

Wiltshire Record Society

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

VOLUME XXXVI
FOR THE YEAR 1980

THIS VOLUME IS PUBLISHED
WITH THE HELP OF GRANTS
FROM
THE BRITISH ACADEMY
AND
THE WELLCOME TRUST

Impression of 500 copies



RALPH BERNARD PUGH

WILTSHIRE CORONERS' BILLS
1752-1796

EDITED BY
R. F. HUNNISETT

DEVIZES
1981

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ISBN: 0 901333 13 1

Set in Times New Roman 10/11pt.

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY
J. G. FENN LTD. (*Print Division*) STOKE-ON-TREN
STAFFS.

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
Ralph Bernard Pugh: an Appreciation	xiii
Bibliography compiled by Susan M. Keeling	xvii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xxvii
INTRODUCTION	
Historical Background	xxix
Archival History	xxx
Related Records	xxxii
Quarter Sessions	xxxv
The Bills: compilation and arrangement	xxxvii
Districts	xliv
The Coroners	xlvii
The Inquests	l
Editorial Note	li
NORTH WILTSHIRE BILLS	1
SOUTH WILTSHIRE BILLS	138
CORSHAM BILLS	174
WOOTTON BASSETT BILLS	177
APPENDIX: MISSING BILLS	179
INDEX OF PERSONS	181
INDEX OF PLACES	201
INDEX OF SUBJECTS	219
<i>List of Members</i>	231
<i>Publications of the Society</i>	238

PREFACE

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 trailbaston trials, 1275-1306* (volume xxxiii) covered ground that was less well trodden. The *Calendar of Antrobus 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:

<i>Bull. I.H.R.</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i>
<i>E.H.R.</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
P.R.O.	Public Record Office
<i>T.L.S.</i>	<i>The Times Literary Supplement</i>
<i>V.C.H.</i>	<i>Victoria County History</i>
<i>W.A.M.</i>	<i>Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine</i> (from 1975 <i>Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine</i>)
W.A.N.H.S., Rec. Branch	Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Records Branch, to 1966
W.R.S.	Wiltshire Record Society, from 1967

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ABBREVIATIONS

A5/1/6	W.R.O., Bills and Vouchers
A5/2/1	W.R.O., Coroners' Bills
Arch. Sarum	Archdeaconry Court of Sarum
Arch. Wilts.	Archdeaconry Court of Wilts.
ASSI 23	P.R.O., Clerks of Assize, Western Circuit, Gaol Books
ASSI 25	P.R.O., Clerks of Assize, Western Circuit, Indictments
C 202	P.R.O., Chancery Files (Petty Bag Series)
Cons. Sarum	Consistory Court of Sarum
G22/1/204	W.R.O., Marlborough Coroners' Inquests
P.R.O.	Public Record Office
reg.	register
<i>V.C.H. Wilts.</i>	<i>A History of Wiltshire</i> (The Victoria History of the Counties of England)
<i>W.A.M.</i>	<i>Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine</i>
W.A.N.H.S., Rec. Branch	Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Records Branch
W.R.O.	Wiltshire Record Office
<i>Wilts. N. & Q.</i>	<i>Wiltshire Notes and Queries</i>

INTRODUCTION

Historical Background

County coroners were established in England in 1194,¹ 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.² 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 ameracements imposed on a township for his escape.³ It was still an offence to take money for holding inquests into other kinds of death,⁴ 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

¹ R.F. Hunnisett, 'The origins of the office of coroner', *Trans. R. Hist. Soc.* 5th ser. viii, 85–104. For an expansion of the rest of this paragraph see R.F. Hunnisett, *The medieval coroner* (Cambridge, 1961), 9–117.

² Hunnisett, *Medieval coroner*, 118–33.

³ Stat. 3 Hen. VII c.2.

⁴ 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.¹ Inquest and travelling fees continued to be paid until coroners became salaried officials on 1 January 1861.²

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.³ 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.⁴ 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,⁵ 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,⁶ or since the commencement of the system on 24 June 1752.⁷ 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.

³ R.F. Hunnisett, 'The medieval coroners' rolls', *Amer. Jnl Leg. Hist.* iii. 95–124. 205–21, 324–59, 383.

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,¹ 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 1773–1835.²

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.³ 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.⁴ Certainly they have formed a separate class in the Wiltshire Record Office for many years.⁵ 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.⁶ 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, leet 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* (Wilts. 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': *Wilts. q.s. and assizes, 1736*, p. xl.

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

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.

⁸ For a fuller treatment of this matter see R.F. Hunnisett, 'The importance of eighteenth-century coroners' bills', *Law, litigants and the legal profession*, ed. A.H. Manchester and E.W. Ives (R. Hist. Soc., Studies in History), hereafter cited as Hunnisett, 'Coroners' bills'.

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

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.

⁴ C202/183, no. 14.

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

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.¹ Otherwise until 1785 the Hilary sessions were held at Salisbury and the Easter sessions at Devizes, but in 1786 the venues were switched.² 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.³

¹ Headings to bills 29, 79, 84, 89.

² *V.C.H. Wilts.* v. 177.

³ W.R.O., Treasurer's Accts, 1782.

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 worships to order your treasurer to pay me the contents of the above bill, which will your worships' 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 signature⁴ 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 A5/16/1782, 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.

Inquest¹

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 together 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 wittness whereof as well I the aforesaid coroner as the jurors aforesaid

¹ W.R.O. 529/208. It was formerly in Devizes Museum.

have interchangeably 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 time¹ 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

¹ 'Ruth Pierce', *Wilts. N. & Q.* vi. 241–3; *Some annals of the borough of Devizes*, ed. B.H. Cunnington (Devizes, 1925–6), ii. 59–60.

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 Hinstead (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 Harespeat. 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 unusually 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.¹ 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

¹ On districts generally, see Hunnisett, *Medieval coroner*, 134-7. Cf. *Bedfordshire coroners' rolls*, ed. R.F. Hunnisett (Beds. Hist. Rec. Soc. xli), pp. xiv-xv; *Calendar of Nottinghamshire coroners' inquests, 1485-1558*, ed. R.F. Hunnisett (Thoroton Soc., Rec. Ser. xxv), pp. xii-xiv.
² *V.C.H. Wilts.* v. 15. 27-8.

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.¹ There is no southern bill for 1752, when John Clare succeeded William Waylen in the north. The only other northern vacancy was between the coronerships 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 17.² Moreover, although the northern coroners held no inquests in Corsham and almost certainly none within the borough of Marlborough,³ 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 Wiltshire¹ 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 1894.² 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.³ 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,⁴ 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.⁵ 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.⁶ In 1843 the detached parts of Wiltshire were placed within the jurisdiction of the Berkshire and Gloucestershire coroners,

¹ Described in *V.C.H. Wilts.* v. 1-2.

² *ibid.* iv. 360.

³ The contents of this paragraph are treated in greater detail and fully referenced in Hunnisett, 'Coroners' bills'.

⁴ The five into which John Clare held inquests (539, 541, 552, 556, 561), are, of course, disregarded here.

⁵ See index of subjects under 'Inquests'.

⁶ Waylen, *Chronicles of the Devizes*, 186; *List of Wiltshire borough records earlier in date than 1836*, ed. M.G. Rathbone (W.A.N.H.S., Rec. Branch, v), 29, 33.

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 Munkhouse 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.

⁵ P. J. Gingell, *The history of Wootton Bassett, "A very ancient mayor towne"* (Wootton Bassett Hist. Soc. 1977), 30.

⁶ W.R.O., Arch. Wilts., will of Thomas Rich of Wootton Bassett, dated 9 Apr., proved at Malmesbury 29 May 1781.

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. Cunningham, '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.¹ 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.² All three north Wiltshire coroners were described as surgeons, William Waylen also as an apothecary.³ Like his successors, he lived in Devizes⁴ and belonged to an eminent Devizes family many of whose members were medical men.⁵ He had been elected coroner on 1 November 1745 after the death in office of Richard Smith.⁶ He held only three inquests after the introduction of fees, the last (3) on 29 August 1752. He signed his will on 4 October⁷ and was buried in St John's churchyard in Devizes four days later.⁸ The writ for his replacement as coroner issued on 23 October and John Clare was elected on 21 November.⁹ He was an obvious choice. He not only lived in the same place but was a doctor there,¹⁰ having earlier been apprenticed to Joseph Needham, another Devizes surgeon, for six years from 8 January 1740.¹¹ 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.¹² 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.¹³ 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.

² Cf. the position in London 1788–1829: T.R. Forbes, *Crowner's quest* (Trans. Amer. Phil. Soc. lxxviii, pt 1), 8–9.

³ W.R.O., Cons. Sarum, will of William Waylen.

⁴ *ibid.*; C 202/133, no. 2; bill 1.

⁵ 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.

⁶ C 202/133, no. 2.

⁷ W.R.O., Cons. Sarum, will of William Waylen, dated 4 Oct., proved at Devizes 28 Oct. 1752.

⁸ W.R.O. 1597/4 (reg. St John's, Devizes).

⁹ C 202/140, no. 2.

¹⁰ W.R.O., Q.S. Order Books, 1737–54, Easter 1753.

¹¹ *Wiltshire apprentices and their masters, 1710–1760*, ed. C. Dale (W.A.N.H.S., Rec. Branch, xvii), no. 478.

¹² *Annals of Devizes*, ed. Cunnington, ii. 254.

¹³ C 202/159, no. 7.

11 February.¹ 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.² He had a brother, Robert, who was also a surgeon³ 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,⁴ who proved a controversial coroner.⁵ He remained in office until late 1873 when he resigned. Frederick Thomas Sylvester was elected in his place on 26 November.⁶

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'.⁷ 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 60,⁸ and was buried on 29 June.⁹ On 15 July a writ issued for an election and Henry Thresher was elected on 11 August.¹⁰ He also lived at Wilton, where he owned mills and was clearly a man of substance.¹¹ He also owned the Crown Inn in Devizes¹² and so may well have been the Henry son of Robert Thresher of Devizes who was apprenticed to two Corsham clothiers, in 1715 and 1718.¹³ However that may be, by the time he became coroner he was an apothecary.¹⁴ 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 21.¹⁵ A writ for another election therefore issued on 1 December, and on 29 December 1767 Alexander Forsyth of Salisbury was elected¹⁶ 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 1760s¹⁷ and to whom the bodies of felons hanged after

¹ C 202/212, no. 22.

² Waylen, *Chronicles of the Devizes*, 313; *Wilts. N. & Q.* iii. 288; *V.C.H. Wilts.* x. 249.

³ Barfoot and Wilkes, *Universal British directory*, under Devizes, physic.

⁴ C 202/231, no. 16.

⁵ *V.C.H. Wilts.* v. 237.

⁶ C 202/288-9.

⁷ E. Slow, *Chronology of Wilton* (Wilton, 1903), 97.

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ W.R.O. 504/4 (reg. Wilton).

¹⁰ C 202/155, no. 10.

¹¹ W.R.O., Arch. Sarum, will of Henry Thresher, dated 4 Nov. 1767, proved at Salisbury 19 Jan. 1768.

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ *Wiltshire apprentices and their masters*, nos 2433-4. The second master was an Edward Mitchell, presumably of the Corsham coroner family.

¹⁴ W.R.O., Arch. Sarum, will of Henry Thresher.

¹⁵ *ibid.*; W.R.O. 504/4 (reg. Wilton).

¹⁶ C 202/156, no. 8.

¹⁷ *V.C.H. Wilts.* v. 323.

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 brother⁵ 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,

¹ A5/1/6/1796, no. 29.

² C 202/183, no. 14.

³ Slow, *Chronology of Wilton*, 97; Barfoot and Wilkes, *Universal British directory*, under Wilton, physick.

⁴ A5/1/6/1797, nos 37-8.

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.

⁶ W.R.O., Arch. Sarum, will of George Whitmarsh.

⁷ Slow, *Chronology of Wilton*, 97.

⁸ W.R.O. 504/8 (reg. Wilton).

⁹ C 202/198, no. 17.

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.¹ 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,² 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

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

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.

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.

² R.F. Hunnisett, *Indexing for editors* (Brit. Rec. Assoc., Archives and the User No. 2), 40–4; R. F. Hunnisett, 'Problems of medieval English surnames', *Family History*, xi. 69–89.

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 chapelries 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.
- 3 29 Aug. 1752. Brinkworth. William Hale, infant. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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]

- 4 11 Dec. 1752. Devizes common gaol. William Shepherd, late of Kingston St Michael, committed for felony: natural death. £1 [*corrected from* £1 10s.]
- 5 30 Dec. 1752. St Margaret's in Preshute. John Brown, waggoner: killed by a waggon. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 6 31 Dec. 1752. Dertford's Wood in Corsley. Ann Peirce: on 29 Dec. found dead on Warminster Common between Whitbourne and Dertford's Wood; apoplexy. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 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.]
- 9 15 Jan. 1753. Warminster. Rachel Taylor, late of Warminster, spinster: murder by Jane Taylor, her mother-in-law [*sc.* stepmother]. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
[At Salisbury assizes, 13 Apr. 1753, Jane wife of James Taylor was acquitted of murdering Rachel, an infant: ASSI 23/6.]
- 10 20 Jan. 1753. Kingswood. Joseph Hains, late of Kingswood, labourer: drowned by falling into nearly 15 feet of water in a quar-pit [*sc.* quarry]. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
- 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.
- 14** 25 Mar. 1753. Corsley Heath. John Watts, late of Corsley: on 24 Mar. killed by a horse. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 15** 10 Apr. 1753. Hilperton. John Pead: on 9 Apr. drowned himself in a pond; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 16** 19 Apr. 1753. Poulshot. Francis Sansbury, aged 2: on 18 Apr. drowned in a ditch. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
- 17** 24 Apr. 1753. Bromham. James Pointer, aged 2: on 22 Apr. drowned in a tub of wort. 4 miles. £1 3s.

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.
- 19** 11 May 1753. Brinkworth near Malmesbury. William Selman: accidental [*recte* natural] death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 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. Rudes 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

Devizes; total £24 [altered from £24 11s. which is the total of the fees claimed, but as corrected they amount to £24 1s. 3d.] [A5/2/1/4]

- 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.
- 32 8 Dec. 1753. Liddington in Wanborough parish. John Oakwell: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 22 [altered from 24] miles. £1 16s. 6d. [altered from £1 18s.]
- 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.
- 35 8 Jan. 1754. Horningsham. John Sutton: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 19 [altered from 22] miles. £1 14s. 3d. [altered from £1 16s. 6d.]
- 36 18 Jan. 1754. East Chisenbury. Leonard Durnford: on 17 Jan. hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 37 1 Feb. 1754. Hullavington. Giles Power: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 16 [altered from 18] miles. £1 12s. [altered from £1 13s. 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. Lydeaway. 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 'apple-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 £34 6s. 8d. [*recte* £34 7s.; 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

Silcocks. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

[At Salisbury assizes, 27 July 1754, Thomas Silcock, charged with William's murder on the indictment, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be burnt on the hand: ASSI 23/7.]

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.

55 19 July 1754. Temple Down in Preshute. Elizabeth Rogers: killed by Jane Biggleston, Henry Stent, Ann Weeb, and Sarah Hill. 12 miles. £1 9s.

[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.]

61 13 Aug. 1754. Devizes. Joseph Eaden: killed by a horse dragging him. £1.

62 23 Aug. 1754. Clatford in Preshute. William Beak: killed by a waggon. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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 waggon. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

65 16 Sept. 1754. Bradford on Avon. John Barton: on 15 Sept. hanged himself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

- 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.
72 17 Nov. 1754. East Coulston. Robert Pool: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
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.
75 4 Feb. 1755. Dilton. William Den: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 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.]
78 12 Mar. 1755. Heytesbury. William Snelgrove: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
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.

- 82** 5 May 1755. Stockham Marsh. Alice Willis: fell into a pond and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 83** 8 June 1755. Grittleton. Thomas Brown: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 84** 24 June 1755. Tytherington. Sarah Baggs, aged about 2: pecked headlong into a tub of water and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 85** 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.
- 86** 7 July 1755. Southbroom. John Johnson: accidentally drowned in Drew's Pond. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
- 87** 16 July 1755. Sandy Lane. A person unknown: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
- 88** 27 July 1755. Wexcombe in Great Bedwyn. Robert Reynolds, aged 2: drowned in a tub of water. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 89** 28 July 1755. Chute. John Cook: killed by a fall of a hayrick. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 90** 30 July 1755. Brinkworth. Anthony Preddy: accidentally drowned in a ditch. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 91** 8 Aug. 1755. Widdenham Mill in Colerne. Hannah Killing: fell into the mill-pond and was drowned. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
- 92** 15 Aug. 1755. Kingston 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.
- 93** 20 Aug. 1755. Manton. John Drew: killed by a waggon. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 94** 24 Aug. 1755. Heytesbury. James Dyer: killed by a piece of timber. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 95** 25 Aug. 1755. East Kennett. Richard Riviss: accidentally killed by a gun. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 96** 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.]
- 97** 28 Aug. 1755. Bradford on Avon. John Ward: accidentally drowned in the Avon. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 98** 16 Sept. 1755. Cowage in Hilmarton. John Pinnigar: killed by a waggon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 99** 17 Sept. 1755. Chiseldon. Thomas Looker: killed by a waggon going over his head. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
- 100** 22 Sept. 1755. Calne. Mark Weston: killed by a waggon squeezing him against a bank. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
- 101** 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.
- 104** 25 Oct. 1755. Kingswood. John Nelms: accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
- 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.
- 115** 19 Feb. 1756. Devizes common prison. David Batt, late of Urchfont, committed for felony by John Turner, esq., J.P., on 23 Jan.: no marks of violence; natural death. £1.
- 116** 2 Mar. 1756. Warminster. Henry Wallis: fell from his horse and was killed. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 117** 8 Mar. 1756. Broad Blunsdon in Highworth. Oliver Johnson: accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 118** 18 Mar. 1756. Latton. 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 Latton; apoplexy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

- 120** 3 Apr. 1756. Brokenborough. Isaac Pitt, gent.: killed by a house falling upon him. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 121** 5 Apr. 1756. Langley Burrell. Hester Coller: accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
- 122** 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.]
- 123** 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.]
- 124** 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.
- 125** 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.]
- 126** 25 Apr. 1756. Chiseldon. John Osman: accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
- 127** 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.
- 128** 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]

- 129** 29 Apr. 1756. Market Lavington. David Naish: fell in a stream called Broad Well and was drowned. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
- 130** 2 May 1756. Chute Lodge. William Scroggs, esq.: thrown from his horse and killed. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
- 131** 3 June 1756. Steeple Ashton. James Symms: accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 132** 4 June 1756. St Margaret's. Mary Robinson: fell into the Kennet and was drowned. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 133** 7 June 1756. Wanborough. Robert Cutbeard, aged about 3: pecked into a pond and was drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 134** 21 June 1756. Chippenham. James Bullock: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 135** 23 June 1756. Wingfield. Thomas Stewart: accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 136** 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) Trimmell: 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 16s. 6d.
- 146** 27 Sept. 1756. Latton. Henry Hodges: accidental [? *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.
- 149** 12 Oct. 1756. Devizes. Sarah Usher: accidental [? *recte natural*] death. £1.
- 150** 29 Oct. 1756. Aldbourne. William Mitchel: accidental [? *recte natural*] death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 151** 30 Oct. 1756. Holt. John Hawkins: accidental [? *recte natural*] death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
- 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.
- 154** 10 Nov. 1756. Devizes common prison. Mary Snelgrove, late of Codford St Peter, committed for assault by John Mattox, esq., J.P.: no marks of violence; natural death. £1.
- 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.

159 28 Dec. 1756. Horningsham. Richard Barber: killed by a brick wall falling upon him. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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.]

161 19 Jan. 1757. Devizes common prison. John Symms, late of Erlestoke, committed by John Garth, esq., J.P., being charged with feloniously receiving divers quantities of wheat flour from William Peirce, late servant to James Tilly of Erlestoke, baker, being the property of James: natural death. £1.

162 27 Jan. 1757. Bradford on Avon. Ann Rakes: cut her throat; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

163 4 Feb. 1757. Sutton Benger. Edward Box: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

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.

168 18 Mar. 1757. Mildenhall. Thomas Potter: found dead in the field; no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

169 28 Mar. 1757. North Wraxall. Edmund Matthews: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 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-pill 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.

176 17 Oct. 1757. Steeple Ashton. Nicholas Wicks: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

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 [? *recte* 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 [? *recte* 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 [? *recte* 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 Checquer: 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 [? *recte* 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.
- 192** 2 Mar. 1758. Biddestone. William Mattock: no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 193** 3 Mar. 1758. Steeple Ashton. John Watts: found dead in West Clays Field; no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 194** 3 Mar. 1758. Warminster. John Moorehouse, late soldier in the new battalion of Buffs and in Colonel Trapand's own company: accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 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.
- 197** 11 Mar. 1758. Hankerton. Susannah Hayward: no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 198** 13 Mar. 1758. Brinkworth. Joseph Wiltshire: found dead in a wood in Lydiard Millicent; no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 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.]
- 215** 23 July 1758. North Bradley. William Bryant: killed by a fall of a tree. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 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.
- 219** 26 Aug. 1758. Horningsham. James Garret: killed by a waggon. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 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 3s. 9d.
- 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 [*? recte were*] 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.
- 240** 17 Apr. 1759. Bradford on Avon. Richard Ferris: murder by John his brother. 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.

252 4 July 1759. Hardenhuish. John Shellard: killed by a gun; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

256 24 July 1759. Bradford on Avon. John Moody: drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

- 260** 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 waggon 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 waggon running over his head going down Hackpen Hill. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 267** 29 Sept. 1759. Devizes bridewell. Joseph Eaden, prisoner: dropsy. £1.

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]

- 268** 8 Oct. 1759. Chilton Foliat. William Bird: killed by a horse. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 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.
- 275** 15 Dec. 1759. Pewsey. Richard Sheppherd: found dead in Southcott Field in Pewsey; no marks of violence; accidental [*? recte* natural] death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

- 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.
- 277** 4 Jan. 1760. Bradford on Avon. Samuel Marks: found dead in a stable belonging to Mr John Balward of Bradford on Avon; no marks of violence; accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 278** 14 Jan. 1760. Sutton Veny. A woman unknown: died travelling along the road; severe weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 279** 21 Jan. 1760. Bradford on Avon. John Coles: fell into a quarry-pit nearly 50 feet deep. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 280** 22 Jan. 1760. Westbury. Robert French: on 20 Jan. killed by a gun going off accidentally. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 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 1s. 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.
- 291** 23 Mar. 1760. Bradford on Avon. William Green: on 22 Mar. fell out of a boat into the Avon and was drowned. 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.]

302 4 Dec. 1761. Devizes bridewell. William White: natural death. £1.

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.

306 9 Jan. 1762. Bradford on Avon. Ann West: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

307 9 Jan. 1762. Bradford on Avon. Charles Harding, aged 2: drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.]
- 312** 6 Feb. 1762. The Wheatsheaf Inn in Savernake Park in Preshute. Francis Wiltshire: killed by a waggon going over him. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 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 Newnton; 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

Bishop's Cannings. Jane Davis: fell into a pond and was drowned. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

Bill of John Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 20 Apr. 1762; distances from Devizes; total £26 15s.; allowed by John Jacob and Ferdinand Askew. [A5/2/1/17]

331 30 Apr. 1762. Devizes. Nathaniel Tily: hanged himself; lunacy. £1.

332 5 May 1762. Devizes. Palmer wife of Thomas Overton: drowned herself in a well; lunacy. £1.

333 9 May 1762. Hawkeridge. Robert Brickel: drowned in a ditch; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

334 24 May 1762. All Cannings. Daniel Maslen: killed by a kick of a colt. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

335 29 May 1762. Long Newnton. John Bicknell: hanged himself; lunacy. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.

336 31 May 1762. Ramsbury. Daniel Smith, aged 3: fell into the Kennet and was drowned. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.

337 7 June 1762. Froxfield. Alexander Platt: found dead in a field; no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

338 22 June 1762. Netheravon. Bartholomew Street: found dead in an open field; no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

339 23 June 1762. Westbury. William Bourn: threw himself into a well and was drowned; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

340 23 June 1762. Warminster. James Warren: drowned in a pill; accidental death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

341 28 June 1762. Latton. William Hender: killed by a horse. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

342 2 July 1762. Garsdon. John Sparman: found dead in Broad Mead; no marks of violence; accidental [? *recte* natural] death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

343 7 July 1762. Nettleton. Mary Buckle: natural death. 19 miles. £1 14s. 3d.

344 7 July 1762. Christian Malford. John Keen: went into the Avon to wash and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

345 30 July 1762. Broad Town. William Holloway: killed by a fall out of a hayloft. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

346 29 Aug. 1762. Kingswood. Deborah Purnel, aged about 2: fell from a bridge into a river and was drowned. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

347 13 Sept. 1762. Westbury. Samuel Sweetland: killed by a gun accidentally going off in the hands of William Bigwood; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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 Bailly: on 9 Nov. hanged herself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 350** 3 Dec. 1762. Atworth. William Buck: killed by a waggon on the Devizes to Atworth road. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 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*]. Corton 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.
- 353** 27 Dec. 1762. Bradford on Avon. Samuel Webb: killed by a fall from a ladder. 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.
- 355** 16 Jan. 1763. Chilton Foliat. John Elgar: killed in fighting with William Fowler; manslaughter. 24 miles. £1 18s.
[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.]
- 356** 21 Jan. 1763. Brinkworth. A female infant, which Sarah Vizard of Brinkworth privately and secretly brought forth alive and afterwards killed: murder. 20 miles. £1 15s.
[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.
- 361** 22 Feb. 1763. Chiseldon. Henry Sharp: found dead in Hodson Field; no marks of violence; accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 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.
- 364** 11 Mar. 1763. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Milsam: rambled into the

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 remains of 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.

374 31 Oct. 1763. East Grafton. Thomas Brind: no marks of violence; accidental [*? recte natural*] death. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

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.

382 19 Jan. 1764. Devizes. Roger Marks, late of Trowbridge: killed by a waggon. £1.

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 Frankombe: 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.

405 10 Dec. 1764. St James's in Bishop's Cannings. Eleanor (Eloner) Watkins: killed by taking a quantity of yellow arsenic or orpiment mixed in treacle instead of brimstone and treacle; accidental death. £1.

406 12 Dec. 1764. St Mary's parish, Cricklade. John Williams: fell into the Isis and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.

407 17 Dec. 1764. Bradford on Avon. John Baker, late of Devizes: drowned in or near the Avon; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

409 29 Dec. 1764. Baynton. Humphrey White: found dead in a backside belonging to William Long, esq.; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.

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 Hatterns 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 Mead; 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.

423 25 Mar. 1765. Hankerton. John Ludlow: found dead in Old Town Field; no marks of violence; natural death. 24 miles. £1 18s.

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]

441 11 Oct. 1765. Monkton Farleigh. Solomon Neat: on 10 Oct. hanged himself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

442 4 Nov. 1765. Devizes bridewell. John King: natural death on 3 Nov. £1.

443 11 Nov. 1765. Southbroom in Bishop's Cannings. Elizabeth Phip: fell into a well and was drowned. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

444 13 Nov. 1765. Devizes bridewell. Robert Brown, committed by R. Ashe Clarke, J.P., as a vagrant: natural death. £1.

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.

450 15 Jan. 1766. Devizes bridewell. Matthew Greenland, prisoner for debt: epidemic fever. £1.

451 24 Jan. 1766. Ashley in Bradford on Avon. Joseph Fry: natural death. 14 [*altered from 12*] miles. £1 10s. 6d.

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.

456 31 Mar. 1766. Devizes bridewell. Robert Pern, late of Castle Combe, committed by James Montagu, esq., for divers misdemeanours: consumption. £1.

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

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.

465 9 May 1766. Devizes bridewell. William Long, committed for debt by order of the commissioners of the court of request for Bradford, Melksham, and Whorwellsdown hundreds: on 8 May died of an epidemic fever that reigned in the prison. £1.

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.

470 5 July 1766. Devizes bridewell. Isaac Hunt, late of Bremhill, committed by R. Ashe Clark, J.P., for felony: on 5 July died of a fever. £1.

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.

475 9 Aug. 1766. North Wraxall. Henry Wiltshire: on 8 Aug. killed by a waggon running over him. 16 miles. £1 12s.

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.

478 24 Aug. 1766. Atworth. Michael Gay: on 22 Aug. killed by a waggon running over him. 12 miles. £1 9s.

479 28 Aug. 1766. Lydiard Tregoze. Abraham Berriman: killed by John

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 Buckley: 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 mill-pond 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, inadvisedly 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.

514 26 Mar. 1767. Devizes bridewell. Henry Collins, late of Atworth, committed by John Bythesea, esq., for stealing 2 ducks, the property of Thomas Brown of Atworth: natural death. £1.

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.

- 541** 31 July 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Daniel Chivers, prisoner for debt: natural death. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
- 542** 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.
- 543** 7 Aug. 1767. Bradford on Avon. John Smith: crushed to death by a waggon going over his head. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 544** 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.
- 545** 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.
- 546** 26 Aug. 1767. Urchfont. Edith Wells: on 25 Aug. perished in the flames with Sarah. £1.
- 547** 2 Sept. 1767. Charlton near Malmesbury. Thomas Stoneham: crushed to death by the fall of a barn upon him. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 548** 19 Sept. 1767. Edington. William Bendy: fell from his horse and dislocated his neck. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
- 549** 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]

- 550** 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.
- 551** 8 Nov. 1767. Easterton. A woman unknown: found dead on Salisbury Plain; natural death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
- 552** 13 Nov. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Richard Atherly, gent., prisoner for debt: natural death. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
- 553** 20 Nov. 1767. Linley Farm in Tisbury. John Harwood: on 18 Nov. hanged himself; lunacy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
- 554** 6 Dec. 1767. Seend Head. Charles Groom: killed by the limber of a waggon crushing him against a bank. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
- 555** 7 Dec. 1767. Holt. John Suddery: excessive drinking. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 556** 8 Dec. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Joseph Pain: fever. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
- 557** 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.
- 558** 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.

562 28 Dec. 1767. Devizes bridewell. John Chappel, prisoner for felony: natural death. £1.

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 0s. 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.]

570 30 Jan. 1768. St Mary's parish, Chitterne. Jacob Matthews: killed by a ploughshare running into him. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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:

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.

579 24 Mar. 1768. Bishop's Cannings. Joseph Milsam: killed by a horse dragging him in a stirrup. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

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.

- 590** 20 July 1768. Long Newnton. A man unknown: found dead in the road from Brokenborough to Long Newnton, very much emaciated but with no sign of any blows or bruises; natural death. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
- 591** 25 July 1768. All Saints' parish, Chitterne. James Oram: hanged himself; felo de se. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 592** 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.
- 593** 6 Aug. 1768. Trowbridge. Ann Hopkins: killed by a horse. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 594** 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].
- 595** 25 Aug. 1768. Great Somerford. Ann Barnes: fell into a dipping-well and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 596** 25 Aug. 1768. Avoncliff in Westwood parish. Stephen Alland: fell into the Avon and was drowned. From Great Somerford, 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
- 597** 1 Sept. 1768. Froxfield. Mary Spragg: no marks of violence; fit. 23 miles. £1 17s. 3d.
- 598** 2 Sept. 1768. Compton in Enford. Thomas Rolfe: killed by a kick of a horse. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 599** 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.
- 600** 2 Oct. 1768. Castle Eaton. Thomas Smith: drowned by falling out of a boat into the Isis. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.

Bill of John Clare since Marlborough quarter sessions, 4 Oct. 1768; distances from Devizes; total £44 10s. 6d.; allowed by John Jacob and Walter Hardyman. [A5/2/1/28]

- 601** 5 Oct. 1768. St Margaret's in Preshute. John North: killed by a waggon going over him. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 602** 12 Oct. 1768. Fosbury. Roger Ballard: on 10 Oct. hanged himself; felo de se. 28 miles. £2 1s.
- 603** 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.
- 604** 17 Oct. 1768. Steeple Ashton. Samuel Flower: drowned in a pond in a field called Littleton Wood; accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
- 605** 19 Oct. 1768. Tinhead. Isaac Oram, aged about 3: fell into a tub of cider and was drowned. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 606** 11 Nov. 1768. Westwood. Richard Stratton: fell out of a boat into the Avon and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 607** 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.
- 608** 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.

614 8 Jan. 1769. Heath Farm in Collingbourne Kingston. Joseph Reynolds: on 6 Jan. hanged himself; *felo de se*. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

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 0s. 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.
- 626** 21 Mar. 1769. Devizes bridewell. John Hopkins, prisoner for debt: natural death. £1.
- 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.
- 639** 4 Aug. 1769. Hannington. John Butler: on 2 Aug. hanged and strangled himself; lunacy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
- 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.

643 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.

644 4 Sept. 1769. Oare. Henry Woolford: found dead in an outhouse belonging to Farmer Gale; no marks of violence; apoplexy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

645 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.

646 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]

647 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.

648 7 May 1770. All Saints' parish, Chitterne. Joyce Curtis: on 4 May hanged herself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

649 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.

650 28 May 1770. Eastrop in Highworth. Rachel Symmonds: on 26 May cut her throat; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

651 2 June 1770. Langley Burrell. Robert Tanner: fell into a pit of water and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

652 11 June 1770. Woolley in Bradford on Avon. Charles Tyley: hanged himself; *felo de se*. 12 miles. £1 9s.

653 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.

654 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.

655 13 June 1770. Knighton Farm in Ramsbury. Hugh Tucker: killed by a waggon running over his head. 24 miles. £1 18s.

656 17 June 1770. Charlcote in Bremhill. John Bishop: killed by a tree falling on him. 12 miles. £1 9s.

657 26 June 1770. Easton. Dorothy (Dority) Hern: threw herself into a well and drowned herself; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

658 27 June 1770. Wilsford. William Andrews: killed by a ploughshare running into him. 8 miles. £1 6s.

- 659** 7 July 1770. Marden. William Ewens: killed by a kick of a horse. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
- 660** 8 July 1770. Ashton Keynes. Sarah Burnell, aged about one: fell into a river and was drowned. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
- 661** 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.
- 662** 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.
- 663** 20 July 1770. Heytesbury. Mary Beal, aged about 3: fell into the river and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 664** 22 July 1770. Melksham. Edward Moon, aged about 3: fell into the river and was drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
- 665** 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.
- 666** 28 July 1770. Horningsham. Henry Garrett: found dead in Maiden Bradley; no marks of violence; natural death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 667** 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.*]
- 668** 13 Aug. 1770. Bradford on Avon. Thomas Dory: went into the Avon to bathe and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 669** 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 7s. 6d.
- 670** 11 Sept. 1770. Hankerton. Joseph Tanner: killed by a kick of a horse. 24 miles. £1 18s.

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. [A5/2/1/31]

- 671** 4 Oct. 1770. Lockshill Heath in Chippenham. William Hunt: on 3 Oct. killed by a waggon going over him. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
- 672** 7 Oct. 1770. Garsdon. Ann Bishop: found dead in a necessary-house; natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 673** 13 Oct. 1770. Bishop's Cannings. William Etwal: on 13 Oct. fell downstairs and was killed. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
- 674** 25 Oct. 1770. Beanacre. William Flower: on 22 Oct. cut his throat, languished for 25 hours, and then died; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 675** 31 Oct. 1770. Chippenham. John Badminton: on 30 Oct. killed by a waggon going over his body. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 676** 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 'Dighthenton' [? 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

from Devizes; total £46 12s. ; allowed by Thomas Johnson and Paul Newman. [A5/2/1/32]

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 8s. 3d.

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.

707 25 June 1771. St Mary's chapelry, Devizes. Richard Greenland: on 24 June killed by a horse running over him. £1.

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]

722 10 Oct. 1771. Holt. John Eyles: killed by a blow by George Godwin

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.

729 31 Jan. 1772. Devizes bridewell. George Mitchell, prisoner: fever. £1.

730 5 Feb. 1772. Shepherds' Shore. Solomon Cooper: died in the deep snow returning home from Calne. 4 miles. £1 3s.

731 12 Feb. 1772. East Chisenbury. Ann Banning: hanged herself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.]

734 25 Feb. 1772. Limpley Stoke. Ephraim Tucker: thrown out of a boat belonging to George Dyke, esq., against the millward on the Avon and killed on the spot. 16 miles. £1 12s.

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.]

740 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.]

741 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.

742 14 Apr. 1772. Avoncliff in Westwood. William Savier: pecked out of a boat into the Avon and was drowned. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

743 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]

744 29 Apr. 1772. Studley Green in Trowbridge. James Moore, aged under 2: fell into a well and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

745 3 May 1772. Christian Malford. Thomas Hand: fell into the Avon and was drowned. 16 miles. £1 12s.

746 18 May 1772. South Wraxall. The remains of a male infant, found under the roof of a house. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

747 26 May 1772. Stanton St Bernard. John Pottinger: found dead in Stanton Field. 8 miles. £1 6s.

748 26 May 1772. Swindon. Edward Wilson: suddenly died in the churchyard. 20 miles. £1 15s.

749 3 June 1772. Market Lavington. Sarah Turner, aged under 2: drowned in a brook. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

750 6 June 1772. West Lavington. Richard Lane: unfortunately killed in a rubble-pit. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

751 9 June 1772. Bradford on Avon. Daniel Tovey: drowned in the Avon. 12 miles. £1 9s.

752 10 June 1772. Great Hinton in Steeple Ashton. Mary Kemp: died suddenly in Cold Harbour Lane. 8 miles. £1 6s.

753 16 June 1772. Southbroom near Devizes. Richard Poole: fell down a cellar staircase and was killed. £1.

754 26 June 1772. Urchfont. George Smith: hanged himself; lunacy. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

755 ? 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.

756 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 13s. 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.

762 2 Aug. 1772. Pewsey. Richard Tarrant: found dead in his garden. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

770 13 Sept. 1772. Castle Combe. John Besant: found dead in Leigh Wood. 16 miles. £1 12s.

771 25 Sept. 1772. Heytesbury. William Daycock: killed in the road in Norton Bavant by a waggon. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

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

773 1 Oct. 1772. Bradford on Avon. William Green: threw himself into a well and drowned himself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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 waggon 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.

802 13 Feb. 1773. Foxley. Richard Symmonds: hanged himself in an outhouse or cow-house belonging to Mr Thomas Carter: lunacy. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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.

810 11 Mar. 1773. Devizes bridewell. Henry Sainsbury, committed on suspicion of felony by Lord William Seymour: fever and sore throat. £1.

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*].

[See 774.]

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 vertebre 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. Wootton 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.

823 5 July 1773. Devizes bridewell. Hugh Studwick, an old man, committed by Lord William Seymour and Ambrose Awdry, esq., for an assault and want of sureties: natural death. £1.

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 9s.

831 31 July 1773. South Marston. A man unknown: found dead in a sheep-house; no marks of violence; want of proper necessities. 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.]

841 11 Sept. 1773. Ramsbury Manor. Thomas Jackman: killed by a blow from a gelding belonging to William Langham Jones, esq. 20 miles. £1 15s.

842 17 Sept. 1773. Charlote 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 Rummis: 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.

846 4 Oct. 1773. Devizes bridewell. Joseph Cole, committed by Lord William Seymour: natural death. £1.

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. [A5/2/1/37]

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.]

849 25 Oct. 1773. Devizes. A male bastard: murder by its mother, Sarah Mullens. £1.

[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 Hughs, 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.

853 11 Dec. 1773. Devizes bridewell. James Howell, committed by an order of the court of request for Bradford hundred: fever. £1.

854 24 Dec. 1773. St Mary's chapelry, Devizes. John Godby: died suddenly in the street at night. £1.

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 Ruty. 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.
- 866** ? 15 Feb. 1774. [date omitted]. Great Hinton in Steeple Ashton. Ambrose Weeks: unloading a cartload of oats, suddenly died. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 867** 10 Mar. 1774. Devizes bridewell. William Haynes, committed for felony: died suddenly. £1.
- 868** 12 Mar. 1774. Ogbourne St Andrew. Mary Moore: found dead in the snow; inclement weather. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 869** 13 Mar. 1774. Devizes bridewell. Richard Brown, an old man, committed by Thomas Hedges, esq., for entering the ground of Lawrence Chandler and milking his cow: natural death. £1.
- 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 Seymor 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.

- 881** 17 May 1774. Wootton Bassett. Richard Fry: found dead in Snow Croft; murder by a person or persons unknown. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
- 882** 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.
- 883** 23 May 1774. Baydon. Sarah Tuck: threw herself into a well at Bailey Hill Farm and killed herself; lunacy. 25 miles. £1 18s. 9d.
- 884** 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.
- 885** 2 June 1774. Eastcourt in Crudwell. Grace Clapham: hanged herself in her house; lunacy. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
- 886** 2 June 1774. Poulton. Thomas Wheeler: killed by a cart going over his head and face. 30 miles. £2 2s. 6d.
- 887** 3 June 1774. Bradford on Avon. Henry Hawkins: thrown from his horse in the Avon and drowned. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
- 888** 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.
- 889** 4 June 1774. Kellaways. John Pinker, aged under 6: fell into a pond and was drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 890** 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.
- 891** 9 June 1774. Lacock. Joseph Church, aged about 13, suspected to have been injured by his father: dropsy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 892** 15 July 1774. Devizes. John Sutton, gent.: hanged himself; lunacy. £1.
- 893** 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.
- 894** 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.
- 895** 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.]
- 896** 22 July 1774. Horningsham. James Carpenter: suddenly died in a ground adjoining Cock Road. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 897** 24 July 1774. Marlborough prison. Richard Blizzard, committed on 3 Mar. by Edmund Wilkins, esq., for felony: fever. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 898** 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 1s. 6d.

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

904 14 Aug. 1774. Hill Deverill. John Cooper: returning home from Longbridge Deverill, suddenly died. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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.

907 25 Aug. 1774. Soley in Chilton Foliat. John Kimbe: found hanging to the limb of an oak tree; he hanged himself; lunacy. 24 miles. £1 18s.

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*

certainly by *1s. 6d.*]; allowed by J. Awdry and Thomas Hedges. [A5/2/1/39]

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.

919 20 Oct. 1774. St John's parish, Devizes. Richard Palmer: killed by a fracture of his skull falling from his horse near the town. £1.

920 31 Oct. 1774. St Mary's parish, Devizes. Mary Edwards: suddenly died in a street. £1.

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.

924 7 Nov. 1774. Christian Malford. Ann Tanner: hanged herself; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

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

inquest: ASSI 23/8.]

927 3 Dec. 1774. Upavon. James Shadwell: found dead in Ham Field; inclement weather. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

928 5 Dec. 1774. Chedglo 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 Spye Park. Lawrence Alexander: hanged himself to a hazel stool [*sc.* stump] on a bank. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

930 26 Dec. 1774, adjourned to 27 Dec. Sutton Veny. Ann Swain: starved and murdered by Stephen Swain, her father, and Tamar his wife. With the adjournment, 32 miles. £2 4s.

[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.

