Robert Wells, infant: fell into a brook and was drowned. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

437 31 July 1765. Warminster. William Moore, aged about 11: hanged himself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

438 5 Aug. 1765. Haxton. Frances Davis: fell down with a penknife in her hand and ran it into her throat and killed herself; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

439 4 Sept. 1765. Crofton in Great Bedwyn. Samuel Warde: on 3 Sept. hanged himself; lunacy. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

440 1 Oct. 1765. Brinkworth. William Hayward, aged 3: playing with some other children by the side of a pond, fell into it and was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 8 Oct. 1765; distances from Devizes; total £22 13s. 9d. [recte £22 14s. if 452 were corrected]; allowed by E. Bayntun and E. Poore. [A5/2/1/22]


443 11 Nov. 1765. Southbroom in Bishop's Cannings. Elizabeth Phip: fell into a well and was drowned. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.


445 16 Nov. 1765. Patney. Edward Harris: no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

446 20 Nov. 1765. Trowbridge. Christian Baston, travelling-woman: found dead in a stable; dropsy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

447 24 Nov. 1765. Melksham. Ann Noyes: murdered by Robert Secel and Susannah his wife by beating and starving, of which both were found guilty. 8 miles. £1 6s. [At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1766, Robert Cecil and Susannah were convicted of Ann's murder on the indictment and sentenced to be hanged on 14 Mar.,
their bodies to be delivered to Mr Nathaniel Wick to be dissected and anatomized. Susannah's execution was respited for 2 months, after she had pleaded pregnancy, although a jury of matrons found that she was not pregnant with quick child: ASSI 23/7.]

448 26 Dec. 1765. Trowbridge. A male infant bastard, which Sarah Pinchin of Trowbridge, single woman, suddenly brought forth alive and which soon died without any violence from Sarah or any other person: natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

449 3 Jan. 1766. Devizes bridewell. Jeremiah Southernwood, committed by Thomas Hedges, esq., being charged on the oath of William Comly, for stealing some oak board, the property of Lord Chedworth: fever. £1.


452 31 Jan. 1766. Oaksey. John Reynolds: hanged himself; lunacy. 27 miles. £2 [recte £2 0s. 3d.]

453 8 Feb. 1766. Everleigh. Samuel Chandler, late of Rangeworthy, Glos.: killed by falling out of the boot of the Bristol machine. 16 miles. £1 12s.

454 21 Mar. 1766. Axford in Ramsbury. Francis North: fell into the Kennet and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

455 24 Mar. 1766. Marden. Richard Hibbard: no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.


457 7 Apr. 1766. Seagry. William Comely: found dead in a ground; he suddenly died while travelling along the road. 16 miles. £1 12s.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 8 Apr. 1766; distances from Devizes; total £46 12s. 6d. [as altered]; allowed by Thomas Hedges and George Wroughton, 8 Oct. 1766. [A5/2/1/23]

458 19 [recte 9: it was a Wednesday] Apr. 1766. Warminster. William Whatly, aged about 2: fell into a tub of water and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

459 11 Apr. 1766. Devizes bridewell. Ann George, aged about 12 days, thought to have been injured by Ann George, its mother: no marks of violence; fit. £1.

460 15 Apr. 1766. Lacock. Barnabas Horsington, late of Calne: on 13 Apr. was riding along the Corsham to Lacock road when his horse fell down and threw him headlong to the ground, which caused his death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

461 16 Apr. 1766. Burbage. John Nutly: was at plough in a field near Burbage when the horses took fright, ran away, threw him to the ground, ran
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over him, and killed him. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

462 24 Apr. 1766. West Park in Malmesbury. Robert Morse, aged about 3: fell into a pond and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

463 2 May 1766. Compton Bassett. Jane Seckstone: found dead in a field near Compton Bassett; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

464 7 May 1766. Patney. Mary Mattock: having for a long time laboured under a fever, on 5 May died from its effects and not from any violence done her by John her husband as imagined. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.


466 11 June 1766. All Cannings. A female infant, which Mary Perry of All Cannings, single woman, on 11 June privately brought forth herself: no marks of violence; still-born. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

467 21 June 1766. Westbury. Elizabeth Burt: on 19 June hanged herself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

468 22 June 1766. Calne. A female infant bastard, which Margaret Hyatt of Calne, single woman, on 16 June brought forth: no marks of violence; still-born. 8 miles. £1 6s.

469 30 June 1766. Lacock. John Cott, aged about 2: fell into a ditch and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


471 10 July 1766. Malmesbury. Thomas Gay: on 8 July got into a mill-pond at Milbourne in Malmesbury to bathe, was suddenly seized with cramp, and, nobody being present to assist him, was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

472 12 July 1766. Devizes bridewell. Herman (Harman) Tutt, late of Malmesbury, committed on 27 May by Edmund Wilkins, gent., J.P. for Malmesbury, for writing and publishing a paper threatening the life of Thomas Gray, gamekeeper to the earl of Suffolk and Berkshire: fever. £1.

473 20 July 1766. Everleigh. Mary Gater: on 16 or 19 July [MS Saturday, 16 July, but 16 July was a Wednesday] threw herself into a well and was drowned; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

474 3 Aug. 1766. Bradford on Avon. Richard Symms: on 2 Aug. fell into a necessary- or bog-hole and was suffocated. 12 miles. £1 9s.


476 10 Aug. 1766. Blagrove in Wroughton. Ayliffe Preddy, aged about 2: fell into a pond and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

477 22 Aug. 1766. Cherhill. Robert Barnes: on 20 Aug. found dead in Bricklands Field; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.


Temple, who threw a pick or prong from a load of hay and by misfortune struck one of the grains into Abraham's head; accidental death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

480  3 Sept. 1766. Corsley. George Knight: riding along the Longleat to Chapmanslade road, was suddenly seized in a fit and fell dead from his horse to the ground. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

481  5 Sept. 1766. Studley. Daniel Wilcocks, aged about 4; fell into a well and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

482  6 Sept. 1766. Brook in Westbury. Daniel Biffin: found dead in Brook Common; no marks of violence; he suddenly died while travelling along the road. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

483  10 Sept. 1766. Stockton. Edward Carter: found dead in a field near Stockton; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

484  15 Sept. 1766. St Nicholas's parish, Biddestone. James Gingle: on 12 Sept. died a natural death and not from any violence done him by Farmer John Young as reported. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

485  15 Sept. 1766. Foxham. Edmund Russ: cut his throat; felo de se. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

486  16 Sept. 1766. Hannington. John Thomas: fell from a waggon loaded with beans and instantly died. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

487  16 Sept. 1766. Great Chalfield. Thomas Buckly: found dead in a backside; no marks of violence; natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

488  21 Sept. 1766, adjourned for want of proper evidence to 23 Sept. Haugh Farm in Winsley tithing in Bradford on Avon. William Sainsbury: about 11 p.m. and midnight on 20 Sept. a great number, including William, assembled riotously at Haugh Farm, Abel Moxham's dwelling-house, and tried to break and enter it; in the attempt William was shot and killed; justifiable homicide by a person or persons unknown. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d. Adjournment, 9s. 9d.

489  22 Sept. 1766. Westbury Leigh. Thomas Marchent: a great number, including Thomas, assembled riotously and tried to break and enter the dwelling of James Carpenter of Beckington, Somerset; in the attempt Thomas received a shot on the right side of his head which fractured his skull, of which wound he languished for about 24 hours at Beckington and for 24 hours at Westbury Leigh and then died; justifiable homicide by a person or persons unknown. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 7 Oct. 1766: distances from Devizes; total £53 12s. 6d.; allowed by J. Rolt and T.H. Grubbe. [A5/2/1/24]

490  8 Oct. 1766. Collingbourne Ducis. Thomas Wadhams: killed by the kick of a horse. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

491  10 Oct. 1766. Poulshot. Ann Godwin: found dead in a field; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

492  24 Oct. 1766. Sutton Veny. William Long: for a long time had
laboured under a fever and on 21 Oct. died from its effects and not from any violence done him by John Swain as supposed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

493 28 Oct. 1766. Trowbridge. George Morgan: killed by the explosion of a barrel of gunpowder belonging to Mr Thomas Turner, grocer of Trowbridge, his master, caused by a snuff of a candle falling into it. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

494 4 Nov. 1766. Manningford Abbots. Mary Hailstone: fell into a millpond and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

495 10 Nov. 1766. Trowbridge. A male infant bastard, which Ann Butler, late of Trowbridge, single woman, on 8 Nov. privately and secretly brought forth alive and afterwards smothered between a bed and the sacking: murder. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 14 Mar. 1767, Ann was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

496 16 Nov. 1766. Bradford on Avon. Ambrose Clarke: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

497 19 Nov. 1766. Bushton in Clyffe Pypard. John Geile: on 19 Nov. threw himself into a pond and was drowned; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

498 11 Dec. 1766. Winterbourne Bassett. Johnson Bourton: found dead upon Temple Down in Preshute; severe weather. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

499 21 Dec. 1766. Bishop's Cannings. Edward Higgins: found dead in the Bishop's Cannings to Devizes road; no marks of violence; severe weather. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

500 24 Dec. 1766. Langley Burrell. Daniel Powell: fell into Folly Brook and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

501 2 Jan. 1767. Chippenham. Ann Winnick: Jacob Spaish, aged about 10, holding a gun and not knowing it was loaded, inadvertently presented it at her and shot her through the neck; accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

502 23 Jan. 1767. Lacock. Ann Thresher: hanged herself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

503 28 Jan. 1767. Codford St Peter. James Bennett: found dead in a field; no marks of violence; severe weather. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

504 29 Jan. 1767. Sopworth. Sarah Burley: found dead in her house in a staircase; she fell down the stairs. 20 miles. £1 15s.

505 30 Jan. 1767. Ashton Keynes. William Tilling: hanged himself; lunacy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

506 12 Feb. 1767. Castle Combe. Isaac Taylor: died of a bad fever and not from any violence done him, as reported, by William Gardner or any other person. 16 miles. £1 12s.

507 21 Feb. 1767. Hawkeridge in Westbury. Thomas Alley: found dead in Yarnbrook Common; no marks of violence; severe weather. 12 miles. £1 9s.

508 22 Feb. 1767. West Grafton in Great Bedwyn. Edward Townsend: killed by a kick of a horse belonging to Mr W. Pinkney of Wolf Hall (Woodfall). 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

509 4 Mar. 1767. Oare. Mary Eyels, aged about 2: fell into a pond and
was drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

510 4 Mar. 1767. Blackland. James Bewley: killed by an unlucky blow he received from Thomas his brother in fighting; manslaughter. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 14 Mar. 1767, Thomas was convicted of manslaughter on the inquest and was sentenced to be burnt on the hand: ASSI 23/7.]

511 14 Mar. 1767. East Chisenbury in Enford. John Bannings: fell into the mill-stream and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

512 22 Mar. 1767. Chippenham. A male infant, which Mary Fleetwood, single woman, brought forth on 19 Mar. at Chippenham: still-born. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

513 23 Mar. 1767. Purton. John Selwood: killed by a kick of his horse. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.


515 1 Apr. 1767. West Grafton in Great Bedwyn. Thomas Peirce: was riding along a lane between West Grafton Farm and the Cow Leaze by the side of a ditch and the horse fell into the ditch upon Thomas by which he was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

516 3 Apr. 1767. West Ashton. Joseph Adams: on 2 Apr. hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

517 6 Apr. 1767. Passion's Mill in Semington parish. Thomas Heretage, aged about 9: fell into the mill-head and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

518 14 Apr. 1767. Brokenborough. Naomi Hanham, aged about 5: fell in a mill-pond and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

519 15 Apr. 1767. Sevenhampton. James Rodbourn: with other labourers was undermining a bank for the Revd Mr Warnford when a great part of the rubbish suddenly fell down upon him and crushed him to death. 24 miles. £1 18s.

520 15 Apr. 1767. Sevenhampton. William Hatt: was with James Rodbourn undermining the bank and was likewise killed. £1.

521 17 Apr. 1767. Brokenborough. Harry Guest: found dead in Players Leazes; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

522 27 Apr. 1767. Woolley in Bradford on Avon. John Barnes: killed by a fall of a tree. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

523 28 Apr. 1767. Chiseldon. A male infant, which Elizabeth Jordan of Clyffe Pypard, single woman, being suddenly taken in labour while travelling from Marlborough to Chiseldon, by herself brought forth alive under a hedge and which afterwards died with the cold for want of assistance and proper necessaries: natural death. 20 miles. £1 15s.

524 28 Apr. 1767. Chilton Foliat Lodge. Daniel Goddard: with other labourers was taking down a stone wall, which was undermined too far and the upper part of it suddenly fell down upon him and crushed him to death. 24 miles. £1 18s.

525 28 Apr. 1767. The Wheatsheaf Inn in Chilton Foliat. Robert Spanly:
was with Daniel Goddard taking down the wall and was likewise killed. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 28 Apr. 1767; distances from Devizes; total £36 11s. 9d. [recte £36 12s.]; allowed by Thomas Hedges and John Jacob. [A5/2/1/25]

526 30 Apr. 1767. Melksham. Samuel Hambleton: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
527 3 May 1767. North Bradley. Elizabeth Francis: killed by a waggon going over her. 12 miles. £1 9s.
528 22 May 1767. Oakhill in Froxfield. John Page: fell into the lock-hole of a mill and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
529 29 May 1767. Warminster. John Price: on 27 May hanged himself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
530 5 June 1767. Bradford on Avon. A female infant bastard, which Ann Strawbridge, late of Bradford on Avon, single woman, brought forth alive and afterwards threw into a great bunch of nettles where it lay for some hours and was stung to death: murder. 12 miles. £1 9s. [At Salisbury assizes, 1 Aug. 1767, Ann was convicted of the murder on the indictment and sentenced to be hanged: ASSI 23/7.]
531 12 June 1767. Ludgershall. William Dobbs, aged about 3: fell into a gravel-pit full of water and, nobody being present to assist him, was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.
532 18 June 1767. Knook. William Lewis: killed by a waggon running over him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
533 26 June 1767. Devizes bridewell. John Gregory, a new-born bastard of Ann Gregory's, late of Melksham, single woman, committed by the commissioners of the court of request: languished for a few hours and then died; natural death. £1.
534 30 June 1767. Alderbury. William Wheeler: killed by a gun going off accidentally; accidental death. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.
535 30 June 1767. Landford in Whiteparish parish. Roger Rose: killed by a broad-wheeled waggon going over his body. 7 miles from Alderbury. £1 5s. 3d.
536 13 July 1767. Longbridge Deverill. Edward Carr: found dead in Rowborough Common; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
537 16 July 1767. Trowbridge. William Tiley: fell into the Were and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
538 19 July 1767. Cherhill. Robert Smallcorn, late of Bristol: killed by a road-waggon going over him. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
539 26 July 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Rivers, prisoner for felony: fever. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
540 29 July 1767. Leigh in Ashton Keynes. Moses Akerman: killed by a kick of a horse. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
31 July 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Daniel Chivers, prisoner for debt: natural death. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

6 Aug. 1767. Pewsey. John Andrews, aged about 3 weeks: unfortunately smothered by lying too far under his mother's breasts, she being at the same time asleep and not knowing anything of the matter. 12 miles. £1 9s.


13 Aug. 1767. Elcombe in Wroughton. Thomas Duck: was leaning his head upon the muzzle of a gun loaded with gunpowder and shot and it accidentally went off and shot him through the head. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

26 Aug. 1767. Urchfont. Sarah Wells: on 25 Aug. her house caught fire and was burnt to the ground, and she was burnt to death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.


2 Sept. 1767. Charlton near Malmesbury. Thomas Stoneham: crushed to death by the fall of a barn upon him. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

19 Sept. 1767. Edington. William Bendy: fell from his horse and dislocated his neck. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

21 Sept. 1767. Westbury Leigh. Samuel Trimby, aged about 2: fell into a well and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 6 Oct. 1767; distances from Devizes; total £46 8s. 6d.; allowed by John Jacob, 13 Apr. 1768. [A5/2/1/26]

7 Oct. 1767. The Turnpike House on Marlborough Common in Preshute. Henry Haggard: suddenly died travelling along the road near the house. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

8 Nov. 1767. Easterton. A woman unknown: found dead on Salisbury Plain; natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

13 Nov. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Richard Atherly, gent., prisoner for debt: natural death. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

20 Nov. 1767. Linley Farm in Tisbury. John Harwood: on 18 Nov. hanged himself; lunacy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

6 Dec. 1767. Seend Head. Charles Groom: killed by the limber of a waggon crushing him against a bank. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


8 Dec. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Joseph Pain: fever. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

9 Dec. 1767. St Nicholas's parish, Biddestone. Sarah Martin: found dead in the Giddeahall to Biddestone road; her body was very emaciated and starved; want of sustenance and the cold weather. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

10 Dec. 1767. Red Hill. William Smith: found dead in a field belong-
ing to Peters Farm not far from his house; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

559 11 Dec. 1767. Horningsham. William Pinnings: found dead in a field called Horningsham Forest; no marks of violence; severe weather. 20 miles. £1 15s.

560 14 Dec. 1767. Savernake Lodge in Savernake Forest. Jacob Peirce: being at work in a marl-pit in the forest, part of its edge fell in upon him and killed him on the spot. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

561 23 or 24 Dec. 1767 [MS Wednesday, 24 Dec., but 24 Dec. was a Thursday]. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Goodfellow: fever. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.


563 29 Dec. 1767. Edington. William Bryant: apprehended as a rogue and vagabond in St James's parish, Westminster, Middlesex, and by order of George Wright, esq., a Middlesex J.P., was passed thence to North Bradley; he died at Edington on his journey; severe weather and illness. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

564 11 Jan. 1768. Wootton Bassett. William Tuff, subject to violent fits: found dead in a foot-road from Wootton Bassett to Swindon; no marks of violence; fit. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

565 11 Jan. 1768. Cherhill. Thomas Pinigar: found dead in the snow in which he was lost and perished. 8 miles. £1 6s.

566 15 Jan. 1768. Longleat in Horningsham. William Bendale: found dead in the park; severe weather. 20 miles. £1 15s.

567 24 Jan. 1768. St James's chapelry in Bishop's Cannings. Richard Davis: found dead in a stable; severe weather and want of proper sustenance. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.

568 26 Jan. 1768. Chute. William Parker: found dead in a wood in Collingbourne Kingston; severe weather and want of sustenance. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

569 29 Jan. 1768. Corsley. Mary Culverhouse, apprentice girl to James Reynolds: killed by Mary wife of James by ill usage and starving. 20 miles. £1 15s.

[At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1768, Mary wife of James was acquitted of the murder of Mary Culverhouse, spinster, on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]


571 3 Feb. 1768. Swindon. William Heath: found dead in a field; no marks of violence; accidental [? recte natural] death. 20 miles. £1 15s.

572 9 Feb. 1768. Buttermere. John Blundy: found dead in a field; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 28 miles. £2 1s.

573 23 Feb. 1768. Studley. Susannah Wilcocks: fell into a rivulet and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

574 1 Mar. 1768. Dead Maids Road in Westbury. James Withey:
NORTH WILTS

inadvertently put his head into a skein of yarn that was hanging upon a nail in a house and, his feet happening to slip away, accidentally hanged himself. 16 miles. £1 12s.

575 12 Mar. 1768. Westwood. Sarah Martin: found dead in a road; severe weather. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

576 13 Mar. 1768. Axford Farm. William Bright: fell into the Kennet and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

577 16 Mar. 1768. Frankleigh. James Selfe: found dead in the said parish [almost certainly Bradford on Avon, presumably named earlier in the inquest]; sudden natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

578 17 Mar. 1768. Chippenham. Henry Clements: excessive drinking. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 12 Apr. 1768; distances from Devizes; total £33 1s. 9d. [recte £33 4s. 9d. by addition, or £33 3s. 9d. if 594 were corrected]; allowed by E. Bayntun and F. Askew. [A5/2/1/27]

580 22 Apr. 1768. West Ashton. John Watts, aged 3: fell into a pond and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

581 2 May 1768. Rode in North Bradley. Ann Trickey, apprentice girl to James Tilly, thought to have received some hurt from James: diabetes. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d. [as altered].

582 25 May 1768. Bromham. Henry Hunt: unfortunately killed in fighting a battle with Robert Smart, late of Chittoe; manslaughter. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 21 July 1768, Robert, charged with Henry's murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to be burnt on the hand and to 3 months' imprisonment in the county gaol: ASSI 23/7.]

583 4 June 1768. East Coulston. Roger Pipler: found dead in a lane; apoplexy. 8 miles. £1 6s.

584 20 June 1768. Longleat. Leonard Cox: killed by a waggon belonging to Viscount Weymouth. 20 miles. £1 15s.

585 23 June 1768. Beckhampton in Avebury. Henry Spencer: killed by a gun discharged by William Ball, the gun being loaded with gunpowder and shot unknown to William; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

586 25 June 1768. Chute. William Bower: killed by a horse. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

587 1 July 1768. Bradford on Avon. Jane Selfe, aged 2: fell into a tub of water and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

588 4 July 1768. Crudwell. John Parker: found dead under a haystack; no marks of violence; natural death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

589 17 July 1768. Froxfield. Benedict Barnett: no marks of violence; fit. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
20 July 1768. Long Newton. A man unknown: found dead in the road from Brokenborough to Long Newton, very much emaciated but with no sign of any blows or bruises; natural death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

25 July 1768. All Saints’ parish, Chitterne. James Oram: hanged himself; felo de se. 12 miles. £1 9s.

2 Aug. 1768. Christian Malford. William Bond: stabbed by Jacob Trimmell with a long knife under the left breast; murder. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

6 Aug. 1768. Trowbridge. Ann Hopkins: killed by a horse. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

11 Aug. 1768. Devizes. Ann Greenland: mixed a large quantity of arsenic, a deadly poison, with some treacle, swallowed it, and killed herself; felo de se. £1 1s. [recte £1].

25 Aug. 1768. Great Somerford. Ann Barnes: fell into a dipping-well and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

25 Aug. 1768. Avoncliff in Westwood parish. Stephen Alland: fell into the Avon and was drowned. From Great Somerford, 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1 Sept. 1768. Froxfield. Mary Spragg: no marks of violence; fit. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

2 Sept. 1768. Compton in Enford. Thomas Rolfe: killed by a kick of a horse. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

20 Sept. 1768. Kington St Michael. John Griffin, subject to fits for years: found dead in a ground called Ridings; fit. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

2 Oct. 1768. Castle Eaton. Thomas Smith: drowned by falling out of a boat into the Isis. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

5 Oct. 1768. St Margaret’s in Preshute. John North: killed by a waggon going over him. 16 miles. £1 12s.

12 Oct. 1768. Fosbury. Roger Ballard: on 10 Oct. hanged himself; felo de se. 28 miles. £2 1s.

16 Oct. 1768. West Kennett. A man unknown: fell from the limber of a broad-wheel waggon, as was imagined asleep, and the waggon went over him and killed him on the spot. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

17 Oct. 1768. Steeple Ashton. Samuel Flower: drowned in a pond in a field called Littleton Wood; accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

19 Oct. 1768. Tinhead. Isaac Oram, aged about 3: fell into a tub of cider and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

11 Nov. 1768. Westwood. Richard Stratton: fell out of a boat into the Avon and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

12 Nov. 1768. Poulshot. Jonathan Sainsbury, aged about 5: fell into a saw-pit half full of water and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

16 Nov. 1768. Lydiard Millicent. Mary Cole, aged about 6: murder
by Mary Cole, her mother, by cutting her throat. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 4 Mar. 1769, Mary was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

609 16 Nov. 1768. Dauntsey. Robert Jacobs: found dead in Barn Close; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

610 1 Dec. 1768. Box. Ann Ford: on 30 Nov. hanged herself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

611 6 Dec. 1768. Bromham. William Harring: killed by a haystack falling on him. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

612 10 Dec. 1768. Sevenhampton. John Jefferies: found dead in Chapel Piece; sudden natural death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

613 19 Dec. 1768. Dilton Marsh. Mary Harvey: on 16 Dec., being ill with a fever and light-headed, got out of her bed in the night and accidentally fell into a treadle-pit which caused her death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.


615 10 Jan. 1769. Bradford on Avon. A male infant bastard: found dead in the arms of its mother, Mary Grant, single woman; it died a natural death and not by any violence done it by Mary. 12 miles. £1 9s.

616 31 Jan. 1769. Highworth. A man unknown: severe weather and want of proper sustenance. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

617 14 Feb. 1769. Netheravon. A new-born male child, born alive from the body of Jane Russell, single woman, who afterwards threw it into a branch of the river St Margaret’s and drowned it: murder. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 4 Mar. 1769, Jane was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

618 18 Feb. 1769. Market Lavington. Thomas Oram: died a natural death and not by any violence done him by George Sloper as reported. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

619 23 Feb. 1769. West Lavington. Jane Plank, late of Urchfont: found dead in an outhouse; want of sustenance and severe weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

620 24 Feb. 1769. Aldbourne. Edward Hopgood, aged about 8: fell into a well and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

621 24 Feb. 1769. Chiseldon. A man unknown: found dead in the open field; no marks of violence; he died travelling along the road from poverty and the severe weather. 20 miles. £1 15s.

622 28 Feb. 1769. St Sampson’s parish, Cricklade. William Smith: riding up the Dance somewhat in liquor, fell from the horse into the river and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

623 3 Mar. 1769. Southbroom in Bishop’s Cannings. Edward Eaden: found dead on a road near Devizes Green; no marks of violence; natural death. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.

624 4 Mar. 1769. Winterbourne Bassett. Daniel Chivers, aged 8: threw himself into a stream and drowned himself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
625 12 Mar. 1769. Aldbourne. Edward Newth: hanged himself; lunacy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
627 24 Mar. 1769. Woodshaw in Wootton Bassett. John Baker: shot by his brother Thomas, who presented a gun loaded with gunpowder and shot, not knowing it to be loaded; accidental death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
628 3 Apr. 1769. North Bradley. John Moore, late of Southwick: found dead in a ditch of water between North Bradley and Southwick; he fell into it and was suffocated. 12 miles. £1 9s.
629 4 Apr. 1769. Stanton St Bernard. Robert Smith: killed by a tree falling on him. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Chippenham quarter sessions, 4 Apr. 1769; distances from Devizes; total £28 7s. [recte £28 8s.]; allowed by Edmund Wilkins and George Wroughton. [A5/2/1/29]

630 28 Apr. 1769. Erlestoke. Grace Axford, spinster: threw herself into a pond and drowned herself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
631 7 May 1769. Bishopstone. William Westell: found dead in a flint-pit; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d. [Miles and fees altered.]
632 17 May 1769. Sutton Veny. John Brown, aged about 5: killed by a timber-carriage. 16 miles. £1 12s. [Miles and fees altered.]
633 26 May 1769. Whitehill Farm in Wootton Bassett. Elizabeth Maslen: on 25 May, dipping up water at a dipping-pit, pecked headlong into it and was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
634 5 June 1769. Bishop’s Cannings. James Webb: fell into a pond and was drowned. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
635 21 June 1769. Ashton Keynes. Charles Chaster: fell into a river and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
636 11 July 1769. Eisey. John Harvey, aged about 3: fell into a river and was drowned. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d. [Miles and fees altered.]
637 13 July 1769. Compton Bassett. John Ruddle: killed by a waggon going over him. 8 miles. £1 6s.
638 16 July 1769. Swinley Farm in Kington St Michael. Matthew Sainsbury: killed by a waggon going over him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
640 4 Aug. 1769. Baydon. Mary Jackson: had been disordered in her senses for 10 months or upwards and on 2 Aug. hanged herself; lunacy. 24 miles. £1 18s.
641 5 Aug. 1769. Axford. Richard Westell: killed by a fall from a tree. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
642 27 Aug. 1769. Baydon. John Armon: found dead in Mundy’s Field; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 24 miles. £1 18s.
2 Sept. 1769. Highworth. Francis Love: was digging stones in a quarry and part of it fell in upon him and crushed him to death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

4 Sept. 1769. Oare. Henry Woolford: found dead in an outhouse belonging to Farmer Gale; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

11 Sept. 1769. Hankerton. William White, aged about 4: was at play in Hankerton Common with some other children and hunting about a colt, when the colt kicked him in the head and killed him on the spot. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

28 Sept. 1769. Cherhill. Edmund Flower: riding along the Marlborough to Overton road somewhat in liquor, he fell from his horse which ran over him and bruised him in such a manner that he died of the bruises. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 24 Apr. 1770; distances from Devizes; total £35 16s. 6d. [recte £35 16s. 3d.: the total was not amended after 667 was corrected]; allowed by George Wroughton and Ferdinand Askew. [A5/2/1/30]

3 May 1770. Westbrook Mill in Bromham. Robert Edmunds, aged about 3: fell into the mill-pond and was drowned. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

7 May 1770. All Saints’ parish, Chitterne. Joyce Curtis: on 4 May hanged herself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

21 May 1770. Westwood. Jane Mundy, aged about 2: playing by the side of a tub of water, she pecked headlong into it and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

28 May 1770. Eastrop in Highworth. Rachel Symmonds: on 26 May cut her throat; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

2 June 1770. Langley Burrell. Robert Tanner: fell into a pit of water and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

11 June 1770. Woolley in Bradford on Avon. Charles Tyley: hanged himself; felo de se. 12 miles. £1 9s.

12 June 1770. Seend. John Smith: found dead in the said parish; no marks of blows or bruises; sudden natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

12 June 1770. Devizes bridewell. Thomas Lausley, not 6 months old, who with Mary Lausley, his mother, was sent to the prison by Edward Poor, esq., J.P., she being charged with being an impostor by Mr Edmund Daniel and Roger Gater, Ludgershall parish officers: natural death. £1.

13 June 1770. Knighton Farm in Ramsbury. Hugh Tucker: killed by a wagggon running over his head. 24 miles. £1 18s.


26 June 1770. Easton. Dorothy (Dority) Hern: threw herself into a well and drowned herself; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

27 June 1770. Wilsford. William Andrews: killed by a ploughshare running into him. 8 miles. £1 6s.
7 July 1770. Marden. William Ewens: killed by a kick of a horse. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

8 July 1770. Ashton Keynes. Sarah Burnell, aged about one: fell into a river and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

10 July 1770. Southbroom. Susannah Drew: suddenly died in an apoplectic fit and not by any violence done her by Thomas her husband as reported. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

15 or 16 July 1770 [MS Sunday, 16 July, but 16 July was a Monday]. Studley in Calne. John Godwin: found dead in a Studley to Calne lane; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

20 July 1770. Heytesbury. Mary Beal, aged about 3: fell into the river and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

22 July 1770. Melksham. Edward Moon, aged about 3: fell into the river and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

27 July 1770. Sutton Veny. John Ellis, late of Edington: found dead in Sutton Common; no marks of blows or bruises; he suddenly died in an apoplectic fit travelling along the road. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

28 July 1770. Horningsham. Henry Garrett: found dead in Maiden Bradley; no marks of violence; natural death. 20 miles. £1 15s.

29 July 1770. Leigh in Ashton Keynes. George Flowers: took a large quantity of yellow arsenic or (vel) orpiment, knowing it to be a deadly poison, mixed it with small beer and drank it, languished for 6 hours, and then died; felo de se. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d. [corrected from £1 19s.]

13 Aug. 1770. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Dory: went into the Avon to bathe and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

7 Sept. 1770. Chippenham. John Milsam: was at work in a well and the damp arose in it whereby he was suffocated. 10 miles. £1 17s. 6d.


Bill of John Clare, gent., deceased, since Marlborough quarter sessions, 3 Oct. 1770, and of William Clare after his election on 19 Mar. 1771; distances from Devizes; total £29 10s. 6d.; allowed by T.H. Grubbe and E. Poore. [A5/2/1/311]

4 Oct. 1770. Lockshill Heath in Chippenham. William Hunt: on 3 Oct. killed by a waggon going over him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

7 Oct. 1770. Garsdon. Ann Bishop: found dead in a necessary-house; natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

13 Oct. 1770. Bishop's Cannings. William Etwal: on 13 Oct. fell downstairs and was killed. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.


31 Oct. 1770. Chippenham. John Badminton: on 30 Oct. killed by a waggon going over his body. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

16 Nov. 1770. A house called Rodes in Chippenham. John Reeves,
late of Calne: on 14 Nov. found on the road near the house and carried there, where he languished for 7 hours and then died from a fall from his horse. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

677 3 Dec. 1770. Seend Row. John Crook: found drowned in a rivulet on 1 Dec.; accidental death. 4 miles. £1 3s.

678 10 Dec. 1770. Crudwell. John Buckland, gent.: on 8 Dec. fell from his horse and pitched upon his head, which caused his death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

679 14 Dec. 1770. Chippenham. John Russ of 'Digthenton' [?Dixton or Tytherington], Glos.: on 12 Dec. fell from the limbers of a broad-wheeled waggon, the wheels of which went over his body and killed him. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

680 21 Dec. 1770. Yatesbury. William Rivers: on 19 Dec. found dead in a field; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

681 23 or 25 Dec. 1770 [MS Sunday, 25 Dec., but 25 Dec. was a Tuesday]. Bratton. John Drewett: on 21 Dec. found dead in Southdown Barn; fit. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

682 5 Jan. 1771. Shute Farm in Longbridge Deverill. Martha Daniel: on 3 Jan. was riding along the road from Warminster to Maiden Bradley on a waggon and fell from it by its overturning and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

683 21 Jan. 1771. Reybridge in Lacock. Sarah Sheep: on 18 Jan. slipped into the Avon and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

684 21 Jan. 1771. Calne. Richard Little: on 21 Jan. threw himself out of a window of a house wherein he was put to be confined and immediately died; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

685 1 Feb. 1771. Easton Grey. A man unknown: on 30 Jan. found dead in a ditch; no marks of violence; natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

686 7 Feb. 1771. Hannington Wick. Elizabeth Johnston: on 30 Jan. murdered; Henry Gale of Hannington was found guilty. 24 miles. £1 18s. [At Salisbury assizes, 9 Mar. 1771, Henry was convicted of murdering Elizabeth Johnson on both the indictment and the inquest and was sentenced to be hanged on 15 Mar., his body to be dissected and anatomized: ASSI 23/7.]

687 17 Feb. 1771. Castle Eaton. Hester Archer: on 16 Feb. hanged herself in a room; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

688 20 Mar. 1771. Urchfont. William Willis: on 18 Mar. found dead in an outhouse; no marks of violence; natural death. 4 miles. £1 3s.

689 5 Apr. 1771. Ashton Gifford in Codford St Peter. Thomas Rabbits, aged about 2: on 4 Apr. drowned in a stream; accidental death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

690 8 Apr. 1771. Hatt in Box. William Norman, late of Bath, Somerset: on 7 Apr. found dead in a barton or yard belonging to Mr John Lee at Hatt; too much strong liquor. 12 miles. £1 9s.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 9 Apr. 1771; distances
691 10 Apr. 1771. Wroughton. Hannah Burchall: on 9 Apr. fell into a fire in her apartment and, no one being present to assist her, was suffocated and burnt to death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

692 11 Apr. 1771. East Grafton. John Sheffard: on 9 Apr. hanged himself in Pyke's Coppice; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

693 12 Apr. 1771. Westbrook in Bromham. Mary Fennel, aged under 3: on that day fell into a well and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

694 20 Apr. 1771. Trowbridge. A new-born female child: on 19 Apr. found dead in the Were; murder by a person or persons unknown. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

[This was possibly the death which resulted in a trial at Salisbury assizes, 20 July 1771, when Jane Maddock was acquitted of the murder of a female bastard child and James Read of aiding, abetting, and assisting her, both on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]

695 21 Apr. 1771. Lacock. George Wakefield: on 19 Apr. killed by a cart running over him. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

696 8 May 1771. Liddington. George Mills: on 6 May found dead on Wanborough Plain; no marks of violence; natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

697 10 May 1771. East Overton. Sarah Stevens: on 7 May died a natural death and not by any violence from her parents as reported. 11 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

698 20 May 1771. Yatton Keynell. Henry Hayes: on 18 May fell from a waggon loaded with dung and was instantly crushed to death by its wheels. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

699 27 May 1771. Bradford on Avon. George Andrews: on 25 May fell into the Avon and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

700 28 May 1771. Winterbourne Monkton. William Knapp: on 27 May was digging in a pit of white stone and a great part of it fell in upon him and instantly crushed him to death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

701 30 May 1771. West Lavington. Philip Flower: on 28 May fell from his horse and received a concussion and fracture on his head of which he languished a few hours and died. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

702 3 June 1771. Langley Burrell. Jacob Rawlins: on 1 June crushed to death by a waggon loaded with vessels of beer. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

703 7 June 1771. Beechingstoke. A new-born female child: on 5 June Ann Stephens of Beechingstoke was delivered of the child suddenly and by surprise; the child suddenly and accidentally fell from her body, which fall caused its death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

704 7 June 1771. Pewsey. Richard Alexander: on that day received a bruise on his chest from a horse's head, of which he instantly died. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

705 19 June 1771. Stroud Common. John Offer: on 18 June crushed to
death by the wheels of a cart. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

706 20 June 1771. Oaksey. Thomas Brown: fell from the top of a high tree and was killed. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.


708 26 June 1771. Chapmanslade. John Parsons: on 24 June died in a well owing, as imagined, to the damp arising from its springs. 16 miles. £1 12s.

709 6 July 1771. St Mary's chapelry, Devizes. William Jennings of Melksham: on 3 July thrown from a horse and crushed to death by the wheels of a waggon. £1.

710 8 July 1771. East Kennett. William Watts: on that day killed by the kick of a horse. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

711 9 July 1771. Kingswood. Joseph Bayly: on 7 July fell into a mill-pond and was drowned. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

712 26 July 1771. Tilshead. John Payne, infant: on 23 July was unfortunately thrown out of his brother's arms with great violence to the ground, which caused his death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

713 14 Aug. 1771. Bradford on Avon. George Beaumont: on 12 Aug. crushed to death by the fall of a very large stone in a quarry belonging to the duke of Kingston upon Hull. 12 miles. £1 9s.

714 27 Aug. 1771. Kingsdown Hill in Box. James Brown: on 22 Aug. fell from the roof of a stage-coach, which caused his death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

715 31 Aug. 1771. Marston Meysey. Thomas Davis, late of Bisley, Glos.: on 30 Aug., in attempting to get upon the limbers of a stage-waggon, fell to the ground and was crushed to death by it in the Cirencester to Fairford road. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.

716 1 Sept. 1771. Horningsham. Richard Chapman: on 29 Aug. found dead in Horningsham Common; no marks of violence; natural death. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

717 12 Sept. 1771. Melksham. John Stevens, aged about 3: on 11 Sept. drowned by falling into a well. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

718 13 Sept. 1771. Charnham Street in Hungerford. Richard Wheeler, late sergeant in H.M.'s 67th regiment of foot: on that day killed by a fall from a stage-coach. 24 miles. £1 18s.

719 24 Sept. 1771. Purton Stoke. William Bath: on 23 Sept. drowned himself in a pit; lunacy. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

720 28 Sept. 1771. All Saints' parish, Chitterne. John Gamblin: on 27 Sept. killed by a fall from a tree while cutting shrouds from it. 12 miles. £1 9s.

721 8 Oct. 1771. Westbury Leigh. William Coghill: on 6 Oct. killed by a fall from a walnut tree and not from any injury done him by Richard Sainsbury or any other person. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 9 Oct. 1771; distances from Devizes; total £31 10s.; allowed by James Montagu and Thomas Hedges. [A5/2/1/33]

with a hatchet; manslaughter. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 7 Mar. 1772, Godwin was acquitted of manslaughter on the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

723 29 Oct. 1771. Studley Green. A man unknown: suddenly died in a field; to all appearances, apoplexy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
724 A journey to Spye Park, Sir Edward Bayntun having reason to suspect the violent death of an infant. It proving otherwise, no inquest was taken. 10s. 6d.
725 15 Dec. 1771. Keevil. Jane Southernwood: being delirious with smallpox, fell out of a window and dislocated the vertebre of her neck; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
726 21 Dec. 1771. Malmesbury. John Reynolds: fell under the wheels of a waggon and was crushed to death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
727 12 Jan. 1772. Little Somerford. Sarah Strange: many marks of violence; Mary Strange, her mother-in-law [sc. stepmother], was charged with killing her by ill-treatment and starving. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 7 Mar. 1772, Mary wife of Robert Strange was acquitted of Sarah's murder on the indictment: ASSI 23/7.]
728 30 Jan. 1772. Rushall. Ruth Wiltshire: found dead in a barn belonging to Farmer George Daniels. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
730 5 Feb. 1772. Shepherds' Shore. Solomon Cooper: died in the deep snow returning home from Calne. 4 miles. £1 3s.
732 15 Feb. 1772. Lydiard Millicent. Susannah Maslen: threw herself into a pond called the Weir and drowned herself; lunacy. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.
733 20 Feb. 1772. Trowbridge. Margaret Huckeridge: murder by her mistress, Joan Edwards, and George her husband. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 7 Mar. 1772, Joan was remanded until the next assizes, being incapable of standing trial. On 1 Aug. she was acquitted of Margaret's murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]
735 24 Mar. 1772. Broad Hinton. William Neate: unfortunately ran against a knife held by his schoolfellow, Richard Bradford, and died immediately. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
736 3 Apr. 1772. Winterbourne Bassett. William Whithead: found dead in a field. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
737 3 Apr. 1772. Elcombe. Thomas Spackman: died in Elcombe Common; the effects of liquor and inclement weather. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
738 3 Apr. 1772. Ogbourne St Andrew. Lawrence Bird, late of Ramsbury: inclement weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
739 11 Apr. 1772. Witcomb Mill in Hilmarton. A female infant, lately born of the body of a strange travelling-woman who says her name is Hannah
Still: murder by Hannah. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 1 Aug. 1772, Hannah wife of Peter Still alias Hannah Still, spinster, was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

12 Apr. 1772. Bratton. A new-born male bastard: murder by its mother, Margaret Sainsbury. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
[Margaret was taken by the tithingman of Bratton to Fisherton Anger gaol (see 775), and at Salisbury assizes, 1 Aug. 1772, was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

14 Apr. 1772. Bradford on Avon. John Fennell: as imagined, trying to get into a boat on the Avon, fell into the river and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

14 Apr. 1772. Avoncliff in Westwood. William Savier: pecked out of a boat into the Avon and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

25 Apr. 1772. Crofton in Great Bedwyn. Mary Cope, aged under 3: fell into a brook and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 28 Apr. 1772; distances from Devizes; total £46 5s. 9d.; allowed by Thomas Hedges and Edward Goddard. [A5/2/1/34]

29 Apr. 1772. Studley Green in Trowbridge. James Moore, aged under 2: fell into a well and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

3 May 1772. Christian Malford. Thomas Hand: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

18 May 1772. South Wraxall. The remains of a male infant, found under the roof of a house. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

26 May 1772. Stanton St Bernard. John Pottinger: found dead in Stanton Field. 8 miles. £1 6s.


3 June 1772. Market Lavington. Sarah Turner, aged under 2: drowned in a brook. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

6 June 1772. West Lavington. Richard Lane: unfortunately killed in a rubble-pit. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.


