

Supporting data in respect of the paper

Counterfeit Coin in Somerset 1810 to 1855

S. Minnitt

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The research focuses on what was a serious and widespread problem in the period covered. Whilst those involved in making counterfeit coins were relatively few in number, those actively uttering counterfeits were much more common. The paper and the research behind it, here recorded, provide an insight into the circumstances and activities of those prosecuted in the historic county of Somerset in the period concerned.

The data derives from many sources. The key ones are the Mint and assize records (prefixed by TNA) in The National Archives and the quarter sessions records held by the Somerset Heritage Service (prefixed by SHC). Local newspaper reports also provide invaluable information, especially the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* and the *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser*. The many other sources are referenced.

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 13-4-1810

1. **James Flannagan** (11), **Mary Flannagan** (13), **Charles Flannagan** (19), **Elizabeth Careful Flannagan** (21), **Thomas Farrell** and **Susanna Farrell** (23) were charged on suspicion of being common utterers of base money in the North Petherton area.
All were discharged.

SHC QS/R 378/2: S Farrell and E C Flannagan went to the Green Dragon at Thurloxtion, near Taunton, where the former asked Hannah Philips for a 'quarter of gin'. He paid with a shilling. The coin appeared base to Philips and when challenged S Farrell took the coin back and paid with a sixpence and a penny.

Half an hour later C Flannagan went into the Green Dragon and asked Philips for a pint of cider. He tendered a shilling which Philips believed was counterfeit and refused to accept, it was replaced with three pence.

On the same day J Flannagan went to Abraham Fiver's baker's shop in North Petherton and bought a penny loaf with a sixpence. Quarter of an hour to twenty minutes later M A Flannagan went in and purchased two penny cakes with a shilling. Fiver put the two coins in his breeches pocket where there was no other money. Shortly afterwards J Flannagan went in again, asked for two more cakes and paid with a shilling. Fiver examined the coin, saw that it was counterfeit and returned it. J Flannagan said that he would fetch a replacement and left leaving the cakes in the shop. He came back with a penny and said that he would have just one cake. Once Flannagan had left the shop Fiver examined the shilling and sixpence received earlier and found them both to be counterfeit. Fiver sent his servant, Sarah Carter, to the George Inn where J Flannagan and M A Flannagan were together with two other women. Carter first of all tried selling cakes to the suspect in the George Inn, presumably in order to obtain further evidence of their involvement in uttering. E C Flannagan asked for two cakes and tendered a counterfeit shilling which Carter refused and was instead given two pence. Carter reported back to Fiver who gave her the counterfeit shilling and sixpence that he had received earlier and asked her to go and change them. Carter went back to the group in the George Inn and said that the boy and girl had passed the coins at her master's shop and that he had sent her to get them changed. S Farrell said that she couldn't change them. E C Flannagan took the coins and said that the sixpence was good but the shilling was base. According to Carter's statement E C Flannagan said 'people need not be so particular, for that the money was not so very bad'. E C Flannagan changed the counterfeit coins for good coins.

On the same day T Farrell had gone into the George Inn, North Petherton, kept by John Selwood, where he asked for a pint of cider or beer. He was served by Selwood's wife Ann. While he was drinking it J Flannagan came in and had a pint of beer or cider with T Farrell who he seemed to know. Farrell left but Flannagan stayed for about half an hour when he was joined by S Farrell and E C Flannagan. They drank two pints of cider, probably between them, and one of the women paid. All left except E C Flannagan who immediately afterwards was taken into custody by William Laver on a charge of uttering counterfeit coin. Shortly afterwards Laver also brought M A Flannagan in custody to the inn. Just before they were to be taken away to go before the magistrate Ann Selwood noticed a black box or trunk and a girl's great coat where they had been sitting. E C Flannagan and M A Flannagan said that they did not belong to them. Robert Wheatley opened the box and found 'several parcels of Counterfeit Shillings curiously done up in paper.' Wheatley opened two or three of the parcels. In his statement Wheatley described them as being a brown paper parcel containing two 'papers' of counterfeit shillings, a brown paper parcel containing seven 'papers' of counterfeit shillings and a 'paper' containing 32 counterfeit seven-shilling pieces. When Sarah Brissett searched Susanna Farrell she found a key, which fitted the lock on the box. When she was before the magistrate M A Farrell admitted that she had taken the box into the George Inn but had been asked to carry it there by a woman she had met on the road.

Again on the same day M A Flannagan and E C Flannagan had gone into William Laver's shop in North Petherton where they asked for two eggs costing 2d. E C Flannagan took out a pennyhalfpenny

from her pocket and asked M A Flannagan if she had a halfpenny. The remainder of the details of this incident are unknown as a page of witness statements is missing.

The missing page means the precise circumstances of J Flannagan and M A Flannagan's arrest are unknown. The person who arrested them noticed that J Flannagan couldn't walk very well, they investigated and shook his trousers. A glove fell out which was found to contain a 'considerable quantity' of counterfeit shillings, later stated to comprise forty-eight shillings. J Farrell was taken into custody at the New Inn, North Petherton, whilst M A Flannagan was taken to the George Inn. The person who arrested them, probably Laver, heard 'something jingle on the floor' near to where M A Flannagan and E C Flannagan were standing when in custody at the George Inn. On investigating he found a counterfeit shilling close to the foot of E C Flannagan.

Ann Ford made a statement on 25 April to the effect that about ten days previously 'the two women now in custody' had gone into her shop at Bathpool, bought some articles and paid with a shilling. Shortly afterwards one of the women, she wasn't sure which, together with the boy who was in custody bought some more articles for which she tendered a shilling. Ford refused to take this coin as she believed it to be bad and the woman paid in halfpence. This aroused suspicion in Ford's mind and she checked the silver coins in her pocket. She found a bad shilling. Ford went to the inn in Bathpool where the two women and boy were to be found together with the girl and the youngest of the accused men. She told them that they had given her a bad shilling upon which one of the women exchanged it.

The number of counterfeit coins involved in this case is not known but is clearly quite substantial. The number of instances of uttering and discovery of the accused in possession of counterfeit coin makes the acquittal of all concerned difficult to understand.

1811

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 17-8-1811

2. **Jane Hickman**, no personal details are known, was charged with 'putting off divers pieces of counterfeit coin' in the form of nine shillings and six sixpences (SHC Q/AGi 14/2, page 52). The fact that this case was classed as a felony indicates a previous counterfeit-coin related conviction.
6 months in Ilchester gaol and fined 20/-. Released 17-2-1812.

TNA ASSI 25 8/10: on 6 June 1811 Hickman uttered nine counterfeit shillings and six counterfeit sixpences in the parish of Bedminster to Eleanor Dent, spinster.

1812

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 13-1-1812

3. **Elizabeth Willmott** (24), hawker and pedlar, uttering base coin at Castle Cary. Her last known residence was Shaftesbury, Dorset. She was committed to Shepton Mallet gaol on 2-12-1811 prior to her trial (SHC Q/AGs 13/1).
Acquitted

SHC QS/R 383: John Creed, brickmaker, of Castle Cary said that on the night of 29 November 1811 he bought a 'waistcoat piece' costing 4/- from a woman in Shepton Mallet who 'travels in the capacity of a hawker and pedlar'. Creed paid with a 'pound bill' and received 16/- change which he afterwards discovered to be counterfeit.

Creed attempted to dispose of the counterfeits. At midday on 29 November Creed bought eight yards of calico for 9/4d from Henry Candy, a Shepton Mallet linen draper. He paid with a one pound note and received 3 shilling Bank of England and other silver tokens in change. About 9pm that evening Creed returned to Candy saying that he had given him 7 bad shillings in change when he bought the calico and insisted on having them changed. Candy denied this. After discussion Creed admitted that he had not received the counterfeit coins from Candy and asked for them back. Candy refused, he marked the

shillings, wrapped them in paper which he sealed with black wax and took Creed into custody handing him and the coins to Robert Thyer. Creed explained how he had come into possession of the coins.

Robert Thyer, constable of Shepton Mallet, and Candy went to the White Lion, Shepton Mallet. Thyer searched certain packages and parcels belonging to Willmott and found a paper containing 11 parcels, each containing 40 shillings (440 in total). Candy went into a privy that John Willmott, Elizabeth's husband, had entered on their arrival and found a parcel containing 33 counterfeit shillings in a hole in the wall.

Elizabeth Willmott had also gone into Elizabeth Goodall's shop to buy a quarter pound of butter. She tendered a shilling which was refused as being bad. A replacement shilling was offered but was refused for the same reason.

Taunton Lent Assizes 28-3-1812

4. **George Treasure** (43), of Wellow, uttering counterfeit coin to John and Sarah Wait. No further information on this case has been traced.
Acquitted

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 13-7-1812

5. **Ann Sampson** (24) and **Sarah Peacock** (34) charged on the oath of George Pullman and others with having uttered, paid and tendered in payment certain counterfeit shillings at Yeovil.
Acquitted.

SHC QS/R 385: Charles Pulman, butcher, of West Coker, said that on 10 April 1812 at Yeovil market Sampson and Peacock uttered to him "two counterfeit coins resembling certain pieces of this Realm called shillings" in payment for part of a neck of mutton. Pulman couldn't remember which of the women gave him the coins.

Peacock paid "a certain piece of counterfeit silver money resembling the coin of this Realm called a shilling" for a glass of beer to Jane Rowsell whose husband Benjamin was a victualler at Yeovil.

Sampson paid James Sutton of Yeovil, white bread baker, a counterfeit shilling for two cakes. Sutton believed that Sampson and Peacock "are part of and belonging to a considerable gang or company of swindlers who have lately infested the neighbourhood of Yeovil going about the country uttering base and counterfeit money".

Henry Pert, leather dresser, said that when Sampson and Peacock were taken into custody and being charged, Sampson dropped some coins which, when Pert picked them up, proved to be 5 counterfeit shillings.

6. **John Manning** (37) charged on the oath of George Evans and others with having passed and uttered two pieces of counterfeit coin purporting to be five shilling and sixpenny dollars at Weston, Bath.
Acquitted.

SHC QS/R 385: Publican Matthew Lovenbury of Weston had a booth at the Lansdown races, in the parish of Weston, in which George Evans served. On Friday 19 June 1812 Manning called for and drank some beer in the booth. He gave Evans a "Five Shilling and Sixpenny Dollar". Evans took it to Lovenbury to ask if it was good, the latter cut a piece out of it and said it was counterfeit. Evans returned the coin to Manning.

John Lansdown also had a booth at the races. Manning ordered a glass of gin and half a pint of beer for which he offered a "Five shilling and Sixpenny Dollar". It was in perfect condition, but Lansdown nevertheless recognised it as counterfeit and had Manning taken into custody.

Matthew Lovenbury, presumably the above-mentioned publican, was a tithingman for the parish of Weston and Manning was placed in his custody by Lansdown. Whilst Manning was in Lovenbury's

custody he said “you may let me go - there will be nothing the matter” which Lovenbury took to mean Manning was trying to bribe him.

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 5-10-1812

7. **Mary Rowland** (39) and **Susannah Carter** (20) charged on the oaths of Hugh Clement and others with uttering counterfeit tokens purporting to be three-shilling Bank Tokens and possessing a quantity of other counterfeit tokens knowing them to be counterfeit at Bath.
Rowland: 6 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 6 months for good behaviour, to continue in gaol until latter found. Released 22-3-1813
Carter: discharged

SHC QS/R 386: Ann Edwards, wife of landlord of the Weymouth Arms in Walcot, Bath, stated that at about 10.30pm on Saturday 22 August 1812 Mary Rowland and Susannah Carter entered the public house and drank one pint of beer. Rowland ‘offered a three-shilling piece purporting to be a Bank Token’ in payment. Ann Edwards refused to take it as she saw it was a bad one. Rowland replaced it with a good sixpence and received 3d in change.

On the following evening Rowland passed a bad three-shilling token to Martha Clement in the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe. It was recognised as counterfeit by her sister-in-law Hannah Clement who was able to identify the piece from ‘the indentation that appears in the representation of his Majesty’s Head’.

Rowland and Carter together with Susan Carter went to the Cross Keys public house kept by Hugh Clement. A watch went missing during the evening and Clement proposed a general search. Shortly after this proposal had been made Rowland and Susannah Carter left but soon returned. While they were out they were seen putting something into a hedge. A search in the hedge took place the following day in the belief that they may have been hiding the watch. A dirty piece of linen was found containing ‘a Quantity of Three Shilling Bank of England Tokens and a number of Shillings and things purporting to be Tokens and Shillings’. They were examined by a silversmith who declared them all ‘false and counterfeit’. Hugh Clement had the token passed to his sister examined by the silversmith who declared it also to be counterfeit. The silversmith said that all pieces were of ‘the same composition and materials and were cast in the same stamp’. This obviously helped link the one passed to Martha Clement by Rowland with those found in the hedge.

8. **Alice Davis** (29) charged on the oath of Hester Mudon with uttering five counterfeit three-shilling Bank Tokens at Bridgwater.
Acquitted

Alice Davis was the wife of Daniel Davis, a private in the Third Regiment of Lancashire Militia.

SHC QS/R 386: Hester Mudon was the wife of William Mudon, keeper of the Bell Inn, Bridgwater. Davis went in on the morning of 3 October 1812 (Bridgwater Fair Day) and asked for two glasses of beer. Davis paid with ‘one piece of money purporting to be a three-shilling Bank Token’, she was given change in the form of ‘one of Garratt’s shillings [Bristol], one plain shilling and a sixpence’.

Later in the same day Davis went back and ordered three pints of ‘egg flip’ from Hester Mudon at a cost of 2/3d. Davis paid with another three-shilling Bank Token. There followed a repeat order, again paid for with a three-shilling Bank Token. She also ordered tea. During the course of the day Davis passed five tokens to Mudon. There is no reference to when or how the pieces were recognised as counterfeit in the SHC QS rolls.

1813

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 4-10-1813

9. **Thomas Osborne** (50), labourer, “late of Bristol”, charged on the oaths of Mary Male and others with having in his possession and uttering counterfeit coin ‘resembling the current coin of this realm’ at Ilminster.
1 year in Ilchester gaol released 4-10-1814.

SHC QS/R 390: Evidence was given by Thomas and Sarah Dean of Kingsbury Episcopi. On 25 August 1813 Osborne was at Ilminster Fair. At about 1pm he bought one pennyworth of pears from Sarah Dean for which he gave “a piece of coin resembling a shilling”. In change she gave him 11 penny tokens. About one hour later Osborne went back and bought another pennyworth of pears paying with “a piece of coin resembling a shilling”. He repeated this “that he in like manner defrauded eight different times”. At about 9pm Osborne returned for a further pennyworth of pears, this time he was served by Thomas Dean. Osborne paid with “a piece of coin resembling a sixpence”. Thomas Dean recognised the sixpence as bad and had Osborne apprehended. Sarah Dean, after Osborne’s arrest, said she had only taken silver from Osborne, all in her possession therefore derived from him.

At about 9pm Osborne bought a pennyworth of pears from Mary Male at the fair, she was from the parish of Stocklinch Ottersey. He gave a “piece of coin resembling a sixpence”. Quarter of an hour later the transaction was repeated.

John Berry, corporal in the Second Somerset Regiment of Militia, “received” five pieces of base coin resembling shillings from Sarah Dean. The circumstances in which he was given them are not stated. Berry gave them to John Herby, Constable of Ilminster. Arthur Baker, Sergeant of the First Regiment of Somerset Militia, apprehended Osborne and found on him a counterfeit shilling.

The coins were described as ‘counterfeit money made of certain mixed base metals’ (SHC Q/C/7/1)

1814

Taunton Lent Assizes 31-3-1814

10. **Patrick Nowlan** (22), **John Wilcox** (21) and **Mary Woods** (19) were charged with uttering counterfeit coins at Bridgwater. A fourth person, **Mary Ryan**, was also arrested but was discharged before trial. Nowlan: 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus two sureties each of £10 for good behaviour for 2 years. Released 31-3-1815
Wilcox: 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus two sureties each of £10 for good behaviour for 2 years. Released 31-3-1815
Woods: discharged as an ignoramus
TNA ASSI 21/28 gives the names of twelve witnesses: Charles Leaker, Richard Smith, James Tottle, William Smith, Robert Jones, Richard Withycombe, Jane Webb, Samuel Briffett (or Brissett), Sarah Gulliver, Absolam Stacey, Mary Cook and Richard Hitchings. There is a note in TNA ASSI 21/28 that this was a Mint prosecution.

TNA MINT 15/9

Fee by allowance on Defts being Committed	£5-0-0
The like on searching their joint lodgings	£1-5-0
Attending Defendants Examination (by Agent) when Ray [presumably Ryan] was discharged and the other parties Committed for trial	[no figure given]
Drawing Indictment against the Defendants being long	£0-12-0
Ingrossing and parchment	£0-6-0
Paid filing	£1-6-0
Paid swearing witnesses	£0-8-0
Attending Grand Jury to find the Bill	£0-13-4
The Bill was found as against Deft Woods	
Drawing brief for trial 10 sheets	£3-6-0
Three fair copies for Counsel	£3-15-0
To Mr Serj. Lens with brief as per Voucher No 57	£3-3-0
To his Clerk	£0-2-6

To Mr Jekyll with brief as per Voucher No 58	£3-3-0
To his Clerk	£0-2-6
To Mr Borough with his brief as per Voucher No 59	£2-2-0
To his Clerk	£0-2-6
Subpoena for Witnesses	£0-12-0
Service on two witnesses	£0-10-0
Paid returning [] and Jury	£0-17-6
Fee by allowance on Defendants Nowlan and Wilcox being tried including Court Fees and other expenses	£8-0-0
	£35-6-4

Wells Lammas Assizes 13-8-1814

11. **Elizabeth Smith** (40) (born in Wadebridge, Cornwall), labourer, charged with having unlawfully uttered a three shilling Bank Token to John Turle and with having in her possession other counterfeit tokens and a 'quantity of counterfeit money' at Taunton (Agw 14/1).
 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus two sureties of £10 each for good behaviour.
 TNA ASSI 21/28 lists the witnesses as John Lyddon, James Turle and Thomas Lake. The latter was probably a silversmith. There is a note at the side of the entry reading 'TNA MINT prosn' and that the case was a misdemeanour.

TNA MINT 15/9	
Fee by allowance of Defendant being Committed	£1-5-0
The like on searching her lodging	£1-5-0

1815

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 16-10-1815

12. **Margaret Hickman** (17) and **Catherine Leeson (formerly Hickman)** (27) charged on the oath of Elizabeth Dillon with having uttered and paid Elizabeth Dillon two false and counterfeit shillings well knowing them to be false and counterfeit in Bath. A cross reference in the Ilchester Gaol Felons Register (SHC Q/AGI/14/2) between entries 1696 and 3765 indicates that Leeson was sentenced to 14 years transportation for uttering forged Bank of England one pound notes at the Bridgwater Assizes held on 14 August 1819. A Mary Hickman was similarly charged and convicted and sentenced at the August 1819 assizes.

Both were discharged at the 1815 Quarter Sessions as an ignoramus. '....the bill was not found by the Grand Jury.' (TNA MINT 15/10)

SHC QS/R 398: In the afternoon of Saturday 26 August 1815 Hickman and Leeson went into Thomas Dillon's butcher's shop at 23 Upper Borough Wall, Bath, and asked Elizabeth Dillon (wife of Thomas) for beef costing two shillings. Hickman gave two shillings, one of which was recognised by Elizabeth Dillon as counterfeit. Hickman exchanged it for another coin and both left the shop. Elizabeth Dillon then noticed some dirt on one of the shillings received, rubbed it and found the coin to be counterfeit.

Half an hour later Elizabeth Dillon saw Hickman and Leeson leave the shop of Mrs Hemsley, also in Upper Borough Wall. Elizabeth Dillon went into the shop, arriving immediately after George Vincent, police officer. Mrs Hemsley was in the process of giving a counterfeit shilling to Vincent which had been received from Hickman in payment for two eggs. Elizabeth Dillon gave Vincent her two bad shillings. Vincent had gone into Mrs Hemsley's shop to make enquiries because he suspected Hickman and Leeson of passing bad money.

Vincent apprehended Hickman and Leeson in Northgate Street with the assistance of Thomas Allen, tithingman. When searched Hickman had a halfcrown, a 1/6d token and 11d in half pence all of which were genuine. On the way to the Guildhall Leeson threw down a piece of paper which Allen picked up and found to contain a counterfeit shilling.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Paid Mr Tuckett & Clerk with brief Voucher 60	£3-5-6
„ Mr Smedley & Clerk „ „ Voucher 61	£2-4-6
„ Witnesses Vouchers 62 & 63	£30-0-6
„ Messrs Pinchard and Trenchards bill Vouch. 64	£33-3-6
„ Mr George of bath for copies of Examints. of Witnesses Voucher 65	£2-2-0

Other expenses relating to this prosecution were dealt with at a later date	
Paid Mr Coles the Clerk of the Peace his Fees on discharging the Recognizances of the Witnesses	
Voucher 90	£2-0-0
Paid the Witnesses in the Prosecution agst. Marget. Hickman as per Voucher No 140	<u>£8-15-0</u>
Total recorded expenditure was	£51-11-0

Pinchard is almost certainly William Pinchard, clerk to the magistrates in Taunton.

1816

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 8-1-1816

13. **William Jones** (age unknown) and **Sophia Jones** (19) uttering counterfeit coin. No other data has been traced on this case.
Acquitted

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 22-4-1816

14. **Catherine Trotman** (43) charged on the oath of Samuel Marshman with having uttered a counterfeit eighteen pence Bank Token in Bath.
6 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 6 months. Released 21-10-1816.

SHC QS/R 401: Samuel Marshman lived with and worked for John Chamberlain, butcher in Corn Street in the parish of St James, Bath. At 7pm on 13 February 1816 Trotman (wife of William Trotman, a wire drawer of Bristol) entered the butcher's shop and requested half a pound of mutton chops. Trotman paid with "an eighteen pence piece" and Marshman gave 14½d change. The token was locked in a drawer. There is no reference as to how or when the token was identified as counterfeit though Chamberlain states it to have been.

Edward Owen, tailor, of Horse Street, states that at between 7 and 8pm on 13 February he had Trotman in custody for uttering base coin. He saw that she had something in her hand tied in a handkerchief which she said was snuff. Owen took it from her and found it contained two counterfeit 18d pieces and 19 shillings, all were counterfeit. All were given to James Clarke, Mayor's Officer. Clarke stated he had "examined them minutely" and that they were all false and counterfeit.

Wells Lammas Assizes 17-8-1816

15. **Joseph Redfern** (30) charged with uttering a counterfeit three-shilling Bank Token to Thomas Lewis and with having another in his possession.
1 year in Ilchester gaol, fined 1/- plus two sureties of £10 for 2 years. Released 17-8-1817

1817

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 13-1-1817

16. **William Simms** (22) charged on the oath of Richard Cove with uttering a counterfeit shilling and on the oath of Susannah Ashman with uttering another counterfeit shilling at Walcot, Bath. When searched Simms was found to also have a number of counterfeit eighteen pence bank tokens.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 more years. Released 13-1-1818

SHC QS/R 403: Susannah Ashman, single, was a servant at the Pelican Inn, Walcot St, Bath. On the evening of 21 November 1816 she received a sixpence from William Simms, a guest. Ashman noticed the coin was crooked and had a crack in it and immediately gave it to landlady Mrs Elizabeth Sims. Simms was staying as the only guest in a four-bedded room. During the evening Simms was 'in company and conversing with Gallagher'. The latter is presumed to have been Elizabeth Gallagher, convicted separately at the same quarter sessions (case 17). Next morning Ashman delivered the coin to Constable Richard Payne. Payne went to Simms' room at the Pelican on 22 November 1816 and found him in bed. Payne searched Simms' waistcoat and found eighteen pence pieces (the number is not specified but they were obviously Bank Tokens of 1811-1816) and 2 shillings in false coin. Payne took a small cloth from Simms hand which was found to contain a further eighteen pence token and 19 shillings, all counterfeit.

On the evening of 21 November 1816 Richard Cove was selling oysters in Walcot St. Simms bought five oysters for 2d paying for them with a shilling. At first Cove refused the shilling thinking it false but then accepted it putting it in his right hand breeches pocket where there was no other money. When Cove looked at the coin the following morning he realised it was a forgery. Cove went to the Pelican to speak to Simms. The latter wasn't there, he later found him in the custody of Richard Payne.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Smedley and Clerk with Brief. Voucher 21	£3-5-6
Mr williams and Clerk „ „ Voucher 22	£2-4-6
Witnesses. Voucher 23	£9-19-6
Mr George's Bill. Voucher 24	£7-6-4
	£22-15-10

17. **Elizabeth Gallagher** (24) charged on the oath of Elizabeth Goodman and others with having uttered a counterfeit eighteen pence Bank of England token to Elizabeth Goodman in Bath.
6 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 6 months more. Released 13-7-1817.

Shepton Mallet Gaol Returns (SHC Q/AGS/13/2) show that Gallagher had been held in Shepton Mallet gaol before her trial, arriving in the period 1 – 14 December 1816, and that her last residence had been Bristol.

SHC QS/R 403: Elizabeth Goodman kept a hucksters shop in Bridewell Lane, Bath. At 6pm on 20 November 1816 Gallagher went into her shop and asked for a 2d loaf. Gallagher paid with an eighteen pence piece and was given change. Shortly afterwards Goodman asked her daughter Elizabeth to go to Mr Skinner's in Kingsmead Square to buy some candles and gave her an eighteen pence token to pay for them. Elizabeth junior returned saying that the coin had been refused as false. Mrs Goodman kept the token wrapped in a piece of paper until she delivered it to Richard Payne, constable.

On her return journey from Skinners, Elizabeth Goodman junior walked along Westgate St where she saw Gallagher in the company of two men (she had been in the shop when her mother received the coin from Gallagher and therefore recognised her). Goodman junior accosted Gallagher saying that she had given her mother a bad eighteen pence piece. Gallagher ran to the other side of the street. The two men caught hold of Goodman to stop her from following Gallagher. The men told her that she was not the woman who had been to the shop with the money. Gallagher then whistled and the two men joined her. Goodman followed and asked for the money to be changed. Gallagher refused and she and the two men ran away towards St James Parade. Goodman followed but was unable to overtake them. Goodman junior subsequently saw the men, one was Gallagher's husband, the other Mr Simms.

Richard Payne took Gallagher into custody on 21 November 1816. When he searched her he found a further counterfeit eighteen pence token.

Taunton Lent Assizes 3-4-1817

18. **John Hollister** (55), charged on the oath of John Tilley and others with ‘having coloured or cased over with silver or with wash certain blanks of base metal resembling the silver coin of the kingdom.’ The location of the offence is not known. This is the only instance of capital punishment, although commuted, in the period under consideration.
 Sentenced to death but commuted to 1 year in Ilchester gaol.
 Felony

TNA ASSI 21/32 lists the witnesses as Henry Bebby, John Tilley and John Butler and records that Hollister was ‘Attainted of High Treason in feloniously and traitorously forging, Counterfeiting and Coining a piece of base Coin resembling the current Silver Coin of this realm called a sixpence against the State. Let him be drawn on a Hurdle to the place of Execution and there be Hanged by the neck until he be dead.’ No further details of this case are known.

TNA MINT 15/10		
Mr Atty. Genl. & Clerk with case. Voucher 75		£2-4-6
Mr Serj. Lens & Clerk with Brief. Voucher 75		£5-7-6
Mr Casberd & Clerk with Brief. Voucher 77		£3-5-6
Mr Davis’s Bill for copy of Information etc. Voucher 78		£5-1-6
Passing Indictment. Voucher 79		£3-19-4
Paid chaise hire & expenses of journey to attend this Prosecution. Voucher 80		£30-6-9
Paid expenses of Moneyer and for his attendance as a Witness. Voucher 81		£43-12-0
Paid other Witnesses. Voucher 82		<u>£25-6-2</u>
		£119-3-3

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 14-7-1817

19. **Peggy Hickman** (18) and **Daniel Porter** (30) charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown in Bath. Both received 6 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 6 months failing which another 6 months gaol. Hickman was released 13-1-1818 and Porter was released 31-12-1817.

SHC QS/R 405: At about 5pm on 21 May 1817 Hickman and Porter went into the Blucher public house, Horse St, Bath, which was kept by Peter Price. They had a pint of beer between them costing 3½d and then they went into the back part of the public house where it was dark and asked for a glass of brandy. Hickman tendered a three-shilling token in payment having at the same time a quantity of silver consisting of 5/6d pieces, halfcrowns and shillings in her hand but then she withdrew the token and gave a halfcrown instead. Change was given. The coin proved to be counterfeit.

At about 8pm on 21 May 1817 Hickman and Porter entered Elizabeth Barnes’ tripe shop at 21 The Vineyards, Walcot, Bath. They requested a cow heel and 1 lb of tripe, total cost 7d. Porter gave a halfcrown and a penny, Barnes gave two shilling coins in change. The halfcrown proved counterfeit.

John Lawrence, constable, having heard about Porter passing counterfeit coin went in search of him. He found Porter at between 8 and 9pm in the Mail Coach public house where he apprehended him. Lawrence searched him and found eighteen shilling coins, two eighteen pence tokens, a three shilling token and a sixpence, all were good except for one of the shillings which was counterfeit.

Abraham Bright, constable, apprehended Hickman at about 8pm in a lane behind Walcot Parade on suspicion of having passed a bad coin. When Hickman was searched at the Town Hall she was found to have £1-9-6d on her in ‘5/6d pieces’, ‘1/6d pieces’, shillings and sixpences all of which were good.

TNA MINT 15/10		
Mr Williams & Clerk with Brief. Voucher 43		£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do. , 44		£2-4-6
Paid Witnesses. , 45		£25-3-6
Mr George for copies of examination etc. , 46		£3-3-0
Mr Trevor’s Bill , 47		<u>£4-13-6</u>

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 9-8-1817

20. **Lydia Williams alias Gosney** (51), labourer, born at Chew Magna, and **William Williams** (60), labourer, were residents of Taunton. Lydia Williams was charged on the oath of Richard Turle and others with having uttered a piece of base coin purporting to be a shilling and with having other base coin in her possession. She was taken to Wilton gaol on 4 August 1817.

William Williams was charged on the oath of Aaron Smetham and others with having in his possession about 150 pieces of counterfeit money purporting to be shillings and on suspicion of having uttered other counterfeit money. He was taken into Wilton gaol on 4 August 1817.

Lydia Williams: 12 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties of £40 for good behaviour for 2 years, released 9-8-1818

William Williams: Discharged as an ignoramus.

TNA ASSI 25 13/10 records that it was classed as a misdemeanour.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 7 August 1817 records that "The shillings are tolerably well executed in imitation of the late new coin, but may be instantly detected, having a colon : between the word Rex and the next letter F. which will not be found on a good coin." The couples' daughter, unnamed in the newspaper report, was also arrested at the same time but was not charged.

The two were obviously prosecuted together as they were bracketed with the same witnesses in TNA ASSI 21/33, namely Richard Turle, James Turle, Rev. William Young Coker, Aaron Smetham, Absalom Dell, Jane Dell and John Ivie. Beside the names of the accused in TNA ASSI 21/33 is 'Misdemr. Mint'.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Serjt. Pell & Clk wh. Brief. Voucher	336	£3-5-6
Mr Carter & Clk do.	„ 337	£2-4-6
Witnesses	„ 338	£40-11-4
Messrs. Pinchard's & Trenchard's Bill	339	<u>£14-11-11</u> £60-17-3

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 13-10-1817

21. **Mary Cellers** (40) charged on the oath of Thomas Harrison Parker and James Colley with having uttered three counterfeit shillings at Bath.
Acquitted

SHC QS/R 406: At about 6pm on Friday 8 August 1817 Mary Cellers and another woman entered the premises of Thomas Harrison Parker, a brandy merchant, Market Place, in the parish of St Peter and Paul, Bath. Cellers asked for a glass of port for the other woman and placed a shilling on the counter in payment. 7d in change was given. Parker looked at the shilling following the departure of Cellers and her companion and saw that it was bad. Shortly afterwards, when standing at his door, Parker saw Cellers come out of Mr Jones' fishmongers carrying two crabs. Cellers then returned to Parker's premises and ordered a glass of gin for which she gave a shilling. 10d change was given. Parker kept the shilling in his hand suspecting it was bad. When Cellers left Parker followed. He stopped in Jones' and asked if a woman had bought some crabs. The answer was in the affirmative and the shilling she had paid with was checked and found to be bad. Parker tracked Cellers to a public house. James Clarke, tithingman, was notified and she was taken into custody. Some good money was found in her possession, but no further counterfeits were found.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk with Brief. Voucher	22	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	„ 23	£2-4-6
Witnesses	„ 24	<u>£17-19-6</u>

22. **Hannah Sampson** (29) charged on the oath of Mary Reason and others with having uttered a counterfeit shilling and with having other pieces of counterfeit money in her possession at Norton St Philip.
6 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 6 months. Released 1-4-1818.

SHC QS/R 406: Mary Reason was servant to Mrs Watts (widow) who kept the White Hart Inn, Norton St Philip. Sampson entered the tap room on a Wednesday evening between 9 and 10pm and asked for half a pint of beer. She paid with a shilling which Mary Reason showed to Mrs Watts. The latter said the coin was bad and it was returned to Sampson who threw it on a table where it lay for about 10 minutes. Constable Edmund Withers arrived and took Sampson into another room to be searched. While she was dressing two pieces of metal 'purporting' to be shillings fell to the floor from her petticoat. Withers marked them.

TNA MINT 15/10		
Mr Williams & Clk wh. Brief. Voucher	39	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	„ 40	£2-4-6
Witnesses „	41	£25-9-3
Fees on discharging Recognizances „	42	£0-13-2
Mr Page's Bill „	43	£7-6-0
		£38-18-9

23. **George Britton** (27) charged on the oath of Charles Tregonning and another with tendering in payment a counterfeit shilling and having other base and counterfeit money in his possession. The location of the offence has not been identified.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years. Released 13-10-1818.

SHC QS/R 406: Britton had gone into Moses Collier's hairdressers for a shave costing 2d. He was shaved by hairdresser Charles Tregonning who received the shilling tendered by Britton. Change was given by Mrs Collier. When challenged regarding the shilling Britton said it was genuine and that it was amongst change he had received earlier for a Bristol pound note.

TNA MINT 15/10		
Paid expenses of Witnesses		£12-0-0

24. **John Yeatman** (23), horse dealer from Gillingham, Dorset, charged on the oath of Corinna Lanning and others with having uttered two counterfeit halfcrowns and with having other pieces of counterfeit money in his possession at Wincanton.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years. Released 13-10-1818.

SHC QS/R 406: At between 8 and 9pm on Monday 29 September 1817, Wincanton Fair Day, John Yeatman the younger went into the Dolphin Inn, Wincanton, where he was served by Corinna Lanning, servant to innkeeper George Lapham. Lanning did not know Yeatman who ordered a pint of beer and paid with a sixpence. A quarter of an hour later he ordered another pint and paid with a halfcrown. Lanning gave the latter coin to landlady Elizabeth Lapham to change. Lapham 'minutely examined the Halfcrown in consequence of having had much counterfeit money offered her in the course of the day.' Suspecting it to be counterfeit she showed the coin to others. Francis Parsons, town constable, was called and Yeatman was taken into custody.

As all other rooms were full, Yeatman was taken into the cellar to be searched. In his waistcoat pocket were found four shillings separately wrapped within a piece of white and brown paper to stop the coins rubbing together. Circular marks the size of a shilling on the paper showed it to once have "contained many other shillings". For a second instance of uttering at the Dolphin Inn see case 29.

On the previous evening Yeatman had tried to pay William Lindsey, landlord of the White Hart, Wincanton, for a glass of gin using a counterfeit halfcrown but Lindsey had refused to accept the coin.

Yeatman had in his possession a pair of womens' shoes purchased from John Beard, cordwainer of Portsmouth, who had a stall selling shoes at the Wincanton Fair. The shoes cost 4/-. Yeatman paid with a halfcrown, shilling and sixpence which Beard put into his purse. Later, when asked to check, Beard found that the halfcrown was counterfeit. It was the only halfcrown that he had taken that day and so was able to attribute it to Yeatman. He also had a counterfeit shilling but, as he had several other shillings, he could not be certain that he had received it from Yeatman.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk wh. Brief. Voucher 150		£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do. ,,"	151	£2-4-6
Witnesses ,,"	152	£29-9-0
Mr Messiter's Bill ,,"	153	<u>£12-9-1</u>
		£47-8-1

25. **Betty Willmott** (60) and **Ann Willmott** (25) charged on the oaths of Eleanor Jones and John Brooks with having uttered certain pieces of counterfeit coin in Bath.
Acquitted

SHC QS/R 406: Eleanor Jones kept a small shop in Upper Bristol Road, Weston, Bath. On Tuesday 16 September 1817 the Willmotts entered her shop 'just in the dark of the evening'. Betty Willmott bought some sugar and butter costing 2/3d paid with two shilling coins and threepence in halfpence. Ann Willmott bought butter, bacon and other unspecified items costing 1/1 1½d, she paid with two shillings. All four shillings were badand. The Willmotts were handed over to John Brooks, tithingman, who searched them and found a further counterfeit shilling on Ann Willmott's person.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk wh. Brief. Voucher 119		£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do. ,,"	120	£2-4-6
Witnesses ,,"	121	£12-10-6
Fees on discharging Recognizances ,,"	122	£1-7-0
Mr Page's Bill ,,"	123	<u>£8-7-9</u>
		£27-15-3

1818

Taunton Lent Assizes 28-3-1818

26. **Joseph Edwards** (45) convicted of uttering counterfeit coin. The conviction is described in TNA ASSI 25 15/4 as 'feloniously putting off 200 cotft. shillings made to the likeness of milled silver coin of the realm called shillings.' The location of the offence is not known.
Classed as a felony.
1 year in Ilchester gaol with hard labour. Released 28-3-1819.
TNA ASSI 21/35 lists the witnesses as James Stone, John Bourn, James Clarke and George Vincent.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Atty. Genl. & Clerk with Case		£2-4-6
Mr Serjt. Pell & Clk with Brief		£3-5-6
Mr Casberd & Clk do.		£2-4-6
Witnesses		£35-19-0
Mr George's Bill		<u>£6-15-6</u>
		£50-9-0

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 3-4-1818

27. **Hannah Morris** (60) charged on the oath of Sarah Embley with having uttered to Sarah Embley two counterfeit shillings. The location of the offence is not known.
Acquitted. There are no statements in the SHC QS rolls.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Adam & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jones & Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£15-12-6
Mr George's Bill	<u>£6-7-0</u>
	£27-9-6

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 19-10-1818

28. **Anne Willis** (45) charged with uttering counterfeit coin in Walcot, Bath.
 6 months in Ilchester gaol and fined 1/. Released 19-4-1819. She had previously been convicted at the 1817 Bridgwater Midsummer Sessions of stealing ribbon and received 6 months with hard labour at Ilchester gaol, the last fortnight being in solitary confinement. Released 14-1-1818.

SHC QS/R 410: Charles Culverhouse of Margaret's Buildings, Walcot, Bath, had for some time been discovering counterfeit shillings in his till. In the belief that someone was in the habit of passing base shillings at his shop he kept an eye on incoming coins. On 4 September 1818 Eliza Vowles aged 7 years gave him a shilling for bread which on examination he saw to be counterfeit. When questioned she said she lived in Walcot St with her mother. Eliza went to the shop again at between 8am and 9am the following day, asked for two cakes and paid with another counterfeit shilling. Later the same day she returned and asked for flour. She was served by Mrs Culverhouse who received another counterfeit shilling from Eliza. An hour later she came again and asked for a loaf of bread when Charles Culverhouse was again given a counterfeit shilling.

When questioned Eliza said the coins had been given to her by her mother Anne Willis to buy the goods.