937 6 Feb. 1775. Winterbourne Bassett. John Willis: found dead on Rabson Down on Hackpen Hill; severe weather. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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 sotting 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 waggon 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 Milsome, 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.
- 960** 12 June 1775. Bradford on Avon. James Ellick: cast and drowned himself in the Avon; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 961** 20 June 1775. Bishop's Cannings. John Minty: fell from a waggon 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.
- 968** 29 July 1775. Purton Stoke. Ann Finch: found drowned in a deep pit in Hursted (Hinstead) Field; accidental death. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 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.
- 972** 30 Aug. 1775. Westbury. Samuel Bigwood: hanged himself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 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.

983 3 Feb. 1776. Lea. Betty Sampson: murder by Charles Jordan and Jane his wife by cruel usage and starving. 24 miles. £1 18s.

[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.

- 987** 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.
- 988** 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.
- 989** 6 Apr. 1776. Wilton in Great Bedwyn. Joseph Vincent: hanged himself; lunacy. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 990** 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.
- 991** 15 Apr. 1776. St Mary's parish, Devizes. John West: hanged himself; lunacy. £1.

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]

- 992** 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.
- 993** 4 May 1776. Easterton. William Matthews, aged under 4: found drowned in a well; accidental death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
- 994** 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.
- 995** 26 May 1776. Froxfield. John Dickson: getting from a waggon, fell before the wheels and was crushed to death. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 996** 5 June 1776. Chilton Foliat. Mary Wills, aged under 7: found drowned in the Kennet; accidental death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.
- 997** 6 June 1776. Easton. Thomas Cully: found dead under a haystack which fell on him. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 998** 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.
- 999** 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.
- 1000** 18 June 1776. Devizes prison. Geoffrey Everet, committed by the commissioners of bankruptcy for not giving a sufficient account of his effects: fever. £1.
- 1001** 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.
- 1002** 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

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.

1012 14 Sept. 1776. Heywood in Westbury. Joseph Banks: suddenly died in the Common. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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 Woodward: 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-

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.]

1025 13 Jan. 1777. Horningsham. Esau Millard: suddenly died in Water Lane. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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

distemper. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 1777; distances from Devizes; total £58 7s. 9d.; allowed by A. Awdry and Edmund Wilkins. [A5/2/1/44]

1035 13 Apr. 1777. Devizes. Ann Parren: found dead in a house belonging to Joseph Coole; no marks of violence; sudden natural death. £1.

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.]

1060 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.

1061 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.

1062 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.

1063 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.

1064 4 Sept. 1777. Latton. Simon Sundrey: found dead under a hedge in Long Lands Field; no marks of violence. 32 miles. £2 4s.

1065 8 Sept. 1777. Ramsbury. George Kimber: bathing in a new piece of water lately cut by Sir William Jones, bt, accidentally drowned. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1066 9 Sept. 1777. Sharcott. Richard Page, an old man: suddenly died in West Leaze. 12 miles. £1 9s.

1067 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.

1068 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.

1069 25 Sept. 1777. Ogbourne St Andrew. William Brown: fell from a load of oats and was killed. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1070 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.

1071 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. [A5/2/1/45]

1072 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 0s. 9d.

1073 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 4s. 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.

1092 12 Aug. 1778. Warminster. John Carr: thrown from a colt in Warminster Street and killed. 16 miles. £1 12s.

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.
- 1107** 28 Nov. 1778. Pewsey. Isaac Edwards: hanged himself; lunacy. 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. [A5/2/1/47]

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 0s. 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.

1154 21 Oct. 1779. St John's parish, Devizes. John Smith, ailing and infirm for some time: found dead in a backyard. £1.

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.]

1158 2 Nov. 1779. Cocklebury in Chippenham. Hannah Barton: accidentally drowned in the Avon. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

£1 7s. 6d.

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 9s. 9d.

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.

1175 22 Jan. 1780. Christian Malford. Ann Pinker: accidentally drowned in a pond. 16 miles. £1 12s.

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. [A5/2/1/49]

- 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 afore-said. 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 0s. 3d.
- 1204** 28 July 1780. Beckhampton in Avebury. Edward Partrige, 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.
- 1211** 24 Aug. 1780. St John's parish, Devizes. Thomas Rivers: cut his throat with a knife; lunacy. £1.
- 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 0s. 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 0s. 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.

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 1s. 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.

1235 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.

1236 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.

1237 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.

1238 5 Feb. 1781. Warminster Common. John Pinnel: thrown out of a cart and killed. 20 miles. £1 15s.

1239 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.

1240 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.

1241 22 Feb. 1781. Keevil. John Baily: sudden natural death in a barn. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1242 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.

1243 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.

1244 29 Mar. 1781. Heytesbury. William Atwell: found dead in a house; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1245 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.

1246 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.

1247 6 Apr. 1781. Marlborough bridewell in Preshute. Mary Ogbourne: hanged herself in a hovel in Harts Field; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1248 13 Apr. 1781. Bradford on Avon. Kesiah Allen, infant: in the arms

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.

1254 3 May 1781. Studley in Trowbridge. Betty Marshman, aged under 3: accidentally drowned in a pond. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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 Tregoze. 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 pease-mow 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, vomitings, 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.

1304 25 Aug. 1782. Semington. Richard Whatley: found suffocated in a stream. 8 miles. £1 6s.

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 the side of his father; no apparent marks of injury, as suggested. 21 miles. £1 15s. 9d.

1319 25 Oct. 1782. St Mary's parish, Devizes. Elizabeth Taylor: found dead in a house and chamber; no marks of violence. £1.

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: ASSI 23/8.]

1325 12 Dec. 1782. Devizes prison. Elizabeth Palmer, committed by James Montague, esq., as a rogue and vagabond: infirmity and disease. £1.

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: ASSI 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 Scammell 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 Scammell, 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.]

1354 25 June 1783. Ramsbury. William Jervis, aged under 5: accidentally drowned in the river. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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.

1359 15 July 1783. Broughton Gifford. A new-born male child: still-born. 10 miles. £1 7s. 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

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. [AS/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. Durllett 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. 4 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.]

1391 4 Feb. 1784. Studley in Trowbridge. James Singer: found dead in Little Paddock; no marks of violence; natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

1400 21 Mar. 1784. Savernake Park near Marlborough Forest. Robert Daintry: suddenly died in his road from Burbage to Marlborough. 16 miles. £1 12s.

1401 22 Mar. 1784. Wroughton. William Seymor: 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 Mitchel: suddenly died at the Blue Ball public house. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.

1405 18 Apr. 1784. Bradford on Avon. Mr John Bailward: 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

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. Idovery 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.

1434 18 Apr. 1785. Moredon in Rodbourne Cheney. Stephen Lewis: found drowned in a pond in Water Furlong. 24 miles. £1 18s.

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 overturning 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.

1446 18 June 1785. Horton in Bishop's Cannings. A young man, name unknown: in company with John Biggs met the same accidental death. £1.

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 18s.

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.

1465 15 Dec. 1785. Chippenham. Charles Aland: found dead in his house; no marks of violence. Paid by the deceased's relations.

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 3s. 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.

1473 3 Feb. 1786. Poulshot. Peter Watts, aged about 6: drowned in a pit.

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, went 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.

1484 25 Mar. 1786. Devizes prison. John Duck, committed by Sir E. Bayntun, bt, charged with stealing linsey from the racks at Calne: natural death. £1.

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

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 Renells Grave. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

1491 19 May 1786. Devizes prison. John Curtis, committed by the Revd Dr Charles Wake for running away and leaving his wife and 5 children chargeable to the parish of Longbridge Deverill: fever. £1.

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 9s. 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 7s. 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 8s. 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 £33 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.
- 1507** 22 Aug. 1786. Purton. Matthew Glade: found dead in Jeffrey's Meadow; no marks of violence. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 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.
- 1516** 26 Oct. 1786. Bradford on Avon. Abel Howell: found drowned in the Avon in Dunnicks Mead. 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.

1520 6 Dec. 1786. Melksham. Joseph Gum: fell off a high elm tree and was instantly killed. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1521 19 Dec. 1786. 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. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1522 24 Dec. 1786. Allington in All Cannings. Philip Hiscock: found dead in a house where he lived by himself; no marks of violence. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1523 2 Jan. 1787. 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. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

1524 5 Jan. 1787. 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. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.

Bill of William Clare since Devizes quarter sessions, 9 Jan. 1787; distances from Devizes; total £26 2s. 6d.; allowed by Edmund Lambert and J. Penrudocke, 18 Apr. 1787. [A5/2/1/61]

1525 11 Jan. 1787. 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. £1.

1526 16 Jan. 1787. 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. £1.

1527 26 Jan. 1787. St Mary's parish, Chitterne. John Stevens: hanged himself to a rafter in the necessary-house; lunacy. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

1528 30 Jan. 1787. Tilshead Buildings in Tilshead. Elizabeth Pearce: being alone, was found dead in a room there; no marks of violence. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

1529 1 Feb. 1787. Potterne. Isaac Bond: suddenly died at his daily work. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

1530 6 Feb. 1787. Norton Bavant. An infant female bastard, suspected to have been injured by the mother, Ann Westley: still-born. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

1531 8 Feb. 1787. Westbury. John King: found dead in Gibbs's Close; it appeared to be the effect of drinking spiritous liquors just before. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1532 13 Feb. 1787. Kingsdown in Box. John Ford: being delirious and distracted, hanged himself. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

1533 17 Feb. 1787. Woodrow in Melksham. William Oatley: unfortunately drowned in a pool or pond. 8 miles. £1 6s.

1534 26 Feb. 1787. Bedborough in Bishop's Cannings. Roger Edmunds: hanged himself in his house with a piece of leather called a throat-hasp; lunacy. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

- 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.
- 1541** 4 Apr. 1787. St Mary's parish, Devizes. Gabriel Holloway: suddenly died at his daily work in Painters Close. £1.
- 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 8s. 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.

£2 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 Lovelock, 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.

1555 22 Nov. 1787. Whittonditch in Ramsbury. John New: killed by a waggon passing over him. 24 miles. £1 18s.

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 Collingbourne 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. Poulshot. 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 Tombes, aged under 3: fell into a pool in a garden and was drowned. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1588 12 Apr. 1788. Melksham. John Collingbourn, 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-hasps; 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 13s. 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.

1595 13 May 1788. Charnham Street in Hungerford. A new-born female child, born of Martha Fry: to all appearance still-born. 24 miles. £1 18s.

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 13s. 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.

£1 16s. 6d.

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]

1618 20 Jan. 1789. Fifield in Enford. Ann Pearce, an old woman: being

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 Tregoze. 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 1s. [*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. Quemerford 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.

1634 29 Apr. 1789. Purton. William Sheppard, an old man: found dead in Rodger's Ground; no marks of violence. 24 miles. £1 18s.

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. Earls court 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 Hipposly, aged about 9: fell into a pool in a garden and was instantly drowned. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

1662 25 Aug. 1789. Barton near Marlborough in Preshute. Robert Axsom: suddenly died at New Barn. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.

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.

1664 2 Sept. 1789. North Bradley. Abraham Silverthorn, infirm: drowned himself in a pond; lunacy. 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. Adjournment, £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 waggon 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.

1682 30 Nov. 1789. St Mary's parish, Devizes. Abraham Whitly: suddenly died in a timber-yard in St John's parish, Devizes. £1.

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 waggon from Maiden Bradley to Warminster when it was turned over and killed him. 24 miles. £1 18s.

1685 12 Dec. 1789. Great Trowle in Bradford on Avon. Isaac Dicks: hanged himself; lunacy. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

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 Ruty: 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; Ruty, being the weaker man, soon gave up the contest, for which Fillis much abused him, and, on Ruty'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; Ruty 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.

1706 8 Apr. 1790. Devizes prison. Thomas Jones, committed by Edward Poore, esq., as a rogue and vagrant: mortification in his leg. £1.

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.

1714 2 June 1790. Devizes prison. Mary Mills, committed on 29 May for 1 month by Lord William Seymour for absenting herself from her service: sudden natural death. £1.

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.

1728 8 Aug. 1790. Heywood in Westbury. Hester Gowen: thrown down and run over by a cart and killed. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

£1 5s. 3d.

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. Crockerton 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 Dalmer, 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 9s.

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 9s.

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.

1762 25 Mar. 1791. Stert in Urchfont. James Godden: returning home 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.

1765 26 Apr. 1791. Bradford on Avon. Joseph Mead, aged under 7: fell 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 circulation. 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 distemperature or natural death, not from any intentional hurt from the mother or any other person. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

1768 4 May 1791. Bradford on Avon. The said twin infant Thomas: died likewise. £1.

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 waggon, was thrown to the ground and killed on the spot. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.

1782 24 June 1791. Seend Row in Melksham. James Gun: riding on the limbers of a waggon 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.

1786 9 July 1791. St Mary's parish, Devizes. Thomas Price, master tailor there: hanged himself; lunacy. £1.

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.

- 1812** 13 Dec. 1791. Trowbridge. John Pullin: likewise 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 Whiteord, aged under 3: fell on a wood fire and was burnt and killed. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
- 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 6s. 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 6s.
- 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 0s. 9d.
- 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 7s. 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. Lydeaway in Urchfont. Richard Burden: driving a waggon loaded with hay, fell down before the wheels and was instantly killed. 4 miles. £1 3s.
- 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-waggon 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 8s. 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.

[See 1827. This entry is struck through.]

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 4s. 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 4s. 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 Selve, 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 1s. Adjournment, £2 1s.

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 chaise wherein 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. [A5/2/1/73]

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.

1893 25 Oct. 1793. Thornend Farm in Christian Malford. John Kite: hanged himself with a cord fastened to the limb of a tree in Melsome Wood; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

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. Lydeaway 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 Lydeaway 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 Paradise: 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 9s. 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

- 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 Ruddy, 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 waggon in the street drawn by 6 horses, which taking fright and Joseph trying to stop them, he was run over by the waggon 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 Pable: 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 waggon going over him, unseen by the waggoner. 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.
- 1948** 30 June 1794. Mildenhall. Mary Bailey: hanged herself; lunacy.

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.

1958 19 Aug. 1794. Kellaways. Jacob Spackman: shot himself with a pistol charged with gunpowder and shot; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

1962 17 Sept. 1794. Castle Combe. Joseph Jones: thrown from his horse and killed in the street. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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.
- 1967** 10 Oct. 1794. Castle Combe. John Farr: drawn in by the cogs of a grist-mill and instantly crushed to death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 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.
- 1969** 25 Oct. 1794. Clack in Lyneham. James Hulbert: found dead in his house; no marks of violence. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 1970** 27 Oct. 1794. Chittoe or Silverstreet near Melksham Forest. Sarah the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Buckley, 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. Durllett 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.

1987 31 Jan. 1795. Devizes prison. Henry Foyle, committed on 21 Jan. for one month by a warrant under the hand and seal of Edmund Lambert, esq.: was seized with illness and died on 30 Jan. £1.

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.

1992 21 Feb. 1795. Ramsbury. Elizabeth Harris: suddenly died in a garden near her house. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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. Shorncote. 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 waggon 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

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.

2015 23 May 1795. Trowle Common in Bradford on Avon. James Allen, aged about 6: found drowned in a pond; accidental death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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 [sc. 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 Lydney 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 Tangle, 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 9s.
- 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 9s. 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 Milsom, 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.

- 2065** 30 Jan. 1796. Lacock. Mary Elmes: early in the morning having gone downstairs and being alone, suddenly died. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 2066** 8 Feb. 1796. The bridewell or prison near Marlborough. George, aged under 9 months, the base-born son of Penelope Baily 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.
- 2067** 16 Feb. 1796. Oaksey. 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.
- 2068** 18 Feb. 1796. Heytesbury. 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.
- 2069** 18 Feb. 1796. East Coulston. 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.
- 2070** 19 Feb. 1796. Overtown in Wroughton. Adam Ayres: killed by the kick of a horse belonging to his master there, Mr T. Washbourn. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
- 2071** 20 Feb. 1796. Clyffe Pypard. 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.
- 2072** 27 Feb. 1796. Great Chalfield. Isaac Bull: fell into Home Wood Brook and was drowned. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
- 2073** 4 Mar. 1796. Bradford on Avon. 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.
- 2074** 10 Mar. 1796. Wick tithing in Bishop's Cannings. 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.
- 2075** 18 Mar. 1796. Grittleton. 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.
- 2076** 21 Mar. 1796. Eastcott in Swindon. Giles Edmunds, aged about 5: fell into a pond and was killed. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 2077** 22 Mar. 1796. Bromham. John Pearce, aged under 3: fell into a cooler of hot wort and was killed. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
- 2078** 23 Mar. 1796. Nursted in Bishop's Cannings. 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.
- 2079** 24 Mar. 1796. Bushton in Clyffe Pypard. Sarah Twine, aged about 2: falling into a pool or pond, was instantly drowned. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

- 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 7s. 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. £2 0s. 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 Newnton. 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 7s. 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.]

2098 9 Mar. 1753. West Hatch. A male bastard child, born of Elizabeth Small. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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]

2110 6 Feb. 1754. Amesbury. Peter Nutt of Rushall: natural death.

8 miles. £1 6s.

2111 25 Feb. 1754. Wilton. Robert Hedges: natural death. £1.

2112 10 Mar. 1754. Kingston Deverill. Nicholas Card of Maiden Bradley: found dead under a hayrick; natural death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.

2113 15 Mar. 1754. Alvediston. William Ingram: found dead in a barn; natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2114 6 Apr. 1754. Maiden Bradley. A woman unknown: found dead in the common fields; natural death. 20 miles. £1 15s.

2115 19 May 1754. Coombe Bissett. Thomas Wall, late of Cranborne, Dorset: killed by a fall from his horse. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2116 25 July 1754. Great Woodford. Edward Dear: killed by the accidental going off of his gun. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2117 28 July 1754. Amesbury. William Edwards of Winterbourne Earls, carter: killed by the fore-wheel of a waggon. 8 miles. £1 6s.

2118 20 Sept. 1754. Charlton in Downton. John Miles of Bemerton, carter: killed by overturning a waggon loaded with wheat. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

2119 21 Sept. 1754. Stapleford. Mary wife of George Northover, wheelwright: cut her throat; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2120 19 Dec. 1754. Stoford. 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. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2121 28 Dec. 1754. Downton. Thomas Cooper, servant to William Hayter of Downton, miller: fell into the mill-pond and was drowned. 8 miles. £1 6s.

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. [A5/2/1/81]

2122 14 Mar. 1755. North Tidworth. Thomas Pearson: found dead in the open fields on a journey from Salisbury to Wallingford, Berks.; natural death. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.

2123 12 May 1755. Wilton. John Smith: fell into a river and was drowned. £1.

2124 13 July 1755. Winterbourne Stoke. George Weston: cut his throat; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2125 31 July 1755. Durrington. John Smart: bruised to death by the fore-wheel of a waggon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2126 14 Aug. 1755. Little Woodford. John Whitehorn, infant: fell into a water-carriage and was drowned. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2127 21 Aug. 1755. South Newton. John Blake: fell under the wheel of a mill that was going and was immediately crushed to death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.

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. [A5/2/1/82]

2128 16 Jan. 1756. Ansty. Thomas Hallet, labourer. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

- 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. Chicksgrove. 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 waggon 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. Chicksgrove 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 waggon 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. Chicksgrove 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.
- 2147** 18 Mar. 1757. Newton Tony. Alice Martin: cut her throat; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

- 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 Hawley'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 Bradford of Sir Robert Rich's dragoons: accidental death by means unknown. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
- 2159** 7 Sept. 1757. Fovant. John Yates, labourer: driving a waggon 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 waggon, 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 waggon. 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.
- 2175** 13 Apr. 1759. Fisherton Anger gaol. Nicholas Dobson, prisoner: fever. £1.
- 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.
- 2177** 13 June 1759. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Hearn, prisoner for debt: fever. £1.
- 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 Lydeaway; 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.

2194 5 June 1760. Alton. John Seymore: hanged himself; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

2198 14 Oct. 1760. Wilton. William Beach: found dead in a stable. £1.

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.

- 2203** 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.
2209 17 Feb. 1762. Stapleford. Sarah Shore: natural death. 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 0s. 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]

- 2226** 18 Jan. 1763. Corsley. Margaret Wheeler: found drowned; accidental death. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 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.
- 2229** 13 Mar. 1763. Longbridge Deverill. Henry Young: inclement weather. 24 miles. £1 18s.
- 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 0s. 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]

- 2233** 20 July 1763. Fisherton Anger gaol. James Riley: hanged himself; murder. £1.
- 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 9s. 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.

2239 1 Dec. 1763. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Burton: natural death. £1.

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]

2241 25 Jan. 1764. Stapleford. Sarah Upjohn: sudden natural death. 4 miles. £1 3s.

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.

2247 6 July 1764. South Newton. Bridget Langeridge: mortally beaten and bruised by John Lane, her son-in-law; manslaughter. £1.

[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.

2254 26 Dec. 1764. Fisherton Anger gaol. Robert Nichols, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2255 15 Jan. 1765. East Hatch. William Coles: hanged himself; *felo de se*. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.
- 2259** 17 Mar. 1765. Clarendon Park. A person unknown: found drowned; 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.
- 2265** 25 Sept. 1765. Whaddon. Isaac Pope: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
- 2266** 4 Oct. 1765. Berwick St James. Mary Ely: natural death. 6 miles. £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.
- 2270** 11 Jan. 1766. Downton. John Fleming: inclement weather. 10 miles. £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.
- 2273** 7 Mar. 1766. Dinton. Andrew Waters: hanged himself; lunacy. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
- 2274** 28 Mar. 1766. East Knoyle. A person unknown: inclement weather. 15 miles. £1 11s. 3d.
- 2275** 13 May 1766. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Ratcliff, prisoner:

natural death. £1.

2276 25 May 1766. Fisherton Anger gaol. Ann Mace, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2277 12 June 1766. Durnford. Rebecca (Rebekah) Waters: found drowned in a well; lunacy. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2278 20 June 1766. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Biggs, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2279 22 June 1766. Downton. Elizabeth Welstead: found drowned; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.

2280 23 June 1766. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Costard, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2281 21 Sept. 1766. Donhead St Andrew *or [less likely] Codford St Mary or St Peter (Codford St Andrew)*. Thomas Churchil: 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.

2284 25 Oct. 1766. Near Salisbury. John Luke: killed by a fall from his horse. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2285 27 Oct. 1766. Fisherton Anger gaol. James Noyce, prisoner: natural death. £1.

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. Ebbesborne 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.
2297 31 Aug. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Richard Lacy, prisoner: natural death. 3 miles. £1.
2298 27 Sept. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Yates, prisoner: natural death. 3 miles. £1.
2299 10 Oct. 1767. Martin. A person unknown: accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2300 25 Oct. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Lawes, prisoner: natural death. 3 miles. £1.
2301 4 Nov. 1767. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Alexander, prisoner: natural death. £1.

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.
2305 12 Feb. 1768. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Cummyne, prisoner: natural death. £1.
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.

2309 2 Apr. 1768. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Tillin, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2310 15 June 1768. Allington. William Sainsbury: fell from a waggon and died. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2311 17 July 1768. Fisherton Anger. James Jewel: drowned in the river; accidental death. £1.

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.

2314 4 Aug. 1768. Corton. William Garret: hanged himself; lunacy. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2315 11 Sept. 1768. Fisherton Anger gaol. Mary Hele, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2316 4 Dec. 1768. Figheldean. Ann Shepperd: drowned in the river; accidental death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

2317 10 Dec. 1768. Fisherton Anger gaol. Jacob Timberlin, prisoner: natural death. £1.

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.

2321 21 Apr. 1769. Fisherton Anger gaol. Hannah Burt, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2322 14 May 1769. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Miller, prisoner: natural death. £1.

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.
- 2333** 6 May 1770. Milston. Thomas Asher: killed by a ploughshare. 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; accidental 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.
- 2340** 22 Dec. 1770. Milford. Elias Whalley: as supposed, apoplexy. 1 mile. £1 0s. 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 handkerchief; 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.
- 2346** 2 Mar. 1771. Devizes. John Clare: fell from his horse and died.

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.

2351 17 July 1771. Fisherton Anger gaol. Ephraim Lush: natural death. £1.

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. Sedgemoor. A new-born female infant: found drowned in a pond; murder by a person or persons unknown. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.

2359 21 Mar. 1772. Fisherton Anger gaol. James Cromwell, prisoner: natural death. £1.

2360 25 Mar. 1772. Fisherton Anger gaol. Philip Tucker, prisoner: natural death. £1.

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 0s. 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.
- 2366** 22 Sept. 1772. Fisherton Anger gaol. Humphrey Baily, prisoner: natural death. £1.
- 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.
- 2371** 1 Jan. 1773. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Wilkins, prisoner: natural death. £1.
- 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.
- 2375** 22 Mar. 1773. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Barter: natural death. £1.
- 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.
- 2379** 4 June 1773. Fisherton Anger. Ann Jones, infant: drowned in the river; accidental death. £1.
- 2380** 7 June 1773. Fisherton Anger gaol. Robert Cambridge, prisoner: natural death. £1.
- 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.
- 2383** 23 July 1773. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Prince, prisoner: natural death. £1.
- 2384** 27 July 1773. Wylye. Jean Compton: drowned herself in the Wylye; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

- 2385** 2 Aug. 1773. ? Wincombe (Wickam) Park. Robert Bennet: drowned in a fishpond; accidental death. 20 miles. £1 15s.
- 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 Princhart: 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.
- 2390** 21 Sept. 1773. Fisherton Anger. James Jewell: killed by a waggon going over him. £1.
- 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.
- 2395** 28 Feb. 1774. Normanton. Elizabeth Alexander: drowned in a crutch of brine; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 2396** 22 Mar. 1774. ? East Harnham. John Berry: drowned; accidental death. £1 0s. 9d.
- 2397** 4 Apr. 1774. Fisherton Anger gaol. Richard Read: natural death. £1.
- 2398** 5 Apr. 1774. Fisherton Anger gaol. Michael Noble: natural death. £1.
- 2399** 14 Apr. 1774. Sutton Mandeville. William Snook: natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
- 2400** 17 Apr. 1774. Whiteparish. William Comley: killed by a fall from a horse. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 2401** 29 Apr. 1774. Fisherton Anger. Samuel Smith: killed by falling out of a cart at Britford. £1.
- 2402** 21 June 1774. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Wise: natural death. £1.
- 2403** 11 July 1774. Swallowcliffe. James Borrow: natural death. 14 miles. £1 10s. 6d.
- 2404** 1 Aug. 1774. Plaitford. Richard Fewell: killed by a waggon. 12 miles. £1 9s.

- 2405** 17 Aug. 1774. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas White: natural death. £1.
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.
2416 28 Mar. 1775. Fisherton Anger. John Oakimer: fractured his skull; accidental death. £1.
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.
2424 26 July 1775. Kingston Deverill. Emilia Prely: hanged herself; lunacy. 24 miles. £1 18s.
2425 15 Sept. 1775. Teffont Evias *or* Magna. John Baker: falling from his horse, broke his neck and died. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2426 17 Oct. 1775. Hatch. Thomas Collins: sudden natural death. 16

miles. £1 12s.

- 2427** 1 Nov. 1775. Downton. Ann Taylor: fit. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2428 15 Nov. 1775. Berwick St James. John Ely: fit. 8 miles. £1 6s.
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 1s. 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.
2435 25 Jan. 1776. Fisherton Anger gaol. Joseph Cooper: natural death. £1.
2436 27 Feb. 1776. Wilton. George Stainer: natural death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2437 11 Apr. 1776. Clarendon Park. William Beach: fit. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2438 8 July 1776. East Knoyle. James Stone: killed by a waggon. 18 miles. £1 13s. 6d.
2439 15 July 1776. Fisherton Anger gaol. Abraham Hayward: natural death. £1.
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.]
2442 24 Sept. 1776. Wardour Castle. William Sprey: killed; accidental death. 16 miles. £1 12s.
2443 2 Oct. 1776. Winterbourne Stoke. William Stracy: hanged himself; lunacy. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2444 18 Nov. 1776. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Guliver: natural death. £1.
2445 16 Dec. 1776. West Dean. George Burnett: natural death. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2446 13 Jan. 1777. Britford. Thomas Luke: natural death. 2 miles. £1 1s. 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 (Stratford St Antony). Elizabeth Rose: natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2451 17 Apr. 1777. Fisherton Anger. William Goodfellow: natural death. £1.

2452 22 Apr. 1777. Hazeldon. A new-born female infant: still-born. 17 miles. £1 12s. 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.

2457 6 Oct. 1777. Brigmerston. John Asher: killed by a cart. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

2460 24 Nov. 1777. Chute Forest. James Edes: fits. 20 miles. £1 15s.

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.

2463 26 Jan. 1778. Fisherton Anger. Elizabeth Punde: drowned; lunacy. £1.

2464 9 Feb. 1778. Fisherton Anger. Elizabeth Greatwood: natural death. £1.

2465 11 Mar. 1778. Fisherton Anger. James Hasle: natural death. £1.

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.

2474 18 Sept. 1778. Fisherton Anger. Richard Reeping: killed by a horse running away with him and throwing him. £1.

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.

2478 4 Jan. 1779. Fisherton Anger. Henry Dogan: drowned; accidental death. £1.

Bill of Alexander Forsyth since Salisbury quarter sessions, 12 Jan. 1779;

distances from Salisbury; total £22 4s. 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.
2480 15 Feb. 1779. Downton. William ? Muskle: fit. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2481 5 Mar. 1779. Ditchampton. Benjamin Vincent: drowned in a small brook; accidental death. 4 miles. £1 3s.
2482 30 Mar. 1779. Fisherton Anger. John Barter: cut his throat with a razor; lunacy. £1.
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.
2487 20 Sept. 1779. Baverstock. John Whitteridge: hanged himself with a cord; lunacy. 8 miles. £1 6s.
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.
2493 12 Nov. 1779. Fisherton Anger. Ann Holdaway: apoplexy. £1.
2494 14 Dec. 1779. Compton Chamberlayne. A person unknown: fit. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2495 23 Dec. 1779. Fisherton Anger gaol. Samuel Forster: natural death. £1.

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.
2497 16 Jan. 1780. Compton Chamberlayne. John Granet: suffocated by part of a hayrick falling upon him. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2498 16 Jan. 1780. Barford St Martin. Robert Bruff: inclement weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

- 2499** 26 Jan. 1780. West Knoyle. Mary Yates: inclement weather. 20 miles. £1 15s.
2500 28 Feb. 1780. Hindon. Charles Simpson: inclement weather. 16 miles. £1 12s.
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 Wylve; 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 waggon 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 8s. 3d.
2514 22 Mar. 1781. Charlton. Samuel Baily: as supposed, apoplexy. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2515 20 May 1781. Fisherton Anger gaol. Edward Withers: fever. £1.
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 waggon 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.

[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.

2525 26 Oct. 1781. Standlynch. A new-born female child, born of the body of Jean Gratton: still-born. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.

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. Figcheldean. 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. [A5/2/1/111]

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.

2535 18 May 1782. Fisherton Anger gaol. Benjamin Dew: natural death. £1.

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 5s. 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 0s. 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.
- 2555** 13 Sept. 1783. Fisherton Anger. William Willis: killed by a cart going over him. £1.
- 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 ? Valetton: 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.
2563 31 Jan. 1784. Boscombe. John Moore: natural death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
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.
2573 26 June 1784. Kingston Deverill. John Lucas: killed; accidental death. 24 miles. £1 18s.
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.
2576 14 July 1784. Fisherton Anger. John Fry: accidental death. £1.
2577 24 July 1784. Bulford. William Withers: shot by John Hayter; accidental death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
2578 9 Oct. 1784. Fisherton Anger gaol. Hallyhar [*forename omitted*]: natural death. £1.

- 2579** 11 Oct. 1784. Milford. Thomas Harper: burnt to death by the fire of a lime-kiln. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2580 25 Oct. 1784. Winterbourne Gunner. Elizabeth Cook: inclement weather. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2581 28 Oct. 1784. Nunton. Henry Beacham: killed; accidental death. 4 miles. £1 3s.
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.
2584 22 Dec. 1784. Fisherton Anger. Thomas Ballard: killed by a waggon going over his body. £1.
2585 24 Dec. 1784. Ebbesborne Wake. Thomas Moxam: inclement weather. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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]

- 2586** 24 Jan. 1785. Fisherton Anger. Thomas Hodges: killed by his wife Mary: manslaughter. £1.
 [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.]
2587 7 Feb. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. George Read: natural death. £1.
2588 27 Feb. 1785. Wilton. Emy Axton: found drowned: accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2589 1 Mar. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Dole: natural death. £1.
 [See **1390**.]
2590 14 Mar. 1785. Winterslow. A woman unknown: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
2591 15 Mar. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. Harry Awstin: natural death. £1.
2592 20 Mar. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. James Green: natural death. £1.
2593 28 Mar. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Thomas: natural death. £1.
2594 29 Mar. 1785. Landford. Peter Russell: killed by a cart. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
2595 30 Mar. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. George Adams: natural death. £1.
2596 6 May 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Francklin: natural death. £1.
2597 7 May 1785. Milford. William Bedford: fits. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
2598 14 May 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Sharp: natural death. £1.

- 2599** 19 May 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. Daniel Tanner: natural death. £1.
- 2600** 23 May 1785. Fisherton Anger. Sarah Trimmer, infant: fits. £1.
- 2601** 10 June 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. Edward Ivy: natural death. £1.
- 2602** 15 June 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. Henry Johnson: natural death. £1.
- 2603** 22 June 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. Richard Crane: natural death. £1.
- 2604** 28 June 1785. Fisherton Anger. James Ransum: killed by the bursting of a gun; accidental death. £1.
- 2605** 4 July 1785. Bitham Ponds. James Brokway: drowned; accidental death. 17 miles. £1 12s. 9d.
- 2606** 16 July 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Shepherd: natural death. £1.
- 2607** 21 July 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. Robert Hunt: natural death. £1.
- 2608** 28 July 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Tuskey: natural death. £1.
- 2609** 9 Aug. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Hupey: natural death. £1.
- 2610** 13 Aug. 1785. Ebbesborne Wake. Thomas Dunn: hanged himself; lunacy. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
- 2611** 15 Aug. 1785. Fisherton Anger. Henry Bryant: killed by a fall from a ladder. £1.
- 2612** 2 Sept. 1785. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Kimster: natural death. £1.
- 2613** 4 Oct. 1785. Newton in Whiteparish. John Grey: accidental death. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
- 2614** 8 Nov. 1785. Shrewton. Richard Sainsbury: inclement weather. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
- 2615** 8 Jan. 1786. Ebbesborne Wake. James Trowbridge: inclement weather. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
- 2616** 19 Jan. 1786. Martin. John Hemington: killed by a waggon. 10 miles. £1 7s. 6d.
- 2617** 31 Jan. 1786. Boscombe. John Shepherd: killed in a chalk-pit; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 2618** 2 Mar. 1786. Bower Chalke. A person unknown: natural death. 11 miles. £1 8s. 3d.
- 2619** 4 Mar. 1786. Wilton. Edward Bartlet: found burnt to death; accidental death. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
- 2620** 7 Mar. 1786. Burcombe. William Down: inclement weather. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
- 2621** 7 Mar. 1786. Wishford. Richard Eve: inclement weather. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.
- 2622** 7 Mar. 1786. Fisherton Anger gaol. Henry Bull: natural death. £1.
- 2623** 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.
2626 3 Apr. 1786. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Carrier: natural death. £1.
2627 5 Apr. 1786. Fisherton Anger. William Duffy: killed by a fall from a coach. £1.
2628 19 Apr. 1786. Bishopsdown. Thomas Forder: killed by a stage-coach. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2629 25 Apr. 1786. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Neate: natural death. £1.

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.
2633 23 May 1786. Fisherton Anger gaol. Isaac Morse: natural death. £1.
2634 29 May 1786. Fisherton Anger gaol. Cornelius Martin: natural death. £1.
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.
2638 6 July 1786. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Wheeler: natural death. £1.
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.
2641 7 Aug. 1786. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Hayward: natural death. £1.
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.

2647 25 Jan. 1787. Tisbury. James Grinfield: killed by a ploughshare. 16 miles. £1 12s.

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.

2652 15 Apr. 1787. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Hinder: natural death. £1.

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.

2654 23 Apr. 1789. Fisherton Anger gaol. Thomas Ferris: hanged himself; *felo de se*. £1.

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.

2658 6 July 1789. Fisherton Anger. John Hill: found drowned in the Avon; accidental death. £1.

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.

2662 24 Sept. 1789. Clarendon. George Judd: found drowned in a pond; accidental death. 4 miles. Paid.

2663 15 Oct. 1789. Chaddenwick in Mere. Charles Taylor: killed by a waggon going over his head. 24 miles. £1 18s.

- 2664** 25 Nov. 1789. Winterbourne Gunner. James Davis: natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.
2665 11 Dec. 1789. Barford in Downton. Richard Dickson: killed by 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]

- 2668** 12 May 1790. Hindon. William Maidment: accidental death. 16 miles. £1 12s.
2669 19 May 1790. Laverstock. Charles Dredge: hanged himself; lunacy. 2 miles. £1 1s. 6d.
2670 16 June 1790. Fisherton Anger gaol. Elizabeth Webb: natural death. £1.
2671 24 June 1790. Hindon. Joseph Chosly: natural death. 16 miles. £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 0s. 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.
2677 23 Sept. 1790. Hindon. Hester Bartlet: poisoned herself; *felo de se*. 16 miles. £1 12s.
2678 27 Sept. 1790. Warminster. William Adlam: accidental death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
2679 12 Oct. 1790. Fisherton Anger gaol. James Lawes: natural death. £1.
2680 20 Oct. 1790. Figgheldean. Martha Smith: natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.
2681 28 Oct. 1790. Whitsbury. Arthur Earnly: killed by a horse. 8 miles. £1 6s.
2682 17 Nov. 1790. Warminster. John Turner: burnt to death; accidental death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
2683 30 Nov. 1790. Fisherton Anger. William Trim: natural death. £1.
2684 20 Dec. 1790. Winterbourne Gunner. Robin Palmer: natural death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

- 2685** 18 Jan. 1791. Warminster. Thomas Whatley: natural death. 22 miles. £1 16s. 6d.
- 2686** 10 Feb. 1791. Winterslow. Ann Brown: burnt to death; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 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 Futchter: 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 0s. 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]

- 2696** 21 May 1791. Fisherton Anger gaol. Robert Paine: natural death. £1.
- 2697** 1 June 1791. ? East Harnham. John Whitcomb: natural death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
- 2698** 3 June 1791. Amesbury. William Parsons: drowned in the Avon; accidental death. 8 miles. £1 6s.
- 2699** 26 July 1791. Fisherton Anger. Robert Gough: killed by falling out of a waggon in a fit; natural death. £1.
- 2700** 6 Sept. 1791. Milford. John Creek: natural death. 1 mile. £1 0s. 9d.
- 2701** 15 Sept. 1791. Bulbridge. Grace Tucker: found drowned in a washing-crutch; accidental death. 4 miles. £1 3s.
- 2702** 21 Sept. 1791. Fisherton de la Mere. William Bennet: killed by a cart. 12 miles. £1 9s.
- 2703** 4 Oct. 1791. Downton. James Crook: natural death. 7 miles. £1 5s. 3d.
- 2704** 11 Oct. 1791. Fisherton Anger gaol. Francis Edlum: natural death. £1.
- 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.

2707 22 Nov. 1791. Fisherton Anger. Thomas Cox: accidental death. £1.

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]

2711 9 May 1793. Fisherton Anger gaol. William Morgan: natural death. £1.

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.

2715 12 July 1793. Fisherton Anger gaol. Richard Sainsbury: natural death. £1.

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.

2718 17 Aug. 1793. Fisherton de la Mere. James Sutton: drowned himself in the river; lunacy. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

2723 24 Oct. 1793. Stourton. Richard Phillips: natural death. 26 miles. £1 19s. 6d.

2724 6 Nov. 1793. Bower Chalke. William Chislet: natural death. 13 miles. £1 9s. 9d.

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.

2727 5 Jan. 1794. Whitsbury. Miller [*forename omitted*]: natural death.

- 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.
2728 26 Jan. 1794. Longford. A person unknown: inclement weather. 3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.
2729 30 Jan. 1794. Deptford. A new-born child: murder by Ann Miel. 11 miles. £1 8s. 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 Wornced: 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 4s. 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.
2742 19 Dec. 1794. Chilhampton. Henry Pyle: severe weather. 4 miles. £1 3s.
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.

2749 18 July 1795. Ditchampton. William Moore: killed by the falling in of a chalk-pit. £1.

2750 24 July 1795. Broad Chalke. Reynold Randoll: falling from his horse in fits, was killed; accidental death. 6 miles. £1 4s. 6d.

2751 16 Aug. 1795. Cowesfield. Rachel Munday: natural death. 12 miles. £1 9s.

2752 4 Dec. 1795. Fisherton Anger gaol. John Raisey: old age and infirmity. £1.

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.

2755 1 Jan. 1796. Fisherton Anger gaol. James McCrackin: natural death. £1.

2756 15 Feb. 1796. Durnford. John Smith: accidental death. 5 miles. £1 3s. 9d.

2757 24 Feb. 1796. Homington. John Vincent: drowned by accident. 4 miles. £1 3s.

2758 1 Mar. 1796. Wilton. A male bastard child: still-born. £1.

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]

2759 30 Apr. 1796. Tisbury. Thomas Adbury: accidentally drowned. 12 miles. £1 9s.

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.

2764 25 May 1796. Sedgell. James Candy: accidental death. 16 miles. £1 12s.

2765 26 June 1796. Salisbury. Charles Heath: accidentally drowned.

3 miles. £1 2s. 3d.

2766 1 July 1796. Amesbury. William Day: accidentally drowned. 9 miles. £1 6s. 9d.

2767 1 July 1796. Figcheldean. 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 ls. 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]

2777 11 July 1768. William George: fell out of a waggon; accidental death. £1.

Bill of William Michell; £1; allowed by William Seymour and William Earle.
[A5/2/1/125]

2778 13 Aug. 1769. Robert Gibbs, a boy: found in a well; accidental death. £1.

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 J[ames] M[ontagu].
[A5/2/1/127]

2780 24 Feb. 1773. Robert Baily: found drowned in a ditch; accidental

death. 1 mile. £1 ls.

2781 27 July 1773. Luke White, a child: found drowned in a saw-pit; 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]

2783 25 Apr. 1777. Charlotte King Taylor, a base-born child: natural death. £1.

2784 17 Mar. 1778. Eleanor Hiscock: found drowned in a well; accidental death. £1.

2785 20 Mar. 1778. William Hedges: natural 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.]

2791 25 Sept. 1785. Mary Newman. £1.

[Attached is the inquest on Mary, a child: lately found drowned; fell into a well.]

2792 26 Dec. 1785. James Barnard. £1.

[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]

2793 19 July 1789. John Mortimer: accidental death. £1.

2794 9 Aug. 1789. James Lyne: natural death. £1.

2795 20 Sept. 1789. Thomas Archard: found drowned in a ditch; accidental death. £1.

2796 21 Sept. 1789. Edward May: found drowned; lunacy. £1.

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 Pinnel: 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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.]