10 June 1772. Great Hinton in Steeple Ashton. Mary Kemp: died suddenly in Cold Harbour Lane. 8 miles. £1 6s.

16 June 1772. Southbroom near Devizes. Richard Poole: fell down a cellar staircase and was killed. £1.

26 June 1772. Urchfont. George Smith: hanged himself; lunacy. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

26 June 1772 [date omitted]. Tytherton in Chippenham. George Dolmon: killed by a bruise from the shaft of a waggon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1 July 1772. Studley in Calne. Adjourned for want of evidence to
3 July, Calne. Robert Willcox: unlawfully killed by his brother. 8 miles. £1 6s. Adjournment, 7 miles. 5s. 3d.

757 2 July 1772. Dilton Marsh. Jeremiah Jervis: found dead in Verwood. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

758 10 July 1772. Melksham. A soldier unknown: hanged himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

759 16 July 1772. Great Cheverell. Mary Amor: found dead in her house. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

760 22 July 1772. Nettleton. A new-born male bastard: murder by its mother. 18 miles. £1 14s. 6d.

[The mother must have been Rachel Bayly, who was taken by the tithingman of Nettleton to Devizes prison (see 776) and was convicted of the murder at Salisbury assizes, 1 Aug. 1772, on both the indictment and the inquest and sentenced to be hanged on 6 Aug., her body to be dissected and anatomized: ASSI 23/7.]

761 28 July 1772. Erlestoke. James Stephens: killed by the accidental discharge of a gun. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


763 11 Aug. 1772. Bishop's Cannings. Hugh Cains: found dead in a ground. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

764 6 Aug. 1772 [? recte 16 Aug.; if 6 is correct this entry is out of order]. Holt in Bradford on Avon. Richard Jones: found dead in 'Muchum Mead'. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

765 17 Aug. 1772. Purton. Thomas Blake: fractured his skull by a fall and was killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

766 4 Sept. 1772. Bishopstrow. William Ford: unlawfully killed by Christopher Allen of Warminster. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

767 7 Sept. 1772. Calne. Joseph Dicketts: killed by a fall from a waggon. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

768 9 Sept. 1772. Westcourt near Burbage. Robert Webb: found drowned in a tub of water in his house. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

769 11 Sept. 1772. Ford Lane in Bradford on Avon. James Hudd, aged under 3: found drowned in a ditch. 12 miles. £1 9s.


772 30 Sept. 1772. Charnham Street in Hungerford. Samuel Holder: found dead in a mead. 24 miles. £1 18s.


774 3 Oct. 1772. Melksham. A male infant bastard: murder by its mother, Anna Fry. 8 miles. £1 6s.

[Anna was taken by the tithingman of Melksham from Melksham Forest to Devizes bridewell (see 812), and at Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1773, was
acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

775  Paid to the tithingman of Bratton for conveying Margaret Sainsbury to Fisherton Anger gaol for the murder of her bastard child. 20 miles. £1. [See 740.]

776  Paid to the tithingman of Nettleton for conveying Rachel Bayly to Devizes prison for the murder of her bastard child. 18 miles. 18s. [See 760.]

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 6 Oct. 1772; distances from Devizes; total £57 3s. 9d.; overcharge £2 16s.; revised total £54 9s. 9d.; allowed by John Jacob and J. Awdry. [A5/2/1/35]
[The first total probably resulted from the unamended entries.]

777  6 Oct. 1772. Great Bedwyn. William Gater otherwise Durrel: died of a fever and not from any violence as reported. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

778  12 Oct. 1772. Trowbridge. Edward Cox, aged about one: pecked into a pan of water and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

779  21 Oct. 1772. Aldbourne. Mary Bacon, aged under one: fell out of her mother’s arms into a bucket wherein was some water, her mother Rebecca Bacon being asleep and not waking until a neighbouring woman came in and found the child dead; accidental death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

780  30 Oct. 1772. Kington St Michael. A man unknown: for some days had been roving about in dangerous watery places as a lunatic, the weather being very inclement. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

781  31 Oct. 1772. Market Lavington. James Merit, suspected by the parish to have been misused by his father: fever and overflowing of the gall-bladder. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

782  ? 31 Oct. 1772 [date omitted]. Witcomb Mill in Hilmarton. James Hamons, aged under 5: fell into a brook and was drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

783  13 Nov. 1772. Baydon. Richard Prior: fell to the ground and a stage-waggon passed over his body and limbs, of which he languished and died; the jurors could not agree on the deodand, so adjourned to 20 Nov. With the adjournment, [24 miles struck through]. £2 16s.

784  20 Nov. 1772. Froxfield. Thomas Wilkins: killed by the falling in of chalky earth being undermined. 20 miles. £1 15s.

785  24 Nov. 1772. Beckhampton. James Pope: fell from his horse and was instantly crushed to death by the wheels of a stage-waggon. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

786  24 Nov. 1772. Pewsey. John Dyke: found murdered in Westberry Field; the murderer being not then detected, adjourned for a few days; after the most strict inquiry and examination of witnesses, murder by a person or persons unknown. Both sittings 12 miles. £1 18s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1773, William Amor was convicted of John’s murder on the indictment and sentenced to be hanged on 16 Mar., his body to hang in chains on Pewsey Down. He was also convicted of highway robbery,
viz of assaulting John Dyke in a field near the king's highway and robbing him of a watch with its silver box and case worth 40s. and other goods and money: ASSI 23/7.]

787  28 Nov. 1772. Bradford on Avon. Richard Chapman: found dead in a ground; being weak and infirm, rambled from his home in tempestuous weather. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

788  2 Dec. 1772. Westbury. Jeremiah Emblin: was riding a bay-coloured gelding very furiously and, turning a corner, was thrown from it with great violence and killed. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

789  13 Dec. 1772. Warminster. Thomas Clare: hanged himself; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

790  13 Dec. 1772. Warminster. Thomas Payne: fell from a high ladder and was killed. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

791  18 Dec. 1772. Bradford on Avon. William Newton: fell out of a store-room upon the floor of a workshop belonging to Mr Francis Yerbury, of which he languished and died. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

792  21 Dec. 1772. Ramsbury. Thomas Carpenter, an old man: returning home from Ramsbury, the night being dark, fell with his head into a stream and died. 20 miles. £1 15s.

793  21 Dec. 1772. Preshute. John Church, late of 'the Lea' [? Leigh in Aldbourne]: driving a wagg on along the road, received a violent blow from the body-horse [sc. shaft-horse] on his head which fractured his skull. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

794  26 Dec. 1772. Lacock. Robert Barter: threw himself into the Avon and was drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

795  2 Jan. 1773. Charnham Street in Hungerford. Martha Idding: not being at the age of discretion but an infant under 10, in an innocent playful manner tied the ends of a worsted garter round the handle of a chamber door in one knot only and put her head into the garter; the door moving to and fro with the least touch caused her feet to slip and she was found in that position dead by the pressure under her chin. 24 miles. £1 18s. [as amended].

796  3 Jan. 1773. Etchilhampton. James Ponting: found dead in Row Furlong. 4 miles. £1 3s.

797  5 Jan. 1773. Heytesbury. A man unknown, old and travelling from place to place: found dead in a barn; no marks of violence; want of proper necessaries. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

798  5 Feb. 1773. Marlborough bridewell. Thomas Edwards, old and infirm, committed for felony by Ferdinand Askew, esq.: natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

799  8 Feb. 1773. Bradford on Avon. Mary Roberts: in the night fell with great violence from the top of a high staircase onto a stone pavement which fractured her skull. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

800  8 Feb. 1773 [date omitted]. Monkton Farleigh. James Neate, aged under 5: found drowned in a pit or cistern. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

801  12 Feb. 1773. St Mary's chapelry, Devizes. Nathaniel Cutting: trying to save Robert Asher, who was in imminent danger of dying from the fumes or
spirit arising from the grounds or sediment of strong beer in a large vessel, was himself suffocated by the strength of the fumes and instantly died. £1.


803 15 Feb. 1773. Broughton Gifford. William Sainsbury, thought to have been ill-treated by his master, William Wakely: on proper inquiry and opening his body it appeared he had been some time in a relaxed state and the left lobe of the lungs greatly swollen and hardened; he died of the relaxed state and preternatural appearance of the lungs. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

804 17 Feb. 1773. Swindon. Robert Eyles: returning home from Swindon market, suddenly died in May's Paddock. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

805 26 Feb. 1773. Calne. Joseph Burnett: going over the stock-thorough [sc. an artificial channel] of a mill, fell in and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

806 1 Mar. 1773. Bentham in Purton. Richard Large: found dead in a ground called Upper Hayes; no marks of violence. 24 miles. £1 18s. [as amended].

807 3 Mar. 1773. Potterne. William Alexander: suddenly died in his garden near Potterne Wood. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

808 4 Mar. 1773. Wanborough. Mary (Marey) Cape: found dead, a shocking spectacle, in a pass-cart near Wanborough Plain; want of proper necessaries. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d. [as amended].

809 5 Mar. 1773. Hilperton. Mary (Marey) Webb: hanged herself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


811 11 Apr. 1773. Southwick in North Bradley. Rebecca Bryant: drowned herself in a pond; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

812 Paid to the tithingman of Melksham for conveying Anna Fry from Melksham Forest to Devizes bridewell for the murder of her bastard child. 8 miles. 8s. [as amended].

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 21 Apr. 1773; distances from Devizes; total £52 2s. 9d.; allowed by S. Cam and Paul Newman. [A5/2/1/36]

813 7 May 1773. Coulston Marsh. William Taylor: poisoned himself with white sublimate of mercury; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

814 17 May 1773. Purton Stoke. James Butler: threw himself into a pit and was drowned; lunacy. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

815 27 May 1773. Stratton St Margaret. William Hayden: fell into a kiver of hot wort and was scalded and suffocated. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

816 28 May 1773. Hay Farm in Bradford on Avon. John Hathaway: found dead in Hay Lane; natural death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

817 30 May 1773. Hankerton. Jane Gleade, aged under 2: found
drowned in a rivulet called May’s Ditch; accidental death. 24 miles. £1 18s.

818  8 June 1773. Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. Richard Smith, aged under 2; fell from the arms of his sister, also an infant under 10, through the hole of the seat of a bog- or necessary-house into the soil and filth and was suffocated; accidental death. £1.

819  10 June 1773. Poulshot. Ann Colstone: fell from a horse and dislocated the vertebrae of her neck. 4 miles. £1 3s.

820  16 June 1773. Box. John Webb: feloniously killed by Thomas Smith. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

[Thomas was taken by the tithingman of Box to the Devizes bridewell (see 847), and at Salisbury assizes, 31 July 1773, being charged with John’s murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be burnt on the hand and discharged: ASSI 23/7.]

821  20 June 1773. Woottton Bassett. Thomas Jefferies: killed by the kick of a horse belonging to Farmer John Pulling. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

822  29 June 1773. Market Lavington. John Smith: fell into a lime-kiln and was smothered and burnt to death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.


824  6 July 1773. Seend. Jane Hindon: epileptic fit, no one being present to assist her. 4 miles. £1 3s.

825  13 July 1773. North Wraxall. William Spering: killed by a shaft or limber of a waggon. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

826  16 July 1773. Stratton St Margaret. Richard Gillman: found dead in a garden; no marks of violence; natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

827  17 July 1773. Chedglow in Crudwell. Nicholas Johnson: returning from Tetbury races in the night, suddenly died in Shord Yate Field. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

828  18 July 1773. Preshute. Michael Rivers: fell off the shafts of a waggon loaded with coal on the Manton to Marlborough road; the wheels, passing over him, crushed him to death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

829  19 July 1773. Latton. Robert Cuss: fell into a brook and was drowned. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

830  28 July 1773. Kington St Michael. A lad, name unknown: trying to get some dry wood, fell from a withy tree into the river and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 19s.

831  31 July 1773. South Marston. A man unknown: found dead in a sheep-house; no marks of violence; want of proper necessaries. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

832  5 Aug. 1773. Upton Lovell. John Smith: fell from a waggon loaded with wool belonging to Mr William Everet and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

[See 835.]

833  7 Aug. 1773. Monkton Farleigh. John Wicks: fell backwards off the
raves of a waggon and was crushed to death by the hind-wheel. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

834 10 Aug. 1773. North Bradley. William Keates: found dead in his garden. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

835 11 Aug. 1773. Upton Lovell. William Hinton: also fell from Mr Everett's waggon loaded with wool and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d. [See 832.]

836 13 Aug. 1773. Eisey. Ann Bennett, who, just before her death, accused Robert Goulding of Down Ampney, Glos., of ill-treating and assaulting her, with the intention of ravishing her, and also of causing her death: on dissection and inspection of her body, the lungs appeared in a preternatural state, full of putrid tubercles which could not result from any external injury; she died of abscesses and tubercles of the lungs. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

837 16 Aug. 1773. Hilperton. Joseph Tirrel: took a large quantity of white sublimate and killed himself; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.

838 3 Sept. 1773. Sutton Veny. Lawrence Martin, subject to fits: found dead in Haycombe Field; fit. 16 miles. £1 12s.

839 5 Sept. 1773. Chiseldon. John Painting: by undermining in a quarry had a quantity of chalk-stone fall in on him and was killed. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

840 9 Sept. 1773. Rowde. Jacob Jefferies: killed by James Curnick; manslaughter. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1774, James, who was charged with Jacob's murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be burnt on the hand and discharged: ASSI 23/8.]


842 17 Sept. 1773. Charlcote in Bremhill. Mary Harding, infant: found drowned in a well; accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

843 28 Sept. 1773. Bishop's Cannings. Robert Rogers: inadvertently drank 4 half-pints of strong spirituous liquor called gin, of which he died. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

844 30 Sept. 1773. Winterbourne Bassett. A male infant bastard, greatly suspected to be murdered by the mother, Elizabeth Rummins: some circumstances appearing in her favour, the jurors acquitted her and found accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

845 1 Oct. 1773. Chiseldon. A man unknown, who had been strolling from place to place almost naked: found dead in an outhouse belonging to Mr Thomas Herring. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.


847 Paid to the tithingman of Box for conducting Thomas Smith to Devizes bridewell for killing John Webb. 14 miles. 14s. [See 820.]
Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 6 Oct. 1773; distances from Devizes; total £40 5s. 9d.; allowed by John Jacob and Charles Garth. [AS/2/1/37]

848 18 Oct. 1773; the jurors not agreeing, adjourned to 26 Oct. Bradford on Avon. Adam Thrush: killed by his son-in-law, Isaac Harvey, who threw a stone and fractured his skull; manslaughter. With the adjournment, 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
[See 851.]

[At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1774, Sarah Mullins was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

850 18 Nov. 1773. Devizes prison. Thomas Hughes, prisoner, who had been ailing and infirm for some time: natural death. £1.

851 18 Nov. 1773. Devizes prison. The said Isaac Harvey, committed on 16 Oct. for assault by Thomas Johnson, esq., and further charged on the coroner’s inquest for manslaughter: fever. £1.
[See 848.]

852 10 Dec. 1773. Longbridge Deverill. Thomas Holton: suddenly died by drinking too freely of strong beer and afterwards spirituous liquor. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.


855 1 Jan. 1774. Corsley. Ambrose Hunt: shot by George Knight of Norton Bavant in defence of his life and property. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

856 1 Jan. 1774. Warminster Common. A man unknown: crushed to death in the Frome road by the near-wheels of a waggon loaded with malt and beer. 16 miles. £1 12s.

857 1 Jan. 1774. Maiden Bradley. John Lamphier: suddenly died; as imagined, apoplexy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

858 4 Jan. 1774. Melksham. Mary Woodman: found dead in an outhouse called the Handle House belonging to Mr John Rutty. 8 miles. £1 6s.

859 9 Jan. 1774. Crofton. William King: found dead in Langfield Copse; severe weather. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

860 2 Feb. 1774. Devizes Green. Katharine Wall, who had been travelling from place to place: the evil [sc. scrofula] and other distempers. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

861 25 Jan. 1774. Tilshead. William Laws: found dead on Knook sheep-down. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

862 8 Feb. 1774. Clatford Bottom. Thomas Langfield: cut his throat with a razor; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

863 9 Feb. 1774. Urchfont. John Crook: found dead in Eastcott Field; inclement weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
864 9 Feb. 1774. Devizes. Thomas Crook: fell from his horse at Erlestoke and was killed. £1.
865 15 Feb. 1774. Wanborough. Mary Stout: found drowned in Wanborough Common. 24 miles. £1 18s.
868 12 Mar. 1774. Ogbourne St Andrew. Mary Moore: found dead in the snow; inclement weather. 16 miles. £1 12s.
870 14 Mar. 1774. Overtown. John Withers: found dead in the snow; inclement weather. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
871 A journey to Highworth, being summoned to Castle Eaton on occasion of a lad, who had been lost over a month, being taken out of the water; but finding the body was underground and sadly putrified, also that he accidentally fell therein, declined taking up the body for a view. 26 miles at 1s. a mile. £1 6s.
872 18 Mar. 1774. Bishopstone. James Hinge: found dead in a field. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
873 21 Mar. 1774. Bradford on Avon. Mary Hornham: fell into the water at Trowle Bridge and was carried into the Biss. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
874 29 Mar. 1774. Studley in Trowbridge. Edward Hendy: not being at the age of discretion, threw himself into a pond and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
875 31 Mar. 1774. Bearfield in Bradford on Avon. Mary Webb: found in the morning dead in her house; as imagined, apoplexy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
876 7 Apr. 1774. Devizes. Ezekiel Robins: returning from bull-baiting in Potterne, drank a large quantity of rum and was thereby killed. £1.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 14 Apr. 1774; distances from Devizes; total £53 6s. 9d.; allowed by C. Penruddocke and A. Awdry, 5 Oct. 1774. [A5/2/1/38]
877 15 Apr. 1774. Corsley. John Nuth: fell into a furnace of boiling wort and was burnt, scalded, and suffocated to death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
878 16 Apr. 1774. Devizes prison. Samuel Green, committed on 18 Feb. by Thomas Johnson and Samuel Cam, esqs: was ailing and infirm for some time; natural death. £1.
879 1 May 1774. Chiseldon. William Terrem: received a violent kick from a gelding belonging to Farmer Seymour of Burderop and was instantly killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.
880 4 May 1774. Purton (Pinton). John Morgan: found dead in his house; want of proper care in diarrhoea. 24 miles. £1 18s.
17 May 1774. Wootton Bassett. Richard Fry: found dead in Snow Croft; murder by a person or persons unknown. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

19 May 1774. Chippenham. John Gibbs: killed in the tower by the seventh bell falling with great force on his body. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

23 May 1774. Baydon. Sarah Tuck: threw herself into a well at Bailey Hill Farm and killed herself; lunacy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

29 May 1774. Wootton Bassett. Henry Blake: squeezed between a waggon and a tree in Flewins Lane in Wroughton and thereby killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2 June 1774. Eastcourt in Crudwell. Grace Clapham: hanged herself in her house; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

2 June 1774. Poulton. Thomas Wheeler: killed by a cart going over his head and face. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

3 June 1774. Bradford on Avon. Henry Hawkins: thrown from his horse in the Avon and drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

3 June 1774. Bradford on Avon. Samuel White, aged under 6: killed by a violent fracture of his skull caused by the wheel-bar of a chaise running against him. This inquisition being taken at the same time and place as the former, no charge for the miles. £1.

4 June 1774. Kellaways. John Pinker, aged under 6: fell into a pond and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

6 June 1774. St Sampson’s parish, Cricklade. Mark Pike, subject to fits: found dead in a stream called the Slank; fit. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

9 June 1774. Lacock. Joseph Church, aged about 13, suspected to have been injured by his father: dropsy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


15 July 1774. Melksham. Ann Neate: found dead in a workshop belonging to Mr John Newman; to the best of the jurors’ knowledge, apoplexy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

15 July 1774. Melksham. Matthew Strong: was mowing in New Leaze with another person, from whose scythe he received a wound in his left leg of which he languished and died; accidental death. This inquisition being taken at the same time and place as the former, no charge for the miles. £1.

16 July 1774. Christian Malford. A new-born female infant: found in the Avon; murder by a person or persons unknown. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d. [This was possibly the death for which Jane Whale was remanded to the next assizes at Salisbury assizes, 23 July 1774, because Elizabeth Razey, a prosecution witness, was ill and unable to attend. On 18 Mar. 1775 Jane was acquitted of murdering her female bastard child on the indictment: ASSI 23/8.]

22 July 1774. Horningham. James Carpenter: suddenly died in a ground adjoining Cock Road. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.


24 July 1774. Hempstead in Berwick Bassett. Martha Waite:
suddenly died in a ground. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

899 2 Aug. 1774. Westbury. William Isly, who on his death-bed declared that he had been injured by James Gunning, Benjamin Young, and Samuel Norvil on the Warminster to Westbury road: upon dissection, his body showed preternatural inflammations, obstructions, etc., which are accounted for satisfactorily in the course of examining the evidence: that in returning from work at Heytesbury he had drunk very freely, then for a considerable time lain down on the cold ground where, being met with by the above 3 men, was led by them back to Warminster; there, in the sight of several in the street, he ran with great force against a post and received a violent contusion in the abdomen or lower belly; he died of the appearances mentioned above, occasioned as aforesaid. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

900 4 Aug. 1774. The Castle Inn, Marlborough. Charles Looker, aged under 3: as appears by the evidence, not being seen by the drivers, was killed by the stock of the hind-wheel of a post-coach belonging to Mr James White; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

901 8 Aug. 1774. Woodborough. Anthony Underwood, late of Potterne: thrown from his horse and instantly killed. 8 miles. £1 6s.

902 10 Aug. 1774. Potterne. Edward Chiffence, infant: left alone in a room by its mother, was found dead by her. 2 miles. £1 ls. 6d.

903 11 Aug. 1774. Little Cheverell. Peter Phillips: pecked into a kiver of scalding wort and was killed. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.


905 22 Aug. 1774. Great Bedwyn. Richard Bartholemew, an old man: returning from Tottenham, was found dead in an inclosure called Town Field. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

906 23 Aug. 1774. Worton. Martha Helps: hanged herself; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.


908 27 Aug. 1774. Stanley in Chippenham. Charles Wiltshire: fell under a waggon-load of wheat-sheaves into Stanley Brook and was suffocated. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

909 28 Aug. 1774. Burbage. Thomas Gale: fell from the top of a house at Tidcombe and was instantly killed. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

910 2 Sept. 1774. Clack. The remains of an infant, found in an old walled partition: no evidence could be found to prove how it came there. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

911 22 Sept. 1774. Lacock. Joseph Jones, aged under 3: fell into a brook and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 4 Oct. 1774; distances from Devizes; total £61 13s. [written over an erasure, almost certainly of £61 14s. 6d., the result of the adjustment made to the mileage of 916; the total carried forward from column 1 to column 2 was also reduced, almost
912 5 Oct. 1774. Christian Malford. Paul Thomas: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.
913 6 Oct. 1774. Slade's Farm in Box. Mary Pitcher: cut her throat with a knife of no value; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d. [as amended].
914 6 Oct. 1774. Longbridge Deverill. Jeremiah Payne, aged under 6: fell into the mill-pond and was drowned. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d. [as amended].
915 8 Oct. 1774. Combe Bottom near Freshford, Somerset. Richard Whatley: was with his schoolmaster's son in Combe Bottom Tinings, having a loaded gun, the muzzle of which pointed at Richard's breast; he was pushing or striking the butt against a hedge for a bird, and the contents of the gun were discharged through his body and instantly killed him; accidental death. 16 miles. £1 12s.
916 9 Oct. 1774. St Nicholas's parish, Biddestone. John Edward, jun.: riding on the head of a cart, was kicked in the abdomen or lower belly by the horse drawing it and killed. 12 [altered from 14] miles. £1 9s. [altered from £1 10s. 6d.]
917 14 Oct. 1774. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. Frances Pleydell: found dead in a house where she lodged and boarded; she died a natural death and not from any violence as reported. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
918 19 Oct. 1774. Marden. William Hayward, gent.: suddenly died in a yard or barton; as imagined, apoplexy. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
921 1 Nov. 1774. Rowde. Martha Buckley: fell from her horse near Tity Marsh and was found dead. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
922 1 Nov. 1774. Swindon. Thomas Looker, late of Marlborough: was riding a horse very furiously in the night along the Swindon to Marlborough road and in Goddards Lane, going over some fresh-laid stones, his horse fell with great violence, fractured his skull, and killed him, as supposed, on the spot. 20 miles. £1 15s.
923 2 Nov. 1774. Broad Hinton. Mary Greenman: in a fit of delirium fell into the hot ashes of a fire and, no one being present, died in about 10 hours; accidental death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
925 14 Nov. 1774. Standen in Charnham Street tithing in Hungerford. A person unknown: found dead in a ground called Long Keabury; no marks of violence; fit. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
926 23 Nov. 1774. Calne. A new-born female child: murder by its mother, Mary Sewell. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
[Mary was taken by the tithingman of Calne to Devizes bridewell (see 951), and at Salisbury assizes, 18 Mar. 1775, was acquitted of the murder on the
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927 3 Dec. 1774. Upavon. James Shadwell: found dead in Ham Field; inclement weather. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
928 5 Dec. 1774. Chedglow in Crudwell. John Poole: had undermined a large stone in a quarry which fell on him with great violence and instantly crushed him to death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
929 19 Dec. 1774. Chittoe, near Spyre Park. Lawrence Alexander: hanged himself to a hazel stool [sc. stump] on a bank. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

[Stephen and Tamar were taken by the tithingman of Sutton Veny to Fisherton Anger gaol (see 952), and at Salisbury assizes, 18 Mar. 1775, were convicted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest and sentenced to be hanged on 24 Mar., their bodies to be dissected and anatomized: ASSI 23/8.]

931 28 Dec. 1774. All Saints' parish, Chitterne. John White, an old man: found dead in his house; no marks of violence; natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.
932 31 Dec. 1774. Southbroom, i.e. Devizes Green. John Cook: hanged himself in a stable; lunacy. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
933 2 Jan. 1775. Ramsbury. A new-born female child: murder by its mother, Elizabeth Aldridge, who was executed. 20 miles. £1 15s.

[Elizabeth was taken by the tithingman of Ramsbury to Marlborough bridewell (see 953), and at Salisbury assizes, 18 Mar. 1775, was convicted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest and sentenced to be hanged on 24 Mar., her body to be dissected and anatomized: ASSI 23/8.]

934 7 Jan. 1775. Baydon. Thomas Ettrel: received a blow from a horse which fractured his skull and killed him. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
935 12 Jan. 1775. Crockerton in Longbridge Deverill. James Jennings, aged under 14: found dead seated on the hole of a necessary-house with his garters tied together, placed under his chin, and fixed to a rafter, it appearing on the inquiry that this was done in an innocent unthinking manner with no one present to assist him and he himself also rendered incapable by the posture in which he was seated; accidental death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
936 24 Jan. 1775. Heytesbury. Thomas Penny, an old man: found dead in a room in the almshouse; natural death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
938 6 Feb. 1775. Marten in Great Bedwyn. Mary Cook: thrown to the ground by the overturning of a one-horse chaise and instantly killed. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
939 19 Feb. 1775. Limpley Stoke. Robert Allen otherwise Chap, a vagrant, rambling from place to place, infested with vermin: died in an outhouse. 16 miles. £1 12s.
940 22 Feb. 1775. St Margaret's in Preshute. George Cameron, private soldier in H.M.'s 70th regiment of foot: hanged himself in a stable; lunacy. 15
miles. £1 11s. 3d. [as amended].
941 1 Mar. 1775. Marden. Richard Bowden, excise officer: was going on his duty and found dead in Patney Heath. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
942 1 Mar. 1775. Wootton Rivers. Ann Gale, aged under 3: fell into a bucket of scalding wort and was killed. 16 miles. £1 12s.
943 4 Mar. 1775. Trowbridge. John Naish: had been sitting and drinking for several days in and about Trowbridge, and at length was found suffocated in a warehouse belonging to Mr Edwards, having slipped off a pack of wool he had lain on, with his head downwards between the pack and a board partition. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
944 18 Mar. 1775. All Cannings. John Yates, whose body was emaciated: died of the ailment and infirmity he had had for some time and not of any violence from Farmer Thomas Alexander as reported. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
945 19 Mar. 1775. Great Cheverell. Mary Godwin: found dead in an old house occupied by herself only. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
946 27 Mar. 1775. Great Hinton in Steeple Ashton. William Marks: found in a ditch of water with very little appearance of life and died before he could be conveyed to any house. 8 miles. £1 6s.
947 7 Apr. 1775. Calne. James Hobbs: suddenly died in Church Street. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
948 8 Apr. 1775. Clyffe Pypard. Edward Trotman: instantly killed by the overturning of a waggon. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
949 11 Apr. 1775. Marlborough prison. Robert Broad, committed by F. Askew, esq., charged with having a hare in his custody, not being qualified: smallpox. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
950 15 Apr. 1775. Heytesbury. Joseph Dowdle, aged under 7: wandering out in the Seven Acres Field, suddenly died: upon dissection a quantity of the root of hemlock, a deadly poison, was found in the stomach; he found it in the field, swallowed it, and almost instantly died. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
951 Paid to the tithingman of Calne for conveying Mary Sewel, charged with the murder of her child, from Calne to Devizes bridewell. 9 miles round the turnpike road. 9s.
[See 926.]
952 Paid to the tithingman of Sutton Veny for conveying Stephen and Tamar Swain to Fisherton Anger gaol. 21 miles. £2 2s.
[See 930.]
953 Paid to the tithingman of Ramsbury for conveying Elizabeth Alldridge to Marlborough bridewell. 6 miles. 6s.
[See 933.]

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 25 Apr. 1775; distances from Devizes; total £29 3s. 9d.; allowed by Thomas Hedges and Paul Newman. [A5/2/1/40]
954 27 Apr. 1775. Chippenham. James Godsell: found drowned in a pond in Haycocks Garden; accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
955  28 Apr. 1775.  Clack.  Thomas Bendry, late of Christian Malford: received a violent fall from his horse and was killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
956  20 May 1775.  Harding Farm in Great Bedwyn.  William Payne: killed by a ploughshare, the horses taking fright in Den Field. 24 miles. £1 18s.
957  28 May 1775.  Etchilhampton.  Charles King: killed by a wagggon loaded with flints passing over his body and limbs and crushing him in a shocking manner. 4 miles. £1 3s.
958  6 June 1775.  Dauntsey.  Elizabeth Millsome, aged under 4: found dead in a pit of water; accidental death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
959  7 June 1775.  Market Lavington.  A female bastard child, aged 3 months, born of Sarah Fustain, by whom it was accidentally overlain, suffocated, and killed. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
961  20 June 1775.  Bishop’s Cannings.  John Minty: fell from a wagggon loaded with hay, pitched on a fold-stake which was near it and entered his body near the anus, and was killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.
962  22 June 1775.  Bradford on Avon.  Thomas Self: found dead in a ground called Hills; sudden natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
963  27 June 1775.  Great Bedwyn.  Alexander Meaden: had been violently exerting himself playing fives and, as imagined, thereby ruptured a blood vessel, as he soon after suddenly died. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
964  7 July 1775.  Rowde.  Thomas Ferris, sen.: hanged himself; lunacy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
965  12 July 1775.  Potterne.  Alexander Applegarth: swallowed over 3 pints of distilled spirits called brandy and rum and instantly killed himself; lunacy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
966  16 July 1775.  Rowde Farm in Rowde.  John Ferris: hanged himself; lunacy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
967  18 July 1775.  Potterne.  John Fielding: found dead in his house, having been ailing and infirm. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
969  3 Aug. 1775.  Bishopstone.  William Symmonds: being drawn up from the bottom of a deep well very much affected by its damp and sulphurous steams, fell back to the bottom and was instantly killed. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
970  16 Aug. 1775.  Erlestoke.  Thomas Cross, reported to have been killed by mercury given him by Thomas White, an unskilful quack: it appeared he had taken a preparation of the same in too large a quantity, but a considerable time before, and he led a dissolute life; putrid fever. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
971  25 Aug. 1775.  Little Bedwyn.  William Temple: received a violent blow from a horse on his abdomen or lower belly and was killed. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
973  8 Sept. 1775.  Chaddington in Lydiard Tregoze.  Elizabeth Wilson:
found dead in a room in her house; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 4 Oct. 1775; distances from Devizes; total £28 17s. 6d.; allowed by Thomas Hedges and James Montagu. [A5/2/1/41]

974 6 Oct. 1775. Ramsbury. John Cowley: being asleep, fell off a timber-carriage loaded with deal planks belonging to Sir William Jones, fractured his skull, and was killed. 20 miles. £1 15s

975 29 Oct. 1775. Trowbridge. William Waldron: threw himself into the river and was drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

976 6 Nov. 1775. Chilton Foliat. William Wilkins: found dead in a stream; sudden natural death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

977 14 Nov. 1775. Poulshot. John Godwin: killed by a gun charged with gunpowder and paper, accidentally discharged against the muscular part of his leg. 4 miles. £1 3s.

978 1 Dec. 1775. Marlborough bridewell. John Strange, committed by Thomas Vilett, esq., as an idle disorderly person, running away and leaving his wife and family chargeable to the parish of Winterbourne Monkton: smallpox. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

979 17 Jan. 1776. Chilton Foliat. William Hamblin: trying to throw down a wall belonging to General Smith at Chilton Lodge, the same, being undermined, fell in on him and killed him on the spot. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

980 18 Jan. 1776. Froxfield. William Darlin, an old man: found dead in an outhouse; severe weather. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

981 20 Jan. 1776. Stratton St Margaret. David Morris: found dead in the deep snow in Studdy Field. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

982 29 Jan. 1776. Warminster. John Lueton: found dead in Cold Harbour; frost and severe weather. 16 miles. £1 12s.

[At Salisbury assizes, 9 Mar. 1776, Charles and Jane were acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

984 12 Feb. 1776. Purton. The remains of a female infant: murdered and buried by her mother, by her own confession. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
[The mother was probably either Katharine Osbeldestone or Grace Hedges. At Salisbury assizes, 9 Mar. 1776, both were acquitted of murdering female bastard children. Katharine on the inquest and Grace on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

985 16 Feb. 1776. Steeple Ashton. George Turner, subject to fits: fit. 8 miles. £1 6s.

986 27 Feb. 1776. Haxton. George Pearce: trying to stop a waggon running very furiously down White Sheet Hill at Netheravon by laying hold of one of the horses, received a blow from the shaft and was instantly killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
26 Mar. 1776. Lydiard Millicent. Francis Millington: found dead in a ground called the Marsh; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 20 miles. £1 15s.

3 Apr. 1776. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Wiltshire: accidentally killed by wrestling with Thomas Dicks and falling with him to the ground. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.


10 Apr. 1776. Avebury. Stephen Steevens, aged under 8: lost his way and rambled about on the Down and the next day was found dead there. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.


Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 16 Apr. 1776; distances from Devizes; total £39 14s. 9d.; allowed by J. Awdry and E. Poore. [A5/2/1/42]

28 Apr. 1776. Rowde. Joseph Phipp: in the night climbed a high elm tree to take young rooks, fell to the ground, and was killed on the spot. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

4 May 1776. Easterton. William Matthews, aged under 4: found drowned in a well; accidental death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

6 May 1776. Longbridge Deverill. Thomas Coward: was in the bottom of a pit digging for coal and had just sent up a thing full of earth called by the miners a cart when the rope broke and let fall the cart and earth with great violence and killed him on the spot. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

26 May 1776. Froxfield. John Dickson: getting from a waggon, fell before the wheels and was crushed to death. 24 miles. £1 18s.

5 June 1776. Chilton Foliat. Mary Wills, aged under 7: found drowned in the Kennet; accidental death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

6 June 1776. Easton. Thomas Cully: found dead under a haystack which fell on him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

10 June 1776. Bradford on Avon. Robert Smith: playing with other children, fell into the Avon and was found drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

17 June 1776. Warminster. Daniel West: fell from the raves of a waggon before the hind-wheel which passed over his head and killed him on the spot. 16 miles. £1 12s.

18 June 1776. Devizes prison. Geoffrey Everett, committed by the commissioners of bankruptcy for not giving a sufficient account of his effects: fever. £1.

26 June 1776. Long Newnton near Tetbury. Mary Screen: fell over a heap of stones in her garden and was there found dead. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1 July 1776. Warminster. John Humby: attempting to get from a waggon in Boyton Field, fell to the ground and the wheels went over him and fractured, contused, and lacerated his leg; being carried to Warminster, he
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languished and died of the same. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1003 8 July 1776. Henley in Box. Lionel Lee: riding furiously along Gays Lane, his horse fell with him with great violence, fractured his skull, and killed him. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1004 9 July 1776. Warminster. Richard Garret: suddenly died in Warminster Field; natural death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1005 19 July 1776. Wilsford. John Shephard: was lately conveyed in a pass-cart from Essex to Beechingstoke, whence he rambled from place to place and at length died in Catford Mead in Wilsford. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1006 8 Aug. 1776. Littlecote. Jonathan Curse, servant to Francis Popham esq.: he was breaking a horse for Francis when it threw him from his seat, contused his scrotum and private parts, and thereby killed him. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1007 22 Aug. 1776. Pewsey. Mary Cross, an old woman: fell backwards downstairs and instantly died. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1008 31 Aug. 1776. Durley in Burbage. James Chivers, subject to fits: fit. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1009 4 Sept. 1776. Nash Hill in Lacock. Robert Taylor: had been driving a waggon along the Chippenham to Lacock road and, trying to get up into it, fell from the limbers and was killed by the wheels passing over his body. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1010 13 Sept. 1776. Urchfont. Jane Maslin: found dead in a necessary-house; sudden natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1011 14 Sept. 1776. Chiseldon. Francis Gregory: fell from a waggon loaded with stone and was crushed and killed by the wheels. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.


1013 19 Sept. 1776. Worton. John Stone: was cutting wood from a hedge in Marston Common with a hatchet and unfortunately struck himself with it on the front of the head and was killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1014 22 Sept. 1776. Bill Hill in Hurst, the seat of the Lady Dowager Gower. Lewis De Lander, her ladyship's cook: cut and mangled himself with a knife, a razor, and a cuttoe in divers parts of his body, viz across the vessels and tendons of his left arm, in and upon his side and breast, and across his throat, and so killed himself; lunacy. 59 miles. £3 4s. 3d.