John Bourn, tithingman, went to search Willis' lodgings after being told she was sending her daughter to pass bad shillings. He found a counterfeit shilling in Willis' pocket. He saw Willis put her hand behind the bolster of the bed and so he searched there. Bourn found eleven counterfeit shillings rolled up in paper. Willis denied any knowledge of the coins and also said she had asked her daughter to get the first loaf of bread and the flour but not the cakes or the second loaf nor had she told her which shop to go to.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Adam and Clerk ditto	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£12-9-2
Mr George's Bill	<u>£9-2-4</u>
	£27-1-6

1819

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 11-1-1819

29. **Robert King** (30) charged with uttering counterfeit coin at Wincanton.
 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 more years. Released 11-1-1820

SHC QS/R 411: At about 4pm on 3 November 1818 King went into the Dolphin Inn, Wincanton, for a glass of beer where he was served by Corinna Lanning, servant to landlord George Lapham. King paid with 2d in copper. He then asked for a pint of beer and paid with a shilling. Lanning asked Lapham to examine the coin. The latter said it was bad and Lanning returned the coin back to King who replaced it with another shilling. Lanning took this coin to Lapham who said it too was bad. Lapham went with Lanning to see King. King bet £5 that both shillings were genuine. Lapham told Lanning to fetch the constable. When constable Francis King arrived, Lapham was in the coalhouse with Joseph Longman. When Lanning went to fetch the constable, King ran out for about two minutes during which time he had been seen by Mary Way to put something down near a cask in the coalhouse. They found a small black purse which was passed to Francis King, it was found to contain twelve counterfeit shillings carefully wrapped up in paper. When the constable searched King he found a counterfeit shilling in his

waistcoat pocket plus two good shillings. Eleven sixpences were also found which, although stained black, appeared to be good. For an earlier instance of uttering at the Dolphin Inn see case 24.

King said that he was from Leicester where he had six children and his wife was in Warminster awaiting the birth of the seventh. He denied that the purse was his.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Adam and Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£11-15-11
Messrs Messiters Bill	<u>£12-7-1</u> £29-12-5

30. **John Smith, alias Skelton,** (34) charged with uttering counterfeit coin at Frome.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 more years. Released 11-1-1820

SHC QS/R 411: Smith went into Susanna Hiscock's grocer's shop at Frome on 25 November 1818, Frome Fair Day, and asked for apples costing 3d. He paid with a shilling. Hiscock believed that Smith was from Warminster. Hiscock later used the coin to buy ribbon at the fair when it was reluctantly taken by the vendor. On 5 December Smith went back to Hiscock's for another 3d of apples and paid with a shilling which later proved to be bad. On 9 December he did the same. Hiscock consulted with her neighbour Thomas Bishop, a baker, and she went to look for a peace officer but failed to find one. Smith returned again on 16 December for more apples and again paid with a shilling. Hiscock said she would have to go out and get change. Smith asked for the coin back which Hiscock refused. Hiscock fetched Thomas Baker who stayed in the shop with Smith while she fetched constable Charles Bebby. The latter searched Smith and found another 10 counterfeit shillings in his glove. Bebby sent one of the ten to 'officers of His Majesty's Mint for Inspection' though there is no further data on this.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Adam & Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Rogers and Clk „	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£12-19-6
Mr Davis's Bill	<u>£9-6-8</u> £27-16-2

31. **William Sweet** (21) charged with uttering counterfeit coin. The location of the offence is not known.
6 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 6 months.
Sweet had previously been sentenced to 6 months at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions of 1816 for stealing a hackney saddle (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register SHC Q/AGi 14/2, no. 1731) and had been acquitted at the Summer Assizes of 1818 for house breaking (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register SHC Q/AGi 14/2, no. 3167).

There are no surviving papers in the SHC QS roll.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams and Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Adam and Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£23-6-0
Court fees	£0-13-6
Mr Symonds Bill	<u>£10-2-0</u> £39-11-6

Bridgwater Borough Sessions January 1819

32. **Edward Taggart** charged with uttering counterfeit silver. The location of the offence is not known.
6 months in gaol.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Cole with Brief	£2-2-0

Witnesses	£3-11-6
Mr Trevor's Bill	<u>£12-18-0</u>
	£18-11-6

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 19-4-1819

33. **Edward Lee** (21) charged on the oath of George Yeates with having procured 52 counterfeit shillings at Bedminster.
6 months in Ilchester gaol and fined 1/-. Released 4-10-1819.

SHC QS/R 412: George Yeate, chief constable of the parish of Bedminster, apprehended Lee in the belief that he had a quantity of notes in his possession of the 'late Wellington Bank of no value whatever' but which Yeate believed Lee was going to utter. (The bank notes would have been an issue of the bank of White and Langley which failed in 1814, Weston and Broadfoot which failed in 1814 or Thomas Wood, John Carpenter and Son which failed in 1816). Yeate took Lee to the King's Head. Lee gave a reason for having to go to the stable. Yeate watched him and saw him throw something behind him. Yeate picked it up and found 44 counterfeit shillings packed together in paper and tied up in an old pocket handkerchief. Yeate began to search Lee who resisted and, in the process, a further 8 counterfeit shillings were thrown to the ground.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams & Clk wh. Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk , ,	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£6-16-6
Mr Gervill's Bill	<u>£8-3-3</u>
	£20-9-9

34. **Sarah Marsh** (56), widow, charged on the oath of George Vincent with having unlawfully procured three counterfeit shillings with intent to utter at Bath.
6 months in Ilchester gaol and fined 1/-. Released 4-10-1819.
There is a cross reference in Ilchester Gaol Felons Register SHC Q/ASGi 14/2 between this case, which is number 3610, and case number 4946 which is that of Sarah Berryman alias Marsh held at the 1821 Summer Assizes (case 50) establishing that they were the same person.

SHC QS/R 412: On the morning of 7 April 1819 Sarah Marsh went into the shop of Henry Ireby, 2 Bond St Buildings, in the parish of St Michael, Bath, and bought an apple which she said was for roasting for a person who was ill. She paid with a shilling which Ireby recognised as counterfeit 'from the appearance of copper about it' and the coin was returned. Marsh stated that she had just received it from Mr Sheppard in the Market Place and would go back and change it. Ireby followed her. Marsh went into Arrabella Man's milliner's shop on Pulteney Bridge. After Marsh's departure from the milliner's shop Ireby went in and enquired what money Marsh had used. When shown he saw that it was a bad shilling. Ireby brought Marsh back to Arabella Man's shop and then went to fetch the tithingman in order to have her taken into custody. Marsh had used the shilling to buy 2d worth of ribbon in Man's shop. Marsh claimed that when she 'took a bad shilling she had a right to pass it'.

George Vincent, tithingman, took Marsh into custody. He asked to look in her basket where he found a loose counterfeit shilling and two others 'pinned up in a piece of cloth and a ball of cotton'.

Marsh lived in two first floor rented rooms in Wellington Place, Bath. George Vincent searched the premises and found 10 counterfeit shillings and one counterfeit halfcrown in a box. Also, in a bag he found small balls of cotton wool similar to that found in her basket. In another box was found £3 in halfcrowns, a guinea and 9 shillings, all of which were good.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams and Clk wh. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jones and Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£16-10-6
Mr George's bill	<u>£9-8-7</u>
	£31-9-1

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 18-10-1819

35. **Thomas Ridout** (17), labourer, convicted on the oath of James Masters of being a common utterer of base money and **William Martin** (54) charged on the oath of Jane Davis with having uttered a counterfeit shilling at Glastonbury.
 Ridout: 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years more. Released 18-10-1820.
 Martin: acquitted.

SHC QS/R 414: Ridout was from Bath. He went to Glastonbury on 20 September 1819 to meet a man called Yeatman from Bristol as he was to take some horses from Glastonbury Fair. He met Samuel West, who he did not know, at Wells. They stayed overnight together at Wells and then travelled to Glastonbury. Ridout claimed to have picked up a piece of paper containing a powder and 13 shillings on the road. He said that he did not know the shillings were bad until he attempted to pass some on the morning of 21 September in payment for drink, bread and cheese ordered from James Masters of Glastonbury. Ridout was served by Masters' wife and paid with a shilling. Mrs Masters saw the coin was bad and consulted with her husband who confirmed it. Mrs Masters cut the coin to be certain and 'found it was copper or some other base metal'. James Masters gave the coin back to Ridout who replaced it with another shilling, also counterfeit. Thomas Chasey was called and arrested Ridout. Ridout said he had been given the coins in change at the Anchor Inn. Chasey and Ridout went to the Anchor Inn to enquire about this. On the way Chasey noticed Ridout was rattling coins in his pocket and then saw something appearing to be silver fall from Ridout's hand into weeds beside the hedge. Chasey called on John Tricky to hold the prisoner while he searched the weeds. He found seven counterfeit shillings. White powder of a type used for cleaning silver was found wrapped in paper in Ridout's hat.

On the evening of 20 September at about 9pm Ridout and Samuel West had gone to the Anchor Inn run by Job and Jane Davis. West asked Jane to change a £1 note which she showed to two or three others present in the inn. They told her it was a note of the Shaftesbury Bank which had failed some years ago and she refused it. (The bank was presumably that of Swyer and Co. which had failed in 1816). West then said he did not want a supper. Ridout did eat and paid with 7d. They left and did not return that day.

At about 8am on 21 September Ridout and William Martin went to the Anchor Inn. Martin ordered a pint of cider and paid with shilling which Jane did not like the appearance of as it 'looked so white'. Martin exchanged it for another shilling and change was given. Both left, but two hours later they returned and ordered cider. Ridout offered a shilling which Jane refused as it was too white. Between them they had enough halfpennies to pay. They later returned for more cider for which Martin paid.

After his arrest Ridout took Chasey to the Anchor Inn where he pointed out West and Martin. Both men were searched but West had nothing on him and Martin only some white powder. West appears not to have been charged.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk wi. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Pd for [] depositions etc	£1-11-6
Witnesses	£8-10-6
Mr Page's Bill	£4-6-0
	£19-18-0

36. **James Marsh** (21) convicted of procuring counterfeit coin with intent to utter at Bath. According to the Ilchester Gaol Felons Register SHC Q/AGi 14/2 no. 3842, the SHC QS calendar and *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 28-10-1819 he had in his possession 2048 counterfeit shillings (although the total as deduced from the statements was only 1049 shillings) and 263 counterfeit sixpences with intent to utter same.
 2 years in Ilchester gaol and fined 1/-. Released 18-10-1821. Marsh was later convicted of uttering at the 1825 Bridgwater Lammas Assizes (case 71)

SHC QS/R 414: On Wednesday 1 September a ‘companion’ of James Marsh reported to James Clarke, one of the mayor’s officers for Bath, that a quantity of base coin would pass through one of the coach offices that evening packed up in gun cases and addressed to Marsh’s house at Widcombe. Clarke went to the White Hart coach office that evening but nothing arrived. His colleague went to the York House coach office the following morning, but nothing had arrived there the previous evening. On the Thursday evening a small box, nailed up and with a canvas wrapper over it arrived from Birmingham at the White Hart coach office addressed to ‘Mr Buryman, No. 18 Claverton St., Widcombe, Bath’. Clarke knew that to be Marsh’s address and opened the box and found it to contain base coin. He re-fastened the box. The following morning Clarke directed Henry Monday, a porter at the White Hart, to carry the box to its intended destination. Clarke and Bourn followed. Once Monday had delivered it and left Clarke and Bourn entered the premises and found Marsh and his wife upstairs in the dining room with the box on the floor and a quantity of coins taken out. The total amount of counterfeit coins in the consignment was £18 in shillings and £6-11-6 in sixpences. There was a piece of paper with the coins bearing the note ‘best plated - I shall be better prepared against you send again - August 30 - this com.’ Bourn searched the house and found a bad halfcrown and shilling in a cupboard and 688 counterfeit shillings under the floor.

The total found in the house including the box contents was:

Halfcrown x 1

Shillings x 1049

Sixpences x 263

Total value: £59-3-0d [£109-2-0d if the total number of shillings was 2048].

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£27-12-0
Page’s Bill	£10-12-0
	£43-14-0

37.

Catherine Grater charged with uttering counterfeit silver - there are no records in SHC QS/R 414 for this case, nor does she appear in the calendar. The only identified reference to this case derives from TNA MINT 15/10.

Acquitted

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jones & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Pd. Witnesses	£29-12-6
Mr Page’s Bill	£2-14-0
Mr George’s Bill	£5-13-4
	£49-9-10

1820

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 10-1-1820

38.

Sarah Howe (28), singlewoman, charged on the oath of Hannah Sealy with unlawfully procuring 21 counterfeit shillings with intent to utter and **William Knight** (21) charged on the oath of Hannah Sealy with unlawfully procuring 4 counterfeit shillings with intent to utter in Bath. Both received 1 year in Ilchester gaol and were fined 1/-. Both were released 10-1-1821

SHC QS/R 415: Sarah Howe went into Hannah Sealy’s mother’s shop in Avon St, Bath, and purchased a piece of bacon, she paid with a shilling. Sealy examined the coin as Howe had given her a counterfeit shilling the previous day which had been returned to her and replaced with a good one. Howe left leaving her purse on the counter which Hannah Sealy found to contain 21 counterfeit shillings wrapped in paper. Howe later returned to collect her purse but was detained by William Bourn, a Bath tithingman, who had since come to the shop. When questioned by Bourn, Howe said she had been given the money by a man she did not know.

Bourn later apprehended William Knight, 'a black', with whom Howe was said to co-habit. Bourn searched Knight and found 4 counterfeit shillings in his pockets. Knight later admitted that the purse and 21 shillings in Howe's possession were his and that the 21 and his 4 were part of a total of 30 counterfeit shillings that he had bought from a man he did not know in a public house in Warwickshire. He had paid 6/- for them.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams & Clk wh. brief on joint indictment	£3-5-6
Mr Jones & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Mr Williams & Clk wh. brief on separate	
Indictment agt. Willm. Knight only	£3-5-6
Mr Jones & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£12-16-6
Mr George 2 Bills	<u>£14-7-2</u>
	£38-3-8

39. **John Boon** (48) charged on the oath of Sarah Harding and others with having uttered and tendered in payment to Sarah Harding a counterfeit coin. He was also charged with having uttered one other counterfeit coin well knowing it to be counterfeit and with having another piece of counterfeit coin in his possession on the same day. The location of the offence and denomination of the coin are unknown. 1 year in Ilchester gaol, fined 1/- plus sureties for 2 years. Released 10-1-1821

There are no statements relating to this case in the SHC QS roll.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams & Clk	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£23-14-0
Mr Davis's Bill	<u>£13-2-3</u>
	£42-6-3

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 10-4-1820

40. **Ann Hackel, alias Campbell**, (wife of Andrew Campbell) (36) charged on the oath of Joseph Smith and another with having tendered in payment 3 counterfeit shillings and having other base and counterfeit coin in her possession at Wells.
Acquitted in Wells

SHC QS/R 416: Ann Hackel entered Mary Whitehead's shop in Sadler Street, Wells, and asked for two halfcrowns in exchange for five shilling coins which was agreed. Joseph Smith was the shopman who dealt with it. Smith believed that three of the shillings were counterfeit and that he had since seen her go into other shops for the purpose of exchanging shillings for halfcrowns.

John Tucker, cordwainer and one of the peace officers for Wells, said Hackel was searched when in custody and found to have 14 shillings, 1 sixpence and 4 halfcrowns. He believed that 13 shillings and the sixpence were base.

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 10-7-1820

41. **Thomas Gundry** (37), cordwainer of Martock, charged on the oath of Samuel Spratt and another with having several pieces of counterfeit coin in his possession with intent to utter at Martock. TNA MINT 15/10 records the charge as being one of 'procuring counterfeit silver'.
1 year in Ilchester gaol and fined 1/-. Released 10-7-1821

SHC QS/R 417: Samuel Spratt, constable of Martock, had a warrant to search Gundry's house in Martock on suspicion of his having uttered and having in his possession counterfeit silver coin. Spratt searched the only bedroom in the house and found a considerable quantity of coins under a straw mattress which was seized. The coins were left with Thomas Adams as Spratt had to go in search of

other offenders. No details of the counterfeit coins are given except that there was a halfcrown, a shilling and a sixpence, all counterfeit.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams & Clk wh. Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Helyar & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£4-15-6
Messrs Pollock & Nicholls Bill	<u>£10-14-0</u> £20-19-6

42. **James Moore** (54) charged on the oath of Richard Barton and others with having uttered and tendered in payment to Richard Barton three sixpences knowing them to be counterfeit in Frome.
Acquitted

Shepton Mallet Gaol Returns (SHC Q/AGS/13/2) show that Moore had been held in Shepton before his trial. He appears in the list of new arrivals for the period 15 – 27 May 1820. There is a note saying that he had been convicted of stealing banknotes in 1800 for which he had been transported for seven years. He was also convicted at the Taunton Lent Assizes in 1819 for stealing a shawl from Robert Slade for which he received one year in Ilchester gaol (*Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* 8 April 1819). Moore's last residence is listed as Frome Selwood.

SHC QS/R 417: Moore went into Richard Barton's shop in Frome on Tuesday 16 May 1820 (Barton knew Moore) and bought half a pound of cheese and a half quartern loaf of bread for 8½d. He paid with two sixpences which were put into the till. In consequence of a conversation with his wife, Barton opened the till drawer to look at the sixpences within a minute of Moore's departure. On inspection he found both coins to be bad. The drawer had contained only three sixpences of which one was good and in a different part of the drawer from the others. On 19 May Barton gave one sixpence to William Hussey, constable, the other having been accidentally passed in his shop! On the evening of 19 May Moore went to Barton's shop at 'candle lighting' and asked for a half quartern loaf costing 4¼d. Moore paid with a sixpence which proved to be counterfeit and he was held in custody until the arrival of Hussey to whom he gave the sixpence. When searched at the 'Guard house' Moore was found to have in his possession 8 shillings, 1 halfcrown and 8 sixpences all seemingly good. When he was noticed pushing his fingers up his sleeve, apparently with something in his hand, Moore was searched again, and a counterfeit shilling fell to the floor. Some 'whity-brown paper very much worn' was also found but its significance is not stated.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams & Clk wh. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Rogers & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£18-6-6
Messrs Davis's Bill	<u>£14-9-5</u> £38-5-11

43. **George Selman** (18) charged on the oath of Thomas Baker and Robert Bryant with having uttered a counterfeit sixpence and with having a large quantity of base coin in his possession at Kingston Seymour.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 more years. Released 10-7-1821

Shepton Mallet Gaol Returns (Q/AGS/13/2) show that he was held there before his trial in the list of new arrivals for the period 28 May to 10 June 1820. His last residence is recorded as Kingston Seymour.

SHC QS/R 417: Selman sold six oranges for sixpence to Mrs Bryant of Kingston Seymour at her house. He put the sixpence into his pocket and then took it out again and dropped it on the ground to test it. He declared it to be bad and was given another with which he was satisfied. Robert Bryant knew of Selman as a 'very suspicious character' in Bristol and suspected his visit to Kingston Seymour was for 'some ill purpose' and went into the village to seek help to apprehend him. On being searched an old handkerchief was found containing base money wrapped in brown paper. There were two of these parcels containing counterfeit coin- one held 11 shillings and 3 sixpences and the other 1 shilling and a

'black preparation' believed to be for giving a silver-like appearance to base coin. Another counterfeit sixpence was found in his breeches and 4 genuine coins in his pocket. A later search of Selman yielded a further 14 shillings and a sixpence, all good coins, a pound of the Wiltshire and Somerset Union Bank and 18 and a half pence in copper coin. Selman claimed to have found the handkerchiefs in the road about two miles from Yatton.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk wh. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Edeline & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£8-9-11
Mr Whitby's Bill	<u>£9-2-1</u> £23-2-0

44. **Mary Bord** (33) charged on the oath of Elizabeth Allen with having uttered a counterfeit shilling at Walcot, Bath.

1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years. Released 19-7-1821

SHC QS/R 417: Mary Bord went to Elizabeth Allen's shop at 6 Barton St, Walcot, Bath, and tried to buy oranges with a bad shilling. The coin was refused and Bord left without oranges but took the shilling with her. Bord returned later to buy eggs, again paying with a counterfeit shilling. Allen informed her that the coin was bad and that it should be nailed to the counter, she then went for the constable. The shilling was marked by Allen. Bord said she had received the coin from a pie woman in the market in exchange for a halfcrown. A counterfeit shilling wrapped in brown paper was found when Bord was searched. She also possessed a good sixpence and 3d in halfpennies.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk wh brief	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£18-6-6
Mr George's Bill	<u>£7-7-6</u> £31-4-0

Wells Lammas Assizes 12-8-1820

45. **James Marsh** (46), charged on the oath of George Bond and Samuel Webber with having twice tendered on the same day a piece of counterfeit money in payment to Jane, wife of George Bond. The location of the offence is not known.

(This is not the same James Marsh as number 36).
Acquitted

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Serjt. Pell & Clk wh. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Gasalee & Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Marrett & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£16-4-6
Messrs Pinchards Bill	<u>£11-12-10</u> £36-12-10

1821

Taunton Lent Assizes 31-3-1821

46. **Sarah Woodham** (73) charged on the oaths of Benjamin William Byett, Walter Broom and William Bourn with having uttered a counterfeit shilling to Benjamin William Byett and with having uttered another counterfeit shilling. The offence almost certainly occurred in Bath and Bourn was probably a tithingman (see case 38).

1 year in Ilchester gaol plus two sureties of £10 each for her good behaviour for 2 years. Released 31-3-1822

TNA MINT 15/10 records that Sarah Woodham had been apprehended at Bath in the first quarter of 1820 for uttering counterfeit silver coins, but the evidence was considered too 'slight' and prosecution was 'declined'.

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 30-4-1821

47. **George Fossett** (17) charged on the oath of George Day and others with having uttered counterfeit coins at Wincanton.
Discharged as an ignoramus.

SHC QS/R 420: On Tuesday 6 February 1821 George Day, shopkeeper in Wincanton, said that between 3pm and 4pm Fossett went into his shop to buy a pair of breeches costing 6-. He paid five shilling coins and one shilling in halfpence. Day put the money in his pocket which contained no other coins. Half an hour later he looked at the coins and discovered two of the shillings to be counterfeit.

Martha King of Wincanton, wife of Richard, a labourer, stated that on 6 February at between 4pm and 5pm Fossett asked her for 2d worth of apples which she supplied. He offered a shilling which she refused on the grounds that it was bad. She returned the coin and retrieved the apples. The yellow edges of the coin made her believe that it was counterfeit.

As a result of information provided by Day, Francis King, constable of Wincanton, arrested and searched Fossett. He found between two and three shillings in silver and copper coins but no base coin "tho' he found a something which has the appearance of Quick Silver or of some Composition to be rubbed on Base Coin"

Fossett was associated with another man and two women in a horse-drawn caravan. The other man and one woman were searched, one bad shilling was found amongst about 30 good shillings and other apparently good silver. These people were released and continued their journey.

This case does not appear in TNA MINT 15/10

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 9-7-1821

48. **John Wilkins** (62) charged on the oath of William Twose with having uttered and paid to Twose a counterfeit shilling and with having other counterfeit money in his possession with intent to utter same, near Wellington.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years more. Released 9-7-1822

SHC QS/R 421: Wilkins was apprehended by William Twose who had a booth for the sale of liquor on Blackdown Hill during the fair held there in honour of the Duke of Wellington's victory at Waterloo. At 9.00pm or 10.00pm on 19 June 1821 Wilkins called at the booth and ordered beer for which he offered to pay with a counterfeit shilling. Twose gave Wilkins into the custody of his son who was constable for the parish of Wellington. When searched a good sixpence, a counterfeit sixpence, a counterfeit shilling and 14½d in copper was found in his waistcoat pocket. Near his person was picked up a glove containing four counterfeit halfcrowns and six counterfeit shillings.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams and Clk wh. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Rogers and Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£9-0-6
Mr White's Bill	£6-7-8
	£20-18-2

49. **William Berry** (28) charged on the oath of Robert Compton with having uttered and tendered in payment to Robert Compton counterfeit sixpences at Wells.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years more. Released 9-7-1822

SHC QS/R 421: Robert Compton and Isaac Stocker were proprietors of a booth at Wells Fair on Tuesday 26 June 1821. At about 9.00am a man dressed like a sailor who called himself Berry went into

the booth and asked Compton for a pint of beer which he was given, price 3d. Berry paid with a sixpence and received change. When Compton looked at the coin he saw it was bad, put it in his pocket and kept an eye on Berry who continued drinking in the booth. Berry soon called for a second pint and paid with another sixpence. Compton again found it to be bad and put it in his pocket. Berry then called for a quart of beer which he paid for with another sixpence, also bad and it was placed with the others. Edward Walwyn, a fiddler, was playing to the company in the booth when Berry proposed to him that if he would change a sixpence for him he would give him a penny and dance to his music. This he did. Compton took the sixpence and found it to be bad and again placed it with the others. Berry then left the booth to go around the fair. Half an hour later, at about 11.00am, Compton saw him strip to the waist to fight two rounds. Compton afterwards assisted in securing Berry and taking him to the Talbot Inn public house where he was handed over to a constable. On being searched another bad sixpence was found which Compton again placed with the others making a total of five counterfeit sixpences.

Isaac Stocker reported that a 'heavy parcel in paper' fell from Berry's breeches during the fight. Berry instantly picked it up, concealed it and ran away. Stocker was first to secure Berry about half hour later when no parcel was found to be on him. When taken Berry said 'Damn me then, take me and do what you are a mind to with me'

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams & Clk wh. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Rogers & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£15-17-0
Mr Davis's Bill	<u>£12-3-11</u>
	£33-10-11

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 25-8-1821

50. **Sarah Berryman, alias Marsh, (56), widow, and Mary Berryman, alias Margaret Marsh, (21)** charged on the oath of Alexander Witton and others with having uttered certain pieces of counterfeit money and having other pieces of counterfeit money in their possession at Wells.
 Sarah Berryman: 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus £20 sureties for 2 years more. Released 25-8-1822. She had a previous conviction for uttering in 1819 (case 34).
 Mary Berryman: discharged as an ignoramus.

TNA ASSI 21/42 lists the witnesses as Alexander Whitton, George Parker, Ann Carter and Ann Cook. For reasons that are not clear there is a cross reference between Mary Berryman and Peggy Hickman (case 19 in 1817) in the Ilchester Gaol Felons Register (SHC AGi 14/2).

TNA ASSI 25 17/9 states that Sarah and Mary Berryman were from the parish of St Cuthbert, Wells. On 12 July 1821 they uttered a counterfeit halfcrown to Ann Carter and on 13 July 1821 another counterfeit halfcrown to Ann Urch. Both offences occurred in the parish of St Cuthbert.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Serjt. Pell and Clk wh. brief	£3-5-6
Mr Gasalee and Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Casberd and Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Marrett & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£17-10-5
Mr Wilkes Bill	<u>£15-16-6</u>
	£45-7-11

1822

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 14-1-1822

51. **Josiah Knapton (30) of Wincanton, charged on the oath of James Way and another with having uttered 2 counterfeit shillings and with having 11 other counterfeit shillings in his possession at Wincanton.**
 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years more.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Knapton was Irish and a ‘sea-faring man’. His last residence was Bath.

SHC QS/R 423: James Way, a shopkeeper in Wincanton, stated that on Monday 3 December 1821 at 5.00pm Knapton entered his shop and requested half a loaf which was given. He paid for the 2½d worth of bread with a shilling. Knapton gave the shilling to Way's wife who, doubting it ‘being good, passed it to James Way’. Way lit a candle, as it was getting dark, and discovered it to be counterfeit. Knapton gave a replacement shilling which also proved to be counterfeit. Way went to the Dolphin Inn next door and showed both shillings to Mr George Lapham, the landlord, who returned with Way to his shop and searched the prisoner. The latter denied having any other counterfeit coin, but the search produced 11 more pieces in his left hand breeches pocket. Lapham had previous experience of counterfeit coin – see cases 24 and 29.

The coins were cut in the presence of the magistrates at the trial and shown to be counterfeit.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Adam & Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	11-6-6
Messrs Messiters Bill	<u>£7-0-7</u>
	£23-17-1

Taunton Lent Assizes 30-3-1822

52. **James Redwood** (27) and **John Painter** (37), both labourers of Broomfield. Redwood was charged on the oaths of Sam Webber, John Harcombe and Joseph Mullins with having uttered and paid to Webber a counterfeit shilling. Redwood was further charged, together with Painter, with having other pieces of counterfeit money in their possession. Painter was charged, according to TNA ASSI 21/43, with procuring 14 counterfeit shillings with intent to utter. TNA ASSI 25 17/15 records that Redwood procured 4 counterfeit shillings on 13 November 1821. The offences were committed in Broomfield. Painter: 1 year in Ilchester gaol. Released 30-3-1823
 Redwood: 4 months in Ilchester gaol. Released 30-7-1822
 See also case 85.
 TNA ASSI 21/43 has the word ‘Mint’ beside the case.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Redwood was born in Clayhidon and that he was still living there prior to his trial. Painter was born at Ashill and his last place of residence was Hemyock, Devon. He is described as a carpenter.

TNA MINT 15/10 for Redwood	
Mr Serjt. Pell and Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Gasalee and Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr P S Marrett & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£1-13-0
Mr Mullins Bill	<u>£13-8-6</u>
	£27-2-6

TNA MINT 15/10 for Painter	
Mr Serjt. Pell and Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Gasalee and Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr P S Marrett & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£4-13-0
Mr Mullins Bill	<u>£14-15-2</u>
	£31-9-2

53. **John Hallett** (25), labourer, from Shepton Mallet, charged with procuring 15 counterfeit sixpences with intent to utter them in Shepton Mallet. TNA ASSI 25 17/15 records that the case was a felony and

that he was found guilty. TNA ASSI 21/43 has the word 'Mint' in the margin, records that it was a misdemeanour and lists the witnesses as Levi Treasure, William Stone and John Painter.

The assize calendar states that he was charged with having unlawfully obtained 20 shillings from Levi Treasure with intent to defraud him and with having 15 pieces of false coin in his possession.
6 months imprisonment.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 27 February 1822 in recording his committal for trial states that besides procuring counterfeit coins Hallett was in possession of 1160 £1 notes of 'Messrs. Brickdales late bank' (this was Taunton Old Bank which failed in 1819) and had passed some of them. The banknotes did not feature in Hallett's prosecution.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Serjt Pell & Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Gasalee & Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Adam & Clk do.	£3-5-6
Mr P S Marrett & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£4-10-6
Mr Hyatt's Bill	<u>£12-9-10</u>
	£29-1-4

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 15-4-1822

54. **Mary Simms** (35), **Eliza Simms** (10), and **Henry Bissea alias Simms** (14) charged on the oaths of Elizabeth Dobson and others with having uttered to her two counterfeit sixpences and with having a quantity of other base coin in their possession at Keynsham.
Mary Simms: 1 year in Ilchester gaol and fined 1/-. Released 15-4-1822
Eliza Simms and Henry Bissea: discharged 'for want of prosecution'

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Mary Simms was born at Chepstow, was a labourer and that her last place of residence was Weston, Bath.

SHC QS/R 424: On 25 March 1822 Mary Simms went to the Lamb and Flag Inn of Elizabeth Dobson at Keynsham and had a glass of beer for which she paid 2d. Shortly afterwards the girl (presumably Eliza) came in and asked for a penny worth of biscuits, she paid with a sixpence. Next the boy went in and also ordered a pennyworth of biscuits and he too paid with a sixpence. Both sixpences were placed on the counter. A neighbour arrived and said that the prisoners had been tendering bad money. Dobson immediately examined the sixpences which were seen to be bad and she wrapped them up in a piece of paper.

Some evidence is missing therefore the full sequence of events is unknown. Mary Simms asked Sarah Boucher if she would put a parcel wrapped in a purple and white handkerchief in her basket. When this was refused Mary Simms was seen to throw the parcel into the river, they were obviously standing on a bridge at the time. Boucher looked over the side of the bridge and saw the parcel sinking. Mary Simms, Eliza Simms and Henry Bissea were apprehended and searched by Stephen Frankham who found 5/6d in good silver, 1/10d in copper and a bad sixpence. On the boy was found 1/3d in copper. Frankham when told about the parcel belonging to Simms having been thrown into the water searched the river and found a pocket handkerchief containing a woman's cap and two parcels of bad money, one of shillings and the other sixpences.

The sequence of events is not entirely clear.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jeremy & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£5-9-6
Mr Simmons's Bill	<u>£9-14-0</u>
	£20-13-6

55. **Charlotte Hawkins** (10), and **Catherine Hawkins** (40), labourer and widow with four children, born in St Georges, Bristol, and whose last residence was Bristol. Charged on the oaths of Leonard Roberts and another with having tendered in payment to him one counterfeit shilling and having 11 other counterfeit shillings in her possession at the same time at Walcot, Bath.
Catherine: 6 months in Ilchester gaol and fined 1/-. Released 15-1-1823
Charlotte: acquitted.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Catherine Hawkins was born in St George's, Bristol and that her last place of residence was Bristol. She is described as a labourer.

SHC QS/R 425: William Cottle, servant to Leonard Roberts of the Porter Butt Inn, Walcot, Bath, said that at about 12.30pm on 10 May 1822 Catherine Hawkins asked for a half pint of beer. She tendered in payment a counterfeit shilling which Roberts refused to take. On being told that it was bad Catherine Hawkins said 'Bless my soul is it a bad one I just took of a Servant Girl for a Cap'. She put the coin into her pocket and left the premises. Roberts suspected that she may have more bad money and watched her go. About 200 yards away she joined a little girl who turned out to be her daughter. She took something from her pocket and put it into the girl's hand. Then she went back for the half pint of beer and offered sixpence in payment, which was good, and she was given 4½d change. Hawkins then left and rejoined the girl, they walked in Brunswick St. Roberts, still being suspicious, ran to find Mr Kingdom, a constable, and they went to Brunswick St. When they approached the girl ran off up the street with Kingdom after her. She ran round a corner and went into a new building. She came out about one minute later and rejoined her mother. Kingdom arrested them both.

When searched the only counterfeit coin found was the shilling passed at the inn.

William Densam, a mason working on a new building at the top of Brunswick St handed in a bag containing counterfeit money. He had heard the constable calling 'stop thief stop thief', looked up and saw Charlotte standing on the foundation stones of the new building. Two yards from where she was standing, he picked up a bag containing 2 counterfeit halfcrowns and 11 counterfeit shillings.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Jeremy and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£25-13-6
Mr Page's Bill	<u>£12-1-8</u>
	£41-0-8

56. **Maria Childs** (34), wife of Henry, charged on the oath of James Blackmore and others with having uttered a counterfeit shilling to Hannah Twose in Wellington. Childs was born at Bridgwater (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register, SHC Q/AGi 14/3, p. 6).
Acquitted

SHC QS/R 425: At about 8.00pm on 2 July 1822 Childs had given Hannah Greedy (wife of Isaac, a labourer) a shilling for the purchase of a 'Noggins of Rum'. It being inconvenient for Greedy to go and fetch it she gave the coin to Mary Lane (wife of James) to fetch it instead. She went to the Market House Inn and bought the spirit. A few minutes later Hannah Twose, daughter of William Twose and doubtless the same William Twose as in case 48, innholder, arrived at Lane's house to return the shilling which her mother had recognised as counterfeit shortly after Lane had left the inn. Childs was present and replaced the coin claiming that she had not realised it was counterfeit.

Between 8pm and 9pm on the same evening Childs went to the shop of Thomas Rice in Wellington to buy an ounce of tea from his wife Mary. She tendered a halfcrown which, on inspection, Rice thought counterfeit and refused to accept it. Childs took the coin back and said she would go and replace it, she never returned for the tea.

At about 8.30pm Childs went to the shop of George Abbott of Wellington and tried to buy an ounce of liquorice and an ounce of tea from his wife Sarah, she offered a halfcrown in payment. On examination

Sarah Abbott decided the coin was counterfeit and refused it. Childs took it back. Sarah understood that Childs was returning it to the person from whom she received it.

Childs was taken into custody in South St, Wellington, by James Blackmore who had received information that she was uttering base coin. While taking her to the Market House Inn, Cornhill, Wellington, where she was said to have passed a coin, he heard her drop something into the gutter. Blackmore asked that it be picked up which it was by a little girl called Jane Clement from whom it was taken by John Twose.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jeremy & Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£16-0-10
Mr White's Bill	<u>£9-12-10</u>
	£31-3-8

1823

Bridgwater Borough Sessions 18-1-1823

57. **James Lock** (22) charged with uttering counterfeit sovereigns.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years more. His sentence ran from 22 January 1823 to 18 January 1824.
The reference to the case comes from Ilchester Gaol Felons Register (SHC Q/AGi 14/3).

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Lock was born and still living in Kingsbury Episcopi and that he was a labourer. It is likely, but not certain, that the offence occurred here.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Boys with Brief	£2-2-0
Witnesses	£5-0-6
Mr Trevor's Bill	<u>£12-1-2</u>
	£19-4-2

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 14-7-1823

58. **Margaret Arthur** (29), wool sorter, (described as laundress in Ilchester Gaol Felons Register, SHC AGi 14/3), born in Frome which was also her last place of residence, charged on the oath of William Baker with having uttered to him three counterfeit shillings at Frome.
1 year with hard labour in Wilton Gaol plus sureties for 2 years more.

SHC QS/R 429: William Baker, linen draper at Frome Selwood, said that on Monday 23 June 1823 soon after 9.00am Margaret Arthur, wife of Samuel Arthur, blacksmith of Frome Selwood, went to Baker's shop to buy 2½ yards of 4d calico which was cut up and handed over. Arthur tendered a shilling which Baker said was a bad one. Arthur then separately tendered two more which were also counterfeit. Baker asked how she was in possession of so many bad shillings. Arthur said she had received them from Mrs Ball in change for a pound note. Baker sent his apprentice to fetch Mrs Ball. Baker asked her if she gave the 3 shillings to Arthur. Mrs Ball denied having done so. Baker then noticed other coins in Arthur's hand and asked to look at them, they proved to be a further 9 bad shillings and one good one. Asked again where they were from, she said her husband had changed a note the previous Saturday with a man in the market. Henry Bebbey, tithingman, went to the shop, took charge of the coins and took Arthur into custody. Bebbey then went with Arthur to her house 200 yards away to look for her husband, he was not in. Bebbey left the house briefly and returned with Baker. As they got back Arthur came from the privy, her hand covered with soil. Using a shovel Bebbey retrieved 19 counterfeit shillings from the privy.

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Rogers & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
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Mr Jeremy & Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£21-12-6
Mr Davis's Bill	<u>£9-6-4</u>
	£36-8-10

59. **William George** (22), shoemaker, charged on the oath of George Smith and others with having uttered a counterfeit shilling in Publow. George was born at Bath.
1 year with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol plus sureties for 2 years more.

SHC QS/R 429: On Tuesday 6 May 1823 constable Thomas Naish was called to the George Inn, Publow, where William George was placed in his custody together with two half guineas, a third guinea and two shillings, all of which were counterfeit.

On 6 May at Pensford Fair, George had offered George Smith a shilling in payment for a pint of beer. Smith immediately recognised the coin as bad. George asked for it back. Smith requested that a constable be sent for. George put his hand in his waistcoat pocket and dropped several coins on the floor. A candle was lit and two shilling coins were picked up by landlord Thomas Veal. The 'gold' coins were picked up by Ann Veal, his wife, who wrapped them in a piece of paper.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Jeremy & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody & Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£17-0-11
Mr Simmons Bill	<u>£11-11-0</u>
	£34-1-11

60. **Joseph Kiddle**, no further personal details are known

TNA MINT 15/10 'This Person was committed for Trial at Bridgwater July Sess. 1823 for uttering count. silver but escaped out of custody before he was lodged in the County Gaol.'	
Pd. Witnesses	£4-0-0
Mr Davis's Bill	<u>£2-19-8</u>
	£6-19-8

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 13-10-1823

61. **John Williams** (25), labourer, born at Ashill, charged on the oath of Joseph Salisbury, baker, with uttering a counterfeit shilling in Ilminster.
6 months in Wilton gaol plus sureties for 6 months more.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) states that Williams was committed to Wilton gaol on 29 August 1823 and that he was born and still resident in Ashill.

SHC QS/R 430: States that John Williams was from Honiton. He went to Salisbury's shop in Ilminster and asked for a penny loaf. Salisbury had only 2½d loaves which Williams said he would accept and gave a shilling in payment. Salisbury discovered the coin to be base. Williams was apprehended and searched. Three forged notes of Brickdales Bank 'which bank had been long insolvent' and four good sixpences together with pennies and halfpennies totalling to 2/5½d were found on him. The bank note was a forgery of an issue of the Taunton Old Bank which failed in 1819.

TNA MINT 15/10	
'Paid Expenses of the Prosecution as directed by the Mint Board 31 December 1823 £4-15-6.'	

1824

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 12-1-1824

62. **Ann Hemmings** (28), spinster, labourer, born in Nailsea, last residence Bristol and **Rebecca Eatell** (22), spinster, born St George, Bristol, charged on the oaths of Richard Rawlings, George Parker and others with having uttered to them two counterfeit coins- a shilling and a sixpence at Wells Fair. Hemmings: 1 year with hard labour in Wilton Gaol plus sureties for 2 years more. Released 12-1-1825. Eatell: discharged as an ignoramus.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) confirms that Hemmings was born in Nailsea and that her last residence was Bristol.