2801 15 Mar. 1768. William Parsons: natural death.
[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.
[*Endorsed*] Thomas Whitehead's child.

APPENDIX

MISSING BILLS

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.

2804 North Wiltshire Bills

<i>Coroner</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Sum allowed</i>	<i>Position</i>
John Clare	Apr.–Oct. 1757	£39 2s. 9d.	After 10
„	Apr.–Oct. 1760	£34 5s. 9d.	After 15
„	Oct. 1760–Apr. 1761	£20 6s.	„
„	Apr.–Oct. 1761	£45 17s.	„
„	Apr.–Oct. 1763	£15 13s. 3d.	After 18
„	Apr.–Oct. 1764	£46 15s. 9d.	After 19
„	Oct. 1769–Apr. 1770	£39 5s.	After 29
William Clare	Oct. 1777–Apr. 1778	£40 19s.	After 44
„	Oct. 1781–Apr. 1782	£42 13s. 6d.	After 51
„	Oct. 1784–Apr. 1785	£57 9s.	After 56
„	Apr.–Oct. 1787	£38 5s. 6d.	After 61
„	July–Oct. 1788	£16 10s.	After 63
„	Oct. 1788–Jan. 1789	£19 11s. 3d.	„
„	Apr.–Oct. 1792	£44 19s. 9d.	After 70
„	Oct. 1792–Jan. 1793	£22 6s. 6d.	„

2805 South Wiltshire Bills

<i>Coroner</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Sum allowed</i>	<i>Position</i>
Alexander Forsyth	Apr. 1787–Apr. 1788	£18 9s. 3d.	After 115
„	Apr. 1788–Apr. 1789	£14 16s. 6d.	„
„	Apr. 1792–Apr. 1793	£26 7s. 9d.	After 118

2806 Corsham Bills

<i>Coroner</i>	<i>Date allowed</i>	<i>Sum allowed</i>	<i>Position</i>
Mr Mitchell	Michaelmas 1754	£1	Before 123
Thomas Mitchell	Michaelmas 1758	£1 1s. 6d.	„

2807 Wootton Bassett Bills

<i>Coroner</i>	<i>Date allowed</i>	<i>Sum allowed</i>	<i>Position</i>
William Brewer	Michaelmas 1764	£1	Before 139
John Eacott	8 Apr. 1777	£1	After 142
Benjamin Franklin	7 Oct. 1794	£1	After 144

INDEX OF PERSONS

Arabic numbers refer to entries, small romans to pages.

The most frequently occurring forenames are represented by the following abbreviations:

Alex	Alexander	Jas	James
Bart	Bartholomew	Jn	John
Ben	Benjamin	Jos	Joseph
Chas	Charles	Kath	Katharine
Chris	Christopher	Lawr	Lawrence
Dan	Daniel	Margt	Margaret
Edm	Edmund	Mic	Michael
Edw	Edward	Nic	Nicholas
Eliz	Elizabeth	Phil	Philip
Fred	Frederick	Ric	Richard
Geo	George	Rob	Robert
Geof	Geoffrey	Rog	Roger
Hen	Henry	Sam	Samuel
Hum	Humphrey	Thos	Thomas
	Wm	William	

Persons with the same surname and forename are distinguished by repetition of the forename.

Abbot (Abbott), Eliz, 1872; Mary, 1297

Abrahams (Abrams), Wm, 1412

A'Court, Wm Pierce Ashe, (later Sir Wm Pierce Ashe A'Court, bt), 1892; JP, bills allowed by, 1618–48, 1748–86, 2060–95

Adams, Geo, 2595; Jos, 516; Mary, 1157; Mary, and her son, 2520; Miriam, 1019; Thos, 1157

Adbury, Alexis, 2760; Thos, 2759

Adlam (Edlum), Francis, 2704; Sarah, 1336; Wm, 2678

Adye, Wm, coroner, xlvi–xlix

Ailesbury (Aylesbury), earl of *see* Brudenell, Thos Bruce

Akerman, Moses, 540

Akers, Jos, xxxix

Aland *see* Alland

Alderton (Elderton), Jas, 1043

Aldridge (Aldrige, Alldridge), Eliz, 953, and her daughter, 933; Rob, 1233

Alexander, Ann, 404; Edw, 2548; Eliz, 2395; Frances, 1243; Lawr, 929; Nathaniel, xxxix; Ric, 704; Rob, 2746; Susannah, 2071; Thos, 944; Thos, 2301; Thos, 2521; Wm, 807

Alford, ..., 2559; Mic, 1619

Alland (Aland), Chas, 1465; Stephen, 596

Alldridge *see* Aldridge

Allen, Chris, 766; Edm, 1384; Jas, 2015; Jn,

Allen—*contd*

2050; Kesiah, 1248; Rob, *alias* Rob Chap, 939

Alley, Thos, 507

Alloway (Elloway), Ric, 1; Wm, 1054

Alsop (Allsup), Chas, 1398

Amor, Mary, 759; Mary, 1452; Mary, and her child, 1704; Wm, 786

Anderson, Martha, and her daughter, 60; Ric, 60

Anderton, Ann, 235; Edw, 235

Andrews, Francis, 1836; Geo, 699; Jn, 2583; Jn, and his mother, 542; Wm, 658

Angel (Angle), Ann, 1323; Wm, 112

Annetts (Annets), Eliz, 1738

Ansty (Anstie), Ric, xxxix

Applegarth, Alex, 965

Applegate, Jas, 1797

Aprice, Jane, 242

Archard, Ann, 1739; Mary, 1089; Thos, 1788; Thos, 2795; *cf.* Orchard

Archel, Thos, 1904

Archer, Hester, 687

Archett, Sarah, and her daughter, 1996

Arlett (Arlet), Aaron, 123; Grace, 123

Armon, Jn, 642; *cf.* Harman

Arnold, David, 1746; Sophia, 48; Thos, 1693

Ash (Ashe), Betty, 1974; Jos, 217

Asher, Ben, 2056; Geo, 2387; Jn, 2457; Rob,

- Asher—*contd*
 801; Thos, 2333
- Ashley (Ashly), Jn, 1414
- Askew, Ferdinand, JP, 798, 949; bills allowed by, 331–47, 580–600, 647–70
- Astins, Dan, 2324
- Astley (Astly), F Dugdale, 1367; JP, bill allowed by, 1461–70
- Atherley (Atherly), Ric, 552
- Atherton, Nathan, xxxiv
- Atwell, Wm, 1244
- Atwood, Sam, 1028
- Austin (Awstin), Harry, 2591
- Awdry, Ambrose, JP, 823; bills allowed by, 877–911, 1035–71;
 J, JP, bills allowed by, 777–812, 912–53, 992–1016, 1152–251, 1406–31, 1719–47, 1840–90, 1985–2059, 2803
- Awstin *see* Austin
- Axford, Grace, 630; Wm, 1610
- Axsom, Rob, 1662
- Axton *see* Exton
- Ayers *see* Eyres
- Ayliffe, Edw, 1178
- Ayres *see* Eyres
- Baber, Jn, 1348
- Bachnall, Wm, 2394
- Bacon, Mary, 779; Rebecca, 779
- Badminton (Badmington), Isaac, 1302; Jn, 675
- Bagg, Jn, 2422
- Baggs, Sarah, 84
- Bailey (Baily, Bayly), Major ..., 246; Eliz, 1668; Geo, 2066; Hen, 1554; Hum, 2366; Jas, 2041; Jas, 2058; Jn, 1241; Jn, 1264; Jn, 1571; Jonathan, 1216; Jos, 711; Martha, and her children, 1698; Mary, 349; Mary, 1115; Mary, 1948; Mary Ann, 1698; Penelope, 2066; Rachel, and her son, 760, 776; Ralph, 1111; Rob, 2780; Sam, 2514; Sarah, 1915; Stephen, 260; Thos, and his children, 1698; Walter, 2418; Wm, 324
- Bailward (Balward), Jn, 277; Jn, (? *same*), 1405
- Baily *see* Bailey
- Baker, Jas, 1971; Jn, 407; Jn, 627; Jn, 2425; Thos, 627; Wm, 1148
- Baldwin, Hen, 1080
- Ball, Edm, 1289; Wm, 585; Wm, 1194–5
- Ballard, Rog, 602; Thos, 2584
- Balward *see* Bailward
- Bancroft, Jas, 1774
- Banks, Jas, 1808; Jos, 1012
- Banning, Ann, 731; Eliz, 2790; Jn, 1470; Mary, and her son, 23
- Bannings, Jn, 511
- Barber, Ric, 159; Thos, 2420
- Barfield, Jn, 1234
- Barford, Wm, JP, bill allowed by, 2461
- Bargeman (Bargman), Thos, 281
- Barnard, Jas, 2792
- Barnes (Barns), Ann, 595; Ann, 2201; Jn, 522; Jn, 1226; Jn, 2088; Rob, 477; Wm, 435
- Barnet (Barnett), Benedict, 589
- Barns *see* Barnes
- Barrett (Barret), Ric, 207; Thos, 1711
- Barry, Jas, 1235
- Barter, Eliz, 2238; Jas, 2455; Jn, 2482; Rob, 794; Thos, 2375
- Bartholomew (Bartholemew), Ric, 905
- Bartlett (Bartlet), Edw, 2619; Gabriel, xxxix; Hester, 2677; Jn, 1537; Martha, and her daughter, 1118; Mary, 1792; Thos, 381; Wm, 1151; Wm, 1439; Wm, 1896
- Barton, Hannah, 1158; Jn, 65
- Basson, Eliz, 1501
- Baston, Christian, 446
- Batchelor, Thos, 2200
- Bath (Bathe), Edm, 264; Wm, 719
- Batson, Thos, JP, bill allowed by, 1–3
- Batt, David, 115; Jos, 1199
- Battern, Wm, 2378
- Baverstock, Ben, 2534; Mary, and her son, 387
- Bayly *see* Bailey
- Bayman, Thos, 2216
- Baynton-Rolt (Bayntun), Andrew, JP, bill allowed by, 1316–42;
 Edw (*later* Sir Edw, bt), 724; JP, 1484, bills allowed by, 45–68, 441–57, 580–600, 2318–27, 2779, 2798
- Beach, Wm, 2198; Wm, 2437; Wm, JP, bill allowed by, 348–70
- Beacham, Hen, 2581
- Beak (Beake), Jn, 272; Wm, 62
- Beal, Geo, 27; Mary, 663
- Beams, Hen, 1667
- Beard, Jas, 1800; Wm, 276
- Beasant *see* Besant
- Beaumont, Geo, 713
- Beaven, Betty, and her daughter, 1024; Rob, 1637; Sam, 1660; Wm, 1789; Wm, 1901
- Beckett, Jn, 2568
- Bedford, Wm, 2597
- Bell, Jn, 2648; Thos, 2782
- Bendall (Bendale), Sarah, 1324; Wm, 566
- Bendry, Jn Thompson, 1486; Thos, 955
- Bendy, Wm, 548
- Bennett (Bennet), Ann, 836; Jas, 503; Jas, 1904; Marsh, 2240; Rob, 1207; Rob, 2385; Thos, 298; Thos, JP, bill allowed

- Bennett—*contd*
 by, 2226–32; Wm, 1057; Wm, 2702
- Berkshire (Barkshire), earls of *see*
 Howard
- Berriman, Abraham, 479
- Berry, Francis, 25; Jn, 2396
- Besant (Beasant), Jn, 770; Wm, 399
- Best, Betty, and her daughter, 2461
- Bethell (Bethel), Lydia, 1701
- Bewley, Jas, 510; Thos, 510
- Bicknell, Jn, 335
- Biddlecombe (Biddlecomb), Wm, 2248
- Biffin, Dan, 482
- Bigg (*later* Bigg Wither), Lovelace, JP, 1521;
 bills allowed by, 1152–82, 1286–315,
 2788, 2793–6
- Biggleston, Jane, 55
- Biggs, Jn, 1445–6; Jn, 2278; Rob, 1481
- Bigwood, Sam, 972; Wm, 347
- Birchall (Burchall, Burchell), Hannah, 691;
 Jn, 1152; Ric, 427
- Bird, Lawr, 738; Lucy, 1985; Wm, 268
- Bishop, Ann, 672; Jas, 1497; Jn, 656; Jn,
 2339; Rob, jun, 1831
- Bisley, Edw, 1674
- Blair (Blare), Ben, 1677
- Blake, Chas, 2338; Geo, 2120; Hen, 884; Jn,
 1918; Jn, 2127; Jn, 2632; Jos, 2571; Thos,
 765
- Blanch, Ric, 421
- Blare *see* Blair
- Blizzard, Ric, 897
- Blondel, Lydia, 2190
- Blundy, Jn, 572
- Bolton (Boulton), Grace, 1217, 1251; Mary,
 209
- Bond, Geo, 1420; Isaac, 1529; Jas, 2222; Jn,
 45; Wm, 592
- Bonfield, Jn, 1686
- Booth, Wm, 2044
- Borrow *see* Burrough
- Boulter, Christian, 1859; Sarah, 1859
- Boulton *see* Bolton
- Bourfort, Ben, 2251
- Bourne (Bourn), Wm, 339
- Bourton *see* Burton
- Bowden, Mary, 304; Ric, excise officer, 941
- Bower, Jn, 1476; Wm, 586
- Bowles, Wm, JP, bills allowed by, 2496–512,
 2545–85; Wm, jun, JP, bills allowed by,
 2545–61, 2586–652, 2696–732
- Box, Betty, 1034; Edw, 163; Thos, 1256
- Boyer, Thos, 1058
- Bracher, Mary, 2356
- Brackstone, Ann, 1866
- Bradford, Capt. 2158; Cornelius, 2038;
 Ric, 735
- Braine, Edw, 1702
- Brewer, family, xlvii; Thos, 1386; Wm,
 coroner, xxxvii n, xlvii, 2807; Wm, jun,
 xxxvii n
- Brickell (Brickel), Rob, 333
- Bridgeman (Bridgman), Thos, 174
- Bridges, Wm, 1875
- Bridgman *see* Bridgeman
- Bridle, Ric, 1669
- Bright, Wm, 576
- Brind, Thos, 374
- Brinkworth, Rob, 224; Wm, 1803
- Briscoe, Jn, 1775
- Broad, Rob, 949
- Brockway (Brokway), Jas, 2605
- Brodie, P B, clerk, JP, 1708; bills allowed by,
 1787–839, 2653–67, 2747–58
- Bromfield, David, 2492; Ezekiel, 1200
- Brokway *see* Brockway
- Brookes, Geo, 1906
- Brookman, Jn, 418; Jn, 2331
- Broom, 1042
- Brough (Bruff), Rob, 2498
- Brown, Alice, 2071; Ann, 69; Ann, 2686;
 Chas, 284; Edw, 2561; Hen, 2067; Hen,
 2687; Jas, 714; Jas, 2673; Jane, 2071; Jn,
 5; Jn, 632; Jn, 2134; Jos, 1814; Mary,
 221; Oliver, 165; Ric, 869; Ric, 1718;
 Rob, 444; Thos, 83; Thos, 514; Thos,
 706; Thos, 2688; Wm, 111; Wm, 1069
- Brownjohn, Thos, 2736
- Brudenell, Thos Bruce, earl of Ailesbury,
 1018
- Bruff *see* Brough
- Brunson, Eliz, 1122
- Bryant, Ann, 1061; Chas, 1914; Hen, 2611;
 Rebecca, 811; Sam, 1492; Wm, 215;
 Wm, 563
- Buck, Wm, 350
- Buckland, Jn, 678; Sarah, 1295
- Buckle, Mary, 343
- Buckler, Wm, JP, bill allowed by, 2302–17
- Buckley (Buckly), Eliz, 1970; Martha, 921;
 Sarah, 1970; Thos, 487
- Bull, Francis, 1822; Grace, 1810–12; Hen,
 2622; Isaac, 2072; Mary, 1860
- Buller, Jn, 2141
- Bullock, Jas, 134
- Bundy, Sarah, 1953
- Bungay (Bungey), Wm, 2475
- Burbage, Jas, 1512; Mary, 1044
- Burchall, Burchell *see* Birchall
- Burden, Ric, 1830
- Burgess (Burges), Betty, 1828; Jas, 2690;
 Jane, 2074; Mary, 231; Sarah, 2167
- Burke, Mic, 2453
- Burley, Sarah, 504

- Burnell, Sarah, 660
 Burnett, Geo, 2445; Geo, 2649; Jos, 805
 Burpitt (Burpitt), Jn, 2010
 Burrough (Borrow. Burrow), Jas, 2224; Jas, 2403
 Burt, Eliz, 467; Hannah, 2321; Jas, 1949
 Burton (Bourton), Hen, 70; Johnson, 498; Sarah, 1907; Wm, 2239
 Bush, Jas, 1185
 Buss, Francis, 1424
 Butcher, Jane, 160; Jn, 425; Jos, 1438
 Butler, Ann, and her son, 495; Jas, 814; Jn, 639; Jn, 2659; Ric, 1399
 Butt, Francis, 1228; Jn, 2244; Sam, 1699
 Buxton, Rob Jn, JP, bill allowed by, 1252–85
 Bythesea, Jn, JP, 514; bill allowed by, 148–74

 Cains *see* Keynes
 Calley, ..., 1615
 Cam, Sam, JP, 878; bills allowed by, 813–47, 1123–51, 1471–502
 Cambridge, Rob, 2380
 Cameron, Geo, 940
 Candy, Jas, 2764
 Cane, Rob, 2430
 Cannings (Canings), Thos, 1536
 Cape, Mary, 808
 Card, Nic, 2112; Wm, 2210
 Carington *see* Carrington
 Carpenter, Edw, 1619, 1647; Jas, 489; Jas, 896; Jas, 1771; Phyllis, 1619, 1647; Sarah, 2329; Thos, 792
 Carr, Edw, 536; Jn, 1092; Solomon, 2012
 Carrier, Wm, 2626
 Carrington (Carington), Thos, 29
 Carter, Ambrose, 2510; Ben, 1624; Edw, 483; Jas, 2770; Oliver, coroner, xvii, 2800–1; Oliver, (? *same*), xvii n; Thos, 802; Thos, 1068; Wm, 2656; Zebulen, 1932
 Case, Wm, 2415
 Castleman, Mary, 2142
 Caswell, Jas, 1563
 Cecil (Secel), Rob, 447; Susannah, 447
 Chadwell (Shadwell), Jas, 927
 Chaffin, Jn, 1037
 Chalke (Chalk), Kath, 2170; David, 2100; Mary, 2100
 Chamberlain, Jn, 2022; Sarah, 1337
 Chamberland, Jn, 53
 Chandler, Adam, 1428; Diana, 248; Jos, xxxix; Lawr, 869; Sam, 453; Thos, 2046; Wm, 1479; Wm, 1547
 Chant, Jas, 2456; Jn, 2361
 Chap *alias* Allen, Rob, 939
 Chapallen, Sarah, 1924
 Chapman (Shapman), Eliz, 170; Hen, 1030; Hen, 1076; Ric, 716; Ric, 787; Wm, 1537

 Chappell (Chappel), Jn, 562
 Chaster *see* Chester
 Checker, Checquer *see* Chequer
 Chedworth, lord *see* Howe, Hen Fred
 Cheeseman, Thos, 1565
 Chequer (Checker, Checquer), Jn, 187; Wm, 1133
 Chester (Chaster), Chas, 635
 Chesterman, Thos, 1742
 Chiffence, Edw, and his mother, 902
 Chislet, Wm, 2724
 Chivers, Dan, 541; Dan, 624; Eliz, 1934; Hen, 317; Hillier, 1934; Hum, 1463; Jas, 1008; Jas, 2002; Jane, 1934; Thos, 316–17
 Choseley (Chosly), Jos, 2671
 Chown, Jn, 2706
 Church, Hester, 1885; Isaac, and his wife, 1558; Jn, 793; Jos, and his father, 891; Margt, 1933; Mary, 1041; Wm, 1143; Wm, 2006
 Churchill (Churchil), Thos, 2281
 Clack, Wm, 1255
 Clapham, Grace, 885
 Clare, Jn, coroner, xxx nn, xxxiv, xxxvi, xxxix–xlvi, xlviii, lii, 4–687, 2346, 2804; administrators of, xxxiv; Rob, xli n, xlix, 1482; Thos, 789; Wm, coroner, xxx n, xxxii–xxxiv, xxxvi, xl–xlvi, xlviii–xlix, li–lii, liv, 688–2095, 2804
 Clarendon, earl of, *see* Villiers, Thos
 Clargo, Eleanor, 1524; Thos, 1524
 Clark (Clarke), ..., 2039; Ambrose, 496; Ann, 1540; Hopeful, 1164; Jas, 110; Mary, 1540; R Ashe, JP, 444, 470; Sam, jun, 1125; Sam, sen, 1125; Wm, 1616
 Classet, Jn, 2523
 Claverford, Jn, 2011
 Claxton, Jos, 1721
 Clay, Thos, 1023
 Clement, Chas, 2511
 Clements, Alice, 1653; Ann, 1909; Hannah, and her son, 1726; Hen, 578; Jn, 1689
 Cleverley (Cleverly), Jn, 294; Jn, 1550
 Clifford, Jemima, 1729; Jn, 1299; Jn, 1556; Simon, and his grandmother, 1145; Thos, 223
 Clift, Jn, 1868
 Cockey, Rob, 269
 Cockle, Jas, 1801; Wm, 1617
 Codrington, ..., 1615
 Cogshill, Wm, 721
 Colbourn, Wm, 108
 Cole (Coole), Hannah, 1159; Jacob, and his mother, 1947; Jn, 1156; Jos, 846; Jos, 1035; Mary, 608; Mary, jun, 608
 Coleman, Mary, 1591

- Coles, Jn, 279; Sarah, 2363; Wm, 2255
 Collens *see* Collins
 Collier (Coller), Hester, 121
 Collingbourne (Collingbourn), Jn, and his father, 1588
 Collins (Collens), Hen, 514; Jn, 1367; Rob, 2185; Susannah, 2369; Thos, 2426
 Colston (Colstone), Ann, 819
 Colton, B, JP, bills allowed by, 2711–46
 Comely (Comley, Comly), Wm, 449; Wm, (? *same*), 457; Wm, 2400
 Compton, Jean, 2384; Jos, 1601
 Conduit (Conditt), Sarah, 2562
 Coney, Connor, 2453
 Cook, Eliz, 2580; Geo, 1977; Jane, 1644; Jn, 89; Jn, 932; Jn, 1837; Mary, 938; Wm, 1798
 Cookman, Thos, 2489
 Coole *see* Cole
 Coombe (Coomb), Margt, 2381
 Coombes (Coombs), Jas, 2235; Jas, 2674
 Cooper, Jas, 2734; Jn, 360; Jn, 904; Jn, 2214; Jn, 2410; Jos, 2021; Jos, 2435; Martha, 57; Solomon, 730; Solomon, 1260; Thos, 2121; Wm, 1483; Wm, 1843
 Cope, Mary, 743; Rob, 1471
 Corbett, Jn, 1422
 Costard, Jn, 2280
 Cott, Jn, 469
 Cousins (Cousens), Lucy, 389
 Coward, Jos, 2286; Thos, 994
 Cowdrey (Cowdry), Stephen, 2231
 Cowley, Jn, 974; Olive, 1590
 Cox, Edw, 778; Hen, 1817; Jn, 1675; Jn, and his father, 1318; Leonard, 584; Mary, 1807; Ric, 1820; Thos, 1282; Thos, 2707; Wm, 1308; Wm, 1378–9
 Crambe (Cram), Sarah, and her son, 1353
 Crane, Ric, 2603
 Crasswell (Crasswel), Thos, 2242
 Creed, Mary, 2135
 Creek, Jn, 2700
 Cresby, David, 1882
 Crews (Crewes. Cruse), Jn, 2733; Rob, 64
 Crisp, Thos, 1681
 Cromwell, Jas, 2359
 Crook, Jas, 2703; Jn, 677; Jn, 863; Ric, 1502; Thos, 864; Wm, 1936
 Croombe, Sarah, 1430
 Croombes (Croombs), Rob, 1864
 Cross, Mary, 1007; Rob, 2049; Thos, 970
 Crouch, Ann, 2107; Jeremiah, 2737; Jn, 1490; Sarah, 2462
 Cruse *see* Crews
 Cuff, Jas, 1895
 Cullis, Jos, 152
 Cully, Eliz, 1202; Thos, 997
 Culverhouse, Mary, 569
 Cumming (Cummyne), Jn, 2305
 Curnick, Eliz, 1166; Jas, 840
 Currant, Jas, 1174
 Curse, Jonathan, 1006; *cf.* Cuss
 Curtells *alias* Curtis, Jn, 2303
 Curtis, Hen, 1770; Jn, and his wife and children, 1491; Jn, *alias* Jn Curtells, 2303; Joyce, 648
 Cush, Sam, 2145
 Cuss, Jn, 385; Rob, 829; *cf.* Curse
 Cutbeard, Rob, 133
 Cutting, Nathaniel, 801
 Cutts, Mary, 1257
 Dainton, Eleanor, 1495; Wm, 1231
 Daintry, Rob, 1400
 Dalimear, Dalmer *see* Delamere
 Daniel, Edm, Ludgershall parish officer, 654; Jn, 351; Martha, 682; Wm, 1538
 Daniels, Geo, 728; Jn, 1356
 Dann, Ric, 1232
 Darey, Patrick, 2646
 Dark, Lucy, 2788
 Darley (Darly), Jn, 1911
 Darling (Darlin), Wm, 980
 Dart, Jn, 2365
 Dashwood, Rob, 2289
 Davis (Daviss), Eliz, 2391; Frances, 438; Geo, 1777; Hen, 290; Jas, 1390; Jas, 2326; Jas, 2664; Jane, 330; Jn, 359; Jos, 1460; Martha, 1980; Ric, 567; Rob, 1710; Thos, 715; Wm, 2524
 Daws, Wm, 1937
 Day, ..., 1737; Wm, 2221; Wm, 2766
 Daycock, Wm, 771
 Deacon, Esau, 1730
 Dean (Den), Wm, 75
 Dear, Edw, 2116; Eleanor, 258
 Delamere (Dalimear, Dalmer), Ann, 1751; Thos, 1265
 De Lander, Lewis, 1014
 Den *see* Dean
 Dench, Jn, 2572
 Dennis, Jos, 1912
 Dereham (Derham), Edw, 1170
 Derrett (Derret), Sarah, 1743
 Deverill (Deverell), Wm, 1564, 1569
 Deville (Devill), Thos, 173
 Dew, Ben, 2535; Jn, 1894
 Dewdney (Doudney), Mary, 1328
 Dibben, Wm, 2148
 Dickenson, Bernard (Barnet), 1803, 2025
 Dickett (Dicket), Jos, 2713
 Dicketts, Jos, 767
 Dicks, Dan, 2287; Edw, and his parents, 1085; Isaac, 1685; Thos, 988

- Dickson (Dizon), Jn, 995; Ric, 2665; Thos, 214
 Dike *see* Dyke
 Dikeman *see* Dykeman
 Dimmory, Paul, 1665
 Dizon *see* Dickson
 Dobbs, Wm, 531
 Dobson, Nic, 2175
 Dodd, Jn, 1131
 Dodkey (Todkey), Ann, 2302; Moses, 2313
 Doel *see* Dole
 Dogan *see* Dougan
 Doggett (Dogget), Thos, 1016
 Dole (Doel), Jane, 1573; Wm, 1390, 2589
 Dolman (Dolmon), Geo, 755
 Dory, Thos, 668
 Doudney *see* Dewdney
 Dougan (Dogan), Hen, 2478
 Doughty, Eliz, 2479
 Doust, Jn, 182
 Dove, Wm, 2722
 Dovey, Mary, 177
 Dowden, Chas, 1103
 Dowdle, Jos, 950
 Dowell, Jn, 43
 Dowling, Wm, 2566
 Down, Patience, 2714; Wm, 2620
 Drake, Thos, 1881
 Drankard *see* Drunkard
 Draper, Jn, 1123
 Dredge, Chas, 2669; Deborah, 2660; Job, 1672; Moses, 2542
 Drew, Edw, 2334; Jn, 93; Jn, 1418; Martha, 1219; Mary, 1219; Mary, 1707; Susannah, 661; Thos, 661; Wm, 377; Wm, 398
 Drewett, Jn, 681
 Drinkwater, Wm, 383
 Drunkard (Drankard), Sarah, 2335
 Duck, Jn, 1484; Thos, 544
 Duffy, Wm, 2627
 Dummer (Dumer), Jas, 1366; Jn, 1697
 Dunn, Jn, 119; Thos, 2610
 Durnford, Jn, 1671; Jn, 2087; Leonard, 36; Martha, 2024; Wm, 2047
 Durrell (Durrel) *alias* Gater, Wm, 777
 Dyer, Jas, 94; Jn, 1180; Ric, 2508; Sam, 2798
 Dyke (Dike), Geo, 734; Jason, 1650; Jn, 786
 Dykeman (Dikeman), Arthur, 1425
- Eacott, family, xlvii;
 Jn, coroner, xxxiv, xlvii, 2807; agent of, xxxiv
 Eaden *see* Eden
 Eades *see* Edes
 Eally *see* Ely
 Earl (Earle), Ann, 1535; Wm, JP, bills
 Earl—*contd*
 allowed by, 2777–8
 Earnley (Earnly), Arthur, 2681
 Easington (Esington), Walter, 362
 Eastmead, Thos, 1833
 Eatwell (Etwal), Sarah, and her daughter, 49; Wm, 673
 Eden (Eaden), Edw, 623; Jn, 41; Jos, 61; Jos, 267
 Edes (Eades), Jas, 2460; Mary, 1829
 Edgecombe (Edgcomb), Elias, 1804
 Edgell, Jas, 1310
 Edlum *see* Adlam
 Edmunds, Giles, 2076; Rob, 647; Rog, 1534; Thos, 1938
 Edridge, Jn, 1750
 Edward, Jn, jun, 916
 Edwards, Mr ..., 943; Dan, 2789; Eliz, 1722; Geo, 733; Geo, 1218; Isaac, 1107; Joan, 733; Mark, 124; Mary, 920; Thos, 235; Thos, (? *same*), 798; Wm, 2117
 Elderton *see* Alderton
 Elgar, Jn, 355
 Elkins, Ric, 2550
 Ellery (Ellary), Jos, 1493
 Ellick, Jas, 960
 Elliott (Elliot), Edw, 1892; Jn, 1239
 Ellis, Jas, 7; Jn, 665
 Ellison (Ellisson), Ric, 1831; Sarah, 142
 Elloway *see* Alloway
 Elmes, Mary, 2065; *cf.* Helmes
 Eltham, Jas, jun, 1082–3; Mary, 1082
 Ely (Eally), Jn, 2428; Mary, 2266; Sarah, 1396
 Emblin (Embling), Jeremiah, 788; Jn, 2084
 End, Wm, 232
 Esington *see* Easington
 Estcourt, Thos, JP, bills allowed by, 1840–90
 Ettrel, Thos, 934
 Etwal *see* Eatwell
 Evans (Evens), Mic, 2184; Wm, 164; *cf.* Heavens
 Eve, Ric, 2621
 Evens *see* Evans
 Everett (Everet), Chas, 2650; Geof, 1000; Wm, 832, 835; Wm, (? *same*), 1771
 Everleigh (Everly), Thos, 1494
 Ewens, Wm, 659
 Exton (Axton), Emy, 2588; Jn, 1240
 Eyeels, Eyeels *see* Eyles
 Eyers *see* Eyres
 Eyles (Eyeels, Eyles), Jn, 722; Mary, 509; Rob, 804; Thos, 424; Thos, 1214; Thos, 1612
 Eyre, Jn, 2543; Sam, JP, bill allowed by, 2241–56
 Eyres (Ayers, Ayres, Eyers), Adam, 2070;

- Eyres—*contd*
 Jn, 1272; Wm, 430
- Farley, Thos, 2743
- Farr, Jn, 1967; Wm, 1245
- Farrow (Farroe), Dan, 1368
- Fay, Mary, 2762
- Felter, Geo, 1874
- Feltham, Martha, 2505; Sam, 2312; Thos, 2441; Wm, 20
- Fennel (Fennell), Jn, 741; Mary, 693
- Ferris, Edm, 1887; Jn, 240; Jn, 966; Jn, 1387; Ric, 240; Rob, 1355; Thos, 1373; Thos, 2654; Thos, sen, 964; Wm, 1437
- Fewell, Ric, 2404
- Fiddler (Fidler), Rhoda, and her husband, 2027
- Field, Jas, 1506; Wm, 8
- Fielding, Jn, 967
- Fillis, Jonathan, 1689
- Finch, Ann, 968
- Finer, Jas, 1177
- Fisher, Eliz, 1504
- Fitchew, Jn, 388
- Fleetwood, Mary, and her son, 512
- Fleming (Flemming), Jn, 2270; Nic, 2243; Thos, 366
- Fletcher, Sam, 2003
- Flower, Edm, 646; Phil, 701; Sam, 604; Stephen, 2357; Wm, 674; Wm, 1208
- Flowers, Geo, 667
- Folkes, Austin, 1132
- Ford, Ann, 610; Eliz, 1572; Jn, 1532; Jn, 1635; Jn, 2207; Jn, 2257; Jn, 2268; Jn, 2393; Wm, 766; Wm, 2355
- Forder, Thos, 2628
- Forster, Sam, 2495
- Forsyth, Alex, 1142, 1346, 1827; coroner, xxxiii–xxxiv, xxxvi, xli, xliii, xlv–xlvi, xlviii–l, liv, 2302–746, 2805; Alex, jun, xxxiv, 1
- Foster, Jas, 2267; Jas, 2545
- Fowle, Edw, 2516
- Fowler, Ric, 1430; Thos, 1511; Wm, 355
- Fox, Jn, 2093; Thos, 1029
- Foyle, Hen, 1987; Sam, 2318
- Frampton (Framton), Jn, 2096
- Francis, Eliz, 527; Mary, and her daughter, 2773; Sam, 2526
- Francklin *see* Franklin
- Francombe (Frankombe), Jn, 384
- Franklin (Franklin), Ben, coroner, xxxv, xlvii, 2807; Eliz, and her father, 1690; Jn, 2596; Rob, 1989
- Francombe *see* Francombe
- Freemantle, Jn, 1663; Sarah, 2747
- Freke, Wm, JP, bill allowed by, 204–22
- French, Chas, 2540; Rob, 280
- Frieker, Edw, 2105; Edw, 2693; Eliz, 2213; Hen, 2518; Jas, 1267; Jn, 2213; Walter, 2213
- Frith, Ann, 255
- Frost, Thos, 2223; Wm, 2517
- Fry, Ann, and her son, 1060; Anna, and her son, 774, 812; Hen, 1165; Geof, 1210; Jn, 2576; Jos, 165; Jos, 451; Martha, and her daughter, 1595; Ric, 881
- Fryers, Jn, 2153
- Fue, Wm, 1162
- Fulbrook (Fullbrook), Ric, 2325
- Fulford, Ann, 2187
- Fullbrook *see* Fulbrook
- Fussell, Jos, 2043
- Fustain, Sarah, and her daughter, 959
- Futcher, Stephen, 2692
- Gale, Farmer ..., 644; Ann, 942; Eliz, and her daughter, 1575; Hen, 686; Jonathan, 1794; Mary, 1056; Thos, 909; Thos, 2256
- Gamble, Wm, 236
- Gamblin, Jn, 720
- Gane, Wm, 1136
- Gardener (Gardiner, Gardner), Wm, 506; Wm, 1294
- Garlick, Jn, 1508
- Garrett (Garret, Gerret), Hen, 666; Jas, 219; Jn, 2552; Ric, 1004; Wm, 1455; Wm, (? *same*), 1956; Wm, 2314; *cf.* Gorrett
- Garroway, Ann, 2081
- Garth, Chas, JP, bills allowed by, 848–76, 1103–22; Jn, JP, 161; bills allowed by, 80–101, 204–22
- Gater, Mary, 473; Rog, Ludgershall parish officer, 654; Wm, *alias* Wm Durrell, 777
- Gatree, Jos, 2219
- Gauntlett, Thos, 1654
- Gay, Mary, 1960; Mic, 478; Thos, 471
- Geile, Jn, 497; *cf.* Guile
- George, Ann, 459; Ann, (*another*), 459; Francis, 1385; Thos, 56; Wm, 2777
- Gerret *see* Garrett
- Gerrish, Ric, 1551
- Gibbons (Gibbence), Wm, 1754; Wm, 1816
- Gibbs, Revd ..., 1888; Christian, 226; Gaisford, 1680; Jn, 882; Jn, 1274; Jos, 1363; Rob, 2778; Susan, 2705; Wm, 1627
- Gibson, Wm, 386; *cf.* Gipson
- Giddings, Ann, 1171; Ric, 1568
- Gifford (Giffard), Eliz, 265
- Gilbert, Jas, 1826; Nic, 1509; Rob, 1888
- Giles, Jn, 2042; Thos, 1972
- Gillman, Ric, 826

- Gingell (Gingle), Jas, 484; Jn, 1747; Wm, 1105
- Gipson, Wm, 2158; *cf.* Gibson
- Gishford, Wm, 2775
- Glade (Gleade), Isaac, 1183; Jane, 817; Matthew, 1507
- Glass, Jn, 1374; Wm, 2083; Wm, and his wife, 1374
- Gleade *see* Glade
- Glyn, Mary, 2485
- Godby, Jn, 854
- Goddard, Ambrose, JP, bills allowed by, 1252–85, 1343–72, 1461–70; Dan, 524–5; Edw, JP, bills allowed by, 175–203, 223–42, 268–330, 391–425, 744–76, 1072–102, 2096–109
- Godden, Jas, 1762
- Godsell (Godsel), Jas, 954; Jn, 181; Martha, and her son, 1155; Sarah, 181
- Godwin (Goodwin), Ann, 491; David, 1505; Geo, 722; Jas, 1577; Jn, 662; Jn, 977; Mary, 945; Mary, 1079; Nathaniel, 1036; Rachel, 1402; Susannah, 128; Wm, *or* Wm Gooding, 2797
- Golding (Goulding), Jn, 2075; Rob, 836
- Gollidge (Gollidge), Wm, 13
- Goodfellow, Jn, 561; Jn, 2433; Wm, 2451
- Gooding *or* Godwin, Wm, 2797
- Goodwin *see* Godwin
- Gore, Phoebe, and her son, 1566; Thos, and his son, 1566
- Gorrett (Gorret), Jos, 2486
- Gosling, Jos, 1472
- Gough, Rob, 1604; Rob, 2699
- Gould, Ric, 1097
- Goulding *see* Golding
- Gowen, Hester, 1728
- Gower, countess *see* Leveson-Gower, Mary
- Grafton (Gratton), Jean, and her daughter, 2525
- Graham, Alex, 2204
- Grandier, Ann, 179
- Granet, Jn, 2497
- Granger, Ann, 1623; Jn, 1806; Wm, 1717
- Grant, Betty, 1749; Mary, and her son, 615; Paul, 365; Wm, 46
- Gratton *see* Grafton
- Gravell (Gravel), Mary, 2169
- Gray *see* Grey
- Greatwood, Eliz, 2464
- Green, Eliz, 1778; Geo, 2091; Jas, 2592; Job, 1899; Jn, 1510; Martha, 1857; Mary, 1138; Noah, 1778; Sam, 878; Thos, 2767; Wm, 291; Wm, 773; Wm, 2738
- Greenaway, Thos, 109; Wm, 244
- Greenfield (Grinfield), Jas, 2647
- Greenland, Ann, 594; Matthew, 450; Ric, 707
- Greenman, Mary, 923
- Greenwood, Mary, 1275
- Gregory, Ann, 533; Francis, 1011; Jn, 533; Jos, 1999
- Grey (Gray), Abraham, 1458; Ann, 2179; Ann, and her son, 1059; Geo, 2631; Geo, 2720; Jacob, 1632; Jn, 1347; Jn, 2613; Mary, 2640; Thos, 472
- Griffin, Jn, 599; Rob, 2389
- Griffiths (Griffis), Francis, 310; Thos, 395; Thos, 1383
- Grinfield *see* Greenfield
- Grist, Geo, 1625
- Grobetti, Ben, 1745
- Groom, Chas, 554
- Grubbe, T H, JP, bills allowed by, 348–70, 490–525, 671–90
- Guest, Harry, 521
- Guile, Eliz, 2624; *cf.* Geile
- Guire *see* Guyer
- Gulliver (Guliver), Jn, 200; Jn, (? *same*), 2444; Wm, 200
- Gum, Jos, 1520
- Gun *see* Gunn
- Gundry, Wm, 1963
- Gunn (Gun), Jas, 1782
- Gunning, Caleb, 1943; Jas, 899
- Guyer (Guire), Jn, 101
- Hackett (Hacket), Sarah, 1277; Stephen, 1277
- Hackler, Wm, 249
- Haggard, Hen, 550; Mary, 156
- Hailstone, Mary, 494
- Haines, Hains *see* Haynes
- Halcomb *see* Holcombe
- Hale, Ann, and her daughter, 274; Jn, 1735; Thos, 1787; Wm, 3
- Hall, Jas, 1395; Mary, 1144; Rob, 1599; Sam, 1370; Thos, 1212; Thos, 1268
- Hallett (Hallet, Hellet), Edw, 2458; Thos, 2128
- Halliday, Rebecca, 328
- Halling, Jane, 101
- Hallyhar, ..., 2578
- Hambleton, Sam, 526
- Hamblin, Wm, 979
- Hammonds (Hamons), Jas, 782
- Hamms *see* Hams
- Hamons *see* Hammonds
- Hams (Hamms), Jn, 28
- Hancock (Handcock), Hester, 1499; Sarah, and her son, 1834
- Hand, Thos, 745
- Handcock *see* Hancock
- Hanham, Naomi, 518
- Harbet, Thos, 216

