Hertfordshire lies to the north-east of London. It is bordered to the south by Middlesex, to the east by Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, to the north by Cambridgeshire, and to the east by Essex. For many centuries the south-western part of the county, known as the Liberty of St Albans, was a separate jurisdiction. This situation gradually changed in the 19th century, and the two parts of the county were formally united in 1874.

The major ancient boroughs were Hertford and St Albans. In Hertford and the main part of the county, the practice of using a local ironmonger for weights and measures purposes was followed, the Nunn family being involved until 1835 at least. The county (including the Liberty) was divided into four WM districts with civilian inspectors in 1835, some of them based in market towns such as Bishops Stortford. In 1844 the police force took over. There was a recurrent difficulty about the Barnet district, which was in the area covered by the Metropolitan Police.

Throughout the 19th century the town of Watford grew greatly in importance, but it did not become a municipal borough until 1922. A London scale maker, Walter Parry, set up there in the 1880s, and around 1900 his business was acquired by Leonard Doyle, a member of another family of London scale makers. In 1935 Doyle was bought out by Avery. Smaller firms were established in other parts of the county throughout the 20th century, one of them, Stringer & Co (Scales) Ltd surviving to the present day.
A: Inspection by the County of HERTFORDSHIRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>Charles Brittain appointed examiner for the county, not including the Liberty.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Liberty of St Albans acted separately until 1844. [1, VIII 462-470].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td>1 set of standards verified.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Two inspectors [1, X 53].</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Inspectors appointed for four districts; two more sets of standards verified.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>Police take over WM duties [1, II 420-423]. There was one police force for the whole county including the Liberty, and eleven districts, as below.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Liberty of St Albans formally merged with county.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Police officers as inspectors 1844-82 (eleven districts)

**Berkhampstead**
- George Mackay –1851-55-
- Henry J Coulter –1859-67-
- Richard Goodyear –1874-

**Bishops Stortford**
- Robert Barnes –1851-55-
- William Ryder –1859-82&

**Buntingford**
- William Bryant –1851-55-
- Richard Oliver –1859-74-

**Hatfield**
- Thomas Evans –1851-
- Abraham English –1855-62-
- William Isgate –1867-
- Jehu Bourne &1874-

**Hemel Hempstead**
- Henry J. Coulter –1851-55-
- Edward Evans –1859-
- Jehu Bourne –1862-69&
- William Isgate –1874-
- Stephen Chapman -1879-81.

**Hertford**
- Inspection by the borough police?

**Hitchin**
- George Cocksedge –1851-55&
- George Capron – 1859-
- William Pangbourne –1862-67-
- George Young –1874-

**Royston**
- William Wright –1851-55-
- John Hilsden –1859-62&
- George Cocksedge &1867-74-

**Stevenage**
- Charles Good –1851-
- Edward Evans &1855-
- James Hawkes – 1859-67-
- John Reynolds –1874-

**Ware**
- Edward Evans –1855&
- Jehu Bourne –1855-
- Thomas Bygrave – 1859-74-

**Watford**
- Waldron Kelly –1851-55-
- George Cocksedge &1859-62-
- John Hilsden &1867-
- Stephen Chapman –1874-

For Barnet, see below.
Two bronze weights stamped in Hertfordshire c1834. The one on the left has the county mark of a crown above H in a shield, together with a (probably later) mark for the borough of St Albans. The one on the right is a cup weight with the same Hertfordshire mark and the initials W N of William Nunn, one of the inspectors appointed in 1834.