SHC QS/R 431: On Monday 1 December 1823 at 6pm Mary Ann Harris, singlewoman of Wells, went to a booth at Wells Fair (held in the Market Place) selling gingerbread and toys at which Hemmings was serving. Mary Ann Harris bought a pincushion for 4d paying Hemmings with a shilling. Back at home she discovered a counterfeit sixpence amongst the coins received in change. Harris kept it separate from her other money.

George Parker from the parish of St Cuthbert Without said that at about 6pm he went to the stand and bought half a pound of nuts from Eatell. Parker gave sixpence in payment which Eatell returned saying it was bad. To the best of Parker's knowledge, the sixpence that he had tendered was good, he had received it from Robert Edghill, waiter at the Three Kings Inn, Wells. Edghill said Parker gave him halfcrown for a pint of beer and returned a shilling, two sixpences and a halfpenny in change. Edghill was sure they were good and on examining the sixpence held by Parker said he was sure it was not one given by him in change. The inference would appear to be that Eatell had exchanged a good sixpence for a counterfeit one.

At 8pm Richard Rawlings of Wells went to the same booth on the same day. Hemmings and Eatell (Hemming's servant) were both present. Rawlings bought a toy costing 2d from Hemmings. He gave a halfcrown and received in change one shilling, two sixpences, and four pennies. Immediately afterwards he examined the coins and found the shilling to be bad. Rawlings marked the coin and kept it separate.

At between 8pm and 9pm Ann Foster, wife of William, a pork butcher of Wells, went to the gingerbread and toy stand and bought a toy from Hemmings paying with a shilling. She received a sixpence and a halfpenny in change. Foster noticed the sixpence was bad and refused it. Hemmings instead offered her sixpence worth of halfpennies which was also refused. Hemmings took another sixpence out of her pocket which appears to have been accepted.

At about 10pm Edward Rees, carpenter of Wells and one of the city's peace officers, went to the booth in consequence of information received. Hemmings and Eatell were there. Rees told Hemmings that he had received information that she had bad money and informed them that they were both being taken into custody. They began packing up their goods. They put the money into their pockets except for one sixpence which Rees found under the cloth. The money in their possession was checked, Hemmings had £1-17-6.

Cornelius Tyte, watchmaker, jeweller and silversmith of Sadler St, Wells, said the coin produced by Rawlings, said to be a shilling, was counterfeit as were those held by Mary Ann Harris, George Parker and Edward Rees purporting to be sixpences. Tyte said that all 3 sixpences were struck from the same die.

Details of the case were sent to The Mint in the form of original statements from the witnesses.

TNA MINT 15/10 in relation to Eatell

Witnesses	£1-0-0
Mr Davis's Bill	<u>£5-3-6</u>
	£6-3-6

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams & Clk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jeremy and Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£6-8-6

Robert Davies, a partner at Fosters, acted as the local agent for the Mint and the accounts provide an insight into the work involved in creating a case for the prosecution. (Similar accounts involving Davies as agent relate to cases 166, 167 and 217) There are two documents itemising the costs, one relating to Hemmings and the other to Eatell. For the former the costs were:

(DD\FS 73/6/32) 'The a/c of Robt Davies in the prosecution of Rex v Hemmings (for uttering counterfeit coin)

Paid Mr Williams's fee with brief and clerk	£3-5-6
The like to Mr Jeremy	£2-4-6
Paid Cornelius Tyte silversmith attending to prove coins counterfeit	£0-10-6
Paid Edward Rees Constable for attendance of himself and witnesses	£5-18-0
At the Sessions expenses of	<u>£11-18-6</u>

To account of Robt Davies, charges disbursements &c as per account annexed

£9-15-6
<u>£21-14-0</u>

The account of monies expended and other charges of Edward Rees constable on the apprehension of Ann Hemmings for uttering counterfeit coin.

Paid Mary Ann Harris servant at Wells for one days attendance	
Before the Magistrates on apprehension of prisoner and four days attendance on the trial	£1-0-0
The like to Richard Rawlings of Wells	£1-0-0
The like Ann Foster, wife of Wm Foster, Butcher and Shopkeeper	£1-0-0
The like to Sarah Harris of Wells for attending on the night of prisoner's apprehension to search her person as well as Rebecca Eatell & the follg day before the Magistrates & one days attendance on the trial (Counsel having advised that her evidence was necessary)	£0-10-0
For Edward Rees, Builder of Wells, the Constable 2 days on the Apprehension and commitment of prisoner, & another prisoner	
Rebecca Eatell & four days attendance at the Sessions	£1-10-0
Paid expences for the witnesses and self during their attendance at the Sessions to prevent their leaving the Court	<u>£5-18-0</u>

Account of the charges of Robt Davies, Town Clerk and Solr. Wells In Prosecution against Ann Hemmings for uttering counterfeit coin.

Taking examinations of five witnesses at 2/6 before the Magistrates	£0-17-6
5 Recognizances of same witnesses	£1-4-6
Warrant of Commitment	£0-2-6
5 copies of Examinations for olr. Of Mint	£0-7-6
Writing letter to Solr. Of the Mint therewith and with account of the transaction	£0-3-6
Paid postage of 2 letters from Solr. Of Mint	£0-1-0
Paid carriage of Parcel with Briefs, &c	£0-3-0
Paid clk of Indictments	£0-13-0
Swearing of witnesses to go before grand Jury and Bailiff	£0-6-6
Pd court fees on trial	£0-6-0
Fees on discharging 5 Recognizances 13/6 each	£3-7-6
Attending the Sessions at Wells when the Prisoner was tried found guilty & sentd. To one year imprisonment	<u>£2-2-0</u>
	<u>£9-15-6</u>

(DD\FS 73/6/33) Rex v Eatell for uttering counterfeit coin

Paid Edward Rees Constable for monies paid by him to witnesses in this prosecution as his account & receipt annexed	£1-1-0
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To account of Robt. Davies charges disbursement &c. as per account annexed	£5-3-6 <u>£6-3-6</u>
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Account of the charges of Robert Davies Town Clerk and Solr. Wells in prosecution against Rebecca Eatell for uttering counterfeit coin.

Taking examination of 2 witnesses before the Magistrates viz.

Parker and Edgell	£0-5-0
2 Recognzances of same witnesses	£0-7-0
Warrant of commitment	£0-2-6
2 copies of Examination sent to Solr. Of the Mint	£0-3-0
Writing letter to the Solr. Of the Mint by desire of the Mayor to state full circumstances in order to lay before the Officers of the Mint	£0-5-0
Postage of letter in answer	£0-0-10
Paid Clerk of Indictments	£0-6-8
Pd swearing 3 witnesses to go before Grand Jury and Bailiffs	£0-4-6
Fees on discharging 2 Recognzances 13/6 each	£1-7-0
Attending the Sessions at Wells two days when the Grand Jury returned no bill against the prisoner	£2-2-0
	<u>£5-3-6</u>

The account of monies expended and other charges of Edward Rees Constable on the apprehension, commitment &c of Rebecca Eatell for uttering counterfeit coin.

Paid George Parker of Wells yeoman attendance before the Magistrates on apprehension of Prisoner and two days attendance	
At the Court when the Grand Jury returned no bill	£0-10-0
The like to Robert Edgell of Wells painter for the same time and Attendances	£0-10-0
	<u>£1-0-0</u>

63. **Michael Berry** (41), hawker, charged on the oaths of John Hennessy and others on suspicion of having uttered to him a counterfeit shilling and with having uttered a counterfeit shilling to Mary Hennessy in Taunton. Berry was born at Dunnamore, Ireland (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register SHC AGi 14/3). 1 year with hard labour in Shepton Mallet Gaol plus sureties for 2 more years.

SHC QS/R 431: John Hennessy was innkeeper at the Sugar Loaf Inn, Park St, Taunton (actually in Bishops Hull parish). Hennessy's wife Mary said that Berry went into the Sugar Loaf Inn at just before candlelight on 24 December 1823 and remained there drinking a great part of the evening with several other people. Each time he ordered a drink he paid with a shilling for which he received change. He paid at least 3 shillings and probably 4 or 5 during the course of the evening. Mary Hennessy noticed that all the shillings were dark coloured, and one was noted as having a thick rim with a stain on it. She was given two shillings which her husband had received from Berry. When Mary Hennessy examined the coins on the morning of 25 December, she found 6 counterfeit shillings, including the one noted.

Berry was taken into custody by William Chibbett, tithingman, who searched him and found 4 good shillings, 4 good sixpences and 12½d in copper. Chibbett said Berry was Irish and a pedlar. His bundle was examined and found to contain 2 pairs of bracers, some second-hand dyed ribbon, a little tape and thread, altogether worth four or five shillings.

There is a note written by Berry with the SHC QS papers:

'Honoured Sir

I hope you will take my miserable situation into consideration, which I declare that I am Innocent of the Crime laid to my Charge, As I had the misfortune of going into this House of Illfame, now I am sorry to say that I am Suffering for it, and my Wife and four Children likewise unless your honour would be Blessed to take Pitty on me and my Family for which me and my little Family will be for ever in duty bound to Pray for your Honour, or Grant me Liberty to go to Wilton gaol.

Your most humble Servant

Michael Berry'

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Williams and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jeremy and Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£16-10-0
Mr Pinchard's Bill	<u>£8-0-1</u> £30-0-1

Taunton Lent Assizes 3-4-1824

64. **Rebecca Amos** (32), widow, born Bristol, last residence Bristol, but living in Walcot at the time of her arrest according to TNA ASSI 25 18/16. Charged with having unlawfully procured five counterfeit sixpences and one counterfeit shilling for the purpose of uttering in Bath. Evidence was given by Hannah Harrison, George Champion and Jacob Harrison (TNA ASSI 21/47). 6 months in Ilchester gaol.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) confirms that Amos was born in Bristol and that this was her last place of residence.

Amos was prosecuted again 19-10-1829 (case 94)

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 7 April 1824 reports: 'Rebecca Amos was tried for uttering base coin. Mrs Harrison, Bennett Street, Bath, proved that the prisoner repeatedly offered her bad money in payment for various articles, and at last she suspected the prisoner so strongly, that she sent for a constable, and five sixpences and one shilling were found concealed on her person, all of which Mr Lendon, silversmith of Taunton, [this was either Charles Lendon, jeweller and silversmith, 84 Fore St or William Lendon, silversmith, 41 Fore St] swore were counterfeit. Prisoner said she had recently arrived from Bristol, and not knowing the coin to be counterfeit, she attempted to pass them on the person who had taken her up.'

TNA MINT 15/10

Mr Serjt. Pell and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Gasalee and Clerk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Adam and Clerk do.	£3-5-6
Mr Marrett and Clerk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£11-10-6
Mr George's Bill	<u>£12-0-6</u> £35-12-0

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 12-7-1824

65. **William Fry** (29), labourer, charged on the oath of Mary Rice with having uttered three counterfeit shillings in Wellington. 6 months with hard labour in Wilton Gaol plus sureties for a further 6 months.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) states that Fry was born at Buckland (West Buckland), near Wellington and that his last residence was Wellington.

SHC QS/R 433: Mary Rice, wife of Thomas, shopkeeper of Wellington, said that at between 11am and noon Fry, who lived in the parish of Wellington went into the shop. Fry asked Mary to change a £1 note which she agreed to do providing Fry would take five shillings worth of halfpennies. The money was made up of: 1 halfcrown; 1 sixpence; 12 shillings and five shillings in halfpennies. Fry remained in the shop for some time for no good reason and at length said there were several base shillings amongst the change that he had been given. He put down three base shillings which Mary denied having given him.

John Baker, constable of Wellington, apprehended Fry on suspicion of having issued some base coin to Mary Rice. Baker searched Fry and found a purse containing a base shilling together with a good sixpence and 5d in copper. In his waistcoat pocket was found a pound note of the General Bank at

Exeter and one of the late Bank of Carpenter and Son, Wellington. [The Wellington and Somerset Commercial Bank of Thomas Wood and John Carpenter operated from 1805 until 1816]

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Williams & Clk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jeremy & Clk do.	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£7-14-0
Mr White's Bill	<u>£9-13-10</u>
	£22-17-10

1825

Taunton Lent Assizes 26-3-1825

66. **Sarah Trimby** (52), married, of Frome Selwood, charged on the oaths of Ann Bright and others with having uttered a counterfeit halfcrown in payment to Ann Bright at Frome. TNA ASSI 21/49 notes that the charge was a misdemeanour and that evidence was given by Ann Bright, Henry Bebbey, tithingman, William Davis and Henry Bailey for his wife Sarah.
Acquitted.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Courtenay & Clerk advisg. on Evidce.	£1-3-6
The like..... settling Indictt.	£1-3-6
Mr Serjt. Pell & Clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Marrett	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£53-8-0
Mr Davis's Account	<u>£17-11-4</u>
	£78-16-4

67. **Mary Phillips**, wife of William, of the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton, was charged that on 28 January 1825 she uttered a counterfeit halfcrown to Thomas Clatworthy of the same parish (TNA ASSI 25 19/4). Phillips is not listed in the assize calendar or local newspapers.
TNA ASSI 21/49 states that the case was a misdemeanour and names the witnesses as James Turle and David White. The outcome of the prosecution is not known.

TNA MINT 15/10	
Mr Courtenay & Clerk advisg. on Evidce.	£1-3-6
The like..... settling Indictt.	£1-3-6
Mr Serjt. Pell & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Marrett	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£7-2-6
Mr Pinchard's Account	<u>£9-15-0</u>
	£24-14-6

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 11-4-1825

68. **Joseph Snell** (16), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit coin to Mary Moore. The location of the offence is not known.
Acquitted.
There are no papers in the quarter sessions roll.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) states that Snell had been committed to Wilton gaol before his trial on 9 April 1825 and that he was born and resident at Chafcombe.

69. **Jane Willicombe** (24), hawker, born at Bristol, last residence Temple St, Bristol, charged on the oaths of James Webb and another with having uttered and tendered in payment a counterfeit shilling and with having another counterfeit shilling and two counterfeit halfcrowns in her possession at Axbridge Fair. 1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years more.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) confirms that Willicombe was born in Bristol and that her last place of residence was Temple Street, Bristol. She is described as a traveller.

SHC QS/R 436: On 26 March 1825, James Webb, a labourer from Woodborough in the parish of Winscombe, was at Axbridge Fair. At about noon he went to Willicombe's 'standing' to buy a knife for 10d. Webb paid with a shilling. Willicombe asked Webb if he had any other silver and he gave her two sixpences. She gave him two pennies and returned his shilling saying it was not good. That shilling was in the court. John Read, constable of Axbridge, saw Webb buy the knife and heard the associated conversation between Webb and Willicombe. Read suspected Willicombe of possessing counterfeit money and took her into custody. He found two halfcrowns and one shilling in counterfeit coins on her person.

TNA MINT 15/10

'This Prosecution was carried on by the Witnesses there not being sufficient time to communicate with the Mint Board. Expenses afterwards applied for and allowed on being Reported 4th May 1825. Mr Nicholl's Account £25-15-6.'

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 11-7-1825

70. **Ann Hopes** (25), married, from Wellands Common, Gloucestershire, charged on the oath of Edward Dixon with having a halfcrown and 3 shillings, all counterfeit, at Bath.
Acquitted.

SHC QS/R 437: Sarah Arthur, wife of Solomon, greengrocer of 11 Marks Hill, near Bath, said Hopes went to the shop and bought fruit. She gave four shillings one of which was counterfeit. Sarah Arthur had known Hopes for three years. She returned the counterfeit coin to Hopes. Hopes took out the money in her pocket and offered it to Sarah Arthur to examine. It comprised two halfcrowns, one of which was base, and three shillings, all base. Hopes said she had taken them in business that day.

This event and the money were seen by Richard Martin, gardener of Bathwick. He advised Hopes against using the counterfeit coins. Later he saw her trying to pass a shilling to Sarah Britton in the market who returned it to Hopes as counterfeit. Martin reported the situation to Edward Dixon, tithingman. When searched Hopes had one counterfeit halfcrown and 3 counterfeit shillings in her possession. She said that the halfcrown came from a person in Chapel Row. That person was questioned but didn't believe that the coin had come from them.

TNA MINT 15/10 (reported 6-7-1825)

Mr Courtenay & Clk advisg. On Evidce.	£1-3-6
The like settling Indictt.	£1-3-6
Mr Jeremy & Clk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£13-5-6
Mr P George's Account for Examinations	£3-3-0
Mr Trevor's Acct.	<u>£11-13-4</u>
	£35-18-10

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 8-8-1825

71. **James Marsh** (27), shoemaker and **Margaret Marsh** (26), married, charged with 'putting off five pieces of counterfeit money, made to the likeness and similitude of the legal silver coin of this realm, called a halfcrown, at a lower rate and value than the same did import and was counterfeit for the sum of 4/-' at Bedminster.
Felony. James Marsh had a previous conviction for uttering (case 36).
James Marsh pleaded guilty to two indictments charging him with selling considerable quantities of counterfeit coin, he received 12 months with hard labour.
Margaret Marsh: acquitted.

TNA ASSI 21/50 notes this was a Mint case with evidence given by John Elledge, Thomas Evans, Edward Tovey and John Stephens and that James Marsh was: 'Twice convicted of putting off

Counterfeit milled Money and Coin the same not being cut in pieces at a lower rate and value than the same by its denomination did import and was Counterfeit for let him upon the first Conviction be imprisoned and kept at hard labour in the Gaol Eleven Calendar Months and let him upon the 2nd Conviction be further imprisoned and kept at hard labour in the House of correction One Calendar Month to commence from the expiration of the said eleven months.'

TNA ASSI 25 19/10: James and Margaret Marsh were accused that on 14 June 1825 they had procured 40 counterfeit sixpences and uttered 6/- in counterfeit coins to John Elledge comprising 3 shillings and 6 sixpences at Bedminster. The case was classed as a felony, they were found not guilty. Both were also charged with possession of 40 counterfeit sixpences and 3 counterfeit halfcrowns and with having uttered 8/- to John Elledge on 14 June 1825 in the form of 5 shillings and 6 sixpences. James Marsh was found guilty, Margaret Marsh was acquitted. They were also charged that on 13 June 1825 they were in possession of 5 counterfeit halfcrowns and that they uttered to John Elledge 4/- comprising one counterfeit halfcrown, one counterfeit shilling and one counterfeit sixpence.

TNA MINT 15/10 (reported 20-7-1825)	
Mr Courtenay & Clk advisg. On Evidence	£1-3-6
The like settl. 1, 2 3rd Indict.	£3-10-6
Mr Serjt. Pell & Clk with brief	£3-5-6
The like 2 & 3rd Indicts.	£4-9-0
Mr Marrett & Clk with brief	£2-4-6
The like 2 & 3 Indicts.	£2-7-0
Passing Indict.	£8-17-8
Witnesses	£85-11-3
Mr Page's Acct.	£5-5-0
Mr Day's Acct.	£15-4-6
Expenses of journey & chaise hire to Bath & Bristol to arrange plan for the defendants detection	£33-3-0
Expenses of journey & chaise hire to attend the Prosecution	<u>£26-19-6</u> £192-0-11

Later a sum which had been omitted was added: 'Mr Atty. Genl. and Clerk with case £3-5-6.' Making the total £195-6-5.

Bridgwater Borough Sessions Oct 1825

72. **David Crabb**, no personal details known. The location of the offence is not known.
6 months in gaol.

TNA MINT 15/10 records that Crabb was 'Tried at Boro. of Bridgwater October Session 1825 for uttering count. silver. Convicted.' Reported to Mint Board 12-10-1825.

Mr Courtney & Clerk advisg. on Evidence	£1-3-6
The like settling Indictment	£1-3-6
Mr John with Brief	£2-2-0
Witnesses	£2-0-6
Mr Trevor's Account	<u>£7-6-4</u> £13-15-10

1826

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 9-1-1826

73. **James Elliott** (52), shoemaker, and **John Davis** (20), hairdresser, charged with unlawfully uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Richard Ames. The location of the offence is not known.
Elliott: 1 year hard with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol plus sureties for 2 years.
Davis: 1 year with hard labour in Wilton gaol plus sureties 2 years. Released 9 January 1827.
See also cases 107 and 114.

There are no statements in the quarter sessions roll.

TNA MINT 15/10 (reported 7-1-1826)	
Mr Williams & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Jeremy	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£46-18-0
Mr Davis's Account	<u>£18-9-2</u>
	£70-17-2

74. **Samuel Elliott** (40), charged with uttering counterfeit money.
1 year with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.

Reference to this case comes from an 1826 assize calendar that lists prisoners in the various gaols. Elliott does not appear in the 1826 Epiphany Quarter Sessions records. The absence of this case in TNA MINT 15/10 suggests an error in the 1826 assize calendar. Although the ages don't correspond, it is possible Elliott is James Elliott in case 73. However, Samuel Elliott is included in case further information comes to light in the future.

75. **William Walters** (58), traveller, tinker and grinder, charged with uttering two counterfeit halfcrowns to Elizabeth Reeves and Mary Weeks at West Harptree.
1 year with hard labour in Wilton gaol plus sureties for 2 years. Released 9 January 1827.

SHC QS/R 439: Elizabeth Reeves was a servant to Thomas Weeks, landlord of the Crown Inn, West Harptree. On Wednesday 16 November 1825 Walters ordered a pint of beer and paid 3½d. He then ordered a second pint plus a cake and tendered a halfcrown, change was given. He ordered another pint and paid with another halfcrown. Both halfcrowns were passed to Miss Mary Weeks (sister of Thomas) who showed them to Mrs Weeks. The latter believed them to be counterfeit and said that Walters should be taken into custody. John Davies undertook this. Walters was in a passage at the inn, he saw that he was being approached and went out of the back door beside which was a well. Martha Reeves saw something thrown into the well which was only one yard deep. A linen bag was retrieved and found to contain 8 counterfeit halfcrowns.

TNA MINT 15/10

'This Prosecution was carried out by the Witnesses from Ignorance of any assistance being afforded by the Mint & they petitioned for an allowance of the Expenses which was granted on being Reported 1st March 1826. Mr Weeks Account £23-5-0.'

Taunton Lent Assizes 25-3-1826

76. **William Walker** (19), butcher, born at Thornbury, Gloucestershire, **Mary Walker** (19), born at Cross, near Axbridge, married, **John North Hayes** (25), bargeman, born at Neathen, Gloucestershire, and **Mary Hayes** (21), labourer, born at Cross, near Axbridge, married, charged on suspicion of having uttered two counterfeit halfcrowns at various locations.

W Walker: 9 months in Ilchester gaol
M Walker: 6 months with hard labour
J N Hayes: 1 year with hard labour in Ilchester gaol
M Hayes: 1 year with hard labour

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that W Walker was born in Thornbury, Gloucestershire and that his last residence was Cross, near Axbridge. He is described as a butcher. J N Hayes' last residence was Neathen, Gloucestershire and he was a bargeman.

TNA ASSI 21/51 records that the Hayes were from Bleadon and that on 6 December 1825 they uttered a counterfeit halfcrown to Hannah Shoyer at Bleadon and that on 30 December 1825 they uttered another counterfeit halfcrown to Mary Thomas at Loxton.

TNA ASSI 25 19/16 records that William Walker was from Compton Bishop. On 6-12-1825 he procured 15 counterfeit shillings and was caught in possession of them at Compton Bishop. William

and Mary Walker (also from Bleadon) were accused of uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Jane Coles at Bleadon on 30 December 1825.

TNA ASSI 21/51 lists the witnesses as Thomas Williams, William Shoyer, William Ponsford, Thomas Thorn, Joseph Ponsford, William Carey, Henry B[?], Mary Thomas and Jane Coles.

TNA MINT 15/10 (reported 15-2-1826)

Walker and Walker:

Mr Courtney & Clk advisg. On Evidence	£1-3-6
The like settling 1st & 2nd Indictment	£2-7-0
Mr Marrett & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
The like 2nd Indictment	£2-4-6
Mr Erskine & Clerk with brief	£2-4-6
The like 2nd Indictment	£1-3-6
Hayes and Hayes:	
Mr Courtney & Clerk advising on Evidence	£1-3-6
The like settling Indictment	£1-3-6
Mr Marrett & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Erskine	£2-4-6
Witnesses in this & last prosecution	£52-3-7
Expenses of journey & chaise hire from Bristol to subpoena & examine witnesses	£2-5-0
Mr Fisher's Account in this & last mentioned prosecution	<u>£47-5-4</u>
	£109-10-11

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 16-10-1826

77. **Joseph Jenkins** (22), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit sovereign and halfcrown to John Ham at Weston, Bath.
6 months in Wilton gaol

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) states that Jenkins was born and resident at Westbury.

SHC QS/R 442: On 6 August 1826 Richard Laver of Walcot and John Ham had a booth at a revel held on Lansdown in the parish of Weston, Bath. In the afternoon Jenkins came with two others, drank beer and left. At 6.30pm they returned for more beer and paid with a halfcrown for which change was given. An hour later the same three went back for more beer, Jenkins offered a sovereign in payment which Laver could not change. One of the others paid for the drinks with a sixpence. At between 7.00pm and 8.00pm Jenkins returned on his own and asked again for change for his sovereign. Laver and Ham between them were able to change it and gave him the money. At between 9.00pm and 10.00pm Jenkins went back again to change another sovereign which Laver and Ham refused to do. Jenkins left saying that he would be back in two minutes. Ham suspected then that the first sovereign may have been bad and went to have it examined. While Ham was out Jenkins returned and ordered a beer paying with a halfcrown which Laver believed was bad and refused to take it. He was offered a second which he also refused, and Jenkins left. Shortly afterwards the sovereign was confirmed as bad and Jenkins was apprehended. The first halfcrown and the sovereign were both counterfeit.

TNA MINT 15/10 (reported 9-8-1826)

Mr Jeremy & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£14-5-5
Mr Page's Account	<u>£6-9-0</u>
	£26-4-6

1827

Taunton Lent Assizes 5-4-1827

78. **Elizabeth Bailew** (26), married to Pascoe Bailew, of Shepton Mallet, born at Bristol, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Eliza Hill at Shepton Mallet on 8 March 1827.
6 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.

TNA ASSI 21/53 records that evidence was given by Isaac Hill, who also spoke on behalf of his wife Eliza, John Hodges spoke for his wife Ann, Reuben Whitmarsh for his wife Rachel, John Doddrell for his wife Jane, James Clark and John Ellis.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 14-3-1827)

Mr Marrett & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£48-2-0
Mr Hyatt's Account	£12-9-9
	£63-17-3

79. **John Bindon** (21), baker (TNA ASSI 25 20/4 says labourer), of Hillfarrance, charged with uttering counterfeit halfcrowns and with having one other piece of counterfeit money on his person at Hillfarrance.
12 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) states that Bindon was a baker born at Norton (Fitzwarren?) and resident at Milverton.

TNA ASSI 25 20/4 records that on 26 March 1827 he uttered a counterfeit halfcrown to William Jennings at Hillfarrance and another on the same day and place to Eliza Cattle.

TNA ASSI 21/53 states that evidence was given by Charles Cattle for his wife Eliza, William Jennings and John Durston.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 16-5-1827)

Mr Marrett and Clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£19-9-2
Messrs Pinchard's Account	£9-15-10
	£32-10-6

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 9-7-1827

80. **John Wilkins** (70), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit half sovereign to Sarah Porter at Holywell Lake, near Wellington. This is probably the John Wilkins prosecuted at the 1821 Midsummer Quarter Sessions (case 48), although there is no cross reference in the Ilchester Gaol Felons Register.
1 year in Ilchester gaol. Released 9-7-1828.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that he was born at Chard and that his last residence was Chafcombe. He is described as a horse dealer. His age is given as 60 rather than 70.

SHC QS/R 445: Towards the end of May 1827 Wilkins went into the shop of Sarah Porter at Holywell Lake, near Wellington, and bought a pound loaf costing 'seven farthings'. He paid with a counterfeit half sovereign which Sarah Porter refused to take 'it being evidently bad both in appearance and sound'. Wilkins said he had given ten shillings for it about three hours before, he took back the coin and instead paid with two pence.

William Twose, constable, gave evidence on 6 June 1827. Twose had taken Wilkins into custody the previous Thursday for horse stealing. The constable searched Twose's pockets and in his right hand waistcoat pocket found a counterfeit half sovereign wrapped in soft paper and eight counterfeit halfcrowns each wrapped in a separate piece of paper. Wilkins claimed to have found the counterfeit coins.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 27-6-1827)

Mr Jeremy and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
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Mr Scarlett	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£8-5-5
Mr White's Account	<u>£9-7-6</u>
	£23-2-11

81. **Sarah Wilkins** (23), married to Peter Wilkins, charged with uttering a counterfeit sovereign to Robert Dommett and a second counterfeit sovereign to John Forward at Taunton.
1 year with hard labour in Shepton Mallet Gaol plus sureties for 2 years.

SHC QS/R 445: Robert Dommett of Churchstanton (then Devon), was in Taunton market on 2 June 1827 at between 1pm and 2pm when Wilkins, with a child in her arms, came up to him and asked for a peck of wheat. He measured it out and she offered a sovereign in payment for the wheat costing 1/ 8½d. Dommett was unable to give change. Wilkins then asked for a further peck which he measured out. Dommett believed that he was still unable to give change, but Wilkins begged him to see what silver he had. Dommett gave her the wheat and 16/7d change, 14/- in silver and 2/7d in copper. Wilkins was not happy with the quantity of copper. The sovereign was later given to Anthony Garland, deputy constable.

John Forward said that at about 3.00pm Wilkins went to him for a peck of wheat which was measured out (price: 6/6d per bushel). Wilkins said that she couldn't pay for it unless he could change a sovereign. The sovereign was given to his niece Mary Manning who later gave it to Anthony Garland.

Garland stated that both sovereigns were counterfeit. When searched Wilkins had 18/6d in silver and 3 halfpence in copper, all good.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 6-6-1827)	
Mr Jeremy and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Scarlett	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£8-16-6
Mr Pinchard's Account	<u>£8-18-10</u>
	£23-5-4

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 18-8-1827

82. **Maria Taylor** (18), spinster, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to John Warman, with having uttered another counterfeit halfcrown to Elizabeth Norris and with having three more counterfeit halfcrowns in her possession at Taunton.
12 months with hard labour

TNA ASSI 21/54 records the witnesses as John Warman, Elizabeth Norris, Isaac Lush, William Clark, William Marrey and William Clark for his wife Mary.

TNA ASSI 25 20/10 records that Taylor was from parish of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton. On 4 August 1827 she uttered a counterfeit halfcrown to John Warman in the same parish and was in possession of another counterfeit halfcrown.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 8 August 1827 reports: 'A woman from the neighbourhood of Chepstow, who called herself Maria Taylor, was detected in our market [Taunton] on Saturday last, in the act of passing forged halfcrowns. She had passed three, rather discretely for one of her calling, to persons whose standings were very near each other. She was immediately taken up, and searched, when three other pieces of the same base coinage dropped down on unlacing her stays. Taylor has been fully committed for trial. Two of her supposed accomplices had a narrow escape of their arrest, which would have certainly occurred, had not some officious friend immediately on the detection of their companion, ran to their lodging house and appraised them of the circumstance, on hearing of which, they made off with all expedition.'

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 5-9-1827)	
Mr Marrett and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Scarlett	£2-4-6

Witnesses	£24-11-10
Messrs. Pinchards Acct.	<u>£10-17-8</u>
	£40-19-6

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 15-10-1827

83. **Charles Grant** (46), sawyer, born at Barton St David (listed as George Grant in Ilchester Gaol Felons Register SHC AGi 14/3) charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to John Symonds and with having other counterfeit money in his possession at Yeovil.
Acquitted.

The costs of prosecution are not recorded in TNA MINT 15/11

SHC QS/R 446: Evidence was taken on 5 October 1827. Charles Grant asked Mary Legg, servant to John Symonds landlord of the King's Head Inn, South St, Yeovil, to change a halfcrown. Legg took the coin to Eliza Symonds, her mistress, and change was given to Grant. Eliza put the coin in her pocket. Later, suspecting the coin may have been bad, she asked her husband to examine it. He sent it to John Hancock, a Yeovil silversmith, who said that the coin was genuine. Symonds then took the coin to John White Hancock, another Yeovil silversmith, in Borough St, whose wife Sarah examined it. She filed the edge and said it appeared to be counterfeit.

John Symonds had 5 counterfeit shillings which he believed Grant had given him during the morning.

James Vagg, tithingman, arrested Grant in the street and they went to the latter's house. On the way Grant said there were three shillings on the mantle piece two of which were bad and one that he was uncertain about.

Bridgwater Borough Sessions 20-10-1827

84. **Joseph James** (27) charged with uttering base coin. Reference to the prosecution comes from the Wells Assize calendar for 8 August 1828.
1 year with hard labour in Wilton gaol plus sureties for 2 years.
No further details of the case are known.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) states that James was a butcher born and resident at Edington (Somerset?)

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 5-9-1827)	
Mr Lovibond with Brief	£2-2-0
Witnesses	£5-18-6
Mr Trevor's Acct.	<u>£12-0-10</u>
	£20-1-4

1828

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 14-1-1828

85. **John Painter** (47), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to John White and another counterfeit halfcrown to Thomas Greenslade at Wiveliscombe.
6 months in Wilton gaol. Although there is a discrepancy in ages given, the place of birth and last residency make it certain that this is the John Painter convicted in case 52. His sentence in 1828 was, therefore, remarkably lenient.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Painter was a labourer born at Ashill and last resident at Hemyock.

SHC QS/R 447: John Painter of Wellington had previously been convicted of theft in 1824 for which he received a 10 month prison sentence.

At about 2.15pm on 6 November 1827 John White was in Wiveliscombe Market Place and saw Painter buying barley from a woman and tendering a halfcrown. There was a problem with change and the woman suggested that White might change Painter's halfcrown for him. This he duly did giving two shilling coins and sixpence worth of halfpennies. A quarter of an hour later Thomas Greenslade went to White with a halfcrown he had received from Painter. Painter had asked the price of oats, been told they were 2/2d per bushel and then offered sixpence for a peck. He paid with a halfcrown and received two shillings in change. White cut both halfcrowns and found them to be counterfeit. White and Greenslade went to the constable.

William Dunn, tithingman of Wiveliscombe, took Painter, who was still at the market, into a room and searched him. He found 6 shillings and 2 sixpences in silver and 11d in copper all of which was good and returned the coins to Painter.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 4-11-1827)

Mr Jeremy & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Scarlett	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£17-0-0
Mr Payne's Acct.	<u>£5-6-6</u>
	£27-16-6

86. **Jane Gillard** (27), labourer, charged with uttering and possession of counterfeit coin at Walcot, Bath. 6 months in Ilchester gaol plus sureties. Released 14-7-1828.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Gillard was born in Shepton Mallet and that her last residence was Peter Street, Bath.

SHC QS/R 447: At 9.00am on 30 November 1827 William Hawkins, tithingman at Walcot, noticed Gillard in the street in which he lived. She was known to him to be in the habit of having bad money. Hawkins saw Gillard pass by Ann Saunders' shop several times until she was sure that no one else was in there and then went in. Hawkins signalled to police officer William Hall of Walcot who happened to be passing. When Gillard left the shop, she was followed by Hawkins while Hall went into the shop to examine any coins Gillard had passed. She had bought a half quatern loaf which proved to be counterfeit. On hearing the coin was bad Hawkins arrested Gillard. She put her hand into her pocket and Hawkins grabbed her arm. Amongst good money he found a bad shilling and a bad sixpence. Gillard said she had received these coins in change at Ann Saunders shop. Saunders said she had given Gillard 4 sixpences and 2 farthings in change for the halfcrown. William Young, a silversmith of 13 George Street, Bath, said the halfcrown, shilling and sixpence were all bad.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 5-12-1827)

Mr Jeremy & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Scarlett	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£18-13-6
Mr Page's Acct.	<u>£7-7-9</u>
	£31-11-3

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 14-7-1828

87. **Jesse Stenson** (21), hawker, charged with uttering in payment to Edward Self two counterfeit shillings in Bath.
1 year with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 449: Deposition made by Edward Self on 24 May 1828. Self was apprentice to Thomas Cook, grocer, of Claverton St in the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe. On 23 May 1828 Stenson went into the shop and asked for a quarter pound of sugar, paid for it with a shilling and received 10d change. Two minutes later Stenson returned for an ounce of coffee and quarter pound of butter. He paid with another shilling and received 7d change. Five minutes later Stenson returned and asked for half an ounce of tobacco and again paid with a shilling. Self was beginning to get suspicious but gave him 10½d change. Self examined the three shillings and was told by a shopman, who also looked at them, that they were bad. He showed the coins to his master. The matter was reported to constable Thomas

Pike. Stenson was apprehended in the White Hart public house. He dropped three shillings during his arrest but was seen to do so.

Sara Nelson, a nearby shopkeeper, testified that Stenson had gone into her shop at between 9pm and 10pm and bought a penny loaf with a shilling. She told Stenson that she thought it was bad, but he persuaded her otherwise and was given 11d change.

All seven coins were examined by an un-named silversmith who declared them to be counterfeit.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 11-6-1828)	
Mr Jeremy & Clk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Scarlett	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£26-8-6
Mr Page's Acct.	<u>£7-14-5</u>
	£39-12-11

Bridgwater Borough Sessions July 1828

88. **John Stevens** TNA MINT 15/11: 'Tried at Boro. of Bridgewater July Sess. 1828 for Procuring Count. Silver & convicted.' (Reported 2-7-1828). No further details are known.
3 months in gaol.

Mr Anstice with brief	£2-2-0
Witnesses	£2-10-6
Mr Trevor's Acct.	<u>£10-3-0</u>
	£14-15-6

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 13-10-1828

89. **James Moore** (69), sheerman, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Mary Slade at Frome.
6 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol plus sureties.

SHC QS/R 450: Mary Slade of Wanstrow, 14 years of age, was selling butter in Frome market on 20 August 1828. Between 11am and noon James Moore asked her for half a pound of butter costing 5½d. Moore asked if she had change for a halfcrown, she said yes. He gave the coin, she asked if it was good, Moore said it was and he was given change. Slade gave the coin to Walter Long, tithingman of Frome, who identified it as a counterfeit halfcrown.

Moore also tried to buy fish at 12.00 from Christopher Kellaway, a fishmonger from Chickrell, Dorset, who was also at Frome market. The fish cost either sixpence or shilling, Kellaway couldn't remember which. Moore paid with a halfcrown. Kellaway had counted out part of the change when a bystander said 'Tis a bad halfcrown'. Kellaway took back his change and returned the halfcrown to Moore. Kellaway found he had another bad halfcrown in his possession taken at Frome mMrket but couldn't remember who had given it to him. He gave the coin to constable Thomas Bridle. Bridle took Moore into custody and found a further counterfeit halfcrown on him. According to Bridle all three halfcrowns were from the same die and dated 1821.

TNA MINT 15/11 (reported 10-9-1828)	
Mr Jeremy & Clk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Coney	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£28-17-6
Mr Davis's Acct.	<u>£12-16-8</u>
	£47-4-2

1829

Bridgwater Borough Sessions January 1829

90. **Elizabeth Davey**, no further personal details are known. She was charged with uttering.

Acquitted.

TNA MINT 15/11: 'Tried at Boro of Bridgwater Jany. Session 1829 for uttering count. silver & acquitted.'

Witnesses	£0-10-6
Mr Trevor's Acct.	<u>£7-4-4</u>
	£7-14-10

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 13-7-1829

91. **William Wilkey, alias Lewis,** (22), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Robert Atkins at Mells.

Discharged as an ignoramus.

A note in the quarter sessions records states that he had been twice convicted of felony and imprisoned for 2 years and 4 months respectively in Wilton gaol.

Prosecution approved by Mint Board 12-8-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

SHC QS/R 453: Robert Atkins was innkeeper at the Talbot Inn, Mells. Wilkey was in the inn on 22 June 1829 and gave a halfcrown to Thomas Bull, the waiter, in payment for a pint of beer. Bull gave the coin to Atkins who said it was bad. They both confronted Wilkey, Bull told him 'this halfcrown is not worth one farthing'. Wilkey said that he did not know it was counterfeit and had received it from someone called Wilson at Frome for driving cattle.

TNA MINT 15/24: 'this Prosn. was conducted by Mr Bayley Solr. Frome & the Grand Jury Ignored the Bill. Application now made for Expenses amounting to £11-12-6.'

92. **John Winter, alias John Hitchcock Tozer,** (42), labourer, charged with unlawfully procuring 100 counterfeit shillings with intent to utter and circulate the same at Taunton. The actual total of coins was much higher (see below).

2 years in Ilchester gaol. Released 13-7-1831. Winter had been convicted of a similar offence twice before and received sentences of one year and two years. No further details of these prosecutions are known indicating that the offences took place outside Somerset.

