

MONTGOMERYSHIRE






Montgomeryshire is rural Welsh county. It is bordered to the east by the English county of Shropshire, and on the other sides by the Welsh counties of Radnor, Cardigan, Merioneth and Denbigh. There was a long-established flannel industry in Welshpool and Newtown, and building of a railway in the second half of the nineteenth century stimulated further industrial development .

One inspector was appointed in 1834. A police force was set up in 1841, and took over the duties of inspection in 1854. This arrangement continued until 1901, when a qualified inspector was appointed. The county was merged with Brecon and Radnor to form the new county of Powys in 1974.

The ancient borough of Llanfyllin obtained a set of standards in 1826, but there are no records of inspection by the municipal authorities. Several other small towns had limited jurisdiction for certain matters, but none of them were involved in the inspection of weights and measures.

A: Inspection by the County of MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1826	One set of standards [154] issued.		
1835	Another set of standards [562] issued; one inspector appointed.		<p>Inspectors 1835-54: Samuel Davies of Welshpool (1835) A. Howell (1853-54)</p>
1841	Police force set up.		
1854	Police take over inspection. [M/Q/SM]		<p>Police officers acting as inspectors 1854-1901: John Danily (1854-68, then CC) [1858 S1]</p>
1866	One police officer acting as WM inspector, office in Newtown.		<p>William Davies (1868-81) [1868 S1] John Hudson (1882-87) [1883 S2] Abraham Breeze (1887-1901)</p>
1882	No.428 issued.		<p>Marks with various combinations of a crown, VR, and CM have been recorded. They may relate to either Montgomeryshire or the neighbouring county of Merionethshire</p>
1901	First qualified inspector, a police officer.		<p>Qualified inspectors: D. Hamer (q1901-1937) E.W. Evans (1937-1967, chief 1958-67) [MR 37:60; 67:291] L.O. Bright (1967-)</p>
1949	Office moved from Newtown to Welshpool, but later returned to Newtown.		
1974	Authority transferred to Powys County Council, combining Breconshire, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire.		



¶ A one-pound brass weight verified by the inspector for the county of Montgomery, probably around 1850-1870. Another version of the same mark, presumably older, has also been seen.

¶ A two-ounce brass weight stamped with a crown and the letters CM. Although this is very likely to be a mark indicating the county of Montgomery, there is some doubt because the same letters were used in the neighbouring county of Merioneth.



B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Llanfyllin Llanfyllin was an Ancient Borough, unreformed in 1835, but re-chartered in 1885. Standards [168] were issued in 1826 to Maurice Bibbey, the Town Clerk, recorded as being 'for private use'. It is possible that the standards were in fact intended for use by Viscount Clive, who was Lord of several Manors in the area, but no records have been found.

Several other towns in Montgomeryshire, including Montgomery, Llanidloes and Machynlleth, had (or aspired to have) borough status, but none of them were involved in the inspection of weights and measures,

C: The trade in Montgomeryshire

NEWTOWN	
Cambrian Foundry	William Turner, engineer, manufacturer of mining and quarrying machinery, including weighing machines [1885 W]. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cambrian Foundry <1885>
Pooley	First noted in an advertisement on the cover of the <i>Monthly Review</i> in 1898. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Railway Station <1908>• 89 Crescent Street <1911>

**CAMBRIAN FOUNDRY AND IRON WORKS,
NEWTOWN, NORTH WALES.**

**WILLIAM TURNER,
ENGINEER,**

MILLWRIGHT, IRON & BRASS FOUNDER.

MANUFACTURER OF MINING & QUARRY MACHINERY.

Saw Benches, Planing Machines, Water Wheels, Self-Acting Saw-Filling Machines, Weighing Machines, Cranes,
Brakes, Pumps, Hoists, Tram Wheels, Shafting, Pulleys, &c. (1885)

¶ Advertisement for a Newtown foundry and ironworks from Wilson's *Trades Directory* of 1885. The weighing machines mentioned were probably platform scales and weighbridges for industrial use.

References for Montgomeryshire

Published works

Directories

- S1. Slater's Directory of ... Wales [ST39] 1858, [ST48] 1868.
- E. Eyre's Wales Register and Guide [ST1693] 1878.
- M. [Machynlleth Directory]. [ST -] 1881, 1882, 1884.
- S2. Slater's Directory of ... North and Mid Wales... [ST 1694] 1880, [ST1695] 1885, 1895.
- W. Wilson's Trades Directory of Wales. [ST -] 1885.
- B. Bennett's Trade Directory of North Wales. [ST 1705] 1911-1936.

Original documents

Powys Archives Office, Llandrindod Wells

M/Q/SM/*: Montgomery Quarter Sessions Minute Books contain several relevant entries, including the following.

Hilary 1851 (2 January 1851) Report of the Inspector of Weights and Measures (Read 6 Jan 1851).

Hilary 1853 Report of the Inspector of Weights and Measures: Monies to be paid to Mr Howell but, in future, receipts must be countersigned by the Clerk of the Court.

Midsummer 1854: Report of the Inspector of Weights and Measures: resignation of the inspector accepted.

Michaelmas 1854: Report of the Inspector of Weights and Measures: inspection passes to police - Chief Constable to nominate a responsible person from the Constabulary.

M/Q/AX/9: Montgomery Quarter Sessions (Miscellaneous). Bonds for execution of duties by inspectors of weights and measures, 1882 and 1887.