1015 28 Sept. 1776. Little Hinton. William Woodwards: getting off a waggon, fell from the shafts and was killed by the wheels. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1016 6 Oct. 1776. Semington. Thomas Dogget, aged under 11: fell from a high elm tree and was killed. 8 miles. £1 6s.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions; distances from Devizes; total £28 13s.; allowed by William Seymour and Thomas Hedges. [A5/2/1/43]

1017 18 Oct. 1776. Fittleton. Elizabeth Loyd: found dead in a brew-
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house; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1018 20 Oct. 1776. Crofton in Great Bedwyn. Thomas Pizzey, fisherman to the earl of Ailesbury: letting down the fishpond hatch, fell over it into the hatch-hole and was killed. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
1019 3 Nov. 1776. Little Hinton. Miriam Adams: found dead in Cold Norton Field; no marks of violence. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
1020 24 Nov. 1776. Broad Blunsdon. Mary Woolford: found dead in a rick-barton where she had got from the inclement weather. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
1021 2 Dec. 1776. West Lavington. Robert, base-born child of Sarah Thusting: died in the night in bed and not by any violence from his mother as reported. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1022 22 Dec. 1776. Fosbury in Tidcombe. Alexander Swaite: fell from his horse on the Down near Shalbourne Field and was there found dead. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
1023 25 Dec. 1776. Iford in Westwood parish. Thomas Clay: in the night died in the road coming down Iford Hill, no one being present to assist him; inclement weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1024 10 Jan. 1777. Southwick. A female bastard child: murder by Betty Beaven, the mother. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1777, Betty was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
1026 10 Feb. 1777. Urchfont. Thomas Wishell: found dead in an old unfrequented house; no marks of violence. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1027 12 Feb. 1777. Heytesbury. John Poole: found dead in Garston Field; wet and severe weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1028 14 Feb. 1777. A house in the Seend road near Piccadilly in Rowde. Samuel Atwood: violently thrown from his horse and killed on the spot. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
1029 2 Mar. 1777. Wanborough. Thomas Fox, aged under 4: pecked into a pool and was instantly drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
1030 4 Mar. 1777. Studley. Henry Chapman: found dead on the road near White Row; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
1031 4 Mar. 1777. Trowbridge. Samuel Mayall, reported to have been unlawfully pushed down and injured by another person some time before; natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1032 21 Mar. 1777. Standen. John Stockbridge: smothered and instantly killed by a chalk-pit falling in on him. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
1033 29 Mar. 1777. Marlborough. John Skinner: fell off a water-cart into the Kennet and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1034 3 Apr. 1777. Broughton Gifford. Betty Box, reported to have died for want of necessaries and attendance in the smallpox and from neglect of the parish officers: it appeared she wanted for neither; the vehemence of the said
Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 1777; distances from Devizes; total £58 7s. 9d.; allowed by A. Awdry and Edmund Wilkins. [A 5/2/1/44]

1036  15 Apr. 1777.  Littleton Pannell in West Lavington.  Nathaniel Godwin: in the night, being in liquor, fell backwards downstairs and was instantly killed.  5 miles.  £1 3s. 9d.
1037  19 Apr. 1777.  Ramsbury.  John Chaffin: suddenly died at Shacks Stile in a field.  20 miles.  £1 15s.
1038  ? 19 Apr. 1777 [date omitted].  St Mary’s parish, Cricklade.  James Jackson: fell from a waggon and struck the back of his head across a wheelbarrow and was killed.  30 miles.  £2 2s. 6d.
1039  20 Apr. 1777.  Sopworth.  Mary Jenkins: hanged herself by the neck with a leather strap to an iron nail in a beam; lunacy.  24 miles.  £1 18s.
1040  28 Apr. 1777.  Ogbourne St George.  Thomas Peck: had been ringing in the parish church and suddenly died.  17 miles.  £1 12s. 9d.
1041  6 May 1777.  Malmesbury.  Mary Church: found dead in a room of her house at Burton (Binton) Hill; no marks of violence.  20 miles.  £1 15s.
1042  9 May 1777.  Beckhampton in Avebury.  John King: trying to stop the horses running away with a waggon, the property of Broom and Rogers at Tytherton, which he was driving along the Calne to Marlborough road, fell and was run over the body by the wheels and killed.  8 miles.  £1 6s.
1043  9 May 1777.  Wingfield.  John Murfit [altered from Minfit]: was driving a waggon loaded with coal, belonging to Mr James Elderton at Trowbridge, when in liquor and careless, and the wheels passed over his head and killed him on the spot.  14 miles.  £1 10s. 6d.
1044  19 May 1777.  Trowbridge.  Mary Burbage: found dead on the road; sudden natural death.  10 miles.  £1 7s. 6d.
1045  20 May 1777.  Chalcot near Chapmanslade in Westbury.  Richard Player: in throwing down an old stone wall with others, made use of a very dangerous method by undermining and digging away the earth from the outside, by which reason the wall suddenly gave way, fell on him, and crushed him to death.  18 miles.  £1 13s. 6d.
1046  20 May 1777 [date omitted].  Chalcot.  Richard Hern: also killed by the said wall in manner aforesaid.  18 miles.  £1 13s. 6d.
1047  26 May 1777.  Devizes Green in Bishop’s Cannings.  Samuel Surcombe, an old man: it being almost dark, he was forced and squeezed with great violence by a waggon against a house in a narrow road and killed; it appeared the driver was not in the least culpable, but carefully trying to avoid a throng of people and carriages.  1 mile.  £1 0s. 9d.
1048  11 June 1777.  Studley in Bremhill [recte Calne].  Grace Rose, reported to have been used ill by some young men there: it appeared she had
of her own choice imprudently drunk too freely of strong liquors, inflamed her blood, brought on a fever, and then carelessly lain on the cold ground, the consequence whereof was a gangrene of the internal parts of which she languished and died. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1049 18 June 1777. Urchfont. John Kite: was digging rubble in a quarry on Urchfont Hill, part of which fell in and killed him on the spot. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1050 27 June 1777. Wroughton. Obadiah Harris: killed by a waggon and horses coming down Hackpen Hill, the waggon being loaded with flints. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1051 4 July 1777. Bourton. William Wiltshire: driving a plough with 3 horses in the field, was violently kicked by the fore-horse in the abdomen or lower belly and killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1052 6 July 1777. Little Hinton. Thomas Looker: found dead in the road; he had been driving oxen riding on a bad horse and the saddle turned round and threw him to the ground, by which he received some mortal injury not certainly to be come at. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1053 8 July 1777. This afternoon set out for Great Bedwyn; was overtaken by a messenger with an account from Longbridge Deverill, in the opposite part of the county, of a person being knocked off his horse and murdered near that place. Proceeded as far as Burbage, was there credibly and satisfactorily informed that the man found dead at Great Bedwyn was old and there was no reason to suspect he died otherwise than a sudden natural death. So from there, for the sake of expedition, sent my warrant for burying the body without a view and returned. Journey and expenses to Burbage, 18 miles, £1 11s. 6d.

1054 9 July 1777. Warminster Common. William Elloway: returning from Hindon market on horseback, sitting sideways on a pack-saddle, near Crockerton in Longbridge Deverill fell from it backwards, by which he was terribly bruised and killed, and not from the violent hands of any person to the jurors' knowledge or notice. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1055 13 July 1777. Charlton near Malmesbury. Alice Singleton: found dead in a field where she had been at work; no marks of violence. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1056 16 July 1777. Savernake Park. Mary Gale: was riding in a waggon and, the driver being careless, the wheel gathered up on a bank, turned over, and killed her on the spot. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1057 16 July 1777. Winterbourne Bassett. William Bennett: fell from a waggon loaded with hay and was killed. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1058 16 July 1777. Box. Thomas Boyer, aged under 10: bathing in a pond, got out of his depth and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1059 26 July 1777. Lacock. A male bastard child, lately born of Ann Gray; murder by Ann and by Moses Pollard, weaver at Bowden Hill. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 7 Mar. 1778, Ann and Moses were acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
29 July 1777. Lyneham. A male bastard child, lately born of Ann Fry: it appeared to have come considerably before its time; no felonious intention of the mother. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

16 Aug. 1777. Hilperton Marsh. Ann Bryant, aged under 2; pecked into a crutch of lye placed even with the ground and was found suffocated. 12 miles. £1 9s.

19 Aug. 1777. West Coulston in Edington. William Wheeler, a poor old man: found dead, locked in his usual house; no marks of violence. 8 miles. £1 6s.

2 Sept. 1777. Long Lane in Warminster. William Pearce, aged about 13; it appeared, the day before, in his leisure time, he had tied some cord across the roof of a pigsty and, innocently and unthinkingly dancing on it, his legs accidentally slipped through and a piece of cord suspended him by the chin, stopped respiration, and caused his death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

4 Sept. 1777. Latton. Simon Sundrey: found dead under a hedge in Long Lands Field; no marks of violence. 32 miles. £2 4s.


12 Sept. 1777. Froxfield. William Kentfield, aged under 6; playing in the road, fell to the ground near the wheels of a passing waggon and was crushed to death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

14 Sept. 1777. Chilton Foliat. Thomas Carter: accidentally ran a scythe into his body and through the right ventricle of his heart and was instantly killed. 24 miles. £1 18s.

25 Sept. 1777. Ogbourne St Andrew. William Brown: fell from a load of oats and was killed. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2 Oct. 1777. Hankerton. William Hughes: fell from the raves of a waggon, the wheels whereof passed over and fractured his leg, at the same time rupturing a large blood vessel and killing him. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

8 Oct. 1777. Manningford Abbots. John Offer, a sad object, begging and loitering about, infested with vermin: at length found dead in the churchyard. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions; distances from Devizes; total £49 4s. 3d.; allowed by C. Penruddocke and Edward Goddard. [AS/2/1/45]

28 Apr. 1778. Devizes Green. Jacob Padget: riding on the shafts of a waggon loaded with cheese and being in liquor, fell to the ground, the wheels passed over his body, and he was killed. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.

5 May 1778. Cherhill. A man unknown: found dead in an oxhouse; the day preceding was travelling distressed and seen begging; natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
1074  14 May 1778. Elcombe. William Mapson, thought to have died from blows he received in fighting with George Ody, baker of Wroughton: fever, probably the effect of the constitution of the air or his drinking too freely of strong liquor; the blows were not of a nature or in the parts to cause it. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1075  26 May 1778. Clatford in Preshute. John Waters: trying to stop some horses running away with a waggon loaded with hurdles, fell down and was run over by them and the wheels and killed. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1076  31 May 1778. Great Hinton in Steeple Ashton. Henry Shapman: digging stone in a quarry and undermining, was killed on the spot by a large portion falling in. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1077  5 June 1778. Erlestoke. Mary Mattock, aged about 9: as appeared on dissection, died from the effects of a deadly poison called white arsenic after being sick and ill only 3 hours; not gaining the least information from whose hands or by what means it was administered and taken, adjournment to 22 June. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1078  5 June 1778. Erlestoke. Ann Mattock, her sister, aged about 6: after about 5 hours' illness, died in the same manner and from the same cause. Miles not charged. £1.

1079  5 June 1778. Erlestoke. Mary Godwin, a neighbour's child, aged about 3: after an hour's illness died in the same manner as the last 2. It appeared 5 had made and took part of a gooseberry pudding, but where they had the flour to make it was unknown. Their parents were absent at their daily labour and firmly persisted in not having anything of the kind in their house mixed with flour or not. The 2 eldest with a very narrow escape recovered. £1. Adjournment of the 3 inquisitions, £3.

1080  11 June 1778. Stratton St Margaret. Henry Baldwin, aged about 5: found dead in a pond; it appeared he was trying to drink, fell in, and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1081  15 June 1778. Trowbridge. Jacob Nash, not a degree from an idiot, who told those round him before he died that he was poisoned by being forced to eat dough with poison at a bakehouse: on dissection there was no such appearance, but an inflammation and consequent putrefaction of the lungs and other viscera of which he certainly died. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1082  29 June 1778. Hannington Wick. Mary Eltham, aged under 5: with her brother, aged under 3, found means to get into a boat on the Isis, which turned on one side and Mary fell into the river and was drowned. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1083  29 June 1778. Hannington Wick. James Eltham, jun.: drowned in the Isis in the same manner, though not found on the same day. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1084  4 July 1778. Crofton in Great Bedwyn. Joseph Vivash: returning from plough, riding on and playing with a horse, was thrown off, entangled in and dragged by the trace of the harness, and killed. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1085  8 July 1778. Warminster. Edward Dicks, aged under half a year, said to have been injured by his parents: died in Shortway Lane, not from any
violence. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1086 10 July 1778. Midford near South Stoke. William Hopkins: fell into Midford Brook and was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1087 14 July 1778. Urchfont. John Minty: entering the brink of Crofts Pond which was steep and slippery, lost his footing and was instantly drowned. 6 miles. £1 14s. 6d.
1088 15 July 1778. Potterne. John Palmer: hanged himself; lunacy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
1089 1 Aug. 1778. Potterne. Mary Archard: murdered in the night; for a further inquiry and getting witnesses, adjournment to 11 Aug.; murder by a person or persons unknown. 2 miles and adjournment. £2 3s.
1090 9 Aug. 1778. Warminster Common. Benjamin Parker: was standing in a stone-quarry which was undermined and, falling on him, killed him on the spot. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1091 10 Aug. 1778. New Town in Bradford on Avon. Ezekiel Piles: kicked in the head by a horse and killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1093 14 Aug. 1778. Hilperton. Revd Jacob Townsend: found dead in the room he usually slept in; no marks of violence; natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1094 16 Aug. 1778. Marston. Richard Horne, aged about 6: fell into a pail of boiling water and was so terribly scalded that he almost instantly died. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
1095 26 Aug. 1778. Forest Gate in Chippenham. Charles Tanner, waggoner: was sleeping on the waggon which, being loaded with sundry things, turned over and he was killed on the spot. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1096 31 Aug. 1778. Chippenham. Deborah Taylor: found dead in Wood Lane. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1097 1 Sept. 1778. Aldbourne. Richard Gould: fell from a waggon loaded with wheat-sheaves and was killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1098 1 Sept. 1778. Avebury. Sarah Moore: suddenly died in a field. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1099 13 Sept. 1778. Calne. William Noyes: hanged himself; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1100 15 Sept. 1778. Goatacre in Hilmarton. Mary Tuck: cut herself in the arm, separating the vein, and then threw herself into a deep well; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1101 23 Sept. 1778. Rode. John Guire: fell downstairs and was found dead in the morning. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1102 4 Oct. 1778. Manningford Abbots. Mary Hibbard, aged under 2: found drowned in a basin or spring. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions; distances from Devizes; total £31 2s.; allowed by James Montagu and Charles Garth. [A5/2/1/46]
1103  19 Oct. 1778. Chalford in Westbury. Charles Dowden, aged under 3: fell into a mill-pond and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1104  24 Oct. 1778. Great Somerford. John Sweetapple: found dead by a fall from his horse and the inclement weather. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1105  9 Nov. 1778. Clack. William Gingell, an old man: found dead in a ground. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1106  13 Nov. 1778. Avon near Kellaways. Mary Sellman: fell into the river and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1108  19 Dec. 1778. Liddington. Thomas Smart: suddenly died in his road from Liddington to Swindon. 24 miles. £1 18s.
1109  22 Dec. 1778. Potterne. James Weeks: threw himself into a mill-pond and was drowned; lunacy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
1110  26 Dec. 1778. Wanborough. James Jackson: hanged himself; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
1111  3 Jan. 1779. Rowde. Ralph Bayly: pulling a loaded gun through a hedge after him, was accidentally shot and instantly died. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
1112  17 Jan. 1779. Lydiard Tregoze. John Hedges: attempting to save his brother, was himself drowned by the ice giving way. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1113  31 Jan. 1779. Westbury Leigh. John Ingram: found dead on the down called Hernes Bush. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1114  4 Mar. 1779. Woodborough. Ann Tarrant: natural death, not from any violence as reported. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1115  6 Mar. 1779. Hawkeridge in Westbury. Mary Baily, aged under 3: fell into the river and was instantly drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1116  12 Mar. 1779. Studley in Trowbridge. Hannah Harding: threw herself into a pond and was drowned; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1117  12 Mar. 1779. Chaps Mill in Colerne. Thomas Reynolds, aged under 7: fell into a brook and was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1118  23 Mar. 1779. Latton. A new-born female child: no marks of violence; the mother, Martha Bartlett, was delivered suddenly out of doors, not knowing she was so near her time. 32 miles. £2 4s.
1119  29 Mar. 1779. Preshute. Thomas Miles: was driving 4 horses at plough in the field when they suddenly took fright and ran away and, Thomas being on the ground, the ploughshare entered and fractured his skull in a shocking manner, of which he languished and died. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1120  4 Apr. 1779. Warminster. John Lloyd: killed on the spot by the horses running away with the cart on which he was riding. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1121  8 Apr. 1779. Trowbridge. William Wercat, aged under 7: followed William Stockwell, a lodger with whom he slept at his father's house, to a gin shop where he was inadvertently asked to drink part of a glass of gin; he was soon after taken ill and the next day died of an inflammation and spasmodic affection of the viscera. The report was that Stockwell had forced him to drink several glasses and that he instantly died, but it appeared as above and that he was accustomed to drinking. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1122 13 Apr. 1779. Imber. Elizabeth Brunson: threw herself into a well and was drowned; lunacy. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 14 Apr. 1779; distances from Devizes; total £47 12s. [recte £47 12s. 3d. if 1126 were corrected]; allowed by Paul Newman and S. Cam. [AS/2/1/47]

1123 27 Apr. 1779. Broad Blunsdon in Highworth. John Draper: found dead in a stone-quarry. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
1124 29 Apr. 1779. Heddington. Joseph Palmer: killed himself by swallowing a quantity of yellow arsenic; felo de se. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1125 3 May 1779. Horningsham. Samuel Clark, jun.: was grazing and feeding his father's horse in a field and had inconsiderately tied the end of the halter round his wrist; the horse took fright, dragged him and killed him. 24 miles. £1 18s.
1126 6 May 1779. Norton Bavant. John Ransom: unfortunately drowned in the Pill. 17 miles. £1 12s. 6d. [recte £1 12s. 9d.]
1127 11 May 1779. Devizes Green in Bishop's Cannings. Thomas Hearth: digging sand in Ashmans Green, had so undermined that a large quantity fell in on him and crushed him to death. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
1128 22 May 1779. Ramsbury. William Kimber: thrown to the ground by Sampson Spirit, which ruptured and burst a blood-vessel in his body, and was thereby killed; Sampson was found guilty of manslaughter at the assizes. 20 miles. £1 15s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 12 July 1779, Sampson was convicted of manslaughter on the inquest, fined 1s., and imprisoned in the county gaol for 3 months: ASSI 23/8.]
1129 26 May 1779. Warminster. John Provost, aged under 5: was alone when a large board fell on his head and killed him. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1130 28 May 1779. Marlborough. Thomas Little: returning home from Pewsey, was thrown from his horse and killed by a fracture of his skull. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1131 5 June 1779. Charnham Street in Hungerford. John Dodd: hanged himself; lunacy. 24 miles. £1 18s.
1132 16 June 1779. Maiden Bradley. Austin Folkes: found dead in the Frome road. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
1133 27 June 1779. Fyfield. William Checker: had undermined in a gravel- or flint-pit and earth falling in killed him on the spot. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1134 28 June 1779. Easterton. Christian Hayter: found dead in a house; no marks of violence. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1135 14 July 1779. Colerne. Daniel Jones: bathing with others in a brook, was unfortunately drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1136 17 July 1779. Corsley Heath. John Mires: feloniously killed by [blank] Gane, keeper of a public house, who beat him and threw him to the ground. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 4 Mar. 1780, William Gane, charged with murdering John Mines on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and fined 1s.; he paid the sheriff and was discharged: ASSI 23/8.]

1137 17 July 1779. Longbridge Deverill. Thomas Leigh: fell out of a hayloft and was killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1138 18 July 1779. Westbury Leigh in Westbury. Mary Green, infant: fell into a vessel of hot wort and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1139 1 Aug. 1779. Broad Hinton. Edward Hunt, a young lad: playing in the road, fell under the wheels of a waggon and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1140 7 Aug. 1779. Potterne. William Underwood: hanged himself. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1141 22 Aug. 1779. Brinkworth. John Smith: returning from Malmesbury market in liquor, was dragged and terribly mauled by his horse and so found dead. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1142 23 Aug. 1779; adjourned for further inquiry and to get evidence, first to 25 Aug. and then to 29 Aug. Seend. A female infant bastard, born to Katharine Hill, single woman: murdered and thrown into a well by the mother; Mary Smart, her mistress, and John Ring, the child's father and Mary's brother, were privy and accessory to the same. Ring is absconded, Mary in Fisherton Anger gaol, and Katharine in Devizes prison. 4 miles. £1 3s. 2 adjournments, £2 6s.

[At Salisbury assizes, 4 Mar. 1780, Katharine was convicted and Mary wife of Joseph Smart was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest. Katharine was sentenced to be hanged on 9 Mar., her body to be delivered to Mr Alexander Forsyth, surgeon, for dissection and anatomization. She was reprieved and given a free pardon by warrant dated 18 Apr. 1780: ASSI 23/8.]

1143 26 Aug. 1779. Stanton St Quintin. William Church: fell off the head of a waggon loaded with coals; the wheels, passing over his head, killed him on the spot. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1144 31 Aug. 1779. Penleigh in Westbury. Mary Hall: threw herself into a brook and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1145 2 Sept. 1779. Market Lavington. Simon Clifford, infant, reported to have been injured by its grandmother: natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1146 3 Sept. 1779. Ashley. Charles Watts: fell out of a high window of a hayloft, fractured his skull, and was instantly killed. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1147 16 Sept. 1779. Cherhill. A travelling-man unknown: found dead in a stable at the Black Horse Inn. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1148 17 Sept. 1779. Slaughterford. William Baker: being at plough and striking the body-horse, was kicked by it and killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1149 18 Sept. 1779. Clatford. James Harris, aged 80 and of late very weak and infirm both in body and mind: hanged himself. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1150 23 Sept. 1779. Axford in Ramsbury. Thomas Lewington: killed by the wheels of a waggon loaded with dried clover-grass. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1151 4 Oct. 1779. Chippenham. William Bartlett: was riding on the shafts of a stage-waggon going through the turnpike gate and his legs, hanging down, were so shockingly contused and fractured by striking against the gate-post that they mortified and killed him. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 6 Oct. 1779; distances from Devizes; total £44 7s.; allowed by J. Awdry and L. Bigg. [A5/2/1/48]

1152 7 Oct. 1779. Broad Town. John Birchall: was riding down a steep hill on a waggon, which was overturned down a very dangerous precipice at the side of the hill, by which he was killed on the spot. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1153 13 Oct. 1779. Stert in Urchfont. John Naish: digging stone from a quarry, undermined it and was killed by a large quantity of earth and stone falling in on him. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.


1155 25 Oct. 1779. Westbury Leigh. A new-born male bastard: it was thought that Martha Godsell, the mother, had lain violent hands on it, but many circumstances appeared in her favour, viz that she had a fall which occasioned the child to be born before its time and that she had prepared childbed linen. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1156 31 Oct. 1779. Wingfield. John Cole, aged under 3: fell into a pit or pool and, no one being present to assist him, was instantly drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1157 1 Nov. 1779. Beanacre in Melksham. A new-born female bastard: murder by Betty Taylor, the mother, and Mary Adams, the grandmother, for which they were tried and acquitted at the last assizes. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 4 Mar. 1780, Betty Taylor and Mary wife of Thomas Adams were acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]


1159 2 Nov. 1779. Chippenham. Hannah Cole: found dead in a house in her own apartment; no marks of violence. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1160 4 Nov. 1779. Allington. John Little: had drunk too freely of liquor and, being carried in a cart to his home, suddenly died. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1161 7 Nov. 1779. Cherhill. George Hillier: sudden natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1162 24 Nov. 1779. Potterne Wick. William Fue: killed by the wheels of a waggon passing over his head. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

1163 26 Nov. 1779. Warminster. John Morgan: cut his throat; felo de se. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1164 29 Nov. 1779. Studley in Calne. Hopeful Clarke: returning from Bath market, was killed by the wheels of a waggon going over him. 10 miles.
1165 6 Dec. 1779. Kington St Michael. Henry Fry: after being lost for 5 weeks, was found dead in a stream in Dicks Quarry; accidental death. 13 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1166 8 Dec. 1779. Seend. Elizabeth Curnick, a slothful idle woman, who had often lain under ricks and in outhouses: died at Inmarsh. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1167 15 Dec. 1779. St John's parish, Devizes. Philip Roy: at Marlborough was placed on a baggage-waggon and, being ill and weak and the weather very severe, was taken dead from it at Devizes. £1.

1168 25 Dec. 1779. Foxham in Bremhill. John Keene, a lad subject to fits: found dead in a stream in Pritchards Green. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1169 27 Dec. 1779. Trowbridge. Thomas Mullins: found dead in a ditch of water in a marsh or common called Trowbridge Down; no marks of violence. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1170 12 Jan. 1780. Berwick Bassett. Edward Derham: killed on the spot by the cart in which he was riding being turned over. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1171 17 Jan. 1780. East Coulston. Ann Giddings: found dead in her house; no marks of violence. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1172 18 Jan. 1780. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Shellard: was in the workhouse and fell from a high place where they draw water and soon after died. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1173 19 Jan. 1780. Froxfield. A man unknown: hanged himself in a tallet or loft. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1174 20 Jan. 1780. St John's parish, Devizes. James Currant: killed by the wheels of a cart passing over his head. £1.


1176 29 Jan. 1780. Seend. Thomas Taylor: killed by the wheels of a waggon he was driving. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1177 4 Feb. 1780. Corsley. James Finer: killed by a horse. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1178 6 Feb. 1780. Ashton Keynes. Edward Ayliffe: natural death. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1179 22 Feb. 1780. Ludgershall. Elizabeth Jones: being conveyed by a pass from Basingstoke, Hants, to Corsham, died on the road between Ludgershall and Collingbourne Ducis. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1180 9 Mar. 1780. Westbury Leigh. John Dyer, an old man: lost his way and was found dead in a ditch of water. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1181 12 Mar. 1780. East Overton. William Hearth, stage-waggoner: being in liquor, fell before the wheels of his waggon which went over him and crushed him to death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1182 17 Mar. 1780. Southwick in North Bradley. James Holwell, subject to fits: found dead in the Trowbridge road; no marks of violence. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 5 Apr. 1780; distances
from Devizes; total £56 5s. 9d.; allowed by Paul Newman and J. Awdry.

1183 15 Apr. 1780. Ashton Keynes. Isaac Gleade, an old man: found dead in Nine Acre Lane; no marks of violence; natural death. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.

1184 24 Apr. 1780. Chute. James Hudson: found dead in Forest Lane; no marks of violence. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1185 26 Apr. 1780. Calne. James Bush, aged about 15: killed on the spot by a cart turning over on his head. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1186 26 Apr. 1780. North Standen in Hungerford. Thomas Lambourn: found dead in Fosters Dean Field; no marks of violence. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1187 28 Apr. 1780. Urchfont. Solomon Sutton, subject to fits: found suffocated in a ditch of water. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1188 8 May 1780. Calne. Simon Sturt: killed by falling off a horse, riding very fast and behind another boy. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1189 19 May 1780. Eastcott in Swindon. Mary Hat, aged under 2: found suffocated in a gutter or water-carriage. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1190 20 May 1780. West Lavington. Edward Norris: hanged himself in a barn; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1191 25 May 1780. Chippenham. Light Roberts: first cut her child's throat with a knife and afterwards her own; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1192 30 May 1780. Chippenham. Ann Roberts, the infant whom Light Roberts cut and laid her violent hands on before destroying herself: these jurors now found that Light was not deprived of her reason and understanding, but wilfully murdered her daughter. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

[See 1191. The association of the two inquests must be the reason for this one being entered out of order.]

1193 26 May 1780. Inglesham. John Perth, aged about 10: found drowned in a brook. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1194 14 June 1780. Boreham in Warminster. Richard Hooper: with another lad, William Ball, was unfortunately drowned in a deep part of the river called the Pill of Boreham Mill. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1195 14 June 1780. Boreham in Warminster. William Ball: died as aforesaid. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1196 19 June 1780. Calne. Joseph Taylor: found dead in the street; the effect of strong liquor. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1197 24 June 1780. West Overton. Mark Pope: killed on the spot by a violent fall from his horse at the Cow Down. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1198 30 June 1780. Rowde. Sarah Spencer: killed by a fall from her horse. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1199 2 July 1780. Manningford Bruce. Joseph Batt: was riding on one of the two horses drawing a cart and, the horses starting, he was thrown to the ground and killed by the wheels passing over him. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1200 7 July 1780. Marlborough. Ezekiel Bromfield: bathing in the Kennet, was unfortunately drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1201  9 July 1780. Froxfield in Little Bedwyn. John Tow: had been selling cherries and, riding on a gelding, fell to the ground and was instantly killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1202  12 July 1780. Easton. Elizabeth Cully: found dead in a ground called the Conygre; no marks of violence. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1203  16 July 1780. Crudwell. John Turner: found dead in a large house he lived in alone; no marks of violence. 27 miles. £2 Os. 3d.

1204  28 July 1780. Beckhampton in Avebury. Edward Partridge, stage-waggoner to Mr James of Bristol: fell under the hind-wheels, being dragged with a chain, and was shockingly crushed to death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1205  28 July 1780. The Castle Mill, Marlborough. William Hyams: drowned in the Kennet. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1206  3 Aug. 1780. Great Bedwyn. Thomas Martin: riding on a horse very fast, was thrown and killed. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1207  5 Aug. 1780. Luckington. Robert Bennet, the Bath newsman: the saddle on which he was riding turning with him, he was dragged along the ground and killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1208  10 Aug. 1780. Trowbridge. William Flower, an infant aged under 16: hanged himself. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1209  11 Aug. 1780. Steeple Ashton. A female infant bastard, thought to have been injured by its mother: natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1210  19 Aug. 1780. Woodlands in Mildenhall. Geoffrey Fry: was leading a gelding from grazing and, playing with and vexing it, received so violent a kick from it on the stomach that he almost instantly died. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.


1212  26 Aug. 1780. Whaddon. Thomas Hall, aged under 4: fell into the Avon and was instantly drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1213  3 Sept. 1780. Purton (Penton). John Staly, subject to fits: found dead at Shaw near there. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1214  27 Sept. 1780. [This entry is either wrongly dated or out of order.] Highworth. Thomas Eyles, servant to the Revd Mr Lyson: killed by his horse falling with him in the Hannington road. 27 miles. £2 Os. 3d.

1215  23 Sept. 1780. Box. Mary Vaisy, aged under 2: found drowned in a stone of water at the Patch. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1216  27 Sept. 1780. Avebury. Jonathan Baily, aged under 2: fell into a deep well and was instantly killed. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1217  30 Sept. 1780. Ashton Keynes. Betty Hathaway: killed by taking a large quantity of white sublimate of mercury. 27 miles. £2 Os. 3d.

[Grace Bolton was taken to Salisbury by the tithingman of Ashton Keynes (see 1251), and at Salisbury assizes, 10 Mar. 1781, was acquitted of Betty's murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

1218  2 Oct. 1780. Potterne. George Edwards: killed by a fall from his horse. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
76 CORONERS' BILLS

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 4 Oct. 1780; distances from Devizes; total £51 13s.; allowed by William Seymour and J. Awdry, 25 Apr. 1781. [A5/2/1/50]

1219  6 Oct. 1780. Rowde. Martha Drew, aged under 4 months: being in bed with her mother, Mary Drew, in the night, was overlain by her and so pressed and squeezed that she instantly died; accidental death. 2 miles. £1 ls. 6d.

1220  11 Oct. 1780. Warminster. John Phelps: fell down the cellar stairs at the Angel Inn and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1221  21 Oct. 1780. Devizes Green. William Munday: sudden natural death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

1222  27 Oct. 1780. Hannington. Thomas Weston: found dead in Lawn Lane; fell from his horse. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1223  4 Nov. 1780. Seend. A man answering to the name of John, surname unknown: was on the box driving a diligence from which he fell in the night and was instantly killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1224  8 Nov. 1780. Devizes Green. Joseph Naish: died from lying out in the cold. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

1225  13 Nov. 1780. Knockdown House in Sherston. Robert Jones, shepherd: keeping sheep near there, suddenly died; inclement weather. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1226  17 Nov. 1780. Burbage. John Barnes: riding very furiously from Marlborough market, was thrown from his horse in Marlborough Forest and killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1227  21 Nov. 1780. Roundway in Bishop's Cannings. Robert Willis: found dead in a part of Roundway Field called Plot Ash where, returning from Devizes overnight, he died; inclement weather. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1228  23 Nov. 1780. Calne. Francis Butt: lived in a house alone and in the night fell down the stairs; no one being present to assist him, he died of the fall and injury of his head occasioned thereby. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1229  23 Nov. 1780. Charlton in Malmesbury. Joseph Millage: found dead at West Field; inclement weather. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1230  5 Dec. 1780. Hilperton. Charles King: was jumping from a waggon and, falling, the wheels passed on him and killed him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1231  19 Dec. 1780. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. William Dainton: on or about 20 Nov. fell into the Isis and was now found near the Shank in the river. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1232  23 Dec. 1780. Heytesbury. Richard Dann: found dead at South Field; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1233  23 Dec. 1780. Warminster. Robert Aldridge: was holding a mare in the street, harnessed and fastened in to draw a cart, which mare, from his imprudence in taking off the blind halter, set off with the cart, part whereof striking Robert, he was killed on the spot. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1234  14 Jan. 1781. South Standen in Hungerford. John Barfield: fell from an oak tree in the night and was killed. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
20 Jan. 1781. Potterne. A man whose name appeared to be James Barry: found dead in a barton at the side of the road, set up with his back against a rick. Many convincing circumstances proved he did not die there but was brought and placed there. Adjournment to 22 Jan. for further information. The man was taken up as a rogue and vagabond in the parish of St Giles in the Fields, Middlesex, and lawfully passed thence to Somerset in order to be taken to his parish in the city of Cork in Ireland. In being so passed, he was taken up and conveyed in a stage-waggon in which, being very weak and infirm, he died somewhere about Devizes. The driver most imprudently carried him on and in the night took him from the waggon at the said place and set him up against the rick. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d. Adjournment, £1 1s. 6d.

23 Jan. 1781. All Cannings. Thomas Perry: fell down with his head before the wheels of a waggon which passed over it and killed him on the spot. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

30 Jan. 1781. North Newton. Richard Tackle: violently kicked in the abdomen or lower belly in a stable at Rushall and killed. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.


12 Feb. 1781. Brickhills in Maiden Bradley. John Elliot, subject to fits: found dead in the boundary ditch between Wiltshire and Somerset; no marks of violence. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

15 Feb. 1781. Middleton in Norton Bavant. John Exton: fell from a tallet or loft onto the stone pitching [sc. pavement] and was killed. 16 miles. £1 12s.


2 Mar. 1781. Derriads in Chippenham. Samuel Tanner: in company with others was moving a large elm tree blown onto a cart-house by the tempestuous wind the day before, by part of which he received so violent a blow that he instantly died. 12 miles. £1 9s.

3 Mar. 1781. Wroughton. Frances Alexander: killed by the top of a tree, blown off by the high wind which prevailed on 27 Feb., falling on her head. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

29 Mar. 1781. Heytesbury. William Atwell: found dead in a house; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.

29 Mar. 1781. Draycot Foliat. William Farr, aged under 9: fell under the wheels of a waggon coming from Marlborough at Conyger Corner near Ogbourne St George and was instantly killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

3 Apr. 1781. Hatt in Box. John Sayer: driving a waggon, fell down before the wheels at Kingsdown Hill and was instantly crushed to death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

6 Apr. 1781. Marlborough bridewell in Preshute. Mary Ogbourne: hanged herself in a hovel in Harts Field; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

of another was killed by a stroke from a horse which was running away very furiously with its rider. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1249 15 Apr. 1781. Christian Malford. Alexander Hull: found dead in the Common; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1250 18 Apr. 1781. Trowbridge. Thomas Thatcher: violently kicked on the side of his head by a horse in Alms House Field and almost instantly died. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1251 Due to the tithingman of Ashton Keynes for conveying Grace Bolton to Salisbury for the murder of Betty Hathoway by poison. 40 miles. £2. [See 1217.]

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions; distances from Devizes: total £56 16s. 6d.: allowed by Ambrose Goddard and Robert John Buxton. [A5/2/1/51]

1252 27 Apr. 1781. Aldbourne. Sarah Smart, illegitimate daughter of Susannah Packer, aged about 2 months: died a natural death and not by any hurt from her mother. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1253 1 May 1781. Westbury. Eleanor Rolfe: found dead in a ground called Long Eel. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.


1255 8 May 1781. Overton. William Clack: found dead in Stretches Meadow; inadvertently drank a large quantity of strong distilled spirits which he got from a cask that burst in a stage-waggon on the road. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1256 16 May 1781. Broughton Gifford. Thomas Box, aged under 4: unfortunately drowned in a pond. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1257 18 May 1781. Long Croft in Brinkworth. Mary Cutts, aged under 7: accidentally drowned in a pit. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1258 21 May 1781. Kemble. Mary Locke: suddenly died in a barton or yard; at the time she was in a passionate dispute with a neighbouring woman: it appeared no blows had passed. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1259 22 May 1781. Shaw in Melksham. William Rudman: dragged along the ground by a horse he fell from so that he was instantly killed. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1260 10 June 1781. Warminster. Solomon Cooper: found dead in a loft or outhouse; no marks of violence. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1261 16 June 1781. Horningsham. Charles Sutton, aged under 3: found drowned in a well. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1262 18 June 1781. Horton in Bishop’s Cannings. Richard Jacobs: suddenly died in the field. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

1263 22 June 1781. Trowle in Trowbridge. Sarah Little: passing through some water on horseback in her return from Bradford on Avon, the horse being unruly and hard to guide, she fell backwards into the deepest part of the water, which was unusually high from the quantity of rain lately fallen, and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1264 24 June 1781. Maiden Bradley. John Bailey: getting on the back of a mare, was thrown to the ground and killed. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
1265 25 June 1781. Melksham. Thomas Dalimear: was riding on the limbers of a waggon going along the road at Atworth and, falling off, the wheels passed over him and killed him. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1266 27 June 1781. Aldbourne. Nicholas Turner: was digging stone and gravel and had imprudently undermined the earth, whereby it fell in upon him and killed him on the spot. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1267 6 July 1781. Calne. James Fricker: was riding on a waggon, which turned over and he was killed. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1268 10 July 1781. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. Thomas Hall: unlawfully killed by Matthew Hinder by falls and kicks he received from him a considerable time before. 28 miles. £2 1s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 28 July 1781, Matthew was acquitted of manslaughter on the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
1269 11 July 1781. Swindon. Robert Lane: returning home to Cirencester from Marlborough fair, was thrown from his horse in Stratton Field and killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1270 11 July 1781. Shaw Hill House. John Olliffe: was riding on the shafts of a waggon belonging to Michael Hicks, esq., and, falling off, the wheels passed over him and instantly killed him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1271 12 July 1781. Box Quarries. A man whose name appeared to be Sillman: seen going along the road and soon after found dead; no marks of violence. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1272 12 July 1781. Kington Langley. John Ayers, aged under 6: fell into a well and instantly died. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1273 17 July 1781. Kingsdown in Box. Mark Marsh: fell into a dipping-well and was instantly drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1274 20 July 1781. Bishopstrow. John Gibbs: riding aside carelessly on one of the horses drawing an empty waggon, was thrown off and dragged by his leg, which was entangled in the trace, and killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1275 22 July 1781. Lydiard Tregoz. Mary Greenwood: found drowned in a stream or brook. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1276 6 Aug. 1781. Biss in West Ashton parish. Thomas Ward, an old man: fell into a brook and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1277 7 Aug. 1781. Corsley Heath. Sarah Hacket: received a violent blow from John Snook, of which she instantly died. Snook is now in custody charged with her murder. 20 miles. £1 15s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 9 Mar. 1782, John, charged with murdering Sarah wife of Stephen Hackett on both the indictment and the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and fined 1s.; he paid the sheriff and was discharged: ASSI 23/8.]
1278 23 Aug. 1781. Bishop's Cannings. Arthur Hood: fell from a peasemow or -rick and was instantly killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.
1279 4 Sept. 1781. Stratton St Margaret. Thomas Smith: riding on an old cart-horse, was thrown from it, his skull was fractured, and he was killed.
23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1280 11 Sept. 1781. St Mary's parish, Chitterne. Thomas Whitfield: his horse, being almost blind, ran away and threw him against a tree and he was instantly killed. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1281 12 Sept. 1781. Longbridge Deverill. Sarah Line, aged under 4: her mother, having got, as she imagined, some physic powder from an empiric or quack in the same parish, gave it to Sarah who, instantly after taking it, was seized with the most excruciating pains, vomittings, convulsions, and every symptom of being poisoned, and the same evening died. On dissection it was very evident she died of poison, but the person from whom the supposed physic came not being found together with the defect of other witnesses necessary to make appear whether the poison was given and taken intentionally or ignorantly, by mistake or accident, or in either case by whom the punishment or censure was incurred, adjournment to 17 Sept. when it was proved without a shadow of doubt that the child had taken nothing but the powder which was had from the quack and, he then not giving a satisfactory account how the unhappy mistake or accident happened, he was bound in recognizance to appear at the next assizes; special verdict. 24 miles. £1 18s. Adjournment, £1 18s.

1282 18 Sept. 1781. Bishopstone. Thomas Cox: trying to stop some horses running away with a waggon, fell to the ground and was killed by the wheels passing over him. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1283 24 Sept. 1781. Bradford on Avon. Isaac West: found drowned in the river; he fell in a week before, being in liquor. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1284 1 Oct. 1781. Longbridge Deverill. A female infant, not christened, aged about 6 weeks, reported not to have had proper care from its mother: she had behaved towards it with due care and tenderness. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1285 2 Oct. 1781. Brinkworth. James Scull: returning from his daily work at Lydiard Tregoze, suddenly died; as imagined, fit. 20 miles. £1 15s. [Miles and fee amended]

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, Apr. 1782; distances from Devizes; total £48 13s. 3d.; allowed by L. Bigg and J. R. Webb, 9 Oct. 1782. [A5/2/1/52]

1286 14 Apr. 1782. Heywood in Westbury. Sarah Poole, infant: fell into a brook and was instantly drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1287 26 Apr. 1782. Tilshead. Jane Laws, an old woman: found dead in her house; no marks of violence. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1288 29 Apr. 1782. Froxfield. A man unknown: was driving fat cattle, the property of James Sutton, esq., along the London road and suddenly died. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1289 8 May 1782. Startley Common in Great Somerford. Edmund Ball: threw himself into a well and drowned himself; felo de se. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1290 14 May 1782. Marden. Thomas Reeves: found dead in a part of
Marden Field called Sandals Furlong; no marks of violence; sudden natural
death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1291 27 May 1782. Erlestoke. William James: hanged himself; felo de se. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1292 17 June 1782. Melksham. Ann Jennings, aged under 5: fell into the river and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1293 18 June 1782. Crudwell. A female infant: found in a well; no sufficient ground at this time to charge any particular person with being the mother or throwing it there; murder by a person or persons unknown. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1294 18 June 1782. Plain House in Purton. William Gardiner: unfortunately drowned in a pit or pond where he was bathing. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1295 22 June 1782. Cleverton in Lea. Sarah Buckland, aged under 5: drowned by falling into a well. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1296 30 June 1782. Corton in Boyton. Thomas Withers: hanged himself; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1297 2 July 1782. Seend. Mary Abbott, who for a long time had lived a very unsettled life, plying from place to place as a vagabond: found dead in a sheep-house in Berhills Field; infirmity and disease. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1298 22 July 1782. Melksham. Paul Newman, esq.: being on horseback and attempting to pass over a ford formed and filled up for the purpose of passing over the Avon, fell from his horse and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1299 24 July 1782. Quemerford in Calne. John Clifford: fell off a hay-cart and was instantly killed. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1300 29 July 1782. Codford St Peter. David Smith, marine soldier: fell before the wheels of a waggon loaded with men, part of a ship’s crew, and was crushed to death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1301 17 Aug. 1782. Christian Malford. Oliver Pullin: being scared and bewildered from the wet and inclement weather in the night, fell into a pit and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1302 20 Aug. 1782. Chippenham. Isaac Badmington: fell into a pool and was instantly drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1303 25 Aug. 1782. Melksham. William Southernwood: being confined in a prison or round-house, in which was previously placed a large quantity of gunpowder, being the property and for the use of the military cavalry there quartered and stationed, he wickedly set fire to and kindled it, whereby the house was blown up and thrown down to the ground; a great part of the stones and ruins thereof, falling on his body and limbs, so crushed him that his left leg was immediately amputated, but he soon died of the injuries, contusions, fractures, etc. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


1305 1 Sept. 1782. Ditteridge near Box. John Sumtion: fell into the water in the night and was missing from 15 Aug. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1306 5 Sept. 1782. Charnham Street in Hungerford. John Horseman:
getting from the head of a cart loaded with cheese, fell down before the wheels on the road in Marlborough Forest and was instantly killed by the wheels passing over him. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1307 5 Sept. 1782. Purton. Nevill Shepherd, aged under 3: drowned in a pond. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1308 7 Sept. 1782. Bishopstone. William Cox: being found dead in the house he usually lived in, was generally thought to have received some violence or injury from those who ought then to have been about him; natural death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1309 10 Sept. 1782. Brinkworth. Ann Matthews, aged under 5: fell into a pond and was instantly drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1310 12 Sept. 1782. Heytesbury. James Edgell: taken up dead on the road in the night. No person attending the enquiry to give the least information how he came to his death and those who were or should have been in his company having gone on to a cheese fair, adjournment to the next day when the parties appeared. They had all drunk too freely at Warminster and, riding very fast, the deceased fell to the ground and was instantly killed. 16 miles. £1 12s. Adjournment. £1 12s.