Prosecution approved by the Mint Board 29-4-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

Wilton Gaol Description Register (SHC Q/AGW/15) states that Winter was held in Wilton gaol before his trial and that he was a labourer born and last resident in Bristol

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that he was born at Clayhidon and that his last residence was Bristol.

SHC QS/R 453 and the *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 22 July 1829 record that the defendant was prosecuted by the officers of his Majesties Mint. Mr Jeremy, together with Mr Moody, stated the case for the prosecution. On 25 April 1829 a basket addressed to 'Mr John Winter to be left at the Old Swan Inn, Taunton' was delivered to the inn by the porter of the Bath coach. John Small, the landlord, paid 2/- carriage for the basket believing it to be for the John Winter he knew, a respectable customer who lived at Isle Abbotts. Hugh Sweeting of West Hatch happened to be in the Old Swan at the time and agreed to deliver the basket to John Winter, a relation of his. Sweeting's son Richard took it across the following day. Winter found, on opening the basket, that it contained counterfeit coins. It was immediately taken back to the Old Swan by Winter and the Sweeting brothers, Richard and Robert, and opened up in the presence of John Small and constable Porter. It was then fastened up again and given to Small. Winter went to the Old Swan on the afternoon of the 26 April and asked for and claimed the basket. He was taken into custody by the constable. The basket contained 'two parcels of new counterfeit shillings, containing each eleven packets with twenty in each packet [440 total] - 10 packets of counterfeit halfcrowns containing 120 in each [1200 total] and 17 counterfeit Half Sovereigns'. Under the chair on which Winter had been sitting when apprehended were found 4 counterfeit sovereigns wrapped in two pieces of paper. The total face value of the counterfeit coins was £182-10-0. A letter with a Birmingham postmark and dated 23 April 1829 was found on the prisoner's person. It was believed by Porter to be in a similar hand to the address on the label on the basket.

Addressed 'To MR John Winter, Post Office, Taunton', the letter announced that he would receive 'them' according to order. It was ascertained that he had received this letter at the Post Office immediately before he went to the inn to collect the basket. When he searched Winter, Porter found a pocketbook containing two bank notes, one a £10 note of the Radnorshire Bank and the other a £1 note of the Mevagissey Bank, both looked to him to be counterfeit.

TNA MINT 3/72: 5-10-1829 records payment of £52-6-5d by cheque by the Solicitor of the Mint to the local agent W P Richard.

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 22-8-1829

93. **Sarah Marsh** (68), charged with uttering counterfeit money although the evidence points to her having supplied counterfeit coins. The offence took place in Bath.
2 years with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 1-7-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

TNA ASSI 21/57 records that the offence occurred on 4 June 1829 in St James', Bath. Marsh approached a woman called Elizabeth Maddocks (or Maddox) in the Market Place. The two women did not know each other. Marsh asked Maddocks whether she had ever 'smashed' to which the answer was no. Marsh then proceeded to offer to sell Maddocks 12 counterfeit shillings for 2d each and asked her to go to 19 Orchard Street the following morning. Maddocks reported the incident to Humphreys, one of the mayor's officers. He gave her two marked shillings with which she was to buy the coins. She bought 10 coins. Marsh gave Maddocks some powder which she was to rub on the coins and advised her to put the coins between two flat irons before passing them. Once the transaction was complete Humphreys entered and searched the house during which he recovered the two marked coins. Mr Powell, Assistant Solicitor at the Mint, confirmed that the coins were all counterfeit and 'struck from the same die'. It was stated that 'the prisoner and several members of her family were well known passers of bad coin, and that some of them had been transported for offences of that kind.' (*Morning Chronicle* 27 August 1829). It is possible, though not proven, that some of the family referred to are those in cases 34, 36, 50 and 71.

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 19-10-1829

94. **Rebecca Amos** (37), widow, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Johanna Beale on 25 September 1829 in Shepton Mallet.
1 year with hard labour in Wilton gaol plus sureties. Amos had previously been tried for procuring counterfeit coins and found guilty at Taunton Assizes April 1824 (case 64).
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 29-9-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

SHC QS/R 454: Johanna Beale, a widow of Pilton, attended Shepton Mallet market to sell apples. Amos asked for a quarter peck of apples, price 3½d, paid with a halfcrown and received change. As soon as Amos had departed Beale attempted to change the halfcrown for smaller denomination coins with a person standing nearby. That person was Michael Lewis who said the coin was 'not worth a farthing'. Beale ran after Amos and told her that the coin was not worth a farthing, the latter replaced it with a good halfcrown.

James Bartlett, a gardener from Somerton, also attended the market on 25 September 1827 with apples and onions to sell. Amos bought onions costing 1½d and paid with a halfcrown. Bartlett soon discovered the coin was bad and produced it when making a statement on the same day.

John Bryant, of the parish of Stoke Lane, was at the Bunch of Grapes Inn, Market Place, Shepton Mallet, on the morning of 25 September 1829 when he was asked by a constable to assist him in searching two women in his custody. Bryant went upstairs with the constable. Amos was one of the women. The constable asked her to take her money out of her pockets which she did placing halfpennies and pennies on the table. She then turned aside and threw something in the grate. It proved to be a piece of paper in which were wrapped 5 halfcrowns, all bad and appearing to be of the same die.

TNA MINT 3/72, 2-6-1830, records payment to local agents Phipps & Hyatt of £27-4-5

95. **John Gibbs** (18), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Richard Longford on 5 October 1829 in Bath.
1 year hard labour in Shepton Mallet plus sureties for 2 years.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 14-10-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

SHC QS/R 454: Richard Longford was a baker in the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe. Gibbs went into his shop at 8pm on 5 October 1829 and asked for half a pound of cheese. Gibbs paid with a shilling and was given five pence halfpenny change. Shortly afterwards a neighbour went into the shop asking if he had taken any counterfeit coins. Gibbs, who was still present, left at this point. Longford immediately examined the till and realised that the shilling just received from Gibbs was a bad one, there were no other shillings in the till. Constable Thomas Pike collected the shilling the following morning.

Elizabeth Harrison was the wife of William, of Lyncombe and Widcombe, owner of a small grocer's shop. Gibbs went in at between 7pm and 8pm on 5 October and bought a half quatern loaf. He paid with a shilling and received 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d in change. The shilling was put in the till. Later, at about 10.00pm, Constable Henry Amor went into the shop and asked if any bad money had been taken. Harrison opened the till and examined the shilling given by Gibbs, it was found to be counterfeit and was retained by Amor.

James Hoskins was a shop keeper in Lyncombe and Widcombe. Gibbs went into his shop at 8.30pm on 5 October and asked for a quarter pound of cheese. He paid with a shilling and received 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d change. This shilling also proved to be bad.

Henry Amor apprehended Gibbs on the night of the 5 October for having uttered a counterfeit coin. When he searched Gibbs, he found another counterfeit shilling in his pocket.

Tithingman Thomas Pike collected another counterfeit shilling passed to Mrs Tyler (no details are known of this instance).

96. **Hannah Field** (45), married, charged with uttering two counterfeit sixpences to James Bucknell and with having other counterfeit coin in her possession in Bath.
1 year in Ilchester gaol plus sureties for 2 years.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 23-9-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

SHC QS/R 454: James Bucknell was a baker and shopkeeper of Walcot Terrace, Walcot. Field walked into Bucknell's shop at between 4pm and 5pm. At first, she stood outside looking in through window, she then moved towards the door and looked into the shop. Bucknell went around his counter to the door and asked Field what she wanted. She said: 'Do you sell biscuits?'. Bucknell said yes and Field asked for a pennyworth, for which she paid with a sixpence. At the same time Bucknell noticed in her hand what appeared to be a bad shilling. He then discovered that the sixpence was also bad. Bucknell told Field and she gave him a replacement. The second sixpence was also bad. Again, Bucknell pointed this out and Field gave him a 1d. Bucknell took Field into the parlour of his house and suggested that she had more money about her. She invited him to search her. Bucknell asked Field to turn out her pockets which produced a quantity of halfpennies. Then Bucknell told Field to strip believing she had more concealed about her person. Bucknell tried to open one of her hands, she resisted, and he had to force her. He found a counterfeit halfcrown, a counterfeit shilling, two counterfeit sixpences (Bucknell still had the sixpence tendered to him therefore there were three sixpences in total) and a good halfcrown. All the counterfeit coins were dated 1819. A policeman arrived and the coins was handed over. The prisoner was from 'Bradford'.

TNA MINT 3/72, 16-12-1829 - this combines the costs of John Gibbs (case 95) and Hannah Field. Payment by cheque from the Solicitor of the Mint to Jos. Page, the agent involved with these two cases totalled £72-17-0 on 5-10-1829.

Bridgwater Borough Sessions 24-10-1829

97. **John Pomeroy** (40), convicted of uttering counterfeit coin.

6 months in Wilton gaol plus sureties. The reference comes from the Taunton TNA ASSIze Calendar for 30-3-1830. The case was not covered in local newspaper reports.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 14-10-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

TNA MINT 3/72, 22-2-1829, records a payment of £17-2-0 to local agent J W Trevor.

1830

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 11-1-1830

98. **Charles Johnson** (15), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Sarah Bright and with having other counterfeit coin in his possession in Bath.
6 months plus sureties for 6 months.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 28-10-1829 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

SHC QS/R 455: At between 11.00am and midday on a Saturday morning Sarah Bright was standing with a basket of fruit for sale near the Old Bridge in the parish of St James, Bath. Johnson approached her and asked for 1d worth of pears for which he paid with a shilling. Bright thought the coin was bad and showed it to Margaret Flannagan but by then she had given Johnson 11d change and he had gone. Flannagan agreed the coin was bad, Bright notified William Pinnock, the mayor's officer, and gave him the coin.

Two hours later Johnson was apprehended by William Pinnock who asked him where he had obtained the coin, he replied Bristol and that he had 'given 6 pennyworth of halfpence and a sixpence for it', the meaning of this is unclear. While taking him into custody Pinnock noticed Johnson drop something out of his sleeve. Pinnock picked it up and found it to be a bad halfcrown. Johnson said: 'I gave 18 or 20 buttons for it.'

TNA MINT 3/72: Cheques from Mint Solicitor to J Taylor for £17-11-10 recorded for 2 February 1830 and to Rob. Davis for £9-17-6 recorded for 11 February 1830. Davis and Taylor acted as the local agents.

Taunton Lent Assizes 30-3-1830

99. **William Splatt** (24), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Elizabeth Grant on 9 February 1830 in the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton. He was taken to Wilton gaol on 10 February 1830. Splatt was from the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton.
3 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 24-2-1830 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

TNA MINT 3/72 combines Splatt and Thomas Facey who wasn't prosecuted. A payment of £29-3-6 to local agents Messrs. Pinchard is recorded on 28 June 1830.

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 12-7-1830

100. **Joseph Grant, alias George Grant**, (48), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Anne Pearce in Taunton.
6 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol plus sureties.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 23-6-1830 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

SHC QS/R 457: Anne Pearce, a servant at the Royal Marine Inn, Taunton, stated that at midday on 17 June 1830, Taunton Fair Day, Grant went into the Inn. He bought three pints throughout the day, but it was between 5pm and 6pm that he paid for a pint with a counterfeit shilling. On being confronted and asked for a good coin he hesitated then gave another shilling which also proved to be counterfeit. Pearce showed the coins to Mr Jones, brother-in-law of the landlord, who confirmed they were bad and called John Lockyer, the innkeeper. Grant snatched back the second counterfeit shilling from Pearce's hand. The first shilling was marked by cutting the edge. Lockyer held Grant in custody while Jones went to fetch constable Jarvis.

Jarvis, together with Lockyer, took Grant upstairs to search him. Grant put a small packet and other articles on the table, but Lockyer noticed he had something in his left hand which he concealed in his clothing. On investigating it was found to be a small packet containing 3 counterfeit shillings wrapped in paper. Grant also had good money on him - 10 shillings, 35 sixpences, 7 pennies, 9 halfpennies and 1 farthing. The packet placed on the table contained 2 counterfeit shillings. The other objects placed on the table were 'a spur for a fighting cock, a small phial of liquid, a ball of some substance like clay'. The last two were believed by Jarvis to be for 'polishing and cleaning metal'. Grant said that he had lost a considerable amount of money, how and how much is not specified, and had bought the packet of 3 shillings from a person in Ashill Forest, about 7 miles from Taunton.

TNA MINT 3/72 records that £108-5-0d was paid to local agent Pinchard on 22 September 1830 for four prosecutions at Bridgwater Summer Sessions and Wells Lammas Assizes, these were Grant (100), Pye (101), Matthews (102) and Smith (103).

101. **Charles Pye** (27), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Joan Gardiner at Taunton. He was taken to Wilton gaol on 19 June 1830.
6 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol plus sureties.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 23-6-1830 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

SHC QS/R 457: Witness Betty Foster, wife of Thomas, a gardener of North Petherton stated that on Saturday 19 June 1830 at between 10pm and 11pm she was at Taunton market selling pears when Pye asked for a half peck costing 5d. Pye paid with a halfcrown. Foster asked Anne Day, who was nearby, to get change for the coin, which she did, and Pye was given his 2/1d change. The coin was later found to be counterfeit.

Joan Gardiner of North Petherton was in the market at the same time. Pye bought half a peck of pears from her for 5d, he paid with a halfcrown. It was only later when Gardiner examined the coin, the only halfcrown in her possession, that she realised that it was counterfeit.

John Brooks, a labourer, took Pye into custody. Pye said he would go to the man who had given him the counterfeit halfcrowns and they walked to the King George, East Reach. Abraham Stuckey went along to assist Brooks. In a passage at the King George, Pye threw down a shilling which proved to be counterfeit and then a handkerchief which when examined was found to contain a counterfeit halfcrown. When searched the only other money in Pye's possession was a good halfpenny.

Wells Lammas Assizes 14-8-1830

102. **Mary Matthews** (31), spinster (TNA ASSI 25 21/22 states that she was a widow), of St James parish, Taunton, was charged with having in her possession and uttering a quantity of base coin. TNA ASSI 21/57 and TNA ASSI 25 21/22 state that on 8 July 1830 she uttered a counterfeit shilling to Susan Turner in the parish of St James, Taunton.
6 months in Wilton gaol.
103. **Eliza Smith** (25), widow of St Mary Magdalene parish, Taunton, charged that on 8 July 1830 she unlawfully procured six counterfeit sixpences with intent to utter.
1 year in Wilton gaol.
104. **Ann Walford** (25), widow, charged with uttering a counterfeit sovereign to George Whitefield in Frome on 31 July 1830 and another counterfeit sovereign on the same day to Stephen Truck.
6 months in Wilton gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 25-8-1830 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

TNA MINT 3/72 records a payment of £39-14-7 to local agent Wm. Davies on 8 December 1830 in relation to the Walford case.

1831

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 3-1-1831

105. **Emma Harding** (23), spinster, and **Henry Sampson** (28), labourer, charged with 'unlawfully procuring with intent to utter five pieces of counterfeit coin to the likeness of halfcrowns' at Churchingford. They also had one counterfeit shilling in their possession.
Both received 12 months in Ilchester gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 8-12-1830 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Harding was born at Market Dearham and that her last residence was Taunton. She is described as a weaver and traveller.

Sampson was born in London and his last residence was Blagdon, near Taunton. He is described as a traveller.

SHC QS/R 459: Richard Gough entered the shop of Anne Poole's grandmother (also Anne) in Churchingford between 2pm and 3pm on 3 December 1830 to purchase half an ounce of tobacco. Gough offered a halfcrown in payment. Anne Poole (granddaughter) weighed the coin, Gough offered another in its place saying: 'if you don't like it I'll change it'. Poole returned the first coin after showing it to her uncle, James Poole. The replacement coin was good. Poole noticed that Gough had taken the bad coin from his right pocket and the good one from his left pocket. Afterwards, Poole saw Gough with Emma Harding, Mary Anne Hide and another man walking towards Taunton. Robert Dunbar, yeoman of Churchingford, was called on by James Poole and they, plus two others, went in search of Gough and his associates. They caught up with them at the top of Blagdon Hill. In his statement Dunbar recalled seeing the five people together - Gough, Harding, Hide, Aaron Hawker and Sampson. Dunbar took them into custody. On the way, travelling in the direction of Taunton, Harding 'violently' threw a money purse into a bush by the roadside. The purse was retrieved and found to contain five counterfeit halfcrowns and a counterfeit shilling, the coins were wrapped in paper. The group went first to the Lamb Inn at Pitminster and the constable of Pitminster was called there at between 3pm and 4pm. The party, with constable Robert Marks, then left. Near Angersleigh Hawker 'stooped down and made a scramble on the ground with his fingers and said he had found a halfcrown.' The other prisoners, except Sampson, crowded round him and said how lucky he was. Sampson stayed in front of the party but was watched by Marks, Sampson's back was to the latter. Marks saw a slight movement of his hand and heard something 'jingle'. Marks looked towards the hedge and saw 'a bramble in motion with a piece of paper hanging on it'. Poole was told to retrieve this. The coins had fallen out but three halfcrowns were retrieved, though the record doesn't state whether they were good or counterfeit. James Buttle also searched the same spot as J Poole and Marks and found one of the counterfeit coins and paper in which he believed the coins had been wrapped - he threw the paper away afterwards. Although a number of people were involved only Harding and Sampson were prosecuted.

TNA MINT 3/72 records a payment of £24-3-7 to local agent Pinchard on 18-3-1831 in relation to Harding and £25-0-10 in relation to Sampson. In addition, a further £1-13-4 was paid to Pinchard for 'sundries'.

Taunton Lent Assizes 29-3-1831

106. **Henry William Wright** (20), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Delia Snell on 11 February 1831 at Walcot, Bath.
6 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol plus sureties of £20 for good behaviour for 6 months.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 2-3-1831 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser for 4 April 1831 reports that Mr Erskine stated the case, and witnesses were called, who proved that early in February, Wright called at Mr Snell's second-hand shoe shop in Kingsmead Square, Bath, and tendered a shilling in payment for a pair of shoes. Mrs Snell shortly afterwards discovered the coin to be counterfeit. Wright and a woman, 'who passed as his wife', lodged in a room in a house belonging to a person named Perry, in Bath. When they were absent the room was always kept locked. Hall, one of the Mayor's officers at Bath, stated that he went to search the prisoner's room, and, having forced open the door, found a locked box inside which were several halfcrowns and shillings, some fully prepared for circulation and some in an unfinished state. Hall asked Wright how he came by the box and its contents. He said that he had found them near Wooton, in Gloucestershire. Mr A. Levi, a jeweller, was asked if the coins were good, he replied they had all been cast in a mould and were counterfeit. Wright was not charged with possession with intent to utter. The

Judge told the jury that in deciding the case they should bear in mind that many an innocent person may unknowingly pass bad money and that they could not establish a verdict of guilty except upon the clearest evidence that the money was uttered by the prisoner, he knowing at the time of uttering that it was base coin. Only one instance had been established, and it was for them to decide that (connected with the other circumstances of the case) fully substantiated the proof of his guilt. The jury, without a moment's hesitation, found the prisoner guilty. The Judge in pronouncing sentence regretted that the Statute would not allow him to pass a more severe sentence 'for so heinous an offence.'

TNA MINT 3/72 payment of £57-3-8 to John Taylor recorded on 29-4-1831.

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 27-6-1831

107. **John Davis** (23), painter, charged with having in his possession a large quantity of counterfeit shillings and sixpences with intent to circulate the same at Lansdown, Bath.
1 year in Ilchester gaol. Released 27-6-1832.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 27-4-1831 (TNA ASSI 15/25)
See also cases 73 and 114.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that he was born in and that his last residence was Bristol.

SHC QS/R 461: Thomas Vincent kept the Hare and Hounds public house near Lansdown. Vincent was walking around the garden next door, which was rented by John Coleman, on 14 April 1831 when he noticed earth 'lightly thrown up against the wall'. He moved the soil with his foot and revealed two bags which he found contained money. He covered it up again and went to fetch the tithingman of the parish. Before leaving, he asked Coleman and constable Richard Lillwall to keep a watch from behind the wall. Eventually Davis entered the garden and retrieved the bags, put them one inside the other and then into his pocket. Davis was then arrested by Lillwall who took him to Ralph Dodd, the Mayor's officer at the Guildhall at 4pm. Dodd searched Davis. The bag was found to contain base coin totalling 72 shillings and 59 sixpences.

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment of £37-2-9 to Jos. Page on 1-8-1831.

108. **Priscilla Jenkins** (27), widow, and **John Hughes** (27), labourer, charged with unlawfully uttering a counterfeit sixpence to William Terry in Bath.
Jenkins: 1 year in Wilton gaol
Hughes: 1 year in Ilchester gaol, released 27-6-1832.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 22-6-1831 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Hughes was a labourer who was born in Bristol and whose last abode was Bath.

SHC QS/R 461: Abraham Levy (or Levi), jeweller in Bath, observed Jenkins and another man as he believed them to be 'bad characters'. Levy followed them and saw Jenkins give something to the other man at which point Levy apprehended them. Levy then realised that Jenkins was the person he had apprehended in October 1829 on suspicion of uttering counterfeit coin, although no prosecution appears to have followed. Levy called officer Hale who searched Jenkins and found a counterfeit sixpence. Jenkins lived in Bristol.

William Terry, an ironmonger of Broad St, Bath, said that Jenkins bought a penny worth of nails using a counterfeit sixpence at between 5pm and 6pm on the previous Saturday.

Jenkins also went to the grocer's shop of Mr Shrapnell in Broad St to buy sugar. She paid with a sixpence which Shrapnell saw was bad, he gave it back and she replaced it with a good one.

Jenkins was arrested by the mayor's officer for the city market in the company of John Hughes. When Hale searched Hughes he found one counterfeit crown dated 1818, seven counterfeit halfcrowns dated 1819, five shillings dated 1816, two shillings dated 1819 and three sixpences dated 1818. All were described as 'cast in moulds'.

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment of £58-12-8 to Mr Taylor for 1-8-1831.

109. **Jane Council** (26), married, charged with uttering two counterfeit shillings to John Withers and Elizabeth Gillard and having another counterfeit shilling in her possession in Walcot, Bath.
1 year in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 22-6-1831 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

Reference to this case appears at the end in a short piece in the *Bristol Mercury* for 21 June 1831 referring to a technique used by utterers in Bath:

"CAUTION. – RINGING THE CHANGES. – Several utterers of counterfeit shillings are in Bath. The shillings are dated 1816, and the common way of getting rid of them is by utterers going into small shops, making some trifling purchase, and offering half-a-crown in payment. Change is of course given, and the utterer, with some dexterity, substitutes a counterfeit shilling for one of the good ones given in change, saying with great artlessness, "Lo! Sir, this is a bad shilling you gave me!" and thus are the unwary deceived and imposed upon. Jane Council was brought before John Wiltshire and Charles Crook, Esqrs. on Monday last, charged with uttering counterfeit shillings in two places and having other counterfeit coin in her possession at the same time. She was fully committed for trial."

SHC QS/R 461: Council went to John Wither's shop in Walcot parish on 13 June and asked for a pennyworth of cabbage, she paid with a halfcrown. Council went to the door, waited for a minute then turned back and asked for another pennyworth. This time she paid with a 1d. At this point she 'noticed' that she had a counterfeit shilling amongst the change received for the first purchase. Council had originally been served by Mrs Withers but spoke to Mr Withers: 'Your wife gave me a bad shilling'. After some argument as to who was right Withers told his wife to replace the counterfeit shilling with a good one. Council then left. J Withers followed her and saw her enter the shop of Elizabeth Gillard. Gillard reported that Council asked for sixpence worth of blacking, but Gillard only had a 3d packet which Council wasn't happy about but accepted. She paid with a shilling. It wasn't until Withers went into her shop and asked her to examine her till that she found the shilling was counterfeit.

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment of £37-17-2 to Jos. Page on 1-8-1831.

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 6-8-1831

110. **William Bayley** (22), mariner (TNA ASSI 25 22/10 describes him as a labourer), charged with uttering a counterfeit crown to James Woolridge in Walcot, Bath.
1 year in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 13-7-1831 (TNA ASSI 15/25)
111. **Ann Johnson** (22), married to John Johnson, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Harriet Andrews at Walcot, Bath.
1 year in Wilton gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 13-7-1831 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

TNA ASSI 21/57 links the above two cases giving the charge as: 'On 2 July at Walcot uttering to James Woolridge a counterfeit Halfcrown & on the same day uttering to the same person a counterfeit Crown.' TNA ASSI 21/57 makes no mention of Harriet Andrews. Bayley and Johnson appear, therefore, to have been operating together although they were prosecuted separately. TNA ASSI 15/25 also links the two cases.

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment of £73-0-4 to Taylor on 13-10-1831.

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 17-10-1831

112. **John Birth** (20), labourer, and **Henry Birth** (50), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Elizabeth Howe at Brompton Regis.
John Birth: 1 year in Wilton gaol
Henry Birth: 1 year in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 21-9-1831 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

SHC QS/R 462: Elizabeth Howe, wife of Thomas, a tailor and beer house keeper at the George Inn, Kings Brompton (Brompton Regis), said John Birth went into their beer house at between 1pm and 2pm and ordered a pint of beer for which he paid with a halfcrown. He was given 2/3d change and then left. Quarter of an hour later Henry Birth, father of John, went in and also bought a pint of beer with a halfcrown. Elizabeth Howe queried the coin saying that it had an 'odd look' which Birth explained was the 'consequence of being carried with other money'. He was given change. She went next door to the house of John Surrage to show him the halfcrowns and his response was that 'they were not worth a mite'. Elizabeth Howe asked Surrage to fetch the constable. She gave the coins to Surrage. According to Surrage's statement Elizabeth Howe thought the Births were 'sailor men'.

Surrage fetched constable John Howe along with John Purchase, a shoemaker, John Quarley, a carpenter, and Joseph Howe and all five went after the Births. They encountered them about a quarter of mile away from Brompton Regis. The constable asked them to change the bad coins for good and he would then 'let them go about their business', failing that they would be taken into custody. John Birth threw a crown onto the ground and asked for the halfcrowns back. Surrage picked it up but said it 'would not do' and the men were taken into custody after a struggle. The Births were taken back to the George Inn. The constable searched John Birth who struggled and was seen to try to switch something wrapped in paper from one pocket to another. Constable Howe caught hold of his arm and took 5 halfcrowns wrapped in paper from him. Constable Howe said all were counterfeit. John Birth claimed to have received the coins in change for a £5 note.

Purchase reported that while John Birth was being searched Henry Birth sat down in the same room near the fire. Purchase heard something fall near John Birth 'inside the Fender of the Grate'. Purchase looked and found another counterfeit halfcrown, clearly thrown down by John Birth.

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment of £32-3-1 to J Payne on 26-11-1831.

1832

Taunton Lent Assizes 29-3-1832

113. **Louise West** (23), spinster of Bath. The assize calendar states that West was charged with uttering a counterfeit crown to John Gardener on 14 January 1832 at Bath. TNA ASSI 25 22/16 states the charge differently, West was accused that on 14 January 1832 she procured 20 counterfeit halfcrowns with intent to utter, there is no reference to her having uttered.
Not guilty
West had previously been convicted of a similar offence at Bristol (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register 14/4, p 201).
114. **John Davis, alias James Farrell**, (25), plasterer of Walcot (TNA ASSI 25 22/16 describes him as a labourer), charged with having on 10 December 1831 uttered counterfeit sovereigns to Louisa Skinner, Sarah Kingdom and Sarah Davies.
Sentenced to death but this was commuted to transportation for life. He had twice previously been convicted of 'a like offence' (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register 14/4, p. 208) – cases 73 and 107. Davis was moved to the hulk *Devonport* 4 June 1832 and sailed for Van Dieman's Land on the *Circassian* on 4 November 1832. There were 192 prisoners on board (TNA HO 11/8 page 447).
115. **James Brown, alias White**, (20), labourer, from Bath, charged with unlawfully uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Frederick Moor on 13 January 1832 and another to Jeremiah Riley at Bath. TNA ASSI 25 22/16 does not refer to Moor but instead names Richard Fear.
2 years in Wilton gaol plus £20 sureties for 2 years.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 4 April 1832 states that Brown/White had previously been convicted of uttering, but no details of the case have been traced, probably because the offence occurred outside Somerset.

Riley, a shopkeeper at Bath, said that on 13 January Brown/White went into his shop at 7pm and bought three oranges paying with a halfcrown which Riley subsequently found to be base.

Brown/White went into the druggist's shop of Richard Fear on the evening of 13 January to buy two ounces of salt costing 2d. He tendered a halfcrown which Fear rang and found to be good. Brown/White picked the coin up, put it in his pocket and gave another coin in payment which Fear found to be bad. Brown/White immediately ran out. After he had been taken, he was searched but no other counterfeit money was found.

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 16-4-1832

116. **John Turley** (45), hawker, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Mary Green and with having other counterfeit money in his possession at Cheddar.
Not guilty.

SHC QS/R 464: Turley entered William Durbin's beer house in Cheddar on 27 March 1832 and asked Mary Green for half a pint of beer giving a shilling in payment. As there was no change Green gave the shilling to her mistress, Elizabeth Durbin, who took it to Anna Spencer's shop to change it and was given two sixpences. Spencer initially thought the shilling was good but later examined it by comparing it with another and found it to be bad. She immediately returned it to Durbin's house via her servant being sure that the coin she was returning was the one she had earlier received from Elizabeth Durbin.

Anna Spencer's servant maid, Mary Lewis, went to the beer house and said that the shilling which Durbin had given her mistress was bad. Turley said that as the shilling had been taken out of the house it could have been changed. Reuben Weeks, the constable, asked Turley to change the bad shilling for a good one which he refused to do. Reuben Weeks searched Turley's pockets and found 5 shillings, a halfcrown, 4½d in copper and a silver token. Weeks said that four shillings and the halfcrown were base money. Turley denied all knowledge.

117. **Robert Gillard, Giller, (46)**, shoemaker, and **William Gillard, Giller, (21)**, labourer, (father and son) charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Jane Martha Anthony in Bath.
6 months for both in Wilton gaol.
Robert Gillard was again convicted at the Easter 1833 Quarter Sessions (case 129).
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 28-3-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

SHC QS/R 464: William Gillard went into Jane Loder's 'fancy toy shop' and bought a sixpenny book from her daughter, Jane Martha Anthony. Gillard gave Anthony a halfcrown and received two shillings in change. The halfcrown was kept separate from the others she had and was later given to officer William Hall. Hall searched the house of the two accused in William Street, Bathwick, Bath. In different parts of the house were found two small crucibles, metal, scales, plaster of Paris, an iron ladle, sandpaper, an iron cover to a mould, leather fringes and various other articles. Thomas Harris, a blacksmith, confirmed that the articles found by Hall were for the sole purpose of making counterfeit coins. In spite of the apparent overwhelming evidence for counterfeiting they were charged with the lesser offence of uttering.

At the time of the offence the Gillards were under observation by officers who suspected them of possessing counterfeit coin.

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 2-7-1832

118. **William Gillard** (37), labourer, charged with uttering base coin in Bath.
6 months in Ilchester gaol, released 2-1-1833
Prosecution approved by Mint Board 4-7-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Gillard was a labourer who was born in and whose last residence was Bristol.

SHC QS/R 465: At 8.30am on Tuesday 1 May 1832 Charlotte Rogers was walking up Pulteney St, Bath, with her milk can when she met Gillard. Gillard asked her to give change for a halfcrown which she was unable to do. Gillard said that he would accept two shillings and three halfpence as he had to

pay a bill. He gave Rogers the coin which she recognised as base, told him so and gave it back. Gillard denied it was bad and walked away with it. Charlotte Rogers knew it was base because of its colour.

Eliza Clack, servant to Mr Savage of 9 Old Sydney Place, in the parish of Bathwick, said she was cleaning the brass on the front door on the morning of 1 May 1832. Gillard approached her and asked if she could give change for a halfcrown which she was unable to do. Gillard went down the street, then returned and asked if she would give him two shillings for it. Clack told him to give her the coin and said that she would go downstairs and try to change it. She took the coin and said: 'it is a bad one'. Gillard denied it saying that it was only 'battered out'. Clack took the coin to her fellow servant James White who confirmed that it was base. White took the coin to Gillard, told him it was bad and asked how he could think of offering it. At that point Thomas Weston, constable, happened to be passing by. James White called him over and gave him the coin. Gillard was taken into custody.

William Gillard was the brother of Robert Gillard, see cases 117 and 129.

Wells Lammas Assizes 13-8-1832

119. **Henry William Wright** (22), pastry cook, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrowns to John Ingram and Edward Leonard at Walcot, Bath.

2 years with hard labour. He had previously been convicted for uttering at the 1831 Taunton Lent Assizes when he was sentenced to six months in Shepton Mallet gaol (106).

Misdemeanour.

Prosecution approved by Mint Board 18-7-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 22 August 1832 reports that: 'H.W. Wright pleaded guilty to a charge of uttering a counterfeit halfcrown. He had previously been convicted as a common utterer of counterfeit coin - Two years imprisonment, hard labour, and at the extirpation, to find sureties for two years more.'

120. **Jesse Griffin** (35), labourer, charged, according to the assize calendar, with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown and two counterfeit shillings to Mary Beer and with having another counterfeit halfcrown in his possession on 18 May at Pensford. TNA ASSI 21/57 refers only to procuring a counterfeit halfcrown with intent to utter whilst TNA MINT 22/22 records that he was convicted of uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Mary Beer and a counterfeit shilling to Mary Bar, both on 18 May 1832 at Pensford.

1 year in Shepton Mallet gaol

Prosecution approved by Mint Board 30-5-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 22 August 1832 states that 'The prosecutor clearly identified the prisoner, to the satisfaction of the Jury, and Mr Powell, solicitor of the Mint, declared the coin to be a forgery.'

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 15-10-1832

121. **James Bentley** (18), labourer, and **Isaac Harrison** (21), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Louisa Body and with having another counterfeit shilling in their possession in Taunton. Bentley: 18 months in Wilton gaol. He had a previous conviction for rioting in Bristol, embezzlement and a felony.

Harrison: 12 months in Shepton Mallet gaol

Prosecution approved by Mint Board 5-9-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

SHC QS/R 466: On 22 August 1832 at between 5pm and 6pm both men left the Waterloo Inn, High St, Taunton, and Bentley went into the bakery of Maria and James Denman in High St where he gave M Denman a shilling for a 4½d loaf of bread. M Denman did not like the look of the shilling, but Bentley said it was good. M Denman sent her boy to Miss Sarah Pope's china shop for change and he returned with 12 pennies. Bentley was given 8 of these. M Denman asked for a farthing to make up the price of the loaf. Bentley had many halfpence but no farthings. While he was searching for a farthing M Denman went to Miss Pope's shop where they both decided that the coin given by Bentley was bad. Bentley, when tackled, gave back the 8 pence and the shilling was returned to him. Denman said she

had a good mind to inform Blackmore or Jarvis, police officers. Bentley replied that she could do as she liked.

Bentley then went into the bakery of Louisa Body and attempted to buy some butter with the shilling. She said it was bad and told him he had better replace it. Bentley was apprehended by Jeremiah Hare and Henry Bupell, a baker, who had seen the incident. Harrison was also arrested and found to have 9 shillings in silver and 2 shillings and a penny halfpenny in copper in his possession. Hidden in Harrison's breeches was a shilling which was identified as the one seen by Miss Pope. He also found a snuff box filled with soft moist dirt some of which was on the shilling. Bentley, when searched, was found to have 2 shillings and 8 pence in pennies, a halfpenny and 6 farthings, 5 good sixpences and a bad shilling.

Lydia Pollard, wife of Thomas, landlord of the Waterloo Inn, said that on 22 August 1832 the defendants had 'engaged a bed' at the inn, took some ale and left separately. About 10 minutes later she heard of their apprehension.

Bentley had also tried to buy a loaf with the bad shilling from Elizabeth Lee, shopkeeper. When she refused to take it he left for Denman's.

122. **Mary Farrell** (40), married, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Thirza Britton and with having two more counterfeit halfcrowns in her possession at Bath.

18 months in Wilton gaol

Prosecution approved by Mint Board 26-9-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

SHC QS/R 466: Farrell went to the Cross Keys public house, Bath, at 4.30pm on a Saturday in mid-September, asked for a noggin of rum and gave barmaid Thirza Britton a halfcrown in payment. Change was given. Britton recognised the coin as base and took it to William Hall, mayor's officer, who apprehended Farrell. She was taken to the Guildhall and in her basket, which contained 'dirty wearing apparel', were found two more counterfeit halfcrowns wrapped separately in paper. All three counterfeit halfcrowns were dated 1818.

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment of £26-16-2 to John Taylor for the October Sessions on 11-12-1832 and £24-0-8 to W P Pinchard for the October Sessions recorded on 31-12-1832. These sums relate to cases 121 and 122, almost certainly in that order.

Bridgwater Borough Sessions October 1832

123. **John Turley, alias Samuel Dole**, charged with uttering. No further details are known.

Approval for prosecution at the October 1832 Bridgwater Sessions was given by the Mint Board on 5-9-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/24)

2 years

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment of £15-4-4 to J W Trevor on 31-12-1832.

Wells 1833 Epiphany Quarter Sessions 31-12-1832

124. **William Jones** (23), labourer, and **Ann Long** (25), widow, charged with having in their possession 6 counterfeit halfcrowns at Walcot, Bath.

Jones: 12 months in Shepton Mallet gaol

Long: 12 months in Ilchester gaol, released 31-12-1833

Prosecution approved by Mint Board 28-11-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Jeremy with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£25-19-6
Mr Page's account	£8-1-7
	£39-11-1

SHC QS/R 467: William Jones entered the ironmongery shop of John Ingram the elder at 10 London St, Walcot, Bath, on Saturday 13 October 1832 at between 7pm and 8pm. John Ingram junior was serving. Jones asked for a threepenny file and gave a halfcrown in payment. Ingram junior thought the coin was bad and was going to show his father, who was in a back room, at which point Jones called him back and said that he had enough change. He then decided that he had not. Jones said he would secure some more money and would call again. He left with the halfcrown which Ingram had given him back. Ingram told his father who found Thomas Wright, a police officer of Walcot parish. Wright saw Jones walking along Cleveland Place with Ann Long about 14 yards behind. He caught Jones who threw down two halfcrowns. Jones shouted to the woman 'spill Poll spill'. Long tried to run but was caught by three passers by. She threw down 4 counterfeit halfcrowns, two loose and two wrapped in a piece of rag.

125. **William Parker** (33), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Mary Ann Coombes in Bath.

1 year in Wilton gaol

SHC QS/R 467: Parker was associated with Mitchell and Fogg, case 126. He later made a confession on 13 November 1832 stating that he had been drawn into uttering by Fogg. Parker said that he had known Fogg for 3 years but had never met Mitchell prior to the previous Saturday. Parker visited Fogg in his lodgings where the latter was in the process of making halfcrowns with a tobacco pipe and mould with the assistance of Mitchell. Four to five halfcrowns were made over a period of two hours. Parker described the process: 'As soon as they were cast in the mould and whilst they were warm they were put into some kind of spirit & when they were taken out they were black & Mitchell then rubbed them with some sandpaper which made them white again and Fogg put the halfcrowns into his pockets.' Parker heard Fogg say that he would never make more halfcrowns than he thought he could dispose of in an evening. Parker admitted that he had received three or four halfcrowns from Fogg on the previous Tuesday, 6 November, and that he had accompanied Fogg and Mitchell on the following Thursday to the various places mentioned to 'dispose' of the coins.

Mary Ann Coombes was a servant at the Norfolk Tavern, Upper Bristol Road. Parker went in with two men 'just like' Fogg and Mitchell and ordered a pint of beer. Parker paid with a halfcrown which the landlord saw was base. The coin was returned, and Parker paid instead with a shilling saying 'I hope no offence. I know where I took it from. I took 5 and this is the last.'

126. **John Mitchell** (19), carpenter, and **Thomas Fogg** (24), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to John Sumsion in Bath.

Fogg: 2 years in Shepton Mallet gaol

Mitchell: 1 year in Shepton Mallet gaol

Prosecution approved by Mint Board 14-11-1832 (TNA ASSI 15/25)

SHC QS/R 467: On the evening of Tuesday 6 November 1832 Mitchell went into The Bell, Ballance St, Walcot, Bath, and asked John Sumsion for 2d of rum and a halfpenny worth of tobacco. He tendered a counterfeit halfcrown which looked bad and was refused and then gave a shilling which was accepted, and change was given. Sumsion's daughter Amelia Steaper was told to follow Mitchell. The latter was joined by Fogg and Parker. Steaper heard Mitchell say 'we must cut'. Mrs Steaper ceased following when they went into a field off Lansdown Road as she was afraid.