A 4oz bronze weight stamped with the of mark 2 above H, probably indicating Hertfordshire district 2 in the period 1835-1844 before the police took over as inspectors of weights and measures. This weight also has verification marks from the neighbouring counties of Middlesex and Bedfordshire.
## Police officers as inspectors 1882-90 (five districts plus Barnet)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A: Ware</th>
<th>B: Bishops Stortford</th>
<th>C: St Albans</th>
<th>D: Hemel Hempstead</th>
<th>E: Hitchin</th>
<th>Barnet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>David Faulkner -1872-80 Samuel Foulsham 1880-89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Nos. 394-399 issued, for Barnet and the five police divisions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Central division (Hatfield) formed: No.397.</td>
<td>ER 396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Barnet division formed (No.395); temporarily closed 1940-46.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Barnet division finally closed down.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Numbers 398, 399, 904 brought into use for Hertford division.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A: Inspection by the LIBERTY OF ST ALBANS (Hertfordshire)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>The high constables were appointed as examiners. [1, IV:99].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Standards issued for the Watford division.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Three inspectors appointed; two more sets of standards issued.</td>
<td>LYSIA</td>
<td>The Liberty was also the Cashio hundred of Hertfordshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>Police force set up, jointly with Herts. Henceforth inspection was essentially unified, although the Liberty was not formally united with the county until 1874.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inspectors 1835-44:**

**Barnet:**
- Isaac Pye (1835-40)
- Henry Cope (1840-41)
- John Stevens (1841-44)

**Watford:**
- John Neale (1835-37)

**St Albans:**
- John Deayton (1835-37)
- Jeremiah Deayton (1838-44)

Letters indicating the districts CB (= Chipping Barnet) and W (=Watford) have been seen with the mark.
### B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of HERTFORDSHIRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Dates &amp; Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishops Stortford</td>
<td>Standards made by James Nunn of Hertford, dated 1835, and assigned to this town [Sbk], were almost certainly a county set [D/EGm/128].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshunt</td>
<td>Standards were issued for this Manor in 1826, when the beadle acted as the inspector. The standards were reverified in 1856 but inspection had ceased by 1866.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemel Hempstead</td>
<td>A Market Town which received standards in 1826. Almost certainly under the authority of the county.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Dates &amp; Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hertford</td>
<td>AncBo MB:1835 cp</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>s:1825, 1860 r:1868 n:1882-1889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A mark comprising a hart’s head, a shield, and a letter H has been recorded on measures.

Thomas Knight (CC 1839-62) was the inspector when the second set of standards was issued in 1860 [Sbk]. Alfred Jarrett (CC 1862-89) was listed as inspector in 1869 [K], and he probably continued until 1889 when the borough was disqualified because its population was less than 10,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hitchin</td>
<td>A Market Town which received standards in 1826. Almost certainly under the authority of the county.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Marks</th>
<th>Dates &amp; Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Albans</td>
<td>AncBo MB:1835 cp</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>s:1826,1863 n:1891-1974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although standards were acquired in 1826, inspection seems to have been erratic until 1863, when new standards were obtained. There was a borough police force from 1836 onwards, and W.J. Pike (CC 1859-1883) and A. Pellant (CC 1883-89) were both recorded as the IWM.

In 1890 A.E. Slough (q1890/1) was appointed, jointly with Luton (Beds). Inspection remained under the control of the borough police, and after Slough resigned in 1913, A.C. Sampson qualified and was appointed. The chief constable at that time was George Whitbread, who was required to resign for drunkenness in 1916. As a result the police force was temporarily amalgamated with the county force, until the appointment of J.E. Harrison (CC 1919-29) who also served as inspector of WM.

Harrison was succeeded by N. Ashton (CC 1929-33), who was also IWM. From 1934 to 1938 the inspector was F.H. Moran, who was not a police officer. Eric Preston was appointed in 1938 and when the city police amalgamated with the county force in 1947, Preston became chief inspector. He continued to serve until 1969 [MR 69:3], and was succeeded by E.F.L. Welch [MR 69:50].
The sign that hung outside the shop of James Nunn, ironmonger in Fore Street, Hertford. It is now on display in the Hertford Museum.