1311 14 Sept. 1782. Broughton Gifford. William Weakley, an old man, subject to fits: found suffocated in a stream. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1312 15 Sept. 1782. Kingswood. Arthur Serjeant, aged under 11: was riding on a mare which ran away with him very furiously and threw him to the ground and killed him. 32 miles. £2 4s.

1313 22 Sept. 1782. Trowbridge. Richard Lawrence: found dead in a garden; no marks of violence; natural death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1314 23 Sept. 1782. Wroughton. William Rawlins, an old shepherd: found dead in a house; no marks of violence. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1315 1 Oct. 1782. West Lavington. Elizabeth Price: fell into the brook and was drowned, no one being present to assist her. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 9 Oct. 1782; distances from Devizes; total £43 5s. 3d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and A. Bayntun, 30 Apr. 1783. [A5/2/1/53]

1316 18 Oct. 1782. Broad Hinton. Elizabeth Marsh: found dead in a lane; no marks of violence; natural death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1317 18 Oct. 1782. Stock Close in Aldbourne. John Wicks: kicked in the stomach by a horse and killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1318 19 Oct. 1782. Shear Water in Longbridge Deverill. John Cox, aged under 6 months: found dead by his father; no apparent marks of injury, as suggested. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.


1320 4 Nov. 1782. Stanley Mill in Bremhill. Joseph Wheeler: standing on the hatches and trying to draw out an eel-pot, fell back into the Pill and through the impetuous rushing of the water from the pond was deprived of
assistance from himself or others and instantly drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1321 7 Nov. 1782. Westcourt in Burbage. John Hooper: returning from Appleshaw fair full of liquor, laid and slept on the ground, from which and the hard rains that fell that night he died. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1322 4 Dec. 1782. Highworth. William Saunders, aged about 16: accidentally killed from the discharge of a gun of Thomas Potts, aged about 15. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1323 6 Dec. 1782. Bowerhill in Melksham. Ann Angel: getting out of a waggon on the road, fell to the ground and was instantly crushed to death by the near-wheels. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1324 7 Dec. 1782: for lack of time to collect witnesses from a distance, adjourned to 13 Dec. Whitley in Melksham. Sarah Bendall, parish apprentice to Isaac and Mary Nutt: murder by Isaac and Mary. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d. Adjournment. £1 7s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1783, Isaac and Mary his wife were acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASS1 23/8.]


1326 10 Jan. 1783. Trowbridge. James Shapnell: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1327 7 Feb. 1783. Little Hinton. William Simonds: found dead in a workshop or outhouse; no marks of violence. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1328 11 Feb. 1783. Wedhampton in Urchfont. Mary Doudney, travelling woman: found dead in a barn; old age and infirmities. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1329 12 Feb. 1783. Crooked [probably West] Soley in Chilton Foliat. Thomas Pye: drowned in the river, falling from the bridge in the night. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1330 18 Feb. 1783. Wanborough. Mary Hussey, subject to fits: found dead in a meadow lately enclosed. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1331 26 Feb. 1783. Chippenham. Samuel Heavens: killed by a bull which was baited and worried by dogs. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1332 27 Feb. 1783. Brinkworth. Jeremiah Mabson: killed by a blow from a poker in the hands of Thomas Watkins at Chippenham; manslaughter. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1783, Thomas was acquitted of murdering Jeremiah Mapson on the indictment and of his manslaughter on the inquest: ASS1 23/8.]

1333 4 Mar. 1783. Seend. Ann Smart: suddenly died at the Bell Inn. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1334 22 Mar. 1783. Stockley in Calne. Hannah Lamphire, aged under 4: drowned in a ditch by accident. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1335 31 Mar. 1783. Chippenham. Katharine Woodman: cast herself into the Avon and drowned herself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1336 4 Apr. 1783. Brook Green in Westbury. Sarah Adlam, aged under 3: unfortunately drowned in a pit. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1337 6 Apr. 1783. Castle Eaton. Sarah Chamberlain, aged under 3:
casually drowned in a ditch. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1338  8 Apr. 1783. Staverton in Trowbridge. Mary Watts: found drowned in the Avon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1339  15 Apr. 1783. St Mary's parish, Devizes. William Tucker: in a fit of frenzy threw himself out of one of 'a one pair of stairs window' into the street and was killed. £1.

1340  15 Apr. 1783. Uffcott in Broad Hinton. Humphrey Shearer of Clyffe Pypard, a miserable object, always lying and wandering about, sadly infested with vermin and diseased: found dead in a barn. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1341  25 Apr. 1783. Charnham Street in Hungerford. Mary Simpson, aged under 2: pecking over into a tub of lee, was suffocated. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1342  29 Apr. 1783. Charnham Street in Hungerford. Rosetta Trainer: with her husband and children was conveyed to that place on the way to Ireland and, casually walking along the street with an infant in her arms and another in her hand aged about 5, it so happened that as she was passing the White Hart Yard 2 horses harnessed to and drawing a carriage or stage belonging to a travelling mountebank took fright and, rushing very furiously with the carriage out into the road, threw Rosetta to the ground and, the wheel also passing over her body, killed her on the spot. 24 miles. £1 18s.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, Apr. 1783; distances from Devizes; total £48 9s. 3d.; allowed by J. Walker Heneage and Ambrose Goddard. [A5/2/1/54]

1343  30 Apr. 1783. Horningsham. Sarah Payne, aged about 2, said to have received some violence from her grandfather and grandmother who had the care of her: natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1344  2 May 1783. Shalbourne. William Hunt: crushed to death by the wheels of a waggon passing over his head. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1345  5 May 1783. Rodbourne Cheney. John Wicks: killed by the horses at plough running over him. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1346  12 May 1783. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. A female infant bastard: murder by its mother, Eleanor Hudd, who suffered death for this. 16 miles. £1 12s.

[At Salisbury assizes, 2 Aug. 1783, Eleanor was convicted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest and was sentenced to be hanged on 8 Aug., her body to be delivered to Mr Forsyth, surgeon, for dissection and anatomization: ASSI 23/8.]

1347  13 May 1783. Bearfield in Bradford on Avon. John Gray, aged about 4: fell into a fire and was burnt to death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1348  19 May 1783. Bradford on Avon. John Baber: died immediately after fighting with James Mullings; chance-medley. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1349  22 May 1783. Wilsford. William Oram: found dead in Hole Close; no marks of violence. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1350  5 June 1783. St Mary's parish, Devizes. William Holloway: fell from
the leads of the church and was instantly killed. £1.

1351 16 June 1783. Fyfield. Mark Pope: in taking rooks, fell from a high tree in Long Close and was killed. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1352 19 June 1783. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. Stephen Vasey: killed by the kick of a horse at Turleigh near there. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1353 21 June 1783. Buttermere. Several parts of the body of a new-born infant, only the head of which was found at first by a dog, afterwards a hand in a wood at a considerable distance. It was judged necessary before the inquiry to view the places where the parts were found and the residences of the supposed mother, who had absconded, and of the supposed father, all of which being at a considerable distance and as it was getting late, the inquest was adjourned to the next day. In the night the woman, Sarah Cram, got from a very high window and fled a second time and escaped the most diligent and almost immediate search; but it being very probable she must soon be retaken, it appeared necessary to adjourn again and secure the father, Scammell, for further examination. On the adjourned day, the inquest sat a great many hours, taking a great number of depositions and making a very full and long examination of Cram, wherein she charged Scammel with taking the child from her immediately after her delivery in a wood; murder by both. 28 miles. £2 1s. 2 adjournments, £4 2s.

[At Salisbury assizes, 2 Aug. 1783, Sarah was acquitted of murdering a male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest and the case against John Scammel, jun., similarly charged on the inquest, was not prosecuted. Sarah was convicted of breaking and entering William Newport's house at night and stealing a cotton gown worth 7s. and other goods worth 15s. 8d.; she was sentenced to be publicly whipped round Marlborough market-place between noon and 2 p.m. on 9 Aug. and committed to Marlborough house of correction to 12 months' hard labour: ASSI 23/8.]


1355 2 July 1783. Bulkington in Keevil. Robert Ferris: killed by a waggon passing over him in the street. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1356 5 July 1783. Warminster Common in Warminster. John Daniels: riding very furiously and heedlessly on a mare, was thrown off and instantly killed. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1357 8 July 1783. Elcombe in Wroughton. George Mapson: found drowned in a pit; accidental death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1358 12 July 1783. Great Somerford. Robert Nixon, aged under 8: was bathing in the river and drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.


1360 24 July 1783. Trowbridge. John Miles: poisoned himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1361 27 July 1783. Potterne. George Quelford: found dead in a room at the Organ Inn; sudden natural death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1362 28 July 1783. Chippenham. Daniel Morly: was bathing in the Avon
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and unfortunately drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1363 19 Aug. 1783. Norton Bavant. Joseph Gibbs: killed by the kick of an ox. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1364 24 Aug. 1783. Semington in Steeple Ashton. Frances Wiltshire: threw herself into a well and was killed; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1365 28 Aug. 1783. Great Cheverell. Ann Watts, said to be starved through neglect of the parish officers: sickness and natural decay. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1366 28 Aug. 1783. Chittoe near Bromham in Bishop's Cannings. James Dummer, aged under 2: instantly killed by a flash of lightning entering the tun or chimney of the house. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1367 4 Sept. 1783. Collingbourne Kingston. John Collins: was passing along a road in Abbots Field with a horse drawing a cart, the property of F. Dugdale Astly, esq., which horse taking fright ran off very furiously with the cart and the off-wheel passed over and killed John. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1368 8 Sept. 1783. St John's parish, Devizes. Daniel Farroe, late of Bristol, a traveller and itinerant vendor of quack medicines, who, being reduced and distressed, had for some time wandered and rambled from place to place: died in the blindhouse or prison. £1.
1369 9 Sept. 1783. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. A woman unknown, found in a very putrid state in a wood or coppice, so that it was impossible to imagine how the body came there or she came by her death. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1370 20 Sept. 1783. Devizes Green in Bishop's Cannings. Samuel Hall: threw himself into a deep pond called Bascomb and drowned himself; felo de se. £1.
1371 24 Sept. 1783. West Kennett. Ann Higgins: found burnt to death in her house; it was supposed she fell in a fit. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1372 4 Oct. 1783. Upavon. William Hayward: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 7 Oct. 1783; distances from Devizes; total £47 17s. 6d. [altered from £47 18s. 6d. to accord with the alteration to 1393]; allowed by James Tylney Long and J. R. Webb. [A5/2/1/55]

1373 17 Oct. 1783. St Mary's parish, Devizes. Thomas Ferris: fell from a high tree to the ground and was killed. £1.
1374 18 Oct. 1783. Potterne Wick in Potterne. John Glass, aged under 8: had not been justly treated by his father, William Glass, but suffered to ramble, wander, and beg from place to place, lying under hovels, etc., and at length died at his father's house; facts collected and appearing against the father and mother-in-law [sc. step-mother] not amounting to any degree of homicide, the deceased being also of a roving, perverse disposition, it was found that from his wandering and bad lying he was sadly infested with vermin and otherwise much diseased in body, chiefly of a dropsy, and thereof died. 4 miles. £1 3s.
1375 19 Oct. 1783. Durlett in Rowde. Joseph Orchard: found dead in a
meadow; no marks of violence; natural death. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1376 23 Oct. 1783. Sopworth. Edward Longden: found dead in a stable or outhouse; no marks of violence; natural death. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1377 6 Nov. 1783. Was sent for by the parish of Box. They had taken up the body of a new-born child which was brought and buried there late at night and in a very suspicious manner. It appearing that the child was born at and brought from Bath dead, it was judged right to have it taken back there. I also went and first informed the mayor, who is coroner there, of the affair and attended his inquiry, examination of witnesses, etc. Journey to Box and Bath and expenses for staying out all night, £2 2s.

1378 16 Nov. 1783. Shepherds' Shore in Bishop's Cannings. William Cox: was digging flints in a pit or quarry at a part of Bishop's Cannings Down called Bennetts Knoll in company with Michael Nash and others and, having imprudently undermined or undersloped the sides, a great quantity of the earth and stony matter fell down and killed him on the spot. 3 miles. £1 3s.

1379 16 Nov. 1783. Same place. Michael Nash: killed in the same way. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1380 16 Nov. 1783. Rowde. Mary Ann Stump, aged under 4: fell into a well and was drowned. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1381 15 Dec. 1783. Trowbridge. Francis Winter, private soldier in H.M. 61st regiment of foot: found dead in his chamber; no marks of violence. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1382 20 Dec. 1783. Bishop's Cannings. A man unknown, who had been rambling about the country, appearing weak and distressed in his mind: found dead in a barn. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

1383 27 Dec. 1783. The Roebuck Inn in Preshute beyond Marlborough. Thomas Griffiths: killed by the overturning of the coach he was driving from the snow and badness of the road in Marlborough Forest. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1384 31 Dec. 1783. Semington in Steeple Ashton. Edmund Allen: being conveyed from Hilperton in a cart, died naturally. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1385 2 Jan. 1784. All Saints' parish, Chitterne. Francis George: found on Maddington Cow Down, Salisbury Plain; cold and severe weather. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1386 12 Jan. 1784. Melksham. Thomas Brewer: returning from Bromham in the night, died from the severe weather. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1387 13 Jan. 1784. Christian Malford. John Ferris, aged under 5: slipped on the ice by the side of a well or dipping-place for water and, falling into it, was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1388 15 Jan. 1784. Warminster. Nicholas Tucker, aged under 5: being left alone in a chamber, fell on the coal fire and was burnt to death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1389 17 Jan. 1784. Highworth. Ann Nix, aged under 3: left by herself and by some means her clothes catching fire, was burnt and died. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1390 31 Jan. 1784. Westbury. James Davis: stabbed in the side with a knife by William Doel. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1784, William was acquitted of James's murder on both the indictment and the inquest, but convicted of his manslaughter and sentenced to be burnt on the hand and imprisoned in the county gaol for a year. His imprisonment was continued at the Salisbury assizes of 24 July 1784 and 5 Mar. 1785: ASSI 23/8. But see 2589.]


1392  7 Feb. 1784. Standen (Chute Stanham) in Chute. George Noyes, aged under 5: fell into a pit and was suffocated. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1393  11 Feb. 1784. Devizes prison. James Tanner, committed by Edmund Wilkins, esq., high steward of Malmesbury: had been ailing and infirm; natural death. £1 [altered from £1 1s.]

1394  13 Feb. 1784. Hilperton. A male infant, suspected to have been killed by its mother: natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1395  17 Feb. 1784. Shalbourne. James Hall: suddenly died in a lane. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1396  21 Feb. 1784. Avebury. Sarah Eally: going from Berwick Bassett to Avebury, died in the field; bad weather. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1397  5 Mar. 1784. Calstone Wellington in Calne. John Hicks: hanged himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1398  16 Mar. 1784. Lower Stanton St Quintin. Charles Allsup: found dead in Lays Lane in Corston parish; no marks of violence; natural death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1399  17 Mar. 1784. Highworth. Richard Butler, surgeon: hanged himself; lunacy. 28 miles. £2 1s.


1401  22 Mar. 1784. Wroughton. William Seymour: having imprudently drunk too much spirituous liquor, went into a garden seemingly not affected with any other illness but in a very short space of time was found and brought in dead. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1402  23 Mar. 1784. Purton. Rachel Godwin, an old woman: found dead in Dole Mead; no marks of violence. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1403  9 Apr. 1784. Burton Hill near Malmesbury. Thomas Lewis: hanged himself in a hovel or shed in a ground near there called Burgesses Part; felodese. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.

1404  18 Apr. 1784. Trowbridge. Benjamin Mitchell: suddenly died at the Blue Ball public house. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1405  18 Apr. 1784. Bradford on Avon. Mr John Bawlward: shot himself with a gun charged with powder and shot; lunacy. No fee: his relations paid it at the time of the inquest, choosing to take the charge from the county.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 19 Apr. 1784; distances from Devizes; total £42 4s.; allowed by J. Awdry and J. Walker Heneage, 5 Oct. 1784. [A5/2/1/56]
1406 30 Apr. 1784. Freeman’s Marsh in Charnham Street tithing, Hungerford. Mary Platt: died in her house from an ailment and infirmity she had been afflicted with for some time, and not otherwise as reported. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1407 3 May 1784. Easton Grey. John Olliffe, aged under 2: fell into a dipping-place or pool and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1408 10 May 1784. New Barn in Lyneham. Edward West, an old man: thought to be attempting to drink water from a pond as he lay on the ground, but, falling in, was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1409 11 May 1784. Devizes prison. John Mathews, sentenced to be confined there for 12 months at a quarter sessions lately held at Warminster: had been ailing and infirm for 2 months before he died. £1.

1410 25 May 1784. Marlborough prison. Robert Spackman, first committed by James Rolt, esq., for leaving his family chargeable to the parish of Wootton Rivers and further ordered to be continued at Easter sessions last: malignant fever. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1411 29 May 1784. Sutton Veny. James Hinton, subject to fits: found dead in a ground called Wickhams; no marks of violence. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1412 5 June 1784. Westbury Leigh. William Abrams: fell from a waggon loaded with coal in the street and was killed by the off-side wheel. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1413 6 June 1784. Christian Malford. William Newman: in felling an oak tree, was killed by it falling on him. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1414 9 June 1784. Long Mead in Trowbridge. John Ashly: found drowned in a brook; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1415 27 June 1784. Chippenham. John Roles: in a frenzy cut his throat. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1416 29 June 1784. South Wraxall. Jane Moore: found in the agonies of death and suspected to have been ill-treated by Charles Morris with whom she resided, but no proof could be collected. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1417 29 June 1784. Box. Margaret Higgins: died in being conveyed in a pass-cart from Bathford, Somerset, to St George’s, Southwark, Surrey. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1418 30 June 1784. Castle Combe. John Drew: found dead in a mead; no marks of violence. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1419 3 July 1784. Hatt in Box. James Newman: killed by the kick of a horse. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1420 8 July 1784. Chippenham. George Bond: unfortunately drowned bathing in the Avon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1421 5 Aug. 1784. Stert in Urchfont. John Stone: riding on the head of a waggon he was driving, fell off and was crushed and killed by the wheels. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

1422 6 Aug. 1784. Longbridge Deverill. John Corbett: found dead and putrefied in a house some days after his death. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1423 8 Aug. 1784. Little Hell or The Barton in Clyffe Pypard. Thomas
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Spackman, aged under 9: killed by the kick of a colt. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
1424 14 Aug. 1784. Broad Hinton. Francis Buss: found dead in his house; no marks of violence. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1425 15 Aug. 1784. New Farm in Warminster. Arthur Dikeman, aged about 2: killed by the going off of a gun in the hands of William Tucker, an infant aged under 11; accidental death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1426 22 Aug. 1784. Calne. Dorothy Weston: hanged herself; lunacy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1427 22 Aug. 1784. Idover in Dauntsey. Joseph Massy: threw himself into a pit or pond and was instantly drowned; lunacy. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1428 4 Sept. 1784. Chiseldon. Adam Chandler: killed by the kick of a horse. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
1429 7 Sept. 1784. Hannington Bridge. Thomas Hayward: bathing in the Isis, was instantly out of his depth and drowned. 29 miles. £2 1s. 9d.
1430 8 Sept. 1784. Kingswood. Sarah Croombe, aged about 14: her death was reported to have been caused by ill-treatment by Richard Fowler with whom she had for a few days resided, but there was no appearance or evidence to confirm or justify it; worm fever. 40 miles, being obliged to go through Tetbury to get post-horses. £2 10s.
1431 12 Sept. 1784. Standen. Richard Pearce: found dead in a barton or farm-yard; no marks of violence. 24 miles. £1 18s.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 6 Apr. 1785; distances from Devizes; total £41 10s. 9d.; allowed by J. Walker Heneage and T. G. Vilett. [A5/2/1/57]

1432 15 Apr. 1785. Bradford on Avon. John Hutchings, aged under 7: fell into a dipping-place called Well Close Well and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1433 16 Apr. 1785. Studley Green in Trowbridge. William Willis, apprentice: had been in a considerable degree ill-treated by his master and mistress, but not from a wilful intention to destroy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1435 3 May 1785. Ramsbury. Thomas Piper: suddenly died in a road or passage. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1436 13 May 1785. West Overton. Thomas Hiscock: killed by the kick of a horse. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
1437 13 May 1785. Yatesbury. William Ferris: found dead in Stanmore Field in Clyffe Pypard; no marks of violence. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1438 2 June 1785. Hilperton. John Webb: said to have been injured in an affray by Joseph Butcher, but it was found otherwise. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1439 4 June 1785. The bridewell near Marlborough. William Bartlett, committed by Lord William Seymour on suspicion of housebreaking; smallpox. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1440 4 June 1785. Elcot in Preshute. A man unknown: hanged himself in
a hedgerow to an ash stool or pole; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1441 6 June 1785. Studley in Calne. William Street: killed by the over-turning of a phaeton he was riding in. Fee and expenses paid by his relations.

1442 7 June 1785. Boyton. A female bastard child: the mother was charged with and tried for murder. 16 miles. £1 12s.

[At Salisbury assizes, 9 July 1785, Rebecca Street was acquitted of murdering a female bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

1443 9 June 1785. Chippenham. Mary Milson: hanged herself; fever and lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1444 16 June 1785. Manningford Abbots. Ann Martin, aged under 7: fell into the mill-tail and was found dead. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1445 18 June 1785. Horton in Bishop's Cannings. John Biggs: was riding on a waggon loaded with cheese which turned over and he was suffocated for want of assistance. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.


1447 18 June 1785. Broad Hinton. Henry Pithouse: found dead in his house. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1448 21 June 1785. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Higgins: thrown from a horse and killed in the Wingfield road. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1449 22 June 1785. Fosbury in Tidcombe. John Stockwell: unfortunately killed by a blow from a large stick in the hands of Thomas Stout, an idiot. 24 miles. £1 1s.

1450 26 June 1785. Warminster. Mary Trapp: killed by falling off a waggon on Warminster Down. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1451 28 July 1785. Rockley in Ogbourne St Andrew. Daniel Millard: thrown out of a waggon and killed. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1452 1 Aug. 1785. Great Hinton in Steeple Ashton. Mary Amor, aged under 8: fell into a well and was drowned instantly. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1453 12 Aug. 1785. Hilperton. William Potecary, infant: fell into a pond and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1454 13 Aug. 1785. Westbury. Roger Hodson: in a very improper way was brought in a cart from Bathwick very ill and put out and left in the open hall in the market-place and soon after died. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1455 13 Aug. 1785. Heytesbury. John Snelgrove: accidentally killed by the discharge of a gun carried by William Garrett, birdkeeper. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1456 14 Aug. 1785. Ramsbury. Elizabeth Smith: suddenly died in the road going up a steep hill leading to the park. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1457 27 Aug. 1785. Melksham. Paul Harding: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1458 16 Sept. 1785. Bowden Hill in Lacock. Abraham Gray: killed by the wheels of a waggon loaded with coal passing over him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1459 25 Sept. 1785. Chippenham. Richard Harris: fell from some high steps or stairs in the Angel Inn, fractured his skull, and was killed. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1460  1 Oct. 1785.  Avoncliff Mill in Westwood.  Joseph Davis, infant: fell into the Avon and was drowned.  15 miles.  £1 11s. 3d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 5 Oct. 1785; distances from Devizes; total £12 19s. 6d.; allowed by Ambrose Goddard and F. D. Astley. [A5/2/1/58]

1461  16 Oct. 1785.  Beechingstoke.  William Wayte of the parish of Manningford Bohune, subject to fits: found in the Alder Bed, where it appeared he had lain for some time.  7 miles.  £1 5s. 3d.
1462  9 Nov. 1785.  St Nicholas's parish, Biddestone.  George Hulbert: riding on the limbers of a waggon, fell to the ground and was crushed to death by its fore-wheel.  13 miles.  £1 9s. 9d.
1463  30 Nov. 1785.  Winterbourne Monkton.  Humphrey Chivers: thought to be killed by the violence of the vane of a windmill in a field. 11 miles.  £1 8s. 3d.
1464  1 Dec. 1785.  Westbury Leigh in Westbury.  William Lawrence: instantly killed by the falling in of a stone-quarry which he had imprudently undermined.  13 miles.  £1 9s. 9d.
1466  19 Dec. 1785.  Bromham.  Jonathan Smart, a young man: had been at work alone in Bunsleigh Close where he was found senseless and near death; after a few hours he died, to all appearance from a stroke of the paralytic apoplexy.  5 miles.  £1 9s. 9d.
1467  25 Dec. 1785.  Warminster.  Thomas Jarvis: suddenly died in the road at Boreham.  18 miles.  £1 13s. 6d.
1468  29 Dec. 1785.  Marden.  Thomas Tucker: fell from a tree and was killed.  7 miles.  £1 5s. 3d.
1469  30 Dec. 1785.  Axford in Ramsbury.  Elizabeth Newington: fell down in the night and died by a shock of the brain soon after she was found.  20 miles.  £1 15s.
1470  7 Jan. 1786.  Pewsey.  John Banning: returning from Pewsey to Collingbourne Ducis or Kingston a week before, died from the inclement weather and was covered with snow.  12 miles.  £1 9s.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 10 Jan. 1786; distances from Devizes; total £48 14s. 9d.; allowed by J. Penruddocke and S. Cam, 11 July 1786.  [A5/2/1/59]

1471  13 Jan. 1786.  Brail in Great Bedwyn.  Robert Cope: hanged himself to a tree in his garden; lunacy.  28 miles.  £2 1s.
1472  25 Jan. 1786.  Froxfield.  Joseph Gosling: riding on a waggon which was thrown over by the wheels gathering and passing up a bank, was killed on the spot.  24 miles.  £1 18s.
3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.  
1474 8 Feb. 1786. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. John Pound: falling under the wheels of a stage-waggon, was passed over by it and killed. 29 miles. £2 1s. 9d.
1475 17 Feb. 1786. Sharcott in Pewsey. Mary King: threw herself into Hare Street (Harespeat) Pond and drowned herself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1476 25 Feb. 1786. Standen in Chute. John Bower: found dead in Hatchets Lane owing to a fall on the ground the preceding night and the severe weather. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
1477 26 Feb. 1786. Potterne. Thomas Waylen, an old man: found dead in his house. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
1478 3 Mar. 1786. Westcombe. John Payne: thrown from a horse in a by-lane and soon after found dead in the severe weather. 24 miles. £1 18s.
1479 3 Mar. 1786. Badbury in Chiseldon. Elijah Romans, aged under 12: by the cruelty of William Chandler, who had undertaken and was entrusted to drive a waggon drawn by 4 horses and loaded with peat ashes, was put to the care and to walk by the side of the horses whilst Chandler was riding on another waggon; by which reason, with the badness and slipperiness of the road, Elijah fell down before the wheels and was crushed to death. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
1480 4 Mar. 1786. Bradford on Avon. A man unknown, wont to lodge at nights under ricks and other open places: severe weather. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
1481 17 Mar. 1786. Worton in Potterne. Robert Biggs: killed by the going off of the charge of a gun carried behind him on the arm of William Holloway; accidental death. 4 miles. £1 3s.
1482 19 Mar. 1786. Was called to Warminster on the death of a new-born infant, supposed to have been overlain by its mother; but being confined from indisposition, my brother, as a surgeon, attended and, finding no marks of injury or suspicion of violence, left my certificate for burying the body. His journey and horse hire, etc., £1 1s.
1483 24 Mar. 1786. Preshute near Marlborough. William Cooper: threw himself into a part of the Kennet called Castle Mill Pond and drowned himself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1485 15 Apr. 1786. Devizes prison. Robert Vizard, committed, in a declining state, on 18 Mar. by E. Wilkins, esq., charged with wilfully cutting, damaging, and spoiling a maiden oak timber tree on 13 Feb. without the consent of its owner, the earl of Suffolk, in the ground of Oliver Langly at Brinkworth, and being convicted of the same in the penalty of £10 was committed for 6 months or until the penalty should be paid: natural death. £1.
1486 30 Apr. 1786. Coldharbour in Highworth. John Thompson Bendry: returning from Cricklade in the night to his home at Draycot Foliat, by the falling of his horse was thrown with great violence against the ground, whereby the spinal marrow of his back was separated and he languished and
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died. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
1487 3 May 1786. Keevil. A person unknown, appearing to be aged about 14, who had been begging and lying about as a vagrant in barns and out-
houses, infested with filth and vermin, and so died. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1488 9 May 1786. Whitley in Melksham. Mark Watson, aged under 2: fell into a well and was instantly drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1489 10 May 1786. West Lavington. John Shore, an old shepherd: found dead in a part of a field called Goose Acre; no marks of violence; natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1490 13 May 1786. Maiden Bradley. John Crouch: returning from his daily work at Horningsham to his home at Maiden Bradley, died suddenly and alone in a part of the road called Rennells Grave. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
1492 20 May 1786. Bradford on Avon. Samuel Bryant, aged under 4: fell into a part of the Avon called the Town Mill Pond and was instantly drowned. 13 miles. £1 19s. 9d.
1493 23 May 1786. Sutton Benger. Joseph Ellary, aged under 9: killed by the near-wheel of a cart passing over his head. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1494 25 May 1786. Hill Deverill. Thomas Everly, subject to fits: found dead in a garden or orchard. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
1495 4 June 1786. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. Eleanor Dainton: hanged herself to the pillar of a loom in her house; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1496 8 June 1786. Westbrook in Bromham. Joseph Hatter, aged under 3: his skull was fractured by the kick of a horse, of which he instantly died. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1497 19 June 1786. East Town in the tithing of West Ashton in Steeple Ashton. James Bishop: run over and killed by the off-wheel of a cart loaded with stone. 10 miles. £1 17s. 6d.
1498 19 June 1786. Trowbridge. William Webly, aged under 3: from a dreadful mistake of an apothecary’s servant was given the powder of white hellebore instead of rhubarb and thereby poisoned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1499 30 June 1786. Ashley in Box. Hester Handcock: threw herself into a brook and drowned herself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1500 3 July 1786. Bratton in Westbury. James Stiles, aged under 7: killed by the kick of a horse upon his stomach. 11 miles. £1 18s. 3d.
1501 5 July 1786. Poulton, a village on the Fairford to Cirencester road. Elizabeth Basson: poisoned herself by taking corrosive sublimate of mercury; felo de se. 38 miles. £2 8s. 6d.
1502 9 July 1786. Ogbourne St Andrew. Richard Crook: being upon a waggon loaded with hay in Woodroffs Meadow, suddenly died. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

Bill of William Clare since Warminster quarter sessions, 13 July 1786;
distances from Devizes; total £338 8s. 9d.; allowed by J. Montagu, jun., and J. Walker Heneage. [A5/2/1/60]

1503 21 July 1786. Worton in Potterne. John Tilly: fell off a hayrick he was making and was killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1504 25 July 1786. Poole Keynes. Elizabeth Fisher, aged about 2: drowned by falling into a well. 29 miles. £2 1s. 9d.

1505 28 July 1786. West Lavington. David Godwin, aged under 5: fell into a kiver [sc. tub] of hot wort and was killed. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1506 15 Aug. 1786. Barton Down in Preshute. James Field: driving a waggon loaded with wool from Marlborough to Cirencester, fell under the off-side wheels and was instantly crushed to death. 16 miles. £1 12s.


1508 31 Aug. 1786. St Mary's parish, Devizes. John Garlick, aged about 8: bathing in the large pond in Devizes Green, was unfortunately drowned. £1.

1509 7 Sept. 1786. Crudwell. Nicholas Gilbert, old and infirm: hanged himself; lunacy. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1510 12 Sept. 1786. Chippenham. John Green: thrown from a horse belonging to William Halcomb at the Bear Inn, Devizes, and, being entangled by his foot in the stirrup of the saddle, was dragged on the ground and killed. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1511 13 Sept. 1786. Avebury. Thomas Fowler: killed instantly by the kick of a horse in his head. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1512 21 Sept. 1786. Great Trowle in Bradford on Avon. James Burbage: accidentally killed in the night by the charge of a blunderbuss, being gunpowder and ball, the same being in the hands of Samuel Newman and intended for the safety and defence of their master's house, one Charles Long, at the said parish. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1513 2 Oct. 1786. South Wraxall. Sarah Norris, an old woman: fell into the burning coals of a fire and was burnt, suffocated, and killed. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1514 8 Oct. 1786. Ogbourne St Andrew. John Moore: living alone in a house, was found dead; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1515 15 Oct. 1786. Bradford on Avon. Elizabeth Marks: hanged herself; lunacy. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.


1517 16 Nov. 1786. Shaw in Lydiard Millicent. Christopher Keele: digging a well with others, was killed by the falling in of the earth and timber of its sides. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1518 21 Nov. 1786. Christian Malford. William Yeo: kicked in the side by a horse belonging to Joseph Sealy and soon after died. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1519 23 Nov. 1786. Garsdon. Thomas Sheppard: found drowned in a rivulet which he attempted to cross when the waters were very high and flooded. 24 miles. £1 18s.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Bill</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Dec. 1786</td>
<td>Melksham. Joseph Gum: fell off a high elm tree and was instantly killed.</td>
<td>7 miles</td>
<td>£1 5s. 3d</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Dec. 1786</td>
<td>The bridewell or prison near Marlborough. William Reass, committed on 8 Dec. by Lovelace Bigg, esq., on a bastardy warrant: was ailing and ill about a week; fever.</td>
<td>14 miles</td>
<td>£1 10s. 6d</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Dec. 1786</td>
<td>Allington in All Cannings. Philip Hiscock: found dead in a house where he lived by himself; no marks of violence.</td>
<td>5 miles</td>
<td>£1 3s. 9d</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Jan. 1787</td>
<td>Red Stock Lane in Seend parish. Edward Pinnock: killed on the spot by the pressure and fall of a very large stone from a quarry he was digging in.</td>
<td>5 miles</td>
<td>£1 3s. 9d</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Jan. 1787</td>
<td>Wroughton. Thomas the young illegitimate child of Eleanor Clargo: fell on the hot coals or ashes of a fire from the arms of its mother and soon after died.</td>
<td>18 miles</td>
<td>£1 13s. 6d</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Jan. 1787</td>
<td>Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. Henry Newberry, aged under 3: instantly died by taking in the steam of boiling water from the spout of a tea-kettle in the absence of his mother.</td>
<td>Devizes</td>
<td>£1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Jan. 1787</td>
<td>Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. Samuel Overton: being in a frenzy and distracted and tied and confined to his bed, by the violence of his strivings and exertions in the absence of the person who had the care of him ruptured a blood-vessel and instantly died.</td>
<td>Devizes</td>
<td>£1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Jan. 1787</td>
<td>St Mary’s parish, Chitterne. John Stevens: hanged himself to a rafter in the necessary-house; lunacy.</td>
<td>14 miles</td>
<td>£1 10s. 6d</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Jan. 1787</td>
<td>Tilshead Buildings in Tilshead. Elizabeth Pearce: being alone, was found dead in a room there; no marks of violence.</td>
<td>10 miles</td>
<td>£1 7s. 6d</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Feb. 1787</td>
<td>Potterne. Isaac Bond: suddenly died at his daily work.</td>
<td>3 miles</td>
<td>£1 2s. 3d</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Feb. 1787</td>
<td>Norton Bavant. An infant female bastard, suspected to have been injured by the mother, Ann Westley: still-born.</td>
<td>17 miles</td>
<td>£1 12s. 9d</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Feb. 1787</td>
<td>Westbury. John King: found dead in Gibbs’s Close; it appeared to be the effect of drinking spiritous liquors just before.</td>
<td>13 miles</td>
<td>£1 9s. 9d</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Feb. 1787</td>
<td>Kingsdown in Box. John Ford: being delirious and distracted, hanged himself.</td>
<td>15 miles</td>
<td>£1 11s. 3d</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Feb. 1787</td>
<td>Woodrow in Melksham. William Oatley: unfortunately drowned in a pool or pond.</td>
<td>8 miles</td>
<td>£1 6s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Feb. 1787</td>
<td>Bedborough in Bishop’s Cannings. Roger Edmunds: hanged himself in his house with a piece of leather called a throat-hasp; lunacy.</td>
<td>1 mile</td>
<td>£1 10s. 9d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1535  27 Feb. 1787.  Seend Row in Seend parish.  Ann Earl: found dead in her house; no marks of violence.  6 miles.  £1 4s. 6d.
1536  7 Mar. 1787.  Bradford on Avon.  Thomas Canings: being in the parish workhouse, hanged himself in a hovel or outhouse belonging to it; lunacy.  14 miles.  £1 10s. 6d.
1537  7 Mar. 1787.  West Lavington.  William Chapman: in fighting with John Bartlet had a large blood-vessel ruptured internally and instantly died; it appeared this might happen from falling or even his own exertion, being full of liquor; the affray was urged and begun by himself with many other circumstances that induced the jurors to acquit Bartlett of any degree of homicide.  6 miles.  £1 4s. 6d.
1538  8 Mar. 1787.  Shaw in Lydiard Millicent.  William Daniel: suddenly died at Shaw Wash Pool.  22 miles.  £1 16s. 6d.
1539  1 Apr. 1787.  Bishop’s Cannings.  Priscilla Smith, suspected to have been ill-treated by William Lane and his wife with whom she lived, but no proof thereof appeared.  4 miles.  £1 3s.
1540  3 Apr. 1787.  Purton.  Ann the illegitimate child of Mary Clark, travelling-woman: suspected to have been misused, but it did not appear so.  24 miles.  £1 18s.
1542  10 Apr. 1787.  Heddington Wick in Heddington.  James Hughes, an old man: returning thence to his home at Calne, was found dead in Kings Ground; no marks of violence.  7 miles.  £1 5s. 3d.
1543  15 Apr. 1787.  Little Hinton.  The widow of Edward Westell, late of Cirencester: was travelling and roving about and found near death under a hayrick; cold weather and weakness.  26 miles.  £1 19s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 3 Oct. 1787; distances from Devizes; total £36 16s. 6d.; allowed by Robert Nicholas and J. Walker Heneage, 16 Jan. 1788.  [A5/2/1/62]

1544  8 Oct. 1787.  Highworth.  William Kilmarston: fell from a high ladder and the roof of a house to the ground and was killed.  28 miles.  £2 1s.
1545  9 Oct. 1787.  All Cannings.  Geoffrey Maslin: found dead in a house wherein he resided; no marks of violence; natural death.  6 miles.  £1 4s. 6d.
1546  19 Oct. 1787.  Trowbridge.  Jane Morgan, aged about 13: was washing by the side of the river and, pecking forward into it, was drowned.  11 miles.  £1 18s. 3d.
1547  4 Nov. 1787.  Little Salisbury in Milton Lilborne.  William Chandler: suddenly died in a large field called the Grove belonging to Fyfield.  15 miles.  £1 11s. 3d.
1548  5 Nov. 1787.  Lea.  Sarah Pinnell: hanged herself; lunacy.  24 miles.  £1 18s.
1549  8 Nov. 1787.  Poole Keynes.  William Mayo, aged under 10 weeks: natural death, not from any hurt of the mother as reported.  30 miles.
2s. 6d.

1550 9 Nov. 1787. Highway. John Cleverly, an old man: found dead in a common called Hilly Marsh; no marks of violence. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1551 10 Nov. 1787. Great Hinton in Steeple Ashton. Richard Gerrish, driver of a cart: died falling from the cart or from the inclement weather, being beaten to the ground on the road in Ashton Common. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1552 11 Nov. 1787. Hankerton. William Lovelook, aged under 6: found drowned in a pit in Hankerton Common; accidental death. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.

1553 16 Nov. 1787. Horningsham. Thomas Hopkins: in a fit of insanity stabbed himself with a knife at Longleat House where he was a servant. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.

1554 20 Nov. 1787. Chippenham. Henry Baily, very infirm and ill: wandering and passing from place to place, died on the road near Chippenham. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


1556 23 Nov. 1787. Eisey. John Clifford: fell from the top of some high stairs to the ground and was killed. 32 miles. £2 4s.