Mitchell, Parker and Fogg also went into the public house of George Gibbs, the New Inn, River St, Bath, where they bought sixpence worth of rum with a counterfeit halfcrown, and the beer house of Amelia Perris, 2 George's Place, Bath, where Mitchell bought half pint of beer with a halfcrown. The latter halfcrown was later examined and discovered to be counterfeit. Perris informed mayor's officer William Hall. Fogg admitted the charge but said he was drawn into it by the other two against his wife's advice.

John Sumsion alerted mayor's officer William Hall and the 3 were arrested within the next two days. Fogg lived in a lodging house in Avon St with a woman he said was his wife. When his room was searched 12 small ingots of mixed metal, other pieces of metal, Plaster of Paris and a defaced mould were found behind the head of the bed. Mitchell lived in Monmouth St.

Mitchell and Fogg were apprehended by Sumision and John Amesbury in the street. Ralph Dodd apprehended Parker at his lodgings in Avon St.

TNA MINT 15/12 combines the costs of Mitchell, Parker and Fogg:

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£43-6-0
Mr Taylor's account	£12-4-0
	£61-0-0

127. **Joseph Gooderidge** (32), labourer, charged with uttering counterfeit coin at Publow.
1 year, including 1 week solitary confinement, in Ilchester gaol. Released 31-12-1833. He had previously been tried and acquitted of a felony (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register 14/4, p. 248)

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Gooderidge was born in North Petherton and that his last abode was Bristol. He is described as a tea dealer.

SHC QS/R 467: Thomas Ponsford, innkeeper at Publow, said Goodridge asked for a pint of ale, paid for it with a shilling and was given change. Ponsford gave the shilling to Charles Hall, constable of Pensford. Hall searched Goodridge and found a bad shilling wrapped in paper and 9 pence in copper.

Goodridge had already been served with supper by Ponsford's wife Lucy. He had paid with a shilling which was believed counterfeit and was refused. He then paid with a good shilling.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£13-6-0
Mr Simmons account	£6-15-4
	£25-11-4

128. **Thomas Wall** (32), tanner, **Thomas Creed** (42), carpenter, charged with uttering two counterfeit halfcrowns and with having other counterfeit coin in their possession at Chew Magna.
Wall: 2 years in Wilton gaol
Creed: 2 years in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 467: The event took place at William Weeks' Bear and Swan Inn at Chew Magna on 18 December 1832. Weeks had had a busy day with an election dinner. Henry Price, waiter at the inn, served Creed and Wall with ale, the latter paid with a halfcrown. Price gave them 2/4d change. Creed asked if Weeks could change five shillings worth of copper into silver saying he had been lucky at begging. Weeks stated that he could and handed him money including the halfcrown that had just been given him by Wall in payment for beer. Creed said that the coin 'would not do', so he was given other coins. It then struck Weeks that he had received that coin from Wall, so he examined it and saw that it was bad. Weeks spoke to constable Hugh Peters who happened to be there, and Creed and Wall were arrested. Price believed the coin came from the same dies as the others found later, all were dated 1818. Wall was searched, no counterfeit coin was found but he did have £1-5-0d in shillings and sixpences and 1/3d in halfpence. Creed was searched and found to possess 46 counterfeit halfcrowns. The room hired for the night by Wall and Creed was searched, a linen bag was found containing 3 counterfeit shillings. Five counterfeit halfcrowns all from the same dies, were in the till, all derived from Creed. The total number of counterfeit coins appears to have been 52 halfcrowns and 3 shillings.

A voluntary statement was made by Wall, a native of Huntspill who had been living in Bristol for the previous six years. He had worked for Messrs Jenkins and Pool of Bedminster for 5 years but had resigned over disagreement with the foreman. He went to London for a while and then to Woolavington with his wife for 6 weeks. He returned to Bristol after which he went to look for work at a tan yard at Street. On the way he met Creed, also out of work. Whilst walking Creed stooped down and picked up something. He claimed he had found 'a prize', though he did not show Wall what it was.

Creed, from Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, made a voluntary statement. He had not worked for 3 years. His previous job had been in Cardiff, but he had been begging for the past six or seven months in Wales, Bristol and Bath. He had a wife and six children living in the parish of St Philips, Bristol. He said that after meeting Wall he had found two bags with money in. Creed said that he went to 'ease myself' under a tree in a field and there picked up two bags with money in them. Inside he found 20 to 30 halfcrowns, some good, some bad. He said that he gave Wall two or three good ones. They then walked to Chew Magna. Creed said that he and Wall did not know each other before but agreed to share accommodation in Chew Magna.

TNA MINT 15/12:

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£12-10-6
Messrs Hill & Williamson's account	<u>£8-6-5</u>
	£26-6-11

TNA MINT 3/72 records the combined payments made for the above Wells Sessions, ie cases 124-128:
On 18-1-1833:

J Page £39-11-1 for Jan. Sess.

J Taylor £58-18-11 „ „ „.

Hall & Williams £26-6-11 „ „.

On 1-2-1833:

J Symons £25-11-4 for Jan. Sess.

J Taylor £3-16-0 „ „ „.

1833

Taunton Lent Assizes 28-3-1833

129. **Robert Gillard alias Giller** (46), shoemaker, 'having in his possession a certain mould on which was impressed the figure or resemblance of the current silver coin of the realm.' at Bath.

Felony

2 years with hard labour in Wilton gaol. Gillard's brother William was convicted of uttering and received 6 months in Wilton gaol at the 1832 Bridgwater Easter Quarter Sessions (case 118).

TNA ASSI 25 24/4 for 18-12-1832 states that he was in possession of an obverse and a reverse mould of a halfcrown and an obverse and a reverse mould of sixpence, all described as 'impressed'.

TNA ASSI 21/57 has a second charge crossed out, concerning possession of a mould impressed with the obverse of a shilling on 1 November 1832 in the parish of Walcot. This case would appear to have been dropped.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 4 April 1833 reports that Mr Jeremy and Mr Moody conducted the prosecution. Following instructions, mayor's officer Robert Tothill had gone to 4 Peter St, Bath, at about 4.30pm on 18 December 1832. Gillard was in the front room upstairs with his mother, wife and two children. When Gillard saw Tothill he ran into the back room where Tothill saw him take something white out of a cupboard which he tried to break, some pieces fell to the floor. Tothill seized Gillard and took the mould, there was a halfcrown and sixpence in it. Tothill searched the cupboard and found a canister containing plaster of Paris.

Mr Powell of the Mint said that the mould had the impression of the obverse and reverse of a halfcrown and sixpence.

Gillard's brother, William, who had been convicted of uttering in Bath at the 1832 Bridgwater Quarter Sessions (case 118), gave evidence at the trial implying that Tothill had planted the moulds.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Atty. Gen. And clerk with case	£2-4-6
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Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£5-7-6
Mr Moody	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment etc	£4-6-2
Witnesses	£27-15-0
Magistrates clerks fees	<u>£3-8-0</u>
	£46-6-8

130. **Reuben Hopkins**, labourer, from the parish of Walcot. Reference to this case comes from TNA ASSI 25 24/4.

Hopkins was charged that on 1 November 1832 he was in possession of mould impressed with the obverse of a shilling, another with the reverse of a shilling, and also a mould impressed with the obverse of a sixpence and one with the reverse of a sixpence. The calendar for these assizes is not in SHC.

The *Sherborne Mercury* for 1 April 1833 reports that the indictment was quashed as the result of an ‘informality’ but ‘another bill was subsequently found on which he was tried and convicted.’

2 years with hard labour.

Cases 129 and 130 are almost certainly connected in some way.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Atty. Gen. And clerk with case	£3-5-6
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£5-7-6
The like on 2 nd Indictment	£3-5-6
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
The like on 2 nd Indictment	£2-4-6
Passing Indictment etc	£7-0-2
Witnesses	£21-6-0
Magistrates clerks fees	<u>£2-2-0</u>
	£47-16-8

131. **Ann Wallace** (19), spinster, charged with unlawfully uttering a counterfeit shilling to George Brown on 19 March 1833 in the parish of St Peter and St Paul, Bath, and with uttering another counterfeit shilling to Hriet Ballinger on the same day in the same parish.
18 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 4 April 1833 reports that a police officer had been directed to watch Wallace. He saw her enter two shops. After she had left, he went in and collected the counterfeit shilling she had passed in each. He pursued her and took her into custody. He found a counterfeit shilling wrapped in paper in her hand and a gilt sixpence in her ‘bosom’. Wallace said that a man had given her the money and she didn’t know it was counterfeit.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Passing Indictment	£4-2-0
Witnesses	£24-10-4
Magistrates clerks fees	£1-4-6
Chaise hire & expenses to attend this and last mentioned [R Hopkins] prosecution, absent 8 days.	<u>£29-6-6</u> £65-3-4

The last item obviously relates to expenses incurred by C E Powell’s attendance.

TNA MINT 3/72 records payment on 25-3-1833 of £90-0-0 to Mr Powell for the Taunton Assizes. Payment of £49-3-6 to Wm. Hall, Mayor’s Officer, for three prosecutions at the Taunton Lent Assizes is recorded for 18-6-1833.

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 6-8-1833

132. **Mary Ann Godden alias Stillman** (25), married, charged with uttering two counterfeit halfcrowns to Mary Harris and Sarah Courtney in the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton, on 11 July 1833.
Acquitted.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£12-2-0
Mr Pinchard's account	<u>£10-17-6</u>
	£28-9-6

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 14-10-1833

133. **Michael M'Cann** (29), labourer, of Taunton, charged with having in his possession three counterfeit shillings with intent to utter in Taunton.
6 months in Wilton gaol. Earlier in the year he had received 14 days for assault.

SHC QS/R 470: Aaron Smetham, innkeeper at the White Lion, East St, Taunton, helped to apprehend M'Cann who offered violent resistance. Smetham searched him and found 7 sovereigns, £1-1-6d in silver, some halfpence and 3 counterfeit shillings wrapped separately in brown paper. M'Cann's wife attempted to snatch them away saying they had been found in the road. Smetham's statement is dated 31 August 1833.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£1-10-6
Mr Pinchard's account	<u>£5-2-0</u>
	£12-2-6

Wells 1834 Epiphany Quarter Sessions 30-12-1833

134. **John French** (26), ropemaker, and **Mary Ann Shippick** (30), married, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Edward Thomas at Shepton Mallet.
Shippick was also charged with uttering another halfcrown to Anne King.
French: 9 months in Wilton gaol
Shippick: 8 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 471: French tried to purchase bread and bacon with a bad halfcrown from Edward Thomas, a shopkeeper at Shepton Mallet, on 17-10-1833.

Shippick was accused of trying to purchase goods at Ann King's shop in Shepton Mallet with a counterfeit halfcrown, something which she had tried to do before. During the incident that arose when Shippick was challenged French arrived on the scene and Joseph King, Ann's son, a tailor, locked the door and called the constable. French had already been into Ann King's shop and bought produce with a halfcrown.

James Pitman, constable at Shepton Mallet, arrived to find French waiting outside King's locked door. King let Pitman and French in. French was searched and £2-6-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, all good money was found.

Shippick had also tried to purchase half a pound of cheese with a halfcrown from Caroline Whitmarsh at her shop in Shepton Mallet. Whitmarsh thought the coin was bad and said that she did not have change to give. Shippick said she would find her husband and get change. Shippick and French, who were not in fact married, were then seen walking away very quickly.

James Clark, constable of Shepton Mallet, also attended. Shippick was searched, nothing was found. Once in custody Shippick admitted that French had given her the two halfcrowns. Ten minutes later

Thomas Lumber, a carpenter at Shepton Mallet, handed in a handkerchief in which two halfcrowns, six shillings and two sixpences were wrapped, all were bad. They were found at a place Lumber had seen French standing and searching his pockets prior to events in King's shop.

Clark stated that the night before they were arrested French and Shippick came up from Bridport having stopped at Castle Cary on the way. Shippick said that she was from Bridport. Her husband had left her 4 years previously, she had no work. She met French about a month before the incident, he told her he was a papermaker and brickmaker and that he had no work in Dorset. He promised to marry her. They had travelled for a fortnight and three days before reaching Shepton Mallet.

French made no defence.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£21-12-0
Messrs Phipps and Hyatt's account	<u>£11-16-11</u>
	£38-18-11

135. **John Lismore** (24), labourer, charged with uttering two counterfeit shillings at Widcombe, Bath. 3 months in Shepton Mallet gaol. This could be the John Lismore in case 141. If so, he returned to uttering immediately after his release from gaol.

SHC QS/R 471: Mary Ann Lloyd kept a small shop in Queen's Terrace, Widcombe. At about 8pm on 21 December 1853 Lismore went in and asked for a pennyworth of cheese for which he paid with a shilling. Lloyd didn't have change so called upstairs to her lodger, Leonard Edwards, to ask if he could assist. Edwards sent his daughter Eleanor down with two sixpences. Eleanor took the shilling up to her father and Lismore left. Shortly afterwards Eleanor came running downstairs saying: 'Oh Mrs Lloyd my father says this is a scandalous bad shilling.' Lloyd ran after Lismore and overtook him about 200 yards away. She seized him by the collar and demanded good money for the shilling. Lloyd called for assistance and Lismore was taken into custody. Lismore had left the cheese on the shop's counter.

Lismore had also bought apples from Ann Langford's shop at Lyncombe and Widcombe where he was served by Langford's niece Mary Grist. Lismore paid with a shilling and was given change. This coin was discovered to be counterfeit when Thomas Coles, who had taken Lismore into custody, went to the shop on the same evening to enquire whether any apples had been sold recently.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£31-11-0
Mr Page's account	<u>£8-18-10</u>
	£45-19-10

1834

Taunton Lent Assizes 2-4-1834

136. **John Bray Huxtable** (25), tailor (TNA ASSI 25 23/4 describes him as a labourer) of Wiveliscombe, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Esther Tristam at Wiveliscombe on 11 January 1834 and with having another counterfeit halfcrown in his possession. TNA ASSI 25 23/4 records that he was acquitted of uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Jane Bale on the same day in Wiveliscombe. 1 year with hard labour in Ilchester gaol, released 2-4-1835. He had previously been convicted of felony at Bristol but had escaped during the riots.

TNA MINT15/12

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£30-10-0

Mr Payne's account	<u>£16-3-7</u>
	£52-3-7

137. **Margaret Stevens** (22), married (TNA ASSI 25 23/4 describes her as a spinster) of Corston, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Ann Bence on 13 February 1834 at Corston and on same day uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Susannah Rapple.
1 year with hard labour in Ilchester gaol, released 2-4-1835

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Stevens was a traveller born in Devonport and whose last residence was Bath.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£69-16-2
Mr Page's account	<u>£13-9-9</u>
	£88-15-11

138. **William Hiscocks** (20), labourer of Beckington, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown (TNA ASSI 25 23/4 records the coin as a shilling) to Anne Brewer on 28 February 1834 in the parish of Beckington.
1 year in Ilchester gaol.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Hiscocks was born and resident in Frome.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£25-11-0
Mr Taylor's account	<u>£15-7-1</u>
	£46-8-1

139. **Mary Ann Pleass** of the parish of St Peter and St Paul, Bath, wife of John, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Mary Lewton in the parish of St Peter and St Paul, Bath, on 28 December 1833. 12 months with hard labour.

Information on this case comes from TNA ASSI 21/58. It was not listed in the assize calendar nor was Pleass mentioned amongst the cases tried in the Taunton or Bath newspapers.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Pleass was a labourer born in Nether Stowey whose last residence was Bath.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£41-5-10
Mr Taylor's account	<u>£12-1-10</u>
	£58-17-8

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 21-4-1834

140. **Matilda Vickers** (21), single, charged with uttering two counterfeit shillings to Elizabeth Webb and Mary Anne Ashby in Walcot, Bath.
3 months in Ilchester gaol, released 21-7-1834

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Vickers was a traveller born near Canterbury and that her last residence was Bath.

SHC QS/R 472: Vickers went into the haberdasher's shop of William and Elizabeth Webb, St James St, Walcot, Bath, on 5 April at about 8pm and asked for tape costing 3d. She paid with a shilling and then asked for a halfpenny's worth of cotton. Mrs Webb believed the shilling was base. Vickers denied it and Elizabeth Webb accepted it. Vickers left the Webbs' shop and went to Mary Ann Ashley's shop in Marlborough St, near St James's Square, where she asked for two eggs costing three halfpence, she paid with a shilling. Mrs Ashley recognised the coin as bad, refused to accept it and put it on the counter. At that moment policeman John Ford arrived and took the shilling. He had been alerted by the watchman, Sylvester Parker, who had seen Vickers with a male accomplice who had given her what he presumed was money and who had appeared suspicious. The watchmen had followed Vickers to Mrs Webb's shop. He went in after Vickers had left and enquired about what had occurred. Parker looked at the shilling received by Mrs Webb and said it wasn't 'worth a farthing'. Parker alerted John Ford who arrested Vickers and took her to Webb's shop to collect the shilling which Webb first marked.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£23-10-0
Mr Page's account	£8-10-2
	£37-10-2

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 30-6-1834

141. **John Skinner** (20), labourer, **Joseph Harman** (20), labourer, and **John Lismore** (23), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Anne King at Shepton Mallet. Harman was also charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Mary Hutchins.
Acquitted

SHC QS/R 473: Anne King, a shopkeeper, said Skinner went to her shop on 14 April 1834 to buy bread and a pig's foot costing a total of 3d. Skinner paid with a shilling and she gave 9d change. Elizabeth King, spinster, said that Harman went into her mother's shop on 14 April to buy half a pound of pork and a loaf for 6d. He paid with a halfcrown and change was given. On inspection Anne and Elizabeth found both the halfcrown and shilling were counterfeit.

Mrs King asked George Richmond, constable at Shepton Mallet, to apprehend Skinner, Harman and Lismore.

Mary Coles, wife of George Coles landlord of the Sun Inn, Shepton Mallet, said the three prisoners went to the Sun Inn on 14 April. Lismore asked for a bed at the inn and then returned to the tap room to join the others. Harman went out for about quarter of an hour, when he came back they all left together for about three quarters of an hour. They returned with bread and meat and ordered more beer. Shortly afterwards the constable arrived and took them into custody. A base shilling was found near to where they had been sitting.

Mary Hutchins, shopkeeper at Shepton Mallet, said Lismore bought four eggs on 14 April costing 3d, he paid with a shilling and received change. Hutchins later examined the coin and found it to be base. Having marked the coin, she gave it to constable Richmond.

In voluntary statements made on 19 April 1834 Skinner said that on Monday 14 April he was travelling from Bristol to Frome via Shepton Mallet to seek work. He said that he had been given two shillings and 14 pence by a Charles Brown in Bristol for cleaning his hat. He met up with Lismore on the way to Shepton Mallet. Harman had been to Pill, near Bristol, to see his cousin off to sea. His cousin gave him four shillings. From Pill he was going to Glastonbury via Shepton Mallet. Lismore was from Frome, he said that he met up with Skinner and Harman on the way to Shepton Mallet. They took lodgings together.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£18-9-3

Messrs Phipps and Hyatt's account	<u>£13-8-1</u>
	£37-7-4

142. **Mary Ann Williams** (20), spinster, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Isaac Golledge in Bath.
6 months in Wilton gaol

SHC QS/R 473: At about 9pm on 20 June 1834 Mary Ann Williams went into Richard Hill's linen draper's shop, 6 Cheap St, Bath. She was served by apprentice James Williams. M A Williams asked to look at some handkerchiefs. She chose one costing 10d and paid with a halfcrown. J Williams thought the coin was base and showed it to Hill who confirmed that it was. J Williams asked M A Williams if she had any other money, she said she hadn't. He then asked where she had acquired the coin, she said from a gentleman. M A Williams said she would leave the coin and handkerchief, get more money and return. When she had gone J Williams went to the Guildhall to see Ralph Dodd, Mayor's officer, to report what had occurred. Dodd returned to the shop with him. J Williams marked the coin and gave it to Dodd.

On 24 June at about 6pm M A Williams went into tea dealer Isaac Golledge's shop, 28 Stall St, and asked for half an ounce of tea costing 2d. She paid with a shilling. Golledge saw that it was base and asked if she had any other money. M A Williams said no but would go and get some. Golledge kept the shilling. M A Williams left but did not return. She had told Golledge she was living in lodgings in Avon St. About an hour later Golledge saw mayor's officer Miller passing his shop, he called to him and informed him of events. Golledge marked coin and gave it to Miller.

Miller and Dodd went in search of M A Williams on the morning of 25 June. They found her in bed in lodgings at 63 Avon St. They found a packet under her pillow containing a counterfeit sixpence and 5d in copper. M A Williams denied having been involved in the offences.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£19-13-2
Mr P George's account	<u>£9-1-0</u>
	£34-4-2

Wells Lammas Assizes 9-8-1834

143. **Mary Collings** (28), married, from the parish of St James, Bath, charged with uttering a counterfeit crown on 2 August 1834 to Mary Ann Lewis in the parish of St James, Bath, and on 9 August 1834 a counterfeit crown to William Taylor.
12 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£21-0-6
Mr George's account	<u>£11-12-7</u>
	£38-3-1

144. **Joseph Palmer** (24), labourer of the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton, charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence to Elizabeth Hardy in the same parish on 6 August 1834 and with having another counterfeit sixpence in his possession.
2 years with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol, last fortnight to be in solitary.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£13-16-6
Mr Pinchard's account	<u>£12-2-4</u>

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 13-10- 1834

145. **John Fricker** (22), gardener, charged with having 3 counterfeit shillings in his possession in Bath.
3 months in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 474: Robert Tothill, mayor's officer for Bath City market, went to the Pierpoint St lodgings of Fricker where he searched him and found two counterfeit shillings and sandpaper to coarsen the coins in his waistcoat pockets. In another of the waistcoat's pockets was found a third counterfeit shilling wrapped in paper. In Fricker's room he found a brush which appeared to be for finishing off coins. Fricker said that he picked the coins up on Kings Down. When asked what he meant by picking them up he said: 'a man had endeavoured to pass one of them on the Down but being detected threw them away'. He said they were wrapped in paper when he picked them up. Fricker had no good money. The counterfeit coins were all dated 1819 and described as recently made.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Jeremy and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Moody	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£7-10-6
Mr George's account	<u>£5-7-3</u>
	£18-7-9

Bridgwater Borough Sessions October 1834

146. **Fanny Chorley** and **Mary Hill** charged with uttering counterfeit silver. The reference to this case comes from TNA MINT 15/12.
Chorley was sentenced to 9 months in gaol and Hill to 6 months. The case was not reported in the local newspapers.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Trevor and clerk with brief	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£3-13-6
Mr Trevor's account	<u>£11-19-0</u>
	£17-17-0

1835

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 23-3-1835

147. **George Counter** (16), labourer, charged with having eight counterfeit shillings in his possession in Bath.
1 year in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 476: Robert Tothill, one of the mayor's officers in the City of Bath, said Counter was 'involved in the uttering or making of base coin'. He arrested him in a house in Wine St on 28 February 1835. Tothill searched Counter and found eight counterfeit shillings in his pocket all dated 1819 and appearing to have been made in the same 'mould'. Counter claimed to have found them on the same day wrapped in a rag in Kingsmead Square. Tothill described the coins as being 'in a fit state for circulation'. There are no other statements, the circumstances surrounding Counter's arrest are therefore unknown.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£6-5-6
Mr George's account	<u>£4-10-10</u>
	£14-1-10

William Kinglake of Mount Street, Taunton, was almost certainly the attorney the attorney referred to.

148. **Eliza Burgess** (16), spinster, charged with having one counterfeit shilling and four counterfeit sixpences in her possession in Bath.
1 year in Ilchester gaol, released 23-3-1836.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Burgess was a hawker born and resident in Bath.

SHC QS/R 476: At about 8pm on 28 February 1835 Susanna Greenland went into John Stephens' grocer's shop at 32 Stall St, Bath, at about 8pm to buy half a pound of sugar. She paid with a shilling which Stephens recognised as base. The latter asked Greenland where she had obtained the coin, she replied from Burgess who was just outside the shop. Stephens asked Burgess where she obtained the coin, she said at the market in change for potatoes. Stephens and Burgess went to the market, but Burgess said that the person concerned had gone. Stephens thought Burgess a common utterer and handed her over to mayor's officer Robert Tothill. Tothill saw Burgess put a handkerchief on a seat beside her, he picked it up and underneath found one counterfeit shilling and four counterfeit sixpences wrapped in paper. The shilling was dated 1819 and the sixpences all bore the date 1816. All of the coins were in a state fit for circulation. Burgess said she had picked them up in Westgate St earlier in the day. The shilling uttered to Stephens was also dated 1819.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£8-13-6
Mr George's account	<u>37-15-2</u>
	£19-14-2

149. **Joseph Birth** (18), mason, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to William Bendall in Bath.
1 year in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 476: On 28 February 1835 at about 8.45pm Birth went into Vera Hayward's husband's shop at 1 Barton St, Bath, and bought 1d worth of oysters with a halfcrown. Hayward was suspicious of the coin, but Birth argued back and eventually received his change and left. The coin had a crack across the face. The following morning Hayward took the coin to the mayor's officers.

At about 7pm on 2 March 1835 Birth went into William Bendall's shop, 23 Westgate St, Bath, and bought a loaf of bread with a counterfeit shilling. Bendall questioned him and Birth said he had received the coin earlier that day at Trowbridge. The following day Bendall took the coin to mayor's officer Tothill who agreed that the coin was bad.

The halfcrown was dated 1817 and the shilling 1820. Nothing was found when Tothill searched Birth and his lodgings.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£19-3-6
Mr George's account	<u>£9-0-10</u>
	£31-9-10

Taunton Lent Assizes 31-3-1835

150. **William Griffiths** (28), weaver (TNA ASSI 25 24/10 describes him as a labourer) in Bedminster, charged with unlawfully making and having in his possession 5 counterfeit halfcrowns and 32 counterfeit sixpences on 15 December 1834. TNA ASSI 25 24/10 gives the totals as 5 sixpences and 3 halfcrowns which was presumably the numbers for which he was charged. TNA ASSI 25 24/10 records that Griffiths was in possession of an obverse mould and a reverse mould described as being 'impressed' with a halfcrown.
Transported for life. Ilchester Gaol Felons Register (SHC Q/AGi 14/5, page 97) states that he was 'Removed to the 'Leviathan' Hulk, Portsmouth 11th May 1835'. TNA HO 11/10 page 74 records that he sailed for New South Wales on the *England* on 6 June 1835, there were 230 prisoners on board.

Griffiths was one of a group of fifteen prisoners being taken in a ‘van’ and accompanied by three guards to a hulk at Portsmouth on 11 May. On reaching Totton, on the outskirts of Southampton, there was a sudden shouting as four prisoners had escaped and were being chased by two guards. Griffiths was amongst the escapees. The prisoners had each been secured with leg irons and a chain fixed at either end of the van passed through each leg iron. Griffiths had obtained a saw from a friend prior to departure and used it to cut through the leg irons and to cut a hole in the bottom of the van. Three prisoners, ‘notorious housebreakers’, escaped along with Griffiths, though the latter was quickly recaptured. Amongst the surviving statements taken following this occurrence is one by Griffiths, the only one from a prisoner:

‘The Statement of William Griffiths one of the Prisoners who attempted to make his Escape from Van when being conveyed from Ilchester Gaol to the Hulks at Portsmouth.

When I was taken into custody and conveyed to Gates’s Lock up House at Bedminster two spring saws conveyed to me by a friend which I concealed in the collar of my coat previous to leaving the Gaol at Ilchester. I cut my own Irons about half way through, these were the only irons that were cut in the Prison, the Irons of James Rose, Charles Lucas and Charles Lewis were cut in the Van by the same saw, and no knife was used for that purpose, the bottom of the van was also cut with the same Instrument and everything was accomplished for effecting the escape by the time we reached Salisbury, the only persons that knew of my being in possession of the saw were the three Prisoners above named, who effected their escape. I have only to add that the saw was thrown away by me when I was taken in running away from the van.’ (SHC Q/AGi 16/4)

The statement was taken to the hulk *Leviathan* on 21 May 1835. Griffiths signed it with his mark, a cross.

TNA MINT 15/12 (reported 18-2-1835)	
Mr Attorney General & Clerk with Case	2-4-6
Mr Moody & Clerk with Brief	5-7-6
The like on 2nd Indict.	2-4-6
Mr Jardine & Clerk with Brief	3-5-6
The like on 2nd Indict.	1-3-6
Passing Indictments etc	4-18-8
Witnesses	41-4-6
Magistrates Clerks fees	4-12-0
Chaise hire & Expenses to attend this	
Prosecution absent 7 days	<u>25-10-6</u>
	90-11-2

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 8-8-1835

151. **John Turley, alias Samuel Dole,** (56), tailor, charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence to Sarah Marks on 16 July 1835, a counterfeit sixpence to William Cosby and to Job Thomas and with having other counterfeit money in his possession. The offences were committed in Yeovil.
7 years transportation, he had previously been convicted and imprisoned for two years for a similar offence, see Bridgwater Sessions October 1832 (123).

Ilchester Gaol Felon Register (SHC Q/AGi 14/5, page 110) states that he was ‘Removed to the ‘York’ Hulk, Gosport 1st September 1835’. TNA HO 11/10 page 192 records that he sailed for New South Wales on the *Recovery* on 26 October 1835, there were 280 convicts on board.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£17-5-0
Mr Slade’s account	<u>£17-5-0</u>
	£48-1-4

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 19-10-1835

152. **Samuel Wilkins** (22), labourer, and **Joseph Gibbons** (20), labourer, charged with having 74 counterfeit halfcrowns in their possession with intent to utter at Taunton.
 Wilkins: 1 year in Ilchester gaol, released 19-10-1836
 Gibbons: 1 year in Wilton gaol.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that Wilkins was born in London and that his last residence was Taunton.

SHC QS/R 478: William Brannan, tailor and clerk of the Mendicity Office in St James, Taunton, stated that Wilkins went to the office with a ticket at about 6.45pm to obtain relief. Brannan felt suspicious of Wilkins when registering him. Wilkins told Brannan that he had been in Exeter gaol for a fortnight for begging and had been released two weeks previously. Brannan asked Wilkins about a parcel which he was trying to hide under his coat. He was told that it contained bread and cheese. Wilkins said that he had no money. Brannan decided to search Wilkins and took him upstairs. He made him strip but found nothing. While doing this Brannan was called by his wife who had found the parcel which had been left by Wilkins in the first room, it was wrapped in black cotton and tied with string. When Brannan opened it he found 73 halfcrowns. The coins were divided into four separate parcels packed tightly so they would not rattle. When Brannan left the Office with Wilkins to have him placed under lock and key at the Nook, they met Richard Turle, a grocer and manager of the Mendicity Office for the month. All three went to Mr Bluett's wine and spirits merchant's shop to count the coins which Turle took into his care. While in the shop Wilkins said that if he was 'to be done anything with, it is but fair that my companion should suffer as well.' Wilkins said that he and Gibbons had travelled from London when they were arrested and gaoled for begging in Exeter. To help them find Gibbons, Wilkins stated that he was wearing a blue coat and olive trousers. Having had Wilkins placed in the Nook, Brannan and Turle found Gibbons looking for the Mendicity Office. They took him to it. Brannan asked Gibbons what money he had on him and he said a few halfpence. Brannan said he would have to search him at which point Gibbons said he possessed a bad halfcrown which proved to be true. Gibbons was taken to the Nook.

Brannan reported that all of the halfcrowns, including that found on Gibbon, 'appear to be of the same date and die'. No further details are recorded except that Turle noted that the coin held by Gibbon was 'cleaner and fitter for passing'. Wilkins claimed to have been given the package of coins by a man near Honiton.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£7-5-6
Mr Pinchard's account	<u>£7-3-11</u>
	£19-19-5

1836

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 4-1-1836

153. **Elizabeth Thompson** (34), married, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to John Cogan at Yeovil.
 Discharged as an ignoramus (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register).

SHC QS/R 480: At between 6pm and 7pm on Saturday 19 December Thompson went into Benjamin Ryall's mercer's shop in Yeovil where she was served by John Cogan, an apprentice. Thompson asked to look at some lace. She purchased a dozen yards for 2/3d and paid with a halfcrown. Cogan had to go to a neighbour for change and it was then that he discovered it was counterfeit. On being confronted Thompson argued that she had given him two shillings and a sixpence but could not recognise the coins in the till when questioned. She was arrested. Before handing the halfcrown over to constable George Hill, Cogan marked it.

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 28-3-1836

154. **Michael McGrath** (19), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Harriet Smith and having uttered another counterfeit halfcrown to George Cox in Bath.
4 months in Shepton Mallet gaol, including 1 week in solitary confinement.

SHC QS/R 481: On Friday 15 January 1836 at between 8pm and 9pm McGrath bought a 1d loaf from Harriet Smith while she was serving in William Clement's confectioner's shop in Westgate St, Bath, and paid with a halfcrown. Smith thought it was base, but McGrath insisted that it was genuine. Smith asked Giles Smith to examine the coin the following day. The halfcrown was dated 1818 and in a fit state for circulation.

On 16 January 1836 at 6.30pm McGrath went into George Cox's hatter's shop, Stall St, and requested a cap costing a shilling. He gave a halfcrown in payment which Cox held up to the gas light. Cox then took it across the road to Mr Hayden's shop at 29 Stall St. They both agreed it was base and went to apprehend McGrath who, by then, was outside Cox's shop. On the way to hand him over to a constable, McGrath got one hand free and threw down a coin. This was retrieved by Hayden, it proved to be counterfeit and from the same mould as the coin passed to Cox.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Bere and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£10-18-10
Mr George's account	<u>£8-10-0</u>
	£24-18-10

Taunton Lent Assizes 2-4-1836

155. **Robert Way** (31), innkeeper, charged with 'feloniously and falsely' making a quantity of counterfeit halfcrowns, and with having 14 counterfeit halfcrowns in his possession at Somerton.
'Convicted of uttering a counterfeit halfcrown &c at Somerton and sentenced to be transported for life' (*Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 13 April 1836). The case was heard at the Taunton Assizes on 2 April 1836.

TNA ASSI 25 25/4 states that Way was convicted of possessing two obverse and two reverse moulds 'impressed' to make halfcrowns. He was prosecuted for having made a halfcrown on 1 January 1836. Way was landlord of the Bear Inn, Somerton, from *circa* 1830.

Ilchester Gaol Felons Register (SHC Q/AGi 14/5, page 147) records that Way was moved to the hulk *York* at Gosport on 4 May 1836. TNA HO 11/10, page 330 records that he sailed on the *Henry Porcher* to Van Dieman's Land on 1 August 1836. There were 260 convicts on board. He arrived on 15 November 1836.

The *Sherborne Mercury* for 11 April 1836 reports the case in some detail. Charles Caines, aged about 15 years and a labourer from Yeovil, stated that on 22 December 1835 he went to the Bear Inn, Somerton, and was asked by Way where he was going. Caines replied that he was going to Bristol 'to see about some shuffle' (base coin). Way offered to 'make me plenty at 5s per lb. or would show me the way for a sovereign.' Way said that he would make him a mould before he left. Caines took the mould with his. Way needed metal for making the coins and asked Caines to go to Mr Hanham's in Yeovil and acquire some in the form of 'old mettle teapots, teaspoons, &c.' This was probably Josiah Hanham, ironmonger of Borough, Yeovil. Caines returned to the Bear Inn on the following Sunday (27 December) with the metal by which time Way had made another mould. Stocks of plaster of Paris were low but Way 'did not like to send for more plaster of Paris, less they should have a jealous thought of him.' Caines failed to take the first mould back with him to Somerton and Way asked him to go back to Yeovil to fetch it. Caines said that he had had a misfortune, his hat had fallen off and as a result he had broken the mould which he had then thrown into the 'Ilchester river'. Way said that he would obtain more plaster of Paris prior to Caines' next visit on 29 December. On his return to Yeovil Caines reported events to his father and constable Thomas Holt. On 29th his father accompanied him to Somerton, and they stayed at the Bear Inn from the Tuesday to the following Monday. On the Wednesday Caines junior observed Way making a mould for casting halfcrowns. 'Prisoner took a good

halfcrown from his pocket, laid it on a glass something like a looking glass, had a piece of pasteboard and put it round the halfcrown, and poured out some plaster of Paris on the top of it.' The mould was left near a fire to dry. On the Friday 'Mrs Way melted the metal, prisoner held the mould while his wife poured the metal in; after several were cast she trimmed them. The wife helped to make 12 or 13. She did not please the prisoner in her way of doing it, and he desired her to go down and send up the servant maid; she did so. The servant then melted the metal and poured it into the mould, as Mrs Way had done before her, and also trimmed them after the halfcrowns were cast; 39 were now made altogether; the prisoner counted 38 only, because my father had before taken up one and put it in his pocket; prisoner then took the mould down into the bar, and placed it under the beer engine. The money that was cast prisoner took into the bar, and put it into the drawer.'

Thomas Holt took Way into custody and searched the premises. Seven counterfeit halfcrowns were found in the drawers of a dresser and more were discovered 'in the head of the bed'. Holt noticed marks similar to plaster of Paris or chalk on the floor of an upstairs room. Henry Fletch who, with Thomas Roskelly, accompanied Holt to the Bear Inn found four more halfcrowns 'in the tester of the bed in the back room' and four others at the head of the bed from which Holt had already recovered some. Roskelly found an unspecified number of counterfeit halfcrowns. Way escaped during the search, details of his recapture are not given.

The trial was attended by the 'Assistant Solicitor to the Mint, and inspector of counterfeit coin' who confirmed that the pieces before the court were cast counterfeits.

Way submitted a petition to The Right Honourable Lord Russell, Principal to Secretary of State for the Home Department in an attempt to overturned or reduced. This was on the basis that Way had a wife and four infant children without means of support and an irreproachable character prior to this accusation. 'Your Petitioner does not deny his guilt in imprudently making a Mould but does, the intention of passing the Money counterfeited; in proof of which no evidence either was, or could, he produced to shew that he had passed any bad money at any time, although his opportunities of doing so, as an Innkeeper, were very greate.' Way's argument in the petition was based on this, his previous term as an inn keeper at Yeovil and the fact that he had served in the C Division of the London Police 'where from his exemplary conduct and faithful discharge of his duty, he can confidently refer to his superiors, and was only discharged therefrom at his own request.' (TNA HO 17/85/2). The petition was signed by 73 people in support.

There was also a petition 'To the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain' from the prosecutor and jury involved with Way's trial '... humbly to state that he has left a widow and four children wholly unprovided for and that we think a lesser punishment than that at present awarded him would sufficiently atone for his offence, we therefore entreat your consideration of the present distressing case and venture to hope that his present sentence may be mitigated in such manner as your Lordship may seem most proper.' This petition is dated 27 June 1836. (TNA HO 17/85/2).

Residents of Somerton also sent a petition to The Right Honourable Lord Melbourne. Their argument was that 'the instrumentality of his infamous accuser, who urged the prisoner to the deed' should result in a reduced sentence. Those signing the petition had known Way for many years, in some cases from his childhood. Their hope was that for the sake of Way's 'widow and orphan family' that the sentence will be reduced. The petition was signed by 51 local people (TNA HO 17/85/2). All was to no avail and Way was transported.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Attorney General and clerk with case	£3-5-6
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£7-9-6
The like on 2 nd Indictment	£2-4-6
Mr [no name] and clerk with brief	£5-7-6
The like on 2 nd Indictment	£1-3-6
The like on Motion	£1-3-6
Passing Indictments etc	£8-11-4
Witnesses	£77-7-0
Magistrates clerk's fees	£19-12-10
Chaise hire and expenses to attend the	

prosecution, absent eight days	<u>£25-8-6</u>
	£151-13-8

Wells Midsummer Quarter Sessions 4-7-1836

156. **William White** (18), cordwainer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Martha Trotman at Frome.
1 year in Ilchester gaol, released 27-7-1837. White had a previous conviction for a felony.

Ilchester Gaol Description Book (SHC Q/AGi/15) records that White was a tailor born in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, and that his last abode was Frome.

SHC QS/R 483: On Thursday 9 June 1836 at about 8.15pm Martha Trotman was in a room adjoining her father's currier's shop in Whittox Lane, Frome, when White entered. He purchased a pair of 'iron tips' for a penny giving Martha a halfcrown which she immediately recognised as counterfeit and refused to accept. She described it as 'a very bad one' which when dropped on the floor sounded like a piece of lead. White said he had just received it at a neighbour's shop and would go away and change it. He did not return.