- Hardiman (Hardyman). Walter, JP, bill allowed by, 601-29
- Harding, Chas, 307; Giles, 2260; Hannah, 1116; Jas, 1839, and his son, 1827; Jas, 1870; Jane, and her son, 1827; Jn, 420; Mary, 375; Mary, 842; Paul, 1457; Paul, 1678; Thos, 2272
- Hardyman *see* Hardiman
- Hare, Mary, 2501
- Harman, Jn, 2288; *cf.* Armon
- Harnham (Hornham), Mary, 873
- Harper, Kath, lii, 11; Thos, 2579
- Harring *see* Herring
- Harris, Bernard, 2220; Edw, 445; Eliz, 1992; Hen, 1841; Jas, 183; Jas, 1149; Obadiah, 1050; Ric, 270; Ric, 1459; Thos, 199; Thos, 1813
- Harrison, Hen, 2513
- Hartford, Chas, 369
- Harvey, Elias, 1771; Isaac, 848, 851; Jn, 636; Mary, 613; Mary, 2564
- Harwood, Jn, 553
- Hasle *see* Hazel
- Hat *see* Hatt
- Hathaway (Hathoway). Betty, 1217, 1251; Jn, 816
- Hatt (Hat), Mary, 1189; Wm, 520
- Hatter, Jos, 1496
- Hawkes, Ben, 1788
- Hawkins, Ann, 160; Hen, 887; Jas, 1562; Jn, 151; Jn, 2802; Ric, 160; Sarah, 2004; Wm, 2802
- Hawley (Hawly), Gen., 2154
- Haydon (Hayden), Wm, 815
- Hayes, Hen, 698; Ric, 1878
- Haynes (Haines, Hains), Jos, 10; Jos, 1937; Rob, 2675; Wm, 867; Wm, 1578
- Hayter, Christian, 1134; Eve, 2575; Hen, 2215; Jn, 2577; Jos, 2372; Wm, 2121
- Hayward, Abraham, 2439; Ben, 322; Dan, 1688; Geo, 2246; Jn, 196; Phil, 241; Ric, 266; Rob, xxxix; Susannah, 197; Thos, 1429; Wm, 440; Wm, 918; Wm, 1372; Wm, 2641
- Hazel (Hasle), Jas, 2465
- Hazeland, Thos, 1826
- Head, Wm, 1820
- Hearn *see* Hern
- Hearst, Edw, JP, bill allowed by, 2271-87
- Heath (Hearth), Ann, 63; Chas, 2765; Eliz, 1646; Joan, 92; Thos, 1127; Wm, 571; Wm, 1181
- Heathcote (Heathcot), Hen, 2131
- Heavens, Sam, 1331; *cf.* Evans
- Hedges, Ann, 2051; Grace, and her daughter, 984; Hen, 1954; Jn, 1112; Rob, 2111; Thos, JP, 449, 869; bills allowed by, Hedges—*contd*
371-90, 426-40, 458-89, 526-49, 722-43, 744-76, 912-91, 1017-34, 2799;
Wm, 2785
- Hele, Mary, 2315
- Hellet *see* Hallett
- Helmes, Wm, 2343; *cf.* Elmes
- Helps, Martha, 906
- Hemington, Jn, 2616
- Hender, Wm, 341; *cf.* Hinder
- Hendy, Edw, 874
- Heneage *see* Walker-Heneage
- Henley, Ric, sen, 2802
- Henwood, Gideon, 2130
- Heritage (Heretage), Thos, 517
- Hern (Hearn), Alice, 68; Dorothy, 657; Ric, 1046; Thos, 2177
- Herring (Harring), Thos, 845; Thos, 2386; Wm, 611
- Herrington, Hannah, 2249
- Heslop, Ben, 422
- Hewlett, Stephen, 376
- Hibbard, Mary, 1102; Ric, 455; Sarah, 31
- Hicks, Jn, 1397; Jos, 254; Mic, 1270
- Higgins, Ann, 1371; Edw, 499; Margt, 1417; Thos, 1448
- Hill, Betty, 1724; Betty, 2028; Jn, 2658; Jn Coventry, 218; Kath, and her daughter, 1142; Sarah, 55; Wm, 1576
- Hillier, Geo, 1161; Rob, 1879; Wm, xxxix
- Hinder, Jn, 2652; Matthew, 1268; *cf.* Hender
- Hindon, Jane, 824; Sam, 2014
- Hinge, Jas, 872
- Hinton, Jas, 1411; Wm, 835
- Hippesly, Rob, 1661
- Hiscock *see* Hitchcock
- Hiscox *see* Hitchcocks
- Hitchcock (Hiscock), Alice, and her son, 432; Eleanor, 2784; Jas, 1824; Joan, 432; Jn, 175; Jos, 2054; Phil, 1522; Thos, 1436; Wm, 167; Wm, 1629
- Hitchcocks (Hiscox), Thos, 1897
- Hoare, Giles, 85
- Hobbs, Jas, 947; Jn, 396; Jn, 1880
- Hodges, Hen, 146; Mary, 2586; Thos, 2586
- Hodson, Rog, 1454
- Holbrook, Jn, 1620
- Holcombe (Halcomb, Holcomb), Ric, 2189; Wm, 1510
- Holdaway, Ann, 2493
- Holder, Sam, 772
- Holliday, Thos, 314
- Hollister, Wm, 1939
- Holloway, Gabriel, 1541; Wm, 345; Wm, 1350; Wm, 1481
- Holmes (Holms), Ric, 2800

- Holton, Thos, 852
 Holwell, Jas, 1182
 Hood, Arthur, 1278
 Hooper, Jn, 206; Jn, 1321; Ric, 1194; Wm, 1784; Wm, 2639
 Hopgood, Edw, 620; Jn, 230
 Hopkins, Ann, 593; Jn, 626; Mary Ann, 2033; Thos, 1553; Thos, 1652; Wm, 1086
 Horne, Ric, 1094; Rob, 1766
 Hornham *see* Harnham
 Horred, Mary, 2645
 Horseman, Jn, 1306
 Horsey, Wm, 2164
 Horsington, Barnabas, 460
 Hort, Stephen, 2491
 House, Jn, 363
 How *see* Howe
 Howard, Hen, earl of Suffolk and Berkshire, 472; Jn, earl of Suffolk [and Berkshire], 1485
 Howe (How), Edw, 2183; Hen Fred, Baron Chedworth, 449
 Howell, Abel, 1516; Jas, 853
 Huckeridge, Margt, 733
 Hudd, Eleanor, and her daughter, 1346; Jas, 769; Wm, 1659
 Hudson, Jas, 1184
 Hughes (Hughs), Alex, 1605; Jas, 1542; Thos, 850; Wm, 1070
 Hulbert, Geo, 1462; Jas, 1969; Susannah, 123
 Hull, Alex, 1249; Eleanor, 1655
 Humby, Hen, 2174; Jn, 1002
 Humphries (Humphiries, Humphrys), Eliz, 2197; Sarah, 54; Stephen, 2776
 Hungerford, G, JP, bill allowed by, 80–101
 Hunt, Ambrose, 855; Doddington, 2374; Edw, 1139; Hen, 582; Isaac, 470; Jas, and his father, 2025; Jn, 301; Jn, coroner, xxxiv, xxxvii, xlvii, 2802–3; Martha, 1673; Rob, 2607; Wm, 671; Wm, 1344
 Huntley (Huntly), Ric, 368
 Hupey, Jn, 2609
 Hurdle, Wm, 2345
 Hussey, Mary, 1330
 Hutchins (Hutchens, Hutchings), Christian, and her daughter, 311; Frances, 1923; Geo, 1923; Jn, 1432
 Hyams, Wm, 1205
 Hyatt, Margt, and her daughter, 468
 Idding, Martha, 795
 Imber, Wm, 2349
 Ingram, Jn, 1113; Stephen, 2582; Wm, 2113
 Ireland, Revd Wm, 1771
 Isdael, Moses, 2332
 Isley (Isly), Jas, 426; Wm, 899
 Ivy, Edw, 2601
 Jackman, Thos, 841
 Jackson, Jas, 1038; Jas, 110; Mary, 640
 Jacob, Jn, 2744; Jn, JP, bills allowed by, 223–42, 268–97, 331–47, 526–79, 601–29, 777–812, 848–76, 2798–9
 Jacobs, Ric, 1262; Rob, 609
 Jakes, Jas, 2484
 James, Mr ..., 1204; Christian, 144; Jn Sartain, 1836; Thos, 113; Wm, 1291; Wm, and his wife and her sister, 1615
 Jarman, Eliz, 50; Tristram *or* Tristan, 1570
 Jarvis *see* Jervis
 Jay, Jas, 2651; Thos, 2160
 Jeffries (Jefferies), Jacob, 840; Jn, 612; Mary, 2408; Mary, and her daughter, 2773; Mic, 412; Thos, 821
 Jenery *see* Jennery
 Jennings *see* Jennings
 Jenkins, Mary, 1039; Wm, 1639
 Jennery (Jenery), Jn, 2211
 Jennings (Jenings), Ann, 1292; Jas, 935; Jas, 2786; Wm, 709
 Jervis (Jarvis, Jervoise), Jeremiah, 757; Thos, 1467; Tristram Hudson, JP, bills allowed by, 2461, 2586–629; Wm, 1354
 Jesse, Eliz, 2092
 Jessett (Jeset), Thos, 309
 Jewell (Jewel), Jas, 2311; Jas, 2390
 Johnson (Johnston), Eliz, 686; Hen, 2602; Jn, 86; Nic, 827; Oliver, 117; Thos, JP, 851, 878; bill allowed by, 691–721; Wm, 2166
 Jolly, Abraham, 2364
 Jones, Ann, 2379; Dan, 39; Dan, 1135; Eliz, 1179; Jas, 1785; Jn, 2655; Jos, 911; Jos, 1962; Raymond, 2078; Ric, 433; Ric, 764; Rob, 1225; Thos, 1706; Sir Wm, bt, 974, 1065; Wm Langham, 841
 Jordan (Jourdan), Ann, and her daughter, 195, 222; Chas, 983; Eliz, and her son, 523; Jane, 983; Ric, 1674
 Jotham, Ric, 1850
 Jourdan *see* Jordan
 Joyce, Ric, 1675
 Judd, Geo, 2662; Jos, 2181
 Jukes, Jn, 2488
 Keates, Wm, 834
 Keble (Keeble), Thos, 2336
 Keele, Chris, 1517
 Keen (Keene), Jn, 344; Jn, 1168; Wm, 1594
 Kemp, Geo, 2094; Jn, 1926; Mary, 752
 Kennedy, Jane *alias* Jenny *alias* Jean, 2364
 Kentfield, Wm, 1067
 Kethro, Wm, 271
 Keynes (Cains), Ben, 253; Hugh, 763
 Killing, Hannah, 91; Jas, 1589

- Kilmarston, Wm, 1544
 Kilmaster, Wm, 428
 Kimbe, Jn, 907
 Kimber, Geo, 1065; Wm, 1128
 Kimster, Wm, 2612
 King, Chas, 957; Chas, 1230; Chrisom, 2101; Chris, 1779; Dinah, 262; Geo, 262; Geo, 2768; Jn, 178; Jn, (? *same*), 442; Jn, 1042; Jn, 1531; Kath, 2417; Mary, 1475; Ric, 1582; Thos, 1867; Wm, 66; Wm, 137; Wm, 859; Wm, 1920; Wm, 2203
 Kingston upon Hull (Kingston), duke of *see* Pierrepont, Evelyn
 Kinman, Thos, 30
 Kinnear, Dr ..., 222
 Kite, Jn, 1049; Jn, 1893
 Knapp, Wm, 700
 Knight (Night), Ben, 2536; Geo, 480; Geo, 855; Hen, 1681; Jn, 2202
 Knighton, Jane, 2799
 Knoak *see* Noak

 Lackham (Larkum), Jn, 2052
 Lacon, Wm, 1680
 Lacy, Ric, 2297
 Ladd, Francis, 1725
 Lake, Edw, 2636
 Lambert (Lampart), Edm, JP, 1987; bills allowed by, 1525–43, 1567–648, 1691–718, 1748–86, 1903–51, 1985–2024, 2412–31, 2668–95, 2790–2; Mary, 2413
 Lambourn, Thos, 1186
 Lampart *see* Lambert
 Lamphier (Lamphire), Hannah, 1334; Jn, 857
 Lander *see* De Lander
 Lane, Jane, 293; Jn, 1925; Jn, 2247; Nathaniel, 79; Ric, 750; Rob, 1269; Wm, and his wife, 1539
 Langeridge *see* Langridge
 Langfield, Thos, 862
 Langham (Lanham), Hen, 1844
 Langley (Langly), Oliver, 1485
 Langridge (Langeridge), Bridget, 2247
 Lanham *see* Langham
 Lansdown, Sarah, xxxv
 Lansdowne (Lansdown), marquess of *see* Petty, Wm
 Large, Ric, 806; Wm, 2049
 Larkum *see* Lackham
 Lausley, Mary, 654; Thos, 654
 Law, Eliz, 40; Eliz, and her son, 1869
 Lawes *see* Laws
 Lawrence, Ambrose, 2471; Jn, 1720; Jos, and his mother, 2030; Ric, 1313; Ric, jun, 1855; Rob, 378; Sam, and his brother, Lawrence—*contd*
 2045; Wm, 1464
 Laws (Lawes), Jas, 2679; Jane, 1287; Jn, 2300; Wm, 861
 Leake, Jn, 1657
 Lediard, Ledyard *see* Lydiard
 Lee, 1964; Jn, 690; Jn, (? *same*), 1863; Lionel, 1003
 Leigh, Ben, 2212; Thos, 1137
 Letfield, Geo, 2547
 Leveson-Gower, Mary, Countess Gower, 1014
 Lewington, Thos, 1150
 Lewis, Be...ony, 166; Chas, 1608; Jas, 1713; Stephen, 1434; Thos, 1403; Wm, xxxix; Wm, 532
 Lewood, Ann, 2502
 Liddiard *see* Lydiard
 Light, Hen, 2740
 Line (Lyne), Jas, 2794; Rob, 2018; Sarah, and her mother, 1281
 Lippiate *see* Lyppiatt
 Little, Ann, 320; Jas, 102; Jn, 1160; Mary, 148; Mary, 321; Ric, 684; Sarah, 1263; Thos, 1130; Wm, 1930
 Littlecott (Littlecote), Mary, 2017
 Lloyd (Loyd), Eliz, 1017; Jn, 1120
 Lock (Locke), Jn, 2710; Mary, 1258; Wm, 2307
 London, Thos, 2544
 Long, Abraham, 160; Chas, 1512; Sir Jas, bt *see* Tylney-Long; Jane, and her son, 2097; Ric, JP, bill allowed by, 2759–72; Sir Rob, bt, JP, 165; bills allowed by, 1–3, 102–28; Wm, 409; Wm, (? *same*), 465; Wm, 492
 Longden, Edw, 1376
 Looker, Chas, 900; Thos, 99; Thos, 922; Thos, 1052
 Love, Francis, 643
 Loveless, Eliz, and her son, 2191
 Lovelock (Lovelook), Wm, 1552
 Lover, Jas, 2133
 Loyd *see* Lloyd
 Lucas, Jn, 2573
 Ludlow, Jn, 423
 Lueton *see* Luton
 Luff, Wm, 1846
 Luke, Jane, 2108; Jn, 2284; Thos, 2446; Wm, 2068
 Lush, Ephraim, 2351; Thos, 1929
 Luton (Lueton), Jn, 982
 Lydiard (Lediard, Ledyard, Liddiard), W, JP, bill allowed by, 243–67; Wm, 400; Wm, 1790
 Lyne *see* Line
 Lyons (Lyon), Jn, 96

- Lyppiatt (Lippiate), Jn, 114
 Lyson, Revd, 1214
- Mabbott (Mabbet, Mabbot), Jn, 308; Jn, 2370
 Mabson (Mapson), Geo, 1357; Jeremiah, 1332; Wm, 1074
 McCrackin, Jas, 2755
 Macdonogh, Jn, 393
 Mace, Ann, 2276
 McElroy, Francis, 2019
 Mackerel (Mackarell), Thos, 318
 Macklin, Jn, 1606
 McMorrick, Wm, 2739
 Maddock, Jane, and her daughter, 694
 Maidment (Maidmint), Hen, 2228; Mary, 2227; Rob, 2337; Wm, 2668
 Maine, Jn, 2709
 Maishman *see* Marshman
 Major, Ric, 1776
 Manners, Ben, 1845
 Mannery, Wm, 2694
 Mannings, Edw, 2567
 Manns (Mans), Jn, 1847
 Mapson *see* Mabson
 Marchant (Marchent), Thos, 489
 Marks (Markes), Alice, 227; Eliz, 1515; Jn, 1951; Rob, 245; Rog, 382; Sam, 277; Wm, 946
 Marsh, Eliz, 1316; Mark, 1273
 Marshman (Maishman), Betty, 1254; Israel, 1658; Jas, 2040; Wm, 2
 Martin, Alice, 2147; Ann, 1444; Chas, 2023; Cornelius, 2634; Jn, 2774; Lawr, 838; Sarah, 557; Sarah, 575; Thos, 1206; Wm, 1891; Wm, 2086; Wm, 2217
 Maslen (Maslin), Dan, 334; Eliz, 633; Gifford, and his aunt, 1583; Jane, 1010; Geof, 1545; Susannah, 732; Thos, 1694
 Massy, Jos, 1427
 Mathews *see* Matthews
 Maton, Jn, 2532
 Matthews (Mathews), Ann, 1309; Edm, 169; Jacob, 373; Jacob, 570; Jn, 1409; Thos, 402; Thos, 1952; Wm, 993; Wm, 2152
 Mattock, Ann, 1078-9; Jn, 464; Mary, 464; Mary, 1077-9; Wm, 192
 Mattocks (Mattox), Jn, JP, 154
 Maunder, Edw, 2154
 Maverly, Jane, and her son, 2447, 2449
 May, Edw, 2796
 Mayell (Mayal, Mayall), Hannah, 2048; Sam, 220; Sam, 1031
 Mayo, Wm, and his mother, 1549
 Mayor, Thos, 180
 Mead, Jos, 1765
 Meaden, Alex, 963
- Merrell, Eliz, xxxiv
 Merritt (Merit), Jas, and his father, 781
 Meylan, Jos, 2308
 Michel, Michell *see* Mitchell
 Miel *see* Myall
 Migen, Stephen, 2090
 Miles, Dan, 71; Jn, 1360; Jn, 2118; Jn, 2353; Sarah, and her sister, 1723; Thos, 1119
 Millage, Jos, 1229
 Millard, Dan, 1451; Esau, 1025
 Miller,, 2727; Jn, 2771; Jos, 2320; Thos, 2322; Thos, 2653
 Millgrove, Wm, 1672
 Millington, Francis, 987
 Mills, Geo, 143; Geo, 696; Jn, 228; Mary, 33; Mary, 1714
 Milsom (Milsam, Milsome, Milson), Eliz, 958; Jn, 669; Jos, 579; Mary, 1443; Stephen, 2063; Thos, 364
 Minchin, Eliz, 1991
 Mines *or* Mires, Jn, 1136
 Minety (Minty, Myntie), Ann, 2064; Hester, 296; Jn, 961; Jn, 1087
 Miney (Miny), Mary, 1902
 Minty *see* Minety
 Miny *see* Miney
 Mires *see* Myers
 Mitchell (Michel, Michell, Mitchel),, coroner, xlvii, 2806; Ben, 1404; Edw, xlix n; Edw, coroner, (? *two men*), xxxviii, xlvi, 2773-6, 2779, 2788-9; Geo, 729; Joan, and her husband, 348; Jn, 2095; Jn, 2137; Jn, 2173; Margt, 2234; Mary, 2007; Rob, 287; Thos, 2296; Thos, coroner, xlvii, 2806; Wm, 150; Wm, 1853; Wm, coroner, xxxiv, xxxviii, xlvi, 2777-8, 2780-2, 2787, 2797
 Montagu (Montague), J, jun, JP, bills allowed by, 1503-24, 1891-902, 1952-84, 2789, 2797; Jas, JP, 456, 1325; bills allowed by, 371-90, 722-43, 974-91, 1103-22, 2780-2
 Moody, Jn, 256; Thos, 1957; Wm, JP, 1708; bills allowed by, 1903-51, 2653-95
 Moon, Edw, 664
 Moore (Moor), Ann, 1579; Edw, 2144; Jas, 744; Jane, 1416; Jn, 628; Jn, 1514; Jn, 2563; Mary, 868; Sarah, 1098; Wm, 437; Wm, 1795; Wm, 2749
 Moorhouse (Moorehouse), Jn, 194
 Morgan, Geo, 493; Jane, 1546; Jn, 880; Jn, 1163; Mary, 2477; Wm, 2354; Wm, 2711
 Morley (Morly), Dan, 1362
 Morris, Chas, 1416; David, 981
 Morse, Isaac, 2633; Rob, 462
 Mortimer, Ann, and her daughter, 77; Jn,

- Mortimer—*contd*
2793
- Mott, Thos. 38
- Moxham (Moxam), Abel, 488; Martha, 2630; Thos., 2585
- Mullins (Mullens, Mullings), Jas, 1348; Sarah, and her son, 849; Thos, 1169
- Munday (Mundy), Mr xxxiv; Jane, 21; Janc, 649; Jn, 21; Rachel, 2751; Ric, 1614; Rob, 2519; Sarah, 21; Wm, 1221; Wm, 2509
- Murfitt (Murfit), Jn, 1043
- ? Muskle, Wm, 2480
- Musslewhite, Martha, 2188
- Myall (Miel), Ann, and her daughter, 2729; Frances, 292
- Myers (Mires), Jn, *or* Jn Mines, 1136; Wolf, 2303
- Myntie *see* Minety
- Naish *see* Nash
- Nalder, Wm, 2132
- Nash (Naish), Chas, 1791; David, 129; Isaac, 1592; Jacob, 1081; Jane, 1614; Jn, 943; Jn, 1153; Jos, 1224; Mic, 1378–9; Ric, 1772–4; Sarah, 1838, and her son, 1796
- Neal, Wm, 2667
- Neate (Neat), Ann, 893; Jas, 800; Jn, and his brother, 1695; Jos, 1630; Mary Maggot, 174; Solomon, 441; Wm, 735; Wm, 1819; Wm, 2629
- Needham, Jos, xlvi
- Nelms, Jn, 104
- Nepors, Geo, 1597
- New, Ann, 1873; Jn, 1555; Wm, 1873
- Newbury (Newberry, Newbery), Edw, 1598; Hen, and his mother, 1525
- Newington, Eliz, 1469
- Newman, Jas, 1419; Jean, 2531; Jn, 893; Jn, 2373; Jn, 2731; Mary, 2791; Paul, 1298; Paul, (? *same*), JP, bills allowed by, 691–721, 813–47, 954–73, 1123–51, 1183–218; Sam, 1512; Wm, 237; Wm, 1413; Wm, 2635
- Newport, Wm, 1353
- Newth (Nuth), Edw, 625; Jn, 877
- Newton, Wm, 791
- Nicholas, Abraham, 1884; Eliz, 103; Jonathan, 1703; Rob, JP, bill allowed by, 1544–66
- Nichols, Rob, 2254
- Night *see* Knight
- Nix, Ann, 1389
- Nixon, Rob, 1358
- Noak (Knoak), Wm, 234
- Noble, Mic, 2398
- Noise *see* Noyes
- Noons (Noones) *alias* Pearce, Jane, 2089
- Norcourt, Jn, 2735
- Norman, Wm, 690
- Norris, Edw, 1190; Jn, 1732; Sam, 2171; Sarah, 1513; Thos, 210; Thos, 233
- North, Francis, 454; Gabriel, 203; Jn, 601
- Northeast, Mary, 1965
- Northover, Geo, 2119; Mary, 2119; Sarah, 2347
- Norville (Norvil), Sam, 899
- Nowell, Thos, 1919
- Noyes (Noise, Noyce), Ann, 447; Geo, 1392; Jas, 2103; Jas, 2285; Mary, 247; Wm, 1099
- Nuth *see* Newth
- Nutley (Nutly), Jn, 461
- Nutt, Isaac, 1324; Mary, 1324; Peter, 2110
- Oady *see* Ody
- Oakford, Jn, and his parents, 1609; Mary, 2414
- Oakimer, Jn, 2416
- Oakwell, Jn, 32
- Oatley, Wm, 1533
- O'Brien (Obrien), Jas, 2539
- Ody (Oady), Geo, 1074; Mary, 1961; Rob, 1946; Thos, 138
- Offer, Francis, 2719; Jas, 2471; Jn, 289; Jn, 705; Jn, 1071
- Ogborne (Ogborne), Jane, 2799; Mary, 1247
- Ogle, Canon Newton, 257
- Olden, Thos, 2258
- Olliffe, Jn, 1270; Jn, 1407
- O'Neale, R, JP, bills allowed by, 148–203
- Oram, Isaac, 605; Thos, 618; Wm, 1349
- Orams, Hannah, and her child, 1910
- Orchard, Jacob, 52; Jos, 1375; *cf.* Archard
- Osbaldeston (Osbeldestone), Kath, and her daughter, 984
- Osbourne, Geo, 2073
- Osman (Osmand), Jn, 126; Jn, 1973
- Overton, Palmer, 332; Sam, 1526; Thos, 332
- Packer, Susannah, 1252
- Paddy, Jn, 2689
- Padget, Jacob, 1072
- Page, Jn, 528; Ric, 1066
- Paine (Pain, Payne), Alex, 2569; Jas, 2519; Jeremiah, 914; Job, 2036; Jn, 1478; Jn, 2036; Jn, and his brother, 712; Jos, 556; Rob, 2696; Sarah, and her grandparents, 1343; Thos, 790; Wm, 74; Wm, 956
- Painting, Jn, 839
- Paish, Sarah, 1852; *cf.* Spaish
- Palmer, Eliz, 1325; Jn, 1088; Jn, 2085; Jos, 1124; Ric, 919; Robin, 2684; Thos, 44

- Paple, Stephen, 1940
 Papps, Mary, 136
 Paradise (Paradice), Thos, 1916
 Parker, Ben, 1090; Jn, 588; Mary, xxxix; Ric, 2691; Wm, 568
 Parren *see* Perren
 Parsons, Eliz, 1633; Jn, 140; Jn, 708; Wm, 403; Wm, 2698; Wm, 2801
 Part, Jn, 67
 Partridge (Partridge), Edw, 1204
 Passion (Patience, Patient), Geo, 2205; Prudence, 2419
 Patrick, Jas, 155
 Payne *see* Paine
 Peacock, Jos, 225
 Pead, Jn, 15; Thos, 202
 Pearce (Pearse, Peirce, Pierce), Ann, 6; Ann, 1618; Edw, 1741; Eliz, 297; Eliz, 1528; Geo, 986; Hen, 2192; Jacob, 560; Jane, *alias* Jane Noons, 2089; Jn, 1848; Jn, 2077; Josiah, 2136; Nic, 2441; Ric, 1431; Ruth, xxxix-xlii, li, 12; Thos, 515; Thos, 2196; Wm, 161; Wm, 188; Wm, 1063
 Pearson, Thos, 2122
 Peck, Thos, 1040
 Peirce *see* Pearce
 Penny, Anthony, 2162; Thos, 936
 Penruddocke, Chas, JP, bills allowed by, 877-911, 1072-102, 2318-43, 2358-72, 2393-411, 2432-60, 2462-78; J, JP, bills allowed by, 1471-502, 1525-43, 2630-52, 2790-2
 Pem, Rob, 456
 Perren (Parren), Ann, 1035; Rob, 360; Wm, 325
 Perrot, Silas, 1675
 Perry, Kath, 431; Mary, and her daughter, 466; Thos, 1236; Thos, 2661
 Perth, Jn, 1193
 Petty, Wm, marquess of Lansdowne, 2025
 Phelps, Edw, 1849; Jn, 1220; Jos, and his wife and children, 1772-4; *cf.* Phillips, Phipps
 Philbert, Ben, 2779
 Phillips, Francis, 294; Jn, 1592; Peter, 903; Ric, 2723; Wm, 1584; *cf.* Phelps, Phipps
 Phipp (Phip), Eliz, 443; Frances, 371; Jos, 992; Rob, xxxix; Thos, 1643
 Phipps, Thos, JP, 1680; bills allowed by, 1316-42, 2096-109, 2164-225, 2233-317, 2479-95;
 Thos Hale, JP, 1680; *cf.* Phelps, Phillips
 Pierce *see* Pearce
 Piercy, Jas, 2406
 Pierrepoint, Evelyn, duke of Kingston upon Hull, 713
 Pike (Pyke), Hen, 416; Hen, 1687; Mark, 890; Stephen, 243; Thos, 141
 Pile (Pyle), Hen, 2742; Martha, 411; Mary, 329
 Piles, Ezekiel, 1091
 Pinchin, Sarah, and her son, 448
 Pinigar *see* Pinnigar
 Pinker, Ann, 1175; Jn, 889
 Pinkney, W, 508
 Pinnegar *see* Pinnigar
 Pinnell (Pinnel), Jn, 1238; Jn, 1832; Jn, 2797; Sarah, 1548
 Pinnigar (Pinigar, Pinnegar), widow, 352; Betty, 1719; Jn, 98; Mary, 1719; Thos, 565
 Pinnings, Wm, 559
 Pinnock, Edw, 1523; Stephen, 1805; Wm, 319
 Piper, Jos, 263; Thos, 1435
 Pipler, Rog, 583
 Pitcher, Mary, 913
 Pithouse *see* Pythouse
 Pitman (Pittman), Jn, 2352
 Pitt, Isaac, 120
 Pittman *see* Pitman
 Pitts, Edm, JP, bills allowed by, 2096-207, 2233-40
 Pizzey (Pizey), Sarah, 2099; Thos, 1018
 Plaster *see* Plaster
 Plank, Jane, 619
 Plaster (Plaister), Jas, 2330
 Platt, Alex, 337; Mary, 1406; Thos, 1557
 Player, Ric, 1049
 Pleydell, Edw, JP, bill allowed by, 243-67; Frances, 917
 Pleydell-Bouverie, Jacob, earl of Radnor, JP, bills allowed by, 1691-718, 1787-839, 2513-44, 2733-58
 Plowman, Jas, jun, 2129
 Pointer, Jas, 17
 Pollard, Eliz, 80; Moses, 1059
 Ponting, Jas, 796; Thos, 2156
 Poole (Pool), Eliz, 127; Jn, 928; Jn, 1027; Jn, 1758; Ric, 753; Rob, 72; Sarah, 1286
 Poore (Poor), Edw, JP, 654; bills allowed by, 441-57, 671-90, 992-1016, 2344-57;
 Edw, JP, 1706; bills allowed by, 1670-90, 1719-86
 Pope, Isaac, 2265; Jas, 785; Mark, 1197; Mark, 1351; Mary, 1862
 Popham, Francis, 1006
 Portch, Ambrose, xxxix
 Potheary (Potecary, Potticary), Thos, 2037; Wm, 1453
 Potter, Jn, 1908; Ric, 1700; Thos, 168; Thos, 2138
 Potticary *see* Potheary
 Pottinger, Jn, 747
 Potto (Pottoe), Hugh, 1825
 Potts, Thos, 1322

- Pound (Punde), Eliz, 2463; Jn, 1474
 Powell, Dan, 500; Jn, JP, bills allowed by, 45–79; Mary, and her son, 1559
 Power, Giles, 37
 Prater, Jn, 323
 Preddy, Anthony, 90; Ayliffe, 476
 Prely, Emilia, 2424
 Pressley (Pressly), Ann, 2146
 Preston, Gen. . . . , 1769; Lucy, 1769
 Price, Eliz, 1315; Jn, 529; Thos, 1786
 Prince, Jn, 2383
 Princhard, Wm, 2388
 Prior, Ric, 783
 Prosser, Thos, 1983
 Prout (Proute), Wm, 107
 Provost, Jn, 1129
 Pullin (Pulling), Jn, 821; Jn, 1810–12; Oliver, 1301
 Punde *see* Pound
 Purchase (Purchess), Jas, 2409
 Purnell (Purnel), Deborah, 346
 Purse, Jn, 1875
 Pye, Mary, 2140; Thos, 1329
 Pyke *see* Pike
 Pyle *see* Pile
 Pythouse (Pithouse), Hen, 1447
- Quelford, Geo, 1361
- Rabbits, Jas, 2230; Thos, 689
 Rackan, Thos, 2469
 Radnor, earl of *see* Pleydell-Bouverie, Jacob
 Raisey (Razey), Caleb, 1709; Eliz, 895; Jn, 2752
 Rakes, Ann, 162
 Randall (Randal, Randoll), Reynold, 2750; Wm, 2574
 Ransom (Ransum), Jas, 2604; Jn, 1126
 Ratcliff, Wm, 2275
 Rawlings (Rawlins), Clement, 1716; Jacob, 702; Jane, 286; Wm, 1314
 Raxworthy *see* Wraxworthy
 Razey *see* Raisey
 Read, Geo, 2294; Geo, 2587; Jas, 694; Ric, 2397
 Reass *see* Rees
 Redford. . . . , 2293
 Reeping, Ric, 2474
 Rees (Reass, Reis), Jn, 2511; Wm, 1521
 Reeves, Eliz, 51; Jn, 676; Lucy, 1950; Rachel, 2186; Ric, 1922; Thos, 1290; Wm, 1955
 Regis, Jos Matthias, 1656
 Reis *see* Rees
 Reynolds, Jas, 569; Jn, 165; Jn, 452; Jn, 726; Jn, 1752; Jos, 614; Mary, 569; Rob, 88; Thos, 26; Thos, 1117; Wm, 1766
 Rich, Sir Rob, 2158; Thos, coroner, xlvii, 2798
- Richardson, Wm, 1802
 Richens, Ann, and her daughter, 1607; Thos, 1984
 Ricketts (Rickets), Christian, 208; Dan, 2748
 Ricks, Mary, 1640
 Ridsdale, Wm, 1670
 Rigby, Jn, 419
 Riley, Jas, 2233
 Ring, Ann, 414; Jn, and his daughter, 1142
 Rivers, Mic, 828; Thos, 539; Thos, 1211; Wm, 680
 Riviss, Ric, 95
 Roach *see* Roche
 Roberts, Ann, 1191–2; Geo, 2732; Jn, 2328; Light, 1191–2; Mary, 799; Mary, 2245; Phil, 1993
 Robins, Ezekiel, 876; Thos, 2062
 Robinson, Mary, 132
 Roche (Roach), Rachel, 2429
 Rodbourne (Rodbourn), Jas, 519–20
 Roe, Jn, 2344; *cf.* Row
 Rogers, . . . , 1042; Dan, 2504; Eliz, 55; Rob, 843; Thos, 2432
 Roles, Jn, 1415
 Rolfe, Eleanor, 1253; Rob, 1567; Thos, 598
 Rolt, J. JP, bills allowed by, 391–425, 490–525; Jas, JP, 1410
 Romans, Elijah, 1479; *cf.* Rummins
 Rook, Chas, 391; Jane, 2208; Jn, 2503; Sam, 2554
 Roots, Thos, 2151
 Rose, Eliz, 2450; Grace, 1048; Jn, 2193; Jos, 22; Rog, 535
 Roseblade, Thos, 1931
 Rouse, Sarah, and her husband, 1760; Thos, 1760–1; *cf.* Russ
 Row, Jn, 2556; *cf.* Roe
 Rowley (Rowly), Eli, 301
 Roy, Phil, 1167
 Ruddle, Jas, 1889; Jn, 637; Jonas, 2020
 Rudman, Alice, 1628; Jn, 392; Ric, 434; Wm, 1259
 Rumbald (Rumbolt), Thos, 2423
 Rummins (Rummings), Eliz, and her son, 844; Rob, 1613; *cf.* Romans
 Russ, Edm, 485; Jas, 295; Jn, 679; *cf.* Rouse
 Russell (Russel), Jane, and her son, 617; Martha, 34; Peter, 2594
 Rutty, Jn, 858; Mary, 1936; Wm, 1689
- Sainsbury (Sansbury), Francis, 16; Hen, 810; Jonathan, 607; Margt, and her son, 740, 775; Matthew, 638; Ric, 721; Ric, (? *same*), 2715; Ric, 2614; Wm, 488; Wm, 803; Wm, 2104; Wm, 2310
 Saint (Sant), Eliz, 313
 Salmon, Jn, 1886; Ric, 2483

- Sampson, Betty, 983; *cf.* Sansome
- Samways, Eliz, 2708
- Sanders *see* Saunders
- Sandford (Sanford), Chas, 408
- Sanger, Thos, 2392
- Sansbury *see* Sainsbury
- Sansome (Sansom), Thos, 1998; *cf.* Sampson
- Sant *see* Saint
- Sarjeant *see* Serjeant
- Saunders (Sanders), Francis, 2530; Mary, 211; Thos, 1865; Wm, 239; Wm, 1322
- Savage, Jacob, 1586; Jas, 1712
- Savier, Wm, 742
- Saxty, Mary, 1705
- Sayer (Seare, Seer), Geo, 1764; Jn, 1246; Mary, 2102
- Scammell (Scamel, Scammel), Jn, jun, and his son, 1353; Mary, 2008; Mary, 2292
- Scoates *see* Scotts
- Scott (Scot), Edw, 2029; Eliz, 1767–8; Jn, 1767; Jn, and his father, 1986; Thos, 1767–8
- Scotts (Scoates), Eliz, 2490
- Screen, Mary, 1001
- Scroggs, Wm, 130
- Scull, Jas, 1285
- Scuse *see* Skuse
- Sealy, Jos, 1518
- Seare *see* Sayer
- Secel *see* Cecil
- Seckstone *see* Sexton
- Seer *see* Sayer
- Self (Selfe), Jas, 577; Jane, 587; Thos, 962; Thos, 1861
- Selman (Sellman, Sillman),, 1271; Mary, 1106; Wm, 19
- Selwood, Johanna, 2448; Jn, 513; Jn, 2412; Jonathan, 1666
- Serjeant (Sarjeant), Arthur, 1312; Mary, 1988
- Serle, Jn, 1603
- Sever, Eliz, 2178
- Seward, Eliz, 2263
- Sewell (Sewel), Mary, and her daughter, 926, 951
- Sexton (Seckstone), Jane, 463
- Seymour (Seymour, Seymore), Farmer, 879; Jn, 2194; Phil, 357; Wm, 1401; Lord William, JP, 810, 823, 846, 1439, 1714, 1763; bills allowed by, 1017–34, 1219–51, 1670–90, 2777–8, 2793–6
- Shackel (Shakle), Jn, 2560
- Shadwell *see* Chadwell
- Shakle *see* Shackel
- Shapman *see* Chapman
- Shapnell, Jas, 1326
- Sharp, Hen, 361; Wm, 2598
- Shearer, Hum, 1340
- Sheep, Sarah, 683
- Shefford (Sheffard), Jn, lii, 692
- Shell, Jas, 1959
- Shellard, Jn, 252; Thos, 1172
- Shelley (Shelly), Jn, 2377
- Shepherd (Shephard, Sheppard, Shepperd, Sheppherd), Aaron, 2472; Ann, 2316; Christian, 214; Jn, 1005; Jn, 2032; Jn, 2617; Nevill, 1307; Ric, 275; Thos, 1519; Thos, 2606; Wm, 4; Wm, 1634
- Shergold, Jn, 397; Mary, 2367
- Shipway, Matthew, 1978
- Shore, Jn, 1489; Sarah, 2209
- Short, Jonathan, 2319
- Silby, Ben, 370; Mary, 372
- Silcock (Silcocks), Thos, 46
- Sillman *see* Selman
- Silverthorn (Silverthorne), Abraham, 1664; Sarah, 1810–12
- Simkins (Symkins), Ann, 250
- Simmonds (Simonds, Symmonds), Rachel, 650; Ric, 802; Wm, 969; Wm, 1327
- Simms (Symms), Jas, 131; Jn, 161; Ric, 474; Wm, 2150
- Simonds *see* Simmonds
- Simper, Ann, 2362
- Simpson (Symson), Chas, 2500; Revd Harry, 401; Mary, 1341
- Singer, Jas, 1391; Jane, 1809
- Single, Isaac, 1842
- Singleton, Alice, 1055
- Skinner, Jn, 1033
- Skittrell (Skittrell), Rob, 2061
- Skuse (Scuse), Isaac, 413; Thos, 2453
- Slade, Eliz, xxxix; Sarah, xxxix; Wm, xxxix
- Sloper, Edw, 1574; Geo, li n; Geo, 618; Wm, 285
- Small, Eliz, and her son, 2098
- Smallcorn, Rob, 538
- Smart, Ann, 1333; Jn, 1684; Jn, 2125; Jonathan, 1466; Jos, 1142; Mary, 366; Mary, 1142; Mary, 2291; Rob, 582; Sarah, 1252; Thos, 1108
- Smith, Gen., 979; Ann, 327; Ann, 2772; Ben, 24; Dan, 336; David, 1300; Eliz, 1456; Eliz, 2695; Geo, 754; Geo, 2649; Goyinge, 2473; Harriet, 2057; Jn, 543; Jn, 653; Jn, 822; Jn, 832; Jn, 1141; Jn, 1154; Jn, 1596; Jn, 1599; Jn, 1731; Jn, 2123; Jn, 2642; Jn, 2756; Martha, 2680; Mary, 1593; Mary, and her son, 380; Priscilla, 1539; Rachel, 390; Ric, and his sister, 818; Ric, coroner, xlviij; Rob, 629; Rob, 998; Sam, 1990; Sam, 2401; Sarah, and her son, 283; Thos, 229; Thos, 600; Thos, 820, 847; Thos, 1279; Thos, 1642;

- Smith—*contd*
 Wm, 47; Wm, 558; Wm, 622
 Smockham, Edith, 315
 Snelgrove, Edw. and his son, 1903; Jn, 1455;
 Mary, 154; Rog, 2237; Sarah, and her
 son, 1903; Wm, 78
 Snell, Mary, 42
 Snook, Aaron, 2176; Jn, 1277; Wm, 2399
 Snow, Jn, 190; Mary, 429
 Sobara, Eliz, 2139
 Southernwood, Jane, 725; Jeremiah, 449;
 Wm, 1303
 Southwood, Adam, 273
 Spackman, Jacob, 1958; Rob, 1410; Thos,
 737; Thos, 1423
 Spaish, Jacob, 501; *cf.* Paish
 Spanley (Spanly), Rob, 525
 Sparks, Wm, 2261
 Sparman *see* Spearman
 Sparrow, Jacob, 125; Wm, 1727
 Spatton, Jn, 1935
 Spearing (Spering), Wm, 825
 Spearman (Sparman), Jn, 342
 Spence, Geo, 2726
 Spencer, Geof, 2172; Hen, 585; Jn, 1793;
 Sarah, 1198
 Spering *see* Spearing
 Spicer, Rob, 1883
 Spiers, Edw, 1763; Rebecca, 2625
 Spinnell, Jn, 2082
 Spirit, Sampson, 1128
 Spragg, Mary, 597
 Spray (Sprey), Wm, 2442
 Springbatt, Thos, 1876
 Sprules (Spruels), Jn, 2163
 Squires, Jn, 2506
 Stag, Wm, 1995
 Stainer, Geo, 2436
 Staley (Staly), Jn, 1213
 Stansfield, Jn, 2507
 Stanton, Wm, 1780
 Staples, Ann, 1994
 Starling, Sam, and his brother, 1641
 Steevens *see* Stevens
 Stent, Hen, 55
 Stephens *see* Stevens
 Stert (Sturt), Simon, 1188
 Stevens (Steevens, Stephens), Ann, and her
 daughter, 703; Chas, 2283; Geof, 1781;
 Geo, 185; Hannah, and her husband,
 1602; Jas, 761; Jn, 717; Jn, 1527; Jn,
 1874; Matthew, 172; Rob, 282; Rob,
 2306; Sarah, and her parents, 697;
 Stephen, 990; Thos, 1818; Thos, 1928;
 Wm, 1945
 Steward (Stwart), Thos, 135
 Stiles, Hen, 1927; Jas, 1500; Wm, 1835
 Still, Hannah, and her daughter, 739; Peter,
 739
 Stockbridge, Jn, 1032
 Stockwell, Jn, 1449; Wm, 1121
 Stokes, Alice, 122; Betty, 122; Hugh, 122;
 Jas, 171
 Stone, Frances, 157; Jas, 2438; Jn, 1013; Jn,
 1421; Phil, 189
 Stoneham, Thos, 547
 Stout, Mary, 865; Thos, 1449
 Stracey (Stracy), Wm, 2443
 Strange, Jn. and his wife, 978; Mary, 727;
 Rob, 727; Sarah, 727; Wm, 2060
 Stratton, Ric, 606
 Strawbridge, Ann, and her daughter, 530
 Street, Bart, 338; Rebecca, and her daughter,
 1442; Sam, 303; Wm, 1441
 Stringer, Jas, 1821
 Strong, Frances, 2143; Matthew, 894
 Studwick, Hugh, 823
 Stump, Jn, coroner, xxxviii, xlvi, 2783–6,
 2793–6; Mark England, coroner, xxxviii,
 xlvi, 2790–2; Mary Ann, 1380
 Sturt *see* Stert
 Stewart *see* Steward
 Suddery (Sudry), Eliz, 1902; Jn, 555
 Suffolk, earls of *see* Howard
 Sully, Thos, 259
 Summers, Thos, 1900
 Sumption (Sumtion), Jn, 1305; Wm, 1679
 Sundrey, Simon, 1064
 Surcombe, Sam, 1047
 Sutton, Chas, 1261; Jas, 2718;
 Jas, 1288, 1630; JP, bills allowed by,
 1891–902, 1952–84, 2797;
 Jn, 35; Jn, 1854; Jn, gent, 892; Sarah, 2382;
 Solomon, 1187
 Swain, Ann, 930; Jas, 2657; Jn, 492; Stephen,
 930, 952; Tamar, 930, 952
 Swait (Swaite), Alex, 1022
 Sweatman, Thos, 2565
 Sweetapple, Jn, 1104
 Sweetland, Sam, 347
 Swift, Sarah, and her daughter, 1917
 Swinney, Mary, 1913; Mic, 1913; Patrick,
 1913
 Sylvester, Fred Thos, coroner, xlix; Geo,
 coroner, xlix
 Symkins *see* Simkins
 Symmonds *see* Simmonds
 Symms *see* Simms
 Symson *see* Simpson
 Tackle, Ric, 1237
 Talbot (Talbut), Eliz, 2570; Jn, 282; Martha,
 2282
 Tandy (Tandey), Jn, 1708