1557 27 Nov. 1787. Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. Thomas Platt, a prisoner in Devizes prison, committed by the mayor as a rogue and vagabond, having been found wandering and begging in the said parish: he was confined and found dead in a cell, greatly emaciated in his body and limbs. For further information the inquest was adjourned to the next day, when it was found that the allowance of a twopenny loaf per day is a very short and scanty one, inadequate to and insufficient for the support and maintenance of the body of any man, that Thomas died from want of such support and the coldness of his situation proceeding from the inclement weather of the season and not from any violence, duress, or other severity from the hands of the keeper of the prison or his deputy, he being directed at the time of receiving Thomas's body into his custody so to place and confine him in the said cell. £1. Adjournment, £1.

[See above, p. li.]

1558 21 Dec. 1787. Braydon Side in Brinkworth. Isaac Church, suspected to have been ill-treated by his wife and others about him so as to cause his death, but it was found not to be so. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1559 30 Dec. 1787. Bradford on Avon. A new-born male child, which its mother, Mary Powell, was suddenly by surprise delivered of in a passage or street: no marks of violence; still-born or died for want of assistance. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1560 30 Dec. 1787. Seend Row in Seend parish. John Taylor: found dying in a garden and instantly after died; natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1561 1 Jan. 1788. Marlborough Hill near the Forest in Preshute. A man unknown: found dead in the snow near the road in Savernake Park; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1562 2 Jan. 1788. Trowbridge. James Hawkins: returning from Trow-
bridge to his home at Little Trowle in the dark, fell into the river and was drowned. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
1563 7 Jan. 1788. Cherhill. James Caswell: suddenly died in a house or barn. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1564 11 Jan. 1788. Chippenham. William Deverill: upwards of a week before was lost in the river, supposed to have fallen in passing over a very narrow foot-bridge called Back Avon Bridge. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d. [See also 1569.]
1565 13 Jan. 1788. Grove Farm in Mildenhall. Thomas Cheeseman: found nearly dead in a barn and immediately after died; no marks of violence; natural death. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.
1566 To the constable of Broughton Gifford for conveying Phoebe Gore thence to Devizes prison, being charged with the murder of her male infant. 11 miles. 11s. [The inquest was presumably in the previous, missing, bill. At Salisbury assizes, 21 July 1787, Phoebe wife of Thomas Gore was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, Jan. 1788; distances from Devizes; total £76 19s. 3d.; allowed by Edmund Lambert and H. P. Wyndham, 16 July 1788. [A5/2/1/63]

1567 18 Jan. 1788. Collingbourne Kingston. Robert Rolfe: was riding in a cart from Everleigh to Collingborne Kingston and, it turning over, he was killed on the spot. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1568 21 Jan. 1788. St Mary’s parish, Devizes. Richard Giddings, a lodger in a house there: found dead in his bed; no marks of violence. £1.
1569 25 Jan. 1788, an adjournment of an inquisition begun at Chippenham on 11 Jan. and included in the last bill. William Deverell: drowned by falling from a very dangerous and presentable foot-bridge over the Avon at the back of the town. As well by reason of many past accidents as the present and to prevent future ones, it was judged highly necessary to adjourn until after a convention by vestry of the chief inhabitants of Chippenham, the result whereof is to widen and strengthen the bridge and render it safer in time of floods. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d. [See 1564.]
1570 5 Feb. 1788. Chippenham. Tristram or Tristan (Tristam) Jarman: killed by the overturning of a stage-coach he was riding on by the side of a driver. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1571 9 Feb. 1788. Rowde. John Bayly: killed by a blind horse running with great violence against him in the dark on the road. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
1572 11 Feb. 1788. Colerne. Elizabeth Ford: fell down a staircase in the night and was found dead at the bottom. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1573 18 Feb. 1788. Hawkeridge in Westbury. Jane Doel, subject to fits: found dead in a pool or pond; no marks of violence. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1574 20 Feb. 1788. St John’s parish, Devizes. Edward Sloper: found dead
in a room where he usually lodged; rupture of a blood-vessel internally. £1.
1575 23 Feb. 1788. Dauntsey. A female infant, lately born of Elizabeth Gale who was suspected to have wilfully hurt it, but it was not found to be so. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1576 24 Feb. 1788. Penleigh in Westbury. William Hill: was working in and turning water over some meadow and found dead; no marks of violence. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1577 2 Mar. 1788. Upper Westwood. James Godwin: having drunk too freely of strong liquor and laid himself on the ground, was found dead in the morning. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1578 9 Mar. 1788. Calstone Wellington in Calne. William Haynes, a young man: had imprudently drunk to excess and, laying himself on the cold ground, was found dead in the morning. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1579 11 Mar. 1788. West Lavington. Ann Moore: threw herself into a well; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1580 12 Mar. 1788. Sherston Magna. William Wallis, a young man: in a fit of frenzy threw himself into a well and was instantly killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
1581 15 Mar. 1788. Purton. William Tilling, an old man: returning from Swindon to his home at Ashton Keynes, died near Woodward's Bridge and was found there the next morning; no marks of violence. 24 miles. £1 18s.
1582 18 Mar. 1788. Wilsford. Richard King: getting off the shafts of a waggon, fell under the wheels and was instantly killed. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1583 18 Mar. 1788. Marden. Gifford Maslin, a poor child, thought to have been ill-treated by his aunt who had the care of him: on dissection, his bowels were found full of worms, and other evidence cleared the woman. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
1584 26 Mar. 1788. Trowbridge. William Phillips: having drunk a great quantity of strong liquors and being put to sleep in a tallet or loft in some hay, was suffocated. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
1585 31 Mar. 1788. Poulshott. Isaac Trimnell: in a fit of insanity cut his throat with a large clasp-knife and instantly died. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
1586 8 Apr. 1788. Hermitage in Calne. Jacob Savage, aged under 9: fell into a quarry in North Field and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1587 11 Apr. 1788. Wanborough Marsh. Richard Tombee, aged under 3: fell into a pool in a garden and was drowned. 24 miles. £1 18s.
1588 12 Apr. 1788. Melksham. John Collingbourne, aged under 3: drowned by falling into a ditch in his father's garden where he was found some time after. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
1589 12 Apr. 1788. Westbury. James Killing: fell into a mashing-tub, having in it boiling wort, and almost instantly died. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
1590 23 Apr. 1788. Ashton Keynes. Olive Cowley, aged under 3: found drowned in a pit. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
1591 25 Apr. 1788. Worton in Potterne. Mary Coleman: hanged herself with a leather thong called a throat-hasp; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.
1592 28 Apr. 1788. Trowbridge. John Phillips: killed by a blow on the
back of his neck from Isaac Nash whom he had been fighting with. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 5 July 1788, Isaac, charged with John’s murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be fined 1s. and imprisoned in the common gaol for a month and until he paid the fine: ASSI 23/8.]

1593 1 May 1788. Colerne. Mary Smith: cut her throat with a small knife and instantly died; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 11s. 6d.

1594 7 May 1788. Box. William Keene: imprudently riding an unruly horse in the street, was thrown off and killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.


1596 14 May 1788. Broad Hinton. John Smith: trying to stop horses running away with a waggon, was thrown to the ground and, its wheels passing over him, was killed nearly on the spot. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1597 14 May 1788. Ogbourne St George. George Nepors: run over by a roller drawn by 3 horses in a part of Ogbourne Field called Red Lands and instantly killed. 18 miles. £1 11s. 6d.

1598 15 May 1788. Parsonage Farm in Warminster. Edward Newbery: was dressing a brown-bay mare down the hinder parts in the stable and was kicked by it and killed. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1599 15 May 1788. Warminster. A man called Robert Hall, certain name unknown, who had been staying and straggling about the town much wasted from illness: found dead under a hayrick with a brief to be granted to John Smith of Charlton, Hants, to supply a loss he had on the seas and by which a considerable sum appeared to have been collected by someone. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1600 16 May 1788. Upton Lovell. William Tit: had climbed upon an ash tree and, slipping and falling from it, was killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1601 19 May 1788. St Mary’s parish, Chitterne. Joseph Compton: by mistake instead of a purgative powder called jalap took a large quantity of sublimate of mercury and soon after died. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1602 21 May 1788. Clench in Milton Lilborne. Hannah Stevens, reported to have received an unfortunate blow from her husband, but it was found she did not: apoplexy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1603 27 May 1788. Beckhampton in Avebury. A man unknown: had the care of a spinning-house cart belonging to Mr John Serle of Shepton Mallet on which he was riding with reins and, crossing the roads on Yatesbury Down, fell from it and was soon after found dead. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1604 4 June 1788. Great Somerford. Robert Gough: being alone in the Avon and attempting to swim, was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1605 9 June 1788. Hailstone in St Sampson’s parish, Cricklade. Alexander Hughes: returning from Highworth to Cricklade, fell from his horse and was killed. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1606 12 June 1788. Ramsbury Park. John Macklin: getting up on a waggon, slipped and fell under the wheels and was instantly killed. 22 miles.
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1607 16 June 1788. Woodhill Park in Clyffe Pypard. A female infant bastard, born of Ann Richens: after a very strict inquiry it was found that if the infant did receive any injury from the mother it was accidentally. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1608 17 June 1788. Little Bedwyn. Charles Lewis, an old man: found dead in Church Field; no marks of violence. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1609 20 June 1788. St Mary's parish, Devizes. John Oakford, aged under 9 weeks: brought there by his parents dead from Chippenham; the child was not hurt by them. £1.

1610 22 June 1788. Great Cheverell. William Axford: suddenly died in the field where he had been working. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1611 22 June 1788. Roundway in Bishop's Cannings. William Willis, aged under 7: fell into the pond above the Wash Pool and was instantly drowned. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

1612 5 July 1788. Leigh. Thomas Eyles, aged under 4: fell into a well and instantly died of suffocation and bruises. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1613 6 July 1788. Trowle Farm in Bradford on Avon. Robert Rummings: was riding on the head of a timber-carriage and, the horses taking fright, fell off and was instantly killed by the hinder off-wheel passing over him. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1614 6 July 1788. Seend. Richard Mundy, aged about 6 months, reported to have been ill-treated by Jane Nash who had the care of him, but it was found not to be so. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1615 8 July 1788. Was called from the assizes to Wroughton by Mr Williams, the minister, sent by Messrs Calley and Codrington and other principals of the parish, it being the general rumour that William James had poisoned his wife by something put into her caudle soon after her delivery. The body, when buried 10 days before, was in a putrid state, so it was judged advisable before taking it up again to inquire of the circumstances of suspicion. It appeared to the satisfaction of all to be a spiteful and groundless story made by a sister of the deceased because James did not choose to give her all she wanted of his wife's clothes, etc. The distance from Salisbury to Wroughton, nearly 40 miles, expenses, etc., being obliged to be on the road 2 nights, £2 2s.

1616 12 July 1788. Penn's Lodge in Brinkworth. Walter Clark, aged about 3: fell into a pit or pool and was found dead. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1617 15 July 1788. Littleton Pannell in West Lavington. William Cockle: was digging stone with others from a quarry at Littleton Hill and, having imprudently undermined it, was instantly crushed to death by a great part falling in. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 13 Jan. 1789; distances from Devizes; total £49 14s. 3d. [recte £49 15s. 3d. if 1624 had been corrected]; allowed by Edmund Lambert and W. P. A. A'Court at Warminster quarter sessions, 15 July 1789. [A5/2/1/64]

alone by her fireside fell down near the fire, was scorched and burnt, and so suddenly died. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1619 20 Jan. 1789; after taking depositions and sitting most of the night, adjourned to the next day because material witnesses had to be summoned from Rode and other parts of Somerset. North Bradley. Michael Alford, apprentice to Edward Carpenter: murder by starving and ill-treatment by Edward and his wife Phyllis, who were acquitted at the last Lent assizes. 12 miles. £1 9s. Adjournment, £1 9s.

[Edward and Phyllis were taken to Devizes prison by the tithingman of North Bradley (see 1647), and at Salisbury assizes, 7 Mar. 1789, were acquitted on the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

1620 25 Feb. 1789. Lockeridge in Overton. John Holbrook: returning to his home there over the fields, died in Pickledean; wet and tempestuous weather. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1621 25 Feb. 1789. Great Bedwyn. George Tucker: returning on horseback from thence to his home at Froxfield the night before, was drowned in a stream near Great Bedwyn; accidental death. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1622 26 Feb. 1789. Chaddington in Lydiard Tregoez. Elizabeth Tuck: died on the evening of 24 Feb., returning to her home there from Wootton Bassett; tempestuous and wet weather. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1623 28 Feb. 1789. Chittoe tithing in Bishop's Cannings. Ann Granger: returning to her home there from Sandy Lane, fell and was found dead; natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1624 6 Mar. 1789. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. Benjamin Carter: resided in a large old house and, after being some time missing, was found dead in a remote chamber; no marks of violence or cause to suspect injury. 28 miles. £2 ls. [altered from £1 1s.]

1625 19 Mar. 1789, adjourned on account of the multiplicity of evidences and the difficulty of collecting and arranging them. Westbury Leigh. George Grist: killed by fighting with James Wilkins, who is committed for trial at the ensuing assizes. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d. Adjournment, £1 9s. 9d.

[James was taken to Devizes prison by the constable of Westbury (see 1648), and at Salisbury assizes, 25 July 1789, charged with George’s murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be fined 1s. and imprisoned in the common gaol for 9 months and until he paid the fine: ASSI 23/8.]

1626 23 Mar. 1789. St Mary’s chapelry, Devizes. James White, infant: suffocated in a chamber in his father’s house, having got down too far under the bed-clothes of a bed he had been placed in by his mother. £1.

1627 24 Mar. 1789. Southwick in North Bradley. William Gibbs: found drowned in a pond or large ditch. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1628 30 Mar. 1789. Manningford Bruce. Alice Rudman: found dead in her house, fallen down by the side of the fire. 12 miles. £1 8s. [recte £1 9s.]

1629 31 Mar. 1789. Queremford in Calne. William Hiscock: the night before was riding on one horse and leading another he had purchased at Swindon fair which pulled him backwards off the horse he was riding and so he
was bruised and kicked and instantly killed. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1630 4 Apr. 1789. Bedborough tithing in Bishop's Cannings. Joseph Neate: riding on one horse and leading another, being team- or draught-horses belonging to James Sutton, esq., of New Park, was pulled off and killed by the frisking and playfulness of the one he led. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

1631 6 Apr. 1789. Monkton Farleigh. Charles Watkins: killed by the overturning of a cart he was imprudently riding in from Bath market. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1632 16 Apr. 1789. Bugley in Warminster. Jacob Gray: in driving a cart, loaded with coal, and 2 horses along the Frome road, by the setting off of the horses and his attempting to stop them was thrown to the ground and instantly killed by the wheels going over him. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1633 26 Apr. 1789. Melksham. Elizabeth Parsons, aged under 3: unfortunately fell from the hands of a girl who had the care of her out of a high window of a chamber to the ground outside the house and was killed. 8 miles. £1 6s.


1635 7 May 1789. Whitley Common in Melksham. John Ford, aged 2: found drowned in a pool or ditch. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1636 29 May 1789. Hannington Wick. Sarah Wilkins: by mistake instead of cream of tartar took into her stomach a deadly poison mixed with sulphur and treacle. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1637 1 June 1789. Calne. Robert Beaven, aged under 7: fell from a bridge into the Marden and was instantly drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1638 2 June 1789. Sheldon in Chippenham. A man called Thomas, surname unknown: going down into a well to repair it, was killed by its damp and noxious exhalations. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1639 12 June 1789. Hilperton Marsh. William Jenkins, aged about 2: falling into a well, was drowned. 12 miles. £1 8s.

1640 21 June 1789. Earlscourt in Wanborough. Mary Ricks: returning to her home there from South Marston, suddenly died in Step Stone Meadow. 29 miles. £2 1s. 9d.

1641 26 June 1789. Warminster. Samuel Starling, ostler to his brother at the Lord's Arms there: going, as thought, too incautiously near the heels of a horse tied by a halter to a manger in the corner or lower stall of a stable, was violently and repeatedly kicked by it and killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1642 27 June 1789. Burbage. Thomas Smith: was digging chalk-stone in a quarry at Wolf Hall in Great Bedwyn, the upper part of which fell in and instantly killed him. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1643 2 July 1789. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Phipp: from having drunk too much, lost his footing and power of swimming which he was attempting in the Avon and was instantly drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1644 5 July 1789. Ludgershall. Jane Cook: threw herself into a pond or pool and drowned herself; lunacy. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1645 6 July 1789. Savernake Park Great Lodge near Marlborough Forest.
William Tuck: threw himself into a deep well and was instantly killed; lunacy from frenzy and fever. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1646 8 July 1789. Great Cheverell. Elizabeth Heath: suddenly died in Staffings Field. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1647 To the tithingman of North Bradley for conveying Edward Carpenter and Phyllis his wife to Devizes prison. 12 miles. £1 4s.
[See 1619.]

1648 To the constable of Westbury for conveying James Wilkins to Devizes prison. 14 miles. 14s.
[See 1625.]

Bill of William Clare since Warminster quarter sessions, 15 July 1789; distances from Devizes; total £32 6s. 6d.; allowed by J. Walker Heneage and Thomas Goddard Vilett at Marlborough quarter sessions, 7 Oct. 1789. [A5/2/1/65]

1649 22 July 1789. Swindon. A stranger, supposed to be named William Taylor: fell off a waggon-load of hay to the ground and instantly died. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1650 28 July 1789. Haxton in Fittleton. Jason Dike, subject to fits: passing over a bridge, fell into a stream and was instantly suffocated. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1651 3 Aug. 1789. Rey Mill in Lacock. Jane Taylor: found floating in a mill-pond, part of the Avon; she had been in the habit of dipping up water and of washing her hands there; accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1652 4 Aug. 1789. St Sampson’s parish, Cricklade. Thomas Hopkins: cut his throat with a razor and instantly died; lunacy. 32 miles. £2 4s.

1653 5 Aug. 1789. St Mary’s chapelry, Devizes. Alice Clements, aged under 5: falling to the ground before the wheels of a waggon which passed over her body, was instantly killed. £1.

1654 10 Aug. 1789. Christian Malford. Thomas Gauntlett, aged under 3: fell into a pit or pool and was instantly dead. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1655 10 Aug. 1789. Christian Malford. Eleanor Hull, a young woman subject to fits: falling into a deep pool, was instantly drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1656 15 Aug. 1789. Rode Common or Rode Heath in North Bradley. Joseph Matthias Regis, aged under 2: found accidentally drowned in a large pond. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1657 19 Aug. 1789. Highworth. John Leake: hanged himself; felo de se. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1658 20 Aug. 1789. Melksham. Israel Marshman: being on a high elm tree to get dry wood, fell to the ground and was instantly killed. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1659 20 Aug. 1789. Wick Lane in Lacock. William Hudd, aged under 7: sleeping in a hay-field under some hay when the fore-wheel of a waggon passed over his head and killed him. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1660 22 Aug. 1789. St John’s parish, Devizes. Samuel Beaven, aged under 4: fell off a counter he was seated on and was so much hurt that he soon
after died. £1.

1661  24 Aug. 1789. Melksham. Robert Hippesly, aged about 9: fell into a pool in a garden and was instantly drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


1663  2 Sept. 1789. St Mary's parish, Chitterne. John Freemantle: fell out of the window of a loft or tallet and was killed. 12 miles. £1 9s.


1665  4 Sept. 1789. Trowbridge. Paul Dimmory: killed by the overturning of a one-horse chaise in the street. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1666  7 Sept. 1789. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. Jonathan Selwood: found dead after having drunk too freely of strong liquor. 32 miles. £2 4s.

1667  13 Sept. 1789. Ewen in Kemble. Henry Beams: fell from a rick he was thatching and was killed. 31 miles. £2 3s. 3d.

1668  15 Sept. 1789. Wingfield. Elizabeth Baily, much afflicted with fits: being seized with one, fell with her head into a tub of whey and, no one being present to assist her, was instantly suffocated. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1669  18 Sept. 1789. Potterne. Richard Bridle, an old man: being alone in a house, was found dead; no marks of violence. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 7 Oct. 1789; distances from Devizes; total £32 9s. 3d.; allowed by William Seymour and Edward Poore, 13 Jan. 1790. [A5/2/1/66]

1670  11 Oct. 1789. Draycot Cerne. William Ridsdale, servant to Sir James Tilney Long, bt: was riding and exercising a mare belonging to Sir James without a saddle and, not being accustomed to riding, fell off against a post and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1671  12 Oct. 1789. Warminster. John Durnford: had got up on the leads of his house in order to cleanse the pipes of filth, fell to the ground and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1672  15 Oct. 1789; adjourned to 27 Oct. to get more evidence and for the inquisition to be engrossed, with the jurors' hands and seals subscribed. Corsley Heath in Corsley. Job Dredge: killed in fighting with William Millgrove; manslaughter. 20 miles. £1 15s. Adjourgement, £1 15s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1790, William, charged with Job's murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter, was fined 1s., paid the sheriff, and was discharged: ASSI 23/8.]

1673  22 Oct. 1789. The Mudhouse in Potterne. Martha Hunt: found dead in a tenement of the house; being a visitor there and sitting up all night for want of a bedroom and having previously drunk too freely of strong beer, fell from her chair with her face into some wood ashes and was suffocated. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1674  24 Oct. 1789. Stratton St Margaret. Richard Jordan: reported to
have received injury by the hands of Edward Bisley returning from Highworth fair: he had received none, but died of rigors and fever from the constitution of the air or natural illness. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1675 28 Oct. 1789. Rowde. John Cox, aged about 11: returning from the coal-pits with his master, Richard Joyce, and Silas Perrot, whose waggons were loaded with 6 quarters of coal each, fell down before Silas's wagggon in the night and was killed by the near-side wheels passing over him. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1676 29 Oct. 1789. Bishopstone. Edward Thatcher, an old shepherd: found dead in the field. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1677 31 Oct. 1789. Lacock. Benjamin Blare, aged under 15: hanged himself in a stable: lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1678 2 Nov. 1789. Barton Farm in Bradford on Avon. Paul Harding: shot himself at his house with a gun loaded with gunpowder and shot; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1679 3 Nov. 1789. Colerne. William Sumption, an old man: returning home along the road from North Wraxall, fell down across a stream and was unable to help himself; natural death or chilled by the water. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1680 13 Nov. 1789. The county prison, Devizes. William Lacon, aged about 15, committed by Thomas Phipps and Thomas Hale Phipps. esqs, being charged on oath before them on suspicion of feloniously setting fire to the house of his schoolmaster, Mr Thomas Williams, at Bratton and also, on his own confession, in the night of 4 Sept., to the late dwelling-house of Gaisford Gibbs, esq., at Westbury, then occupied and used as a school by Thomas Williams, whereby the house and outhouses adjoining were consumed together with a large quantity of wool and other things therein: being sound and collected of mind and of good and mature understanding, strangled himself with a silk handkerchief tied and placed with both hands round his neck and fastened to the back of a chair; felo de se. £1.

1681 26 Nov. 1789. Surrendell in Hullavington. Henry Knight: driving horses belonging to his master, Thomas Crisp, from the stable to the ground, was kicked on the stomach by one of them and killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.


1683 7 Dec. 1789. Keevil. Ann Weeks: the evening before, returning from Seend to Keevil, fell into a mill-pond or brook by the side of the road and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1684 8 Dec. 1789. Shute in Horningsham. John Smart: was going with a wagggon from Maiden Bradley to Warminster when it was turned over and killed him. 24 miles. £1 18s.


1686 17 Dec. 1789. Melksham Forest in Melksham. John Bonfield: getting up an ash tree to gather dry wood, fell from it and was killed. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1687  22 Dec. 1789.  Wootton Rivers.  Henry Pike: hanged himself; felo de se.  17 miles.  £1 12s. 9d.
1688  23 Dec. 1789.  Beechingstoke.  Daniel Hayward, an old man: found dead in North Ground, having lain several days; no marks of violence; inclement weather.  8 miles.  £1 6s.
1689  10 Jan. 1789 [recte 1790].  Melksham.  William Rutty: on the evening of 9 Jan., being in company with his fellow shearmen at the Unicorn public house, had first a dispute with Jonathan Fillis and afterwards with John Clements with whom a battle ensued; Rutty, being the weaker man, soon gave up the contest, for which Fillis much abused him, and, on Rutty's attempting to vindicate himself by answering him, Fillis struck him down; on his trying to rise, being on his hands and knees, Fillis repeated his blow; Rutty lying then on the ground, Fillis gave him a most violent kick on the right side of his breast which instantly killed him; murder.  7 miles.  £1 5s. 3d.  
[See also 1692.  At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1790, Jonathan was acquitted of William's murder on both the indictment and the inquest but convicted of his manslaughter, was fined 1s., which was paid to the sheriff, and imprisoned in the common gaol for 6 months: ASSI 23/8.]
1690  11 Jan. 1790.  Bottlesford in Manningford Bohune parish.  Elizabeth Franklin: being conveyed from All Cannings, where she had lately resided, to her father's house at Bottle, died on the road; illness and infirmity.  9 miles.  £1 6s. 9d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1790; distances from Devizes; total £42 4s. 3d.; allowed by Edmund Lambert and [the earl of] Radnor, Trinity 1790.  [A5/2/1/67]

1691  12 Jan. 1790.  Short Street in Westbury.  John Wilkins, aged under 4: fell into a well and was drowned.  16 miles.  £1 12s.
1692  18 Jan. 1790.  Melksham.  An adjournment of the 20th inquisition in the last bill chiefly to have it engrossed and then subscribed with the jurors' hands and seals as now directed and required by the assize judges; at which time several other depositions were taken.  7 miles.  £1 5s. 3d.  
[See 1689.]
1693  19 Jan. 1790.  Ashton Keynes.  Thomas Arnold: returning from Cricklade to Somerford Keynes on a grey gelding, fell from it and, being entangled by the stirrup, was instantly killed.  30 miles.  £2 2s. 6d.
1694  24 Jan. 1790.  All Cannings.  Thomas Maslin: the evening preceding, returning home on horseback through Cannings Water, fell into it and was drowned.  6 miles.  £1 4s. 6d.
1695  1 Feb. 1790.  Stitchcombe Farm in Mildenhall.  John Neate, one of the two brothers who resided there: having charged and loaded a gun in order to shoot birds from the ricks, was soon after himself shot by its discharge; accidental death.  18 miles.  £1 13s. 6d.
1696  5 Feb. 1790.  Dauntsey.  A female base-born infant: its mother, a vagrant, was thought to have injured it, but it was not so found.  18 miles.
£1 13s. 6d.

1697 14 Feb. 1790. Reybridge in Lacock. John Dumer, aged under 3: fell off some steps into the river and was found drowned. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1698 16 Feb. 1790. St John's parish, Devizes. Mary Ann Bailey, an infant of Martha and Thomas Bailey, people of bad fame and suspected to have destroyed this as also former infants: she was subject to fits and, if injured or overlain, it was from want of care and the effects of too much liquor in the parents; the death was not caused wilfully. £1.

1699 27 Feb. 1790. Rodbourne in Malmesbury. Samuel Butt, a weak old man: threw himself into a pond and was drowned; lunacy. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1700 1 Mar. 1790. Steeple Ashton. Richard Potter, an old man: in going about to sell garden stuff, had drunk freely of strong liquors, which he was wont to do, and from the same fell to the ground and was found dead in the road leading to his home at Tinhead. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1701 10 Mar. 1790. Lady Down Farm in Bradford on Avon. Lydia Bethel, aged about 12: returning from school, in crossing a narrow bridge over a mill-stream, fell in and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1702 12 Mar. 1790. Lacock. Edward Braine: found thrown from his horse in the night and killed. Adjournment at a late hour to the next day, the principal evidence residing at a considerable distance and not available when sent for. Although a waggon drawn by 6 horses had passed the same road before Edward was found, he died by the fall of the horse he had been riding on and the consequent violent injury in his head and other parts. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d. Adjournment, £1 7s. 6d.

1703 23 Mar. 1790. Whetham in Calne. Jonathan Nicholas: found dead in Whetham Park; had been drinking and fell, as imagined, in attempting to remount his horse. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1704 29 Mar. 1790. Application was made by the parish officers of Great Cheverell for an inquest on a new-born bastard, reported to have been hurt by its mother, Mary Amor. On inquiry and inspection of the body it appeared without any fault of the mother to be an imperfection of nature and it was judged unnecessary and improper to be viewed by a jury. Journey, attendance, and expenses, £1 1s.

1705 30 Mar. 1790. Warminster. Mary Saxty, an old woman who lived alone: found dead in her house; no marks of violence. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.


1707 12 Apr. 1790. Sherston Magna. Mary Drew, widow: being pregnant, was thought to have taken something to hasten her death, but it was found not to be so. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1708 17 Apr. 1790. Fittleton. A man who by a bastardy order under the hands and seals of P. B. Brodie, clerk, and William Moody, esq., appeared to be named John Tandey and to have been released from imprisonment at the last quarter sessions held at Salisbury; returning from whence towards his home in Gloucestershire, being weak and distressed and the weather inclement, dropped and died on the Down. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1709 24 Apr. 1790. Chippenham. Caleb Raisey, a young man subject to fits: in one of them, as thought, fell into the river and was found drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1710 28 Apr. 1790. Etchilhampton in All Cannings. Robert Davis, aged under 3: passing over a narrow bridge in a garden, fell into a ditch and was instantly suffocated. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1711 7 May 1790. Marden. Thomas Barret: riding imprudently on a waggon and, the horses taking fright, in attempting to stop them was thrown to the ground and killed. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1712 21 May 1790. Burbage. James Savage: having got up on a high tree for dry wood, fell down and was killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1713 1 June 1790. Rushey or Common Platt in Purton. James Lewis, aged about 5: found drowned by accident in a water-carriage. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.


1715 2 June 1790. Froxfield. Daniel Wilmot, aged about 3: falling into a stream or brook, was instantly drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1716 10 June 1790. Box. Clement Rawlins: fell from a high tree in taking a bird's nest and was instantly killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1717 22 June 1790. Stockley in Calne. William Granger: not putting the drag-chain soon enough on a waggon he was driving down a hill, was run over by the wheels and killed. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1718 8 July 1790. Alton Barnes. Richard Brown: being in the fields to hold plough and, the horses setting off, was killed by the share running through his head. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Warminster quarter sessions, 13 July 1790; distances from Devizes; total £46 8s.; allowed by J. Awdry and Edward Poore, 12 Jan. 1791. [A5/2/1/68]

1719 16 July 1790. Mere Farm in Mildenhall. Betty the illegitimate daughter of Mary Pinnegar, aged about 8: was lying but slightly covered with hay in a field and so much hurt by the wheels of a waggon passing close to her side that she died soon after she was taken up. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1720 18 July 1790. Bradford on Avon. John Lawrence, private in the 1st regiment of Dragoon Guards: bathing in the Avon, was drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1721 21 July 1790. The Castle Inn, Marlborough, in Preshute. Joseph Claxton, subject to fits: travelling as a servant, it was imagined suddenly died of one. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1722 24 July 1790. Warminster Common. Elizabeth Edwards: died in the parish-house after a fall. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

[This entry and the next are asterisked, presumably to show that they are out of order.]

1723 22 July 1790. Littleton Pannell in West Lavington. Sarah Miles,
aged under 13 months: being in the arms of an elder sister, fell into hot water and almost instantly died. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1724 25 July 1790. Wroughton. Betty Hill: being alone in a chamber of her house, was found dead. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1725 28 July 1790. Chippenham. Francis Ladd: driving a black mare drawing a water-cart and taking off its blind halter, was run over and killed by the cart's wheels. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1726 6 Aug. 1790. Ditteridge near Middlehill and Box. A male infant, born of Hannah Clements: not injured by her, as suspected. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1727 6 Aug. 1790. Hardenhuish. William Sparrow: drowned himself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.


1729 11 Aug. 1790. Calstone Wellington in Calne. Jemima Clifford, aged under 5: fell into the water at Little Mill and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1730 15 Aug. 1790. Trowbridge. Esau Deacon: without seeing the consequence, fixed a cord to the branch of a high tree to swing with in Horse Crofts Field and, in getting his body through, to all appearance his footing or sitting on the branch slipped and, the noose catching his neck, he was suspended and strangled and instantly died. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1731 31 Aug. 1790. Monkton Farleigh. John Smith: killed by the falling in of a stone-quarry on Farleigh Down. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1732 8 Sept. 1790. West Wick in Pewsey. John Norris: driving a harvest-waggon down a steep hill, fell under the wheels and was instantly killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1733 29 Sept. 1790. Chippenham. Eleanor Wiltshire: threw herself into the Avon and was drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1734 5 Oct. 1790. Sandy Lane in Calne. Susannah Webb: suddenly died in the day-time. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1735 8 Oct. 1790. A house called The Green Man at Strode Green in Hurst, between Twyford and Wokingham, Berks. John Hale: was riding on or driving a cart drawn by 2 horses at night when it turned over and killed him on the spot. 58 miles. £3 3s. 6d.

1736 18 Oct. 1790. Bishop's Cannings. George Waite: fell from the mow onto the floor of a barn and was killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1737 22 Oct. 1790. Upton Scudamore. A man, name then unknown: driving a waggon with the name 'Day, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire', on its head along the road, fell and the near-side wheels killed him on the spot. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1738 24 Oct. 1790. Axford in Ramsbury. Elizabeth Annets: suddenly died in the street, not from any hurt as reported. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

1739 7 Nov. 1790. Calne. Ann Archard: found dead in a house; no marks of violence. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1740 24 Nov. 1790. Bulkington Mill in Keevil. Richard Webb: trying to apply oil to the gudgeon of the wheel of a cloth-mill, was forcibly drawn in with his head between the cogs and the lanthorn and killed. 7 miles.
1741 8 Dec. 1790. Wedhampton in Urchfont. Edward Pearce: going upstairs in the night, fell backwards and was instantly killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1742 13 Dec. 1790. Great Somerford. Thomas Chesterman: suddenly died in a meadow, no one being present to lift him up. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1743 27 Dec. 1790. Kingswood. Sarah Derret, aged under 12: threw herself into a brook; lunacy. 36 miles. £2 7s.

1744 30 Dec. 1790. Crocketon in Sutton Veny. A male illegitimate child, aged about 2, suspected to have been unfairly treated by his mother: accidentally fell on the fire and was burnt to death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1745 2 Jan. 1791. Great Bedwyn. Benjamin Grobetti, a native of Switzerland, who had resided as a schoolmaster there for many years much respected: repairing to his chambers for his wonted rest, fell down the stairs and was killed; no one lived in the house with him. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1746 3 Jan. 1791. Harry’s Croft in Wootton Bassett. David Arnold: falling to the ground in inclement and tempestuous weather, was the next morning found dead. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1747 4 Jan. 1791. Stanton St Quintin. John Gingell: fell backwards while sawing timber and fractured his skull. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 11 Jan. 1791; distances from Devizes; total £59 7s. 9d.; allowed by Edmund Lambert, W. P. A. A’Court and Edward Poore, 13 July 1791. [A5/2/1/69]

1748 16 Jan. 1791. Eisey. John Willis, aged under 3: playing with other children at the back door of a farm-house when the water was very high and out in the carriages and ditches, fell into one and was instantly drowned. 34 miles. £2 5s. 6d.

1749 20 Jan. 1791. Imber. Betty Grant: going over the Down from West Lavington to Imber in wet and tempestuous weather and being bewildered, fell to the ground and died. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1750 27 Jan. 1791. Chippenham. John Edridge, gent.: threw himself into a branch or slip of the river and was instantly drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1751 1 Feb. 1791. Seend Cleeve in Melksham. Ann Darmer, aged under 4: falling into a pit or pool, was instantly dead. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1752 2 Feb. 1791. Startley in Great Somerford. John Reynolds: found dead in a large meadow; no marks of violence; inclement weather. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1753 4 Feb. 1791. Woolley in Bradford on Avon. Jonathan Tucker: going by the near or left side of a waggon, fell to the ground and was killed by its wheels passing over him. 12 miles. £1 19s.

1754 4 Feb. 1791. Pickwick near Corsham. William Gibbons: killed by a great weight of stone falling on him at a quarry in Box. 12 miles. £1 19s.

1755 28 Feb. 1791. Bishop’s Cannings. A man unknown: having lost his
way from the Calne to London road in the tempestuous weather, was found
dead on Bourton Down; no marks of violence. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
1756 28 Feb. 1791. Aldbourne. Thomas Vaukins: travelling from Baydon
to Aldbourne in tempestuous weather, either fell or sank to the ground and
died. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
1757 2 Mar. 1791. All Cannings. Thomas Swanboro, subject to fits: found
dead in Funnerland Field; no marks of violence. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
1758 2 Mar. 1791. Bratton in Westbury. John Poole, ill and infirm for
some time: found dead in a loft or outhouse. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
1759 Afterwards repaired with all expedition to Limpley Stoke in Bradford
on Avon, having had notice by a post-letter from the officer that a woman had
destroyed her child by overlaying it; the body being buried and the death
appearing to have happened entirely by accident, if so hurt, and by a married
woman, it was judged unnecessary and not right to take the inquest. Journey
and expenses, £1 12s.
1760 5 Mar. 1791. Highworth. Sarah Rouse: found dead and covered
with stone in a quarry, and also her son, aged under 5; she often assisted her
husband in digging stone in the quarry and, doing so without him and the
earth on the surface giving way and the stone falling on her, she was killed on
the spot. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.
1761 5 Mar. 1791. Highworth. Thomas Rouse, the said infant: killed
likewise. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.
there from Devizes market, was thrown from his horse and killed. 3 miles.
£1 2s. 3d.
1763 9 Apr. 1791. Whitley Common. William Watson: found dead at
dawn on the Common. He had got up before day on hearing a thief repeating
his depredations in stealing faggots from a pile on his premises, pursued the
thief in the dark, and received a blow in his head which instantly killed him.
Suspicion falling on Edward Spiers, he was taken and committed to prison
until the matter should be further inquired into. After 2 adjournments, at
both of which Lord William Seymour attended and assisted, Edward was
charged and committed for murder. 8 miles. £1 6s. 2 adjournments, £2 12s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Aug. 1791, Edward was acquitted of William's murder
on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
1764 24 Apr. 1791. East Chisenbury in Enford. George Seare, a shepherd
on the Down: hanged himself with a small cord to the branches of a fir tree in a
plantation; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
into the river in January and remained therein so long, hidden by something or
from the deepness of the water. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
1766 27 Apr. 1791. Iford Hill in Westwood parish. Robert Horne: died in
the night after having fought with William Reynolds the day before at a
club-night; he received no injury therefrom, but died from overloading the
stomach, the tightness of his neck-stock, or other obstruction of the circula-
tion. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1767 4 May 1791. Bradford on Avon. John Scot, aged under 5 weeks: with his twin brother Thomas, on account of restlessness and illness was given by the mother Elizabeth as a remedy or medicine a small quantity of syrup of poppy and after it died from some unseen distemper or natural death, not from any intentional hurt from the mother or any other person. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.


1769 6 May 1791. Hardenhuish House near Chippenham. Mrs Lucy Preston, relict of the late General Preston: instantly suffocated and burnt by fire from a taper or candle catching hold of her dress. The charge was defrayed by her relations.

1770 8 May 1791. Stratton St Margaret. Henry Curtis: imprudently drank such a large quantity of gin that he was soon after found dead in a stable or outhouse. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1771 13 May 1791. Horningsham. James Carpenter, servant to the Revd Mr William Ireland, aged under 20: he having had some words of dispute with Elias Harvey, servant to Mr William Everet there, they met in Everet's garden in the evening to settle it by fighting. Elias, although aged under 15 or thereabout, was far more active and dexterous in fighting than James who was inactive and unwieldy as well from being big and fat as having drunk too much beer. They exchanged blows and falls with each other for a considerable time. James, after falling on the grass plat and pitching head first on the ground, was taken ill and, immediately on being asked, gave in to Elias with whom he then shook hands as he had before the encounter began. He was directly taken from the garden to a bed in Mr Everett's house. was very soon insensible, and, after lying in that state for about 6 hours, died. The jurors found that Elias was an infant and not apprised of and not of discretion to see the danger and frequent consequence of fighting and had not the least intention of violence or malice towards James; they discharged him of any degree or description of homicide beyond an accident. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1772 16 May 1791. Bradford on Avon. Richard Nash: on the evening of 14 May very imprudently and with a bad design was in company with or very near a riotous, violent, and unlawful mob, met and collected together to assault and demolish the house of Mr Joseph Phelps, clothier of Bradford on Avon, by throwing stones thereby beating in its windows and walls so that the life and property of Mr Phelps and the lives of his wife and children were in great danger. Mr Phelps and other gentlemen, his neighbours and friends, remonstrated and cautioned the mob to desist and depart or otherwise to expect the consequence of their firing amongst them. This and much more not having the desired effect, Mr Phelps with his friends discharged among the said people first of all pieces charged with gunpowder only, but afterwards those loaded and charged with the addition of shot and ball, by which means Richard and 2 others were killed; justifiable defence. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1773 16 May 1791. Bradford on Avon. Elizabeth Tucker: on the same evening was with or near the same riotous mob, unlawfully abetting and
encouraging them, and was one of the 2 others so killed with Richard Naish. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1774 16 May 1791. Bradford on Avon. James Bancroft, aged under 16: also killed by the firing on the said mob at the same time as the last 2. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1775 18 May 1791. Seend in Melksham. John Briscoe: found dead in his house, being alone; no marks of violence. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1776 19 May 1791. Swindon. Richard Major, reported to have died from fighting with Thomas Tinson: it was found not to be so; disease and inward bleeding. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1777 25 May 1791. Westbury. George Davis: in his return from Warminster market, driving with reins a one-horse cart and meeting and going against another cart drawn by 2 horses, was thrown out and killed by the near-side wheel of his own. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1778 29 May 1791. Hilmarton. Noah the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Green, aged about 12: died of disease and weakness, not from any ill-treatment by his mother as reported. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1779 10 June 1791. St Sampson’s parish, Cricklade. Christopher King: following after those that were perambulating the limits or boundaries of that place, imprudently drank too much strong liquor and was thereby killed. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1780 15 June 1791. Bromham Common. William Stanton: after having eaten and drunk very freely at a club-meeting, was found dead; asthma and fullness. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1781 20 June 1791. Roundway in Bishop’s Cannings. Geoffrey Stevens: trying to stop 5 horses, frightened and running away with a wagggon, was thrown to the ground and killed on the spot. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.