White also went into the nearby shop of Richard Grist, baker, on Catherine Hill, and asked for a pie costing one penny. He put a halfcrown on the counter, then took it back saying he thought he had the right money. He then said that he did not and put a halfcrown down again. Grist immediately noticed that this coin, unlike the first, was base. John Clark, tithe-man, happened to be passing and White was taken into custody. When White was searched Clark found on him a small piece of metal in his breeches pocket which he believed to be pewter, its significance was not elaborated on.

TNA MINT 15/12	
Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Hobhouse	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£10-15-6
Mr Davis' account	<u>£11-18-9</u>
	£28-4-3

1837

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 2-1-1837

157. **John James** (23), cabinet maker, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to James Cheston in Bath.
2 years in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 486: On 12 November 1836 at between 6pm and 7pm James was served by Susanna Jaques, wife of Henry Jaques of the Albion Tavern, Westgate St, in the parish of St Peter and St Paul, Bath. James asked for 2d worth of rum which he drank before paying with a halfcrown. She took the coin to better light in order to inspect and establish that it was genuine, which it proved to be. Jones then called her back saying he had two pence in halfpennies. Jaques gave back the coin whereupon James discovered that he did not have the correct change and gave back a halfcrown. Again, she took it to the light and found this time it to be counterfeit. She informed him that if a constable had been present, she would have had him taken into custody. James then said that he did have enough halfpennies and paid. Jaques took the money but would not return the bad halfcrown. James said he would go and find the person who had given the coin to him. Jaques marked the coin.

John Perry, butcher in Princes St, served James on 12 November 1836 in his shop. James went in at between 6pm and 7pm. He bought a breast of mutton for sixpence, paid with a halfcrown, was given change and left. After James had departed Perry looked at the coin and saw it was base. At about 11pm William Hall, mayor's officer, arrived and asked if any bad money had been passed as 'there is a person in custody charged with having passed base coin'.

James Cheston, grocer of 12 Monmouth St, served James on 12 November 1836 in his shop. James bought half a pound of fresh butter which he paid for with a counterfeit halfcrown. Cheston did not realise the coin was counterfeit until the following day, it was the only halfcrown that he had. He took the coin to William Hall at the Guildhall having first marked it.

James was arrested by constable William Duck in a shop in Union St on suspicion of having passed counterfeit coin. Duck searched him but only found twopence halfpenny in change.

All three counterfeit coins were dated 1818 and the two coins received by Hall are described as being from the same mould.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£24-11-0
Messrs Taylor and Kingston's account	<u>£10-7-4</u>
	£40-8-4

158. **John Price** (19), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit four penny piece to Charles Robbins and with having uttered a counterfeit shilling to Elizabeth Little in Bath.

1 year including 2 weeks in solitary confinement in Shepton Mallet gaol. Price had previous convictions for the theft of brass and iron at the Spring Sessions in 1835 for which he received 10 weeks with 1 week in solitary in Ilchester gaol and for stealing apples at the Michaelmas Sessions in 1835 when he was sentenced to 12 months and two whippings in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 486: On 14 December 1836 at about 7pm Charles Robbins was serving alone in his father's shop at 3 Grove St, Bath. Price entered and asked whether he took 'fourpenny bits'. Robbins confirmed that he did and Price asked for a halfpenny cake for which he paid with a 4d. C Robbins gave him change. An hour later C Robbins showed his father the coin, T Robbins said it was bad. C Robbins marked the coin using a pair of scissors.

At 11am on 16 December 1836 Price went into Charles and Elizabeth Little's grocer's shop, 2 Worcester Buildings, Larkhall, and requested a pennyworth of apples. He paid with a shilling which E Little recognised as counterfeit. When she questioned, Price he denied that the coin was bad, and she sent for a neighbour to come and inspect it. Price said he didn't have a penny but would go and get one and ran out of the shop. E Little bent the coin and gave it to tithingman Robert Nash.

William Hall reported that both coins were bad and in a fit state for circulation and that the shilling was dated 1820 and the 4d 1836.

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£15-17-6
Messrs Taylor and Kingston's account	<u>£8-10-8</u>
	£29-18-2

Taunton Lent Assizes 3-4-1837

159. **Thomas Bucknell** (19), mason (TNA ASSI 25 26/5 records him as a labourer) and **John Whittick** (20), labourer, charged with having two moulds (that is an obverse and a reverse) 'impressed' (TNA ASSI 21/58) for making sixpences on 11 November 1836 in the parish of St James, Bath.

Bucknell: transported for life for felony. He was moved to the hulk *York* at Gosport 27 April 1832. TNA HO 11/11, page 122 records that he sailed on the *Susan* on 29 July 1837 to Van Dieman's Land. There were 299 convicts on board.

Ilchester Gaol Felons Register (SHC AGi 14/2) records that Bucknell had previously been convicted and imprisoned, though no details are given. No further details have been traced on this case in spite of its serious nature.

Whittick: not guilty

TNA MINT 15/12

Mr Attorney General and clerk with case	£2-4-6
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£5-7-6
Mr Kinglake	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment etc	£5-6-6
Witnesses	£46-17-0
Magistrates clerks fees	£2-2-0
Chaise and expenses to attend the prosecution, absent eight days	<u>£24-13-0</u>
	£89-16-0

Bath Summer Sessions July 1837

160. **Mary Parsons** charged with having 16 counterfeit halfcrowns and 3 counterfeit crowns in her possession on 22 April 1837.

Acquitted

Reference to the case derives from the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 13 July 1837 and City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Easter Session 1837 to Spring Session 1840. Mr Kinglake appeared for the Crown and Mr Hodes defended the prisoner.

TNA MINT 15/13

Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£4-18-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£6-15-5</u>
	£14-19-5

161. **George Gordon and William Hammersley** charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling and with possessing another base shilling on 4 July 1837 at Bath. They were also charged with being in possession of 20 counterfeit shillings on the same day, but no evidence was offered.

Gordon: acquitted.

Hammersley: 4 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for 20 July 1837 records that Gordon had received the bad shilling from Hammersley which he had endeavoured to pass. On being taken into custody, Hammersley threw a rag over a wall. The rag was recovered by a policeman and found to contain 26 counterfeit shillings. Several testimonials regarding Gordon's previous good character were submitted and presumably contributed to the decision to acquit him.

TNA MINT 15/13

Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£9-16-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£12-9-3</u>
	£25-11-3

1838

Taunton Lent Assizes 31-3-1838

162. **Mary Verrior** (22), charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Edward Govier on two occasions on 2 March 1838 in the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton. 2 years imprisonment in the common gaol (TNA ASSI 21/59 records that this was one year for each offence). Verrior had previously been convicted of a felony under the name of Mary Hamilton and imprisoned for 12 months (SHC Q/AGi 14/5).

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 11 April 1838 reports that on the evening of 2 March Verrior went with another woman to the tap of the London Inn, Taunton, "which was left in the care of a little boy." Verrior gave the boy a bad shilling in payment for a pint of beer. She returned to the inn later the same evening and repeated this process, this time buying gin.

Moody and Kinglake conducted the case for the prosecution and Mr Cockburn defended Verrior.

TNA MINT 15/13	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£10-15-6
Mr Pinchard's account	<u>£11-15-8</u>
	£28-1-2

Wells Lammas Assizes 4-8-1838

163. **Henry Paul** (32), labourer of Crewkerne, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Ruth Crocker at Crewkerne on 11 July 1838.
Acquitted

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 15-10-1838

164. **John Thomas** (26), labourer, and **John Verrior** (21), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling and a counterfeit sixpence to William Sibley and with having other counterfeit coin in their possession in Taunton.
Thomas: 1 year, with 6 weeks solitary confinement, in Wilton gaol.
Verrior: 1 year in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 496: Verrior went to Mr Hitchcock, a druggist in North Street, Taunton, at about 7pm on 1 October 1838 and asked for an ounce of salt. He paid with a shilling which he gave to the apprentice, George Sprackett. The shilling was good. Verrior then said that he had the right money in halfpence and took the shilling back with his right hand. He then found that he did not have the correct change in halfpennies and gave Sprackett a shilling from his left hand which the latter discovered was bad. Verrior took the shilling back and denied that it was bad. Hitchcock queried what was going on and Verrior left. Before giving the bad shilling back to Verrior, Sprackett had bent it. Sprackett later identified this shilling from the bend as the one subsequently passed to Sibley. Shortly after Verrior had left Sprackett saw him together with another man pass by and sent a boy, John Leach, to follow them.

William Sibley was landlord of the King William Inn, North St, Taunton. Verrior and Thomas went into the inn at between 7pm and 8pm on 1 October 1838. Verrior ordered a pint of beer and paid with a shilling which Sibley passed to his wife Jane in another room. The shilling was then given to Martha Sibley who was asked to go to Mr Eastons to buy tobacco. When given the coin Easton recognised it as bad and returned it. Martha took it back to Jane at the inn. Soon afterwards the accused ordered 2d worth of gin and paid with a sixpence which Jeremiah Hare later stated was bad.

Jeremiah Hare was deputy constable. When he searched Verrior he found a shilling in silver, 10d in copper and a £10 note of the Newbury Old Bank inside a pocketbook. On Thomas he found a shilling in silver and a shilling in copper. The prisoners' clothes were taken away from them after arrest. When Hare searched the clothes the following morning, he found a counterfeit shilling in the pocket of Thomas' waistcoat. The counterfeit coins were described as resembling pieces of the Queen's current coin.

It is possible that Verrior was related to Mary Verrior in case 162.

TNA MINT 15/13	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£8-2-6
Mr Pinchard's account	<u>£6-7-2</u>
	£19-19-8

Wells Midsummer Quarter Sessions 8-7-1839

165. **Thomas Jones** (34), shoemaker, and **Edwin Brice** (21), baker, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Elizabeth Roper and a counterfeit shilling to William Wake at Frome.
Jones: 2 years in Wilton gaol, discharged 1-7-1841.
Brice: 2 years in Shepton Mallet gaol, discharged 1-7-1841.

SHC QS/R 502: Elizabeth and Benjamin Roper had a house/huckster's shop in Milk St, Frome. At 9am on Monday 29 April 1839 Brice went in and asked for a pennyworth of cheese. While he was being served Jones entered and asked the price of half a loaf that was on the counter costing 2d. Brice paid for the cheese with a penny. Jones put a halfcrown on the counter and was given 2/4d change. They left and within minutes Roper took the halfcrown across the road to William Wilcox in his shop. Wilcox examined it and declared it to be bad. Roper gave the coin to tithingman Thomas Ivey.

Wilcox had seen the two men together looking in Roper's shop and passing it twice before Brice finally went in. Jones stayed outside looking in through the window before also going in. Wilcox later assisted Ivey in looking for the two men. They found them at James Masters' lodging house where they had arrived on 23 April. Ivey held Jones, Brice ran away but was pursued by Wilcox and who caught him after a pursuit of 200 yards.

Alfred Stride of Frome, 15 years of age, saw Brice running up Bradley Lane chased by Wilcox. He saw Brice take a glove from the right pocket of his breeches and throw it over a low garden wall. Stride went into the garden and picked it up, it contained two counterfeit halfcrowns which he gave to Ivey. Both halfcrowns were dated 1819. Brice claimed to have thrown a knife over the wall not a glove.

Jones went into shop of Joseph Wake on 29 April at between 9pm and 10am and asked if he would give him a halfcrown for two shillings and sixpence in halfpennies saying he wanted to send a halfcrown in a letter or parcel. When Wake, shortly afterwards, saw Jones in custody for passing counterfeit money he checked the coins he had received and found one of the shillings to be counterfeit. Jones claimed the two shillings he had given to Wake had been given to him by Mrs Roper in change, the latter denied this. Both Jones and Brice denied the charges.

TNA MINT 15/13	
Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Carey	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£20-3-6
Mr Davis' account	<u>£14-17-3</u>
	£40-10-9

166. **John Bright (alias Davis)** (15), labourer, **Charles Henry Griffiths** (20), labourer, and **John Boxall** (19), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling in Wells.
Acquitted. Boxall was convicted for a similar offence at the 1839 Wells Michaelmas Quarter Sessions (case 167).

SHC QS/R 502: Bright bought half an ounce of tobacco at Henry Giffard's grocer's shop in Back Liberty, Wells, at between 12.00 and 1pm on 30 May 1839. He was served by shop assistant William Trent. The tobacco cost seven farthings. Bright paid with 'a Victoria shilling'. Trent noticed a defective T in Victoria and put it in the till. This shilling was then given in change to Jane Harrold, servant to Francis Good, a veterinary surgeon, when she went to buy groceries at Giffard's shop on behalf of Good. When Harrold gave the change to Good the latter recognised the shilling was bad and told her to take it back to Giffard's shop and exchange, it which she did.

Elizabeth Tanner of the White Horse Inn, Dulcote (1 mile from Wells), said that at midday on 30 May Bright had bought 2d worth of bread and cheese from her using a counterfeit 'new queen' shilling. Edward Tanner went after Bright when he saw that the coin was counterfeit and retrieved the bread, cheese and change. Tanner returned the shilling to Bright.

The three also attempted to pay for beer at the Star Tap, Wells, again with a ‘new queen’s’ head shilling. The three men plus a woman who had joined them at Shepton Mallet arrived at the Star Tap at ‘dinner time’ on 30 May and left about 4pm. The landlord, Henry Holloway, thought Griffiths was the leader. Griffiths and the woman stayed in the Tap for the whole time whilst the other two men kept going out. They ordered a quart of ale. Griffiths took coins out of his pocket and said he had had an accident with quicksilver which had ‘spoilt the look’ of all his money. Holloway said the coins had an unusual white appearance. Griffiths paid for the ale with a shilling. Holloway thought it looked bad. He said if it was only quicksilver it would burn off and put it in the fire for some minutes. When it came out it was ‘quite a dark colour’ and he still believed it was counterfeit. When it had cooled down he rubbed it with salt to see if the black would come off, it didn’t. Griffiths still said the coin was good and also rubbed it with salt. He then paid with a good shilling. Whilst Holloway was away from the bar for a short time another quart of ale was ordered, served by Ann Hayes, Holloway’s charwoman. Griffiths gave her a shilling which she refused because she thought it was bad, it was a ‘new Queen’s shilling and it was a very bad one’.

Bright bought half an ounce of tobacco from Ann Scott who worked in William Baker’s grocery shop in High Street, Wells, at about 2pm and paid with ‘a bad Victoria shilling and a very bad one’.

When constables George Webb Duddridge and Abraham Buck went to arrest the three men, Bright ran away across Cathedral Green, he ran a considerable way but Duddridge caught him. Duddridge later went back to where Bright had been on Cathedral Green and found a counterfeit sixpence. On Boxall he found ‘a quantity of white powder which I believe is plaster of Paris and is used for making moulds’. When Griffiths was arrested, he was seen to put something in his mouth, Duddridge was unable to force his mouth open to find out what it was. Buck said that on searching Griffiths he found ‘a quantity of metal used for making base coin - a file used for filing and a piece of leather for polishing’. Griffiths claimed to have picked up the metal on the Bath to Shepton Mallet road. He also noted the quill that contained quicksilver and that it had run onto 12 pieces of good money. In his statement Griffiths said that he had put the quicksilver into the quill a day or two earlier to ‘play some trick with my sister’. He had put it into his pocket and forgotten about it. He said that he had been using the file to make a small cross out of bone.

Bright stated on 31 May after his arrest: ‘I did not pass the shilling that is now produced - at Mr Giffard’s shop - I don’t know where it is. I had no money at all except three half pence. I bought no tobacco at all yesterday. I met Boxall yesterday and came from Shepton Mallet with him.’

Boxall said he had picked up the powder wrapped in a cloth as he was going along the road from Bath to Shepton Mallet and didn’t know what it was for. Boxall said that he and Bright had been at the Bradford Fair (presumably Bradford on Avon) where they had met Griffiths. They had then travelled together as Griffiths said he was going to Shepton Mallet and Boxall was going to Wells. All three went to Shepton Mallet and then on to Wells.

Sophia Clarke, keeper of the Swan Inn, Shepton Mallet, said that all three stayed together there and shared a room.

The account book of Fosters, solicitors of 1 Cathedral Green, Wells, (SHC DD/FS 81/1) gives a breakdown of the costs of the case and shows that they acted as agents for the Mint Solicitor in this case. The accounts include 10/6d paid to Richard Maggs, silversmith and jeweller, 180 High St, Wells, was for commenting on the coins. Fosters sent details to the Mint solicitor with a full statement of the prisoners’ apprehension and circumstances of the case for which they charged 7/6d. This was followed up with a request for more information from the Mint which resulted in Fosters adding a further charge of 18/4d. There followed a further request for information with a fee of half a crown. For 20 June 1839 there is a fee of 6/8d for: ‘Attendance on Mr Powell in Town & conferring with him on the case. 6/8d.’

TNA MINT 15/13

Mr Kinglake and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Carey	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£6-13-0
Mr Davis’ account	<u>£13-9-10</u>
	£25-12-10

The account book for Fosters, solicitors at Wells, contains the following data which breaks down the summary of costs in TNA MINT 15/13:

1839 Rega. v. Bright and others. Wells July Sessions

To cash paid. Fee to Mr Kinglake with Brief	£3 - 5 - 6
Do. Mr Cary Do.	£2 - 4 - 6
Do. Richard Maggs silversmith	<u>£0-10 - 6</u>
	<u>£5 - 0 - 6</u>
To cash paid Witnesses & constable as per receipt	<u>£6 - 2 - 6</u>
	£11 - 3 - 0

June 1 Letter to Solr. of the Mint with statement of the apprehension of Deffs. & remarks thereon	£0-7 - 6
Filling up & making return of description of the Prisoners as required by the Solr. for the Mint & letter	£0-7 - 6
5 Having recd. a letter for further information making the furr. [= further] & necessary enquiries to enable me to supply the same - making a statement of further remarks for the Solr. of the Mint	£0-13 - 4
5 Letter to the Solr. of the Mint	£0-5 - 0
20 Making further statement after the final commitment of the Deffs. for the Solr. of the Mint	£0-7 - 6
Letter to him	£0-5 - 0
Attendance on Mr Powell in Town & conferring with him on the case	£0-6 - 8
Paid carriage of Briefs down	£0-3 - 6
Paid for Indictm. 8/6. Pd. [] witnesses 17/- Bailiff & Tipstaff 2/-	£1 - 7 - 6
Paid Clerk of the Peace fees on discharging recognizances	£0-18 - 0
Fee allowed for attending Prosecution	£ 2 - 2 - 0
Attending settling with witnesses 16 in number	£0-13 - 4
Letter to Solr. of the Mint	<u>£0-5 - 0</u> £20 - 4 - 10
To Justice Clerk fees as per Magistrates Order	£4 - 13 - 0
Do. for copies of Exns. for Solr.	<u>£0-15 - 0</u> <u>£25 - 12 - 10</u>

Wells Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 21-10-1839

167. **Richard Files** (18), cordwainer, **John Carpenter** (21), labourer, **John Boxall** (19), labourer, **James Gardiner** (18), **Mary Ann Lee** (29), labourer, and **Mary Jones** (18), labourer, charged with uttering 20 counterfeit shillings at Wells.
 Files: no prosecution
 Jones: 6 months in Shepton Mallet gaol
 Carpenter and Lee: 2 years in Shepton Mallet gaol

Boxall and Gardiner: 2 years in Wilton gaol

Boxall had a previous conviction and a 6 month sentence. Although Ilchester Gaol Felons Register does not record the offence, it is most unlikely to have concerned counterfeit coin. He had also been charged with uttering at the 1839 midsummer Quarter Sessions (case 166) but was acquitted. Gardiner had previously been convicted of felony at the Lammas Assize in 1835 for which he received 1 month plus a whipping at Wilton gaol. Lee had been convicted of felony at the Bath July 1838 Sessions for which he received 4 months in Shepton Mallet gaol. Jones had been convicted of felony at the Bath July Sessions in 1839 and received 1 month in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 504: They were all seen together by one witness, Ann Crum, on route to Wells from Shepton Mallet.

Files entered the shop of James and Hannah North in Wells at between 7pm and 8pm on 30 September and asked H North for a pennyworth of cheese. He paid with a shilling, but H North refused the coin and Files left the shop. H North sent William Dix to follow Files.

William Dix of Wells saw four of the accused together and heard one say 'go and change him'. One of them, James Gardiner, went into Mrs Mary Ann Chester's shop at between 7pm and 8pm where he ordered a loaf of bread and tendered a shilling. Chester didn't have change and gave the coin to Ann Edwards asking her to go and change it at Hannah North's shop. H North straightaway saw it was counterfeit and H North and A Edwards went back to M A Chester's to tell her it was bad. James Gardiner took the coin back and left.

Policeman Samuel Somers apprehended Richard Files and John Carpenter in Sadler St, Wells, and 'lodged them with Benjamin Brooks, the Gaoler'. Brooks searched the prisoners and found one counterfeit shilling and a file with white metal in the teeth on Files but nothing on Carpenter. Somers then went to the lodging house of Susan Lane where he took James Gardiner, Mary Jones, Mary Ann Lee and John Boxall into custody. Mary Ann Lee threw something contained in a small bag onto the fire, it hit the bars and fell in the grate. It was found to contain 21 counterfeit shillings and 4 counterfeit sixpences. The coins were described as all being of white metal 'and correspond with each other', presumably meaning they were from the same moulds. William Williams found 2 bad shillings in the gutter outside Lane's house which he gave to a policeman. The shilling retrieved by Brooks and the two found by William Williams also 'corresponded'.

The accused made voluntary statements:

Mary Ann Lee said that she lived in Bath and was visiting Wells on the way to Bridgwater Fair. She said that she met Richard Files, James Gardiner, John Boxall and John Carpenter in the lodgings. She claimed to have found the bag containing counterfeit coins when fetching a can of water two minutes before the constable arrived.

Mary Jones lived in Bath with Mary Ann Lee. She said that she did not know what the others were involved in.

Richard Files also lived in Bath. He said that he had tendered a halfcrown for a pint of beer and received a bad shilling in change which he was unaware of until he tried to buy the cheese.

James Gardiner denied going into any shop in Wells and denied knowing Mary Ann Lee and Mary Jones.

John Carpenter stated that he went to Wells by himself and didn't know the others.

John Boxall simply said he had nothing to say.

TNA MINT 15/13 (reported 9-11-1839 and relating to Files, Carpenter, etc)

Mr Kinglake and Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Carey	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£8-0-6
Mr Davis's Account	£22-8-10
	£36-1-2

The account books of Fosters, solicitors at 1 Cathedral Green, Wells, contain a breakdown of Fosters' fees for involvement in this case as the local agents for the Mint Solicitor (SHC DD/FS 81/1, pages 91 - 93).

Amongst the fees paid was 10/6d to Cornelius Tyte, silversmith who commented on the coins. The full transcript is:

'The Queen v. Mary Ann Lee and others

To cash paid Mr Kinglake his fee with Brief & Clerk	£3 - 5 - 6
Do. Mr Cary Do.	£2 - 4 - 6
Do. Corns. Tyte, Silversmith	£0- <u>10</u> - 6
	£6 - 0 - 6

To cash paid Witnesses and Constable as per rect.	£7 - 10 - 0
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Oct 1st Long letter to the Solr. of the Mint with full statement of the Prisoners apprehension and of the circumstances of the case.	£0-7 - 6
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4th Having received a letter from Mr Powell with many queries as to different points in the case, attending the witnesses Edwards, Dix, Lane, Chester and North also Somers the Policeman and Brooks the Keeper of the Station House and examining them thereon and making minutes of their Testimony, engaged all day	£1 - 11 - 6
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" Making additional statement of facts for the Solr. of the Mint	£0-13 - 4
" Letter to Mr Powell therewith	£0-5 - 0

6 In consequence of having had it represented to me that several pieces of base coin were found at East Wells close by the Lodging house where 4 of the prisoners were apprehended - attending there investigating the circumstances and examining the persons who found it and causing further search to be made of the Lodging house engaged several hours	£0-13 - 4
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" Letter to Mr Pelman the Keeper of the Gaol with description. Paper and requesting him to fill up same and to send to Mr Powell	£0-5 - 0
Paid to Mr Pellman [is spelt differently] for same	£0-5 - 0

8 Letter to Mr Powell on final committment of Prisoners	£0-5 - 0
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In consequence of the great prevarification by Susan Lane the
Keeper of the lodging house and having had reason to believe
she had been tampered with, from which I feared to depend on
her evidence of the prisoners having come to her house together
and deeming it prudent to have further evidence of the prisoners
being together beyond that of Crum who merely saw them on the
road. Journey to Shepton Mallet & making enquiries along the
road when I traced all the prisoners to a beer house & found the
Testimony given by Mrs Churchouse the Keeper of the Beer
house, fully established the fact of their confederacy and taking
minutes of her Testimony engaged the whole day

£2 - 2 - 0

Paid horse hire	£0-15 - 0
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Drawing brief of Mrs Churchouses evidence & 2 Copies for Counsel	£1 - 0 - 0
Paid carriage of parcel from Mr Powell	£0-3 - 6
Paid for Indictment	£0-11 - 6
Paid for swearing Witnesses to go before grand Jury	£0-12 - 0
Do. on trial	£0-12 - 0
Paid Tipstaff and Bailiff	£0-2 - 0
Fees on discharging Recognozances of 10 Witnesses	£3 - 6 - 8
Fee for attending the Prosecution at the Sessions	£2 - 2 - 0
Attending the several witnesses settling with them	£0-13 - 4
Oct 24 Letter to Mr Powell informing him the result	<u>£0-5 - 0</u> £30 - 1 - 2
To Justice Clerks. Fees in this Prosecution	
Magistrates Order	£4 - 17 - 0
Copies of 16 Depositions & Statements of Prisoners	£0-16 - 0
Do. of 7 further depositions	<u>£0-7 - 0</u> <u>£36 - 1 - 2</u>

Bath Sessions October 1839

168. **William Kendall** (14), charged with unlawfully uttering a counterfeit shilling to Edward Mills on 22 October 1839 and another counterfeit shilling to John Southerwood on 23 October and on the latter occasion with also having 5 other counterfeit shillings in his possession.
 6 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.
 Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* 31 October 1839 and City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for the Easter Session 1837 to Spring Session 1840.

TNA MINT 15/13	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£4-1-6
Mr Kinglake's account	<u>£10-19-2</u>
	£18-16-2

169. **John Shay** (17), carpenter, charged with unlawfully uttering a counterfeit sixpence to Mary Ann Fletcher on 9 August and a counterfeit fourpence piece to Thomas Evans and a counterfeit sixpence to Thomas Perryman on 10 August.
 3 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol. See also Bath Spring Sessions for 1840 (case 171).
 Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* 31 October 1839.

TNA MINT 15/13	
Mr Marshman and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£10-9-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£10-1-1</u>
	£23-16-1

1840

Bridgwater Spring Sessions 1840

170. **Richard Properjohns** convicted of uttering. Reference from TNA MINT 15/13.
The case was not reported in the local newspapers and the outcome of the prosecution is unknown.

TNA MINT 15/13	
Mr Ruddock and with brief	£3-3-0
Witnesses	£8-11-6
Mr Trevor's account	<u>£15-6-10</u>
	£27-1-4

Bath Spring Sessions April 1840

171. **John Shay** (17), indicted for having uttered a counterfeit shilling to Jane Ellen Wood on 19 February 1840 and on same day with having uttered a counterfeit shilling to Mary Treffry. Shay was only prosecuted for the Treffry case, the Wood case was left on file.
10 years transportation. Shay sailed for Van Dieman's Land on board the *David Clarke* on 22 June 1846. Shay had been convicted of uttering in October 1839 when he was sentenced to three months imprisonment (case 169). He clearly returned to uttering very shortly after his release.
Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 16 April 1840 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Easter Session 1837 to Spring Session 1840.

TNA MINT 15/13	
Mr Attorney General and clerk with case	£2-4-6
Mr Marshman and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Passing Indictments etc	£8-8-0
Witnesses	£24-17-6
Magistrates clerks fees	£1-5-0
Chaise hire and expenses to attend this and the prosecution of James Griffin in Bristol for possessing counterfeit silver coin	<u>£20-12-0</u>
	£60-12-6

1841

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 29-3-1841

172. **Samuel Young** (18), tailor, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling and having 19 other counterfeit shillings in his possession at Twerton, Bath.
1 year in Shepton Mallet gaol. He had previously been convicted at the Bath Sessions for felony and received 4 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 514: William Ash, a carpenter, also kept a beer house and small grocer's shop in Twerton. On 1 March 1841 Ash received information that 'persons were going about passing bad money and in consequence I was on my guard'. On the evening of the same day Young went into Ash's grocer's shop at between 7pm and 8pm and was served by Ash himself. Young asked for a pennyworth of apples and placed a halfcrown on the counter. Ash saw it was a good coin. He went out of the shop to get change leaving his wife in the shop. He came back with two shillings for change which he marked with a knife and gave them to Young plus 5d in copper. Young said one of the shillings he had been given was bad and placed it on the counter. Ash saw that it wasn't one of the coins he had given because it bore no mark but nevertheless he replaced it with another shilling which he fetched from the tap room (the grocery and beer house were obviously on the same site). The fact that Ash marked the shillings shows that he had doubts about Young.

Young was followed by two officers who brought him back to the shop. When searched the marked shillings were found on him along with a bag containing 19 counterfeit shillings. Tithingmen George Holmes and James Chesterman believed that Young had been passing bad money for three weeks.

George Hale, the chief officer, and Holmes went to Young's lodgings at 27 St James Parade, Bath, the following morning. They found two boxes belonging to Young: 'In the leather box there is a quantity of

metal which has been melted and some not melted, the same sort of metal as would make the counterfeit coin I produced'. The second box examined contained 'small articles as if purchased at different shops for trifling sums.' The coin passed to Ash plus 16 of the 19 in the bag were 'cast in the same mould'. 19 out of the total of 20 coins were described as being in a fit state for circulation, the other coin was of a different metal.

Young had previously been in custody on 22 February 1841 with Richard Birth for uttering counterfeit coins. Birth was committed but Young was released for want of evidence. Birth was prosecuted at the 1841 Bath Spring Sessions (case 173).

A sheet in the SHC QS records Young's voluntary statement simply as 'I have nothing to say.'

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 11 March 1841 provides additional information on the case beginning with the fact that Young was well-known to the police – he said that he had been sentenced to 6 months in Gloucester gaol for having stolen a handkerchief and a snuff-box. The report includes information given by Harriet Keats following Young's arrest. Keats lived at No. 4 Charles Place, Widcombe. She had known Young for a short time. At one meeting Young asked her if he could go to her room 'to do something.' She agreed to this though rather reluctantly. When Young got there, he took out of his pocket an old teapot which he broke into pieces using pincers. He also took out some plaster of Paris and asked Keats for a saucer and plate. He proceeded to mix some plaster of Paris with water. He placed a good shilling on the plate, surrounded it with pasteboard and poured plaster on the shilling. The pasteboard was to stop the plaster spreading. Soon afterwards he took the shilling out and did the same for the other side of the coin. He then melted some of the teapot in the bowl of a pipe, put the moulds together and poured in the molten metal. He cast about 20 coins in this way.

The report states that at his first hearing in court the table in the court was 'well nigh covered with the multitude of implements for coining' found in Young's lodgings in St James's Parade. In spite of the apparent evidence for Young having made base coin the Mint Board decided that he should only be prosecuted for uttering as the case for this was so strong.

TNA MINT 15/14 (reported 10-3-1841)

Mr Kinglake & Clerk with Brief	£3-5-6
Mr Marshman	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£20-15-6
Messrs. Taylor & Kingston's Acct.	<u>£8-6-0</u>
	£34-11-6

Bath Sessions March 1841

173. **Richard Birth** (17), charged with uttering two counterfeit shillings at Bath.
3 months, the recorder informed him that if he was found guilty again, he was liable to be transported for life.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 1 April 1841 states that the offence took place on 18 February: 'It appeared that the prisoner had adopted the old plan of 'ringing the changes' in this affair.' Birth went into William Baker the elder's shop at Trim-bridge and asked for two eggs for which he paid with a halfcrown and received two good shillings and some copper in change. He then threw down a shilling and said: "Why one of the shillings you gave me in change is a bad one." Baker took it back and replaced it with a good one. When Birth left, Baker's son followed him. In Saw Close he saw Birth speak to another man and in the course of their conversation he heard "some money clinking". Baker jnr. followed Birth to a green grocer's shop in Bridewell Lane where he was served by Ann Moore. He asked for oranges, paid with a halfcrown and received two shillings in the change. Again, he threw down a shilling saying he had been given a bad one. Baker jnr. had been watching and at this point went into the shop and "collared" Birth who was taken into custody. The two coins had been cast in the same mould.

TNA MINT 15/14

Mr Marshman and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£17-18-6

Mr Kingston's account £8-17-6

£30-17-6

Taunton Lent Assizes 3-4-1841

174. **John Bond** (31), tailor (TNA ASSI 25 29/4 describes him as a labourer and records that he was also known as John Withers), from Bishops Hull, charged with feloniously having in his possession five dies or moulds intended to make and impress the figure, stamp and apparent resemblance of both sides of the Queen's silver coin called shillings and also two other moulds for halfcrowns at Taunton. Felony. 10 years transportation. He was moved to the hulk *Stirling Castle* at Devonport 18 May 1841 (Ilchester Gaol Felons Register page 127). TNA HO 11/12 page 84 records that he sailed on the *Susan* to Van Dieman's Land on 21 April 1842. This represents a delay of 11 months between arrival at the hulk and sailing. There were 299 convicts on board.

TNA ASSI 2529/4 records the date of his apprehension as 19 August 1840. He was convicted of possession of just two of the moulds, an obverse of a halfcrown and a reverse of a halfcrown. Caleb Edward Powell attended the court as a witness.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 7 April 1841 reports that 'John Bond was indicted for having in his custody five dies or moulds, intended to make and impress the figure, stamp and apparent resemblance of halfcrowns and shillings and other coins. Mr Moody and Mr Kinglake conducted the case for the prosecution, and Mr Cockburn defended the prisoner. From the evidence of two witnesses, it appeared that the prisoner and a boy were observed lying in a path near Taunton (in parish of Bishops Hull according to TNA ASSI 21/59), they had a box between them, having an iron handle to it, which was the same as was then produced. J Mountsbear said that the prisoner came to him and asked him to let him leave a box in an unfinished building while he went on an errand. Thomas Goodyear- I came to the buildings to work and I saw this box. I called my fellow workmen, and we opened it, and found it contained these moulds- we put the box back again, and I afterwards saw the prisoner coming towards the building- he asked me if I had seen a box. I asked him whether it was his- he said no, he then went away- I said stop I want to speak with you- I got down the ladder and he ran towards the town- I ran after him- Dollin also ran and caught him in St George's Place- he begged us to let him go.- I sent for a constable and gave him in charge- I then went and fetched the box. Cross-examined, I thought the box was a shipwright's chest- I had seen the contents of the box before the prisoner ran away. John Dring- I was present when the box was opened. John Dollin- I ran after the prisoner 400 or 500 yards- when I caught him, he said he had done nothing amiss, and asked me to let him go, and he would give us anything.- I had seen some moulds for making counterfeit coin. Abraham Whitham- I am constable, and went to the Green Dragon on 19 August- I found a bunch of keys on him, one of them fitted the lock of the box, and another fitted a padlock that was inside the box- there were moulds, a hammer, a wooden cup, and a book, entitled 'The Guide To Knowledge' with the prisoner's name on it, also in the box. The prisoner said he knew nothing about the box. Cross examined- The prisoner is a tailor, I searched his house but found nothing there to excite my suspicion. C. Powell- I am Inspector of the Mint; among these moulds, there is one of a halfcrown, both sides- I have never seen one of this sort before, but I have heard there was such in preparation, it is made of some novel material [the nature of this material is unknown]; there is one mould for casting three shillings at a time, one for casting an Irish penny piece, one for an English penny piece, one for half pence, there are files with white metal in the teeth. Mr Cockburn took an objection to the indictment, that it did not comply with the words of the statute, but Mr Justice Erskine over-ruled it. Mr Cockburn addressed the Jury for the prisoner concluding that it was necessary they should be satisfied that the prisoner knew what the box contained, and that from his whole conduct they would infer that he had not that guilty knowledge which the statute required. Mr Justice Erskine having summed up, the Jury returned a verdict of guilty.'

TNA MINT 15/14

Mr Attorney General and clerk with case	£2-4-6
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£5-7-6
Mr Kinglake	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment etc	£4-18-8
Witnesses	£27-10-6
Magistrates clerks fees	<u>£2-16-9</u>

175. **Charles Nurse** (20), ostler (TNA ASSI 25 29/4 describes him as a labourer) and **Charles Dunn** (19), mason (TNA ASSI 25 29/4 describes him as a labourer), charged with uttering counterfeit sixpences at Wiveliscombe.
Both received 2 years with hard labour in Ilchester gaol.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 7 April 1841 reports: 'Charles Nurse and Charles Dunn were indicted for uttering base coin at Wiveliscombe. Mr Moody and Mr Kinglake conducted the prosecution. On the morning of 5 January last, the prisoners went into the shop of Ann Thresher (wife of Thomas), at Wiveliscombe, and made some trifling purchase, for which, for which they paid in good money, in the evening Nurse went to the shop alone and bought two red herrings, for which he paid by a sixpence, which afterwards turned out to be counterfeit. In a short time afterwards, Dunn went in and bought some cheese, for which he gave sixpence, which also proved to be a bad one. They subsequently went to another shop and passed away some more base coin. In a short time however, the bad money was discovered, and search was made for the prisoners and they were apprehended. The coins had all been made in the same mould. The jury having found the prisoners guilty, they were sentenced to two years imprisonment, and to be kept to hard labour.' C E Powell attended the case.

TNA ASSI 25 29/4 records that they uttered counterfeit sixpences to Anna Lansdown and Sarah Rockett, both on 5 January 1841.

TNA MINT 15/14	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Passing Indictment etc	£8-15-6
Witnesses	£44-4-10
Magistrates clerks fees	£9-16-9
Chaise hire and expenses to attend this and the last prosecution [John Bond]	£22-13-0
	£91-0-1

Bath Sessions October 1841

176. **Hannah Field** (59), charged with uttering a base shilling on 20 August 1841 and with a second offence on 21 August at Bath.
4 months.
Reference to the case derives from the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 14 October 1841 but no details are given.
A Hannah Field was convicted of uttering at the 1829 October Michaelmas Sessions (case 96), the age doesn't quite equate but this may be same person, both offences were in Bath.

TNA MINT 15/14	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£10-18-0
Mr Kingston's account	£8-15-1
	£22-18-7

1842

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 3-1-1842

177. **Aaron Oatway** (30), labourer, **William Clarke** (28), labourer, and **William Powe** (28), labourer, charged with uttering two counterfeit sixpences at Chew Magna.
Oatway: 4 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Clarke: 6 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Powe: 18 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Clarke had been convicted of highway robbery in midsummer 1834 and was sentenced to 7 years transportation. Powe was convicted of horse stealing in midsummer 1835 and sentenced to

transportation for life, later commuted to 2 years in Shepton Mallet gaol (both Ilchester Gaol Felons Register page 163).

SHC QS/R 519: At about 6.50pm on 23 December 1841 Oatway entered the shop of Edward Kingston, clockmaker and shopkeeper, of Chew Magna, and asked for half an ounce of tobacco costing a penny halfpenny. Oatway paid with a sixpence. Kingston told Oatway that the coin was bad, he bit into it which bent the coin a little and left the impression of his teeth. 'It was purported to be sixpence of the reign of William IV'. Kingston returned the coin to Oatway who said: 'the bugger was a bad one you have marked it with your teeth'. As Oatway did not have any other money he departed leaving the tobacco. Kingston 'suspected his character', followed him and saw him join Clarke and Powe.

Oatway, Clarke and Powe walked to another shop in Chew Magna owned by James Beele. Clarke went in and was served by Beele's daughter Mary aged 13 years. He asked for half an ounce of tobacco costing a penny halfpenny and paid with a sixpence. Mary was unhappy with coin and showed it to her sister who bent it on the counter and returned it to Clarke. Clarke said he thought it was a good one but took it and left. Mary said that apart from the coin bending the edge was 'beaten and notched'.

The three next stood opposite the shop of Miss Ann Tombs. At this point Kingston went to the Bear and Swan Inn to ask landlord William Weeks for help. Weeks and Kingston went to Tombs shop, Clarke was inside having ordered a half ounce of tobacco costing a penny halfpenny. He paid with a sixpence. It was later identified as the same coin which had been passed to Beele. Following Clarke's departure from the shop Kingston went in and examined the sixpence Clarke had paid with, he returned the coin to Tombs telling her to look after it with care.