- Tanner, Ann, 924; Chas, 1095; Dan, 2599; Jas, 1393; Jos, 670; Rob, 651; Rob, 2350; Sam, 1242; Thos, 2026
- Tarden, Rachel, 2717
- Targett (Targat, Targatt), Eliz, 2411; Jas, 2754; Thos, 2341
- Tarrant, Ann, 1114; Ric, 762
- Tavilla, Mary, 2528
- Taylor, Ann, 2427; Betty, 212; Betty, and her daughter, 1157; Chas, 2663; Charlotte King, 2783; Deborah, 1096; Eliz, 1319; Isaac, 506; Jas, 9; Jane, 9; Jane, 1651; Jn, 1560; Jn, 2527; Jos, 1196; Rachel, 9; Rob, 1009; Thos, 1176; Wm, 354; Wm, 813; Wm, 1649
- Temple, Jn, 479; Wm, 971
- Terrem, Wm, 879
- Tewkesbury (Tewksbury), Jn, 2512
- Thatcher, Edw, 1676; Thos, 1250
- Thomas, Jn, 486; Jn, 2593; Paul, 912
- Thompson, Thos, 2470
- Thorn, Abigail, 367; Martha, 2537
- Thresher, Ann, 502;
 - Hen, coroner, xxxiv, xliii, xlv, xlix, 2295–301; children of, xlix; executors of, xxxiv;
 - Hen, (? *same*), xlix; Rob, xlix
- Thrush, Adam, 848
- Thurstan (Thusting), Rob, 1021; Sarah, 1021
- Thynne, Thos, Viscount Weymouth, 584; JP, bill allowed by, 2226–32
- Tichener *see* Titchener
- Tidcombe (Titcomb), Wm, 1898
- Tilley *see* Tilley
- Tiller, Jn, 2199; Wm, 2195
- Tilley (Tiley, Tilly, Tily, Tylee, Tyley), Chas, 652; Dan, 1976; Jas, 161; Jas, 191; Jas, 581; Jn, 1503; Nathaniel, 331; Wm, 537
- Tilling (Tillin), Thos, 2309; Wm, 505; Wm, 1581
- Tilly *see* Tilley
- Tilney-Long *see* Tylney-Long
- Tily *see* Tilley
- Timberlin, Jacob, 2317
- Tinker, ..., 1952
- Tinson, Thos, 1776
- Tippett (Tippet), Isaac, 326
- Tirrell (Tirrel), Jos, 837
- Tit, Wm, 1600
- Titchener (Tichener), Sarah, 204
- Titcomb *see* Tidcombe
- Todkey *see* Dodkey
- Togood *see* Toogood
- Tombs (Tombes), Ric, 1587
- Toogood (Togood), Eliz, and her son, 2476; Thos, 2623
- Tortus, Wm, 2005
- Tosier *see* Tozer
- Tovcy, Dan, 751; Jas, 2459
- Tow, Jn, 1201
- Townsend, Edw, 508; Revd Jacob, 1093; Olive, 2013; Ric, 1840; Ric, 2031
- Tozer (Tosier), Wm, 2348
- Tracey, Maurice, 2787
- Trainer, Rosetta, and her husband and children, 1342
- Trapand, Col, ..., 194
- Trapp, Jn, 2182; Mary, 1450
- Trickey, Ann, 581
- Trickle, Jn, 2454
- Trim (Trimm), Hclen, 2327; Thos, 2109; Wm, 2683
- Trimby, Sam, 549
- Trimm *see* Trim
- Trimmer, Sarah, 2600
- Trimnell, Isaac, 1585; Jacob, 592; Rahab, 139
- Trindle (Trindell), Jn, 1877
- Trotman, Edw, 948
- Trowbridge, Jas, 2615; Jn, 2551
- Tuck, Eliz, 1622; Mary, 1100; Sarah, 883; Wm, 1645; Wm, 2016
- Tucker, Ephraim, 734; Eliz, 1773–4; Geo, 1621; Grace, 2701; Hugh, 655; Jn, 358; Jonathan, 1753; Nic, 1388; Phil, 2360; Thos, 1468; Wm, 1339; Wm, 1425
- Tuff, Wm, 564
- Turner, Edw, 2009; Geo, 985; Jn, 213; Jn, 1203; Jn, 1797; Jn, 2682;
 - Jn, JP, 115; bills allowed by, 69–79, 102–28, 2110–84;
 - Margt, 2206; Nic, 1266; Sarah, 749; Thos, 493
- Tuskey, Jn, 2608
- Tutt, Herman, 472
- Twine, Sarah, 2079
- Tylee, Tyley *see* Tilley
- Tylney-Long (Tilney-Long), Sir Jas, bt (formerly Sir Jas Long, bt), 1670; JP, bill allowed by, 1373–405
- Underhill, Francis, 1871
- Underwood, Anthony, 901; Wm, 1140
- Upjohn, Sarah, 2241; Wm, 2236
- Usher, Jn, 1977; Sarah, 149
- Uzzell (Uzell), Jonathan, 1997
- Vaisey (Vaisy, Vasey), Mary, 1215; Stephen, 1352
- ? Valetton, Wm, 2557
- Vasey *see* Vaisey
- Vaukins, Thos, 1756
- Verney, Ann, 1975
- Vilett, Thos, JP, 978;
 - Thos Goddard, JP, 2066; bills allowed by,

Vilett—*contd*

- 1432–60, 1649–69, 2759–72, 2803
 Villiers, Thos, earl of Clarendon, 2802
 Vincent, Ben, 2481; Jn, 2757; Jos, 989
 Vincs, Peter, 369; Sarah, 58
 Vivash, Jos, 1084
 Vizard (Vizzard). Eliz. and her daughter,
 105–6; Rob, 1485; Sarah, and her
 daughter, 356
- Wadhams, Thos, 490
 Wagland (Waglin), Ann, 145
 Waite (Wayte), Eliz, 1890; Geo, 1736;
 Hannah, 1941; Martha, 898; Wm, 1461;
 Wm, 1941
 Wake, Revd Dr Chas, JP, 1491; bills allowed
 by, 2208–25, 2257–70, 2328–460,
 2462–585
 Wakefield, Geo, 695
 Wakeley (Wakely, Weakley), Wm, 803; Wm,
 (? *same*), 1311
 Waldron, Wm, 975
 Walker, Geo, 112
 Walker-Heneage, J, JP, bills allowed by,
 1343–72, 1406–60, 1503–24, 1544–66,
 1649–69
 Wall, Kath, 860; Thos, 2115
 Wallinger, Wm, 257
 Wallis, Hen, 116; Wm, 1580
 Walter, Sam, 232
 Walters, Stephen, 288; *cf.* Waters
 Wanstead (Wansted), Jeremiah, 2262
 Ward (Warde), Jn, 97; Sam, 439; Thos, 1276
 Warneford (Warnford), Revd ..., 519
 Warren, Jas, 340; Jas, 2741
 Washbourne (Washbourn), T, 2070
 Waterman, Wm, 2165
 Waters, Andrew, 2273; Jn, 1075; Rebecca,
 2277; *cf.* Walters
 Watkins, Chas, 1631; Eleanor, 405; Thos,
 1332
 Watson, Mark, 1488; Mary, 1783; Wm, 1763,
 1783
 Watts, Ann, 1365; Chas, 1146; Jn, 14; Jn, 193;
 Jn, 580; Jn, 1797; Mary, 1338; Peter,
 1473; Wm, 125; Wm, 710
 Waylen, family, xlviii; Thos, 1477; Dr Wm,
 xlviii n; Dr Wm, xlviii n;
 Wm, coroner, xxx n, xxxvi, xxxviii–xl, xlv,
 xlviii, 1–3; executors of, xxxvi, xxxix
 Wayte *see* Waite
 Weakley *see* Wakeley
 Webb (Weeb), Ann, 55; Anthony, 73; Eliz,
 2670; J R, JP, bills allowed by, 1286–315,
 1373–405, 2025–59; Jas, 634; Jn, 820,
 847; Jn, 1438; Mary, 809; Mary, 875; R,
 JP, 2066; Ric, 1740; Rob, 394; Rob, 768;

Webb—*contd*

- Sam, 353; Stephen, 1942; Susannah,
 1734; Thos, 201; Wm, 238; Wm, 1851
 Webley (Webly), Wm, 1498
 Weeb *see* Webb
 Weeks, Ambrose, 866; Ann, 1683; Jas, 1109
 Wells, Edith, 546; Margt, 18; Rob, 436;
 Sarah, 545–6
 Welstead (Welsteed), Eliz, 2279
 Wercat, Wm, 1121
 Wesson, Jn, 96; *cf.* Weston
 West, Ann, 306; Dan, 999; Edw, 1408; Elias,
 2264; Isaac, 1283; Jn, 991; Lewis, 2271;
 Meliora, 2725; Wm, 2468
 Westell, Edw, relict of, 1543; Ric, 641; Wm,
 631
 Westley, Ann, and her daughter, 1530
 Weston, Ben, 2059; Dorothy, 1426; Geo,
 2124; Geo, 2467; Mark, 100; Rob, 299;
 Thos, 1222; *cf.* Wesson
 Weymouth, Viscount *see* Thynne, Thos
 Whale, Jane, and her daughter, 895
 Whalley, Elias, 2340
 Whatley (Whatly), Alice, and her child, 1823;
 Eliz, 205; Jn, 417; Ric, 915; Ric, 1304;
 Stephen, and his child, 1823; Thos, 2685;
 Wm, 458
 Wheeler, Jn, 2269; Jos, 1320; Margt, 2226;
 Ric, 718; Thos, 886; Thos, 1858; Wm,
 534; Wm, 1062; Wm, 2638
 Whicheord, Wm, 1815
 Whindle *see* Windle
 Whitcher, Geo, 2323
 Whitcombe (Whitcomb), Jn, 2697
 White, Ann, and her child, 2168; Ann, *or*
 Ann Whitehead, and her son, 2803;
 Chris, 2533; Hen, 2232; Hum, 409; Jas,
 900; Jas, and his parents, 1626;
 Jeremiah, 2055; Job, 1968; Jn, 931; Jn,
 2421; Jn, 2553; Jos, 2440; Luke, 2781;
 Martha, and her son, 2168; Ric, 2225;
 Sam, 888; Thos, 970; Thos, 2405; Thos,
or Thos Whitehead, and his son, 2803;
 Wm, 302; Wm, 645; Wm, 2644; Wm,
 2761
 Whitefield (Whitfield), Thos, 1280
 Whitehead (Whitehead), Ann, *or* Ann White,
 and her son, 2803; Thos, *or* Thos White,
 and his son, 2803; Wm, 736
 Whitehorn, Jn, 2126
 Whitfield *see* Whitefield
 Whitehead *see* Whitehead
 Whitley (Whitly), Abraham, 1682
 Whitmarsh, Geo, xxxiv, 1; Geo, 1; Geo, (?
same), 1 n;
 Geo, coroner, xxxiv, xxxvi, xlii–xliii,
 xlv–xlvi, xlix–l, 2096–294; executrix of,

- Whitmarsh—*contd*
 xxxiv;
 Rob Powell, coroner, 1;
 Wm, coroner, xxxiv, xxxvi, xliii, xlv–xlvii, 1,
 2747–72; alderman of Wilton, 1;
 Wm, (? *same*), 1 n
- Whitteridge, Jn, 2487
- Wick, Nathaniel, 195, 447, 2773
- Wicks, Jn, 833; Jn, 1317; Jn, 1345; Nic, 176
- Wilcocks (Wilcox, Willcox), Dan, 481; Rob,
 and his brother, 756; Susannah, 573;
 Wm, 1981
- Wilkins, Edm, high steward of Malmesbury,
 1393; JP, 472, 897, 1485, bills allowed by,
 630–46, 1035–71;
 Eliz, 2039; Jas, 1625, 1648; Jn, 1691; Jn,
 1861; Jos, 2304; Sarah, 1636; Thos,
 784; Thos, 2371; Thos, 2800; Wm, 976;
 Wm, 2788
- Willcox *see* Wilcocks
- Willet (Willet), Jn, 2034; Jn, 2155; Ric, 1944
- Williams, . . . , minister of Wroughton, 1615;
 Ben, 2549; Jn, xxxix; Jn, 406; Ric, xxxix;
 Thos, 1680; Thos, 2721; Revd Walter,
 186; Wm, 2538
- Willis, Alice, 82; Jn, 937; Jn, 1748; Jn, 1799;
 Rob, 1227; Wm, 688; Wm, 1433; Wm,
 1611; Wm, 2555
- Wills, Mary, 996
- Willy, W, JP, bill allowed by, 298–330
- Wilmer, Mary, 1856
- Wilmot, Dan, 1715
- Wilson, David, 81; Edw, 748; Eliz, 251; Eliz,
 973; Ric Munkhouse, coroner, xlvii
- Wiltshire, Chas, 908; Eleanor, 1733; Frances,
 1364; Francis, 312; Hen, 475; Jn, 184;
 Jos, 198; Ruth, 728; Thos, 988; Wm, 147;
 Wm, 1051
- Wimpey, Jn, 2712
- Winch, Thos, xxxiii
- Winchester, Ann, 2157
- Windle (Whindle), Jn, 2180
- Wingrave (Wingrove), Martha, 2035
- Winnick, Ann, 501
- Winter, Pte Francis, 1381
- Wise, Jn, 410; Thos, 2402
- Witchell (Wishell), Jas, and his servant, 1907;
 Thos, 1026
- Wither, Lovelace Bigg, (*earlier* Lovelace
 Bigg), JP, bills allowed by, 1152–82,
 1286–315, 2788, 2793–6
- Withers, Edw, 2515; Geo, 2522; Jn, 870;
 Thos, 1296; Wm, 2577
- Withey, Jas, 574
- Woburn, Wm, 2106
- Woodman, Kath, 1335; Mary, 858
- Woodward, Hannah, 59
- Woodwards, Wm, 1015
- Woolford, Hen, 644; Mary, 1020
- Wordley (Wordly), Jas, 153
- Worceed, Jn, 2730
- Wort, Jn, 2672
- Wraxworthy (Raxworthy), Ric, and his
 father, 1905
- Wright, Geo, JP, 563
- Wroughton, Geo, JP, bills allowed by,
 426–40, 458–89, 630–70
- Wyatt, Jos, 2643
- Wyndham, H P, JP, bills allowed by,
 1567–617, 2060–95, 2373–92, 2696–710
- Yates, Jas, 2218; Jn, 944; Jn, 2159; Mary, 305;
 Mary, 2499; Thos, 2298; Wm, 2376
- Yeo, Wm, 1518
- Yerbury, Francis, 791; Jos, 1935
- Yewdall, Jos, 1895
- York (Yorke), family, xlvii; Wm, coroner,
 xlvii, 2799; Wm, (? *same*), xlvii n
- Young, Ben, 899; Edw, JP, bills allowed by,
 2288–301; Geo, 2558; Geo, 2763; Hen,
 2229; Jn, 484; Wm, 2001; Wm, 2342

INDEX OF PLACES

Places are in Wiltshire unless otherwise stated.

- Aldbourne (Albourn, Aldbourn, Aldburn, Auborne, Aubourn, Auburn), 150, 187, 207, 250, 620, 625, 779, 1097, 1252, 1266, 1756, 1964; Leigh (the Lea), 793; Parsonage House, 1964; Stock Close, 1317; Upper Upham, 1933
- Alderbury (Alderbery), 534–5, 2170, 2196, 2486, 2496, 2509, 2553; Farley (Farly), 2532, 2569, 2644, 2710; Pitton (Pitten), 2263, 2483, 2562; Whaddon (Wadden, Whadden), 2265, 2332, 2538, 2721
- Alderton, Glos: ? Dixon (Digthenton), 679
- Allington (Allenton), 2310
- Allington *see under* Cannings, All; Chippenham
- Alton *see under* Figheldean
- Alton Barnes, 1718
- Alvediston, 2113, 2245, 2468, 2558
- Amesbury, 2096, 2110, 2117, 2135, 2141, 2308, 2336, 2339, 2353, 2433, 2507, 2511, 2698, 2766;
quarter sessions, xxxvi; bills beginning at, 2164–73, 2226–32
- Ampney, Down, (Down Amny), Glos, 836
- Amport, [Hants]: Appleshaw fair, 1321
- Andover, [Hants]: market, 1918; Charlton, 1599
- Ansty (Ainsty), 2128–9, 2235, 2543
- Appleshaw *see under* Amport
- Ashcombe *see under* Berwick St John
- Ashley (Ashly), [Glos], *formerly in Wilts*, 1146
- Ashley *see under* Box; Bradford on Avon
- Ashton Gifford *see under* Codford St Peter
- Ashton Keynes (Ashton Caines, Ashton Cains, Ashton Keyens), 505, 635, 660, 1178, 1183, 1217, 1581, 1590, 1693; tithingman, 1217, 1251; Leigh (the Leigh), 540, 667; Nine Acre Lane, 1183
- Ashton, Steeple, 131, 176, 193, 220, 259, 417, 604, 985, 1209, 1700, 1814; Ashton Common, 381, 1551, 1814, 2094; Biss (Bisse), 1276; Cold Harbour Lane, 752; East Town, 1497; Great Hinton (Hinton), 752, 866, 946, 1076, 1452, 1551; Littleton (Littletons) Wood, 604, 2085; Passion's (Patients) Mill, 517; Sandpits Field, 417; Semington (Siminton, Symington, Syminton, Symmington), [*called parish once*], 517, 1016, 1304, 1364, 1384, 1901, 2085; Snarl-
- Ashton, Steeple—*contd*
ton (Snurleton), 245, 381; West Ashton (West Aston), [*called parish once*], 417, 516, 580, 1276, 1497, 1904, 2083; West Clays, 193
- Atworth *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Australia *see* Sydney
- Avebury, 990, 1098, 1216, 1396, 1511, 1799, 1945; Beckhampton (Bechampton, Beckamton), 393, 585, 785, 1042, 1204, 1603; the Down, 990; West Kennett (West Kennet), 603, 1371
- Avening, Glos: Nailsworth, 1737
- Avon (Avon near Kellaways), 1106
- Avon, Bristol, river, li, 47, 74, 80, 97, 114, 134, 140, 170, 173, 217, 244, 256, 291, 304, 306–7, 344, 364, 383, 407, 496, 526, 596, 606, 668, 683, 699, 734, 741–2, 745, 751, 794, 887, 895, 912, 960, 998, 1158, 1212, 1298, 1335, 1338, 1362, 1420, 1457, 1460, 1492, 1516, 1564, 1569, 1604, 1643, 1651, 1720, 1733, 1899, 2003, 2031, 2042, 2054, 2081, 2095
- Avon, [Salisbury], river, 208, 414, 2061, 2507, 2539, 2658, 2698, 2736
- Avoncliff *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Axford *see under* Ramsbury
- Badbury *see under* Chiseldon
- Baldham Brook and Mill *see under* Keevil
- Ball *see under* Pewsey
- Bapton *see under* Fisherton de la Mere
- Barford *see under* Downton
- Barford St Martin (Barford, Barford St Martins), 2107, 2347, 2362, 2389, 2440, 2498, 2568, 2582, 2726, 2738
- Barton *see under* Preshute
- Barton Farm *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Barton, the *see under* Clyffe Pypard
- Basingstoke, Hants, 1179
- Bath, Som, 184, 690, 1207, 1377, 1800, 1808, 1825, 1851, 1915; market, 1164, 1631; mayor and coroner, 1377
- Bathford, Som, 1417
- Bathwick (Bath Wick), [Som], 1454
- Battle, [Sussex], abbot of, liberty of, xxx
- Baverstock (Baberstock, Baverstoc), 2222, 2487; Hurdcott (Hircot), 2136
- Baydon *see under* Ramsbury
- Baynton *see under* Edington

- Beanacre *see under* Melksham
 Bearfield *see under* Bradford on Avon
 Beckhampton *see under* Avebury
 Beckington (Becington), Som, 489
 Bedborough *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Bedfordshire, xxxi n
 Bedwyn, Great, (Great Bedwin), xli n, 88, 777, 905, 963, 1053, 1206, 1621, 1745; Brail, 1471; Cow Leaze (Cowlease), 515; Crofton, 439, 743, 859, 1018, 1084; Crofton Mill, 2091; Den Field, 956; East Grafton (East Gratton), lii, 374, 692, 1932; Harding Farm, 956; Langfield Cope (Langfield Coppice), 859; Marten, 938; Pyke's Coppice, lii, 692; Tottenham, 905; Town Field, 905; West Grafton (West Gratton), 318, 508, 515; West Grafton Farm, 515; Wexcombe, 88; Wilton, 989; Wolf Hall (Wolfhall, Woodfall), 508, 1642
 Bedwyn, Little, (Little Bedwin), 971, 1201, 1608, 1807, 1914; Church Field, 1608; Fore Bridge (Forbridge) Lane, 1807
 Beechingstoke (Beachen Stoke, Beachin Stoke, Beching Stoke, Beechin Stoke), 703, 1005, 1461, 1688; Alder Bed, 1461; Bottle, 1690; North Ground, 1688
 Belcombe *see under* Bradford on Avon
 Bemerton *see under* Fugglestone St Peter
 Bennetts Knoll *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Bentham *see under* Purton
 Berhills *see under* Melksham
 Berkshire, xlvi–xlvii, 1869; coroners, xlvi; *see also* Hungerford; Hurst; Inglesham; Newbury; Shalbourne; Shinfield; Swallowfield; Wallingford; Wokingham
 Berwick Bassett (Barwick, Barwick Bassett, Berwick, Berwick Basset), 1170, 1396, 1978; Hempstead, 898
 Berwick St James, 2266, 2428, 2650, 2709
 Berwick St John: Ashcombe (Ashcomb), 2419; Rushmore Lodge, 2705–6
 Biddestone (Biddistone), 192; St Nicholas's parish (Biddeston St Nicholas), 484, 557, 916, 1462
 Bignell *see under* Hilmarton
 Bill Hill *see under* Hurst
 Bishopsdown *see under* Laverstock
 Bishopstone (Bishopston) [in Downton hundred], 2151, 2244, 2250, 2354, 2422, 2763; Faulston (Foulston), 2268; Flamston (Flamstead), 2328
 Bishopstone (Bishopston) [in Ramsbury hundred], 204, 223, 375, 631, 872, 969, 1282, 1308, 1676, 1873
 Bishopstrow (Bishopstraw), xlv, 766, 1274, 2155
 Bisley, Glos, 715
 Biss *see under* Ashton, Steeple
 Biss, river, 372, 873
 Bitham Ponds *see under* Fonthill Bishop
 Blackland, 510; Quemerford Common, 1828
 Blagrove *see under* Wroughton
 Blandford Forum, [Dors], 2303
 Blunson, Broad *see under* Highworth
 Bodenham *see under* Nunton
 Bohemia *see under* Downton
 Bolton Mill *see under* Somerford Keynes
 Boreham *see under* Warminster
 Boscombe (Boscomb), 2563, 2617, 2630, 2712
 Bottle *see under* Beechingstoke
 Bottlesford *see under* Wilsford
 Bournelake *see under* Cricklade
 Bourton *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Bowden Hill and Park *see under* Lacock
 Bowerhill *see under* Melksham
 Bowood (Beau Wood): Derry Hill, 1913
 Box, xli n, 111, 201, 237, 269, 610, 820, 1058, 1215, 1305, 1377, 1417, 1594, 1716, 1726, 1754, 1842, 1854, 1863, 1924; tithingman, 820, 847; Ashley, 1499; Box Quarries, 1271; Chapel Plaster (the Chappella Plaster), 384; Gays Lane, 1003; Hatt (Hat), 690, 1246, 1419; Henley, 1003; Horse and Jockey Inn, 1919; Kingsdown, 1273, 1532; Kingsdown Hill, 714, 1246; Middlehill (Middle Hill), 1726; the Patch, 1215; Slade's Farm, 913; Wadswick, 384, 1919
 Boyton, xlv, 1442, 1920; Boyton Field, 1002; Boyton Mill, 2185; Corton, 1296, 2314
 Bradford, hundred: court of request, 465, 853
 Bradford on Avon (Bradford), xlv, 27, 31, 65, 97, 162, 184, 200, 239–40, 256, 277, 279, 283, 291, 298, 306–7, 353, 360, 364, 366, 395, 407, 474, 496, 530, 543, 577, 587, 615, 668, 713, 741, 751, 773, 787, 791, 799, 848, 873, 887–8, 960, 962, 988, 998, 1172, 1248, 1263, 1283, 1348, 1405, 1432, 1448, 1480, 1492, 1512, 1515–16, 1536, 1559, 1643, 1720, 1765, 1767–8, 1772–4, 1813, 1827, 1874, 1886, 1899, 1902, 1917, 1976, 1988, 1993, 2002, 2011, 2018, 2034, 2058, 2073; church and churchyard, 2018; constable, 1827, 1839; public bridge, 2011; workhouse (poorhouse), 1536, 2002, 2058; Ashley (Ashly), 451; Atworth, 148, 221, 350, 478, 514, 699, 1265, 1889; Avoncliff (Anclay, Ancliffe, Ancliff, Anclly), 304, 383, 596, 742, 1816, 2095; Avoncliff Mill, 1460; Barton Farm, 1678; Bearfield (Barfield), 875, 1347, 1820; Belcombe (Belcome) Brook Meadow, 170; Combe Bottom (Comb

Bradford on Avon—*contd*

Bottom near Freshford, Som) and Combe (Coomb) Bottom Tinings, 915; Cumberwell, 360; Dunnicks Mead, 1516; Ford Lane, 769; Fort Farm, 392; Frankleigh (Frankly), 577; Great Bittoms (Great Bittum) Field, 1951; Great Trowle (Great Trole, Great Trowl), 370, 379, 1512, 1685, 1993; Haugh Farm, 488; Hay Farm and Lane, 816; Hills Ground, 962; Holt, 29, 151–2, 160, 555, 722, 764, 2073; Iford, 1023; Iford Hill, 1023, 1766; Lady Down (Ladydown) Farm, 1701; Leigh (Bradford Leigh, Bradford Lye), 241, 1612; Limpley Stoke (Limplly Stoke), xli n, xlvi, 249, 734, 939, 1759, 1822; 'Muchum Mead', 764; Murhill (Murrall), 2002; New Town, [*called parish once*], 1091, 1957; South Wraxall (South Wraxhall), 255, 746, 1416, 1513, 1860, 2090; Town Mill Pond, 1492; Trowle (Trole) Bridge, 873; Trowle (Trowl) Common, 2015; Trowle (Trole) Farm, 1613; Turleigh (Turly), 1352; Upper Westwood (Little Westwood), 1577; Well Close Well, 1432; Westwood, [*often called parish*], 47, 383, 575, 596, 606, 649, 742, 1023, 1460, 1766, 1816; White Hill (Whitehill), 1959; Winsley (Winsly), 184, 488, 1346, 1352, 1369, 1495, 1951, 1981, 1990, 2042; Woolley (Woolly), 313, 522, 652, 1753

Bradley, Maiden, (Maiden Bradly), [*formerly partly in Som*], xliv, 367, 666, 682, 857, 1132, 1264, 1490, 1684, 2112, 2114; Brickhills, 1239; Renells Grave, 1490; Yarnfield, [*formerly in Som*], 367

Bradley, North, (North Bradly), 215, 421, 527, 563, 628, 834, 1619, 1647, 1664; tithingman, 1619, 1647; Mill Mead, 421; Rode (Road, Roade), 180, 581, 1101, *see also* Rode, Som; Rode Common or Heath, 1656; Southwick (South Wick), 435, 628, 811, 1024, 1182, 1627

Brail *see under* Bedwyn, Great

Brandy House Grounds *see under* Cannings, Bishop's

Bratton *see under* Westbury

Braydon Side *see under* Brinkworth

Bremhill (Bremhil, Brimhill), 257, 470, 1048; Charlcoate (Charlcot, Charlecott), 656, 842; Foxham, 485, 1168, *see also under* Christian Malford; Pritchards Green, 1168; Stanley (Stanly) Mill, 1320, *see also under* Chippenham; Stockham (Stockam) Marsn, 82, 139, 315; Trimmell's Farm, 1858

Brickhills *see under* Bradley, Maiden

Brigmerston *see under* Milston

Brimslade *see under* Wootton Rivers

Brinkworth (Brinkworth near Malmesbury), 3, 19, 90, 198, 356, 402, 440, 1141, 1285, 1309, 1332, 1485, 2033; Braydon (Braden) Side, 1558; Grittenham (Grettenham), 58; Long Croft, 1257; Penn's (Pens) Lodge, 1616

Bristol, Glos, 453, 538, 1204, 1368

Britford (Bridford, Brittford), 2191, 2267, 2303, 2348, 2386, 2446, 2461, 2466, 2485, 2635–6, 2720, 2736; bailiff and constable, 2461; East Harnham (Eastharnham, Harnham, Harnham near Salisbury), 420, 2208, 2364, 2396, 2449, 2526, 2673, 2697; hospital of St Nicholas, 420; Longford, 2728; Lower Burnbake Field, 2303

Broad Town *see under* Clyffe Pypard

Broad Well *see under* Lavington, Market

Brokenborough (Brocenbrough, Brockenbrough), 120, 211, 518, 521, 590, 1848; Players Leazes (Players Leases), 521

Broker's Gate *see under* Westbury

Bromham (Broomham), 17, 311, 389, 422, 582, 611, 1366, 1386, 1466, 1809, 2077; coroners, xxx; Bromham Common, 1780; Bunsleigh Close, 1466; Clinghill (Cling Hill), 1942; Nether Street (Neatherstreet), 422; Westbrook, 693, 1496; Westbrook Mill, 647

Brook *see under* Westbury

Broom's *see under* Yatton Keynell

Broughton Gifford (Broughton, Broughton Giffard), 34, 77, 803, 1034, 1256, 1311, 1359, 1566, 1916, 1960; constable, 1566; officers, 1034

Bugley *see under* Warminster

Bulbridge *see under* Wilton

Bulford, 2140, 2183–4, 2192, 2577, 2743

Bulkington *see under* Keevil

Bupton Marsh *see under* Clyffe Pypard

Burbage, xli n, 461, 909, 1053, 1226, 1400, 1642, 1712, 1918, 2061, 2140; Durlay, 1008; Westcourt (West Cot, Westcott near Burbage), 768, 1321

Burcombe, 2620, 2714; North Burcombe (North Burgham), 2232

Burderop *see under* Chiseldon

Burton Hill *see under* Malmesbury

Bushton *see under* Clyffe Pypard

Buttermere (Buttemere), 572, 1353

Calcutt *see under* Cricklade

Calne (Caln), xlv, 63, 100, 157, 293, 299, 316–17, 460, 468, 662, 676, 684, 730, 756,

Calne—*contd*

767, 805, 926, 947, 951, 1042, 1099, 1185, 1188, 1196, 1228, 1267, 1397, 1426, 1484, 1542, 1578, 1637, 1729, 1739, 1755, 1819, 1823-4, 1831, 1845, 1858, 1941, 1946, 1963; tithingman, 926, 951; Church Street, 947; Cow Lane (Cowlane), 138; Hayle (Hale) Farm, 1819; Hermitage, 1586; Hilly Ground, 1831; North Field, 1586; Quemerford, 1299, 1629; Peters Farm and Red Hill, 558; Sandy Lane (Sandylane), 87, 1623, 1734; Stockley (Stockly), 300, 1334, 1717; Studley (Study), [*given as in Bremhill once*], 125, 158, 179, 481, 573, 662, 756, 1048, 1164, 1441, 1877, 2060; Studley Green, 723; Whetham and Whetham Park, 1703

Calstone Wellington (Calston, Calstone), [*sometimes given as in Calne parish*], 44, 113, 144, 1397, 1578, 1729; Little Mill, 1729

Cannings, All, (Alcannings, Allcannings), 175, 227, 295, 334, 425, 466, 944, 1236, 1545, 1690, 1694, 1757, 1907; Allington, 1522; Cannings Water, 1694; Etchilhampton (Ashleto, Echilhampton, Etchelhampton, Ichelhampton, Itchlehampton), 226, 398, 796, 957, 1710; Funnerland Field, 1757; Row Furlong, 796; Woodway Field, 425

Cannings, Bishop's, (Bishop Cannings, Bishopsannings, Cannings), 66, 182, 289, 308, 499, 579, 634, 673, 763, 843, 961, 1278, 1382, 1539, 1736, 1755, 1818, 2064; church, 1818; Ashmans Green, 1127; Bascomb Pond, 1370; Bedborough (Bedboro, Bedbro, Bedborough), 330, 1534, 1630, 1894; Bennetts Knoll and Bishop's Cannings Down, 1378-9; Bourton, 296, 1051; Bourton Down, 1755; Brandy House Grounds, 330; Chittoe (Chithoe, Chittoe near Bromham, Chittoe or Silverstreet near Melksham Forest), 70, 582, 929, 1366, 1623, 1970; Coate (Coat), lii, 11, 178, 2000; Copse Ground, 2074; the Crammer Pond, 324; Devizes (the Devizes) Green, 22, 52, 324, 623, 860, 932, 1047, 1072, 1127, 1221, 1224, 1370, 1508, 1791, 1815, 1824; Drew's Pond, 86, 1508; Hurton, 1262, 1445-6; New Park, 1630; Nursteed (Nursted), 368, 1982, 2078; Plot Ash, 1227; Roundway, 1227, 1611, 1781, 1894; Roundway Down, 1824; Roundway Field, 1227; St James's chapelry or Southbroom (South Broom, South Broom near Devizes), 86, 405, 443, 567, 623, 661, 753, 932; St James's church,

Cannings, Bishop's—*contd*

Southbroom, xlix; Shepherds' Shore (Shepherd Shore), 730, 1378-9; Silverstreet (Chittoe or Silver Street near Melksham Forest), 1970; Spyc Park, 724, 929; Wash Pool, 1611; Whiteway Field, 2000; Wick, 376, 2020, 2074

Cannonhold *see under* Melksham

Catcomb *see under* Hilmarton

Cerney, South, Glos, 1931

Chaddenwick *see under* Mere

Chaddington *see under* Lydiard Tregoze

Chalcot *see under* Westbury

Chalfield, Great, 487, 2072; Home Wood Brook, 2072

Chalford *see under* Westbury

Chalke, Bower, (Bower Chalk), 2203, 2374, 2618, 2724; Woodminton (Woodmanton), 2249

Chalke, Broad, (Broad Chalk), 2160, 2162, 2166, 2200, 2294, 2331, 2651, 2659, 2750; Gurston (Gussen) Field, 2162; Knighton, 2148; Vernditch Chase, 2200

Chapmanslade *see under* Westbury

Chaps Mill *see under* Coleridge

Charlcote *see under* Bremhill

Charlham Brook *see under* Latton

Charlton (Charleton, Charleton near Malmesbury, Charlton near Malmesbury, Malmsbury Charleton) [in Chedglow hundred], [*given as in Malmesbury once*], 8, 413, 547, 1055, 1229, 2044; Charlton Common and Stonehill, 322; West Field, 1229

Charlton [in Swanborough hundred], 1879, 1883

Charlton *see under* Andover; Downton

Charnham Street *see under* Hungerford

Chedglow *see under* Crudwell

Cherhill (Cherrhil, Cherril), 113, 316-17, 424, 477, 538, 565, 646, 1073, 1147, 1161, 1563; Black Horse Inn, 1147; Bricklands Field, 477

Cheverell, Great, (Chiveral Magna, Chiverel Magna, Great Chiverall, Great Chiverell), 759, 945, 1365, 1610, 1646; officers, 1365, 1704; Staffings Field, 1646

Cheverell, Little, (Chiverel Parva), 903

Chicklade, 2338

Chicks Grove *see under* Tisbury

Chilhampton *see under* Newton, South

Chilmark, 2218-19, 2656; Ridge (Rudge), 2343, 2413, 2693

Chilton Foliat, (Chilton, Chiltonfoliat), 268, 355, 976, 979, 996, 1068; Chilton Foliat Field, 309; Chilton (Chilton Foliat) Lodge, 524, 979; Soley (Soly, Sowley),

- Chilton Foliat—*contd*
 288, 907; ? West Soley (Crooked Soally), 1329; Wheatsheaf Inn, 525
- Chippenham, xlv, 50–1, 80, 96, 114, 134, 172, 181, 212, 217, 283, 501, 512, 578, 669, 675, 679, 882, 954, 1009, 1096, 1151, 1159, 1191–2, 1302, 1331–2, 1335, 1362, 1415, 1420, 1443, 1459, 1465, 1510, 1554, 1564, 1569–70, 1609, 1709, 1725, 1733, 1750, 1769, 1800, 1804, 1821, 1825, 1847, 1852–3, 1877, 1968, 1974, 2003, 2081; churchyard, 1804;
 quarter sessions, xxxvi; bills beginning at, 630–46;
 vestry, 1569; Allington, 1160; Angel Inn, 1459; Back Avon Bridge, 1564, 1569, 1853; Cocklebury, 1158; Common Slip, 2003; Derriads (Derrets), 1242; Forest (Forrest) Gate, 1095; Haycocks Garden, 954; Lockshill Heath, 671; Rodes House, 676; Sheldon (Shelden), 1638; Stanley (Stanly), 39, 908, *see also under* Bremhill; Stanley Brook, 908; Tytherton (Tetherton), 755, 1042; Wood Lane, 1096
- Chirton (Churton), 231, 2032, 2045; Conock (Connock), 399; Druid's Head Inn, 2045
- Chiseldon (Chesselden, Chiselden, Chisselden, Chisseldon), 25, 99, 126, 361, 523, 621, 839, 845, 879, 1011, 1428, 1882, 1940; Badbury, 1479, 1939; Burderop (Burdrop), 879; Hodson, 69; Hodson Field, 361; Red House, 1940
- Chisenbury, East *see under* Enford
- Chitterne (Chittern), 2068; All Saints' parish (Chittern All Saints, Chitterne All Saints), 591, 648, 720, 931, 1385; St Mary's parish (Chittern St Mary), 570, 1280, 1527, 1601, 1663
- Chittoe *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
- Cholderton (West Cholderton), 2272, 2519; West Park, 2434
- Christian Malford, 74, 244, 344, 592, 745, 895, 912, 924, 955, 1175, 1249, 1301, 1387, 1413, 1518, 1654–5, 1817, 1858; Breaches (the Breach) Ground, 1817; the Common, 1249; Foxham, 1950, *see also under* Bremhill; Melsome (Milsom) Wood and Thornend (Thorn End) Farm, 1893
- Chute, xlv, 89, 210, 568, 586, 1184, 1923; Chute Lodge, 130; Forest Lane, 1184; Hatchets (Hatchet) Lane, 1476; Standen (Chute Standen, Chute Stanham), 1392, 1431, 1476; Standen House, 2089
- Chute Forest, xlv, 246, 2053, 2460
- Cirencester, Glos, 715, 1269, 1501, 1506, Cirencester—*contd*
 1543, 1997
- Clack *see under* Lyneham
- Clarendon Park (Clarendon), 2145, 2259, 2410, 2437, 2662
- Clatford *see under* Preshute
- Cleeve, Seend *see under* Melksham
- Clench *see under* Milton Lilborne
- Cleverton *see under* Lea
- Clinghill *see under* Bromham
- Clyffe Pypard (Cleeve, Cleeve Peppard, Cleevepeppard, Cliffe Peppard, Cliffe Pypard, Clift Pypard), 185, 523, 948, 1340, 2071; vestry, 2071; The Barton or Little Hell, 1423; Broad Town, 320–1, 345, 1152, 1930; Bupton Marsh, 2086; Bushton, 497, 2079; Bushton Farm, 2038; Stanmore Field, 1437; Thornhill, 185; Woodhill Park, 1607
- Coate *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
- Cock Road *see under* Horningsham
- Cocklebury *see under* Chippenham
- Codford St Mary or St Peter (Codford, Codford St Andrew), 2281, 2409, 2471, 2536, 2547
- Codford St Peter (Codford St Peters), xlv, 154, 503, 1300, 2243; Ashton Gifford (Ashton Guifford), 689
- Coldharbour *see under* Highworth
- Colerne (Collerne, Cullern, Cullerne, Cullorne), 1135, 1572, 1593, 1679; Chaps Mill, 1117; Colerne Down, 1808; Widdenham (Widom) Mill, 91
- Collingbourne Ducis (Collingbourn, Collingbourn Ducis, Collingburn Ducis), 166, 490, 1179, 1864, 1918, 2046; parsonage, 2046
- Collingbourne Ducis or Kingston (Collingbourn), 1470
- Collingbourne Kingston (Collingbourn Kingston), 251, 263, 433, 568, 1367, 1567, 1928; Abbots Field, 1367; Heath Farm, 614
- Combe Bottom *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Combe, Castle, (Castle Coomb, Castle Coombe, Castlecomb), 253, 354, 456, 506, 770, 1418, 1808, 1962, 1967; Leigh Wood, 770
- Common Platt *see under* Purton
- Compton *see under* Enford
- Compton Bassett (Compton Basset), 60, 404, 463, 637
- Compton Chamberlayne (Compton Chamberlain, Compton Chamberlane, Compton Chamberlin), 2240, 2246, 2494, 2497
- Conock *see under* Chirton