1782 24 June 1791. Seend Row in Melksham. James Gun: riding on the limbers of a wagggon drawn by 3 horses, was thrown from it and killed on the spot. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1783 26 June 1791. Whitley Common in Melksham. Mary Watson, the unhappy widow of the above William: at the time was very much affected by the sudden and melancholy loss of her husband, and ever since, being in the same house with no company, was almost continuously possessed by lowness of spirits, despair, and despondency; at length in the night of 24 or morning of 25 June she threw herself into a well in her garden and was instantly suffocated; lunacy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

[See 1763.]

1784 29 June 1791. Dauntsey Park in Dauntsey. William Hooper: with other young men had been much exerting himself in the heat of the day playing fives or tennis and soon after fell and instantly died. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1785 6 July 1791. Dilton Marsh. James Jones: found dying in a lane or foot-road; inward rupture of a blood-vessel. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

116  CORONERS'  BILLS

Bill of William Clare since Warminster quarter sessions, 13 July 1791; distances from Devizes; total £76 15s. 3d., [less] £1 18s. [the sum of the last two, cancelled, entries], [making] £74 17s. 3d.; allowed by [the earl of] Radnor and P. B. Brodie, 12 Apr. 1792. [A5/2/1/70]

1787  15 July 1791. Lea near Malmesbury. Thomas Hale: was driving a waggon loaded with brick along a lane and, falling down, was killed by the wheels passing over him. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1788  20 July 1791. Kington Langley in Kington St Michael. Thomas Archard, aged under 18: meeting with Benjamin Hawkes, aged about 17, at an annual revel there, quarrelled with him and they fought together and Thomas, from exertion or some shock he received in falling to the ground, instantly died. Thomas began the dispute and affray and Benjamin was an infant and provoked and prevailed on to fight and had no intention of malice nor idea of the injury and consequence so often attending such engagements; and so the jurors acquitted him of any degree of homicide more than accidental. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1789  20 July 1791. Queenfield in Melksham. William Beaven, aged under 2: went out alone, fell into a ditch of soil, and was found dead. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1790  16 Aug. 1791. Eisey. William Lediard, aged under 2: being alone near the foot-road and dipping-place, fell into the water and was instantly drowned. 34 miles. £2 5s. 6d.

1791  21 Aug. 1791. Devizes Green in Bishop's Cannings. Charles Nash: thatching a wheat-rick, slipped and fell off a high ladder and was instantly killed. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

1792  22 Aug. 1791. Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. Mary Bartlett, aged under 14: was suddenly seized and fell and died; no marks of violence. £1.

1793  31 Aug. 1791. Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. John Spencer, aged about 15, private in the 54th regiment: accidentally received a wound in his thigh from a bayonet tossed out of the hands of his comrade in the chamber where they lodged and thereof died. £1.

1794  2 Sept. 1791. Yatton Keynell. Jonathan Gale: going in the night up some stone steps into a loft to his usual rest, fell back down and was killed. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1795  4 Sept. 1791. Trowbridge. William Moore: returning to his home at Little Trowle, missed his way, the weather being very wet, and was found dead in Corn Innox Ground. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1796  7 Sept. 1791, adjourned to 16 Sept. to get more evidence and information. Pewsey. A male infant, which appeared to be Sarah Nash's bastard: murder by Sarah, who was tried at the last assizes. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d. Adjournment, £1 10s. 6d.

[Sarah was taken to Fisherton Anger gaol by the constable of Pewsey (see 1838), and at Salisbury assizes, 10 Mar. 1792, was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

1797  14 Sept. 1791. Chapmanslade. James Applegate, servant of Mr John Turner to go with horses under John Watts, who was reported to have caused
his death by striking and beating him with a stick or whip: an affection of the bowels and fever. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1798 18 Sept. 1791. Stert in Urchfont. William Cook, aged under 3: being in a wheelbarrow which was set going and drawn by 2 young boys, he was thrown out and instantly killed. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

1799 25 Sept. 1791. Avebury. John Willis: imprudently beating a horse he was unharnessing, was kicked by it and killed. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1800 29 Sept. 1791. Chippenham. James Beard: found on the Bath road thrown from his horse and was dead soon after he was brought home to Chippenham. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1801 3 Oct. 1791. Lower Penn in Hilmarton. James Cockle, a young man: seized with a fever and delirium and roving and running about in and out of several fields in the night, at length was found dead in a large moat or pond. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1802 5 Oct. 1791. Marlborough prison. William Richardson, conveyed there from Devizes prison to stand trial at the impending Marlborough sessions: fever and strangulated rupture. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1803 11 Oct. 1791. Lacock. William Brinkworth: being at or near the top of steps or stairs leading to a granary near the mansion of Barnet Dickenson, esq., at Bowden Park, fell to the ground and fractured his skull. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

[This inquest is entered out of order between 1796 and 1797. The error must have been noticed immediately since all the others are correctly numbered. This one was renumbered 17 instead of 11 and is subscribed: ‘N.B. This should come in after inquisition ye 16th’.]

1804 17 Oct. 1791. Chippenham. Elias Edgcomb, aged about 8: in play was walking or running along a wall adjoining the churchyard and fell and fractured his forehead and died. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1805 18 Oct. 1791. Trowbridge. Stephen Pinnock: instantly killed by a large cask slipping aside from the dray it was conveyed on and pressing against his body. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1806 19 Oct. 1791. St Mary’s parish, Devizes. John Granger, aged about 2: fell into soap-lees and was instantly suffocated. £1.

1807 26 Oct. 1791. Little Bedwyn. Mary Cox, subject to fits: found dead in Fore Bridge Lane; no marks of violence. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1808 5 Dec. 1791. Castle Combe. James Banks: returning from Bath over Colerne Down to his home at Castle Combe, died from the inclement weather. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1809 7 Dec. 1791. Bromham. Jane Singer: found dead in her house; no marks of violence. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1810 13 Dec. 1791. Trowbridge. Grace Bull, aged about 21: was in company with Sarah Silverthorne and John Pullin, both aged about 14, at the Down or Trowbridge Down and standing or sliding on the ice of a pond when the ice gave way and sank so that Grace was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1811 13 Dec. 1791. Trowbridge. Sarah Silverthorne: in company with the said Grace and John was likewise immediately drowned. £1.
1813 16 Dec. 1791. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Harris: taking a chaise and 2 horses into the river to wash off the dirt, the water being very high and rapid, he was thrown into the river and drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
1814 19 Dec. 1791. Steeple Ashton. Joseph Brown: dwelt alone in a bad and cold house in Ashton Common where he was found, having been dead, as supposed, for some days. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1815 21 Dec. 1791. Devizes Green in Bishop's Cannings. William Whicheord, aged under 3: fell on a wood fire and was burnt and killed. 1 mile. £1 10s. 6d.
1816 22 Dec. 1791. Avoncliff in Westwood parish. William Gibbence, aged about 12: with many others, younger as well as older, was employed in managing and working the late improved machines and engines for cloth-making and inadvertently in his playtime put and buckled one end of a long leather strap round his waist, the other end of which was taken hold of by a large upright piece of timber called the main shaft, constantly turning and working the engines, whereby William was whirled round with great force, his body bruised, and his limbs shattered and beaten off, so that he instantly died. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1817 23 Dec. 1791. Christian Malford. Henry Cox, an old man, subject to fits: found dead in or near Breaches Ground. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1818 9 Jan. 1792. Bishop's Cannings. Thomas Stevens: with others was ringing in the parish church and, being drawn up to the height of 15 feet, he let go the rope of the 7th bell, fell to the ground, and was killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.
1819 10 Jan. 1792. Hayle Farm in Calne. William Neate: riding on the top of a stage-coach from Calne to his house, Hayle Farm, fell off and was killed. 9 miles. £1 16s. 9d.
1820 20 Jan. 1792. Bearfield in Bradford on Avon. William Head, aged under 17, apprentice to Richard Cox: hanged himself in an outhouse; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1821 24 Jan. 1792. Langley Burrell. James Stringer: returning from Chippenham to Langley Burrell when it was dark and very wet, was found dead on the Common in the morning. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1822 3 Mar. 1792. Limpley Stoke in Bradford on Avon. Francis Bull: resided alone and was going upstairs to rest when a rotten board gave way and, falling down backwards, he was killed. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
1823 4 Mar. 1792. Calne. A child aged about 9 weeks, son of Stephen and Alice Whatly: Alice killed it with a large knife by severing its head from the body; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 16s.
1824 15 Mar. 1792. Devizes Green in Bishop's Cannings. James Hiscock: found dead on Roundway Down; the evening preceding was returning to his home at Potterne from Calne in the dark, the weather being severe, and died. 1 mile. £1 10s. 6d.
1825 15 Mar. 1792. Chippenham. Hugh Pottoe: riding on the bar of a chaise along the Bath to Chippenham road in liquor, fell down behind the horses and was killed. 10 miles. £1 17s. 6d.
1826 16 Mar. 1792. Marden. Thomas Hazeland: with James Gilbert was sawing a pollard tree which, falling sooner than expected, fell on Thomas and killed him. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1827 16 Mar. 1792, adjourned to 20 Mar. to collect and take down other evidence. Bradford on Avon. A male child, aged about 2, son of James and Jane Harding: murder by James by starving and ill-treatment. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d. Adjournment, £1 9s. 9d.

[James was taken to Devizes prison by the constable of Bradford on Avon (see 1839), and at Salisbury assizes, 21 July 1792, was convicted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest and sentenced to be hanged on 25 July, his body to be delivered to Mr Alexander Forsyth, surgeon, for dissection and anatomization: ASSI 23/8.]

1828 19 Mar. 1792. Quemerford Common in Blackland. Betty Burgess: hanged herself; lunacy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1829 20 Mar. 1792. St John’s parish, Devizes. Mary Eades: going downstairs at a friend’s house, fell and soon after died; no marks of violence. £1.

1830 23 Mar. 1792. Lydeway in Urchfont. Richard Burden: driving a wagon loaded with hay, fell down before the wheels and was instantly killed. 4 miles. £1 13s.

1831 26 Mar. 1792. Calne. Richard Ellison: the preceding day was playing with many others in the Hilly Ground and Robert Bishop, jun., about the same age, struck him with a stick called a bandy and killed him on the spot; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1832 27 Mar. 1792. Hullavington. John Pinnell, an old man: was going to work in the morning and afterwards found dead in Orridge Lane. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1833 30 Mar. 1792. Sherston Magna. Thomas Eastmead: dipping water from a brook, fell in and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1834 3 Apr. 1792. Westbury. A new-born male infant, supposed to have been hurt by its mother, Sarah Handcock, but it was found not so. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1835 6 Apr. 1792. Spillman’s Farm in Hilmarton. William Stiles, a young man, subject to fits: found dead in a meadow not far from his house, being alone. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1836 9 Apr. 1792. Froxfield. Francis Andrews: was driving a stage-wagon belonging to Mr John Sartain James and was seen riding and sleeping across its shafts just before he fell down before the wheels which passed over his body and instantly crushed him to death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1837 14 Apr. 1792. Trowbridge. John Cook: being much in liquor and, with others, rolling over and over on his sides down Court Hill, pitched on his head and was instantly killed. 11 miles. £1 18s. 3d.

1838 To the constable of Pewsey for conveying Sarah Nash to Fisherton Anger gaol. 25 miles. £1 5s.

[See 1796. This entry is struck through.]

1839 To the constable of Bradford on Avon for taking James Harding to Devizes prison. 13 miles. 13s.
Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions; distances from Devizes; total £55 6s. 6d.; allowed by J. Awdry and Thomas Estcourt, 9 Oct. 1793. £55 6s. 6d. [plus] £27 16s. 6d., [total] £83 3s. [£27 16s. 6d. is the total of the next bill which was allowed on the same day.] [A5/2/1/71]

1840 15 Jan. 1793. The Wharf House of the New Cut or Canal, St Mary’s parish, Cricklade. Richard Townsend: returning from Cricklade to his house at Kempsford, fell from his horse into the canal and was drowned. 32 miles. £2 4s.

1841 17 Jan. 1793. Boreham in Warminster. Henry Harris: run over by the wheel of a cart and killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1842 4 Feb. 1793. Box. Isaac Single: standing on a ladder to prune a tree with shears, fell and was killed by the shears running into his body. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1843 22 Feb. 1793. Everleigh. William Cooper: thrown from a horse he had been watering in a pond and trod on by it and killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1844 1 Mar. 1793. Market Lavington. Henry Lanham: drowned himself; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1845 2 Mar. 1793. Calne. Benjamin Manners: driving a cart and 2 horses on the road near there, suddenly fell and died. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1846 3 Mar. 1793. Market Lavington. William Luff: being in a tallet or hayloft where a hempen cord or halter was previously fastened to and hanging from a beam, he inadvertently and without calling to mind what the fatal consequence of so doing might be put his chin and neck into the bow thereof and, at the same time losing his feet and slipping down on the hay, suddenly and accidentally died from the pressure of the cord on the nervous and circulating vessels of the neck. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1847 9 Mar. 1793. Chippenham. John Mans: swallowed a large quantity of white arsenic and killed himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1848 16 Mar. 1793. Brokenborough. John Pearce, aged under 2: fell into a well and was drowned. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1849 6 Apr. 1793. Highworth. Edward Phelps: returning home in the night along the Cricklade road, was thrown from his horse and killed in a part of the road called Cobbige Hill. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1850 6 Apr. 1793. Hannington. Richard Jotham: first cut his throat with a razor and then hanged himself in a barn; lunacy. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.

1851 10 Apr. 1793. Bowerhill in Melksham. William Webb: returning by night from Bath, was thrown from his horse to the ground and killed. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1852 12 Apr. 1793. Chippenham. Sarah Paish: being frightened and looking out of the casement of her chamber in the night or early morning, suddenly fell and died. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

[This inquest is entered after the next and is called ‘Omitted inquisition 13’.}
The next is correctly numbered 14.]
1853 16 Apr. 1793. Chippenham. William Mitchell: drowned near Back Avon Bridge; accidental death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
[The date has been altered, which may account for this inquest being entered before the preceding one.]
1854 18 Apr. 1793. Box. John Sutton: suddenly fell and died in the Box to Corsham road; no marks of violence. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1855 1 May 1793. Bignell in Hilmarton. Richard Lawrence, jun.: cutting hay with a knife, was instantly killed by the rick falling on him. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1856 3 May 1793. Market Lavington. Mary Wilmer: threw herself into a well and killed herself; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 14s. 6d.
1857 6 May 1793. Market Lavington. Martha Green: hanged herself with a piece of small cord in a garret or loft at her master's house; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 14s. 6d.
1858 9 May 1793. Trimnell's Farm in Bremhill. Thomas Wheeler: wandered out of his road from Calne to Christian Malford in the night and, falling into a pond, was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1859 14 May 1793. Poulshot. Sarah the illegitimate child of Christian Boulter, aged under 6 months: died by ailment and not any hurt from the mother. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
1860 26 May 1793. South Wraxall. Mary Bull: returning to her chamber upstairs in the night, fell backwards and was killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1861 26 May 1793. Hilperton Marsh. John Wilkins, apprentice to Thomas Selfe, weaver there: died of ailment and infirmities and not from the hands of his master. 12 miles. £1 9s.
1862 30 May 1793. Penleigh Mills. Mary Pope: instantly killed by the falling of a cheese-press upon her head. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1863 6 June 1793. Box. John Lee, aged under 8: bathing in a pond and going beyond his depth, was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1864 7 June 1793. Collingbourne Ducis. Robert Croombs, an old man: accustomed to lie down in the field when weary, was found dead there. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.
1865 17 June 1793. Pewsey. Thomas Saunders: taking horses out to graze, was kicked and killed by one. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1866 20 June 1793. Ramsbury. Ann Brackstone, aged under 5: fell from a bridge into the water near Howe Mill and was instantly drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
1867 21 June 1793. Wroughton. Thomas King: hanged himself; lunacy. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.
1868 24 June 1793. Westbury. John Clift: hanged himself; felo de se. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1869 1 July 1793. Swindon. A male bastard child: murder by the mother, Elizabeth Law. Adjournment to 8 July to get evidence from Berkshire where she had lived as a servant and to get the inquisition on parchment. 20 miles. £1 15s. Adjournment, £1 15s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 13 July 1793, Elizabeth was acquitted of the murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

1870 4 July 1793. Scotlands in Draycot Cerne. James Harding, aged under 5: killed by the kick of a horse. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1871 9 July 1793. Eastcourt in Crudwell. Francis Underhill: falling before the wheels of a waggon he had been driving, was instantly killed. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.

1872 11 July 1793. Corsley. Elizabeth Abbot, an old woman: found dead in the wheat-field; the day before she had been gathering red weeds; natural death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1873 18 July 1793. Bishopstone. William the bastard son of Ann New, aged under 2: being in a room with his mother only, laid hold of a cup of boiling water and was killed almost instantly by drinking some of it. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Warminster quarter sessions, 18 July 1793; distances from Devizes; total £27 16s. 6d.; allowed by J. Awdry and Thomas Estcourt, 9 Oct. 1793. [A5/2/1/72]

1874 23 July 1793. Bradford on Avon. George Felter: by accident died from a violent fall; was full of liquor and had attempted an affray with John Stevens, by whom he was not hurt. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1875 31 July 1793. A farm-house near South Marston in Stanton Fitzwarren. John Purse: died from a fall and injury he received in playfully acting to wrestle with William Bridges. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1876 2 Aug. 1793. Stanton St Bernard. Thomas Springbatt: moving and lifting ash timber with a lever, was killed by a violent blow from the lever on his forehead. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1877 3 Aug. 1793. Studley in Calne. John Trindell: killed by a loaded waggon going over him near Chippenham. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1878 4 Aug. 1793. Crudwell. Richard Hayes, aged under 7: with another boy had moved and set going a waggon, by which he was thrown down and killed. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

1879 6 Aug. 1793. Upavon. Robert Hillier: found dead on the road near Charlton; natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1880 11 Aug. 1793. Hartmoor in Potterne. John Hobbs, an old man: residing usually in a cottage or hut alone, was found dead; no marks of violence. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

1881 20 Aug. 1793. Smirrel Farm, Ewen Field in Kemble. Thomas Drake: with another man standing on a stone at the top of a high precipice and quarry and moving and drawing a large stone at the bottom by means of a large wheel and cord, slipped and fell and was killed. Because the master of the works and the proprietor of the land were both at a distance and the employment appeared to be very dangerous in future without better contrivance and the addition of a stage, etc., it was judged highly requisite to adjourn and summon those with other evidence on 30 Aug., when the said
alterations and additions were agreed on and promised to be effected. 28 miles. £2 ls. Adjournment, £2 ls.

1882 31 Aug. 1793. Chiseldon. David Cresby, aged under 5: fell into a tub of hot wort and was scalded and killed. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

1883 2 Sept. 1793. Charlton. Robert Spicer: was lying and sleeping on a waggon returning from Devizes to Ludgershall and, falling off, was killed by the wheels going over him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1884 10 Sept. 1793. Enford. Abraham Nicholas: was holding and leading a gelding fastened to and drawing a cart in a rick-barton at Littlecott, when the horse set off and Abraham was killed by the wheels or some other part of the cart. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1885 13 Sept. 1793. Westport St Mary near Malmesbury. Hester Church: suddenly seized in the road from Westport St Mary to Malmesbury Common and died. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1886 15 Sept. 1793. Bradford on Avon. John Salmon, an old man: found near a dye-house in a deep tub where sedge or urine had been kept; no marks of violence. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1887 27 Sept. 1793. Potterne. Edmund Ferris: suddenly seized and died in a garden belonging to the George Inn. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

1888 1 Oct. 1793. Urchfont. Robert Gilbert, servant to the Revd Mr Gibbs there: had ridden from Devizes behind a chaisewhere in was his master and, nearly home, fell from it with his face and head in some deep mud and was suffocated before any help reached him. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1889 2 Oct. 1793. Atworth. James Ruddle: imprudently riding on the shafts and head of a waggon loaded with coal along the road, fell before the wheels and was killed. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1890 5 Oct. 1793. Easton. Elizabeth Waite, aged under 2: fell into a deep well and was instantly killed. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

Bill of William Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 8 and 9 Oct. 1793; distances from Devizes; total £20 1s.; allowed by J. Montagu and J. Sutton, 16 Jan. 1794. [AS/2/1/73]

1891 15 Oct. 1793. Pewsey. William Martin: had been digging and throwing out stone in a quarry at Pewsey Hill and, it being undermined, the top fell in on him and instantly killed him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1892 12 [? recte 21] Oct. 1793. Heytesbury House, the seat of William Pierce Ashe A'Court, esq. Edward Elliott, aged under 9, apprentice to a chimney-sweeper: was put up into a chimney or flue of one in a room in the said house and thereby suffocated. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.


1894 5 Nov. 1793. Bedborough tithing in Bishop's Cannings. John Dew: suddenly fell in a barn at Roundway where he had been working and instantly died. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
1895 8 Nov. 1793, adjourned to 21 Nov. to get more evidence and to get the inquisition on parchment, signed and sealed by the jurors. Corsley. James Cuff: killed fighting with Joseph Yewdall. 20 miles. £1 15s. Adjournment, £1 15s.

[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1794, Joseph, charged with James’s murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter; he was fined 1s., paid the sheriff, and was discharged: ASSI 23/8.]

1896 27 Nov. 1793. Keevil. William Bartlett, an old man: having drunk too freely of gin late at night, could not be prevailed on to retire to his bed; in the morning he was found fallen out of his chair and dead. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1897 28 Nov. 1793. Corsley. Thomas Hiscox, an old man: found dead in a barton or outbuilding, not from any violence. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1898 7 Dec. 1793. A house between Highworth and South Marston. William Titcomb, a stout hale man, aged 22: found dead in a trench or dike between Mead Croft and Oldbury Field; running after hounds, he lost his wind and, unobserved, fell into the dike where he was not found for nearly a week. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1899 17 Dec. 1793. Bradford on Avon. Job Green, aged about 14: threw himself into the Avon and was instantly drowned; lunacy. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1900 18 Dec. 1793. Lacock. Thomas Summers, an old man: died on the road, from no violence. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1901 6 Jan. 1794. Semington in Steeple Ashton. William Beaven, late of Studley near Trowbridge, aged about 40: returning to Studley the evening preceding, fell on his forehead and forepart of his body to the ground in the road near Hilperton and in the morning was found dead; no marks of violence. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1902 9 Jan. 1794. Bradford on Avon. Elizabeth Sudry, aged under 3: being ill and relaxed in her bowels, had received some improper correction the day before her death from Mary Miny, whose care she was under; it appearing that nothing but the kindest treatment had ever been used towards her by Mary before, she was acquitted of the least intention of causing or hastening the death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 14 and 15 Jan. 1794; distances from Devizes; total £80 5s. 9d.; allowed by Edmund Lambert and William Moody, 16 July 1794. [A5/2/1/74]

1903 17 Jan. 1794. Longbridge Deverill. The unchristened son of Edward and Sarah Snelgrove, aged about 4: his clothes catching fire, he was burnt to death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1904 21 Jan. 1794, adjourned to 1 Feb. for taking down more evidence and getting the inquisition on parchment, signed and sealed by the jurors. West Ashton in Steeple Ashton. Thomas Archel: killed in an affray by James Bennet; manslaughter. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d. Adjournment, £1 7s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1794, James, charged with Thomas's murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter; he was fined 5s., paid the sheriff, and was discharged: ASSI 23/8.]

1905 22 Jan. 1794. Trowbridge. Richard Raxworthy, aged about 4 months: sudden natural death, not from any hurt from the father as reported. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1906 25 Jan. 1794. Ivy's Farm in Savernake Park near Marlborough Forest. George Brookes: coming there in the morning to his daily labour, suddenly fell and died. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1907 27 Jan. 1794. Lydeway in Urchfont. A woman then unknown, whose name afterwards appeared to be Sarah Burton: had travelled from her home at Hilperton to Salisbury some days before and, returning over the Plain on 25 Jan. in severely cold and tempestuous weather, was found the same evening near the 14th milestone from Salisbury nearly dead and was taken up on a horse and brought to Lydeway where she survived but a little time. It appearing that a considerable time before she was taken up James Witchell, farmer of All Cannings, driving an empty waggon with a servant boy, had seen Sarah lying on the ground grasping for life and passed by, adjournment to 29 Jan. for further inquiry and information, when James's cruel and inhuman behaviour in so passing by and neglecting to help her was plainly proved. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d. Adjournment, £1 2s. 3d.

1908 29 Jan. 1794. Littleton Pannell in West Lavington. John Potter: with others was felling and throwing trees and, by the springing out of the butt or lower end of a large elm in falling to the ground, was struck and killed. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1909 5 Feb. 1794. St Sampson's parish, Cricklade. Ann Clements: falling from a causeway or foot-road into a water-carriage, was drowned. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

1910 6 Feb. 1794. Pewsey. Jane a bastard child of Hannah Orams, aged about 14 days: suddenly died, from no violence of the mother. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d. [Pewsey is usually claimed as 12 miles from Devizes.]

1911 10 Feb. 1794. Connops or Burton Hill Mills near Malmesbury. John Darly: being in the dye-house and reaching over a large furnace, fell into it and was so scalded that he soon after died. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1912 5 Mar. 1794. Westbury Leigh in Westbury. Joseph Dennis: riding very fast on the back of a mare along the street, was thrown and killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1913 8 Mar. 1794. Derry Hill in Bowood. Michael Swinney, aged under 5 months, son of Patrick and Mary Swinney, Irish people, passengers in a waggon going down Derry Hill: one of the hind-wheels breaking, part of the loading fell against him and killed him in his mother's arms. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1914 10 Mar. 1794. Shalbourne. Charles Bryant: returning from Little Bedwyn, fell in Galley Lane and was soon after found dead; natural death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1915 14 Mar. 1794. Melksham. Sarah Bailey: going in a stage-coach from
Bath towards Newbury, suddenly died near Melksham. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
1916 14 Mar. 1794. Broughton Gifford. Thomas Paradice: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1917 14 Mar. 1794. Bradford on Avon. A female infant bastard, aged about 3 weeks: suddenly died, not from any violence of its mother, Sarah Swift, as reported. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1918 16 Mar. 1794. Collingbourne Ducis. John Blake: going from his home at Burbage to Andover market and passing in the night in a cart through some water at Collingbourne Ducis, was thrown out and killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1919 18 Mar. 1794. The Horse and Jockey Inn in Box. Thomas Nowell: found dead in the Wadswick road near the said house; no marks of violence. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1920 19 Mar. 1794. Boyton. William King, aged about 10: was in a field driving horses fastened to a plough, when the horses, starting, threw him to the ground and he was instantly killed by the plough-steer. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1921 24 Mar. 1794. Highworth. A new-born female child: found under some sod and earth in a ground belonging to Queen Laines Farm; murder by a person or persons unknown. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.
1922 29 Mar. 1794. Kington Langley in Kington St Michael. Richard Reeves, aged about 5: fell into a kiver of hot wort and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1923 1 Apr. 1794. Chute. George the illegitimate son of Frances Hutchings, aged about 4: fell down a step on the pavement or pitching in a yard and was soon after found dead. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
1924 3 Apr. 1794. Box. Sarah Chapallen: threw herself into a brook and drowned herself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1925 5 Apr. 1794. Brimslade in Wootton Rivers. John Lane: drawing up a bucket of water from a deep well, slipped and fell in and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1926 6 Apr. 1794. Longleat House in Horningsham. John Kemp: being on a scaffold or stage on the south side of the house and leaning against a part of it not well secured, fell down on the pavement below and was killed on the spot. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
1927 12 Apr. 1794. Highworth. Henry Stiles: with others had dug a very deep drain in Pisworth Ground, the sides whereof, giving way, fell upon him and killed him. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.
1928 20 Apr. 1794. Collingbourne Kingston. Thomas Stevens: drawing water from a well, fell in and was drowned. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
1929 22 Apr. 1794. Westbury. Thomas Lush, deaf: was going thence to Heywood House in the morning to work as a carpenter, when a horse ran against him behind and threw him down, whereby an axe, whereon hung his bag of tools, separated the great artery of his arm and killed him on the spot. 13 miles. £1 19s. 9d.
1930 23 Apr. 1794. Broad Town in Clyffe Pypard. William Little: leading a colt to water, was kicked by it and killed. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
1931 25 Apr. 1794. Latton. Thomas Roseblade: returning home to South
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Cerney, Glos., fell into the new canal and was drowned. 33 miles. £2 4s. 9d.

1932 1 May 1794. East Grafton in Great Bedwyn. Zebulen Carter: found dead in a coppice near there; no other violence than his having drunk too freely of hot spirituous liquors, part whereof was in a bottle by him. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1933 2 May 1794. Upper Upham in Aldbourne. Margaret Church: cut her throat with a razor; lunacy. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1934 9 May 1794. Huish. Elizabeth Chivers, an infant of Jane and Hillier Chivers: died suddenly, not from any hurt from either parent. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1935 20 May 1794. Melksham. John Spatton: was employed in managing and driving a horse fastened to wheels and engines and machines for carding wool, etc., for Mr Joseph Yerbury, the large pole whereof, striking him and pressing against his breastbone, killed him before he could be relieved. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1936 20 May 1794. Beanacre in Melksham. Mary Rutty, aged under 9: accidentally killed by a quoit flung by William Crook, which she inadvertently crossed the path of. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1937 21 May 1794. Highworth. Joseph Haynes: with William Daws was driving a wagggon in the street drawn by 6 horses, which taking fright and Joseph trying to stop them, he was run over by the wagggon and killed. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.

1938 22 May 1794. Highworth. Thomas Edmunds, an old man: being alone in a house, was found dead. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.

1939 1 June 1794. Badbury in Chiseldon. William Hollister: his horse, on having the blind halter imprudently taken off, ran off with a cart and over William whereby he was killed on the spot. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

1940 8 June 1794. Chiseldon. Stephen Paple: found dead in a garden at the Red House; no marks of violence. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.

1941 12 June 1794. Calne. William the illegitimate child of Hannah Waite, aged about 3: killed by the wheels of a wagggon going over him, unseen by the wagggoner. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1942 13 June 1794. Clinghill in Bromham. Stephen Webb: hanged himself; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.

1943 19 June 1794. Westbury. Caleb Gunning, late of Melksham: suddenly died in the street. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1944 20 June 1794. West Lavington. Richard Willet: killed by the kick of a horse in leading it to the water. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1945 22 June 1794. Avebury. William Stevens: killed by the kick of a horse he was feeding and grazing. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

1946 23 June 1794. Calne. Robert Ody, aged 3: fell into and was drowned in a brook. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1947 24 June 1794. Kington St Michael. Jacob Cole, aged 4 months: in the absence of his mother was suffocated under a heap of clothes which fell on him. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

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16 miles. £1 12s.

1949 1 July 1794. Poulshot. James Burt: found dead in a chamber of his house; no marks of violence. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

1950 6 July 1794. Foxham in Christian Malford. Lucy Reeves: killed by a cart falling on her. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1951 12 July 1794. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. John Marks: cutting wood from a tree in Great Bittoms Field, fell from it into the river and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

Bill of William Clare since Warminster quarter sessions, 15 July 1794; distances from Devizes; total £49 1s., deduct 6s., leaves £48 15s.; allowed by J. Montagu and J. Sutton, 15 Jan. 1795. [A5/2/1/75]

1952 15 July 1794. West Lavington. Thomas Matthews: returning from his work on a harnessed horse belonging to Mr Tinker there, fell from it and was killed. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1953 20 July 1794. Tilshead. Sarah Bundy, aged under 5: scalded and killed by falling into a vessel of hot wort. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1954 1 Aug. 1794. Purley or Marsh House in Lydiard Tregoze. Henry Hedges: hanged himself in a cart-house or outhouse; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1955 8 Aug. 1794. Market Lavington. William Reeves: riding on the shafts and head of a waggon, fell off and was instantly killed. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

1956 9 Aug. 1794. Tytherington in Heytesbury. William Garret: fell off a ladder put to thatch a wheat-rick and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

1957 14 Aug. 1794. New Town parish, Bradford on Avon. Thomas Moody, aged under 3: left alone in a room where a tea-kettle was boiling on a fire, he pulled it forward on himself and was scalded and killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.


1959 30 Aug. 1794. White Hill in Bradford on Avon. James Shell: was digging large free-stones from a quarry when a large portion fell and killed him. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1960 31 Aug. 1794. Broughton Gifford. Mary Gay, aged under 3: fell into a well and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1961 5 Sept. 1794. Pewsey. Mary Oady: threw herself into Buckleaze mill-pond and was instantly drowned; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.


1963 19 Sept. 1794. Calne. William Gundry: fell from his horse in the road near there; to all appearance apoplexy. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1964 24 Sept. 1794. Aldbourne. [blank] Lee: was driving a waggon through a gateway at the Parsonage House with 4 horses when they took fright and Lee, falling, was instantly killed by its wheels. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1965 26 Sept. 1794. Upton Lovell. Mary Northeast: found dead in the parish-house; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1966 6 Oct. 1794. Bratton in Westbury. A travelling-woman unknown: found dead lying under a rick; severe weather. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
1968 18 Oct. 1794. Chippenham. Job White, aged under 5: was at a school and left alone when his clothes caught fire and he was burnt to death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1970 27 Oct. 1794. Chittoe or Silverstreet near Melksham Forest. Sarah the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Buckly, aged under 3: fell into a well and was found dead. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
1971 30 Oct. 1794. Corsley Heath. James Baker: riding on a waggon, fell off and was killed by its wheels in a part of the Frome to Warminster road called Fields Court. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1972 10 Nov. 1794. Warminster. Thomas Giles: killed by the kick of a horse in the Lamb Inn yard. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1973 17 Nov. 1794. Melksham. John Osmand: suddenly died in his house. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
1974 21 Nov. 1794. Chippenham. Betty Ash, aged under 6: her clothes catching fire, she was burnt to death in the absence of her parents. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1975 24 Nov. 1794. St Margaret's parish, Preshute near Marlborough. Ann Verney: found dead in her house; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1976 1 Dec. 1794. Bradford on Avon. Daniel Tylee: cut his throat with a razor; felo de se. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1977 16 Dec. 1794. Trowbridge. George Cook: thrown to the ground by John Usher in an affray and killed; manslaughter. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 7 Mar. 1795, John, charged with George's murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to a fine of 1s. and 6 months' imprisonment in the common gaol and until the fine was paid: ASSI 23/8.]
1978 20 Dec. 1794. Berwick Bassett. Matthew Shipway: was on a high ladder mending the tiles of a house and fell to the ground and was killed. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
1979 26 Dec. 1794. Trowbridge. A travelling-woman unknown: fell into a pond and after getting out and not being dried or taken proper care of was frozen to death; severe weather. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
1980 27 Dec. 1794. Heytesbury. Martha Davis: fell from the foot-path into the river in Eaton Mead and was instantly drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1981 2 Jan. 1795. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. William Wilcox: with others was digging in a new canal by the side of a rock near there and a large
stone, falling on him, instantly killed him. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1982 3 Jan. 1795. Nursteed in Bishop's Cannings. A private of the Shropshire Volunteers: suddenly died in the road. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
1983 9 Jan. 1795. Potterne. Thomas Prosser, late of the 9th regiment of Dragoons: shot and wounded himself in the body with a pistol charged with gunpowder and shot, so that he almost instantly died; lunacy. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
1984 10 Jan. 1795. Wanborough. Thomas Richens: inadvertently having undermined in a stone-quarry, was instantly killed by a large quantity of stone falling in on him. 24 miles. £1 18s.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 13 Jan. 1795; distances from Devizes; total £61 8s. 3d.; allowed by Edmund Lambert and J. Awdry, 13 July 1795. [A5/2/1/76]

1985 16 Jan. 1795. At Oare and on the Hill in Wilcot. Lucy Bird: returning from Oare to her home at Lockeridge some days before, was lost and bewildered in a ground near Huish Hill and was found dead there; cold weather. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1986 18 Jan. 1795. Durlett in Rowde. John Scott: found dead in his father's house after drinking too freely of strong liquors at a neighbour's house. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
1988 4 Feb. 1795. Kington St Michael. Mary Sarjeant: died returning to her home there from Bradford on Avon in the night; inclement weather. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
1989 9 Feb. 1795. St Mary's parish or chapelry, Devizes. Robert Franklin: on a dark evening was thrown to the ground and run over and killed by a waggon and horses in a street near Chapel Corner. £1.
1990 10 Feb. 1795. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. Samuel Smith: with others was digging and sinking the stone, etc., at the side of a rock near there to form a navigable canal and a very heavy stone or stones fell on him and killed him. 16 miles. £1 12s.
1991 17 Feb. 1795. Highworth. Elizabeth Minchin: hanged herself; lunacy. 28 miles. £2 1s.
1993 5 Mar. 1795. Wingfield. Philip Roberts: returning to his home at Great Trowle from Bradford on Avon in the night, fell on the road and died; severe weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
1994 10 Mar. 1795. Whaddon. Ann Staples, aged under 4: fell into the fire when alone and was burnt to death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
1995 10 Mar. 1795. Nettleton. William Stag: was met by a heifer in a cow-house or outhouse and gored and wounded by its horns in his jaw, throat,
and neck so that he almost instantly died. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
1996 11 Mar. 1795. Broker's Gate in Short Street tithing in Westbury. A bastard female infant, suspected to have been murdered or unfairly treated by the mother, Sarah Archett: a very long and strict inquiry found it was not so. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
1997 15 Mar. 1795. Shorcote. Jonathan Uzell: fell off a horse loaded with a sack of potatoes into some water as he was passing to his home at Cirencester, Glos., and, although he presently got out, was soon after found dead; cold weather. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
1998 19 Mar. 1795. Lea near Malmesbury. Thomas Sansom: was felling and throwing a large oak tree which, falling sooner than expected and on his head, body, and limbs, killed him on the spot. 20 miles. £1 15s.
1999 20 Mar. 1795. Melksham. Joseph Gregory: suddenly died in a hovel or outhouse near the shop where he usually worked; no marks of violence. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2000 23 Mar. 1795. Coate in Bishop's Cannings. A man unknown: found dead in the boundary ditch at the bottom of Whiteway Field; he appeared to have been rambling about; cold weather. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2001 2 Apr. 1795. Warminster. William Young, aged under 3 months: died from having been given a quantity of tincture of opium by mistake and misfortune. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2002 8 Apr. 1795. Bradford on Avon. James Chivers: working with others in the intended canal near Murhill, was so hurt by the falling in of a large stone that he soon after died at Bradford on Avon poorhouse. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2003 15 Apr. 1795. Chippenham. Samuel Fletcher: riding into a part of the Avon called the Common Slip on a gelding and leading another, fell off into the water and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2004 24 Apr. 1795. Marlborough Hill Top near the Forest Gate in Preshute. Sarah Hawkins: going in the morning from her home at Marlborough to work, suddenly fell and died. 16 miles. £1 12s.
2005 25 Apr. 1795. Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. William Tortus: drawing water at a well at the Bear Inn, being a stranger and unaccustomed to it, was struck on the head and killed by its iron handle. £1.
2006 26 Apr. 1795. Goatacre in Hilmarton. William Church: leading a colt from the stable to water, was kicked and killed by it. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2007 28 Apr. 1795. Melksham. Mary Mitchell, an old woman: passing near Melksham, suddenly fell and died in Cannonhold tithing. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2008 29 Apr. 1795. Hindon. Mary Scamel: found drowned in a deep well; accidental death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
2009 1 May 1795. Warminster. Edward Turner: driving a wagggon drawn by 3 horses along the Westbury road and imprudently riding on it, was thrown off and killed by the wheels passing over him. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2010 3 May 1795. Mere. John Burpit: digging and imprudently undermining in a quarry or rubble-pit, was killed by a large portion falling in on
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him. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

2011 4 May 1795. Bradford on Avon. John Claverford: found dead early in the morning on the public bridge; no marks of violence. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

2012 6 May 1795. Stoford in South Newton. Solomon Carr: imprudently getting from a stage-waggon while passing along, fell under the wheels and was killed on the spot. 20 miles. £1 15s.

2013 10 May 1795. St Mary's parish, Cricklade. Olive Townsend, aged about 17: thinking herself to be neglected by a young man she had been acquainted with, drank a quantity of deadly poison and killed herself; as well as being under age she was hasty, inconsiderate, and void of recollection and sufficient understanding. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

2014 19 May 1795. Lydiard Millicent. Samuel Hindon: suddenly fell and died in an outhouse or shop; no marks of violence. 20 miles. £1 15s.


2016 24 May 1795. Ball in Pewsey. William Tuck: falling down by the side of a horse drawing a cart, was passed over by its near-wheel and killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

2017 30 May 1795. Redlynch in Downton. Mary Littlecot: had drunk too freely at the New Inn and soon after was found dead. 32 miles. £2 4s.

2018 3 June 1795. Bradford on Avon. Robert Line: on the fair day there was standing with others in the churchyard and killed by a large stone falling on him from the turret of the church-tower. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

2019 14 June 1795. Parish of St John the Baptist, Devizes. Francis McElroy, private in the 9th regiment of Dragoons: marching from Trowbridge and trying to get off a baggage-waggon near Summerham, 3 miles from Devizes, and falling, was instantly killed by the wheels passing over him. Fee and attending and taking a view before removing the body, £1 2s. 3d.