Weeks, Benjamin Price (Weeks' servant), Kingston and constable Obediah York apprehended Oatway, Clarke and Powe in the churchyard, they were taken back to the Bear and Swan where they were searched by York. Oatway was found to have a counterfeit sixpence in the lining below the right-hand pocket of his jacket which had a mark on the queen's head. Kingston, Weeks and James Beele went back to the churchyard and five yards from the spot where they had apprehended Clarke they found two counterfeit sixpences on the grass, one was the coin that Oatway had tried to pass to Kingston.

Powe was a native of Chew Magna who had left some time previously.

Oatway and Clarke later voluntarily told Kingston that Powe had obtained the sixpences and given them to Oatway and Clarke to exchange.

TNA MINT 15/14	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£16-3-8
Messrs Hill and Williams account	<u>£10-8-7</u>
	£32-12-3

Taunton Epiphany Quarter Sessions 10-1-1842

178. **William Board** (23), blacksmith and **William Burrow (or Borrows**, spelling varies) (24), yeoman, charged with uttering five counterfeit shillings at Combe St Nicholas.
Board: 10 months in Wilton gaol.
Burrow: acquitted.
Board had previously been convicted for poaching.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Board was a blacksmith born in Jersey whose last residence was Chard.

SHC QS/R 520: Board and Burrow drank spirits and water for upwards of 4 hours on 6 January 1842 at the Golden Hart, Combe St Nicholas. Burrow offered 3 shillings in payment and all were counterfeit. Landlord Robert Diment said to Board 'you have given me three counterfeit shillings and unless you change the same I will have you taken into custody'. Burrow denied they were counterfeit. Diment immediately went to get constable Thomas Miles and gave him the coins. Board passed two counterfeit

coins to Mary Truescott, waitress at the Golden Hart. Board became very violent when arrested. When Miles searched the prisoners, he did not find any other bad money on them. They denied knowing the coins were counterfeit. Burrow said they were amongst money he had received from someone called Randall for a yearling.

TNA MINT 15/14	
Mr Phison and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£13-18-0
Messrs Kingston and Taylor's account	<u>£14-10-0</u>
	£31-13-6

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 21-3-1842

179. **Charles Pim** (30), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling at Bishport, Bedminster.
2 months in Shepton Mallet gaol. The case is not recorded in TNA MINT 15/14

SHC QS/R 521: James Morris, shopkeeper of Bishport, Bedminster, stated that Pim entered his shop on Wednesday 9 March at between 6pm and 7pm to buy a quartern loaf of bread and a quarter pound of lard. He paid with a shilling and received threepence change. The shilling was found to be bad.

Melinda Froud, wife of Samuel, shopkeeper at Bishport, said that at 6.15pm on 9 March 1842 Pim went into her shop to buy half an ounce of tobacco which he paid for in copper. He then asked for a further half ounce of tobacco and half a loaf, this time he paid with a bad shilling. Pim denied that the coin was bad, but Melinda Froud knew by the 'feel' that it was counterfeit. Froud took back the tobacco and bread and the shilling was returned to Pim. It was this shilling that Pim subsequently passed to Morris. Pim claimed to have received the coin from William Wyatt, son of Mrs Wyatt for whom he worked.

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 17-10-1842

180. **John Martin** (39), labourer and **William O'Hara** (19), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown and with having other counterfeit coin in their possession at Wiveliscombe.
Martin: 2 years with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.
O'Hara: 1 year with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 524: Betty Govier was working in her daughter Ann Thresher's huckster's shop at Wiveliscombe at 6pm, after the candles were lit, when O'Hara went in and requested a quarter pound of cheese (10d per pound). He also bought a one pound loaf of bread for a penny three farthings. The total cost was fourpence farthing, he paid with a halfcrown. Having given him the change Govier examined the halfcrown and told O'Hara that it was bad. O'Hara said it was good and wished he had 500 of them. He then left. Govier placed the coin in the till separate from other money. When her daughter came in she too looked at the coin and agreed that it was counterfeit. Govier tried to find O'Hara. Thresher delivered the coin to constable John North the following morning at 8am. North marked the coin.

North took the Bampton road in search of O'Hara. He was accompanied by James Saffin, they both rode on one horse. They overtook O'Hara and Martin about a mile and a half from Shillingford, in the county of Devon, and carried on to the public house in Shillingford. Martin and O'Hara soon arrived at the inn where they were apprehended. Both were searched. O'Hara had two shillings, three pennies, one halfpenny and one farthing in his possession. Martin swore and put up resistance to being searched. In the hollow behind the knee of his right trouser leg was found a purse containing three halfcrowns, ten shillings and eighteen sixpences all wrapped in paper and in a rag. All of these coins were counterfeit 'some are in an unfinished state the remainder are finished'. Another counterfeit shilling was found in Martin's jacket pocket. A file was also found which North said had metal on it that corresponded with the metal of the counterfeit coins. This suggests that North may have been involved in making counterfeits although he was not charged with this offence. Martin accused North of having planted the coins on him. Saffin said that Martin had whispered to him that if he stated that North had 'shoved', ie planted, the coins up his trouser leg he would give him five or ten pounds.

TNA MINT 15/14

Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Kinglake	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£40-3-0
Mr Payne's account	<u>£13-2-6</u>
	£58-15-6

Bath Winter Sessions December 1842

181. **Owen Davis** (27) and **Rowland Davis** (25), indicted for having 34 counterfeit shillings in their possession on 15 November 1842. The location of the offence is unknown but possibly Bath.
 8 months with hard labour for both.
 Reference: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 5 January 1843.

TNA MINT 15/14	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£15-3-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£10-12-2</u>
	£29-11-2

1843

Taunton Lent Assizes 13-3-1843

182. **Jane Parfitt** (24), labourer, and **Thomas Gould**, labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence to Sarah Long (wife of James) at Batheaston on 1 January 1843 and a counterfeit sixpence to Ann Holdstock (wife of George) on the same day and place at Bath.
 Parfitt: 3 months hard labour in Wilton gaol, the last week to be in solitary confinement. This is possibly the same Jane Parfit as that prosecuted in April 1844 (case 185).
 Gould: 1 year with hard labour. He had a previous conviction for a felony for which he had received 12 months.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Parfitt was a straw bonnet maker born and resident in Bath.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 23 March 1843 reports that on 18 January 1843 Parfitt and Gould had gone into a beer shop at Ballbrook and purchased ale, bread and cheese which Gould paid for with a counterfeit sixpence. Afterwards they went to another beer shop at Bathampton and bought beer paying with another counterfeit sixpence. They only drank part of the beer and gave the remainder to a boy in the tap room.

TNA MINT 15/14	
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Fitzherbert	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£48-9-8
Messrs Kingston and Co's account	<u>£18-13-8</u>
	£72-13-4

1844

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 25-3-1844

183. **John Talbot** (24), blacksmith, charged with uttering two counterfeit sixpences.
 6 months in Wilton gaol.
 There are no records in the Quarter Sessions roll.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Witnesses	£7-17-6

'This prisr. was committed by the Honble. Hobhouse who neglected to communicate with the Solicitor [ie of the Mint]. The witnesses proceeded and the court recommending the expenses to be paid. The same were allowed on being reported.'

Bath Spring Sessions April 1844

184. **Eliza Wickham** (21), charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence to Ann Plowman on 24 January 1844, another to Charlotte Carey on 25 January 1844 and uttering two other counterfeit sixpences on 18 January 1844 at Bath.

4 months with hard labour.

Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 18 April 1844 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for the Midsummer Session 1840 to Winter Session 1845.

Plowman and Carey were surnames of publicans in the 1840's, Ann and Charlotte may be their wives: James Plowman was at the Masons Arms, Peter St, and Meshac Carey was located at 12 Green St.

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment etc	£4-19-6
Witnesses	£16-6-6
Magistrates clerks fees	<u>£3-0-6</u>
	£27-12-0

185. **Jane Parfit** (28), convicted of having 10 counterfeit sixpences in her possession at Bath. She was 'connected' with Eliza Wickham.

4 months with hard labour.

This is possibly the same Jane Parfit as that prosecuted at the 1843 March assizes (case 182).

Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 18 April 1844 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Midsummer Session 1840 to Winter Session 1845.

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment etc	£2-3-0
Witnesses	£4-18-6
Magistrates clerks fees	<u>£1-10-6</u>
	£11-17-6

186. **George Gilbert** (32) and **Elizabeth Phipps** (age unknown), charged with possession of 19 counterfeit shillings, Phipps was also charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Elizabeth Goddard on 27 January 1844 possibly at Bath.

Gilbert: 6 months.

Phipps: 7 months, one of which was for uttering the counterfeit shilling.

Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 18 April 1844 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Midsummer Session 1840 to Winter 1845.

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment etc	£3-19-0
Witnesses	£14-10-6
Magistrates clerks fees	<u>£2-18-6</u>
	£24-13-6

The above figures relate to the joint charge of possession. Phipps' uttering charge incurred the following costs:

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment	£2-3-0
Witnesses	£6-13-6

Magistrates clerks fees	<u>£2-4-0</u>
	£14-6-0

187. **Thomas Oakley** (18), charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence to Lewis Larey, a tobacconist at 26 Union Passage, Bath, on 3 February 1844 and uttering another counterfeit sixpence on 8 February 1844.

1 month with hard labour. He was given a lenient sentence due to his previously good character.
Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 18 April 1844 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Midsummer Session 1840 to Winter Session 1845.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Passing Indictment etc	£2-16-0
Witnesses	£7-13-6
Magistrates clerks fees	£2-1-0
Chaise hire and expenses attending this case and four last mentioned prosecutions	<u>£15-2-0</u> £30-18-0

The hire of a chaise shows that a member of the Mint Solicitor's department attended the trial.

All of the above were told by the recorder that if convicted again they faced transportation for life.

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 2-7-1844

188. **Edward Cheriton** (20), travelling labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling and **George Cooper** (16), labourer, charged with uttering seven counterfeit shillings at Crewkerne. Discovery of plaster of Paris may indicate that they had been involved in making counterfeits although they were not charged with this offence.
6 months for both in Ilchester gaol.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Cheriton was born in Cheltenham and under last abode he is described as a 'traveller and gleesinger'.
Cooper was born in Rochester and also described as a 'traveller and gleesinger'.

SHC QS/R 536: Cheriton, Cooper and Thomas Saxty together with two other unnamed men went to Crewkerne on 3 April 1844. Cheriton asked for half an ounce of tobacco and one egg at a cost of 2½d at William Scriven's grocer's shop and paid with a shilling. He was served by Hannah Scriven, described as William's servant. Having given change H Scriven looked at the shilling. Believing it to be counterfeit, she called W Scriven and showed it to him. W Scriven confirmed that it was bad and asked Cheriton where he had obtained it. He claimed that it was given by a man in town for singing. W Scriven told H Scriven to call a constable.

Constable William Pottenger attended. Cheriton told Pottenger that he had two 'partners' at Mrs Brake's lodging house where he was staying. Two more constables were sent for, John Turner and Hugh Symmonds and they went to the lodging house in search of Cooper and Saxty. Cheriton said 'I get my living by travelling about the country with other men singing glees.' He had arrived at Crewkerne on Tuesday 2 April with Cooper and Saxty and two other men. All stayed at the same lodging house. Cheriton said he didn't know the names of the other two who had only joined them ten days earlier at Exeter. These other two had, though, just come out of Exeter Gaol. Cheriton said that the bad shilling had been given to him by one of these men to purchase the goods.

Cheriton had specifically asked the constables to go to the lodging house and fetch Cooper and Saxty. Turner and Symmonds found them there and carried out a search. A 'bundle' belonging to them was found containing an iron spoon, plaster of Paris and 'other material'.

Symmonds noticed Cooper trying to conceal something behind his back and on investigation found seven counterfeit shillings.

TNA MINT 15/15 for Cheriton and Cooper

Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
The like on 2 nd Indictment	£2-4-6
Mr Thring and clerk with brief	£2-4-6
The like with 2 nd Indictment	£1-3-6
Witnesses	£18-16-0
Mr Baker's account	<u>£12-18-4</u>
	£40-12-4

Bath Michaelmas Sessions 1844

189. **Richard Collier** (19), charged with uttering a counterfeit coin at Bath.
5 months with hard labour.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 31 October 1844 records Elizabeth Prows as stating that on the night of 16 August Collier went into her uncle's shop and asked for a box of 'lucifer matches'. Collier paid with a shilling and was given change. Prows doubted that the coin was good and put it in a drawer on its own. She showed it to her aunt and others who all considered it bad. She then took it to Inspector Frost, marked the coin and left it with him.

On the same night Collier went to the Weymouth Arms, Burlington Place, Bath, and tendered a bad shilling to Mrs Edwards in payment for beer, the coin was returned to him. He put it between his teeth to bite it and said that it was made from lead. On leaving he said he would rather be hung than offer the coin. Mr Edwards, the landlord, followed him and watched Collins go into a shop in the neighbourhood kept by Charles Francis. On looking through the window, Edwards saw Collier throw down a coin in payment for something, he believed the coin was the one just tendered to Mrs Edwards. Edwards went in and accused Collier of passing bad coin and detained him until he was given in charge of a policeman.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£6-15-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£10-4-8</u>
	£20-5-8

Taunton Assizes 9-12-1844

190. **John Eddy** (24), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling and having another counterfeit coin in his possession at a public house in Wellington on 16 October 1844 (*Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* 18 December 1844).
Acquitted of felony but found guilty of a misdemeanour. TNA ASSI 25 31/17 states that the counterfeit shilling was uttered to Frances Harris.
1 year in Wilton with hard labour, he was acquitted of uttering but guilty of possession.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Eddy was a tailor born in Tavistock whose last residence was Plymouth.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Mr Fitzherbert and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Thring	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£4-11-6
Mr White's account	<u>£12-17-4</u>
	£22-15-10

1845

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 25-3-1845

191. **Edwin, alias Frederick, Morgan** (22), labourer, and **Harriet Morgan** (21), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown. Edwin Morgan was also charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling at Publow, Whitchurch and Knowle.
Both discharged ‘for want of prosecution’.

SHC QS/R 542: At about 7pm on Saturday 1 February 1845 E Morgan went into Henry Lee’s shop at Publow and requested half an ounce of tobacco. E Morgan placed a halfcrown on the counter while Lee weighed out the tobacco. Lee saw that the coin was bad and said so. E Morgan apologised saying that he had been given it earlier in Bath. He took it back and left.

At about 7pm on 1 February 1845 E Morgan and an unnamed man ordered one pint of beer at the public house kept by George Hodges at Publow. The unnamed man gave Mrs Hodges a halfcrown and received 2/4d back in change. Mrs Hodges showed the coin to her husband who identified it as counterfeit and bit it leaving marks. He returned the halfcrown to the man who had passed it and went to get the constable. The two men ran away.

At about 8pm E Morgan went into the grocer’s shop of William Russell in the parish of Whitchurch and asked for an ounce of tobacco which was given. He paid with a halfcrown and received 2/3d in change. After E Morgan left Russell looked at the coin, saw that it was bad and went after him. He brought Morgan back to the shop. E Morgan returned the change, paid with genuine coins and was allowed to leave. Russell followed E Morgan to Knowle where he saw him standing opposite the George Inn with H Morgan and Sarah White. Russell took H Morgan into custody and James Colman took the other two. Russell searched the area where the prisoners had been standing before their arrest and found the coin he had earlier bitten and bent. E Morgan said he had been given the coin by Sarah White.

James Colman kept the Red Lion public house at Knowle in the parish of Bedminster. At about 9pm on 1 February 1845 E Morgan went in and ordered a glass of beer. He paid with a shilling which Colman saw was counterfeit, he gave it back and received a good one. About 10 minutes earlier his servant, Elizabeth Dart, had shown him a halfcrown which she had taken in payment for a pint of beer from a man who was with H Morgan, the coin was bad.

E Morgan said that he met Sarah White when he was returning from Temple Cloud. H Morgan said she had met an unnamed ‘young fellow’ who had run away and that he had invited her to have a beer which she did.

Bath Spring Sessions April 1845

192. **Mary Potter** (25), charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Mary Evans and a counterfeit shilling to Samuel Fisher on 22 March 1845 at Bath.
4 months.
Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 17 April 1845 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Midsummer Session 1840 to Winter Session 1845.

Mary Evans, wife of William, bookseller at 41 Broad St, Bath, said that at about 5pm on 22 March 1845 Potter went into the shop and asked the price of a child’s blue necklace. The cost was 3d, she paid with a shilling, was given change and left. After she had departed Mary Evans picked up the shilling, it felt smooth, she bit it and her teeth marked it. Evans went after Potter who was walking towards the Market Place. Mary Evans fetched constable Brooks and pointed Potter out to him.

On the evening of 22 March Potter went to Samuel Fisher’s vegetable stall in the market (Fisher kept a vegetable shop at Weston Grove, Weston). She asked the price of eggs which was 18 for a shilling. She bought 9 paying with a shilling and was given sixpence change in coppers. Constable Brooks approached Fisher before he had put the money in his pocket and asked him to examine the coin. It was seen to be bad and Fisher marked it before giving it to Brooks. Brooks arrested Potter. He compared the two shillings, both were dated 1816 and appeared to have been made in the same mould. Both were in a fit state for circulation. No other counterfeit coin was found on Potter when she was searched, only a good halfcrown and sixpence worth of copper.

Potter denied giving a bad shilling to Evans and didn't know whether the shilling given to Fisher was good or bad. She said that it was the first time she had visited Bath and she was there to see her brother.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Mr Marshman and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£4-7-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£8-17-0</u>
	£16-10-0

Bath Midsummer Sessions July 1845

193. **Robert England** (30) and **Charles Gould** (25), charged with uttering counterfeit shillings, possibly at Bath.

England: not guilty.

Gould: 12 months with hard labour. He had previously been convicted of a similar offence, but no details are known. It almost certainly occurred outside Somerset.

The case got off to a false start. They had been 'indicted under a Mint prosecution' for uttering two counterfeit shillings on 11 July but as the prosecution called the first witness by the wrong name, Mrs Sarah Brindon instead of Mrs Burdon, the recorder directed the jury to acquit them. However, 'the prisoners were put back for another bill to be drawn' and they appeared the following day re-charged for same offence.

Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 31 July 1845 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Midsummer Session 1840 to Winter Session 1845. The words 'Mint Case' appear below the entry in the latter.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
The like on 2 nd Indictment	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£5-15-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£11-8-0</u>
	£22-13-6

194. **Mary Hopkins** (23), charged with possession of 4 counterfeit coins, possibly at Bath.
4 months.

Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 31 July 1845.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£2-15-6
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£7-17-10</u>
	£13-18-10

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 2-8-1845

195. **James Adey** (31) and **Mary Adey** (32) (described in TNA ASSI 25 32/11 as a 'singlewoman'), charged with coining at Taunton.
15 years transportation each. The Ilchester Gaol Felons Register does not survive for 1845 and it is not known to which hulk James Adey was sent. TNA HO 11/14, page 57, records that James Adey sailed on the *China* on 3 January 1846 to Van Dieman's Land (Norfolk Island). There were 200 male convicts on board. TNA ASSI 25 32/11 records that they had an obverse and reverse mould 'impressed' to make a halfcrown and that they were charged with making two halfcrowns.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that James Adey was a 'trumper' and gardener born in 'Mainsbury'. Mary Adey was a 'trumper' and springmaker born in Sidbury.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for 7 August 1845 states that Mr Fitzherbert and Mr Moody appeared for the prosecution, the prisoners were undefended. Mary Brawley and her husband kept a

lodging house in East Reach, Taunton. J Adey asked Mary Brawley for lodgings on 22 or 23 May. He took a room on the first floor with a fire-place in it. He was joined by M Adey.

Thomas Fisher kept an ironmonger's shop in Fore St, Taunton. M Adey often bought Britannia metal table-spoons from him, half a dozen at a time. She bought some on 26 May. As a result of her frequent visits and the suspicion that this had aroused in him, Fisher told his porter to follow her to see where she went. At the same time Fisher procured a warrant and gave it to constables Burford and Spiller.

John Martin Fisher, partner of the above, had known M Adey for several months before her apprehension. He had asked her what she did with the spoons she bought, she told him she sold them at farmers' houses.

William Matthews, the porter, followed M Adey to the lodging house in East Reach, she went into the court and inside the building. Matthews showed Burford and Spiller the house.

Matthew Spiller, on getting into the house, saw M Adey and informed her that he had a warrant. She ran towards the room in which J Adey was, but Spiller stopped her. Spiller entered the room and saw J Adey sitting in front of a 'brisk' fire with a plaster of Paris mould before him. He found two counterfeit halfcrowns. On the bed were six unfinished halfcrowns, part of a metal spoon, some 'grained tin' and on the table some sand. Six unfinished crowns wrapped in paper were also found. Spiller overturned a ladle containing 'boiling metal' spilling the contents.

Burford found 10 halfcrowns in an 'unfinished state' in J Adey's waistcoat pocket. He also found 27 shillings, 26 sixpences and 5 halfcrowns wrapped in silver paper and all counterfeit. Spiller took J Adey to the 'station-house', the latter is reported in the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* as saying: 'Oh Spiller I shall get lagged' (ie transported).

Caleb Edward Powell: 'I am an inspector at the Mint. These plaster of Paris moulds are calculated for casting coin. They appear to have been made from halfcrowns, one of the year 1817 and the other 1819.' Powell described other articles found as having been used in coining, but the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* gives no further details on them.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 6 August 1845 reports that the constables also found moulds for making shillings and sixpences. A halfcrown found in the 'bosom' of M Adey had 'evidently' been used to make the impression in one of the moulds.

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Attorney General and clerk with case	£2-4-6
Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£5-7-6
The likes on 2 nd Indictment	£2-4-6
Mr Fitzherbert and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
The like on 2 nd Indictment	£1-3-6
Passing Indictment etc	£6-15-6
Witnesses	£30-1-0
Magistrates clerks fees	£3-6-2
Chaise hire and expenses attending this Prosn.	<u>£18-4-0</u>
	£72-12-2

1846

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 24-3-1846

196. **Henry Langley** (25), hawker, charged with uttering two counterfeit halfcrowns at Shepton Mallet.
1 year.

SHC QS/R 549: In a statement made to Robert Clark JP on 20 March 1846 Langley claimed to have been drawn into uttering counterfeit coin about 10 weeks previously by a man called William Taylor at Marlborough. Both were hawkers. Taylor told him there was more to be made from uttering than

hawking. Langley went with Taylor to London to a house near Pye Street, Westminster. Langley couldn't remember the address but said he could take someone to it. They met a man of about 30 years of age and his wife and Taylor bought £3 or £4 worth of base coin paying 4d per halfcrown and 2d per shilling. The man said that he had a 'hatfull of base coin for any person who wanted them'. Several other people came in while they were there. Taylor and Langley stayed at the Green Man in Pye St that night. There were people at the inn who had base coin for sale, one of whom Langley remembered was called Dyke. Taylor gave some coins to Langley. They travelled through Kent villages for about one month. Langley gave Taylor half of the money he made from passing the counterfeit coins. At the end of the month they returned to London and stayed at a coffee shop near Paddington Railway Station. Again, they went to the house near Pye St and Taylor bought £4 worth of coins. They took the train to Reading and then travelled through the country. At Calne they parted company and Langley went to Evercreech. Taylor left Langley with 32 or 33 pieces of base coin.

Taylor told Langley that there was a public house called the Union in Union St, Shoreditch, where sellers of base coin went.

Micah Read, formerly a sergeant in the London Police and Edward Hurst formerly of the E Division of the Metropolitan Police and both now constables at Mells, got into conversation with Langley at the Swan Inn, Kilver St, Shepton Mallet. Langley, clearly unaware that they were constables, asked Read if he was familiar with Old Pye Street, Westminster, and asked 'did you ever see anything that came out of Pye Street?'. Read replied that he had. Langley said he had been there a week before. He took Read into a passage and showed him a counterfeit halfcrown. Read remarked that the edge was not perfect. Langley described the piece as 'galvinised'. 'I have put away three or four today and I'll put away that over the way.' Langley went to the grocery and drapery store of Mrs Amelia Chamberlain and bought bread and cheese. Read and Hurst went in after him and saw the purchase. All three went back to the Swan Inn. Read then went back to see Mrs Chamberlain who showed him the counterfeit halfcrown uttered by Langley. It was from the same die as another produced by constable Amor of Shepton Mallet. Langley was then arrested. During the conversation Read had with Langley the latter said he 'had had a stretch and half in the Steel for passing pieces' and that he had a 'Moon in Brixton Gaol.'

Constable Amor delivered another halfcrown to Read which he had received from Sophia Clarke of the Swan Inn, Kilver Street. It had been cast in the same mould as the coin uttered by Mrs Chamberlain.

Edward Hurst, constable of Mells, said that Langley 'made use of many expressions which confirmed my suspicions'. Before going to Mrs Chamberlain's house Langley had shown a halfcrown to Hurst and had rubbed it with a 'piece of wet dirt' picked up near the door. Langley told Hurst that he 'had fifteen or sixteen other counterfeits planted a short distance off'.

Mrs Chamberlain stated that Langley had gone into her shop at 3pm and ordered 2d worth of bread and cheese. He tendered a halfcrown which Mrs Chamberlain said she could not change. Langley said that it didn't matter as he needed other items, he got a neckerchief, cloth leggings and other goods which came to 2/1d more than halfcrown. Langley said he would pay the difference by the end of the week. Mrs Chamberlain accepted this as she knew the prisoner, his father and mother were neighbours of hers. When Langley had gone Mrs Chamberlain looked at the halfcrown and saw that it was counterfeit. She left to go to the Swan Inn and met Read on the way who was coming to fetch her.

Eliza Hedge kept a shop in Kilver St, from where Langley bought 2d of apples, he paid with a halfcrown and was given change. That evening Hedge heard that counterfeit coin had been passed in the area and checked the halfcrown received from Langley, the only one she had taken, and saw that it was counterfeit. She took it to Mrs Clark, landlady at the Swan Inn, who passed it on to constable Amor.

Langley described himself as 'a traveller for my father a licensed hawker'. He was clearly a local man.

TNA MINT 15/15	
Mr Stone and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Fitzherbert	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£15-7-2
Messrs Dynes account	<u>£13-3-10</u>

Bath Michaelmas Sessions October 1846

197. **Henry Hayman** (19), charged with uttering counterfeit shillings at Bath.
4 months with hard labour.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 5 Nov 1846 states that on 25 August Hayman went to the Cross Keys Inn, Market Place, Bath, at between 6pm and 7pm and tendered a shilling to Ann Newman in payment for beer. Newman said the coin was bad, Hayman said that he had received it in change for a halfcrown at the Saddlers Arms, Stall Street, Bath. Newman sent a note to the Saddlers Arms, 31 Stall Street, enquiring about this at which point Hayman ran away, leaving the coin behind. He then passed another counterfeit shilling to a widow, Mrs Emma Morgan, after which he was taken into custody.

Mr Edwin Fisher was called to confirm that both coins were bad. Fisher may have been a watch and clockmaker. An 1849 trade directory for Bath lists an Ebenezer Fisher, as a watch and clockmaker in Great Stanhope Street. Inspector Sutton who arrested Hayman found a ‘polishing cloth’ on him bearing traces of metal.

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£4-4-6
Mr Kingston's account	£8-19-8
	£16-9-8

1847

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 5-1-1847

198. **Joseph Maroni** (24), mason, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown and passing counterfeit shillings to two other individuals at Combe Down.
9 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 554: On the evening of 25 December 1846 Maroni went to a bar belonging to Charles Sumpson’s father and asked for a screw of tobacco. He paid with a shilling. Sumpson asked if it was a good one and Maroni confirmed that it was. Sumpson clearly did not accept this, refused to give change and asked for the tobacco back. Maroni returned the tobacco and asked for the shilling back which Sumpson refused. Maroni was asked where he got the shilling and stated that it came from a young man called Bigwood. Maroni was asked to go and fetch Bigwood which he did. Bigwood asked for the shilling back which Sumpson refused and Maroni left. Sumpson gave the shilling to constable Payne on 2 January 1847.

On Thursday 31 December 1846 Maroni went into a shop belonging to George Barnes in Combe Down and requested half an ounce of tobacco costing three halfpence. Maroni paid with a shilling and change was given. The shilling was placed in the till which contained no other money. The following morning Barnes examined the coin and found it to be counterfeit. He put the shilling on a shelf until the afternoon when he gave it to constable Payne. At the time the shilling was identified as being bad, Barnes’ wife, Elizabeth, was present and she noticed that the shilling was dated 1816. The coin was believed by Payne to be from the same mould as the shilling he received from Sumpson.

Maroni said that he had received five shillings and a halfpenny in copper as wages about five weeks previously. He changed the coins with a man who gave him two halfcrowns, the coin passed to Brooks was one of these.

On 30 December 1846 Maroni ordered a pint of beer at William Brooks’s public house in Combe Down. Mrs Brooks served him. Maroni paid with a halfcrown and was given 2/3d in change. Mrs Brooks gave the halfcrown to William Brooks who identified it as counterfeit. Maroni when asked would not return the change. Brooks sent his ‘man’ to fetch constable Payne. While the ‘man’ was away doing this Maroni returned the change and asked for the halfcrown back. Brooks refused and

Maroni ‘very much abused me’. Maroni was detained for half an hour but as Payne had not arrived was released. Brooks gave the coin to Payne the following morning. Payne apprehended Maroni on 31 December. Payne stated that the halfcrown was dated 1846. This counterfeit was therefore of a new coin.

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Fitzherbert and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Caron	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£14-18-2
Mr Taylor’s account	<u>£15-7-0</u>
	£35-15-2

Taunton Lent Assizes 1847

199. **Thomas West and John Jones**, both ‘trampers’ (travellers) convicted for uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Fanny Sheppard on 16 January 1847 at Ilminster. The reference derives from TNA MINT 15/15, the assize calendar is not present in SHC.
12 months with hard labour for both.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that West was a labourer born in Salisbury.
Under last abode he is described as a ‘trumper’, ie traveller.

Jones was a labourer born in Bodmin and is also described as a ‘trumper’ under last abode.

They were also charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Sarah Moore on the same day in Ilminster for which they were acquitted (TNA ASSI 25 34/5). The latter lists the witnesses as Elizabeth Reece, Fanny Sheppard, Sarah Moore, John Munson, Charles Moore, George Brown, William Colmer and William Summerhayes. Summerhayes may have been the Taunton watch and clockmaker of that name. The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 14 April 1847 reports that Mr Moody and Mr Merrivale appeared on behalf of the Mint. The account records that Elizabeth Reece was a lodging house-keeper in Chard and that West and Jones stayed in her house on 14 and 15 January 1847. Fanny Sheppard, a beer house-keeper at Ilminster, saw West and Jones at her beer-house on 16 January. They asked for a pint of beer each and tendered a halfcrown. West received the 2s 3d change. Sarah Moore said that West and Jones went into her father’s shop in Ilminster on 16 January. Jones went in first and bought a loaf of bread for which he tendered a halfcrown and received 2s 1½d in change. West went in about half an hour later and bought two oranges. He also paid with a halfcrown receiving 2s 4d in change. Both coins subsequently proved to be counterfeit. Information was given to the constable of Ilminster and West and Jones were apprehended leaving the town in the direction of Chard. At their trial West and Jones cross-examined the witnesses but failed to undermine the evidence. West made a speech to the jury “in which he made a variety of suggestions, more ingenious than probable.” The judge summed up the case and West and Jones were found guilty by the jury.

TNA MINT 15/15

Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Fitzherbert	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£20-1-8
Mr Baker’s account	<u>£14-12-4</u>
	£40-4-0

Bath Midsummer Sessions July 1847

200. **Elizabeth Bryant** (76) charged with uttering 2 counterfeit shillings on 10 July 1847 and having 2 other counterfeit shillings in her possession at Bath.
Not guilty. Mr Hodges conducted the prosecution on behalf of the Mint.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for 15 July 1847 reports that Bryant was ‘an old market woman’ and that she went to the stall of Louisa Hale which she ran on behalf of her father, a market gardener in Corston. Bryant asked for a basket of potatoes and paid with four shillings. Louisa Hale noticed that one was counterfeit and Bryant replaced it. Shortly afterwards Hale examined the other coins and found two more to be counterfeit. She challenged Bryant who denied that they were bad. Constable Mitchell

was summoned, and Bryant was arrested. He demanded to see any other coins in her possession. Bryant produced two shillings and two halfcrowns and dropped another shilling. On picking up the latter, Mitchell detected that the coin was counterfeit. All four counterfeits were dated 1845 and appeared to be from the same mould. Byant said that she had taken the coins in payment and did not know they were bad due to her poor eyesight.

Ref: City and Borough of Bath Minute Book from Easter Session 1846 to Winter [Jan] Session 1856.
Noted as a 'Mint Case' in the latter.

TNA MINT 15/16	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£4-14-0
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£7-12-8</u>
	£15-12-2

1848

Bath Spring Sessions April 1848

201. **James Collins** (18) charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence in Bath.
5 months with hard labour.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 20 April 1848: Mr Hodges prosecuted. The offences took place on 1 and 9 February and involved a shilling and a sixpence. On 1 February Collins passed the shilling at Mr Turner's Victoria Wine Vaults. When apprehended no other coins were found on him and he claimed he did not know that the shilling was counterfeit. Collins said that he was from Bristol. The Mint authorities thought the evidence was insufficient to prosecute and he was discharged. On 9 February he passed a counterfeit sixpence at the chemist's shop of Mr Watts in Argyle St. On being taken into custody Collins made the same statement as before, that is he didn't know the coin was bad and that he was from Bristol. This time the Mint authorities approved the prosecution.

TNA MINT 15/16	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£7-0-0
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£8-15-0</u>
	£19-0-6

202. **John Norris** (22) charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence on 11 January 1848 to Charles Tylee in his chemist's shop in Bridge St, and to Mr Eve in his chemist's shop at 13 Cheap St and another to Tylee on 15 January 1848 at Bath. Norris lived in lodgings in Avon Street.
4 months with hard labour.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 20 April 1848 records that two of the three sixpences came from the same mould.

Ref: City and Borough of Bath Minute Book from Easter Session 1846 to Winter [Jan] Session 1856.

TNA MINT 15/16	
Mr Hodges and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Witnesses	£6-6-0
Mr Kingston's account	<u>£8-17-0</u>
	£18-9-0

Bath Summer Sessions June 1848

203. **James Davis** (27) charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling in Bath.
6 months with hard labour.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 22 June 1848: Davis was 'a stranger to Bath'. On two occasions Davis went into stationer's shops (Mrs Ann Evans's in Broad Street and Mr Gibbs's in Union Street)

and asked for writing ink, he paid with a halfcrown both times and received change. He then changed his mind and requested a type of marking ink which he knew they did not sell. When told that they could not supply the ink Davis returned the writing ink he had received and asked for his money back. In both cases Davis's original halfcrown was returned to him and he gave back the change he had received which in both instances included two shillings. Mrs Evans didn't notice the base coin until after Davis had left as he had placed the two shillings one on top of the other with the counterfeit at the bottom. In each case one of the returned shillings was counterfeit. Mr Gibbs stated that when he questioned Davis the latter took the coin, turned his back on him and 'appeared to be in the act of swallowing it which he believed he actually did'. When searched by a policeman no other counterfeit coins were found on Davis.

TNA MINT 15/16 (reported 14-6-1848)

Mr Hodges & Clk with brief	3-5-6
Witnesses	4-5-6
Mr Kigston's Acct.	<u>7-13-0</u>
	15-14-0

1849

Wells Epiphany Quarter Sessions 2-1-1849

204. **Henry Wilkins** (35), labourer but claimed at the time of his arrest to be working for a steel-pen manufacturer in Birmingham, having in his possession four counterfeit half sovereigns with intent to utter at Weston-super-Mare.
Acquitted.

SHC QS/R 568: On 20 November 1848 Wilkins went into the Globe Inn, Weston-super-Mare, and asked for a glass of beer. Wilkins paid with a sovereign, but landlady Jane Phillips was unhappy with the coin as she noticed a crack on the 'Queen's head'. Wilkins offered a sovereign for beer at a beer house run by John Allen in High Street, Weston-super-Mare, but Mary Ann Wells, who served him, thought that it was light in colour and refused the coin. Wilkins also went into Samuel Serle's shop in Weston-super-Mare where he was served by Serle's daughter Emily. Wilkins asked for three pennyworth of steel pens. These were produced and he tendered a sovereign. Emily thought that the coin appeared to be light in colour and took it to show her father who said that he would not give change for it. The coin was returned to Wilkins who said that he would return later to buy the pens.

Wilkins was taken into custody at Weston-super-Mare railway station. He claimed to be a gentleman. He was seen by a porter to throw away a package which when retrieved was found to contain four counterfeit half sovereigns individually wrapped in paper.

TNA MINT 15/16

Mr Fitzherbert and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Phinn	£2-4-6
Witnesses	£11-15-0
Mr Came's account	<u>£8-15-11</u>
	£26-0-11

Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions 3-7-1849

205. **Andrew Walters** was indicted for uttering counterfeit coins on 5 April 1849 at Bridgwater.
12 months with hard labour.

SHC QS/R 571: Walters entered the shop of Mr Denner, St Mary St, Bridgwater, and asked for a small loaf of bread. He tendered a halfcrown in payment and received change. He was about to leave the shop but then changed his mind about the bread, he wanted a 'coarse' loaf instead. He was told that Mr Denner had none. Wilkins asked for his money back and returned the change that he had received amongst which were two shillings. He then left and went to Mr Poole, a grocer, where he purchased some goods and returned them again in the same way making some undefined excuse. A bad shilling was detected amongst the change that he returned, and the prisoner was detained. This circumstance

becoming known to Mr Denner he examined the two shillings which the prisoner had returned as change and which Mrs Denner had put separately in her pocket. One was found to be bad. Walters used the same technique at Mr Parson's, St Mary St, but the change he returned on this occasion was put in with a quantity of silver and the coins produced by Wilkins could not therefore be isolated.

Bridgwater Lammas Assizes 31-7-1849

206. **Joseph Skeel** (spelt Scales in TNA ASSI 25 36/11) (34), horse dealer (TNA ASSI 25 36/11 says labourer), and **William Henry Coates** (32), butcher (TNA ASSI 25 36/11 describes him as a labourer), uttering a counterfeit crown and having other counterfeit coins in their possession at Yeovil. Misdemeanour.

12 months each in Wilton gaol with hard labour.

This case was due to be heard at the 1849 Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions but did not proceed as not all evidence was available, so they were remanded in custody.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Skeel was a butcher born and still resident in Bristol.

Coates was a horse dealer born and still resident in Bristol.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for 9 August 1849 reports that Mr Moody and Mr Fitzherbert appeared for the prosecution. Mrs Fudge, wife of William who kept the Duke of York Inn, Kingston, Yeovil, stated that on 28 June, Yeovil Fair Day, Skeel and Coates entered the inn at between 12.00 and 1.00pm and ordered two glasses of beer. Coates tendered a sovereign but, before she could give change, Skeel said if she hadn't change, he had a half sovereign. Skeel gave the coin to Mrs Fudge but she thought it was bad and turned it over in her fingers. Coates took the coin and asked Skeel where he had got it. The latter said that he had received it in change after paying for his dinner at the Mermaid Inn, 2 High Street, Yeovil. They paid for their drinks in coppers and left. The barmaid at the Mermaid Inn said Skeel had tried passing a counterfeit half sovereign there. Another witness stated that Skeel and Coates had succeeded 'in the same trick' at other places in the town.

The crown piece was uttered at the booksellers of Trenchard and Whitby in Princess Street. On being searched Coates and Skeel were found to have several coins from the same mould. TNA ASSI 36/11 records that these coins were counterfeit half sovereigns.

TNA ASSI 21/61 records only one case, that on 28 June 1849 in the parish of Yeovil they uttered a counterfeit crown to George Palmer and that they had another counterfeit crown in their possession at the time.

Bath Sessions October 1849

207. **Mary Bradley** (26), laundress, charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence to Charlotte Clark and a counterfeit sixpence to Joseph Williams on 3 July 1849, possibly at Bath. 3 months.
Ref: City and Borough of Bath Minute Book from Easter Session 1846 to Winter [Jan] Session 1856. The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 16 August 1849 reports that Mary Ann Williams had been arrested with Williams but, instructions from the Mint having been received, Bradley was committed for trial and Williams was discharged.

Wells Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 22-10-1849

208. **Benjamin Hall** (17), labourer and **James Beaver, alias James Beaver Hall**, (22), coal miner, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown and with having other counterfeit coin in their possession at Chew Magna. The prisoners were brothers and lived in or near Bedminster.
Hall: 10 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol.
Beaver: 10 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Hall was a labourer born and resident in Bedminster.