- Coombe *see under* Donhead St Mary
- Coombe Bissett (Combe Bissett, Coomb Bassett, Coomb Bisset, Coomb Bissit, Coombe), 2115, 2161, 2169, 2388, 2517, 2744
- Cork, [co. Cork], Ireland, 1235
- Corsham (Corsham Regis), 460, 1179, 1854; fair, 2037; manor and liberty, and its coroners, xxxi–xxxii, xxxiv–xxxviii, xlv, xlvii–xlix, lii–liii, 2773–97, 2806; Checker Inn, 2792; Hartham (Harthum), 286; Monk's and Monk's House, 2797; Pickwick (Pickwick near Corsham), 384, 1754
- Corsley (Corshly, Corsley Magna, Corsly, Corsly Magna, Corstley, Corstly, Great Corstly), xlv, 14, 480, 569, 855, 877, 1177, 1872, 1895, 1897, 2226; Corsley Heath, 14, 1136, 1277, 1672, 1971; Dertford's (Daffords) Wood, 6; Fields Court, 1971; Whitbourne (Widborne), 6
- Corston *see under* Malmesbury
- Corton *see under* Boyton; Hilmarton
- Coulston, East, (Coulston), 56, 72, 583, 1171, 2069; Coulston Marsh, 813
- Coulston, West *see under* Edington
- Cow Bridge Mill *see under* Malmesbury
- Cowage *see under* Hilmarton
- Cowesfield *see under* Whiteparish
- Cranborne (Cranborn), Dors, 2115
- Cricklade, 42, 81, 119, 1486, 1605, 1693, 1840, 1849; Bournelake (Bournleak), 33; Calcutt, 385; Hailstone, 1605; the New Cut or Canal, 1840; St Mary's parish (Cricklade St Mary, Cricklade St Mary's), 406, 1038, 1840, 2013; St Sampson's parish (Cricklade St Sampson), 385, 388, 428, 622, 890, 917, 1231, 1268, 1474, 1605, 1624, 1652, 1666, 1779, 1909; the Shank or Slank stream, 890, 1231; Wharf House, 1840
- Crockerton *see under* Deverill, Longbridge; Sutton Veny
- Crofton *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Crookwood *see under* Urchfont
- Crudwell, 110, 128, 588, 678, 1203, 1293, 1509, 1878; Chedglow (Chechly, Chedsly), 827, 928; Eastcourt (Eastcot, Estcourt), 254, 885, 1871; Shord Yate Field, 827
- Cumberwell *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Damerham (Damaram), [Hants], *formerly in* Wilts, 2195, 2199, 2748
- Dance, river, 622
- Dauntsey (Dansic, Dantsey, Dantsy), 369, 609, 958, 1575, 1696; Barn (Barne)
- Dauntsey—*contd*
- Close, 609; Dauntsey Park, 1784; Idoover (Eidovers), 1427
- Dead Maids Road *see under* Westbury
- Dean, West, [*partly in* Hants], 2445; East Grimstead (East Grinstead), 2323, 2692
- Deptford *see under* Wylce
- Derriads *see under* Chippenham
- Derry Hill *see under* Bowood
- Dertford's Wood *see under* Corsley
- Deverill, Brixton, 2369
- Deverill, Hill, (Hill Deverell, Hull Deverell), 904, 1494
- Deverill, Kingston, (Kingston Deveral, Kingston Deveril), 2112, 2238, 2313, 2345, 2424, 2573
- Deverill, Longbridge, (Deveral Longbridge, Deverel Longbridge, Deverell Longbridge, Deveril Long Bridge, Deverill Longbridge, Longbridge Deverel, Longbridge Deverell, Longbridge Deveril), xlv, 536, 852, 904, 914, 994, 1053, 1137, 1281, 1284, 1422, 1491, 1903, 2087, 2179, 2229, 2237, 2288; Crockerton (Croker-ton), 935, 1054, *see also under* Sutton Veny; the Down, 2087; Rowborough (Roughbrough) Common, 536; Shear (Sheer) Water, 1318; Shute Farm, 682, *see also under* Horningsham; Westcombe (West Combe), 1478
- Deverill, Monkton, (Monckton Deverell), 2660
- Devizes (Devises, the Devizes), xxxvi, xxxix–xli, xlv–xlvi, xlviii–xlix, li–lii, 11–12, 61, 149, 294, 303, 331–2, 350, 371, 382, 398, 407, 499, 594, 753, 849, 864, 876, 892, 919, 1035, 1227, 1235, 1883, 1888, 2019, 2039, 2050, 2074, 2078, 2346; coroners, xxx–xxxI, xlvI; .
- gaol (blindhouse, bridewell, prison), xlvI, li, 4, 8, 115, 154, 161, 165, 267, 302, 442, 444, 449–50, 456, 459, 465, 470, 472, 514, 533, 562, 626, 654, 729, 760, 774, 776, 810, 812, 820, 823, 846–7, 850–1, 853, 867, 869, 878, 926, 951, 1000, 1142, 1325, 1368, 1393, 1409, 1484–5, 1491, 1557, 1566, 1619, 1625, 1647–8, 1680, 1706, 1714, 1802, 1827, 1839, 1987; keeper, and his deputy, 1557; journeys made from, xli–xlii, xlv–xlvi, lii, 1–2095; market, 1762, 2020; market place, xxxix; Market Place, xlix; mayor, 1557;
- quarter sessions, xxxvi–xxxvii; bill allowed at, 2797; bills beginning at, 45–68, 80–101, 129–47, 204–22, 243–67, 331–47,

Devizes—*contd*

- 426–40, 458–89, 526–49, 580–600, 647–70, 691–721, 744–76, 813–47, 877–911, 954–73, 992–1016, 1035–102, 1123–51, 1183–218, 1252–315, 1343–72, 1406–60, 1471–502, 1525–43, 1567–648, 1691–718, 1748–86, 1840–73, 1903–51, 1985–2024, 2060–95;
- Bear Inn, 1510, 2005; Chapel (Chappel) Corner, 1989; Crown Inn, xlix; Painters Close, 1541; St John's parish, xlviii, 818, 919, 1154, 1167, 1174, 1211, 1368, 1525–6, 1557, 1574, 1660, 1682, 1698, 1792–3, 1829, 2005, 2019, 2029, 2039, 2050; St Mary's church, 1350; St Mary's parish, [*sometimes called chapelry*], 707, 709, 801, 854, 920, 991, 1319, 1339, 1350, 1373, 1508, 1541, 1568, 1609, 1626, 1653, 1682, 1786, 1806, 1989, 2029
- Devizes Green *see under* Cannings, Bishop's Dilton and Dilton Marsh *see under* Westbury Dinton, 2261, 2273, 2344, 2564
- Ditchampton *see under* Wilton
- Ditteridge (Ditcheridge near Middlehill and Box), 1305, 1726
- Dixton *see under* Alderton
- Donhead St Andrew (Dunhead St Andrew), 2134, 2168, 2225; Ferne (Fern), 2732
- ? Donhead St Andrew (Codford St Andrew), 2281
- Donhead St Mary (Dohnhead, Donhead, Dunhead St Mary, Upper Donhead), 2109, 2271, 2431, 2761; Coombe (Coomb near Donhead), 2327; Ludwell, 2523, 2583; ? Wincombe (Wickam) Park, 2385; Wincombe (Winckam, Wincomb, Win-kam) Ponds, 2544, 2551, 2737
- Dorset, county *see* Blandford Forum; Cranborne; Shaftesbury
- Downton (Dounton), I, 2121, 2171, 2174, 2186–7, 2214, 2270, 2279, 2295, 2320, 2350, 2373, 2406–7, 2414, 2427, 2467, 2480, 2505, 2508, 2539, 2560, 2653, 2703, 2722; Barford (Burford), 2165, 2665; Bohemia, 2475; Charlton (Charleton), 2118, 2514, 2557; the Franchise (Frenches in the New Forest), 2319; New Inn, 2017; New Lodge Farm, 2202; Redlynch (Red Linch, Redlinch), 2017, 2490, 2503, 2531, 2554; Wick, 2542; Woodfalls (Woodfells), 2100
- Draycot Cerne, 1670; Scotlands, 1870
- Draycot Foliat (Dracot Foliat, Draycott Foliat), 189, 1245, 1486; Conyger (Cunniger) Corner, 1245
- Drew's Pond *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
- Durlett *see under* Rowde
- Durley *see under* Burbage
- Durnford (Great Durnford), 2277, 2357, 2454, 2567, 2756, 2771; Little Durnford, 2154
- Durrington, 2125, 2566
- Earlscourt *see under* Wanborough
- East Town *see under* Ashton, Steeple
- Eastcott *see under* Swindon; Urchfont
- Eastcourt *see under* Crudwell
- Easterton *see under* Lavington, Market
- Easton, 230, 657, 997, 1202, 1890; the Conygre (Cunniger), 1202
- Easton Grey (Easton Gray, Eastongray), 24, 105–6, 685, 1407
- Eastrop *see under* Highworth
- Eaton, Castle, xlii n, 600, 687, 871, 1337
- Ebbesborne Wake (Abesbourn, Abesburn, Eastborn, Ebbesborn), 2101, 2289, 2585, 2610, 2615
- Eddington *see under* Hungerford
- Edington (Eadington, Eddington), 141, 292, 548, 563, 665, 2020; Baynton, 409; Tinhead, 141, 605, 1700; West Coulston, 1062
- Eisey (Eisy, Isey), 636, 836, 1556, 1748, 1790
- Elcombe *see under* Wroughton
- Elcot *see under* Preshute
- Elston Farm *see under* Orcheston St George
- Enford (Endford), 208, 1884; Compton, 598; the Down, 1764; East Chisenbury (Chisenbury, Chissenbury), 36, 511, 731, 1764; Fifield, 1618; Littlecott, 1884
- Erlestoke (Earl Stoke, Earle Stoke), 161, 630, 761, 864, 970, 1077–9, 1291
- Essex, county, 1005
- Etchilhampton *see under* Cannings, All
- Everleigh (East Everly, Everly, Uper Everly, Upper Everly), 103, 247, 453, 473, 1567, 1843, 2183; Everleigh Warren, 247
- Ewen *see under* Kemble
- Fairford, Glos, 715, 1501
- Fairwood *see under* Westbury
- Farleigh, Monkton, (Monkston Farley, Monkstone Farley, Monkton Farly, Munkstown Farly), 441, 800, 833, 1631, 1731; Farleigh (Farley) Down, 1731; Farleigh (Munkstown Ferleigh) Wick, 102
- Farley *see under* Alderbury
- Faulston *see under* Bishopstone
- Ferne *see under* Donhead St Andrew
- Fifield *see under* Enford
- Fifield Bavant (Fifhead), 2341–2
- Figheledean (Fielton, Figeldean, Figglesden), 2316, 2529, 2680, 2767; Alton, 2194

- Fisherton Anger (Fisherton), xlv, 2108, 2167, 2223, 2311, 2334, 2379, 2382, 2390, 2401, 2416, 2420, 2451, 2463-5, 2474, 2478, 2482, 2493, 2522, 2555, 2576, 2584, 2586, 2600, 2604, 2611, 2627, 2655, 2658, 2667, 2683, 2699, 2707, 2741; gaol, xliii, xlv-xlvi, 539, 541, 552, 556, 561, 582, 740, 755, 930, 952, 1142, 1796, 1838, 2152-3, 2156-7, 2163-4, 2175, 2177, 2233, 2239, 2254, 2262, 2275-6, 2278, 2280, 2285, 2297-8, 2300-1, 2305, 2309, 2315, 2317, 2321-2, 2351, 2359-60, 2366, 2371, 2375, 2380, 2383, 2397-8, 2402, 2405, 2435, 2439, 2444, 2495, 2515, 2535, 2578, 2587, 2589, 2591-3, 2595-6, 2598-9, 2601-3, 2606-9, 2612, 2622, 2626, 2629, 2633-4, 2638, 2641, 2652, 2654, 2670, 2679, 2696, 2704, 2711, 2715, 2752, 2755
- Fisherton de la Mere (Fisherton Dalamere, Fisherton Delamere), 2479, 2702, 2718; Bapton, 2205
- Fittleton, 1017, 1708; the Down, 1708; Haxton (Hackleston, Hacklestone), 438, 986, 1650
- Flamston *see under* Bishopstone
- Flintshire, xxxi n
- Folly Brook *see under* Langley Burrell
- Fonthill Bishop, 2754; Bitham Ponds, 2605
- Fonthill Bishop *or* Gifford (Fonthill, Funt-hill), 2556, 2625
- Fonthill Gifford: Stop (Stopp), 2291
- Ford *see under* Laverstock
- Forest Gate *see under* Chippenham
- Fort Farm *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Fosbury *see under* Tidcombe
- Fovant (Foffont, Fofont), 2143, 2159, 2190, 2489, 2513; Upper Fovant (Upper Foffant), 2329
- Foxham *see under* Bremhill; Christian Malford
- Foxhanger's *see under* Rowde
- Foxley (Foxy), 802
- Franchise *see under* Downton
- Frankleigh *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Freemān's Marsh *see under* Hungerford
- Freshford, Som, 915
- Frome, [Som], 856, 1132, 1632, 1971
- Froxfield, [given as in Little Bedwyn *once*], 145, 337, 589, 597, 784, 980, 995, 1067, 1173, 1201, 1288, 1472, 1621, 1715, 1836, 2084; Oakhill (Oakell), 528
- Fugglestone St Peter (Foulston), 2716; Bemerton, 2118, 2731; Quidhampton (Quidhamton), 2211, 2234, 2296, 2417
- Fyfield *see under* Milton Lilborne; Overton
- Garsdon (Gearsden, Gearsdon), 342, 672, Garsdon—*contd*
1519; Broad Mead, 342
- Giddeahall *see under* Yatton Keynell
- Glamorgan, county, xxxi n
- Gloucestershire (county of Gloucester, Gloucestershire, Gloshestreshire), xlv-xlvii, 118, 1708; coroners, xlv; *see also* Alderton; Ampney, Down; Ashley; Avening; Bislev; Bristol; Cerney, South; Cirencester; Fairford; Kemble; Kemp-sford; Kingswood; Minety; Newton, Long; Poole Keynes; Poulton; Shorn-cote; Somerford Keynes; Tetbury; Thornbury; Tytherington
- Goatacre *see under* Hilmarion
- Gomeldon *see under* Idmiston
- Grafton, East and West *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Granham Farm *see under* Savernake Park
- Grimstead, East *see under* Dean, West
- Grittenham *see under* Brinkworth
- Grittleton (Guittleton), 83, 2075
- Grove Farm *see under* Mildenhall
- Gurston *see under* Chalke, Broad
- Hackpen Hill *see under* Hinton, Broad; Winterbourne Bassett; Wroughton
- Hailstone *see under* Cricklade
- Hampshire, 2055; *see also* Ampport; Andover; Basingstoke; Damerham; Dean, West; Lyndhurst; Martin; Melchet Park; Plait-ford; Ringwood; Somborne, King's; Tangle; Wellow, East *and* West; Whitsbury
- Hankerton, 128, 197, 209, 423, 645, 670, 817, 1070, 1552; Hankerton Common, 645, 1552; May's Ditch, 817; Old Town Field, 423
- Hannington, 486, 639, 686, 1214, 1222, 1850; Hannington Bridge, 1429; Hannington Wick, 686, 1082-3, 1636; Lawn Lane, 1222
- Hardenhuish (Harden Hewish, Harding Huish), 252, 1727; Hardenhuish House (Hardinghuish House near Chip-penham), 1769
- Harding Farm *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Hare Street *see under* Pewsey
- Harnham, East *see under* Britford
- Harnham, West, 2150, 2216, 2432, 2459, 2470, 2574, 2769; Six Hatches, 2150
- Harry's Croft *see under* Wootton Bassett
- Hartham *see under* Corsham
- Hartmoor *see under* Potterne
- Hatch *see under* Tisbury
- Hatt *see under* Box
- Haugh Farm *see under* Bradford on Avon

- Hawkeridge *see under* Westbury
 Haxton *see under* Fittleton
 Hay Farm *see under* Bradford on Avon
 Haydon Wick *see under* Rodbourne Cheney
 Hayle Farm *see under* Calne
 Hazeldon *see under* Tisbury
 Heath Farm *see under* Collingbourne Kingston
 Heddington (Headington), 1124; Heddington Wick and Kings Ground, 1542
 Hell, Little *see under* Clyffe Pypard
 Hempstead *see under* Berwick Bassett
 Henley *see under* Box
 Hereford, Heref., 2045
 Hermitage *see under* Calne
 Hernes Bush *see under* Westbury
 Heytesbury (Heitesbury, Heitsbury, Heysbury), xliv, 78, 94, 305, 376, 663, 771, 797, 899, 936, 950, 1027, 1232, 1244, 1310, 1455, 1980, 2068, 2747; Eaton Mead, 1980; Garston Field, 1027; Heytesbury House, 1892; Seven Acres Field, 950; South Field, 1232; Tytherington (Tetherington), 84, 1956
 Heywood *see under* Westbury
 Highway, 1550; Hilly Marsh Common, 1550
 Highworth, xli n, 85, 112, 156, 412, 419, 432, 616, 643, 871, 1214, 1322, 1389, 1399, 1544, 1657, 1760–1, 1849, 1898, 1921, 1927, 1937–8, 1991, 2048, 2051; fair, 1674; Broad Blunsdon (Broad Blunsden), 117, 1020, 1123; Chapel Piece (Chappel Peice), 612; Cobbige Hill, 1849; Coldharbour (Cold Harbour), 1486; Eastrop (Eastrope), 432, 650; Maggot Mill, 112; Mead Croft and Oldbury Field, 1898; Pisworth Ground, 1927; Queen Laines (Queen Layings) Farm, 1921; Sevenhampton (Sevinghampton), 378, 519–20, 612; South Marston (South Maston, South Maston near Highworth), 18, 67, 831, 1640, 1875, 1898
 Hilly Marsh *see under* Highway
 Hilmarton (Helmerton, Hill Marton, Hillmarton, Hillmerton, Hilmarten, Hilmerton), 76, 196, 273, 1778; Bignell, 1855; Catcomb (Catcombe), 362; Corton, 352; Cowage, 98; Goatacre (Goat Acre, Goodacre), 196, 1100, 2006; Lower Penn (Lower Pen), 1801; Spillman's Farm, 1835; Witcomb Mill, 739, 782
 Hilperton (Hilparton), 15, 809, 837, 1093, 1230, 1384, 1394, 1438, 1453, 1901, 1907; Hilperton (Hilperton's) Marsh, 1061, 1639, 1861
 Hindon, 1054, 2008, 2283, 2330, 2349, 2462, 2500, 2668, 2671, 2677
 Hinton, Broad, 266, 735, 923, 1139, 1316, 1424, 1447, 1596; Hackpen (Hackpin) Hill 266, *see also under* Winterbourne Bassett and Wroughton; Uffcott (Uffcot), 1340
 Hinton, Great *see under* Ashton, Steeple
 Hinton, Little, 281, 1015, 1019, 1052, 1327, 1543; Cold Norton Field, 1019
 Hodson *see under* Chiseldon
 Holborn, Midd: St Giles in the Fields (St Giles's in the Fields), 1235
 Holt *see under* Bradford on Avon
 Homington (Humington, Hummington), 2318, 2361, 2456, 2757
 Horningsham, 35, 159, 219, 559, 666, 716, 896, 1025, 1125, 1261, 1343, 1490, 1553, 1771; Cock Road, 896; Horningsham Common, 716; Horningsham Forest, 559; Longleat (Longlate), 137, 480, 566, 584; Longleat House, 1553, 1926; Longleat Park, 566; Shute, 1684, *see also under* Deverill, Longbridge; Water Lane, 1025; Weymouth's Arms Inn, 2082; Wind Hill (Winehill near Longleat), 137
 Horton *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Howe Mill *see under* Ramsbury
 Huish, 1934; Huish Hill, 1985
 Hullavington, 37, 377, 1832; Orridge Lane, 1832; Surrendell (Surrendel), 1681
 Hungerford, Berks, *formerly partly in* Wilts, xxxiv, 2099; Charnham Street, xlv, 309, 718, 772, 795, 925, 1131, 1306, 1341–2, 1406, 1595; Eddington (Edington), 309; Fosters Dean (Fosters Deane) Field, 1186; Freeman's Marsh, 1406; Long Keabury Ground, 925; North Standen (North Standing), 1186; South Standen (Standen Hussey), 1234; Standen (Standing), 925, 1032; White Hart Yard, 1342
 Hurdcott *see under* Baverstock
 Hurst, Berks, *formerly partly in* Wilts, xlv; Bill Hill, 1014; Green Man Inn, Strode Green, and Twyford (Twiford), 1735
 Hursted *see under* Purton
 Idmiston (Edmondstone), 2372; Gomeldon (Gumbleton), 2646; Porton, 2287
 Idovery *see under* Dauntsey
 Iford *see under* Bradford on Avon
 Imber (Ember), 314, 1122, 1749; the Down, 1749
 Inglesham, [*formerly partly in* Berks], 53, 1193
 Inmarsh *see under* Melksham
 Ireland, 1342; *see also* Cork; Tralee
 Isis, river, 81, 406, 428, 600, 1082–3, 1231,

- Isis, river—*contd*
1429
Ivy's Farm *see under* Savernake Park
- Keevil, 725, 1241, 1487, 1683, 1896, 2028;
Baldham (Balneum) Brook and Mill,
261; Bulkington (Buckington), 147, 431,
1355; Bulkington Mill, 236, 1740
- Kellaways (Tetherington Kelloways, Tether-
ton Kelloways, Tytherton Calloways),
177, 889, 1106, 1958
- Kemble, [Glos], *formerly in* Wilts, 1258;
Ewen, 1667; Ewen Field and Smirrel
Farm, 1881
- Kempsford, [Glos], 1840
- Kennet (Kennett, Kinnet), river, 107, 132,
336, 454, 576, 996, 1033, 1200, 1205,
1483, 2042, 2061
- Kennet-Avon canal, 2042, 2061
- Kennett, East, (East Kennet), 95, 710
- Kennett, West *see under* Avebury
- Kerry, Ireland, county *see* Tralee
- Kingsdown *see under* Box
- Kingswood, Glos, *formerly in* Wilts, xlvii, 10,
104, 271, 346, 711, 1312, 1430, 1743
- Kington St Michael (Kingston St Michael),
92, 284, 599, 780, 830, 1165, 1947, 1988;
Dicks Quarry, 1165; Kington Langley
(Kington Longly, Langley, Langly Fitz-
hurst), 1272, 1788, 1922; Ridings (Ride-
ings), 599; Swinley (Swinly) Farm, 638
- Kington, West, (Westkington), 23
- Knighton *see under* Chalke, Broad
- Knighton Farm *see under* Ramsbury
- Knockdown House *see under* Sherston
Magna
- Knook (Knooke), 532, 861, 2024
- Knogle, East, (East Knoil, East Knowle),
2106, 2274, 2438, 2473, 2488, 2491;
Milton, 2527
- Knogle, West, (West Knowle), 2173, 2499,
2552, 2676; Willoughby Hedge, 2231
- Lacock (Laycock), 54, 186, 213, 282, 348,
460, 469, 502, 695, 794, 891, 911, 1009,
1059, 1677, 1702, 1803, 1900, 2025, 2037,
2054, 2065; Bowden Hill, 224, 1059,
1458, 2025; Bowden Park, 1803; Flood
Pill or Pond, 2054; Nash (Ash) Hill,
1009; Rey (Raw) Mill, 1651; Reybridge
(Rawbridge), 683, 1697; Stans Moor
House, 2025; Wick Lane (Wicklane),
1659
- Lady Down Farm *see under* Bradford on
Avon
- Lambourne *see under* Winterbourne Bassett
- Landford, [given as in Whiteparish parish
- Landford—*contd*
once], 535, 2248, 2594; Landford Lodge,
2733
- Langfield Copse *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Langford, Steeple, (Langford), 2642; Hang-
ing Langford, 2448
- Langley Burrell (Langly Buriel, Langly Burill,
Langly Burrel, Langly Burrell), 121, 500,
651, 702, 1821; the Common, 1821; Folly
Brook, 500
- Langley, Kington *see under* Kington St
Michael
- Larborough *see under* Potterne
- Latton, 118, 146, 341, 829, 1064, 1118, 1931;
Charlham (Charlum) Brook, 118; Long
Lands Field, 1064; Southam (South
Hamm), 119
- Laverstock, 2174, 2286, 2324, 2430, 2510,
2540, 2669; Bishopsdown (Bishop
Down), 2628; Ford, 2103, 2713; Milford,
[called parish *once*], 2188, 2193, 2282,
2340, 2367, 2453, 2516, 2520, 2522, 2546,
2571-2, 2579, 2597, 2694, 2700, 2719,
2746; St Thomas's (St Thomas) Bridge,
2367
- Lavington, Market, (East Lavington, East or
Market Lavington), 129, 229, 314, 618,
749, 781, 822, 959, 1145, 1844, 1846,
1856-7, 1955; Broad Well Stream, 129;
Easterton (Esterton), 551, 993, 1134
- Lavington, West, (Lavington), 153, 619, 701,
750, 1021, 1190, 1315, 1489, 1505, 1537,
1579, 1749, 1944, 1952; Goose Acre
Field, 1489; Littleton Hill, 1617; Little-
ton Mill, 2027; Littleton Pannell (Little-
ton), 1036, 1617, 1723, 1908
- Lays Lane *see under* Malmesbury
- Lea (Lea near Malmesbury, the Lea, the Lea
near Malmesbury), 983, 1548, 1787,
1998; Cleverton (Claverton), 59, 1295
- Leigh *see under* Aldbourne; Ashton Keynes;
Bradford on Avon
- Leigh Delamere: Sevington, 79
- Leigh, Westbury *see under* Westbury
- Liddington (Liddenton, Luddenton), [given
as in Wanborough parish *once*], 32, 696,
1108
- Linley Farm *see under* Tisbury
- Littlecote *see under* Ramsbury
- Littlecott *see under* Enford
- Littleton Drew, 71
- Littleton Mill and Littleton Pannell *see under*
Lavington, West
- Littleton Wood *see under* Ashton, Steeple
- Lockeridge *see under* Overton
- Lockshill Heath *see under* Chippenham
- London, 1288, 1755, 2039

- Long Mead *see under* Trowbridge
 Longford *see under* Britford
 Longleat *see under* Horningsham
 Luckington, 1207
 Ludgershall, xlv. 531, 1179, 1644, 1883; officers, 654
 Ludwell *see under* Donhead St Mary
 Lydeway *see under* Urchfont
 Lydiard Millicent (Lediard Millicent, Lidiard Millicent, Lydiard Mellicent, North Lediard, North Ledyard, North Liddiard), 142, 198, 401, 608, 732, 987, 2014; the Marsh, 987; Shaw, 1213, 1517, 1538; Shaw Wash Pool, 1538; the Weir (Wire) Pond, 732
 Lydiard Tregoze (Leddiard Tregose, Lediard Tregoose, Lediard Tregose, Lediard Treygoze), 479, 973, 1112, 1275, 1285; Chaddington (Chaddenton), 973, 1622; Purley or Marsh House, 1954
 Lyndhurst, Hants. 2045
 Lyneham (Lineham), 233, 427, 1060; Clack, 910, 955, 1105, 1969; New Barn, 1408
- Maddington, 2260; Maddington Cow Down, 1385
 Maggot Mill *see under* Highworth
 Malmesbury (Malsbury), xlvi–xlvii, 19, 110, 471–2, 547, 726, 1041, 1055, 1229, 1787, 1885, 1998, 2044; aldermen and coroners, xlv; high steward, 1393; justice of the peace, 472; market, 1141; Burgesses Part, 1403; Burton Hill (Binton Hill, Burton Hill near Malmesbury), xli, 1041, 1403; Burton Hill Mills (Connops or Burton Hill Mills near Malmesbury), 1911; Corston, [*called* parish], 1398; Cow Bridge (Cowbridge) Mill, 127; Lays Lane (Layslane), 1398; Malmesbury Common, 1885; Milbourne (Milbourn), 471; Rodbourne (Rodbourn), 325, 1699; West Park, 462
 Manningford Abbots, 429, 494, 1071, 1102, 1444, 2056
 Manningford Bohune *see under* Wilsford
 Manningford Bruce, 1199, 1628
 Manton *see under* Preshute
 Marden (Mardon), 188, 455, 659, 918, 941, 1290, 1468, 1583, 1711, 1826; Marden Field and Sandals Furlong, 1290
 Marden, river, 1637
 Marlborough (Marlboro, Marlbro, Marlborough, Marlebro, Marlebrough), xxxi, xxxvi, xlv, xlvii, 107, 523, 646, 828, 922, 1033, 1042, 1130, 1167, 1200, 1245, 1383, 1400, 1483, 1506, 1662, 2004; coroners,
- Marlborough—*contd*
 xxxi, xlv, xlvii; fair, 1269; gaol *see under* Preshute; market, 1226; market place, 1353; mayors, xlvii;
 quarter sessions, xxxvi–xxxvii, 1802; bill allowed at, 1649–69; bills beginning at, 29–44, 69–79, 102–28, 148–203, 223–42, 268–330, 348–425, 441–57, 490–525, 550–79, 601–29, 671–90, 722–43, 777–812, 848–76, 912–53, 974–91, 1017–34, 1103–22, 1152–82, 1219–51, 1316–42, 1373–405, 1461–70, 1544–66, 1670–90, 1891–902;
 Castle Inn and Mill *see under* Preshute
 Marlborough Common *see under* Preshute
 Marlborough Forest, 1226, 1306, 1383, 1400, 1645, 1906
 Marlborough Hill *see under* Preshute
 Marrison Hill *see under* Ramsbury
 Marsh House *see under* Lydiard Tregoze
 Marston *see under* Potterne
 Marston Meysey (Marston Vessey), 715
 Marston, South *see under* Highworth
 Marten *see under* Bedwyn, Great
 Martin, [Hants], *formerly in* Wilts, 2220, 2253, 2299, 2616, 2661, 2708
 May's Ditch *see under* Hankerton
 Melchet Park (Milchet Park), [Hants], *formerly in* Wilts, 2201
 Melksham, xlv, 73, 123, 173, 242, 395, 403, 447, 526, 533, 664, 709, 717, 758, 774, 858, 893–4, 1265, 1292, 1298, 1303, 1386, 1457, 1520, 1588, 1633, 1658, 1661, 1689, 1692, 1915, 1935, 1973, 1999, 2007, 2031, 2039; tithingman, 774, 812; Beanacre (Bean Acre), 674, 1157, 1936; Bell Inn, 1333; Berhills (Berrels) Field, 1297; Bowerhill, 1323, 1851; Cannonhold (Can Hold), 2007; Handle House, 858; Inmarsh (Henmarsh), 1166; New Leaze (New Leaze), 894; Queenfield, 1789; Red Stock Lane, 1523; Seend (Seende), [*sometimes called* parish], 292, 386, 653, 824, 1028, 1142, 1166, 1176, 1223, 1297, 1333, 1523, 1535, 1560, 1614, 1683, 1775, 2040; Seend Cleeve, 122, 1751; Seend Head, 310, 554; Seend Lane, xlviii; Seend Row, 677, 1535, 1560, 1782; Shaw, 1259; Shaw Hill, 2021; Shaw Hill House, 1270; Shurnhold (Shurnhall), 323; Unicorn Inn, 1689; Whitley (Whitly), 1324, 1488; Whitley Common, 1635, 1763, 1783, 2021; Woodrow (Woodrew), 1533
 Melksham, hundred, court of request, 465
 Melksham Forest, 140, 774, 812, 1686, 1970
 Melsome Wood *see under* Christian Malford
 Mere (Meere), 2010, 2207, 2227–8, 2302,

Mere—*contd*

2337, 2352, 2421, 2455, 2476, 2492, 2518, 2565, 2639–40, 2717, 2735; Chaddenwick (Charnish), 2663; Mere Park, 2257; Zeals (Zeales), 2623

Mere Farm *see under* Mildenhall

Middlehill *see under* Box

Middlesex, county *see* Holborn; Westminster

Middleton *see under* Norton Bavant

Midford *see under* Stoke, South

Milbourne *see under* Malmesbury

Mildenhall (Middenhall, Midenhall, Mildenhall), 107, 168, 434, 1948; Grove Farm, 1565; Mere (Mear) Farm, 1719; Stitchcombe (Stitchcomb) Farm, 1695; Woodlands, 1210

Milford *see under* Laverstock

Milston, 2333, 2387, 2637; Brigmerston (Brigminston, Brigmiston), 2149, 2457

Milton *see under* Knoyle, East

Milton Lilborne (Milton), 297; Clench (Clinch), 1602; Fyfield (Fifield), Grove Field and Little Salisbury (Little Sarum or Salisbury), 1547; Totteridge Cow Leaze (Totteridge Cowlease), 124

Minty (Minty), [*formerly in* Glos], 254

Moredon *see under* Rodbourne Cheney

Murhill *see under* Bradford on Avon

Nailsworth *see under* Avening

Nash Hill *see under* Lacock

Nether Street *see under* Bromham

Netheravon (Neatherhaven, Netherhaven), xlv, 338, 414, 617, 2355; St Margaret's (St Margaretts), river, 617; White Sheet Hill, 986

Netherhampton (Netherhamton), 2158, 2631, 2768

Nettleton, 343, 760, 1995; tithingman, 760, 776

New Barn *see under* Lyneham

New Farm *see under* Warminster

New Forest, 2319

New Hall *see under* Nunton

New Lodge Farm *see under* Downton

New Park *see under* Cannings, Bishop's

New South Wales, [Australia] *see* Sydney

New Town *see under* Bradford on Avon

Newbury, [Berks], 210, 1915

Newnton, Long, (Long Newton, Newnton near Tetbury), [Glos], *formerly in* Wilts, 335, 590, 1001

Newnton, North, (Newnton, North Newton), 327, 1237, 2092

Newton *see under* Whiteparish

Newton, South, 2127, 2236, 2247; Chilhampton, 2742; North Ugford, 2146; Stoford

Newton, South—*contd*

(Stoffard, Stowford), 2012, 2120, 2368; Stoford Bridge, 2120

Newton Tony (Newton Toney, Newtontony), 2147, 2258, 2412, 2537

No Man's Land, 2762

Normanton *see under* Wilsford

Norridge *see under* Upton Scudamore

Norton Bavant (Norton, Norton Bavant near Warminster), 20, 771, 855, 1126, 1363, 1530; Middleton, 1240; the Pill, 1126

Nunton, 2394, 2506, 2581; Bodenham, 2376; New Hall (Newhall), 2730

Nursteed *see under* Cannings, Bishop's

Oakhill *see under* Froxfield

Oaksey, 26, 326, 452, 706, 2067

Oare *see under* Wilcot

Ogbourne St Andrew (Ogborn St Andrew, Ogborne St Andrew, Ogbourn St Andrew, Ogbourn St Andrews), 38, 272, 274, 319, 410, 738, 868, 1069, 1502, 1514; Rockley (Rockly), 1451; Woodroffs Meadow, 1502

Ogbourne St George (Ogourn St George), 49, 1040, 1597; church, 1040; Ogbourne (Ogourn) Field and Red Lands, 1597

Orcheston St George (Orchestan St George), xlv, 2097, 2549, 2772; Elston Farm, 2057

Orcheston St George *or* St Mary (Orcheston), 2182

Overton, 290, 359, 646, 1255; Cow Down, 1197; East Overton, 697, 1181; Fyfield (Fifield), 1133, 1351; Lockeridge, 1620, 1985; Long Close, 1351; Pickledean (Pickle Dean), 1620; Stretches Meadow, 1255; West Overton, 1197, 1436

Overtown *see under* Wroughton

Parsonage Farm *see under* Warminster

Passion's Mill *see under* Ashton, Steeple

Patney, 415, 445, 464; Patney Heath, 941; Scoth Field, 415

Penleigh *see under* Westbury

Penn, Lower *see under* Hilmarton

Penn's Lodge *see under* Brinkworth

Peters Farm *see under* Calne

Pewsey, 21, 258, 275, 357, 420, 542, 704, 762, 786, 1007, 1107, 1130, 1470, 1796, 1865, 1891, 1910, 1961, 2022; constable, 1796, 1838; Ball, 2016; Buckleaze (Bucklers) Millpond, 1961; Hare Street (Harespeat) Pond, xli, 1475; Hatters Field, 420; Pewsey Down, 786; Pewsey Hill, 1891; Phoenix Inn, 2022; Sharcott (Shercot, Shercote), 1066, 1475; Southcott (Southcut) Field, 275; West Leaze (West

Pewsey—*contd*

- Lease), 1066; West Wick, 1732; West-berry Field, 786
- Piccadilly *see under* Rowde
- Pickledean *see under* Overton
- Pickwick *see under* Corsham
- Pitton *see under* Alderbury
- Plaitford (Plaiteford, Plateford), [Hants], *formerly in* Wilts, 2404, 2739
- Plaster, Chapel *see under* Box
- Poole Keynes (Poole), [Glos], *formerly in* Wilts, 1504, 1549
- Porton *see under* Idmiston
- Potterne (Pottern), xxxix–xl, 2, 7, 12, 45, 167, 391, 807, 876, 901–2, 965, 967, 1088–9, 1109, 1140, 1218, 1235, 1361, 1477, 1529, 1669, 1824, 1887, 1983, 2074; George Inn, 1887; Hartmoor (Hartmore), 303, 1880; Larborough (Larbora) and Larborough Brook, 68; Marston (Masson), 7, 1094; Marston Common, 1013; Mudhouse, 1673; Organ Inn, 1361; Potterne Wick (Wick), 1162, 1374; Potterne Wood, 807; Rudges Common, 28; Stroud Common, 705; Whistley, 101; Worton, 906, 1013, 1481, 1503, 1591
- Poulshot (Polesholt, Polshot, Polshott, Poulshott), xlviii, 16, 491, 607, 819, 977, 1473, 1585, 1859, 1949; Summerham (Sommerham), 2019
- Poulton (Polton), [Glos], *formerly in* Wilts, 886, 1501
- Preshute (Preshot, Preshott, Preshut, Preshute near Marlborough, Prushott), xlv, 793, 828, 1119, 1483; Barton (Barton near Marlborough), 1662; Barton Down, 1506; Castle Inn, Marlborough, 900, 1721; Castle Mill, Marlborough, 1205; Castle Mill Pond, 1483; Clatford (Clatford), 62, 1075, 1149; Clatford Bottom, 862; Elcot (Elcott), 1440; Forest Gate, 2004; Harts Field, 1247; Manton, 93, 828; Marlborough Common, 550; Marlborough gaol (bridewell, house of correction), xlv, 798, 897, 933, 949, 953, 978, 1247, 1353, 1410, 1439, 1521, 1802, 2066; Marlborough Hill, 1561, 2004; New Barn, 1662; Roebuck Inn, 1383; St Margaret's (St Margaretts, St Margeretts, St Margrets), 5, 132, 390, 940, 1975; Temple (Tempel) Down, 55, 498; Turnpike House, 550; Wheatshaf Inn, 312
- Purley House *see under* Lydiard Tregoze
- Purton (Penton, Pinton), xli, 195, 216, 264, 328, 513, 765, 880, 984, 1213, 1307, 1402, 1507, 1540, 1581, 1634, 2049, 2088;

Purton—*contd*

- Bentham (Bantom), 806; Dole Mead, 1402; Hursted (Hinsteed) Field, xli, 968; Jeffreys's (Jeffrys's) Meadow, 1507; Plain House, 1294; Purton Stoke, 719, 814, 968; Rodger's (Rogers's) Ground, 1634; Rushey (Rushy) or Common Platt, 1713; Upper Hayes Field, 806; Woodward's Bridge, 1581
- Pythouse *see under* Tisbury
- Queen Laines Farm *see under* Highworth
- Queenfield *see under* Melksham
- Quemerford *see under* Calne
- Quemerford Common *see under* Blackland
- Quidhampton *see under* Fugglestone St Peter
- Rabson Down *see under* Winterbourne Bassett
- Ramsbury, 164, 214, 336, 400, 738, 792, 933, 974, 1037, 1065, 1128, 1354, 1435, 1456, 1866, 1992; tithingman, 933, 953; Axford, 454, 641, 1150, 1469, 1738; Axford Farm, 576; Bailey (Bayly) Hill Farm, 883; Baydon (Bayden), 248, 640, 642, 783, 883, 934, 1756; Howe Mill (How Mills), 1866; Knighton Farm, 655; Littlecote (Littlecott), 1006; Marridge (Marriage) Hill, 64; Mundy's Field, 642; Ramsbury Manor, 841; Ramsbury Park, 1456, 1606; Shacks Stile, 1037; Whittonditch (Whitinditch), 1555
- Rangeworthy *see under* Thornbury
- Red Hill *see under* Calne
- Red Stock Lane *see under* Melksham
- Redlynch *see under* Downton
- Rey Mill and Reybridge *see under* Lacock
- Ridge *see under* Chilmark
- Ringwood, [Hants], 2099
- Rockley *see under* Ogbourne St Andrew
- Rodbourne *see under* Malmesbury
- Rodbourne Cheney (Rodbourn Cheney), 416, 1345; Haydon Wick, 109; Moredon (Moordon, Moreden), 285, 1434; Water Furlong, 1434
- Rode (Roade), Som, 1619; *see also under* Bradley, North
- Roundway *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
- Rowborough Common *see under* Deverill, Longbridge
- Rowde (Rowd), 282, 840, 921, 964, 992, 1111, 1198, 1219, 1380, 1571, 1675; Durllett (Durllet), 1375, 1986; Foxhanger's, 386; Piccadilly, 1028; Rowde Farm, 966; Tity Marsh, 921
- Rudges Common *see under* Potterne
- Rushall (Russell), 728, 1237, 2110