2020 18 June 1795. Wick tithing in Bishop's Cannings. Jonas Ruddle: going from his home at Edington to the weekly market at Devizes and driving his horse loaded with cheese, dropped on the road and was found dead. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

2021 23 June 1795. Whitley Common in Melksham. Joseph Cooper: going from his home there to Shaw Hill in Melksham, was suddenly seized and died. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2022 26 June 1795. Pewsey. John Chamberlain, a stranger, aged about 14: went to the Phoenix public house and soon after complained of illness, was laid on a bed, and in less than 2 hours was found dead on the chamber floor; no marks of violence; natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

2023 3 July 1795. Westbury. Charles Martin, aged about 11: leading a colt, imprudently tied the end of the halter round his left arm and was dragged by it and kicked to death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

2024 7 July 1795. Knook. Martha Durnford, aged under 3: found drowned in the river; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Warminster quarter sessions, 13 July 1795;
distances from Devizes; total £54 6s.; allowed by J. R. Webb and J. Awdry, 13 Jan. 1796. [A5/2/1/77]

2025 14 July 1795. Lacock. James Hunt, aged under 3: killed in the road by his father's house called Stans Moor near Bowden Hill by the off-side wheels of a phaeton drawn by 4 horses belonging to and driven by Bernard Dickenson, esq., on his return from the marquess of Lansdowne's. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2026 14 July 1795. Sherston Magna. Thomas Tanner: was driving 4 horses drawing a waggon loaded with new-made hay and, imprudently getting upon its shafts or limbers, fell and was instantly killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.

2027 15 July 1795. Littleton Mill in West Lavington. Rhoda Fidler, reported to have caused her death by poison: she was so much affected by hearing by letter of the distress of her husband, who had fled from his home, that she was taken speechless and soon after died; natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2028 16 July 1795. Keevil. Betty Hill: found dead in a foot-road; in the night she had rambled from her house; illness. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2029 1 Aug. 1795. St Mary's parish, Devizes. Edward Scott, aged under 6: fell into a pond in the parish of St John the Baptist near Devizes and was drowned. £1.

2030 3 Aug. 1795. Wanborough. Joseph Lawrence, aged under 2: being inadvertently left alone in a house by the mother, was found drowned in a pan that had water in the bottom. 24 miles. £1 18s.

2031 11 Aug. 1795. Melksham. Richard Townsend: bathing in the Avon, was suddenly seized and sank and died. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2032 29 Aug. 1795. Chirton. John Sheppard, aged under 3: fell into a collar-maker's pit and was suffocated. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2033 5 Sept. 1795. Brinkworth. Mary Ann Hopkins, aged under 3: fell into some scalding hot wort and was killed. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

2034 10 Sept. 1795. Bradford on Avon. John Willet, aged under 11: was riding and swinging on a large gate and, falling off to the ground, was killed. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

2035 14 Sept. 1795. Westbury Leigh. Martha Wingrove: walking in Westbury Leigh Lower Field, was suddenly seized and died. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

2036 19 Sept. 1795. Bratton. John Paine, aged under 3: by accident was thrown out of the arms of his father, Job Paine, and almost instantly killed. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2037 20 Sept. 1795. Lacock. Thomas Potticary: at the annual fair at Corsham was thrown from the brown mare he was riding on and so violently hurt and bruised that he languished and died at his home at Lacock. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2038 29 Sept. 1795. Bushton Farm. Cornelius Bradford, aged under 2: found suffocated in a pool of water and soil near the farm; accidental death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2039 3 Oct. 1795. St John's parish, Devizes. Elizabeth Wilkins, a
passenger in Clark's London waggon to be carried from London to Melksham: being ill and alone in the waggon, was found to be dead at Devizes; no marks of violence. £1.

2040 11 Oct. 1795. Seend in Melksham. James Marshman: hanged himself; felo de se. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2041 23 Oct. 1795. Wingfield. James Baily: being on a high tree gathering pears, fell down and was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

2042 31 Oct. 1795. Winsley in Bradford on Avon. John Giles: with others was renting [sic. splitting] and lowering the rock to form the Kennet–Avon canal and was killed by a large portion falling in on him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

2043 2 Nov. 1795. Crockerton in Sutton Veny. Joseph Fussell: had been driving a timber-carriage drawn by 7 horses and, falling down before its near-wheels, was instantly killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

2044 4 Nov. 1795. Charlton near Malmesbury. William Booth: residing alone, was found dead in his house on the floor; no marks of violence; natural death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

2045 6 Nov. 1795. Chirton. A man, a stranger then unknown: found dead on the Salisbury road there. It appearing that his companion had left him on the Plain in the said road either dead or nearly so and, although in his power, had tried for no assistance for him at the place he lodged at, it was judged necessary to adjourn to 20 Nov. to Lydeway and in the meantime to publish and advertise the death in order that the parties might be known and that if the deceased had been unfairly treated the charge might be duly laid. On 20 Nov. his name was proved by his brother to be Samuel Lawrence; on 2 Nov. he set off from Lyndhurst, Hants, for Hereford, Herefordshire, and in the afternoon called at the Druid's Head, a hut on the Salisbury road, for some refreshment. Immediately afterwards a man, totally unknown in this part of the country, came up to the same house who said he was going the same road, and so they joined company and left the house together. Samuel had in his possession 2 bundles and a small box which, as evidence proved, were the same evening in the possession of the unknown man who the following morning carried them away with him. Because marks of blows or bruises appeared on Samuel's head and face and because of the circumstances of inhumanity and robbery, murder by the unknown man. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d. Adjournment, 4 miles. £1 3s.

2046 15 Nov. 1795. Collingbourne Ducis. Thomas Chandler: found dead in a lane near the parsonage; natural death. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

2047 19 Nov. 1795. Warminster. William Durnford, an old man: slipped at the top of the stairs he was going down, fell to the bottom, and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2048 21 Nov. 1795. Highworth. Hannah Mayell: accidentally poisoned by ratsbane, mixed with a little flour and undesignedly put in a cake of which she ate. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

2049 23 Nov. 1795. Purton. Robert Cross: had received blows and stripes from his master, William Large, before his death, but not so as to cause it as reported. 24 miles. £1 18s.
2050 25 Nov. 1795. St John’s parish, Devizes. John Allen, saddler and reputable inhabitant of Devizes: found dead in bed in his chamber, to which the night preceding he repaired, to all appearance in good health; natural death. £1.

2051 27 Nov. 1795. Highworth. Ann Hedges: drowned herself; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

2052 30 Nov. 1795. Dilton in Westbury. John Larkum, aged under 2: being imprudently trusted and left near some hot water, by falling on it was scalded and burnt to death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2053 2 Dec. 1795. Chute Forest, extra-parochial near Tanglely, Hants. A man unknown: drowned in a pool by throwing himself in; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

2054 6 Dec. 1795. Lacock. Joseph Hiscock: fell into a part of the Avon called the Flood Pill or Flood Pond and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2055 17 Dec. 1795. Warminster. Jeremiah White, lately discharged from the Hampshire Fencibles: returning to his home in Hampshire in a cart, was seized and suddenly died. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2056 17 Dec. 1795. Manningford Abbots. Benjamin Asher: residing alone, was found dead in a malt-house; no marks of violence; natural death. 12 miles. £1 19s.

2057 31 Dec. 1795. Elston Farm in Orcheston St George. Harriet Smith, aged under 2: fell from a bed onto the floor and was found dead; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

2058 1 Jan. 1796. Bradford on Avon. James Bayly, confined in the workhouse as a lunatic: found means to hang himself; lunacy. 13 miles. £1 10s. 9d.

2059 9 Jan. 1796. Westbury Leigh. Benjamin Weston, an old man: found dead in a garden near his house; suddenly died. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1796; distances from Devizes; total £55 19s.; allowed by W.P.A. A’Court and H.P. Wyndham, 13 July 1796. [A5/2/1/78]

2060 13 Jan. 1796. Studley in Calne. William Strange, aged under 6: fell into a brook or rivulet and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2061 18 Jan. 1796. Burbage. Robert Skitrell: employed in cutting and forming the Kennet-Avon canal, was killed by falling from a narrow plank while driving a wheelbarrow of earth. 20 miles. £1 15s.

2062 20 Jan. 1796. Warminster. Thomas Robins: fell into the bottom of a stone-quarry at the east end of the town and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2063 27 Jan. 1796. Eastcott in Urchfont. Stephen Milson, shepherd: found dead on a part of the downs called Eastcott Hill; no marks of violence. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2064 28 Jan. 1796. Bishop’s Cannings. Ann Minty, single woman, pregnant and big with child: suddenly died of disease and not otherwise as reported. 4 miles. £1 3s.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Bill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Jan.</td>
<td>Lacock</td>
<td>Mary Elmes: early in the morning having gone downstairs and being alone, suddenly died. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Feb.</td>
<td>Marlborough</td>
<td>George, aged under 9 months, the base-born son of Penelope Bailly who was committed for a year by R. Webb and T.G. Vilett, esqs, as a lewd and disorderly woman: natural illness; no neglect by the mother. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Feb.</td>
<td>Oaksey</td>
<td>Henry Brown, an old man: returning to his home there in the night, missed his road and fell to the ground and died. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Feb.</td>
<td>Marlborough</td>
<td>George, aged under 9 months, the base-born son of Penelope Bailly who was committed for a year by R. Webb and T.G. Vilett, esqs, as a lewd and disorderly woman: natural illness; no neglect by the mother. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>16 Feb.</td>
<td>Oaksey</td>
<td>Henry Brown, an old man: returning to his home there in the night, missed his road and fell to the ground and died. 27 miles. £2 0s. 3d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Feb.</td>
<td>Heytesbury</td>
<td>William Luke, an old man: returning to his home at Warminster from Chitterne, fell from his horse and died on the road near Heytesbury; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Feb.</td>
<td>East Coulston</td>
<td>A man unknown, a cripple, who had been wandering and begging from place to place and had received relief of many: died infested with vermin and in want of clothing and other necessaries. 8 miles. £1 6s.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Feb.</td>
<td>Overtown in Wroughton</td>
<td>Adam Ayres: killed by the kick of a horse belonging to his master there, Mr T. Washbourn. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Feb.</td>
<td>Clyffe Pypard</td>
<td>Susannah Alexander: her death was suspected to have been caused by Jane Brown and Alice her daughter, to whose house she was taken by order of vestry a few days before, but a very minute inquiry found it was not so; illness caused by former neglect, bodily vermin, and other disorders. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Feb.</td>
<td>Great Chalfield</td>
<td>Isaac Bull: fell into Home Wood Brook and was drowned. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Mar.</td>
<td>Bradford on Avon</td>
<td>George Osbourne: thrown down by the horses and waggon he was driving before dawn in the road from Holt to Bradford on Avon and, the wheels also passing over him, he was killed. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Mar.</td>
<td>Wick tithing in Bishop’s Cannings</td>
<td>Jane Burgess: returning from Potterne to her home at Devizes alone in the night, fell and died in Copse Ground; no marks of violence. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar.</td>
<td>Grittleton</td>
<td>John Golding, a boy: leading and driving horses drawing a drag over the ground and the horses taking fright and setting off, he was killed by the iron fang of the drag entering his skull. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Mar.</td>
<td>Eastcott in Swindon</td>
<td>Giles Edmunds, aged about 5: fell into a pond and was killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Mar.</td>
<td>Bromham</td>
<td>John Pearce, aged under 3: fell into a cooler of hot wort and was killed. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Mar.</td>
<td>Nursteed in Bishop’s Cannings</td>
<td>Raymond Jones: returning from Devizes to his home at Urchfont in a cart drawn by one horse and the horse taking fright, he was thrown out and killed. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Mar.</td>
<td>Bushton in Clyffe Pypard</td>
<td>Sarah Twine, aged about 2: falling into a pool or pond, was instantly drowned. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2080 4 Apr. 1796. Warminster. A female infant, aged under 9 weeks: found dead by its mother’s side; accidental pressure or natural illness. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2081 5 Apr. 1796. Chippenham. Ann Garroway, an old woman: threw herself into the Avon and killed herself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 17s. 6d.

2082 14 Apr. 1796. The Weymouth’s Arms Inn, Horningsham. John Spinnell: thrown from a horse he had just mounted, and killed in a green or common near the road. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

2083 18 Apr. 1796. West Ashton in Steeple Ashton. William Glass: riding in a cart drawn by one horse which took fright, was thrown out and soon after died. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2084 7 May 1796. Froxfield. John Embling: was riding in a waggon drawn by 4 horses and, imprudently attempting to get down without stopping them, was thrown to the ground and killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

2085 9 May 1796. Littleton Wood in Semington tithing in Steeple Ashton. John Palmer: driving a loaded cart and 3 horses in a lane near there, was thrown down and killed thereby and also by the passing of the off-wheel against or over his body. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2086 22 May 1796. Bupton Marsh in Clyffe Pypard. William Martin: found dead there, having the day and evening preceding been at his usual work as a labourer. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2087 31 May 1796. Longbridge Deverill. John Durnford, shepherd: found dead on the Down where he was keeping sheep; no marks of violence. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

2088 3 June 1796. Purton. John Barnes: killed by the unexpected falling of a stone wall on his body and limbs. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

2089 5 June 1796. Standen House in Chute. Jane Noones otherwise Pearce: hanged herself in a chamber in the house; lunacy. 27 miles. £20s. 3d.

2090 12 June 1796. South Wraxall. Stephen Migen: had been mowing and cutting grass in a field and was soon after found dead there. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

2091 23 June 1796. Crofton Mill in Great Bedwyn. George Green, aged under 7: falling into the water at the mill-tail, was instantly drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

2092 26 June 1796. North Newton. Elizabeth Jesse, aged under 3: fell into a pond in the garden and was instantly drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2093 27 June 1796. Wanborough. John Fox, aged about 11: riding on a horse, fell from his seat and was dragged to death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

2094 29 June 1796. Ashton Common in Steeple Ashton. George Kemp: resided there alone in an old house and, being missed by the neighbourhood, was found dead. 10 miles. £1 17s. 6d.

2095 8 July 1796. Avoncliff in Bradford on Avon. John Mitchell: fell near a mill-head in the Avon and was instantly crushed to death by the large wheel of the mill. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
SOUTH WILTSHIRE BILLS

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Wilton quarter sessions, 10 and 11 Jan. 1753; distances from Wilton; total £18 13s. 9d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps, E. Goddard, and Edmund Pitts. 16 Jan. 1754. [A5/2/1/79]

2096 16 Jan. 1753. Amesbury. John Framton, late of King’s Somborne, Hants. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2097 15 Feb. 1753. Orcheston St George. A male bastard child, born of Jane Long. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 13 Apr. 1753, Jane was acquitted of the child’s murder on the inquest: ASSI 23/6.]
2099 19 Mar. 1753. Winterbourne Earls. Sarah Pizey: died on the road while going from Hungerford to Ringwood. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2100 15 Apr. 1753. Woodfalls in Downton. Mary Chalk: fell into a pond and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 2 Aug. 1753, David Chalke was acquitted of Mary’s murder on the indictment: ASSI 23/6.]
2101 14 May 1753. Ebbesborne Wake. Chrisom King, a little child: fell into a river and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2102 5 June 1753. Warminster. Mary Seer: drowned herself in a well; lunacy. 20 miles. £1 15s.
2103 6 June 1753. Ford. James Noyes, carter: killed by a roller. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2104 2 Aug. 1753. Winterslow. William Sansbury, higgler: fell into a pond and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2105 31 Aug. 1753. Shrewton. Edward Fricker, carter: killed by the hind-wheel of a waggon. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2106 10 Oct. 1753. East Knoyle. William Woburn, aged about 13: killed by the wheel of a cart. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2107 8 Nov. 1753. Barford St Martin. Ann Crouch, widow: burnt to death in her chimney-corner. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2108 30 Dec. 1753. Fisherton Anger. Jane Luke: drowned in a river which she fell into. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2109 12 Jan. 1754. Donhead St Mary. Thomas Trimm. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 15 Jan. 1754; distances from Wilton; total £15 9s.; allowed by E. Pitts and John Turner, 15 Jan. 1755. [A5/2/1/80]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Mar. 1754</td>
<td>Kingston Deverill</td>
<td>Nicholas Card of Maiden Bradley: found dead under a hayrick; natural death.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>£1 12s. 9d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Mar. 1754</td>
<td>Alvediston</td>
<td>William Ingram: found dead in a barn; natural death.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>£1 7s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Apr. 1754</td>
<td>Maiden Bradley</td>
<td>A woman unknown: found dead in the common fields; natural death.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>£1 15s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May 1754</td>
<td>Coombe Bissett</td>
<td>Thomas Wall, late of Cranborne, Dorset: killed by a fall from his horse.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>£1 2s. 3d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Apr. 1754</td>
<td>Maiden Bradley</td>
<td>Edward Dear: killed by the accidental going off of his gun.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>£1 3s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 July 1754</td>
<td>Amesbury</td>
<td>William Edwards of Winterbourne Earls, carter: killed by the fore-wheel of a waggon.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>£1 16s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Sept. 1754</td>
<td>Charlton in Downton</td>
<td>John Miles of Bemerton, carter: killed by overturning a waggon loaded with wheat.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>£1 5s. 3d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Sept. 1754</td>
<td>Stapleford</td>
<td>Mary wife of George Northover, wheelwright: cut her throat; lunacy.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>£1 3s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Dec. 1754</td>
<td>Stoford</td>
<td>George Blake of Stoford, aged about 6: on 17 Dec., coming from Great Wishford to Stoford over Stoford Bridge, fell into the river and was drowned.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>£1 2s. 3d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Dec. 1754</td>
<td>Downton</td>
<td>Thomas Cooper, servant to William Hayter of Downton, miller: fell into the mill-pond and was drowned.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>£1 6s.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 15 Jan. 1755; distances from Wilton; total £7 7s.; allowed by John Turner and E. Pitts, 15 Jan. 1756.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Mar. 1755</td>
<td>North Tidworth</td>
<td>Thomas Pearson: found dead in the open fields on a journey from Salisbury to Wallingford, Berks.; natural death.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>£1 11s. 3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May 1755</td>
<td>Wilton</td>
<td>John Smith: fell into a river and was drowned.</td>
<td></td>
<td>£1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 July 1755</td>
<td>Winterbourne Stoke</td>
<td>George Weston: cut his throat; lunacy.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>£1 4s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 July 1755</td>
<td>Durrington</td>
<td>John Smart: bruised to death by the fore-wheel of a waggon.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>£1 7s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Aug. 1755</td>
<td>Little Woodford</td>
<td>John Whitehorn, infant: fell into a water-carriage and was drowned.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>£1 2s. 3d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Aug. 1755</td>
<td>South Newton</td>
<td>John Blake: fell under the wheel of a mill that was going and was immediately crushed to death.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>£1 1s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 15 Jan. 1756; distances from Wilton; total £24 9s. 9d.; allowed by John Turner and E. Pitts, 13 Jan. 1757.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Jan. 1756</td>
<td>Ansty</td>
<td>Thomas Hallet, labourer.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>£1 7s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2129 17 Feb. 1756. Ansty. James Plowman, jun.: killed by the falling of a tree that was being felled. £1 7s. 6d.
2130 1 Mar. 1756. Stockton. Gideon Henwood: jumped into a well and drowned himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2131 30 Mar. 1756. Whiteparish. Henry Heathcot, labourer: killed by the falling of an engine upon his head while he was loading timber. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2132 18 May 1756. North Tidworth. William Nalder: killed by being bruised by a horse against a durn [sc. post] of a stable door. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2133 24 May 1756. Chicks Grove. James Lover: fell into water and was drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2134 29 June 1756. Donhead St Andrew. John Brown: killed by a hind-wheel of a wagggon going over him. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2135 30 June 1756. Amesbury. Mary Creed: cut her throat; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2136 1 July 1756. Hurdcott. Josiah Pierce: fell into a mill-pond and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2137 26 Aug. 1756. Chicks Grove Quarry. John Mitchel, labourer: killed by the falling in of part of the quarry upon him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2138 22 Sept. 1756. Winterslow Hutt [? Winterslow Hurst]. Thomas Potter: fell under a fore-wheel of a wagggon he was driving and was killed. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2139 27 Sept. 1756. Whiteparish. Elizabeth Sobara: died suddenly on the road between Salisbury and Whiteparish. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2140 22 Nov. 1756. Bulford. Mary Pye: found dead on the road between Bulford and Burbage. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2141 24 Nov. 1756. Amesbury. John Buller: hanged himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2142 16 Dec. 1756. North Tidworth. Mary Castleman. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2143 21 Dec. 1756. Fovant. Frances Strong: accidentally thrown out of a cart into a river and drowned. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2144 4 Jan. 1757. Chicks Grove Quarry. Edward Moor: killed by part of the quarry falling on him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2145 5 Jan. 1757. Clarendon Park. Samuel Cush: killed by falling from his horse while riding home from Salisbury. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1747 [recte 1757]; distances from Wilton; total £20 14s. 9d.; allowed by John Turner and E. Pitts, 12 Jan. 1758. [A5/2/1/83]

2146 17 Feb. 1757. North Ugford. Ann Pressly, spinster: fell into the river and was drowned. ½ mile. £1.
2148 13 Apr. 1757. Knighton. William Dibben, ploughboy: killed by the
ploughshare by the horses taking fright and running away. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2149 24 Apr. 1757. Brigmerston. A person unknown: no marks of
violence; natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2150 8 May 1757. West Harnham. William Simms: fell into water at the
Six Hatches and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2151 8 June 1757. Bishopstone. Thomas Roots, schoolmaster: fell into a
river and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2152 8 June 1757. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Mathews, prisoner for
felony: smallpox. £1.
2153 26 July 1757. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Fryers, prisoner for debt:
smallpox. £1.
2154 9 Aug. 1757. Little Durnford. Edward Maunder, dragoon in General
Hawly's regiment: drowned while bathing in a river. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2155 10 Aug. 1757. Bishopstrow. John Willet, infant: fell into a well and
was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2156 14 Aug. 1757. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Ponting, prisoner for
debt: smallpox. £1.
2157 27 Aug. 1757. Fisherton Anger gaol. Ann Winchester, prisoner for
riot: smallpox. £1.
2158 31 Aug. 1757. Netherhampton. William Gipson, servant to Captain
1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2159 7 Sept. 1757. Fovant. John Yates, labourer: driving a wagggon down
a steep hill, fell down and one of the hind-wheels went over his neck and killed
him on the spot. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2160 28 Oct. 1757. Broad Chalke. Thomas Jay, labourer: going by the side
of a wagggon, fell down and one of the hind-wheels went over part of his head
and crushed him to death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2161 13 Dec. 1757. Coombe Bissett. A person unknown: found dead in a
barn; natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2162 3 Jan. 1758. Broad Chalke. Anthony Penny, labourer: died in
Gurston Field on the night of 1 Jan.; extreme cold. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2163 4 Jan. 1758. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Spruels, prisoner for felony:
natural death. £1.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Amesbury quarter sessions, 11 Jan. 1758;
distances from Wilton; total £12 18s. 6d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and John
Turner, 11 Jan. 1758 [recte 1759]. [A5/2/1/84]

2164 19 May 1758. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Horsey, prisoner for
debt: sudden natural death. £1.
2165 10 June 1758. Barford. William Waterman: killed by the overturning
of a wagggon. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2166 1 July 1758. Broad Chalke. William Johnson: fell down dead in the
street; natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2167 9 Aug. 1758. Fisherton Anger. Sarah Burges: fell into a mill-pond and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2168 8 Sept. 1758. Donhead St Andrew. The bastard child of Ann White: murder. 16 miles. £1 12s.
[At Salisbury assizes, 17 Mar. 1759, a Martha White was acquitted of murdering her male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]
2169 1 Oct. 1758. Coombe Bissett. Mary Gravel: hanged herself: lunacy. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2170 19 Oct. 1758. Alderbury. Katharine Chalk: killed by falling from her horse. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2171 2 Dec. 1758. Downton. Samuel Norris: killed by the overturning of a waggon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2172 4 Dec. 1758. Swallowcliffe. Geoffrey Spencer: killed by the cog-wheel of a mill. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2173 5 Jan. 1759. West Knoyle. John Mitchel: killed by falling from his horse. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 9 Jan. 1759; distances from Wilton; total £13 16s. 3d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and John Turner, 16 Jan. 1760. [A5/2/1/85]

2174 13 Jan. 1759. Laverstock. Henry Humby of Downton, yeoman: killed by a fall from his horse. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2176 15 May 1759. Sutton Mandeville. Aaron Snook, labourer: fell under a cart loaded with stone and was bruised to death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2178 7 July 1759. Upper Woodford. Elizabeth Sever, aged under 2: accidentally smothered in a bucket of water. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2179 27 July 1759. Longbridge Deverill. Ann Gray: fell into a river and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.
2180 6 Aug. 1759. Wilton. John Whindle: fell into a ditch and was drowned. £1.
2181 21 Sept. 1759. Winterslow. Joseph Judd, butcher, subject to fits: in a fit, fell dead from his horse; natural death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2182 5 Nov. 1759. Orcheston St George or St Mary. John Trapp, infant: fell into a pan of water and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
2183 12 Jan. 1760. Bulford. Edward How, saddler, subject to fits: fell down in a fit going from Everleigh to Salisbury and was killed by the inclement weather. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2184 14 Jan. 1760. Shrewton. Michael Evens, militiaman: died going from Bulford to Lydeway; inclement weather. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh, county coroner, since Salisbury quarter sessions,
15 Jan. 1760; distances from Wilton; total £22 6s. 9d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and E. Pitts, 15 Jan. 1761. [A5/2/1/86]

2185 26 Jan. 1760. Boyton Mill. Robert Collens: in the night of 23 and 24 Jan. threw himself into the river belonging to the mill and was drowned; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
2186 24 Feb. 1760. Downton. Rachel Reeves: fell into the river while taking up a bucket of water and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2187 18 Mar. 1760. Downton. Ann Fulford: fell into a well and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2188 21 Mar. 1760. Milford. Martha Musslewhite: fell into a river and was drowned. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2189 22 Mar. 1760. Swallowfield. Richard Holcomb: bruised to death by a waggon going over him. 52 miles. £2 19s.
2190 3 Apr. 1760. Fovant. Lydia Blondel: threw herself into a well and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2191 3 May 1760. Britford. A male infant: murder by Elizabeth Loveless, its mother. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 19 July 1760, Elizabeth was acquitted of murdering her male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]
2192 20 May 1760. Bulford. Henry Pearse: killed by accident while driving a plough. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2193 22 May 1760. Milford. John Rose: killed while digging gravel in a pit by the earth falling in upon him. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2195 28 Aug. 1760. Damerham. William Tiller: killed by falling from a waggon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2196 4 Sept. 1760. Alderbury. Thomas Peirce: killed by a bruise he received from a horse on his breast. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2197 10 Oct. 1760. Stockton. Elizabeth Humphries: cut her throat; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2199 12 Nov. 1760. Damerham. John Tiller. 12 miles. £1 9s.
2200 1 Jan. 1761. Broad Chalke. Thomas Batchelor: accidentally slain in Vernditch Chase by the underkeeper who was shooting at a deer. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 15 Jan. 1761; distances from Wilton; total £9 15s. 6d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and E. Pitts, 14 Jan. 1762. [A5/2/1/87]

2201 14 Feb. 1761. Melchet Park. Ann Barns: killed by the accidental going off of a gun. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2202 28 June 1761. New Lodge Farm in Downton. John Knight: killed by falling from his horse. 12 miles. £1 9s.
17 July 1761. Bower Chalke. William King: killed by falling under the wheel of a cart. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2204 29 July 1761. Whiteparish. Alexander Graham: killed by the fore-wheel of a waggon going over his breast. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2205 6 Sept. 1761. Bapton. George Patient: drowned by falling into a well. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2206 11 Nov. 1761. Stapleford. Margaret Turner: found dead in a barn. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2207 31 Dec. 1761. Mere. John Ford: killed by falling from his horse. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 13 Jan. 1762; distances from Wilton; total £24; allowed by Thomas Phipps and Charles Wake, 12 Jan. 1763. [A5/2/1/88]

2208 22 Jan. 1762. East Harnham. Jane Rook: killed by the fore-wheel of a waggon going over her. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2210 8 Apr. 1762. Tisbury. William Card: hanged himself; felo de se. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2211 23 Apr. 1762. Quidhampton. John Jenery: drowned; accidental death. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
2212 5 May 1762. Warminster. Benjamin Leigh: killed by the accidental going off of a gun as he was drawing the charge. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.
2213 17 May 1762. Trowbridge. A child of Walter Fricker: suffocated in the filth of a necessary-house into which he was thrown by his mother; murder. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 24 July 1762, Elizabeth wife of Walter Fricker was acquitted of murdering John Fricker, aged about 6 months, on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/7.]

2214 5 June 1762. Downton. John Cooper: killed by falling off a ladder. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2215 16 June 1762. Ditchampton. Henry Hayter: killed by taking white arsenic, knowing it to be poison; felo de se. £1.
2216 19 July 1762. West Harnham. Thomas Bayman: drowned while washing. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2217 21 July 1762. Tisbury. William Martin: fell into a well and was drowned. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2218 29 July 1762. Chilmark. James Yates: killed by eating poisoned bread and butter prepared to destroy rats; accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2219 29 July 1762. Chilmark. Joseph Gatree: same cause as 2218. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2220 2 Aug. 1762. Martin Bernard Harris: bruised to death by the hind-wheel of a waggon. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2221  7 Aug. 1762. Tisbury. William Day: killed by the fore- and hind-wheels of a waggon going over him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2222  18 Aug. 1762. Baverstock. James Bond: natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2223  22 Aug. 1762. Fisherton Anger. Thomas Frost: drowned; accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2224  21 Oct. 1762. Teffont Evias. James Burrow: killed by a blow on the left side of his head; manslaughter. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2225  7 Dec. 1762. Donhead St Andrew. Richard White: fell off a bridge into a water and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Amesbury quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1763; distances from Wilton; total £11 8s. 6d.; allowed by Thomas Bennet and [Viscount] Weymouth, 13 July 1763. [A5/2/1/89]

2227  25 Feb. 1763. Mere. Mary Maidment: found drowned; accidental death. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.
2228  25 Feb. 1763. Mere. Henry Maidment: found drowned; accidental death. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.
2230  7 Apr. 1763. Hatch in Tisbury. James Rabbits: cut his throat, of which he almost immediately died; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
2231  7 Apr. 1763. Willoughby Hedge. Stephen Cowdry: bruised to death by a fore-wheel of a waggon going over him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2232  16 May 1763. North Burcombe. Henry White: on 4 May received a bruise on the left side of his head, of which he languished until 14 May and then died; accidental death. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Warminster quarter sessions, 12 July 1763; distances from Wilton; total £10 4s. 3d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and E. Pitts, 12 Jan. 1764. [A5/2/1/90]

2234  16 Aug. 1763. Quidhampton. Margaret Mitchel: killed by a cart-wheel going over her. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2235  20 Aug. 1763. Ansty. James Coombs: killed by the kick of a horse. 13 miles. £1 19s. 9d.
2236  3 Sept. 1763. South Newton. William Upjohn: killed by falling from a ladder. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2237  18 Sept. 1763. Longbridge Deverill. Roger Snelgrove: dropped down dead suddenly while putting on his clothes in a field where he had been at work. 20 miles. £1 15s.
2238 30 Sept. 1763. Kingston Deverill. Elizabeth Barter: fell into a well and was drowned. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.


2240 3 Dec. 1763. Compton Chamberlayne. Marsh Bennet: killed by the overturning of a cart. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 11 Jan. 1764; distances from Wilton; total £22 7s. 6d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and Samuel Eyre, 16 Jan. 1765. [A5/2/1/91]


2242 26 Jan. 1764. Swallowfield. Thomas Crasswel: killed by falling into a ditch. 54 miles. £3 0s. 6d.

2243 3 Apr. 1764. Codford St Peter. Nicholas Fleming: cut his throat; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

2244 23 Apr. 1764. Bishopstone. John Butt: fell into a water and was drowned. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2245 25 May 1764. Alvediston. Mary Roberts: fell into a water and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2246 3 June 1764. Compton Chamberlayne. George Hayward: killed by a cart-wheel running over him. 4 miles. £1 3s.


[At Salisbury assizes, 16 Mar. 1765, John was acquitted of Bridget's murder on the indictment and of her manslaughter on the inquest: ASSI 23/7]

2248 13 Aug. 1764. Landford. William Biddlecomb: killed by falling under the fore-wheel of a waggon. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2249 9 Sept. 1764. Woodminton. Hannah Herrington: killed by the overturning of a waggon. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2250 25 Sept. 1764. A field belonging to Bishopstone. A person unknown: accidental death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2251 8 Dec. 1764. Tisbury. Benjamin Bourfort: natural death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

2252 19 Dec. 1764. Semley. A week-old infant: overlain; accidental death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2253 26 Dec. 1764. Martin. A man unknown: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


2256 16 Jan. 1765. Stratford sub Castle. Thomas Gale: natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 16 Jan. 1765;
distances from Wilton; total £18 4s.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and Charles
Wake. 15 Jan. 1766. [A5/2/1/92]

2257 2 Feb. 1765. Mere Park. John Ford: found dead in a pond; accidental
death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2258 4 Feb. 1765. Newton Tony. Thomas Olden: killed by the wheel of a
waggon going over him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2260 6 May 1765. Maddington. Giles Harding: fell from a house and was
killed. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2261 22 May 1765. Dinton. William Sparks: hanged himself; felo de se.
4 miles. £1 3s.
2262 22 May 1765. Fisherton Anger gaol. Jeremiah Wansted, prisoner:
fever. £1.
2263 8 June 1765. Pitton. Elizabeth Seward: found drowned; accidental
death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2264 9 June 1765. Tollard Royal. Elias West: killed by the fore-wheel of a
waggon going over him. 16 miles. £1 12s.
£1 5s. 3d.
£1 4s. 6d.
2267 5 Oct. 1765. Britford. James Foster: found drowned; accidental
death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2268 6 Nov. 1765. Faulston. John Ford: killed by the fore-wheel of a
waggon going over him. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2269 14 Nov. 1765. Winterslow. John Wheeler: on 13 Nov. hanged
himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
£1 7s. 6d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 14 Jan. 1766;
distances from Wilton; total £20 18s.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and Edward
Hearst, 15 Jan. 1767. [A5/2/1/93]

2271 5 Feb. 1766. Donhead St Mary. Lewis West, subject to fits: fell from
his horse, as supposed in a fit, and died; natural death. 15 miles.
£1 11s. 3d.
2272 20 Feb. 1766. Cholderton. Thomas Harding: killed by falling under
a ploughshare. 12 miles. £1 9s.
6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2275 13 May 1766. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Ratcliff, prisoner:
natural death. £1.


2277  12 June 1766. Durnford. Rebecca (Rebekah) Waters: found drowned in a well; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.


2279  22 June 1766. Downton. Elizabeth Welsteed: found drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


2281  21 Sept. 1766. Donhead St Andrew or [less likely] Codford St Mary or St Peter (Codford St Andrew). Thomas Churchill: natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

2282  22 Sept. 1766. Milford. Martha Talbot: fell downstairs and was killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2283  17 Oct. 1766. Hindon. Charles Stevens: having been ill some time before, was thought to have fallen from his horse in a fit and immediately died; natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.


2286  24 Nov. 1766. Laverstock. Joseph Coward: hanged himself; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2287  31 Dec. 1766. Porton. Daniel Dicks: cut his throat; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of George Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 14 Jan. 1767; distances from Wilton; total £10 5s. 9d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and Edward Young, 15 Jan. 1768. [A5/2/1/94]

2288  16 Jan. 1767. Longbridge Deverill. John Harman: found dead in the snow; no marks of violence; inclement weather. 24 miles. £1 18s.

2289  16 Feb. 1767. Ebberesborne Wake (Eastborn). Robert Dashwood: found dead and almost perished in the snow, having lain in it almost 6 weeks; inclement weather. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2290  8 Mar. 1767. Stratford sub Castle. A woman unknown: no marks of violence; natural death. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2291  17 Mar. 1767. Stop. Mary Smart: hanged herself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

2292  12 Apr. 1767. Semley. Mary Scammel, aged under 2: fell into a well and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2293  18 Apr. 1767. North Tidworth. One Redford: no marks of violence; natural death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

2294  24 May 1767. Broad Chalke. George Read, infant: fell into a pan of
water and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

Bill of Henry Thresher, deceased; distances from Wilton; total £7 15s.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and Edward Young, 15 Jan. 1768. [A5/2/1/95]

2295 23 Aug. 1767. A mile beyond Downton. A person unknown: accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2296 25 Aug. 1767. Quidhampton. Farmer Thomas Mitchell: natural death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2299 10 Oct. 1767. Martin. A person unknown: accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since 1 Jan. 1768; distances from Salisbury; total £20 15s. 3d.; allowed by Thomas Phipps and William Buckler. 11 Jan. 1769. [A5/2/1/96]

2302 6 Jan. 1768. Mere. Ann Dodkey: found dead in the snow; inclement weather. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
2303 26 Jan. 1768. Britford. Wolf Myers: murder by John Curtis. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1768, John Curtis alias Curtells was convicted of assaulting Wolf in the highway and robbing him of a silver watch worth £2 and other goods; and of his murder on the indictment. He was sentenced to be hanged. On 9 Mar. his execution was respited until 14 Mar. when he was to be hanged by the neck until dead on a gibbet to be erected in a conspicuous part of Lower Burnbake Field in Britford within view of the roads from Salisbury to Blandford Forum and Shaftesbury, his body then to be hanged in chains on the gibbet; and in the meantime his diet of bread and water was relaxed: ASSI 23/7.]
2304 8 Feb. 1768. Deptford. Joseph Wilkins: as supposed, apoplexy. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2306 19 Feb. 1768. Stapleford. Robert Stevens: inclement weather. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2307 24 Feb. 1768. Teffont Magna. William Lock: inclement weather. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2308 22 Mar. 1768. Amesbury. Joseph Meylan: fell from his horse in a fit
of apoplexy and died; natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.


2310 15 June 1768. Allington. William Sainsbury: fell from a waggon and died. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.


2312 25 July 1768. Stratford Tony (Stonney Stratford). Samuel Feltham: killed by a musket shot; accidental death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2313 3 Aug. 1768. Kingston Deverill. Moses Todkey: killed by the overturning of a cart. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.


Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 9 Jan. 1769; distances from Salisbury; total £13 16s. 6d.; allowed by C. Penruddocke and E. Bayntun, 11 Jan. 1770. [A5/2/1/97]

2318 6 Mar. 1769. Homington. Samuel Foyle: inflammatory fever. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2319 5 Apr. 1769. The Franchise in the New Forest. Jonathan Short: fell from his horse in a fit of apoplexy and died; natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

2320 10 Apr. 1769. Downton. Joseph Miller: killed by being thrown from a horse against a post. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


2323 17 May 1769. East Grimstead. George Whitcher: killed by a field-roller. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2324 28 May 1769. Laverstock. Daniel Astins: fell into the river and was drowned; natural [recte accidental] death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

2325 18 June 1769. Shinfield. Richard Fullbrook: hanged himself; lunacy. 50 miles. £2 17s. 6d.

2326 22 Sept. 1769. Wilton. James Davis: crushed to death by a weaver's loom. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2327 11 Oct. 1769. Coombe near Donhead St Mary. Helen Trimm: cut her throat; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 10 Jan. 1770;
distances from Salisbury; total £21 16s. 3d.; allowed by Charles Wake and
Charles Penruddocke, 17 Jan. 1771. [A5/2/1/98]

2328 7 Feb. 1770. Flamston (Flamstead). John Roberts: found dead in a
meadow; as supposed, apoplexy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2329 20 Feb. 1770. Upper Fovant. Sarah Carpenter: fell into the water at
the mill-head and was drowned. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2330 3 Apr. 1770. Hindon. James Plaister: hanged himself with a cord;
lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.
2331 17 Apr. 1770. Broad Chalke. John Brookman: as supposed,
apoplexy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2332 1 May 1770. Whaddon. Moses Isdael: fell from a chaise and died.
5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
12 miles. £1 9s.
2334 7 May 1770. Fisherton Anger. Edward Drew: fell from a horse and
was killed. £1.
2335 15 May 1770. Wilton. Sarah Drankard: languished and died in the
workhouse; natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2336 14 July 1770. Amesbury. Thomas Keeble, a child: hanged; acci-
dental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2337 28 Aug. 1770. Mere. Robert Maidmint: killed by the draught of a
cart. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
2338 29 Oct. 1770. Chicklade. Charles Blake: was stamped on the breast
by a horse and died. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
2339 20 Nov. 1770. Amesbury. John Bishop: found dead on the road;
cold weather. 8 miles. £1 6s.
1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
2341 15 Jan. 1771. Fifield Bavant. Thomas Targatt: killed by the wheel of
a waggon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2342 15 Jan. 1771. Fifield Bavant. William Young: killed by the wheel of
a waggon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2343 16 Jan. 1771. Ridge. William Helmes: hanged himself with a hand-
kercerchief; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 9 Jan. 1771;
distances from Salisbury; total £20 3s.; allowed by Charles Wake and
E. Poore, Salisbury, 16 Jan. 1772. [A5/2/1/99]

2344 30 Jan. 1771. Dinton. John Roe: fell from a tree, as supposed in a
fit, and died; accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2345 18 Feb. 1771. Kingston Deverill. William Hurdle: was digging marl
in a chalk-pit when the chalk fell upon him, so that he instantly died.
24 miles. £1 18s.
23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
[This was the county coroner for north Wiltshire.]