The standard bushel made by James Nunn for the Bishops Stortford division of the county in 1835.
## BISHOPS STORTFORD

| Selves   | Richard E. Selves, scale maker [1914 K] at  
|          | • 9 Devoil’s Lane <1914-1922>  
|          | A branch of the firm based in *Saffron Walden*, Essex. |

## HERTFORD

| Nunn     | James Nunn established a firm of ironmongers etc in 1798. In 1834 William Nunn was appointed as IWM for the county, and in 1835 the firm made standards for the Bishops Stortford division of the county [D/EGm/128].  
|          | The firm is listed as William Nunn & Sons, ironmongers, in Fore Street in 1859 [K]. They probably continued to repair and adjust scales and weights throughout this period, and were still in business in 1890 [K]. |

| Hayward  | George Hayward, scale and weight maker [advt 1894 K].  
|          | • 30 Railway St <1894-1908>.  
|          | Geo. Hayward and Sons [1914 K], at  
|          | • Mill Road <1914-1922>  
|          | • 24 Ware Road <1933- 1945>  
|          | [advt 1945 KH] |

| Poupard  | W. Poupard & Son, a London firm, had premises at 5 Mill Lane in 1908 [K]. |

| Avery    | At Queens Head Yard in Fore Street 1965. |

A 56 lb iron bar weight with the name of G. Hayward. It is possible that this weight was actually cast in Hayward’s factory, but it may well have been supplied by another ironfoundry.
### ST ALBANS

**Booth**
E.J. Booth, scale maker, first noted 1941-2 [KS], at
- 1A Holywell Hill <1941-1956.
- 332 Watford Road (St Stephens) 1962-1968. [advt 1962 KS].
Gone in 1969.

**Stringer**
Stringer & Co. (Scales) Ltd, established 1955, at:
- 1 Half Moon Yard [1958 KS]
- 2A Lower Dagnall Street 1960-1962
Still in business 2008 as suppliers to the trade, at Kimpton, near Hitchin.

### WATFORD

**Parry**
Walter Parry, the *London* firm, set up a factory in Watford in the 1880s, and a shop [1890 Kelly] at:
- 18 High St <1890-1899>.
Succeeded by Doyle.

**Doyle**
Leonard Doyle, member of the Doyle family of *Southwark*, scale maker [1902 K], successor to Walter Parry [advt 1906 K , at:
- 67 Sotheron Road <1902>
- 2 Clarendon Road <1906-1922->
- 18 Clarendon Road <1926-1935.
Acquired by Avery 1935.

**Avery**
First noted 1906 [K] at:
- 67 Sotheron Road <1906>
- 18 High Street <1910-1935.
Took over the Doyle business 1935, at
- 18 Clarendon Road 1935- 1966>

**Burrows**
A.F. Burrows, scale maker [1937 KW] at
- 1A Hatfield Road <1937-1966>. .
Advertisement for Leonard Doyle from Kelly’s Directory of Hertfordshire 1906. It states explicitly that Doyle was the successor of Walter Parry.

4oz brass weight stamped with Leonard Doyle’s name. There are various date stamps on the reverse, the earliest being 1926.

Advertisement for E.J. Booth from Kelly’s Directory of St Albans for 1962.
References for Hertfordshire

Published works

1. *Hertfordshire County Records*. A series of ten volumes covering the Quarter Sessions records up to 1843. Published between 1905 and 1957.

Directories

KS. Kelly’s Directory of St Albans … (ST584) 1900-1949.
KW Kelly’s Directory of Watford … (ST585) 1900-1949.
KH. Kelly’s Directory of Hertford … (ST595) 1936-1945.

Original documents

*Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies*

QS/Misc/B/**. Various papers relating to inspectors of WM.

L/Misc/965-969. Papers relating to WM in the Liberty of St Albans (1824-1853).

D/E/Gm/128. Papers of local antiquarian Gordon Moodey, with correspondence about local standards from Bishops Stortford, Hemel Hempstead, and Ware (manorial). Also some photographs.