- Rushey Platt *see under* Purton
 Rushmore Lodge *see under* Berwick St John
- St Giles in the Fields *see under* Holborn
 St James's *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 St Margaret's *see under* Preshute
 St Margaret's, river *see under* Netheravon
- Salisbury (New Sarum, Sarum), xxxi, xxxvi, xlv–xlvii, xlix–l, 420, 1217, 1251, 1615, 1907, 2045, 2122, 2139, 2145, 2183, 2284, 2303, 2765, 2770; assizes, l, liii, 9, 21, 46, 49, 55, 60, 77, 96, 122–3, 125, 160, 174, 181, 195, 200, 214, 235, 240, 262, 294, 301, 311, 355–6, 387, 432, 447, 495, 510, 530, 569, 582, 608, 617, 686, 694, 722, 727, 733, 739–40, 760, 774, 786, 820, 840, 849, 895, 926, 930, 933, 983–4, 1024, 1059, 1128, 1136, 1142, 1157, 1217, 1268, 1277, 1324, 1332, 1346, 1353, 1390, 1442, 1566, 1592, 1615, 1619, 1625, 1672, 1689, 1692, 1763, 1796, 1827, 1869, 1895, 1904, 1977, 2097, 2100, 2168, 2191, 2213, 2247, 2303, 2364, 2441, 2447, 2449, 2453, 2461, 2471, 2476, 2519–20, 2586, 2649, 2729, 2773, 2788; bailiffs, xlvii n; bill dated at, 2461; coroners, xxx–xxxi, xlvii n; journeys made from, xliii, 2302–746; quarter sessions, xxxvi, 1708; bills allowed at, 2344–57, 2393–411; bills beginning at, 2110–63, 2174–225, 2241–94, 2318–460, 2479–746, 2759–72
- Salisbury, Little *see under* Milton Lilborne
 Salisbury Plain, 551, 1385, 1907, 2045
 Sandy Lane *see under* Calne
- Savernake Forest (the Forest, Savernacke Forrest), 560, 1561; Savernake Lodge (Bagden Lodge), 560
- Savernake Park (Savernacle Park, Savernacle Parke, Savernake Parke, Severnake Park), 202, 312, 1056, 1400, 1561; Granham Farm, 243; Ivy's Farm, 1906; Savernake Park Great Lodge, 1645
- Scotlands *see under* Draycot Cerne
 Seagry, 457; Seagry Mill, 171
 Sedgehill, 2358, 2764
 Seend *see under* Melksham
- Semington *see under* Ashton, Steeple
 Semley (Sembly, Sembly), 2252, 2292, 2356
 Sevenhampton *see under* Highworth
 Sevington *see under* Leigh Delamere
 Shaftesbury, [Dors], 2303
- Shalbourne (Shalborn, Shalborne, Shalbourn, Shawbourn), *formerly partly in* Berks], 1344, 1395, 1914; Galley Lane, 1914; Shalbourne Field, 1022
- Sharcott *see under* Pewsey
 Shaw *see under* Lydiard Millicent; Melksham
- Shear Water *see under* Deverill, Longbridge
 Sheldon *see under* Chippenham
 Shepherds' Shore *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Shepton Mallet, [Som], 1603
 Sherrington (Sherington), 2418
 Sherston Magna (Great Sherstone, Sherstone), 1580, 1707, 1833, 2026; Knockdown (Knock Down) House, 1225
 Shinfield, Berks, *formerly partly in* Wilts, xlv, 2325
 Shorncote (Shorn Cot), [Glos], *formerly in* Wilts, 1997
- Short Street *see under* Westbury
 Shrewton, 2105, 2184, 2477, 2614
 Shurnhold *see under* Melksham
 Shute *see under* Horningsham
 Shute Farm *see under* Deverill, Longbridge
 Silverstreet *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Slade's Farm *see under* Box
 Slaughterford (Slattenford), 1148
 Smallbrook *see under* Upton Scudamore
 Smirrel Farm *see under* Kemble
 Snarlton *see under* Ashton, Steeple
 Soley *see under* Chilton Foliat
 Somborne, King's, (King Sumbourn), Hants, 2096
- Somerford, Great, (Broad Summerford, Great Summerford, Summerford Magna), 595–6, 1104, 1358, 1604, 1742, 1752; Startley (Startly), 1752; Startley Common, 1289
- Somerford Keynes (Summerford Caines), [Glos], *formerly in* Wilts, 1693; Bolton Mill, 276
- Somerford, Little, (Little Summerford, Summerford Parva), 1, 165, 727
- Somerset (Somerset, Summerset). county, 1235, 1239, 1619; *see also* Bath; Bathford; Bathwick; Beckington; Bradley, Maiden; Freshford; Frome; Rode; Shepton Mallet; Stoke, South; Stourton
 Sopworth (Sapworth), 183, 504, 1039, 1376
 Southampton, county *see* Hampshire
 Southbroom *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Southwark, Surrey: St George's parish, 1417
 Southwick *see under* Bradley, North
 Spillman's Farm *see under* Hilmarton
 Spye Park *see under* Cannings, Bishop's
 Standen *see under* Chute; Hungerford
 Standen, North and South *see under* Hungerford
 Standlynch, 2525
 Stanley *see under* Chippenham
 Stanley Mill *see under* Bremhill
 Stanmore Field *see under* Clyffe Pypard
 Stanton Fitzwarren (Stanton Fitz Warren),

- Stanton Fitzwarren—*contd*
373, 1875
- Stanton St Bernard (Stanton Barnet, Stanton Barnett, Stanton St Barnard), 329, 629, 747, 1876; Stanton Field, 747
- Stanton St Quintin (Stanton St Quinton), 225, 397, 1143, 1747; Lower Stanton St Quintin (the lower Stanton St Quinton), 1398
- Stapleford (Stappleford), 2119, 2206, 2209, 2241, 2306, 2725
- Startley *see under* Somerford, Great
- Staverton *see under* Trowbridge
- Stert *see under* Urchfont
- Stitchcombe Farm *see under* Mildenhall
- Stock Close *see under* Aldbourne
- Stockham Marsh *see under* Bremhill
- Stockley *see under* Calne
- Stockton, 483, 2130, 2197, 2458, 2534
- Stoford *see under* Newton, South
- Stoke, Limpley *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Stoke, Purton *see under* Purton
- Stoke, South, Som: Midford (Midford near South Stoke), xlvii, 1086; Midford Brook, 1086
- Stonehill *see under* Charlton
- Stop *see under* Fonthill Gifford
- Stourton (Sturton), [*formerly partly in* Som], xlv, 2643, 2723
- Stratford sub Castle (Castle Stratford, Stratford, Stratford under the Castle, Stratford), 2256, 2290, 2423, 2501, 2524
- Stratford Tony (Stoney Stratford, Stoney Stratford, Stratford St Antony), 2312, 2415, 2450
- Stratton St Margaret (Shatton St Margaretts, Stratton St Margaretts, Stratton St Margaret), 815, 826, 981, 1080, 1279, 1674, 1770; Stratton Field, 1269; Studdy Field, 981
- Strode Green *see under* Hurst
- Stroud Common *see under* Potterne
- Studley *see under* Calne; Trowbridge
- Summerham *see under* Poulshot
- Surrendell *see under* Hullavington
- Surrey (Surry), county *see* Southwark
- Sussex, county *see* Battle
- Sutton Benger (Sutton Benjer), 163, 1493
- Sutton Mandeville (Sutton Mandevill), 2176, 2399
- Sutton Veny (Great Sutton, Sutton Magna, Sutton Vene), 48, 278, 363, 492, 632, 665, 838, 930, 1411; tithingman, 930, 952; Crockerton, 1744, 2043, *see also under* Deverill, Longbridge; Haycombe (Haycomb) Field, 838; Sutton Common, 665; Wickhams Ground, 1411
- Swallowcliffe (Swallow Cliff, Swallow Clift), 2172, 2403
- Swallowfield, Berks, *formerly partly in* Wilts, xlvi, 2189, 2242, 2504, 2645
- Swindon, 40, 228, 301, 564, 571, 748, 804, 922, 1108, 1269, 1581, 1649, 1776, 1869; fair, 1629; Eastcott (Eastcot), 1189, 2076; Goddards (Godwards) Lane, 922; May's Paddock, 804
- Swinley Farm *see under* Kington St Michael
- Switzerland, 1745
- Sydney, New South Wales, [Australia], xlix
- Tangley, Hants, 2053
- Teffont Evias (Lower Teffont), 2224
- Teffont Evias *or* Magna (Teffont, Toffant), 2425, 2429
- Teffont Magna (Upper Tiffont), 2307
- Temple Down *see under* Preshute
- Tetbury (Tedbury), [Glos], xli n, 827, 1001, 1430
- Thornbury, Glos: Rangeworthy, 453
- Thornend Farm *see under* Christian Malford
- Thornhill *see under* Clyffe Pypard
- Tidcombe (Tidcomb), 909; the Down, 1022; Fosbury (Fostbury), 602, 1022, 1449
- Tidworth, North, (Tidworth), xlv, 2122, 2132, 2142, 2293
- Tilshead, 712, 861, 1287, 1953; Tilshead Buildings, 1528
- Tinhead *see under* Edington
- Tisbury, 2210, 2217, 2221, 2251, 2381, 2411, 2469, 2559, 2647, 2674, 2759–60; Chicksgrove (Cheesegrove), 2133, 2484; Chicksgrove Quarry, 2137, 2144; East Hatch, 2255; Hatch, 2230, 2426, 2575; Hazeldon (Hasleton), 2452; Linley (Lindly) Farm, 553; Pythouse (Pitt-house), 190; Wardour (Wardor) Castle, 2365, 2442, 2541; West Hatch, 2098
- Tollard Royal, 2264
- Tottenham *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Totteridge *see under* Milton Lilborne
- Tralee, co. Kerry, Ireland, 393
- Trimnell's Farm *see under* Bremhill
- Trowbridge (Trowbrige), xlv, xlix, 46, 160, 199, 232, 365, 372, 382, 418, 446, 448, 493, 495, 537, 593, 694, 733, 778, 943, 975, 1031, 1043–4, 1081, 1121, 1169, 1208, 1250, 1313, 1326, 1360, 1381, 1404, 1498, 1546, 1562, 1584, 1592, 1665, 1730, 1795, 1805, 1810–12, 1837, 1905, 1977, 1979, 2019, 2213; Alms House Field, 1250; Blue Ball Inn, 1404; Corn Innox (Corn Enox) Ground, 1795; Court Hill (Court-hill), 1837; Horse Crofts Field, 1730; Little Paddock, 1391; Little Trowle

Trowbridge—*contd*

- (Trole, Trowle), 1263, 1562, 1795; Long Mead, 1414; Staverton, 1338; Studley (Studley near Trowbridge), 874, 1030, 1116, 1254, 1391, 1901; Studley Green, 744, 1433; Trowbridge Down (the Down or Trowbridge Down), 1169, 1810–12; White Row (White Trow), 1030
 Trowle Common and Farm and Great Trowle *see under* Bradford on Avon
 Trowle, Little *see under* Trowbridge
 Turleigh *see under* Bradford on Avon
 Twyford *see under* Hurst
 Tytherington *see under* Heytesbury
 ? Tytherington (Digthenton), Glos, 679
 Tytherton *see under* Chippenham

Uffcott *see under* Hinton, Broad

- Ugford, North *see under* Newton, South
 Upavon (Uphaven, Upheaven), 265, 270, 396, 927, 1372, 1879; Ham Field (Hamfield), 927
 Upham, Upper *see under* Aldbourne
 Upton Lovell, 832, 835, 1600, 1965; parish house, 1965
 Upton Scudamore (Upton Skidamore), 1737; Norridge, 349; Smallbrook (Small Brook), 394
 Urchfont (Erchfont, Urshfont), 115, 396, 411, 436, 545–6, 619, 688, 754, 863, 1010, 1026, 1049, 1087, 1153, 1187, 1421, 1762, 1798, 1888, 2078; Crofts Pond, 1087; Crookwood, 235; Eastcott (Eastcot), 2063; Eastcott Field, 863; Eastcott Hill, 2063; Lydeway (Lide Way, Lideway), 41, 1830, 1907, 2045, 2184; Stert, 30, 262, 1153, 1421, 1762, 1798; Stert Mill, 287; Urchfont Hill, 1049; Wedhampton, 1328, 1741

Vernditch Chase *see under* Chalke, BroadWadswick *see under* Box

Wallingford, Berks, 2122

- Wanborough (Wambro, Wanboro, Wanbro, Wanbrough, Wandborough), 32, 133, 260, 281, 808, 865, 1029, 1110, 1330, 1984, 2030, 2093; Earls court (Wanboro Earlscomb) and Step Stone Meadow, 1640; Wanborough Common, 865; Wanborough Marsh, 281, 1587; Wanborough Plain, 696, 808

Wardour *see under* Tisbury

- Warminster (Warmister), xli n, xlv, 9, 20, 108, 116, 194, 234, 238, 340, 351, 437, 458, 529, 682, 766, 789–90, 899, 982, 999, 1002, 1004, 1085, 1092, 1120, 1129, 1163,

Warminster—*contd*

- 1220, 1233, 1260, 1310, 1388, 1450, 1467, 1482, 1599, 1641, 1671, 1684, 1705, 1971–2, 2001, 2009, 2047, 2055, 2062, 2068, 2080, 2102, 2212, 2678, 2682, 2685; market, 1777; parish house, 1722;
 quarter sessions, xxxiii, xxxvi, xxxviii, 1409; bills allowed at, 1618–48, 2790–2; bills beginning at, 1503–24, 1649–69, 1719–47, 1787–839, 1874–90, 1952–84, 2025–59, 2233–40;
 Angel Inn, 1220; Boreham (Boarham), 205, 1194–5, 1467, 1841; Boreham Mill, 1194–5; Bugley (Bugly), 1632; Cold Harbour, 982; Lamb Inn, 1972; Long Lane, 1063; Lord's Arms Inn, 1641; New Farm, 1425; Parsonage Farm, 1598; Shortway Lane, 1085; Warminster Common, 6, 57, 856, 1054, 1090, 1238, 1356, 1722; Warminster Down, 1450; Warminster Field, 1004; Warminster Street, 1092
 Wedhampton *see under* Urchfont
 Wellow, East, Hants, xlv, 2512
 Wellow, West, Hants, *formerly partly in* Wilts, xlv
 Were (Ware, Wear), river, 537, 694
 West Park *see under* Cholderton; Malmesbury
 West Wick *see under* Pewsey
 Westbrook *see under* Bromham
 Westbury, xlv, 280, 339, 347, 387, 426, 467, 788, 899, 972, 1253, 1390, 1454, 1531, 1589, 1648, 1680, 1777, 1834, 1868, 1929, 1943, 2009, 2023; constable, 1625, 1648; market place, 1454;
 Bratton, 681, 740, 1500, 1680, 1758, 1966, 2036; tithingman, 740, 775;
 Broker's Gate, 1996; Brook and Brook Common, 482; Brook Green, 1336; Chalcot (Charlot near Chapmanslade), 1045–6; Chalford (Chalcotsford), 136, 430, 1103; Chapmanslade, 480, 708, 1797; the Common, 1012; Dead Maids (Dead Maid) Road, 574; Dilton, 13, 75, 206, 2052; Dilton Marsh (Dilton's Marsh), 613, 757, 1785; Dilton Marsh Common, 13; Fairwood (Verwood), 757; Gibbs's Close, 1531; Hawkeridge (Haukrider, Hawkerige), 333, 507, 1115, 1573; Hernes Bush Down, 1113; Heywood (Haywood), 43, 1012, 1286, 1728; Heywood House, 1929; Long Eel Ground, 1253; Penleigh (Penley, Penly), 1144, 1576; Penleigh Common, 174; Penleigh Mills, 1862; Short Street (Shortstreet), 1691, 1996; Southdown Barn, 681; Westbury Leigh (Leigh),

- Westbury—*contd*
 489, 549, 721, 1113, 1138, 1155, 1180,
 1412, 1464, 1625, 1912, 2035, 2059;
 Westbury Leigh Lower Field, 2035;
 Yarnbrook Common, 507
- Westcombe *see under* Deverill, Longbridge
- Westcourt *see under* Burbage
- Westminster, Midd: justice of the peace, 563;
 St James's parish, 563
- Westport St Mary (West Port Out parish near
 Malmesbury), 1885
- Westwood *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Wexcombe *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Whaddon (Whadden), 1212, 1994
- Whaddon *see under* Alderbury
- Whetham *see under* Calne
- Whitley *see under* Potterne
- Whitbourne *see under* Corsley
- White Hill *see under* Bradford on Avon
- White Row *see under* Trowbridge
- Whitehill Farm *see under* Wootton Bassett
- Whiteparish (White Parish), 535, 2131, 2139,
 2204, 2370, 2377–8, 2400, 2550, 2570,
 2624, 2648, 2672; Cowesfield (Cows-
 field), 2657, 2751; Cowesfield Common,
 2734, 2740; Newton, 2613
- Whitley *see under* Melksham
- Whitsbury (Whichbury). [Hants], *formerly in*
 Wilts, 2681, 2727
- Whittonditch *see under* Ramsbury
- Whorwellsdown (Whorwelsdown), hundred,
 court of request, 465
- Wick *see under* Cannings. Bishop's; Downton
- Widdenham Mill *see under* Colerne
- Wilcot, 358; Oare, 509, 644, 1985; Oare Hill
 (the Hill), 1985
- Willoughby Hedge *see under* Knoyle, West
- Wilsford (Willsford, Wiltsford) [in Swan-
 borough hundred], 203, 327, 658, 1005,
 1349, 1582; Bottlesford, 1690; Catford
 Mead, 1005; Hole Close, 1349; Manning-
 ford Bohune (Manningford Behewn,
 Manningford Bohun), [*called parish*
once], 380, 1461, 1690; Wilsford Mead,
 203
- Wilsford [in Underditch hundred]: Norman-
 ton (Normington), 2395, 2548
- Wilton, xlv, xlix–I, 2111, 2123, 2180, 2198,
 2326, 2335, 2408, 2436, 2441, 2447, 2502,
 2528, 2588, 2619, 2632, 2649, 2695, 2758;
 alderman, I; coroners, xxx; journeys
 made from, xliii, xlvi, 2096–301, 2747–72;
 quarter sessions, xxxvi; bills beginning at,
 2096–109;
 workhouse, 2335; Bulbridge, 2701;
 Ditchampton (Ditchampton, Ditch-
 ington), I n, 2215, 2481, 2749
- Wilton *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Wiltshire: boundaries, 118, 1239; justices of
 the peace *see* Index of Subjects *under*
 Officials; sheriff, xlvii–xlviii, 1136, 1277,
 1672, 1689, 1895, 1904, 2519, 2586;
 treasurer *see* Index of Subjects *under*
 Officials
- Wincombe Park and Ponds *see under* Don-
 head St Mary
- Wind Hill *see under* Horningsham
- Wingfield (Winfield), 135, 1043, 1156, 1448,
 1668, 1993, 2041
- Winsley *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Winterbourne Bassett (Winterborne Bassett,
 Winterbourn, Winterbourn Basset, Win-
 terbourn Bassett), 143, 498, 624, 736,
 844, 937, 1057; Hackpen (Hackpin) Hill,
 937, *see also under* Hinton, Broad, and
 Wroughton; Lambourne (Lambourn),
 410; Rabson (Rabston) Down, 937
- Winterbourne Dauntsey (Winterbourn
 Dancy), 2561
- Winterbourne Earls (Winterborn Earles,
 Winterborn Earls, Winterbourn), 2099,
 2117, 2675
- Winterbourne Gunner (Winterborn Gunner,
 Winterbourn Gunner), 2391, 2580, 2664,
 2684, 2753
- Winterbourne Monkton (Winter Borne
 Monkston, Winterborne Monkton,
 Winterbourn Monkton), 700, 978, 1463
- Winterbourne Stoke (Winterborn Stoke,
 Winterbourn Stoke, Winterbourne
 Stocke), 2124, 2443, 2530, 2533
- Winterslow (Wintersloe), 2104, 2181, 2269,
 2392, 2590, 2686–91, 2745; East Winters-
 low, 2472; ? Winterslow Hurst (Winters-
 loe Hutt), 2138
- Wishford, Great, (Wishford), 2120, 2393, 2621
- Witcomb Mill *see under* Hilmarton
- Wokingham (Oakingham), Berks, 1753
- Wolf Hall *see under* Bedwyn, Great
- Woodborough, 901, 1114
- Woodfalls *see under* Downton
- Woodford, 2363, 2545, 2666; Great
 Woodford, 2116; Little Woodford, 2126;
 Upper Woodford, 2178, 2521
- Woodhill Park *see under* Clyffe Pypard
- Woodlands *see under* Mildenhall
- Woodminton *see under* Chalke, Bower
- Woodrow *see under* Melksham
- Woodshaw *see under* Wootton Bassett
- Woodward's Bridge *see under* Purton
- Woolley *see under* Bradford on Avon
- Wootton Bassett (Wootenbasset, Wooton
 Basset, Wootton Basset, Wotton
 Bassett), xxxi–xxxii, xxxiv–xxxvii, xlv,

Wootton Bassett—*contd*

xlvi–xlvi, lii–liii, 301, 564, 821, 881, 884, 1622, 2798–803, 2807; mayors and coroners, xxxi–xxxii, xxxiv–xxxvii, xlv, xlvii–xlvi, lii–liii, 2798–803, 2807; Angel Inn, 2802; Harry's (Harris) Croft, 1746; Snow Croft, 881; Whitehill (White Hill) Farm, 633; Woodshaw, 627

Wootton Rivers (Wootton Rivers, Wotton Rivers), 124, 942, 1410, 1687; Brimslade, 1925

Worton *see under* Potterne

Wraxall, North, (North Wraxhall, Wraxhall), 169, 475, 825, 1679

Wraxall, South *see under* Bradford on Avon

Wroughton, 218, 691, 1050, 1074, 1243, 1314, 1401, 1524, 1615, 1724, 1867; minister, 1615; Blagrove (Blackgrove), 476; Elcombe, 544, 737, 1074, 1357; Elcombe

Wroughton—*contd*

Common, 737; Flewins Lane, 884; Hackpen (Hackpin) Hill, 1050, *see also under* Hinton, Broad, and Winterbourne Bassett; Overtown, 870, 2070

Wylze (Willy), 2384; Deptford, 2304, 2729

Wylze (Vily, Willy), river, 2384, 2502

Yarnbrook Common *see under* Westbury

Yarnfield *see under* Bradley, Maiden

Yatesbury, 155, 680, 1437; Yatesbury Down, 1603

Yatton Kennell (Eaton Kennel, Eatonkennell, Yatton Keinell), 253, 698, 1794; Broom's, 191; Giddeahall (Giddy Hall), 557

Zeals *see under* Mere

INDEX OF SUBJECTS

Most subjects are arranged in groups under the following main headings: Accidental death; Accidental homicide; Coroners; Criminal and other offences; Gaol; Inquests; Manslaughter; Murder; Natural death; Occupations; Officials; Punishment; Suicide.

Accidental death:

activities resulting in: affrays, 1874; bell-ringing, 1818; running after hounds, 1898; saving others, 801, 1112; wrestling, 1875;
at birth, 274, 703;
causes of (primary): animals, *xlvi*, 14, 61, 63, 111, 116, 130, 178, 190, 221, 223, 246, 264, 268, 270, 284, 288, 334, 341, 358, 360, 393, 422, 460-1, 490, 508, 513, 540, 548, 579, 586, 593, 598, 645-6, 659, 670, 676, 678, 701, 704, 707, 710, 788, 793, 819, 821, 841, 864, 879, 901, 916, 919, 921-2, 934, 955, 971, 1003, 1006, 1022, 1028, 1051-2, 1054, 1084, 1091-2, 1104, 1125, 1130, 1141, 1148, 1177, 1188, 1197-8, 1201, 1206-7, 1210, 1214, 1218, 1222, 1226, 1237, 1248, 1250, 1259, 1264, 1269, 1274, 1279-80, 1310, 1312, 1317, 1331, 1345, 1352, 1356, 1363, 1419, 1423, 1428, 1436, 1448, 1478, 1486, 1496, 1500, 1510-11, 1518, 1571, 1594, 1598, 1605, 1629-30, 1641, 1670, 1681, 1693, 1702-3, 1762, 1781, 1799-1800, 1843, 1849, 1851, 1865, 1870, 1912, 1930, 1944-5, 1952, 1962-3, 1972, 1995, 2006, 2023, 2037, 2070, 2082, 2093, 2115, 2132, 2145, 2170, 2173-4, 2196, 2202, 2207, 2235, 2284, 2320, 2334, 2338, 2346, 2350, 2352, 2370, 2389, 2400, 2422, 2425, 2456, 2474, 2484, 2491, 2508, 2517, 2521, 2523, 2552, 2651, 2676, 2681, 2750, 2767, 2797; burns, 31, 236, 369, 545-6, 691, 923, 1347, 1371, 1388-9, 1513, 1524, 1618, 1744, 1769, 1815, 1903, 1968, 1974, 1994, 2107, 2579, 2619, 2682, 2686-91, 2725, 2744; drowning, *li*, 10, 16-18, 22, 28, 33, 38-9, 42-3, 45, 47, 51-2, 54, 58, 67-8, 74, 80-2, 84, 86, 88, 90-1, 97, 101-2, 107, 114, 127-9, 132-4, 136, 138, 140, 144-5, 148, 155, 170-1, 173, 180, 183, 205-6, 208, 211-12, 224, 226, 233,

Accidental death—*contd*

244, 256-9, 261, 273, 286-7, 291, 296, 298, 304, 306-7, 313, 324, 327, 330, 333, 336, 340, 344, 346, 362, 364, 378, 383, 396-7, 402, 406-7, 412, 416, 424, 428, 430-1, 434-6, 440, 443, 454, 458, 462, 469, 471, 476, 481, 494, 496, 500, 509, 511, 515, 517-18, 526, 528, 531, 537, 549, 573, 576, 580, 587, 595-6, 600, 604-7, 620, 622, 628, 633-6, 647, 649, 651, 660, 663-4, 668, 677, 683, 689, 693, 699, 711, 717, 741-5, 749, 751, 768-9, 778-9, 782, 792, 800, 805, 817, 829-30, 842, 865, 871, 873, 887, 889, 908, 911-12, 914, 946, 954, 958, 968, 993, 996, 998, 1029, 1033, 1058, 1065, 1080, 1082-3, 1086-7, 1102-3, 1106, 1112, 1115, 1117, 1126, 1135, 1156, 1158, 1165, 1168-9, 1175, 1180, 1187, 1189, 1193-5, 1200, 1205, 1212, 1215, 1231, 1254, 1256-7, 1261, 1263, 1273, 1275-6, 1283, 1286, 1292, 1294-5, 1298, 1301-2, 1304-5, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1315, 1320, 1329, 1334, 1336-8, 1354, 1357-8, 1362, 1380, 1387, 1392, 1407-8, 1414, 1420, 1429, 1432, 1434, 1444, 1452-3, 1457, 1460, 1473, 1488, 1492, 1504, 1508, 1516, 1519, 1533, 1546, 1552, 1562, 1564, 1569, 1573, 1586-8, 1590, 1604, 1611, 1616, 1621, 1627, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1643, 1650-1, 1654-6, 1661, 1683, 1691, 1694, 1697, 1701, 1709-10, 1713, 1715, 1720, 1729, 1748, 1751, 1765, 1790, 1801, 1810-13, 1833, 1840, 1848, 1853, 1858, 1863, 1866, 1886, 1898, 1909, 1928, 1931, 1946, 1951, 1960, 1980, 2003, 2008, 2015, 2024, 2029-31, 2054, 2060, 2072, 2076, 2079, 2091-2, 2100-1, 2104, 2108, 2120-1, 2123, 2126, 2133, 2136, 2143, 2146, 2150-1, 2154-5, 2167, 2178-80, 2182, 2186-8, 2205, 2211, 2216-17, 2223, 2225-8, 2238, 2244-5,

Accidental death—*contd*

2257, 2263, 2267, 2292, 2294, 2311, 2316, 2324, 2329, 2347, 2353, 2357, 2367, 2369, 2373, 2379, 2381, 2385, 2393, 2395-6, 2408-10, 2415, 2423, 2431, 2448, 2459, 2470, 2477-8, 2481, 2502, 2507, 2513, 2531, 2536-7, 2539-40, 2548, 2567, 2574, 2582, 2588, 2605, 2636-7, 2640, 2644, 2658, 2662, 2673, 2694, 2698, 2701, 2712, 2714, 2717, 2726, 2736-7, 2757, 2759, 2763, 2765-6, 2769-70, 2772, 2774-5, 2780-1, 2784, 2787, 2789-91, 2795; excessive drinking, 310; explosion of cannon and gunpowder, 493, 1303, 2735; falling objects, 7, 29-30, 48, 69-70, 89, 94, 120, 147, 153, 159, 175, 189, 207, 215, 249, 260, 269, 308, 392, 400, 411, 419, 519-20, 522, 524-5, 547, 560, 611, 629, 643, 656, 700, 713, 750, 784, 839, 882, 928, 979, 994, 997, 1032, 1045-6, 1049, 1076, 1090, 1127, 1129, 1133, 1153, 1242-3, 1266, 1378-9, 1413, 1464, 1517, 1523, 1617, 1642, 1731, 1754, 1760-1, 1805, 1826, 1855, 1862, 1891, 1908, 1927, 1959, 1981, 1984, 1990, 1998, 2002, 2010, 2018, 2042, 2088, 2129, 2131, 2137, 2144, 2193, 2345, 2365, 2386, 2455, 2468, 2492, 2497, 2512, 2542, 2553, 2617, 2661, 2674, 2730-1, 2749, 2768; falls, li, 25-6, 209, 237, 239, 251, 274, 279, 290, 305, 345, 353, 413, 504, 613, 641, 673, 703, 706, 712, 720-1, 725, 734, 753, 765, 790-1, 799, 899, 909, 969, 992, 1001, 1007, 1016, 1018, 1036, 1069, 1101, 1137, 1146, 1172, 1216, 1220, 1228, 1234, 1240, 1272, 1278, 1350-1, 1373, 1459, 1468-9, 1503, 1520, 1544, 1556, 1572, 1600, 1612, 1633, 1658, 1660, 1663, 1667, 1671, 1686, 1712, 1716, 1722, 1736, 1741, 1745, 1747, 1791, 1794, 1803-4, 1818, 1822, 1829, 1837, 1852, 1860, 1874-5, 1881, 1890, 1901, 1923, 1925-6, 1956, 1970, 1978, 2034, 2036, 2041, 2047, 2057, 2061-2, 2214, 2236, 2242, 2260, 2282, 2344, 2394, 2458, 2611, 2657, 2665, 2778, *see also* animals, burns, drowning, machinery, scalding, suffocation, vehicles; hanging, 574, 795, 935, 1063, 1730, 1846, 2336; inclement weather, 2374; lightning, 1366; machinery, 20, 44, 276, 394,

Accidental death—*contd*

1463, 1740, 1816, 1876, 1935, 1967, 2005, 2095, 2127, 2172, 2326; poison, 92, 405, 950, 1077-9, 1601, 1636, 2048, 2218-19, 2747; ruptured blood vessels, 1526; scalding, 144, 295, 370, 389, 435, 815, 877, 903, 942, 1094, 1138, 1505, 1525, 1589, 1723, 1873, 1882, 1911, 1922, 1953, 1957, 2033, 2052, 2077, *see also* suffocation; shooting, 24, 27, 57, 73, 95, 218, 252, 280, 326, 534, 544, 761, 915, 977, 1111, 1695, 2116, 2201, 2212, 2312, 2522, 2604, 2623; stabbing and cutting, 71, 271, 438, 894, 1013, 1068, 1842, 1929; suffocation, 85, 110, 144, 370, 389, 435, 474, 669, 708, 801, 815, 818, 822, 877, 903, 942-3, 1061, 1341, 1505, 1525, 1584, 1589, 1612, 1626, 1638, 1668, 1673, 1789, 1806, 1888, 1892, 1947, 2032, 2038, 2550, 2776, 2803, *see also* drowning, scalding; unknown, 2158; unspecified, 19, 32, 35, 37, 40, 50, 56, 72, 75, 78, 83, 87, 104, 117, 121, 126, 131, 135, 146, 149-51, 158, 163, 166-9, 176, 182, 184-5, 188, 192-4, 196-8, 201, 203-4, 210, 216, 227, 231, 247, 253-4, 275, 277, 281, 289, 292-3, 300, 309, 337-8, 342, 352, 361, 365, 374, 376-7, 445, 536, 571, 844, 2250, 2295, 2299, 2391, 2442, 2573, 2575-6, 2581, 2613, 2668, 2678, 2707, 2756, 2764, 2771, 2793; vehicles, 5, 29, 62, 64, 66, 93, 98-100, 137, 142-3, 152, 199, 219, 225, 228, 242, 245, 255, 260, 263, 266, 282, 299, 312, 350, 363, 368, 373, 382, 385, 390, 395, 433, 453, 475, 478, 486, 527, 532, 535, 538, 543, 554, 570, 584, 601, 603, 632, 637-8, 655, 658, 671, 675, 679, 682, 695, 698, 702, 705, 709, 714-15, 718, 726, 755, 767, 771, 783, 785, 825, 828, 832-3, 835, 856, 884, 886, 888, 900, 938, 948, 956-7, 961, 974, 986, 995, 999, 1002, 1009, 1011, 1015, 1038, 1042-3, 1047, 1050, 1056-7, 1067, 1070, 1072, 1075, 1095, 1097, 1119-20, 1139, 1143, 1150-2, 1162, 1164, 1170, 1174, 1176, 1181, 1185, 1199, 1204, 1223, 1230, 1233, 1236, 1238, 1245-6, 1265, 1267, 1270, 1282, 1299-1300, 1306, 1323, 1342, 1344, 1355, 1367, 1383, 1412, 1421, 1441, 1445-6, 1450-1, 1458, 1462, 1472, 1474, 1479, 1493, 1497, 1506,

Accidental death—*contd*

1551, 1555, 1567, 1570, 1582, 1596-7, 1603, 1606, 1613, 1631-2, 1649, 1653, 1659, 1665, 1675, 1684, 1711, 1717-19, 1725, 1728, 1732, 1735, 1737, 1753, 1777, 1782, 1787, 1798, 1819, 1825, 1830, 1836, 1841, 1871, 1877-8, 1883-4, 1889, 1913, 1918, 1920, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1950, 1955, 1964, 1971, 1989, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2019, 2025-6, 2043, 2073, 2075, 2078, 2083-5, 2103, 2105-6, 2117-18, 2125, 2134, 2138, 2148, 2159-60, 2165, 2171, 2176, 2189, 2192, 2195, 2203-4, 2208, 2220-1, 2231, 2234, 2240, 2246, 2248-9, 2258, 2264, 2268, 2272, 2310, 2313, 2323, 2332-3, 2337, 2341-2, 2361, 2363, 2376-8, 2382, 2387-8, 2390, 2401, 2404, 2420, 2438, 2440, 2454, 2457, 2472, 2486, 2489, 2509, 2518, 2524, 2527, 2533, 2538, 2549, 2555-6, 2558, 2584, 2594, 2616, 2627-8, 2643, 2647-8, 2656, 2663, 2672, 2675, 2702, 2713, 2719, 2734, 2739-41, 2754, 2777;

causes of (contributory): animals, 324, 515, 622, 709, 785, 887, 956, 986, 1042, 1050, 1075, 1119-20, 1199, 1233, 1263, 1282, 1298, 1342, 1367, 1596-7, 1613, 1621, 1632, 1694, 1711, 1718, 1725, 1813, 1840, 1884, 1920, 1929, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1964, 1989, 2003, 2073, 2075, 2078, 2083, 2148, 2347; bad roads, 1383, 1479; excessive drinking, 110, 360, 367, 622, 646, 899, 943, 1036, 1043, 1072, 1141, 1181, 1283, 1310, 1537, 1584, 1643, 1673, 1703, 1825, 1837, 1874, 2787; ice, 1112, 1387, 1810-12; inclement (cold, windy, or wet) weather, 1104, 1242-3, 1301, 1476, 1478, 1551, *see also* ice, snow; snow, 1383; vehicles, 793, 908, 916, 994, 1033, 1038, 1051, 1274, 1345, 1781, 1805, 1813, 1888, 2061, 2143;

causes of (contributory medical): apoplexy, 1963; brain shock, 1469; cramp, 471; deafness, 1929; delirium, 613, 725, 923, 1801; fever, 613, 1801; fits, 28, 324, 327, 1168, 1187, 1311, 1371, 1573, 1650, 1655, 1668, 1709, 2344, 2750; gangrene, 1151; miscarriage, 2747; seizure, 2031; smallpox, 725;

injuries in: abdomens contused, 899; arteries severed, 284, 1929; blood

Accidental death—*contd*

vessels ruptured, 1070; bodies penetrated near anus, 961; bruises, 2232; hearts penetrated, 1068; jaws gored, 1995; legs amputated, 1303; legs contused, 1002, 1151; legs fractured, 1002, 1070, 1151; limbs amputated, 1816; necks broken, 223, 413, 548, 725, 819, 2425; necks gored, 1995; scrotum and private parts contused, 1006; skulls beaten in, 274; skulls fractured, 290, 701, 765, 793, 799, 888, 919, 922, 934, 974, 1003, 1119, 1130, 1146, 1279, 1459, 1496, 1747, 1803-4, 2416, 2418, 2541; skulls penetrated, 2075; spinal marrow separated, 1486; throats cut, 438; throats gored, 1995;

instruments causing: axes, 1929; guns, 24, 27, 57, 73, 95, 218, 252, 280, 326, 534, 544, 761, 915, 977, 1111, 1695, 2116, 2201, 2212, 2312, 2522, 2604, 2623; hatchets, 1013; knives, 71, 271, 438; scythes, 894, 1068; shears, 1842;

of aged, 792, 1007, 1047, 1180, 1276, 1311, 1408, 1513, 1618, 1886, 2047; of lunatics, 780, 1526;

places of: beds, 1526, 1626, 2057; canals, ditches, and other artificial water-courses, 16, 28, 51, 90, 110, 233, 287, 327, 333, 469, 515, 517, 528, 628, 769, 805, 946, 1169, 1180, 1187, 1189, 1334, 1337, 1444, 1588, 1627, 1635, 1710, 1713, 1748, 1789, 1840, 1898, 1909, 1931, 1981, 1990, 2002, 2042, 2061, 2091, 2095, 2126, 2180, 2242, 2329, 2410, 2780, 2787, 2795; chimneys, 1892; fords, 136, 1298; lime-kilns, 822, 2579; necessary (bog) holes, 474, 818, 2803; ponds, pools, and pits, 10, 42, 58, 67, 82, 86, 91, 101-2, 127, 133, 138, 155, 171, 180, 183, 212, 224, 257, 296, 313, 324, 330, 340, 362, 378, 402, 416, 424, 431, 434, 440, 462, 471, 476, 494, 509, 518, 531, 580, 604, 607, 633-4, 647, 651, 711, 800, 889, 914, 954, 968, 1029, 1058, 1080, 1087, 1102-3, 1126, 1156, 1175, 1194-5, 1254, 1256-7, 1294, 1301-2, 1307, 1309, 1320, 1336, 1357, 1392, 1407-8, 1434, 1453, 1473, 1492, 1508, 1533, 1552, 1573, 1586-7, 1590, 1611, 1616, 1627, 1635, 1651, 1654-6, 1661, 1683, 1751, 1790, 1801, 1810-12, 1858, 1863, 2015,

Accidental death—*contd*

2029, 2032, 2038, 2076, 2079, 2092, 2100, 2104, 2121, 2136, 2167, 2257, 2381, 2385, 2393, 2531, 2605, 2640, 2644, 2662, 2737, 2775, 2781, 2789; quarries (chalk, coal, gravel, marl, rubble, sand, and stone pits). *li.* 10, 237, 249, 269, 279, 308, 400, 419, 531, 560, 643, 700, 713, 750, 789, 839, 928, 994, 1032, 1049, 1076, 1090, 1127, 1133, 1153, 1266, 1378-9, 1464, 1523, 1586, 1617, 1642, 1731, 1754, 1760-1, 1881, 1891, 1959, 1984, 2010, 2062, 2137, 2144, 2193, 2345, 2365, 2393, 2468, 2542, 2617, 2674, 2731, 2749, 2768; rivers, streams, and brooks, *li.* 33, 39, 43, 47, 68, 74, 80-1, 97, 107, 114, 128-9, 132, 134, 140, 148, 170, 173, 205-6, 208, 244, 256, 258-9, 261, 291, 304, 306-7, 336, 344, 346, 364, 383, 396, 406-7, 428, 430, 436, 454, 496, 500, 511, 526, 537, 573, 576, 596, 600, 606, 622, 635-6, 660, 663-4, 668, 677, 683, 689, 699, 741-3, 745, 749, 751, 782, 792, 817, 829-30, 873, 887, 908, 911-12, 996, 998, 1033, 1082-3, 1086, 1106, 1115, 1117, 1135, 1158, 1165, 1168, 1193, 1200, 1205, 1212, 1231, 1275-6, 1283, 1286, 1292, 1298, 1304, 1311, 1315, 1329, 1338, 1354, 1358, 1362, 1414, 1420, 1429, 1457, 1460, 1516, 1519, 1546, 1562, 1564, 1569, 1604, 1621, 1637, 1643, 1650, 1683, 1697, 1701, 1709, 1715, 1720, 1765, 1813, 1833, 1946, 1951, 1980, 2003, 2024, 2031, 2054, 2060, 2072, 2101, 2108, 2120, 2123, 2143, 2146, 2151, 2154, 2179, 2186, 2188, 2311, 2316, 2324, 2347, 2353, 2357, 2367, 2373, 2379, 2448, 2481, 2502, 2507, 2537, 2539-40, 2658, 2698, 2736; vessels (*tubs*, etc.), 17, 45, 52, 84-5, 88, 144, 211, 226, 273, 286, 295, 298, 370, 389, 435, 458, 587, 605, 649, 768, 778-9, 815, 877, 903, 942, 958, 1061, 1094, 1138, 1215, 1341, 1505, 1589, 1668, 1806, 1882, 1886, 1911, 1922, 1953, 2030, 2077, 2178, 2182, 2294, 2395, 2550, 2701, 2790; wells, 18, 22, 26, 38, 54, 145, 397, 412, 443, 481, 549, 595, 620, 669, 693, 708, 717, 744, 842, 969, 993, 1216, 1261, 1272-3, 1295, 1380, 1387, 1432, 1452, 1488, 1504, 1517, 1612, 1638-9, 1691, 1848, 1890, 1925, 1928, 1960, 1970,

Accidental death—*contd*

2008, 2155, 2187, 2205, 2217, 2238, 2292, 2369, 2536, 2657, 2712, 2714, 2717, 2774, 2778, 2784, 2791

Accidental homicide (chance-medley), 1793; injuries in: fractured skulls, 200; ruptured blood vessels, 1537; thigh wounds, 351, 1793; wounds turning to gangrene, 351; occasions of: drunkenness, 1537; fighting, 351, 1348, 1537, 1771, 1788; overlying, 542, 959, 1219, 1759, 2080, 2252; poisoning, 1498, 2001; wrestling, 988; perpetrators of: infants, 1771, 1788; kinsmen, 200; mothers, 542, 959, 1219, 1607, 1759, 2080; weapons causing: bandies, 1831; bayonets, 1793; guns, 112, 347, 501, 585, 627, 1322, 1425, 1455, 1481, 1512, 2200, 2511, 2577; knives, 735; picks, 479; quoits, 1936; steels, 351; sticks, 200

Accounts, treasurer's, xxx-xxxv

Almshouses (hospitals), 936; paupers of, 420

Army: discharge from, 2055; gaols (round-houses) of, 1303;

officers and men of: boy soldiers, 1793; captains (army), 2158; crews of ships, 1300; generals, 979, 1769; marines (marine soldiers), 1300; militiamen, 2184; privates, 940, 1381, 1720, 1793, 1982, 2019; sergeants, 718; soldiers, 194, 390, 758, 1983, 2055;

units of: battalion of Buffs, 194; cavalry, 1303; Col. Trapand's company, 194; dragoons, 2154; Gen. Hawley's regiment, 2154; Hampshire Fencibles, 2055; 1st regiment of dragoons, 1720; 9th regiment of dragoons, 1983, 2019; 54th regiment of foot, 1793; 61st regiment of foot, 1381; 67th regiment of foot, 718; 70th regiment of foot, 940; Sir Richard Rich's dragoons, 2158; Shropshire Volunteers, 1982