2347 4 Mar. 1771. Barford St Martin. Sarah Northover: fell from her horse into the river and was drowned. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2348 19 Apr. 1771. Britford. William Tosier: found dead in a field; as supposed, apoplexy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

2349 14 May 1771. Hindon. William Imber: as supposed, apoplexy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2350 16 May 1771. Downton. Robert Tanner: killed by a fall from his horse. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


2352 22 July 1771. Mere. John Pittman: kicked by a cart-horse and died. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

2353 6 Aug. 1771. Amesbury. John Miles: fell out of a boat into the river and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

2354 10 Aug. 1771. Bishopstone. William Morgan: fell from his horse, as supposed in a fit, and died; natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2355 31 Aug. 1771. Netheravon. William Ford, subject to fits: found dead in a field; as supposed, fit. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

2356 1 Sept. 1771. Semley. Mary Bracher: hanged herself; lunacy. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

2357 11 Dec. 1771. Durnford. Stephen Flower: fell from a foot-bridge into a river and was drowned. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 15 Jan. 1772; distances from Salisbury; total £18 13s. 6d.; allowed by Charles Wake and C. Penruddocke, 14 Jan. 1773. [A5/2/1/100]

2358 28 Feb. 1772. Sedgehill. A new-born female infant: found drowned in a pond; murder by a person or persons unknown. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.


2361 5 May 1772. Homington. John Chant: fell from a waggon loaded with furze and was killed. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2362 19 May 1772. Barford St Martin. Ann Simper: natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2363 22 July 1772. Woodford. Sarah Coles, infant: killed by a waggon going over her. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2364 28 July 1772. East Harnham. Jean Kennedy: found drowned; murder by a person or persons unknown. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 23 July 1774, Abraham Jolly was convicted of the murder of Jane Kennedy alias Jenny Kennedy, spinster, on the indictment and was sentenced to be hanged on 29 July, his body to be dissected and anatomized: ASSI 23/8.]
2365 9 Sept. 1772. Wardour Castle. John Dart: killed by the falling in of a stone-quarry. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
2367 10 Oct. 1772. St Thomas’s Bridge in Milford parish. Mary Shergold: drowned in the river; accidental death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2368 13 Oct. 1772. Stoford. A person unknown: found dead in an out-house; natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2369 30 Oct. 1772. Brixton Deverill. Susannah Collins: drowned in a well; accidental death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
2370 25 Nov. 1772. Whiteparish. John Mabbet: fell from his horse and died. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2372 6 Jan. 1773. Idmiston (Edmondstone). Joseph Hayter: fell from his horse in a fit of apoplexy and died; natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 14 Jan. 1773; distances from Salisbury; total £24 8s. 3d. [recte £24 9s. 3d. if 2387 were corrected]; allowed by Charles Wake and H. P. Wyndham, 12 Jan. 1773 [recte 1774]. [A5/2/1/101]

2373 15 Feb. 1773. Downton. John Newman: drowned in the river; accidental death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2374 27 Feb. 1773. Bower Chalke. Doddington Hunt: inclement weather; accidental death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2376 18 May 1773. Bodenham. William Yates: killed by a cart going over him. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2377 31 May 1773. Whiteparish. John Shelly: killed by a waggon going over him. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2378 31 May 1773. Whiteparish. William Battern: killed by a waggon going over him. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2381 5 July 1773. Tisbury. Margaret Coomb: drowned in a tan-pit; accidental death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2382 7 July 1773. Fisherton Anger. Sarah Sutton: killed by a cart going over her. £1.
2386  23 Aug. 1773.  Britford.  Thomas Herring: killed by a skittle-bowl; accidental death.  2 miles.  £1 1s. 6d.
2387  29 Aug. 1773 [out of order if this date and the next are both correct].  Milston.  George Asher: killed by a waggon going over him.  12 miles.  £1 8s. [recte £1 9s.]
2388  25 Aug. 1773.  Coombe Bissett.  William Princhard: killed by a cart falling on him.  5 miles.  £1 3s. 9d.
2389  14 Sept. 1773.  Barford St Martin.  Robert Griffin: killed by the kick of a horse.  6 miles.  £1 4s. 6d.
2391  2 Oct. 1773.  Winterbourne Gunner.  Elizabeth Davis: natural death; accidental death [almost certainly an error].  5 miles.  £1 3s. 9d.
2392  10 Jan. 1774.  Winterslow.  Thomas Sanger: inclement weather.  7 miles.  £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 14 Jan. 1774; distances from Salisbury; total £23 6s. 3d.; allowed by Charles Wake and C. Penruddocke, Salisbury, 11 Jan. 1774 [recte 1775]. [A5/2/1/102]

2393  14 Jan. 1774.  Great Wishford.  John Ford: drowned in a gravel-pit; accidental death.  6 miles.  £1 4s. 6d.
2394  12 Feb. 1774.  Nunton.  William Bachnall: fell from the leads of a house and died.  4 miles.  £1 3s.
2396  22 Mar. 1774.  ? East Harnham.  John Berry: drowned; accidental death.  £1 10s. 9d.
2400  17 Apr. 1774.  Whiteparish.  William Comley: killed by a fall from a horse.  8 miles.  £1 6s.
2404  1 Aug. 1774.  Plaitford.  Richard Fewell: killed by a waggon.  12 miles.  £1 9s.

2406 23 Aug. 1774. Downton. James Piercy: apoplexy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2407 2 Sept. 1774. Downton. A person unknown: hanged himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2408 30 Sept. 1774. Wilton. Mary Jeffries: drowned; accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2409 8 Oct. 1774. Codford St Mary or St Peter. James Purchess: drowned; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

2410 23 Nov. 1774. Clarendon Park. John Cooper: drowned in a ditch; accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2411 8 Jan. 1775. Tisbury. Elizabeth Targat: apoplexy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 10 Jan. 1775; distances from Salisbury; total £27 7s. 9d.; allowed by C. Wake and Edmund Lambert. [A5/2/1/103]

2412 25 Jan. 1775. Newton Tony. John Selwood: inclement weather. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2413 27 Jan. 1775. Ridge. Mary Lampart: inclement weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

2414 9 Mar. 1775. Downton. Mary Oakford: fits. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2415 13 Mar. 1775. Stratford Tony (Stoney Stratford). William Case: drowned; accidental death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.


2417 29 Mar. 1775. Quidhampton. Katharine King: inclement weather. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

2418 12 Apr. 1775. Sherrington. Walter Baily: fractured his skull; accidental death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2419 27 Apr. 1775. Ashcombe. Prudence Patience: cut her throat; lunacy. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

2420 27 May 1775. Fisherton Anger. Thomas Barber: died by a waggon going over his back. £1.

2421 28 May 1775. Mere. John White: fits. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

2422 31 May 1775. Bishopstone. John Bagg: killed by an unruly horse. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2423 6 June 1775. Stratford sub Castle. Thomas Rumbolt: drowned; accidental death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.


2425 15 Sept. 1775. Teffont Evias or Magna. John Baker: falling from his horse, broke his neck and died. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

miles. £1 12s.
2427 1 Nov. 1775. Downton. Ann Taylor: fit. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2429 20 Nov. 1775. Teffont Evias or Magna. Rachel Roach: natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2430 22 Nov. 1775. Laverstock. Robert Cane: inclement weather. 2 miles. £1 ls. 6d.
2431 6 Jan. 1776. Donhead St Mary. James [surname or, less probably, forename omitted]: drowned; accidental death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 10 Jan. 1776; distances from Salisbury; total £18 12s. 9d.; allowed by Charles Wake and C. Penruddocke, 15 Jan. 1777. [A5/2/1/104]

2432 19 Jan. 1776. West Harnham. Thomas Rogers: inclement weather. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2433 20 Jan. 1776. Amesbury. John Goodfellow: hanged himself; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2434 24 Jan. 1776. West Park in Cholderton. A person unknown: inclement weather. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2436 27 Feb. 1776. Wilton. George Stainer: natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2438 8 July 1776. East Knoyle. James Stone: killed by a waggon. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2440 17 Aug. 1776. Barford St Martin. Joseph White: killed by a waggon. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2441 20 Sept. 1776. Wilton. Thomas Feltham: killed by a sudden blow from Nicholas Pierce; manslaughter. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d. [At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1777, Nicholas was acquitted on the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
2443 2 Oct. 1776. Winterbourne Stoke. William Stracy: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2445 16 Dec. 1776. West Dean. George Burnett: natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 14 Jan. 1777;
distances from Salisbury; total £18 6s. 3d.; allowed by Charles Wake and Charles Penruddocke, 14 Jan. 1778. [A5/2/1/105]

2447 6 Feb. 1777. Wilton. A new-born male infant: found drowned in an earthen jar; murder. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
(This was possibly the death which resulted in the trial of Jane Maverly at Salisbury assizes, 12 July 1777. She was acquitted of murdering a male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

2448 25 Feb. 1777. Hanging Langford. Johanna Selwood: found drowned in the river; accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2449 13 Mar. 1777. East Harnham. A new-born male child: found concealed; murder. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
(This was possibly the death which resulted in the trial of Jane Maverly at Salisbury assizes, 12 July 1777. She was acquitted of murdering a male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

2450 21 Mar. 1777. Stratford Tony (Strattford St Antony). Elizabeth Rose: natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.


2453 2 June 1777. Milford. Thomas Scuse: murder. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
(At Salisbury assizes, 12 July 1777, Michael Burke and Connor Coney were convicted of Thomas's murder on the indictment and sentenced to be hanged on 18 July, their bodies to be dissected and anatomized: ASSI 23/8.)

2454 8 Aug. 1777. Durnford. John Trickle: killed by a waggon. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2455 22 Aug. 1777. Mere. James Barter: killed by a piece of timber. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

2456 16 Sept. 1777. Homington. James Chant: killed by the kick of a horse. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.


2458 11 Oct. 1777. Stockton. Edward Hellet: killed by falling from a tree. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

2459 14 Nov. 1777. West Harnham. James Tovey: found drowned; accidental death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.


Bill of Alexander Forsyth, dated at Salisbury, 17 Mar. 1777, and allowed by William Barford and Tristram Hudson Jervoise, 14 Jan. 1778. [A5/2/1/106]

2461 A child found murdered at Britford. Expenses incurred by the inquest taken at 3 different adjournments and by the constable and bailiff in bringing the murderers to justice, £4 4s.
(This was possibly the death which resulted in the trial of Betty Best at
Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1777. She was acquitted of murdering a female bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since 14 Jan. 1778; distances from Salisbury; total £22 4s. 3d.; allowed by C. Wake and C. Penruddocke, 13 Jan. 1779. [A5/2/1/107]

2462 23 Jan. 1778. Hindon. Sarah Crouch: found dead in a field; inclement weather. 16 miles. £1 12s.
2466 1 Apr. 1778. Britford. A new-born male child: found drowned; murder. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2467 17 Apr. 1778. Downton. George Weston: drowned himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2468 12 June 1778. Alvediston. William West: killed by the falling in of a chalk-pit. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2469 28 July 1778. Tisbury. Thomas Rackan: dropsy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2470 31 July 1778. West Harnham. Thomas Thompson: drowned; accidental death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2471 22 Aug. 1778. Codford St Mary or St Peter. James Offer: killed by Ambrose Lawrence; murder [recte manslaughter]. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1779, Ambrose was acquitted of James’s murder on the indictment and of his manslaughter on the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
2472 28 Aug. 1778. East Winterslow. Aaron Shepherd: killed by a waggon. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2473 29 Aug. 1778. East Knoyle. Goyinge Smith: fell from a waggon, as supposed in a fit, and died; natural death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2475 2 Nov. 1778. Bohemia. William Bungey: inclement weather. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2476 30 Nov. 1778. Mere. A male infant: murder. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
[This was possibly the death which resulted in the trial of Elizabeth Toogood at Salisbury assizes, 6 Mar. 1779. She was acquitted of murdering a male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
2477 28 Dec. 1778. Shrewton. Mary Morgan: drowned; accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1779;
Distances from Salisbury: total £224s. 3d.; allowed by Charles Wake and Thomas Phipps. [A5/2/1/108]

2479 11 Feb. 1779. Fisherton de la Mere. Elizabeth Doughty: fit. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2483 9 July 1779. Pitton. Richard Salmon: hanged himself in a silk handkerchief: lunacy. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2484 16 Aug. 1779. Chicksgrove. James Jakes: killed by the kick of an ass. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2485 11 Sept. 1779. Britford. Mary Glyn: as supposed, fit. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2486 19 Sept. 1779. Alderbury. Joseph Gorret: died by falling from a waggon. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2488 20 Sept. 1779. East Knoyle. John Jukes: fever. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2489 23 Sept. 1779. Fovant. Thomas Cookman: killed by a waggon going over his head. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2490 27 Sept. 1779. Redlynch. Elizabeth Scoates: fit. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2491 3 Oct. 1779. East Knoyle. Stephen Hort: fell from his horse and was killed. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2492 12 Nov. 1779. Mere. David Bromfield: killed by a piece of timber. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 11 Jan. 1780; distances from Salisbury; total £23 6s. 9d. [recte £23 7s. 6d. if 2512 were corrected]; allowed by Charles Wake and W. Bowles, 10 Jan. 1781. [A5/2/1/109]

2496 15 Jan. 1780. Alderbury. A new-born male infant, of the body of Mary [surname omitted]: still-born. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2498 16 Jan. 1780. Barford St Martin. Robert Bruff: inclement weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2501 24 Mar. 1780. Stratford sub Castle. Mary Hare: apoplexy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2502 11 Apr. 1780. Wilton. Ann Lewood: drowned in the Wylye; accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2503 26 Apr. 1780. Redlynch. John Rook: drowned himself in a pond; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2504 10 June 1780. Swallowfield. Daniel Rogers: hanged himself; lunacy. 50 miles. £2 17s. 6d.
2505 14 June 1780. Downton. Martha Feltham: fit. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2506 17 July 1780. Nunton. John Squires: shot himself with a pistol; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2507 29 July 1780. Amesbury. John Stansfield: drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2508 31 July 1780. Downton. Richard Dyer: killed by the kicks of a horse. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2509 23 Sept. 1780. Alderbury. William Mundy: killed by a wagggon going over him. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2510 16 Oct. 1780. Laverstock. Ambrose Carter: fit. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2511 15 Nov. 1780. Amesbury. Charles Clement: shot through the head by John Reis; accidental homicide. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2512 27 Dec. 1780. East [? recte West] Wellow. John Tewksbury: killed by a piece of timber falling on his body. 15 miles. £1 10s. 6d. [recte £1 11s. 3d.]

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 14 Jan. 1781; distances from Salisbury; total £21 13s. 6d. [correct if the errors in 2517, 2522, and 2529 were corrected]; allowed by [the earl of] Radnor and Charles Wake, 16 Jan. 1782. [A5/2/1/110]

2513 14 Mar. 1781. Fovant. Henry Harrison: drowned; accidental death. 11 miles. £1 18s. 3d.
2514 22 Mar. 1781. Charlton. Samuel Baily: as supposed, apoplexy. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2516 29 June 1781. Milford. Edward Fowle: died by the rupture of a large blood-vessel; natural death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2517 5 July 1781. Coombe Bissett. William Frost: killed by a fall from a horse. 3 miles. £1 2s. 9d. [recte £1 2s. 3d.]
2518 5 Aug. 1781. Mere. Henry Fricker: killed by a wagggon going over his body. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
2519 6 Aug. 1781. West Cholderton. James Pain: killed by Robert Mundy; manslaughter. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
SOUTH WILTSHIRE

[At Salisbury assizes, 9 Mar. 1782, Robert, charged with James's murder on the indictment and with his manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter, was fined 1s., paid the sheriff, and was discharged: ASSI 23/8.]

**2520** 15 Aug. 1781. Milford. A new-born male child, born of the body of Mary Adams: murder by Mary. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 9 Mar. 1782, Mary was acquitted of murdering a male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

**2521** 24 Aug. 1781. Upper Woodford. Thomas Alexander: killed by falling from a horse. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

**2522** 22 Oct. 1781. Fisherton Anger. George Withers: shot in Milford parish; accidental death. £1 0s. 9d. [recte £1].

**2523** 23 Oct. 1781. Ludwell. John Classet: killed by a fall from his horse. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

**2524** 25 Oct. 1781. Stratford sub Castle. William Davis: killed by a waggon going over him. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.


**2526** 18 Nov. 1781. East Harnham. Samuel Francis: inclement weather. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

**2527** 17 Dec. 1781. Milton in East Knoyle. John Taylor: killed by a cart overturning upon him. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

**2528** 30 Dec. 1781. Wilton. Mary Tavilla: threw herself out of a window and was killed; delirious fever. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

**2529** 12 Jan. 1782. Figheldean. A person unknown: inclement weather. 13 miles. £1 8s. 9d. [recte £1 9s. 9d.]

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 13 Jan. [recte 15 Jan.: MS has Tuesday, 13 Jan., but 13 Jan. was a Sunday] 1782; distances from Salisbury; total £20 7s. 9d. [recte £20 5s. 9d.]; allowed by Charles Wake and [the earl of] Radnor, 14 Jan. 1783. [AS/2/1/111]

**2530** 16 Mar. 1782. Winterbourne Stoke. Francis Sanders: apoplexy. 8 miles. £1 6s.

**2531** 4 Apr. 1782. Redlynch. Jean Newman: drowned in a pond; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

**2532** 18 Apr. 1782. Farley. John Maton: natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

**2533** 30 Apr. 1782. Winterbourne Stoke. Christopher White: killed by a waggon going over him. 8 miles. £1 6s.

**2534** 7 May 1782. Stockton. Benjamin Baverstock: hanged himself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.


**2536** 20 June 1782. Codford St Mary or St Peter. Benjamin Night: drowned in a draw-well; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
2537 3 July 1782. Newton Tony. Martha Thorn: drowned in the river; accidental death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2538 17 July 1782. Whaddon. William Williams: killed by a waggon going over his head. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2539 18 Aug. 1782. Downton. James Obrien: drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2540 1 Oct. 1782. Laverstock. Charles French: drowned in the river; accidental death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2541 25 Nov. 1782. Wardour Castle. A person unknown: found with his skull fractured; accidental death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
2542 1 Dec. 1782. Wick in Downton. Moses Dredge: killed in a chalk-pit; accidental death. 7 miles. £1 15s. 3d.
2543 ? 1 Dec. 1782 [date omitted]. Ansty. John Eyre: found dead in a field; as supposed, fit. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2544 9 Dec. 1782. Wincombe Ponds in Donhead St Mary. Thomas London: drowned himself; lunacy. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1783; distances from Salisbury; total £22 18s. 9d. [recte £22 18s. 6d. if 2252 were corrected]; allowed by Charles Wake, W. Bowles, and W. Bowles, jun., 14 Jan. 1784. [A5/2/1/112]

2545 27 Jan. 1783. Woodford. James Foster: inclement weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2546 9 Feb. 1783. Milford. A person unknown: as supposed, fit. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
2547 9 Mar. 1783. Codford St Mary or St Peter. George Letfield: natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
2548 6 May 1783. Normanton. Edward Alexander: drowned; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2549 15 May 1783. Orcheston St George. Benjamin Williams: killed by a roller. 12 miles. £1 9s.
2550 2 June 1783. Whiteparish. Richard Elkins: suffocated in an empty 'beer-cast'; accidental death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2551 22 June 1783. Wincombe Pond. John Trowbridge: drowned himself; lunacy. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.
2552 24 June 1783. West Knoyle. John Gerret: killed by falling from his horse. 18 miles. £1 13s. 9d. [recte £1 13s. 6d.]
2553 25 June 1783. Alderbury. John White: killed by a bank falling down upon him. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2554 30 July 1783. Redlynch. Samuel Rook: natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2556 15 Sept. 1783. Fonthill Bishop or Gifford. John Row: killed by a waggon going over him. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
2557 22 Oct. 1783. Charlton. William ? Valeton: hanged himself; lunacy. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2558 22 Oct. 1783 [date omitted]. Alvediston. George Young: killed by a cart falling on him. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2559 17 Nov. 1783. Tisbury. Alford [forename omitted]: hanged himself; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.
2560 17 Dec. 1783. Downton. John Shakle: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2561 1 Jan. 1784. Winterbourne Dauntsey. Edward Brown: found dead in the snow; inclement weather. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1784; distances from Salisbury; total £31 1s. 9d. [recte £31 1s. if 2567 were corrected]; allowed by Charles Wake and W. Bowles. [A5/2/1/113]

2562 30 Jan. 1784. Pitton. Sarah Conditt: inclement weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2564 4 Feb. 1784. Dinton. Mary Harvey: natural death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2565 7 Feb. 1784. Mere. Thomas Sweatman: fit. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
2566 6 Mar. 1784. Durrington. William Dowling: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2567 31 Mar. 1784. Durnford. Edward Mannings: drowned; accidental death. 6 miles. £1 5s. 3d. [recte £1 4s. 6d.]
2568 12 Apr. 1784. Barford St Martin. John Beckett: natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2569 19 Apr. 1784. Farley. Alexander Payne: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2570 1 May 1784. Whiteparish. Elizabeth Talbot: fit. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2571 22 May 1784. Milford. Joseph Blake: drowned himself; lunacy. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2572 24 June 1784. Milford. John Dench: hanged himself; lunacy. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2574 5 July 1784. West Harnham. William Randal: drowned; accidental death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2575 10 July 1784. Hatch. Eve Hayter: killed; accidental death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
2577 24 July 1784. Bulford. William Withers: shot by John Hayter; accidental death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2579 11 Oct. 1784. Milford. Thomas Harper: burnt to death by the fire of a lime-kiln. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
2580 25 Oct. 1784. Winterbourne Gunner. Elizabeth Cook: inclement weather. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2582 9 Nov. 1784. Barford St Martin. Stephen Ingram: drowned; accidental death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
2583 14 Dec. 1784. Ludwell. John Andrews: inclement weather. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1785; distances from Salisbury; total £50 12s. 3d. [recte £50 12s.]; allowed by W. Bowles and T. H. Jervoise, 25 Apr. 1786. [A5/2/1/114]

[At Salisbury assizes, 5 Mar. 1785, Mary was convicted of manslaughter on the inquest, was fined 1s., paid the sheriff, and was discharged: ASSI 23/8.]
2588 27 Feb. 1785. Wilton. Emy Axton: found drowned: accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
[See 1390.]
2590 14 Mar. 1785. Winterslow. A woman unknown: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2594 29 Mar. 1785. Landford. Peter Russell: killed by a cart. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2597 7 May 1785. Milford. William Bedford: fits. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
4 July 1785. Bitham Ponds. James Brokway: drowned; accidental death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
13 Aug. 1785. Ebbesborne Wake. Thomas Dunn: hanged himself; lunacy. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
8 Nov. 1785. Shrewton. Richard Sainsbury: inclement weather. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
8 Jan. 1786. Ebbesborne Wake. James Trowbridge: inclement weather. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
19 Jan. 1786. Martin. John Hemington: killed by a waggon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
4 Mar. 1786. Wilton. Edward Bartlet: found burnt to death; accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
7 Mar. 1786. Burcombe. William Down: inclement weather. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
7 Mar. 1786. Wishford. Richard Eve: inclement weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
8 Mar. 1786. Zeals. Thomas Togood: shot; accidental death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
2624 9 Mar. 1786. Whiteparish. Elizabeth Guile: inclement weather. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2625 13 Mar. 1786. Fonthill Bishop or Gifford. Rebecca Spiers: hanged herself; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
2628 19 Apr. 1786. Bishopsdown. Thomas Forder: killed by a stage-coach. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 26 Apr. 1786; distances from Salisbury; total £31 2s. 9d.; allowed by J. Penruddocke and William Bowles, 17 Apr. 1787. [A5/2/1/115]

2630 10 May 1786. Boscombe. Martha Moxham: natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2631 15 May 1786. Netherhampton. George Gray: hanged himself; lunacy. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2632 18 May 1786. Wilton. John Blake: natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2635 5 June 1786. Britford. William Newman: as supposed, fit. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2636 7 June 1786. Britford. Edward Lake: drowned; accidental death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2637 7 June 1786. Milston. A person unknown: drowned; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.
2639 18 July 1786. Mere. William Hooper: cut his throat; lunacy. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
2640 26 July 1786. Mere. Mary Gray: found drowned in a pond; accidental death. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
2642 19 Aug. 1786. Steeple Langford. John Smith: natural death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2643 26 Sept. 1786. Stourton. Joseph Wyatt: killed by a waggon. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
2644 20 Oct. 1786. Farley. William White: found drowned in a pond; accidental death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2645 3 Dec. 1786. Swallowfield. Mary Horred: hanged herself; lunacy. 50
miles. £2 17s. 6d.

2646 4 Dec. 1786. Gomeldon. Patrick Darey: inclement weather. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.


2648 17 Feb. 1787. Whiteparish. John Bell: killed by a waggon going over him. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2649 23 Feb. 1787. Wilton. George Burnett: starved to death; murder. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 10 Mar. 1787, George Smith was acquitted of George Burnett’s murder on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

2650 2 Mar. 1787. Berwick St James. Charles Everet: natural death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2651 17 Mar. 1787. Broad Chalke. James Jay: killed by a horse. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.


Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 21 Apr. 1789; distances from Salisbury; total £18 3s. [changed from £18 2s., but recte £18 4s. if 2656 were corrected]; allowed by William Moody and P. B. Brodie, 14 Apr. 1790. [A5/2/1/116]

2653 22 Apr. 1789. Downton. Thomas Miller: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.


2655 24 May 1789. Fisherton Anger. John Jones: died from blows and contusions given him on his [word or words omitted] by a person or persons unknown. £1.

2656 4 June 1789. Chilmark. William Carter: killed by a waggon going over his body. 12 miles. £1 8s. [recte £1 9s.]

2657 12 June 1789. Cowesfield. James Swain: fell into a well. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.


2659 3 Aug. 1789. Broad Chalke. John Butler: as supposed, apoplexy. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2660 11 Sept. 1789. Monkton Deverill. Deborah Dredge: fit. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

2661 13 Sept. 1789. Martin. Thomas Perry: killed by a tree falling on his head. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.


2663 15 Oct. 1789. Chaddenwick in Mere. Charles Taylor: killed by a waggon going over his head. 24 miles. £1 18s.
5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

falling from a hayloft. 8 miles. £1 6s.

2666  31 Dec. 1789. Woodford. A person unknown: found dead on the
road; inclement weather. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2667  17 Mar. 1790. Fisherton Anger. William Neal: shot himself through
the body; lunacy. £1.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions. 11 Apr. 1790; total
£37 18s. 6d. [recte £37 18s. 3d. if 2692 were corrected]; allowed by Edmund
Lambert and William Moody. [A5/2/1/117]

16 miles. £1 12s.

2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

2670  16 June 1790. Fisherton Anger gaol. Elizabeth Webb: natural
death. £1.

£1 12s.

2672  2 July 1790. Whiteparish. John Wort: killed by a waggon. 8 miles. 
£1 6s.

2673  17 July 1790. ? East Harnham. James Brown: drowned; accidental
death. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.

2674  21 July 1790. Tisbury. James Coombs: killed in a quarry; accidental
death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2675  30 July 1790. Winterbourne Earls. Robert Haines: killed by a
waggon. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2676  19 Sept. 1790. West Knoyle. [Name omitted.] Killed by a horse
falling on him. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.

16 miles. £1 12s.

22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

£1.

£1 9s. 9d.

£1 6s.

2682  17 Nov. 1790. Warminster. John Turner: burnt to death; accidental
death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.


death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2685  18 Jan. 1791. Warminster. Thomas Whatley: natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
2687  10 Feb. 1791. Winterslow. Henry Brown: burnt to death; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2688  10 Feb. 1791. Winterslow. Thomas Brown: burnt to death; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2689  10 Feb. 1791. Winterslow. John Paddy: burnt to death; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2690  11 Feb. 1791. Winterslow. James Burges: burnt to death; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2691  11 Feb. 1791. Winterslow. Richard Parker: burnt to death; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2692  23 Mar. 1791. East Grimstead. Stephen Futcher: hanged himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. [recte £1 5s. 3d.]
2693  30 Mar. 1791. Rudge. Edward Fricker: cut his throat; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
2694  13 Apr. 1791. Milford. William Mannery: drowned; accidental death. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
2695  20 Apr. 1791. Wilton. Elizabeth Smith: natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 3 May 1791; distances from Salisbury; total £18 8s. 3d.; allowed by William Bowles and H. P. Wyndham. [A5/2/1/118]

2697  1 June 1791. ? East Harnham. John Whitcomb: natural death. 1 mile. £1 6s. 9d.
2698  3 June 1791. Amesbury. William Parsons: drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2700  6 Sept. 1791. Milford. John Creek: natural death. 1 mile. £1 10s. 9d.
2701  15 Sept. 1791. Bulbridge. Grace Tucker: found drowned in a washing-crutch; accidental death. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2703  4 Oct. 1791. Downton. James Crook: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2705  2 Nov. 1791. Rushmore Lodge. Susan Gibbs: murder by a person or persons unknown. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
2706  12 Nov. 1791. Rushmore Lodge. John Chown: justifiable
homicide. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
2708 19 Jan. 1792. Martin. Elizabeth Samways: natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2709 4 Mar. 1792. Berwick St James. John Maine: severe weather. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2710 11 Apr. 1792. Farley. John Lock: hanged himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 9 Apr. 1793; distances from Salisbury; total £28 9s. 9d.; allowed by William Bowles and B. Colton. [A5/2/1/119]

2712 1 July 1793. Boscombe. John Wimpey: drowned in a well; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2713 1 July 1793. Ford. Joseph Dicket: killed by a waggon. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2714 8 July 1793. Burcombe. Patience Down: drowned in a well; accidental death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2716 13 July 1793. Fugglestone St Peter. A woman unknown: natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2717 23 July 1793. Mere. Rachel Tarden: drowned in a well; accidental death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
2719 23 Aug. 1793. Milford. Francis Offer: killed by a waggon. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2720 11 Sept. 1793. Britford. George Gray: natural death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2721 25 Sept. 1793. Whaddon. Thomas Williams: hanged himself; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2722 20 Oct. 1793. Downton. William Dove: hanged himself; lunacy. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2725 27 Nov. 1793. Stapleford. Meliora West: burnt to death; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2726 4 Jan. 1794. Barford St Martin. George Spence: found drowned; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2728 26 Jan. 1794. Longford. A person unknown: inclement weather. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 8 Mar. 1794, Ann was acquitted of murdering a female bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest: ASSI 23/8.]
2730 5 Feb. 1794. New Hall. John Wornceed: killed by a piece of timber. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2731 11 Feb. 1794. Bemerton. John Newman: killed by the falling in of a chalk-pit. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2732 6 Mar. 1794. Ferne. George Roberts: natural death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 29 Apr. 1794; distances from Salisbury; total £18 12s. 3d.; allowed by [the earl of] Radnor and B. Colton. Easter 1795. [A5/2/1/120]

2733 15 May 1794. Landford Lodge. John Cruse: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2734 11 June 1794. Cowesfield Common. James Cooper: killed by a waggon going over him. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2735 15 June 1794. Mere. John Norcourt: killed by the bursting of a cannon. 24 miles. £1 18s.
2736 30 June 1794. Britford. Thomas Brownjohn: drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2737 14 July 1794. Wincombe Ponds in Donhead St Mary. Jeremiah Crouch: drowned; accidental death. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.
2738 9 Oct. 1794. Barford St Martin. William Green: hanged himself; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 14s. 6d.
2739 30 Oct. 1794. Plaitford. William McMorrick: killed by a waggon. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2740 2 Nov. 1794. Cowesfield Common. Henry Light: killed by a waggon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2741 9 Nov. 1794. Fisherton Anger. James Warren: killed by a waggon. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2743 31 Dec. 1794. Bulford. Thomas Farley: inclement weather. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2744 12 Feb. 1795. Coombe Bissett. John Jacob: burnt to death; accidental death. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2745 15 Feb. 1795. Winterslow. A woman unknown: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2746 6 Mar. 1795. Milford. Robert Alexander: natural death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
Bill of William Whitmarsh since 16 June 1795; distances from Wilton; total £14 11s. 9d.; allowed by [the earl of] Radnor and P. B. Brodie, Easter 1796. [A5/2/1/121]

2747 5 July 1795. Heytesbury. Sarah Freemantle: took spurge laurel, not knowing its qualities, which caused a miscarriage and her death; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
2748 7 July 1795. Damerham. Daniel Ricketts: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2750 24 July 1795. Broad Chalke. Reynold Randoll: falling from his horse in fits, was killed; accidental death. 6 miles. £1 14s. 6d.
2753 26 Dec. 1795. Winterbourne Gunner. A man unknown: no marks of violence; how he came by his death unknown. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2754 31 Dec. 1795. Fonthill Bishop. James Targett: died by the overturning of a cart. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2756 15 Feb. 1796. Durnford. John Smith: accidental death. 5 miles. £1 13s. 9d.

Bill of William Whitmarsh since Salisbury quarter sessions, 5 Apr. 1796; distances from Wilton; total £18 10s. 9d.; allowed by Richard Long and T.G. Vilett, 5 Oct. 1796. [A5/2/1/122]

2760 30 Apr. 1796. Tisbury. Alexis Adbury: drowned; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
2761 7 May 1796. Donhead St Mary. William White: natural death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2762 8 May 1796. No Man's Land. Mary Fay: hanged herself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
2763 18 May 1796. Bishopstone. George Young: accidentally drowned. 4 miles. £1 3s.
3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2766 1 July 1796. Amesbury. William Day: accidentally drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2767 1 July 1796. Figheldean. Thomas Green: killed by the kick of a horse. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

2768 14 July 1796. Netherhampton. George King: killed by the falling in of a chalk-pit. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

2769 20 July 1796. West Harnham. A person unknown: accidentally drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2770 20 July 1796. Salisbury. James Carter: accidentally drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2771 21 July 1796. Durnford. John Miller: accidental death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2772 9 Sept. 1796. Orcheston St George. Ann Smith: accidentally drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
CORSHAM BILLS

Bill of Edward Mitchell; distances from his house; total £4 1s. 6d. [A5/2/1/123]

2773 9 Feb. 1761. A female infant: found dead in a pond; murder by a person or persons unknown. £1.
[This was possibly the death which resulted in one of two trials at Salisbury assizes. On 7 Mar. 1761 Mary Francis was acquitted of murdering her female child on both the indictment and the inquest; and on 3 July 1761 Mary Jeffries was convicted of murdering her bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest and was sentenced to be hanged on 8 July, her body to be delivered to Nathaniel Wick, surgeon, for dissection and anatomization: ASSI 23/7.]

2774 11 July 1761. John Martin, a boy: found drowned in a well; accidental death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

2775 1 Aug. 1761. William Gishford, a boy: found drowned in a pond; accidental death. £1.

2776 19 or 20 Aug. 1761 [MS Wednesday, 20 Aug., but 20 Aug. was a Thursday]. Stephen Humphrys, a young man: found suffocated in mud at the mouth of a pond; accidental death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

Bill of William Michell; £1; allowed by William Seymour and William Earle. [A5/2/1/124]


Bill of William Michell; £1; allowed by William Seymour and William Earle. [A5/2/1/125]


Bill of Edward Mitchell; £1; allowed by E. Bayntun. [A5/2/1/126]

2779 24 or 25 Aug. 1771 [MS Saturday, 25 Aug., but 25 Aug. was a Sunday]. Benjamin Philbert, an old man: found drowned in a pond; lunacy. £1.

Bill of William Michell; total £3 3s.; allowed by James Montagu. [A5/2/1/127]

2780 24 Feb. 1773. Robert Baily: found drowned in a ditch; accidental
death. 1 mile. £1 ls.


2782 22 Feb. 1774. Thomas Bell: found drowned in a pond; lunacy. 1 mile. £1 ls.

Bill of John Stump; total £3. [A5/2/1/128]


2784 17 Mar. 1778. Eleanor Hiscock: found drowned in a well; accidental death. £1.


Bill of John Stump. [A5/2/1/129]

2786 19 May 1778. James Jenings: found drowned in a pond; felo de se.

Bill of William Michell; £1. [A5/2/1/130]

2787 11 Sept. 1780. Morris Tracey: found drowned in a ditch; in liquor, he fell in by accident. £1.

Bill of Edward Michel; £1; allowed by L. Bigg, Easter 1784. [A5/2/1/131]

2788 6 July 1783. Lucy Dark, widow: found dead in a field; manslaughter. £1.

[At Salisbury assizes, 2 Aug. 1783, William Wilkins, indicted of Lucy’s murder on the indictment and of her manslaughter on the inquest, was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter and was sentenced to be burnt on the hand and discharged: ASSI 23/8.]

Bill of Edward Michell; £1; allowed by J. Montagu, jun. [A5/2/1/132]

2789 13 or 14 May 1785 [MS Friday, 14 May, but 14 May was a Saturday]. Daniel Edwards, a boy: found drowned in a pond; accidental death. £1.

Bill of Mark England Stump; total £3; allowed by Edmund Lambert and J. Penruddocke, Warminster, 11 July 1786. [A5/2/1/133-6]

2790 16 July 1785. Elizabeth Banning. £1.

[Attached is the inquest on Elizabeth, a child: lately found drowned; fell into a pan of dirty water.]


[Attached is the inquest on Mary, a child: lately found drowned; fell into a well.]
[Attached is the inquest on James: found in a lane near the Checker; died from inclement weather when very much in liquor.]

Bill of John Stump from July 1789; total £4; allowed by L. Bigg Wither, chairman, and William Seymour, 11 Jan. 1791. [A5/2/1/137]


Bill of William Mitchell, gent.; £1; allowed by J. Montagu and J. Sutton, Devizes, 16 Jan. 1794. [A5/2/1/138]

2797  24 July 1792. John Pinnell: killed by a fall from his horse at Monk’s in the liberty of Corsham. £1.
[Attached is the inquest, taken at Monk’s and endorsed with a deposition by William Goodwin (signed William Gooding) that Pinnel and he were riding near Monk’s House when Pinnel’s horse ran away with him among trees; he saw him fall from his horse and believed he received a blow against one of the trees which struck him off and then he fell on his head on the butt of a tree.]
WOOTTON BASSETT BILLS

Bill of Thomas Rich, gent.; £1; allowed by E. Bayntun and John Jacob, 8 Oct. 1765. [A5/2/1/139]

2798 29 Apr. 1765. Samuel Dyer, a lunatic from about 15 Apr.: went up to his bedchamber of his house on 28 Apr. and, alone, hanged himself from a span-beam with a hempen cord worth 2d.
[This is a full inquest. The treasurer’s account gives the fee as £1.]

Bill of William Yorke, gent.; £1; allowed by Thomas Hedges and John Jacob, 8 Oct. 1766. [A5/2/1/140]

2799 4 Mar. 1766. Jane Ogborne: at Jane Knighton’s house on 2 Mar. drank 3 small glasses not exceeding ¼ pint of brandy; natural death.
[This is a full inquest. The treasurer’s account gives the fee as £1.]

Bill of Oliver Carter, gent.; total £2; allowed Easter 1768. [A5/2/1/141-2]

2800 10 Feb. 1768. Thomas Wilkins: died going from his house to that of Richard Holms between about 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. on 9 Feb.; natural death.
[This is a full inquest. The treasurer’s account shows that the fee was £1.]

[This is a full inquest. The treasurer’s account shows that the fee was £1.]

Bill of John Hunt, gent.; allowed 8 Oct. 1788. [A5/2/1/143]

2802 18 May 1787. The dwelling-house of William Hawkins, known by the name or sign of the Angel Inn. Richard Henley, sen.: on 17 May had been eating and drinking to excess at the earl of Clarendon’s audit- or rent-feast at the Angel Inn and in the evening was very intoxicated; when the family of the inn went to bed, they saw him lying sweet asleep on his left side on the kitchen floor and the servants put a pillow under his head and wrapped up his body and legs with a large thick rug; one of the servants, who slept over the kitchen, heard Richard swear in his sleep before she retired to sleep; on the morning of 18 May John Hawkins, William’s nephew, the first of the family to rise, went into the kitchen and found Richard lying in the same posture as he left him the preceding evening, quite dead and motionless; no marks of violence; self-intoxication and excess of eating and drinking.
[This is a full inquest.]

Bill of John Hunt: £1; allowed by J. Awdry and T. G. Vilett at Marlborough
quarter sessions, 8 Oct. 1793. [A5/2/1/144]

2803  22 Aug. 1793. A male child of Thomas White and Ann his wife: fell into a brine-hole in his father's house. £1.
The following information about the coroners' bills of the period 1752–96 which do not survive is derived from related records, as explained in the introduction (pp.xxxiv–xxxv) and from adjacent surviving bills. The fourth column shows where they would have been printed had they survived.

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<th>2804</th>
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<td>John Clare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr.–Oct. 1757</td>
<td>£39 2s. 9d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr.–Oct. 1760</td>
<td>£34 5s. 9d.</td>
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<td>Apr.–Oct. 1761</td>
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<td>Apr.–Oct. 1763</td>
<td>£15 13s. 3d.</td>
<td>After 18</td>
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<td>Apr.–Oct. 1764</td>
<td>£46 15s. 9d.</td>
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<td>Oct. 1769–Apr. 1770</td>
<td>£39 5s.</td>
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<td>William Clare</td>
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<td>Oct. 1777–Apr. 1778</td>
<td>£40 19s.</td>
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<td>Oct. 1781–Apr. 1782</td>
<td>£42 13s. 6d.</td>
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<td>Apr.–Oct. 1787</td>
<td>£38 5s. 6d.</td>
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<td>July–Oct. 1788</td>
<td>£16 10s.</td>
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<td>Oct. 1788–Jan. 1789</td>
<td>£19 11s. 3d.</td>
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<td>Apr.–Oct. 1792</td>
<td>£44 19s. 9d.</td>
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<td>Oct. 1792–Jan. 1793</td>
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<td>Apr. 1787–Apr. 1788</td>
<td>£18 9s. 3d.</td>
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<td>Apr. 1788–Apr. 1789</td>
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<td>Apr. 1792–Apr. 1793</td>
<td>£26 7s. 9d.</td>
<td>After 118</td>
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