Assizes, xxx, xxxv, xl, l, liii, 9, 21, 46, 49, 55, 77, 96, 122-3, 125, 160, 174, 181, 195, 200, 214, 235, 240, 262, 294, 301, 311, 355-6, 387, 432, 447, 495, 510, 530, 569, 582, 608, 617, 686, 694, 722, 727, 733, 739-40, 760, 774, 786, 820, 840, 849, 895, 926, 930, 933, 983-4, 1024, 1059, 1128, 1136, 1142, 1157, 1217, 1268, 1277, 1281, 1324, 1332, 1346, 1353, 1390, 1442, 1566, 1592,

Assizes—contd

1615, 1619, 1625, 1672, 1689, 1692, 1763, 1796, 1827, 1869, 1895, 1904, 1977, 2097, 2100, 2168, 2191, 2213, 2247, 2303, 2364, 2441, 2447, 2449, 2453, 2461, 2471, 2476, 2519–20, 2586, 2649, 2729, 2773, 2788; *see also* Indictments

Autopsies, li, 803, 836, 899, 950, 1077–9, 1081, 1281, 1583

Bankruptcy, court of, 1000

Bills, coroners', *passim*

Bodies: buried before view, xli n, 871, 984, 1615, 1759, 1921; carried from place of death to another, 1235, 1609; covered with stone, 1760–1; exhumation of, xli;

views of: dispensed with, xli n, 871, 1053, 1615, 1704, 1759; held by surgeons in place of coroners, xli n, xlix, 1482;

warrants (certificates) for burying, xli n, 1053, 1482

Bridges, li, 128, 287, 346, 873, 1329, 1429, 1564, 1569, 1581, 1637, 1650, 1701, 1710, 1853, 1866, 2011, 2120, 2225, 2357, 2367

Canals (cuts), 1840, 1931, 1981, 1990, 2002, 2042, 2061

Castles, 2365, 2442, 2541

Certificates *see* Warrants

Chance-medley *see* Accidental homicide

Childbirth: alleged poisoning after, 1615; by cripples, 274; linen prepared for, 1155;

places of: gaols, 533; hedges, 523; out of doors, 1118; streets, 1559; woods, 1353;

premature, 1060, 1154; secret, 311, 356, 387, 466, 495; unexpected, 703, 1118, 1559; without proper assistance, 77, 105, 274, 523, 1559; *see also* Still-birth

Churches, xlix, 1040, 1350, 1818; bells of, 882, 1040, 1818; towers of, 882, 2018

Churchyards, xlviii, 748, 1071, 1804, 2018

Clergy, 1214, 1491, 1615, 1771, 1888; canons, 257; doctors of divinity, 1491;

deceased, 1093; suicide committed by, 186, 401

Coroners, agents of, xxxiii–xxxiv, xxxvii, xliii, l; aldermen as, xlv; attending inquests in other counties, xli n, 1377; bailiffs as, xlvii n; burial of, xlviii–l; clerks of, xxxvii, xliii; distances travelled by, xxix–xxx, xxxv, xli–xliii,

Coroners—contd

xlvi, l, lii; districts of, *q.v.*; early history of, xxix–xxx, xlv; election of, xxx, xlv–xlv, xlvii–l, 671–90; executors and administrators of, xxxiv, xxxvi, xxxix, l–3; illegal claims made by, xxxiii, xliii–xlv, l; inquests held on, xlv, xlviii, 2346; mayors as, xlv, xlvii, 1377; of boroughs, xxix–xxxii, xxxiv–xxxvii, xlv–xlviii, lii–liiii, 1377, 2798–803, 2807; of liberties, xxix–xxxii, xxxiv–xxxviii, xlv, xlvii–xlviii, lii–liiii, 2773–97, 2806; others deputising for, xli n, xlix, 1482; payments made to others by, xxxiii, xli–xlii, xlv, l, 222, 775–6, 812, 847, 951–3, 1251, 1566, 1647–8, 1838–9, 2461; payment of, xxix–xxx, xxxii–xxxv, xxxvii–xxxix, xliii, l; qualifications of, xlvii–l; removal from office of, xlviii–xlix; residences of, xxxvi, xli–xlv, xlviii–l, lii–liiii; resignation of, xlix; signatures of, xxxiii, xxxvii–xliii, xlviii–xlix; summoning of, xli n, 1053, 1615, 1704, 1759; swearing of, xxxii; wills of, xlviii–l; work-load of, xxxv, xlv–xlvii

County: boundaries of, 118, 1239; detached parts of, xlv–xlvii

Criminal and other offences: attempted, 488–9, 836, 1772–4; confessed, 1680;

types of: abandonment of family, 978, 1410, 1491; absence from service, 1714; accessory, 1773; arson, 1680; assault, 154, 786, 823, 836, 851, 1772–4, 2303; burglary, 1353; damage to property, 1485, 1772–4; debt, 450, 464, 541, 552, 626, 2153, 2156, 2164, 2177; disorderliness and idleness, 978; disorderliness and lewdness, 2066; entering land and milking cows, 869; felony, unspecified, 4, 8, 115, 470, 539, 562, 798, 810, 867, 897, 2152, 2163; house-breaking, 488–9, 1439; imposture, 654; larceny, 165, 449, 514, 1484, 1763; misdemeanour, unspecified, 456; not giving sufficient account of effects to bankruptcy commissioners, 1000; rape, 836; receiving stolen goods, 161; riot, 488–9, 1772–4, 2157; robbery, 786, 2045, 2303; unlawful possession of hares, 949; vagrancy, 444, 446, 563, 739, 797, 939, 1147, 1235, 1297, 1325, 1328,

- Criminal and other offences—*contd***
 1487, 1540, 1557, 1606, 1696, 1706, 1966, 1979; writing and publishing threats to life, 472; *see also* Manslaughter; Murder; Suicide
- Deodands**, xl, 783
- Dissection and anatomization of bodies of hanged felons**, xlix–1, 195, 447, 686, 760, 930, 933, 1142, 1346, 1827, 2364, 2453, 2773
- Districts, coroners'**, xxxi, xxxv–xxxvi, xliii–xlvi
- Fairs**, 1269, 1321, 1629, 1674, 2018, 2037; cheese, 1310
- Farms**, 243, 392, 488, 515, 553, 558, 576, 614, 633, 638, 655, 682, 816, 883, 913, 956, 966, 1425, 1565, 1598, 1613, 1678, 1695, 1701, 1719, 1748, 1819, 1835, 1858, 1875, 1881, 1893, 1906, 1921, 2038, 2057, 2202
- Fees, coroners'**, *passim*; paid by relatives of deceased, 1405, 1441, 1465, 1769, 2662
- Felo de se** *see under* Suicide
- Gaol: birth in**, 533; **committal to**, 4, 8, 115, 154, 161, 165, 444, 449, 456, 465, 470, 472, 514, 533, 654, 798, 810, 823, 846, 851, 853, 867, 869, 878, 897, 949, 978, 1000, 1142, 1325, 1393, 1410, 1439, 1484–5, 1491, 1521, 1557, 1680, 1706, 1714, 1763, 1987, 2066; **conveyance to**, xxxiii, xliv, 740, 760, 774–6, 812, 820, 847, 926, 930, 933, 951–3, 1217, 1251, 1566, 1619, 1625, 1647–8, 1796, 1802, 1827, 1838–9; **deaths in** *see under* Natural death *and* Suicide, felonious; **epidemics in**, 465; **inadequate food allowed for prisoners in**, li, 1557; **infants committed with mothers to**, 654; **inquests held in**, xxix, xliii, xlv–xlvi, l–li; **military (round-house), blown up**, 1303; **release from**, 1142, 1708; **sentence to** *see under* Punishment
- Gibbets**, 2303
- Homicide by lunatics and idiots: by decapitation by mothers**, 1823; **with sticks**, 1449
- Homicide in self-defence and justifiable homicide**, 2706; **from fractured skulls**, 489; **in riots**, 1772–4; **with guns**, 488–9, 855, 1772–4
- Homicide** *see also* Accidental homicide; Manslaughter; Murder
- Hospitals** *see* Almshouses
- Illnesses** *see under* Accidental death; Natural death; Suicide
- Indictments, assize**, 21, 46, 55, 60, 96, 122–3, 125, 160, 174, 181, 195, 200, 235, 240, 262, 311, 355, 387, 432, 447, 495, 530, 569, 582, 608, 617, 686, 694, 727, 733, 739–40, 760, 774, 786, 820, 840, 849, 895, 930, 933, 983–4, 1024, 1059, 1136, 1142, 1157, 1217, 1324, 1332, 1346, 1353, 1390, 1442, 1566, 1592, 1625, 1672, 1689, 1763, 1796, 1827, 1869, 1895, 1904, 1977, 2100, 2168, 2191, 2213, 2247, 2303, 2364, 2447, 2449, 2453, 2461, 2471, 2476, 2519–20, 2649, 2729, 2773, 2788
- Infanticide** *see under* Murder
- Inns (public houses)**, xlix, 312, 525, 900, 1136, 1147, 1220, 1333, 1342, 1361, 1383, 1404, 1459, 1510, 1641, 1689, 1721, 1887, 1919, 1972, 2005, 2017, 2022, 2045, 2082, 2802
- Inoculation against smallpox**, xlix
- Inquests: adjournments of**, xli–xlii, l–li, 21, 488, 756, 783, 786, 848, 930, 1077–9, 1089, 1142, 1235, 1281, 1310, 1324, 1353, 1557, 1569, 1619, 1625, 1672, 1692, 1702, 1763, 1796, 1827, 1869, 1881, 1895, 1904, 1907, 2045, 2461; **depositions at**, xxxi n, xxxviii, 1353, 1619, 1692, 2797; **dispensed with**, xli n, xlix, 724, 871, 1053, 1377, 1482, 1615, 1704, 1759; **examination of suspects at**, 1353; **examination of witnesses at**, 1377; **journeys to**, *q. v.*; **two or more held on same day**, xlvi, l, 127–8, 140–1, 143–4, 151–2, 171–2, 193–4, 207–8, 227–8, 289–90, 296–7, 300–1, 303–4, 306–7, 315–21, 339–40, 343–4, 352–3, 378–9, 382–3, 484–7, 509–10, 519–20, 523–5, 534–5, 545–6, 564–5, 595–6, 608–9, 620–1, 639–40, 653–4, 683–4, 703–4, 736–8, 741–2, 747–8, 754–5, 781–6, 789–90, 792–3, 799–800, 850–1, 855–7, 863–6, 885–8, 892–4, 897–8, 913–14, 921–2, 937–8, 941–2, 1011–12, 1030–1, 1037–8, 1042–3, 1045–6, 1056–8, 1077–9, 1082–3, 1097–8, 1116–17, 1136–7, 1158–9, 1185–6, 1194–5, 1204–5, 1214, 1216, 1228–9, 1232–3, 1244–5, 1269–72, 1293–4, 1303–4, 1306–7, 1316–17, 1339–40,

Inquests—*contd*

1364–5, 1378–80, 1404–5, 1416–17, 1426–7, 1436–7, 1439–40, 1445–7, 1454–5, 1478–9, 1497–8, 1536–7, 1559–60, 1582–3, 1588–9, 1596–9, 1610–11, 1613–14, 1618–21, 1654–5, 1658–9, 1663–4, 1714–15, 1726–7, 1753–61, 1767–8, 1772–4, 1788–9, 1810–12, 1824–7, 1829, 1849–50, 1860–1, 1907–8, 1915–17, 1935–6, 1994–5, 2025–6, 2055–6, 2068–9, 2151–2, 2218–19, 2227–8, 2230–1, 2253–4, 2261–2, 2341–2, 2377–8, 2487–8, 2492–3, 2497–8, 2542–3, 2257–8, 2620–2, 2636–7, 2286–91, 2712–13, 2759–60, 2766–7, 2769–70

Inquests (written): draft, xxxi n, xxxviii; original, xxx–xxxii, xxxvii–xl, liii, 2790–2, 2797–802

Journeys to take inquests, *passim*; from assizes, 1615; hire of horses for, 1482; indirect, to get post-horses, xli n, 1430; lasting two nights, 1615; made by surgeons in place of coroners, xli n, xlix, 1482; not resulting in inquests, xli–xlii, l, 724, 871, 1053, 1377, 1482, 1615, 1704, 1759

Juries and jurors. xxxvii–xl, 1672, 1692, 1895, 1904, 2790–2, 2797–802; conflicting verdicts of, 1191–2; disagreement on verdicts by, 21, 488, 783, 848; foremen of, xxxvii–xxxviii, 2800–1; of matrons, 447; panels of, xxxi n; views of bodies unnecessary and improper for, 1704

Lodges, 524, 560, 979, 1616, 1645, 2705–6, 2733

Manslaughter, xxix–xxx, xl, 46, 96, 766, 820, 840, 847, 2471, 2519, 2788; acquittal of, 21, 122, 214, 301, 355, 722, 1268, 1332, 2247, 2441, 2471; conviction of, 46, 240, 510, 582, 820, 840, 1128, 1136, 1277, 1390, 1592, 1625, 1672, 1689, 1895, 1904, 1977, 2519, 2586, 2788;

injuries in: bruises, 2247; fractured skulls, 848; ruptured blood vessels, 1128;

non-prosecution of, 294;

occasions of: affrays, 1904, 1977; beating (blows), 1136, 2224, 2247, 2441; fighting, 232, 301, 355, 510, 582, 1592, 1625, 1672, 1895; kicking, 1268; poisoning, 294; throwing to

Manslaughter—*contd*

ground, 1128, 1136, 1268;
perpetrators of: brothers, 510, 756; daughters-in-law, 122; husbands, 21, 181, 262; masters and mistresses, 1433; sisters-in-law, 21; sons-in-law, 848, 851; wives, 2586;
sentence for, 46, 240, 510, 582, 820, 840, 1128, 1136, 1277, 1390, 1592, 1625, 1672, 1689, 1895, 1904, 1977, 2519, 2586, 2788;
weapons used for: hatchets, 722; pokers, 1332; stones, 214, 848

Marines *see under Army*

Markets, 804, 1054, 1141, 1164, 1226, 1631, 1762, 1777, 1918, 2020; market halls, 1454; market-places, xxxix, 1353, 1454

Medicine, 1368; cream of tartar, 1636; purgative powders, 1601; spurge laurel, 2747; sulphur (brimstone) and treacle, 405, 1636; syrup of poppy, 1767–8

Mills, xlix, 91, 112, 127, 171, 261, 276, 287, 517, 647, 739, 782, 1117, 1194–5, 1205, 1320, 1460, 1651, 1729, 1862, 1866, 1911, 2027, 2091, 2095, 2127, 2185; cloth, 1740; grist, 1967; wind, 1463; parts of: cogs, 276, 1740, 1967; cog-wheels, 394, 2172; gudgeons, 1740; lanterns, 276, 394, 1740; millwards, 734; vanes, 1463; wheels, 20, 2095, 2127;

water and water-channels of: lock-holes, 528; mill-heads, 517, 2095, 2329; mill-tails, 287, 1444, 2091; ponds (pills), 91, 101, 127, 138, 171, 424, 434, 471, 494, 518, 647, 711, 914, 1103, 1109, 1194–5, 1320, 1483, 1492, 1651, 1683, 1961, 2121, 2136, 2167. hatches of, 1320; stock-thoroughs, 805; streams, 258, 511, 1701, 2185; 'tapple-pits', 44

Misadventure *see Accidental death*

Murder, xxix–xxx, xl–xli, 9, 55, 77, 125, 160, 686, 1053, 1324, 1346, 1353, 2303, 2449, 2453, 2461, 2471, 2476, 2729; acquittal of, 9, 46, 49, 55, 60, 77, 96, 123, 125, 160, 174, 181, 200, 235, 240, 262, 311, 355–6, 387, 432, 495, 569, 582, 608, 617, 694, 727, 733, 739–40, 774, 820, 840, 849, 895, 926, 983–4, 1024, 1059, 1136, 1142, 1157, 1217, 1277, 1324, 1332, 1353, 1390, 1442, 1566, 1592, 1619, 1625, 1672, 1689, 1763, 1796, 1869, 1895, 1904, 1977, 2097, 2100, 2168, 2191, 2213, 2247, 2447,

Murder—*contd*

2449, 2461, 2471, 2476, 2519–20, 2649, 2729, 2773, 2788; aiding and abetting, 432, 694, 1142; confession to, 984; conviction of, 195, 447, 530, 686, 760, 786, 930, 933, 1142, 1346, 1827, 2303, 2364, 2453, 2773;

injuries in: contusions, 2655; cut throats, 608, 1191–2;

non-prosecution of, 1353;

occasions of: beating (blows), 447, 1277, 1763, 2655; cutting throat, 608, 1191–2; drowning, 387, 617, 2358, 2364, 2447, 2466, 2773; fighting, 1689; kicking, 1689; poisoning, 1217, 1251; stabbing, 592, 1390; starvation, 235, 447, 569, 727, 930, 983, 1619, 1827, 2649; stinging, 530; strangling, 432; suffocation, 2213;

of infants (infanticide), 1, 9, 49, 60, 118, 195, 222, 311, 356, 387, 432, 495, 530, 608, 617, 694, 739–40, 760, 774–6, 812, 849, 895, 926, 933, 984, 1024, 1059, 1142, 1157, 1191–2, 1293, 1346, 1353, 1442, 1566, 1796, 1827, 1869, 1921, 2097, 2168, 2191, 2213, 2358, 2447, 2449, 2461, 2466, 2476, 2520, 2729, 2773;

perpetrators of: brothers, 240; fathers, 930, 1827; grandmothers, 432, 1157; masters, 174, 733, 1619; mistresses, 123, 569, 733, 1619; mothers, 49, 60, 195, 222, 311, 356, 387, 432, 495, 530, 608, 617, 739–40, 760, 774–6, 812, 849, 926, 933, 951, 984, 1024, 1059, 1142, 1157, 1191–2, 1442, 1566, 1796, 1869, 2097, 2168, 2191, 2213, 2520; mothers-in-law, 930; persons unknown, 53, 118, 694, 786, 881, 895, 1089, 1293, 1921, 2045, 2358, 2655, 2705, 2773; sons-in-law, 2247; stepmothers, 727; thieves, 1763;

places of: ditches, 387; jars, 2447; necessary-houses, 2213; nettles, 530; ponds, 2358, 2773; rivers, 617;

sentence for, 195, 447, 530, 686, 760, 786, 930, 933, 1142, 1346, 1827, 2303, 2364, 2453, 2773; spiteful allegations of, 1615;

weapons used for: knives, 592, 1390; while pursuing thieves, 1763; with robbery, 2045

Natural death, xxxix–xl, li–lii;

activities preceding: bell-ringing, 1040; excessive drinking, 367, 391, 418,

Natural death—*contd*

555, 578, 690, 737, 843, 852, 876, 1048, 1074, 1121, 1160, 1196, 1255, 1321, 1401, 1531, 1577–8, 1666, 1700, 1770, 1779–80, 1896, 1932, 1986, 2017, 2792, 2799, 2802; excessive eating, 1766, 1780, 2802; falling into water, 1979, 1997; fighting, 1074, 1766; improper correction, 1902; mowing, 2090; playing fives or tennis, 1784; quarrelling, 12, 1258; receiving blows, 1074, 2049; receiving letter from fugitive husband, 2027; strenuous work, 866; taking syrup of poppy, 1767–8; violent exercise, 963;

conditions leading to: cold water, 1679; constitution of the air, 1074; heat, 1784; inclement (cold, stormy, or wet) weather, li, 13, 109, 278, 314–17, 319–22, 386, 410, 498–9, 503, 507, 523, 557, 559, 563, 565–8, 575, 616, 619, 621, 730, 737–8, 780, 787, 859, 863, 868, 870, 927, 937, 980–2, 1020, 1023, 1027, 1167, 1224–5, 1227, 1229, 1321, 1385–6, 1396, 1470, 1476, 1480, 1543, 1557, 1561, 1620, 1622, 1688, 1708, 1746, 1749, 1752, 1755–6, 1795, 1808, 1821, 1824, 1907, 1966, 1979, 1985, 1988, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2162, 2183–4, 2229, 2270, 2274, 2288–9, 2302, 2306–7, 2339, 2392, 2412–13, 2417, 2430, 2432, 2434, 2462, 2475, 2498–500, 2526, 2529, 2545, 2561–2, 2580, 2583, 2585, 2614–15, 2620–1, 2624, 2646, 2666, 2709, 2728, 2742–3, 2792; lack of clothing, 845, 2069; lack of necessities, 2069; lack of proper care (neglect), 880, 2071; lack of sustenance, li, 410, 557, 567–8, 616, 619, 621, 797, 808, 831, 1557; tightness of neck-stocks, 1766; vermin, bodily, 939, 1071, 1340, 1374, 1487, 2069, 2071;

diseases, illnesses, and medical conditions causing: abscesses and putrid tubercles of lungs, 836; affection of bowels, 1797; apoplexy, lii, 6, 11, 41, 119, 141, 366, 381, 421, 491, 521, 583, 631, 642, 644, 661, 665, 723, 857, 875, 893, 918, 1466, 1602, 2304, 2308, 2319, 2328, 2331, 2340, 2348–9, 2372, 2406, 2411, 2493, 2501, 2514, 2530, 2659; asthma, 1780; child-birth, 105, 1615; consumption see tuberculosis; diabetes, 581;

Natural death—*contd*

diarrhoea, 880; dropsy, 267, 446, 891, 1374, 2469; epileptic fits, 824; evil *see* scrofula; fever, 165, 449–50, 464–5, 470, 472, 492, 506, 539, 556, 561, 729, 777, 781, 810, 851, 853, 897, 970, 1000, 1048, 1074, 1410, 1491, 1521, 1674, 1797, 1802, 2175, 2177, 2262, 2318, 2488, 2515; fits, 459, 480, 564, 589, 597, 599, 838, 890, 925, 985, 1008, 1182, 1213, 1239, 1285, 1330, 1411, 1461, 1494, 1698, 1721, 1757, 1807, 1817, 1835, 2181, 2183, 2271, 2283, 2354–5, 2414, 2421, 2427–8, 2437, 2460, 2473, 2479–80, 2485, 2490, 2494, 2505, 2510, 2543, 2546, 2565, 2570, 2597, 2600, 2635, 2660, 2699; gangrene of internal parts, 1048; gangrene of leg, 1706; gathering in throat, 398; inflammation and putrefaction of lungs and other viscera, 1081; inflammation and spasmodic affection of viscera, 1121; internal bleeding, 1776; lung disease, 803; obstruction of circulation, 1766; overflowing of gall-bladder, 781; premature birth, 1060, 1155; relaxed bowels, 1902; relaxed state, 803; rigors, 1674; ruptured blood vessels, 963, 1574, 1785, 2516; scrofula (the evil), 860; seizures, 1792, 1885, 1887, 2021, 2035, 2055; shock, 2027; smallpox, 949, 978, 1034, 1439, 2152–3, 2156–7; sore throat, 810; strangulated rupture, 1802; strokes, 2027; tuberculosis (consumption), 456; unspecified, li, 19, 32, 35, 37, 40, 50, 56, 72, 75, 78, 83, 87, 104, 117, 121, 126, 131, 135, 146, 149–51, 158, 163, 166–9, 176, 179, 182, 184–5, 188, 192–4, 196–8, 201, 203–4, 210, 216, 227, 231, 247, 253–4, 275, 277, 281, 289, 292–3, 300, 309, 337–8, 342–3, 348, 352, 361, 365, 374, 376–7, 445, 451, 484, 536, 571, 618, 697, 944, 1114, 1178, 1416, 1438, 1539, 1558, 1861, 2110–11, 2209, 2222, 2251, 2253, 2256, 2265–6, 2281, 2290, 2293, 2296, 2362, 2391, 2399, 2403, 2429, 2436, 2445–6, 2450–1, 2464–5, 2532, 2547, 2554, 2560, 2563–4, 2568–9, 2590, 2618, 2630, 2632, 2642, 2650, 2653, 2664, 2671, 2680, 2683–5, 2695, 2697, 2700, 2703, 2708, 2716, 2720, 2723–4, 2727, 2732, 2745–6,

Natural death—*contd*

2751, 2761, 2785, 2794, 2801; worm fever, 1430; worms in bowels, 1583; of aged, 8, 124, 417, 797–8, 823, 869, 905, 931, 936, 980, 1053, 1062, 1066, 1105, 1183, 1287, 1314, 1328, 1402, 1477, 1489, 1542, 1550, 1581, 1608, 1634, 1669, 1676, 1679, 1688, 1700, 1705, 1817, 1832, 1864, 1872, 1880, 1896–7, 1900, 1938, 2007, 2059, 2067–8, 2752; of children, 1021, 1145, 1318, 1343, 1487, 1540, 1614, 1767–8, 1778, 2783; of cripples, 2069; of infants at or shortly after birth, 106, 380, 448, 523, 533, 615, 724, 1118, 1209, 1252, 1284, 1394, 1482, 1549, 1559, 1575, 1607, 1609, 1696, 1726, 1834, 1859, 1996, 2080; of paupers, 399, 1365; of pregnant women, 1707, 2064; of vagrants, 1166, 1487, 2069; places of: barns, etc., 379, 398, 403, 446, 644, 672, 681, 688, 728, 797, 831, 845, 858, 893, 939, 1010, 1017, 1073, 1147, 1241, 1260, 1297, 1327–8, 1340, 1376, 1382, 1563, 1565, 1758, 1894, 1897, 1999, 2014, 2056, 2113, 2161, 2198, 2206, 2368; beds, 1021: gaol, li, 4, 8, 115, 154, 161, 165, 267, 302, 442, 444, 449–50, 456, 459, 460, 470, 472, 514, 533, 539, 541, 552, 556, 561–2, 626, 654, 729, 798, 810, 823, 846, 850–1, 853, 867, 869, 878, 897, 949, 978, 1000, 1325, 1368, 1393, 1409–10, 1439, 1484–5, 1491, 1521, 1557, 1706, 1714, 1802, 1987, 2066, 2152–3, 2156–7, 2163–4, 2175, 2177, 2239, 2254, 2262, 2275–6, 2278, 2280, 2285, 2297–8, 2300–1, 2305, 2309, 2315, 2317, 2321–2, 2351, 2359–60, 2366, 2371, 2375, 2380, 2383, 2397–8, 2402, 2405, 2435, 2439, 2444, 2495, 2515, 2535, 2578, 2587, 2589, 2591–3, 2595–6, 2598–9, 2601–3, 2606–9, 2612, 2622, 2626, 2629, 2633–4, 2638, 2641, 2652, 2670, 2679, 2696, 2704, 2711, 2715, 2752, 2755; houses, 366, 759, 875, 880, 902, 917, 931, 936, 945, 967, 973, 1021, 1026, 1035, 1041, 1062, 1093, 1134, 1159, 1171, 1203, 1244, 1287, 1308, 1314, 1319, 1333, 1361, 1374, 1381, 1404, 1406, 1422, 1424, 1447, 1465, 1477, 1514, 1522, 1528, 1535, 1545, 1568, 1574, 1624, 1628, 1669, 1705, 1724, 1739, 1775, 1809, 1814, 1880, 1938, 1949, 1965, 1969,

Natural death—*contd*

1973, 1975, 2022, 2044, 2050, 2065, 2094, 2335; out of doors, *passim*; vehicles, 808, 1179, 1235, 1384, 1417, 1502, 1690, 1845, 1915, 2039, 2055, 2473, 2699;

resulting in falls: from horses, 480, 1845, 2020, 2068, 2181, 2271, 2283, 2308, 2319, 2354, 2372; from vehicles, 1845, 2473, 2699;

sudden, *passim*

Occupations: apothecary, *xlvi*–*l*, 1498; apprentice, *xlvi*–*xlix*, 174, 569, 581, 1324, 1433, 1619, 1820, 1861, 1892; baker, 161, 1074; birdkeeper, 1455; blacksmith, 232; broad-weaver, 174; butcher, 351, 2181; carpenter, 1929; carter, 2103, 2105, 2117–18; chimney-sweep, 1892; clerk, *xxxiv*, *xlii*; clock-maker, *xlvi* n; clothier, *xlix*, 1772–4; cloth-worker, 1816; collar-maker, 2032; cook, 1014; driver (waggoner), 5, 900, 1095, 1181, 1204, 1235, 1551, 1570, 1941; empiric *see* quack; farmer, *xxxix*, 484, 644, 728, 821, 879, 944, 1907, 2296; fisherman, 1018; game-keeper, 472; grocer, 493; gunsmith, *xlvi*; higgler, 2104; huntsman, 360; labourer, 7, 10, 294, 519–20, 524–5, 2086, 2128, 2131, 2137, 2159–60, 2162, 2176; master of quarry-works, 1881; medical practitioner *see* surgeon; messenger, *xli* n, 1053; miller, 2121; miner, 994; mountebank, 1342, 1368; newsman, 1207; ostler, 1641; ploughboy, 2148; publican, 1136; quack (empiric), 970, 1281; saddler, 2050, 2183; schoolmaster, 915, 1680, 1745, 2151; servant, 123, 161, 1006, 1214, 1498, 1553, 1670, 1714, 1721, 1771, 1797, 1888, 1907, 2121, 2158, 2802; shearman, 1689; shepherd, 319, 1225, 1314, 1489, 1676, 1764, 2063, 2087; surgeon (medical practitioner), *xli*, *xlvi*–*l*, 195, 222, 1142, 1346, 1399, 1482, 1827, 2773; tailor, master, 1786; thatcher, 413; underkeeper, 2200; waggoner *see* driver; watch-maker, *xlvi* n; weaver, 13, 1059, 1861; wheelwright, 21, 2119; yarn-maker, *xlvi*; *see also* Army; Clergy; Coroners; Officials

Officials: aldermen, *xlvi*, 1; bailiffs, *xlvi* n, 2461; clerks, coroners', *xxxvii*, *xliii*;

Officials—*contd*

clerks of the peace, *xxxii*; commissioners of courts of request, 465, 533; commissioners on statute of bankruptcy, 1000; constables, *xliv*, 1566, 1625, 1648, 1796, 1827, 1838–9, 2461; excise officers, 941; high stewards, 1393; judges, assize, 1692; justices of the peace, *xxix*, *xxxii*, *xxxvii*–*xxxviii*, *xliii*–*xliv*, *liii*, 115, 154, 161, 165, 444, 449, 456, 470, 472, 514, 563, 654, 798, 810, 823, 846, 851, 869, 897, 949, 978, 1325, 1410, 1439, 1484–5, 1491, 1521, 1680, 1706, 1708, 1714, 1763, 1987, 2066, *and* bill headings *passim*; keepers of gaols and their deputies, 1557; mayors, *xli* n, *xliv*, *xlvi*, 1377, 1557; parish officers, *xli* n, 399, 654, 1365, 1704; sheriffs, *xxix*, *xlvi*–*xlvi* n, 1136, 1277, 1672, 1689, 1895, 1904, 2519, 2586; tithingmen, 740, 760, 774–6, 812, 820, 847, 926, 930, 933, 951–3, 1217, 1251, 1619, 1647; treasurers, county, *xxxii*–*xxxiv*, *xxxvii*–*xxxviii*; *see also* Coroners

Parish-houses, 1722, 1965; *see also* Alms-houses; Poorhouses; Workhouses

Poison, 294, 1081, 1281, 1360, 1615, 1636, 1707, 2013, 2027, 2677;

arsenic, 594; white, 1077–9, 1847, 2215; yellow, (orpiment), 405, 667, 1124; hellebore, white, 1498; hemlock, root of, 950;

mercury, 970; sublimate of, 1217, 1251, 1501, 1601;

ratsbane, 92, 2048, 2218–19; tincture of opium, 2001

Poorhouses, 2002; *see also* Almshouses; Parish-houses; Workhouses

Pregnancy, 1707, 2064; claims of, rejected by jury of matrons, 447

Prison *see* Gaol

Public houses *see* Inns

Punishment: relaxed, 2303; respited, 447, 1142, 2303;

types of: burning on the hand, 46, 240, 510, 582, 820, 840, 1390, 2788; diet of bread and water, 2303; fines, 1128, 1136, 1277, 1485, 1592, 1625, 1672, 1689, 1895, 1904, 1977, 2519, 2586; hanging, *xlix*–*l*, 195, 447, 530, 686, 760, 786, 930, 933, 1142, 1346, 1827, 2303, 2364, 2453, 2773; imprisonment, 582, 1128, 1390, 1409, 1485, 1592, 1625, 1689, 1714,

Punishment—*contd*

1977, 1987, 2066, with hard labour, 1353; public whipping round market-place, 1353

Quarter sessions, xxix–xxxvii, xl, xlii, 1409–10, 1708, 1802, *and* bill headings *passim*; orders of, xxxii–xxxv, xxxvii–xxxviii

Rates, county, xxix, xxxi

Request, court (commissioners) of, 465, 533, 853

Rolls: coroners', xxx; quarter sessions, xxxi–xxxii

Schools, 1680, 1701, 1968

Shops, 1999, 2014; gin, 1121

Sports and pastimes: bandy, 1831; bell-ringing, 1040, 1818; bull-baiting, 876; dancing on cords, 1063; fives, 963, 1784; following hounds, 1898; quoits, 1936; races, 827; revels, annual, 1788; rolling down hills, 1837; skittles, 2386; sliding on ice, 1810–12; swimming, 1604, 1643; swinging, 1730, on gates, 2034; tennis, 1784

Statutes: 3 Hen. VII c.2, xxix; 1 Hen. VIII c.7, xxix n; 25 Geo. II c.29, xxix–xxxi, xxxix, xliii, l; 5 & 6 Wm IV c.76 (Municipal Corporations Act), xxx; 6 Vic. c.12, xlvi–xlvii; 7 & 8 Vic. c.61, xlvi–xlviii; 23 & 24 Vic. c.116, xxx

Still-birth, 466, 468, 512, 1359, 1530, 1595, 2452, 2496, 2525, 2758; premature, 283; sudden, in streets, 1559

Subpoena, xli, 222

Suicide: by aged, 1149, 1509, 1699, 2081, 2779; by men, l; by minors, 437, 624, 874, 1208, 1677, 1680, 1743, 1820, 1899, 2013; by weak and infirm, 1149, 1509, 1664, 1699; by women, l;

causes of: delirium, 1532, 2528; fever, 1443, 1645, 2528; murder of husband and living alone in matrimonial home, 1783;

methods of: cutting arm, 1100; cutting arm, side, breast, and throat, 1014; cutting belly, 172; cutting throat, 108, 156, 162, 164, 202, 229, 248, 285, 303, 357, 485, 650, 674, 862, 913, 1163, 1191–2, 1211, 1415, 1585, 1593, 1652, 1850, 1933, 1976, 2119, 2124, 2135, 2147, 2197, 2230, 2243, 2287, 2327, 2419, 2482, 2639, 2693;

Suicide—*contd*

drowning, 15, 34, 103, 157, 177, 187, 217, 234, 332, 339, 359, 371–2, 375, 388, 404, 414, 429, 473, 497, 624, 630, 657, 719, 732, 773, 794, 811, 814, 874, 883, 960, 975, 1109, 1116, 1122, 1144, 1289, 1335, 1370, 1427, 1475, 1483, 1499, 1579, 1644, 1664, 1699, 1727, 1733, 1743, 1750, 1783, 1844, 1899, 1924, 1961, 2051, 2053, 2081, 2102, 2130, 2185, 2190, 2259, 2277, 2279, 2384, 2463, 2467, 2503, 2544, 2551, 2571, 2718, 2760, 2779, 2782, 2786, 2796; excessive drinking, 965; hanging, lii, 36, 59, 65, 139, 186, 191, 213, 220, 230, 238, 250, 265, 272, 297, 325, 328–9, 331, 335, 349, 426–7, 437, 439, 441, 452, 467, 502, 505, 516, 529, 553, 591, 602, 610, 614, 625, 639–40, 648, 652, 687, 692, 731, 754, 758, 789, 802, 809, 885, 892, 906–7, 924, 929, 932, 940, 964, 966, 972, 989, 991, 1039, 1088, 1099, 1107, 1110, 1131, 1140, 1149, 1173, 1190, 1208, 1247, 1291, 1296, 1326, 1372, 1397, 1399, 1403, 1426, 1440, 1443, 1471, 1495, 1509, 1515, 1527, 1532, 1534, 1536, 1548, 1591, 1657, 1677, 1680, 1685, 1687, 1764, 1786, 1820, 1828, 1850, 1857, 1867–8, 1893, 1916, 1942, 1948, 1954, 1991, 2040, 2058, 2089, 2141, 2169, 2194, 2210, 2233, 2255, 2261, 2269, 2273, 2286, 2291, 2314, 2325, 2330, 2343, 2356, 2407, 2424, 2433, 2443, 2483, 2487, 2504, 2534, 2557, 2559, 2566, 2572, 2610, 2625, 2631, 2645, 2654, 2669, 2692, 2710, 2721–2, 2733, 2738, 2748, 2762, 2798; jumping from windows, 241, 684, 1339, 2528; jumping into wells, 1100, 1364, 1580, 1645, 1856; poisoning, 594, 667, 813, 837, 1124, 1360, 1501, 1847, 2013, 2215, 2677; shooting, 243, 401, 1405, 1678, 1958, 1983, 2506, 2667; stabbing, 79, 1553;

places of: gaols, 1680, 2233, 2654; ponds, pools, and pits, 15, 177, 388, 404, 497, 630, 719, 732, 811, 814, 874, 1109, 1116, 1370, 1427, 1475, 1483, 1644, 1664, 1699, 1961, 2053, 2503, 2551, 2779, 2782, 2786; rivers, streams, and brooks, 217, 372, 414, 429, 624, 794, 960, 975, 1144, 1335, 1499, 1733, 1743, 1750, 1899, 1924, 2081, 2185, 2384, 2718; wells, 34, 103, 157, 187, 234, 332, 339, 359,

Suicide—*contd*

371, 375, 473, 657, 773, 883, 1100, 1122, 1289, 1364, 1579–80, 1645, 1783, 1856, 2102, 2130, 2190, 2277;
 verdicts of: *felo de se*, xl, l, lii, 217, 230, 272, 285, 357, 485, 591, 594, 602, 614, 652, 667, 714, 1163, 1289, 1291, 1370, 1403, 1501, 1657, 1680, 1687, 1868, 1976, 2040, 2210, 2215, 2233, 2255, 2261, 2654, 2677, 2786;
 lunacy, xl, l, lii, 15, 34, 36, 59, 65, 79, 103, 108, 139, 156–7, 162, 164, 172, 177, 186–7, 191, 202, 213, 220, 229, 234, 238, 241, 243, 248, 250, 265, 297, 303, 325, 328–9, 331–2, 335, 339, 349, 359, 371–2, 375, 388, 401, 404, 414, 426–7, 429, 437, 439, 441, 452, 467, 473, 497, 502, 505, 516, 529, 553, 610, 624–5, 630, 639–40, 648, 650, 657, 674, 684, 687, 692, 719, 731–2, 754, 758, 773, 789, 794, 802, 809, 811, 813–14, 837, 862, 874, 883, 885, 892, 906–7, 913, 924, 929, 932, 940, 960, 964–6, 972, 975, 989, 991, 1014, 1039, 1088, 1099–1100, 1107, 1109–10, 1116, 1122, 1131, 1140, 1144, 1149, 1173, 1190–1, 1208, 1211, 1247, 1296, 1326, 1335, 1339, 1360, 1364, 1372, 1397, 1399, 1405, 1415, 1426–7, 1440, 1443, 1471, 1475, 1483, 1495, 1499, 1509, 1515, 1527, 1532, 1534, 1536, 1548, 1553, 1579–80, 1585, 1591, 1593, 1644–5, 1652, 1664, 1677–8, 1685, 1699, 1727, 1733, 1743, 1750, 1764, 1783, 1786, 1820, 1828, 1844, 1847, 1850, 1856–7, 1867, 1893, 1899, 1916, 1924, 1933, 1942, 1948, 1954, 1958, 1961, 1983, 1991, 2013, 2051, 2053, 2058, 2081, 2089, 2102, 2119, 2124, 2130, 2135, 2141, 2147, 2169, 2185, 2190, 2194, 2197, 2230, 2243, 2259, 2269, 2273, 2277, 2279, 2286–7, 2291, 2314, 2325, 2327, 2330, 2343, 2356, 2384, 2407, 2419, 2424, 2433, 2443, 2463, 2467, 2482–3, 2487, 2503–4, 2506, 2528, 2534, 2544, 2551, 2557, 2559, 2566, 2571–2, 2610, 2625, 2631, 2639, 2645, 2667, 2669, 2692–3, 2710, 2718, 2721–2, 2733, 2738, 2748, 2760,

Suicide—*contd*

2762, 2779, 2782, 2796, 2798

Turnpike houses, 550

Verdicts: alternative, 1559, 1607, 2080, 2391;
 cause of death unknown, 746, 910, 1369, 2753; disagreements on, 21;
 not specified, 1–3, 2096, 2098, 2109, 2128, 2142, 2199; special, 23, 76, 1281, 1698, 1704

Vestry meetings, 1569, 2071

Vouchers, xxxii–xxxv, xliii

Warrants (certificates) for burying bodies, xli n, 1053, 1482

Weather: cold, 13, 523, 557, 1224, 1385, 1543, 1557, 1578, 1907, 1979, 1985, 1997, 2000, 2162, 2339; floods, 1519, 1569; frost, 982; ice, 1112, 1387, 1810–12; inclement (severe), l, 109, 278, 314–17, 319–22, 386, 410, 498–9, 503, 507, 557, 559, 563, 566–8, 575, 616, 619, 621, 737–8, 780, 859, 863, 927, 937, 980, 982, 1020, 1023, 1027, 1104, 1167, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1301, 1385–6, 1396, 1470, 1476, 1478, 1480, 1551, 1688, 1708, 1752, 1808, 1824, 1966, 1988, 1993, 2183–4, 2229, 2270, 2274, 2306–7, 2374, 2392, 2412–13, 2417, 2430, 2432, 2434, 2462, 2475, 2498–500, 2526, 2529, 2545, 2562, 2580, 2583, 2585, 2614–15, 2620–1, 2624, 2646, 2666, 2709, 2728, 2742–3, 2792; lightning, 1366; snow, 565, 730, 868, 870, 981, 1383, 1470, 1561, 2288–9, 2302, 2561; storms, 787, 1242–3, 1620, 1622, 1746, 1749, 1755–6, 1907; wet, 1027, 1263, 1301, 1321, 1620, 1622, 1748–9, 1795, 1813, 1821; wind, 1242–3

Wharf-houses, 1840

Witnesses, xxxviii, 786, 1089, 1281, 1310, 1324, 1377, 1619, 1702

Workhouses, 1172, 1536, 2058, 2335; *see also* Almshouses; Parish-houses; Poor-houses

Workshops, 791, 893, 1327

Writs for the election of coroners, xlvii–l