SHC QS/R 574: Mary and James Hassell kept a beer house in Chew Magna. At 11.15am on 5 September 1849 Benjamin Hall entered and asked for a glass of beer. He paid with a halfcrown and received 2/4d change. He was served by M Hassell who put the coin in her purse. At about 1pm James Bull of Chew Magna came in. Mary showed him the coin, he bit it and left marks on the coin. Mary then scratched a cross on the head. The coin was dated 1818.

At about 11.30pm on the same day Beaver went into Amelia Bull's father's shop to buy half an ounce of tobacco. Beaver gave a halfcrown and Amelia "sounded it on the Counter and it sounded bad". James Bull entered the shop at that point and, having heard the sound the coin made, he took and kept the halfcrown. Beaver then gave a good halferown and received 2/4d in change. James Bull bent the counterfeit halfcrown and scratched it. The coin was dated 1818. Beaver claimed to have received the coin in change for a half sovereign but not in Chew Magna.

John Carter, constable and proprietor of a cooper's shop, was called by James Bull regarding the counterfeit halfcrown passed in his shop. Carter, who had earlier seen Hall and Beaver walking into Chew Magna together, went in pursuit of them and caught up with them on the Turnpike Road at Pensford. He reached Beaver first who, when questioned, denied having been to Chew Magna or even knowing where it was. Hall, who was then approaching, turned and ran in the Bristol direction. Carter ran after him, apprehended him and said he would search him. At this point Hall put his hand into his right trouser pocket and took out something contained in paper which he threw over a nearby wall. Again, he put his hand in his pocket and took out something else which he forcibly threw on the ground. Carter's son, who had accompanied him, picked it up. The prisoners were both taken to the Bird in Hand beer house at Pensford, about two miles from Chew Magna, which was run by William Hodges. When searched some good money was found on both. Carter went to retrieve the item thrown over the wall, he found some paper and beside it two bad halfcrowns both dated 1837. They were from different "dies" (ie moulds) from the two coins passed in Chew Magna.

At about 1pm on 5 September 1849 Beaver had gone into the Bird in Hand at Pensford and ordered a glass of beer. He paid with a halfcrown. Hall went in a short time afterwards and asked for a "screw of tobacco". Frances Hodges, wife of landlord William, heard the two men whispering. Hall then left and Beaver was given 2/4½d change for his halfcrown. Very shortly afterwards the prisoners were brought back to the Bird in Hand in the custody of Carter. F Hodges checked the halfcrown she had received from Beaver and found it was bad. F Hodges was told to keep the coin as evidence. When her husband William came back, he told his wife that she would "have to go against them", she said she would not. W Hodges threw the coin towards the river. Although he had subsequently looked for it he could not find the coin. Frances Hodges' reason for not wishing to be involved was "I am subject to Hysterics and not fit to go from home, and timid, and therefore didn't want to appear against the Prisoners". Prior to being lost the halfcrown had clearly been examined as it is stated that it was dated 1837 and from the same dies as those thrown over the wall.

Hall stated that he was going to Pensford to visit a relation. The only place he said he paid over money in Chew Magna was at the beer house and he believed the coin to have been good. In Pensford he had picked up a piece of paper, looked inside, found what he believed to be bad money and had "chucked" it over the wall.

Beaver said the counterfeit halfcrown he passed had been given in change to him for a half sovereign.

209. **George Lovell** (47), tailor, and **John Walker** (24), labourer, charged with uttering two counterfeit crowns at Bowlish, near Shepton Mallet.
Lovell: 10 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Walker: 10 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Walker was a polisher born in Glastonbury and last resident in Bristol.

SHC QS/R 574: At about 10.00am on 4 September 1849 Lovell and Walker went into the Horseshoe Inn, Bowlish, Shepton Mallet, run by Matilda Hodges and her husband, and asked for a pint of beer. Walker paid with a crown and was given change. They drank the beer and left. Lovell returned shortly afterwards and asked for a glass of beer costing 1½d, he paid with half a sovereign. Hodges gave him

the silver component of the change but had to go to the till for the fourpence halfpenny. When she returned with the coppers Lovell said that one of the shillings that she had just given him was bad. She did not think she had given a bad coin but, as she was on her own, changed it. She was suspicious of Lovell and had the crown weighed by constable Isaac Watts Jones.

At between 10 and 11am on the same day, Lovell and Watts together with another man went into the shoemaker's shop of Charles Witcombe. Lovell bought a pair of small shoes for 1/9d paying with a crown. After they had gone Witcombe examined the coin and found it to be counterfeit. He took it to the constable who marked it. It was four pennyweights and eight grains underweight.

Isaac Watts Jones, constable at Shepton Mallet, said the Witcombe and Hodges crowns "appeared to have been cast in the same die" and that there was only a "trifling" difference in the weights of the two coins.

Lovell said he had, as a tailor, made a waistcoat for Walker costing 10 shillings. The latter paid with one crown and two halfcrowns. The former, he said, was the one he gave Witcombe. This was agreed by Walker.

210. **Mary Ann Rood** (18), labourer, and **Elizabeth Jenkins** (19), labourer, charged with uttering three counterfeit sovereigns in Glastonbury.
Rood: 6 months in Shepton Mallet gaol.
Jenkins: 8 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol.

SHC QS/R 574: Joseph Bishop was a linen and woollen draper at Glastonbury. At about 7.30pm on 17 October 1849 Rood and Jenkins went into his shop and both ordered similar "articles of dress" each amounting to £1-1-4½d. Jenkins tendered three counterfeit sovereigns which Bishop immediately saw to be counterfeit. When challenged Rood said: "give them back and we will get good money". Bishop refused and retained the coins. Rood and Jenkins left. Bishop sent for constable James Windmill who went to arrest them and eventually caught them in North Wootton. Rood and Jenkins were both described as "girls of ill-fame". They lived in a house on Hill Head, Glastonbury, but also 'resorted' to a house in Northload Street. Three or four years earlier, Jenkins had been sentenced to hard labour for obtaining goods from Bishop's shop under false pretences.

The sovereigns had all been placed on the counter obverse up as this side more closely resembled a genuine sovereign than the other.

1850

Bath Epiphany Sessions January 1850

211. **Charles Sutton** charged with uttering a counterfeit sixpence on 5 December 1849 to Esau Shearn and another on the same day to Robert Wadman Martin, possibly at Bath.
6 months with hard labour, he pleaded guilty.
Ref: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* 10 January 1850.

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 26-3-1850

212. **Alfred Green** charged with uttering a counterfeit half sovereign at Chard.
Acquitted.

SHC QS/R 577: On 25 December 1849 Green went to John Selway's house in North Wootton and asked for a half sovereign to be changed. Selway's wife Ann changed it. Next day she saw that it was counterfeit and asked Green where he had obtained it. The latter said that his father had given it to him. When questioned Green's father said that it wasn't the coin he had given his son to change. Green denied at the trial 'that piece of metal' was the one he gave Mrs Selway. Although not stated in the records Green was obviously local.

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 15-10-1850

213. **Charles Russell** (16), labourer, charged with uttering counterfeit coin at Chard.
6 weeks with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 580: on two occasions on 2 September 1850 Russell passed a counterfeit shilling resembling 'the Queen's current silver coin'.

Mary Ann Hayball, a shopkeeper at Chard, stated that at about 8pm on 2 September 1850 Russell asked for a pennyworth of apples and tendered a shilling in payment. Hayball saw the coin was counterfeit and informed Russell of this. The apples were given back, and she returned the shilling to Russell. Russell claimed to have received it from his master the previous Saturday.

Mary Ann Searle, granddaughter of Francis Cross, landlord of the Ball Inn, Fore St, Chard, with whom she lived, said that at about 9.30pm on 2 September 1850 Russell went into the bar and asked her if she could change a shilling. With the approval of her aunt Priscilla Cross, she gave him a shilling's worth of copper. The shilling was put on the counter. P Cross looked at it and saw that it was counterfeit. Searle also examined it and agreed. Constable Amor was notified, and Searle accompanied him when he went to apprehend Russell. When caught, Russell denied knowing that the coin he had changed was counterfeit.

John Webber worked for Mr Brown of the London Inn, Holyrood Street, Chard. At about 9.55pm on 2 September 1850 Russell went into the kitchen at the inn and asked if anyone could change a shilling. Webber said that he could. He took the shilling and looked at it under candlelight. He saw that it was bad and handed it around to others who were present, they agreed that it was counterfeit.

Somerset County Herald for 19 October 1850 records that Russell had been tried with his father for perjury. Russell junior was acquitted, but his father was transported.

Wells Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 21-10-1850

214. **Edward Pearce** (29), seaman, and **Francis Gulliver** (33), seaman, charged with uttering counterfeit coin at Midsomer Norton.
9 months each in Shepton Mallet Gaol.

SHC QS/R 581: At between 3pm and 4pm on 12 October 1850 Pearce entered Jonah Shearn's pork butcher's shop in Midsomer Norton and asked for half a pound of sausages. He tendered a crown and received 4/8½d change. He was served by Berthia Shearn, Jonah Shearn's wife. Before Pearce left, Berthia Shearn saw that the crown was counterfeit. Pearce denied this and said that it had been in contact with something dark in his pocket which had discoloured the coin. Shearn said she would go anywhere with him to check if the coin was bad. Pearce declined saying that he would 'get grub at the beer shop below'. He gave back his change and the sausages and left the shop. Shearn marked the edge of the coin with a knife.

George Matthews, carrier and shopkeeper at Midsomer Norton, said that at about 4pm on 12 October 1850 Pearce went into his shop and asked for half an ounce of tobacco which he was given. Pearce put a crown on the counter. Mrs Matthews asked G Matthews if she should give change for it, he said no because it was 'not worth a farthing'. Pearce repeatedly said that the coin was good and that he had just received it in change for a sovereign at a pork butcher's shop, although he wouldn't say which. He took the coin back and left. The coin had a cut on the edge, and it was this which made Mrs Matthews suspicious.

At shortly after 4pm G Matthews saw Pearce, Gulliver and another man standing outside John Shearn's shop. Pearce went in and G Matthews told his wife to send a woman to warn Shearn to be careful of counterfeit money. Maria Shearn, John Shearn's wife, said Pearce ordered half an ounce of tobacco. He was given the tobacco and paid with a crown. M Shearn told Pearce that she thought the coin was bad and was going to show it to her husband. At that Pearce said he would find the correct change and gave her 1½d. M Shearn said that it was the same as that previously passed to G Matthews.

James Peake, landlord of the Lamb Inn, said that at between 5pm and 6pm Gulliver went into the bar and asked for a half pint of beer. He paid with a crown, was given change, drank up and left. Peake then

looked at coin and saw that it was counterfeit. He went after Gulliver and told him the crown was bad. Gulliver said he was mistaken. Peake cut a piece off the edge of the coin which proved it was bad. Peake demanded his change back, which was given, plus payment for the beer. Gulliver said he had no money. Peake left him. Shortly after getting back he heard that people had been passing counterfeit money in nearby Radstock. Peake went with another man to find Gulliver. They caught up with Pearce and Gulliver half a mile away and took them to Radstock. They went to the Bell Inn where landlord George Coombs recognised Gulliver as the person who had recently passed him a counterfeit crown. The constable was called. Peake said that the coin Gulliver passed him was the same as that passed by Pearce to Berthia Shearn.

George Coombs stated that Gulliver had gone to the Bell Inn and asked for a pint of ale. He paid with a crown which Coombs immediately saw was counterfeit. Coombs asked where it was from, Gulliver said he had received it at Midsomer Norton market. They went together to the market, passing Pearce on the way. Gulliver and Pearce spoke to each other though Coombs could not hear what was said. Coombs did not feel that he was given a satisfactory explanation by Gulliver when they reached the market. Coombs kept the coin saying that he would show it to the constable and that Gulliver could come back later to hear the outcome. Gulliver did not return. The next time Coombs saw Gulliver and Pearce was when they were brought back from Midsomer Norton.

Gulliver also passed a counterfeit coin at Edwin Blacker's beer shop in payment for a glass of beer. There is no further information on this occurrence.

Edwin Hurst, constable at Radstock, stated that the two crowns he received from Coombs and Peake were from the same dies. When he searched Pearce and Gulliver he found 'a roll of rossin (?) with some black paste upon itI believe....is used by utterers of base coin to rub them with, to get rid of the bright appearance of the new coin for them to look as if they had been in use for some time.'

Bath Michaelmas Sessions October 1850

215. **Caroline Jones** (19), charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling at Bath.
4 months with hard labour.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 31 October 1850 reports that on 16 August Jones offered the shilling at Mr Martin's grocer's shop in Walcot St, Bath, in payment for some 'trifling article'. She did the same at Mr Perry's, druggist, Southgate St. Jones said that she had received both coins from the same man.

Mr Fairhurst was called as witness for the prosecution and stated that both coins were made of tin and were apparently cast from the same mould. Fairhurst was probably either John Fairhurst of 11 Prospect Place or William Fairhurst of 1 Argyle Street, both were jewellers.

1851

Bath Winter Sessions January 1851

216. **William Johnson** (age unknown), charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling on 8 November 1850 to Richard Lamer and with uttering another coin to an unnamed person on the same day, possibly in Bath.
3 months.
Reference from the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 9 January 1851 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Easter Session 1846 to Winter Session 1856.

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 25-3-1851

217. **Jane Smith** (19), dressmaker, charged with uttering two counterfeit crowns in Wells.
8 months in gaol.

SHC QS/R 584: Smith went into an ironmonger's shop in Wells on 10 February 1851 at between 6pm and 7pm. She asked for a pair of scissors, price 8d, gave a counterfeit crown and received change. Smith was served by the shop owner's daughter, Elizabeth Charles who, suspecting the coin to be

counterfeit, marked it with a cross in the presence of her sister. Shortly afterwards they asked their servant, Elizabeth Rhymes, to take the crown to Mr Maggs, a silversmith. The latter weighed the coin and marked it with his knife.

At about 6.30pm Smith went into Thomas Serel's shop, he was a bookseller and stationer, to buy notepaper costing sixpence. She was served by shopgirl Rachel Davies. Serel came in during the purchase, looked at the crown tendered and said that he believed it was bad. Smith said that it was genuine and that she had just received it in change for half a sovereign round the corner. Serel felt sure that it was bad and had her arrested. Smith tried paying with a good halfcrown after being challenged by Serel.

Richard Maggs, silversmith and watchmaker in High St, Wells, stated that the coin received at Charles' shop was 4½ pennyweights underweight and was not silver. He described the Serel coin as "equally defective".

Smith simply denied knowing the coins were counterfeit.

A detailed set of accounts for costs incurred in the prosecution appear in a fee book of Fosters, solicitors in Wells (SHC DD/FS/82/3) showing that they had acted as local agents on behalf of the Mint Solicitor in this case:

"The Solicitor to the Royal Mint
Powell Esqr. Barrister at Law, Whitehall, London

1851

The Queen agt. Jane Smith for uttering counterfeit silver coin	
Magistrates Clerks Fees 6 Depositions of Witnesses	£0-6-0
1 Statement of Prisoner	£0-1-0
Recognizances of Prosecutor	£0-2-6
Recognizances of Wm Charles for acct, Elizabeth Charles & Elizabeth Rhymes	£0- 3-6
Recognizance of Thos Serel	£0-2-6
Recognizance of Thos Serel for Rachel Davis	£0-2-6
Recognizance of Richard Maggs	£0-2-6
9 Notices of Recognizances	£0-4-6
[]	£0-1-6
Copy Depositions 18 fos. @ 4d pr folio	£0-6-0
	<u>£1-12-6</u>

Feby 14

Letter to you with Statement of Apprehension & Commital of the prisoner	
And requesting to know if the Mint would prosecute & with copy	
Depositions & postage	£0-5-0

[Feb] 22

Having received a letter from you stating that the Prisoner would be prosecuted by the Government & enclosing Four Description	
Returns of Prisoner	£0-3-7
Journey to Shepton Mallet. Attebdance at the Gaol there procuring the description of the prisoner	£0-13-4
Paid horse hire	£0-5-0
Attending Mr Charles and serving him with subpoena	£0-6-8

[Feb] 26

Letter to you enclosing Description Return and acknowledging yours of the 24 th inst. with terms of Agency – also informing you when the sessions are to be held	
[no date but the following are post-trail costs]	£0-3-7
Letter acknowledging act. of Brief, indictment, etc	Forward £3-10-2 £0-3-7

Fee for attendance at Sessions	£2-2-0
Paid Clerk of Indictments	£0-11-6
Swearing Witnesses to go before Gd. Jury	£0-7-6
Grand Jury Bailiff and Tipstaff	£0-1-0
Swearing of 7 Witnesses in Court	£0-7-0
Fees of Court viz:	
Filing Indictment	£0-1-0
Filing Examination	£0-1-0
Fees on 7 Recognzances @ 6/8 each	£2-6-8
Abstract of Indictment 3 counts	£0-3-0
Order of Imprisonment	£0-5-0
	<u>£2-16-8</u>
	£4-3-8
Attending the Several Witnesses and Settling with them (7 in number)	£0-6-8
Letter to you with the result of the Trial and returning Brief,	
Counterfeit Coin, etc, etc & post	£0-4-6
	<u>£10-10-7</u>
Paid Mr Fitzherbert & Clerk	£3-5-6
Paid Witnesses as under viz:	
Elizabeth Charles	£0-15-0
Elizabeth Charles	£0-15-0
Anne Charles	£0-15-0
Elizabeth Rhymes	£0-15-0
Rachel Davies	£0-15-0
Thos. Serel	£0-15-0
R. Maggs	£0-5-0
J. Porter	£0-3-6
	£4-18-6
R. Maggs fur. For proving counterfeit	£0-10-6
	<u>£8-14-6</u>
	<u>£19-5-1</u>

218. **James Shoesmith** (25), hawker, charged with uttering two counterfeit halfcrowns at Shepton Mallet.
4 months.

SHC QS/R 584: The offence took place in Shepton Mallet on 28 February 1851 in a beer house in Commercial Road owned by Edmund and Mary Penny. Shoesmith arrived at about 8am and ordered half a gallon of beer, he took his own jug. M Penny had not seen him before. Shoesmith tendered a halfcrown and received 1/8d change. M Penny put the coin into her purse. At about midday Shoesmith returned, ordered more beer, paid with another halfcrown and received 1/8d change. After Shoesmith's departure M Penny together with her husband looked at both halfcrowns and decided that they were counterfeit.

E Penny took the coins to Shoesmith who was staying at a lodging house (there is no record of how E Penny knew this) and confronted him. Shoesmith said he would exchange them but did not and E Penny had Shoesmith taken into custody by constable Isaac Watts Jones.

Shoesmith stated that he did not know the coins were bad: "I had taken five and sixpence out that morning with a case of Razors and a strap and I did not know more than a child unborn that they were bad . . .".

Taunton Lent Assizes 1-4-1851

219. **William Pearce** (36), bricklayer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Mary Taylor on 21 January 1851. No other data has been traced.
Acquitted.

220. **George Cooper** (16), glover, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown on 8 March 1851 at Yeovil to Faith Garrett.
Acquitted. The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 10 April 1851 records that the judge thought the prosecution a waste of time as ‘the authorities of the Mint’ had decided against prosecution.

1852

Bath Winter Sessions January 1852

221. **Elizabeth Palmer** (22), charged with uttering a counterfeit crown to Jonah Maslew on 23 November 1851 and uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to an unnamed person on the same day, possibly at Bath. 4 months.
Reference: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 15 January 1852

Taunton Lent Assizes 30-3-1852

222. **John Draper** (25), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Mary Anne Hyde on 1 March 1852 at Yeovil and on 15 March 1852 another counterfeit halfcrown to Sarah Biddiscombe at Marston Magna.
Misdemeanour.
8 months with hard labour.

Bath Midsummer Sessions July 1852

223. **Daniel McGregor** (age unknown), private in the 26th Foot, charged with having in his possession seven counterfeit sixpences and four counterfeit groats on 24 April 1852, possibly at Bath. 3 months.
Reference: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 8 July 1852 the and City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Easter Session 1846 to Winter [Jan] Session 1856.

Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 19-10-1852

224. **Joseph Watts** (32), brushmaker, of Banbury, charged with uttering counterfeit coin at Muchelney. 4 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 594: At about 8pm on 13 August 1852 Watts went to the house of William Sharman, labourer, at Muchelney and offered two brushes for sale for the price of 11d. Sharman agreed to this and gave him a shilling at which point Watts said that the cost was 2/- and he would only let them go for that amount. Sharman did not want to proceed on this basis and the shilling was returned by Watts.

Sharman took the coin to the house of Joel Lloyd in Muchelney in order to have it examined – he clearly had suspicions about the coin. The latter said that the coin was counterfeit. The coin was marked with the initials WS. Lloyd apprehended Watts. The latter tried to put something in his mouth but was prevented by Lloyd, the object proved to be another counterfeit shilling which was marked with an ‘X’.

The coins were described as resembling ‘the Queen’s current coins’.

The *Somerset County Herald* for 23 October 1852 reports that Joseph Watts ‘was accustomed to sell brushes in the neighbourhood of Ilminster.’

1853

Bath Spring Sessions April 1853

225. **James Wilson** (23) and **James Flanagan** (31), charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling on 8 January 1853 to Joseph Theobald and another on the same day to Philippa Cohen at Widcombe, Bath. Both received 5 months with hard labour.

Reference: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 7 April 1853 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Easter Session 1846 to Winter Session 1856.

The *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 13 January 1853 reports the arrest of Wilson and Flanagan and provides some additional data. Both ‘wore the garb of labourers, though be there speech and manners it appeared to have been assumed as a guise.’ They went to several shops in Claverton Street, Widcombe, on Saturday 8 January tendering a base coin on each occasion. In Mrs Cohen’s grocer’s shop Flanagan gave her a bad shilling in payment for half an ounce of tea. She gave him a 6d. and 4½d in copper in change. After Flanagan had left, she realised that the shilling was counterfeit. At Mr Allwood’s baker’s shop Wilson offered a shilling for a penny tart but the coin was detected as counterfeit and refused, and Wilson and Flanagan quickly left. James Flanagan was also charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling at the butcher’s shop of Mr Collins in Southgate Street, Bath, in December 1854 (*Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* 14 December 1854).

1854

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 21-3-1854

226. **William John Denning** (name recorded as Benjamin Denning in examination statements) (34), lace maker, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling at Chard on 9 March 1854.
20 days imprisonment with hard labour in Shepton Mallet Gaol.

SHC QS/R 605: Caroline Dunell, wife of Elias, innkeeper at the Dolphin Inn, Fore Street, Chard, said that at between 6pm and 7pm, around about dusk, she was at the front bedroom window and about to close it when she saw Denning with George Palmer outside. She heard Palmer say to Denning ‘Let’s go in and see what we can do here.’ They entered the inn. Caroline Dunell went downstairs and lit a candle. One of the two men asked her for a quart of cider, she said she would have the money before delivering the cider. She drew the cider and Denning put a shilling on the table. Dunell asked if they had any coppers to pay as she had no change. They said not. She asked George Mansfield, her servant boy, to go out and change the shilling which he did but which he failed to achieve and came back with the coin. The reasons for this are not clear. Caroline Dunell then looked more closely at the coin and recognised it as bad and as one that Denning had tried to pass to her about a week previously in payment for a pint of cider. On her refusing to accept the coin Denning became abusive. She sent for constable James Player and Denning was taken into custody. He put up a struggle.

John Furzer, labourer, said that he was in the White Horse Inn, Silver Street, Chard, ‘last Thursday’ in the evening. He took some halfpence out of his pocket and a shilling which he saw was bad. He said: ‘I’ve got a bad shilling here.’ Denning and others were present, and Denning twice asked for the shilling which was eventually given. Furzer warned him not to use it but Denning said: ‘so help me god I won’t pass it here but I will somewhere’ and then left. Furzer said there was a bulge on the edge of the shilling and some knife cuts, ‘it had a king’s head on one side and ‘one shilling’ on the reverse’. If Denning tried passing the same coin twice, as recounted by Mrs Dunell, these events must relate to the first occasion though the records don’t actually state this.

Denning in his statement said that he was drunk when he received the shilling and did not know it was bad. When he passed it to Mrs Dunell, and she informed him that it was bad he said that he just wanted to have the coin back again.

Bath Spring Sessions April 1854

227. **David Wilson** (19), charged with uttering counterfeit coin on three instances within a short space of time of each other including a shilling to Jane Griffiths on 11 July 1854 in Bath.
5 months with hard labour.

Reference: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 13 April 1854 and the City and Borough of Bath Minute Book for Easter Session 1846 to Winter [Jan] Session 1856.

An account in the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 16 February 1854 records the circumstances. During the evening of 13 February 1854 Wilson went into Stansell Griffith’s linen-draper’s shop in Charles Street and made a ‘trifling purchase’ which was paid for with a shilling which proved to be

counterfeit. Griffiths sent for a policeman and Wilson was taken into custody. Mrs Griffith's recognised Wilson as having been in the shop on the previous Saturday when he had passed another bad shilling which she had accepted and given him change of 10½d. The Saturday before Wilson had tendered another counterfeit shilling in Mr Fisher's confectioner's shop in Northgate Street in payment for a bun. It was detected and marked by Mrs Griffiths. Wilson ran away before the policeman arrived.

Wells Midsummer Quarter Sessions 3-7-1854

228. **Henry Harris** (43), hawker, 'dealer in pens and cigars', 'late of Birmingham', charged with uttering a counterfeit sovereign at Glastonbury on 6 April 1854.
12 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

SHC QS/R 607: Mary Jelly, landlady of the Crown Inn, Glastonbury, said that at midday on 6 April 1854 Harris entered the inn and asked her if the bus stopped there and where the post office was. He then asked if she would lend him a sovereign and three shillings until the post office opened. She agreed and got him the money, he agreed to leave his coat and parcels with her until he returned. When given the money he went into the other bar where Jelly saw him put the coins into a purse. Harris then said that he didn't need the sovereign as he had one and that the 3/- would be sufficient for his needs. The sovereign was given back. After he had departed Jelly looked at the sovereign and saw that it was counterfeit. She called the constable. When she confronted Harris on his return, he offered to get another sovereign if she would give him that one back. She refused and he was taken into custody by the constable.

Bath Midsummer Sessions 1854

229. **Ann Walker** (52) and **Mary Gardner** (50) charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown at Bath.
Both received 6 months with hard labour.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for 15 July 1854 reports that on 23 May Walker and Gardner went into the Full Moon Hotel, Bath, where Walker asked Edwin Bartlett for a 'joey' of brandy and paid with a halfcrown which was immediately 'detected to be base'. The prisoners were given into custody and searched. Two counterfeit shillings were found on Gardner. A quantity of copper coins were found on both which the recorder said was 'accordant with the usual practice of getting change in uttering counterfeit silver'. This is described as a 'Mint Case' in the Bath Minute Book.

1855

Bath Epiphany Sessions January 1855

230. **John Kite** (28) and **James Wilson** (24), charged with uttering two counterfeit half sovereigns on 2 December 1854, one to Jane Gray and the other to Eleanor Raines, possibly at Bath.
Kite: 5 months with hard labour.
Wilson, who had previously been convicted in 1853 (case 225): 12 months with hard labour. Both pleaded guilty.
Reference: *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* for 11 Jan 1855

Wells Easter Quarter Sessions 20-3-1855

231. **James White** (19), labourer from Ireland, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown at Westbury on 17 January 1855.
6 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet Gaol.

SHC QS/R 612: Fanny Higgins was in her husband's shop in Westbury, Somerset, on the morning of 17 January 1855 when White entered and asked for half an ounce of tobacco. He paid with a halfcrown and was given change. After he had left, Fanny Higgins looked at the coin and thought that it looked bad, she bit it and confirmed her suspicions. She went to the door and saw White further down the street. She called on constable William Weeks (her brother) to take White into custody. White ran when Weeks went after him but was caught with some assistance.

On 16 January 1855 White had been at the beerhouse of Richard Maynard of Portway in the parish of St Cuthberts, Wells. White ordered a pint of beer and gave a halfcrown to Mrs Maynard. She was suspicious of the coin and gave it to R Maynard who when he 'felt it' knew it to be bad. The coin was given back to White who said he had received it in change at Bridgwater.

John Harris, baker, said White had stopped him on 16 January 1855 on the Wookey road and asked to buy a 2lb loaf of bread off his bread cart. He paid with a halfcrown which White saw was bad and refused to accept.

Richard Maggs, silversmith, in High Street, Wells, stated: 'The piece of metal now produced intending to represent a Halfcrown of the Queen's Current Silver Coin is not silver and it is not a piece of the Queen's Current Silver Coin. It is counterfeit.'

White claimed in his statement to have received the coin in change in Bristol and that he didn't know it was bad.

232. **John Templar** (20), labourer, **John Hancock** (18), labourer, and **Charles Young** (18), labourer, charged with uttering counterfeit shillings at Rode on 5 March 1855.
All received 6 months with hard labour in Shepton Mallet Gaol.

SHC QS/R 612: Charles Happerfield, shopkeeper of Rode, stated that on 5 March 1855 Hancock bought half an ounce of tobacco for which he tendered a shilling. He was served by Mrs Hancock who doubted the shilling was genuine and showed it to Happerfield who confirmed that it was counterfeit. Happerfield asked Hancock where he had come into possession of the coin, the latter said Shepton Mallet. He also asked if Hancock had offered it at any other shop, which he denied. Happerfield also asked if Hancock had any other bad coin in his possession, he said no. Hancock said he was on his own. Happerfield called constable William Chivers and Hancock was taken into custody.

Acting upon information received, Happerfield and Chivers went to Mrs Fussell's shop and on the basis of information and a description given they sought, found and questioned Templar and Young about passing bad money at Mrs Fussell's, which they denied. Templar and Young were taken into custody and searched at the Cross Keys. A counterfeit shilling was found on Young.

Leah Kitley said Hancock had gone into her shop at Laverton between 12.00 and 1pm on the same day and asked for half an ounce of tobacco. He paid with a shilling which Kitley saw was bad and she refused to accept it. Hancock had no other money, so he returned the tobacco and the shilling was given back to him. Kitley said the coin 'was light and sounded like a bit of lead.'

James Pickford said that on Saturday 3 March Templar and Hancock went into his inn at Oldford, Frome, and asked for a quart of beer. They were served by Mrs Pickford. J Pickford was in the cellar. They gave a shilling in payment which Mrs Pickford asked her daughter to take to J Pickford. When the latter came in Templar was in the process of paying with copper. J Pickford flung the coin on the table and said it was not worth a farthing. Asked by J Pickford where they had come into possession of the coin, Hancock said Shepton Mallet.

On 5 March between at 11am and 12.00 Hancock went into John Hall's shop at Lullington and asked for half an ounce of tobacco, he paid with a shilling. Hall looked at the coin and threw it on the counter. Finding it did not ring he told Hancock that it wasn't worth a penny, he returned the shilling and retrieved the tobacco.

A man went into Ellen Fussell's shop and asked for half an ounce of tobacco. He paid with a shilling, was given change and left. On the basis of information from Mr Francis a few minutes later she looked at the shilling and found it to be counterfeits. She marked the coin.

John Webb, silversmith of Frome, examined the coins '..... they are not silver. They are 1 dwt short of the proper weight. I have broken one of them and the edge where the metal is fractured shows clearly that the metal is not silver. The three coins produced are all from the same die and they all bear the same year 1853!.

233. **Thomas Cox** (31), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Fanny Bird and having in his possession five counterfeit sixpences and one counterfeit shilling at Walton on the 14 April 1855. 3 months with hard labour in Wilton gaol.

Wilton Gaol Description Register (Q/AGW/15) states that Cox was a labourer born in Kent and last resident in Curry Rivel.

SHC QS/R 614: Cox, late of Marden, Kent, went to the beerhouse kept by Fanny Bird at Walton, near Street, early in the morning and ordered a quart of cider. He was in the company of two other men who Bird did not recognise. Cox paid though she could not remember the denomination of coin used. Cox stayed in the beerhouse for several hours. He ordered another quart of cider in the afternoon and paid with a bad shilling. Bird informed him that it was bad, he took it from her and agreed. Cox said he would take it back to where he got it from and left without paying for the cider. She discovered that she had taken a bad sixpence shortly after Cox came in. Bird asked Arthur White to go after Cox and bring him back, which he did. Before White caught up with Cox, he saw him apparently throw something over a hedge. George Perry happened to be working in the field and saw the item land. On inspection he found a piece of paper near to which were five counterfeit sixpences and one counterfeit shilling which Perry marked with crosses.

234. **John Fairbrother** (26), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown at Bedminster on the 26th May 1855.
6 weeks with hard labour in Shepton Mallet Gaol.

SHC QS/R 614: Maria Royal kept a small shop in Bedminster. On Saturday 6 May 1855 at between 9pm and 10pm Fairbrother went in and asked for a pennyworth of bread. He paid with a halfcrown and was given change. Fairbrother left, Royal looked at the halfcrown and saw that it was counterfeit. She went out and called to Fairbrother who ran off. There are no other surviving statements relating to this case in the quarter sessions rolls.

Postscript:

Somerset people were occasionally caught uttering outside the county. In 1839 Joseph Knight, a drover from Wincanton, was accused of tendering two counterfeit half crowns to Joseph and Mary Metcalf of Haddenham, Isle of Ely, to pay for beer on Earith Fair Day. Knight faced a similar accusation relating to paying Mary, wife of John Killingworth, a beer retailer at Earith, for beer. The case was heard at the Huntingdon Quarter Sessions (Huntingdonshire Archives HCP/1/23). Knight was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

The figures in the two left hand columns derive from 'Return of Prisoners Committed for Trial in the County of Somerset' which occur in the quarter session calendars. There is no data from this source for 1810 to 1820

	Coining	Uttering counterfeit coin	My figures: Individuals	Cases
1810			6	1
1811			1	1
1812			8	6
1813			1	1
1814			4	2
1815			2	1
1816			4	3
1817			13	10
1818			3	3
1819			10	9
1820			9	8
1821	0	12	6	5
1822	0	9	10	6
1823	0	3	5	5
1824	0	4	5	4
1825	0	5	8	7
1826	0	7	9	5
1827	0	7	7	7
1828	0	3	5	5
1829	0	3	8	8
1830	0	5	7	7
1831	0	5	11	8
1832	0	6	21	16
1833	1	6	8	7
1834	0	11	14	11
1835	1	4	7	6
1836	1	2	4	4
1837	2	3	7	5
1838	0	4	4	3
1839	0	11	13	5
1840	0	1	2	2
1841	1	3	6	5
1842	0	8	10	5
1843	0	2	2	1
1844	0	4	10	8
1845	2	3	8	5
1846	0	2	2	2
1847	0	3	4	3
1848	0	0	3	3
1849	0	10	11	7
1850	0	2	6	5
1851	0	8	5	5
1852	0	1	4	4
1853	0	1	2	1
1854	0	4	5	4
1855	0	6	8	5
TOTAL	8	164	249	189
TOTAL plus 1810 - 1820			310	234

Cases that did not go to trial

1811

Samuel Brown (14) was committed to Wilton gaol on 10 June 1811 charged with uttering base coin. He was discharged on 20 June for want of evidence (Q/AGw 14/1).

1812

James Hackett, alias Short, (40) and **Elizabeth Hackett, alias Short,** (35) charged on the oaths of Thomas Edwards and others with uttering and having in their possession counterfeit shillings.

Discharged

There are no statements in SHC QS roll. Due to be heard at the 1812 Taunton Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.

Elizabeth Hackett, alias Short, last known residence Frome Selwood, was committed to Shepton Mallet gaol on 25 August 1812 charged on the oath of George Baker with having uttered eight counterfeit shillings in payment to him on 1 August 1812. She was discharged without prosecution on this occasion (Q/AGs 13/1).

1814

Elizabeth Liddon junior (16) was committed on 9 July 1814, the same day as her mother (presumed to be Elizabeth Smith), charged on the oaths of James Turle and others with having a quantity of counterfeit coin in her possession and on suspicion of being a common utterer of counterfeit coin. She was discharged without prosecution on 18 July 1814. Due to be heard at the 1814 Wells Lammas Assizes.

1815

Mary Toten (59), labourer, born in Taunton, charged on the oath of Benjamin Stacey and another with having knowingly uttered three counterfeit shillings at a public house in Taunton.

Discharged.

The case was due to be heard at the 1815 Bridgwater Midsummer Quarter Sessions.

Joseph Tant (36) and **Thomas Saunders** (26) were committed to Ilchester gaol on 11 July 1815 charged on the oath of Robert Grant and others with having uttered a counterfeit three shilling Bank Token and on suspicion of being common utterers of counterfeit tokens. They were discharged without prosecution on 12 July (Q/AGi 14/1, 431 and 432).

1817

Ann Gosney (25) was committed to Wilton gaol on 2 August 1817 charged on the oaths of Aaron Smetham and James Turle with having a quantity of counterfeit coin in her possession in Taunton. (Q/AGw 14/1) Her non-appearance in subsequent records indicates that the prosecution did not proceed. Due to be heard at the 1817 Bridgwater Lammas Assizes.

1821

Thomas Watts (30), labourer, last residence Ufculme, Devon, **Elizabeth Jefferies** (22) and **Charlotte Bishop** (22) charged on the oath of Anne Bere and others on suspicion of having uttered and paid away two counterfeit halfcrowns and four shillings.

Discharged without trial. Due to be heard at the 1821 Bridgwater Lammas Assizes.

TNA ASSI 21/42 has 'Mint' beside the names of the accused and lists the witnesses as William Bere, Edward Gill for May his wife, William Bere for Anne his wife and Samuel Webber.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* published an account on 18 July 1821, immediately after they had been charged but before they were tried. 'Thos Watts of Burliscombe, Devon, Charlotte Bishop and Elizabeth Jeffery, of Combe St Nicholas and Robert Bird of Taunton were committed to Wilton gaol on Saturday last charged with several distinct offences of uttering counterfeit coin during the late Fair in North-town- The coin consisted of halfcrowns and shillings, very indifferently executed, and looking exceedingly bright- this brightness, however, gave way in 24 hours to a dark brassy appearance. The husband of Jeffery is now in Exeter gaol under a sentence of Imprisonment for a similar offence'.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* records that Moss Watts was arrested on the same day for uttering base coin at North Town Fair, he was in the company of Thomas Watts et al. Evidence against Moss Watts was considered insufficient to warrant his arrest and he was discharged.

Robert Bird (25) charged on the oaths of Elizabeth Trenchard and others with having issued two counterfeit shillings.

Discharged without trial

TNA ASSI 21/42 clearly shows this case as separate from the above case in spite of an apparent link in the 18 July 1821 Taunton Courier report. The word 'Mint' appears against the case and Richard Trenchard for both Elizabeth Trenchard and Matthew Trenchard, and William Line are listed as witnesses.

TNA MINT 15/10 combines the costs for this and the previous case:

'.... the Evidence being considered insufficient they were not prosecuted but an application was made to the court to discharge the witnesses' recognisances.

Mr Marrett with brief	2-2-0
Witnesses	10-11-6
Messrs Pinchard & Sons Bill	<u>10-18-8</u>
	23-12-2

A later payment was made to the Clerk of the Assize for £11-5-8, it had been omitted from the first account.

1825

Henry Harper was committed for trial at the Wells January 1825 Sessions for uttering counterfeit silver (TNA MINT 15/10). The case was reported to Mint Board on 2 February 1825. Harper gave some important information which led to the apprehension of other persons and in consequence the prosecution, which was due to take place at the July 1825 Quarter Sessions in Bridgwater, was dropped. Mr Page's account: £6-7-6. There is no reference in SHC QS/R 435.

1830

Henry Horton (20), baker, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Elizabeth Walbridge on 30 October 1830.

The case against Horton, which was due to go to the 1830 Wells January Quarter Sessions, was withdrawn – see case against Yardley below. Horton was subsequently convicted of burglary at the Taunton Assizes of 29 March 1831 when he and his associates were sentenced to death. One of his associates was also charged with passing a counterfeit coin but this was dropped in the light of the more serious charge of burglary.

SHC QS/R 455: John Muison, a shopkeeper at Ilminster, said that on the evening of 30 October Horton went into his shop at about 7pm and asked for half an ounce of tea for which he tendered a halfcrown. Muison told Horton that the coin was bad, and Horton returned the tea saying that he did not have the money to pay for it. Muison shortly afterwards saw Horton in Elizabeth Walbridge's shop where he had gone to buy a quarter pound of butter, he tendered a halfcrown and received 2/3½d change. Robert Summerhayes, silversmith and clockmaker of Ilminster stated that the halfcrown tendered to Walbridge was 'false and counterfeit'.

John Yardley (23), smith, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to John Jacobs at Ilminster. The case was withdrawn – see below.

SHC QS/R 455: Yardley entered Samuel Taylor's shop in Ilminster at about 7.15pm on 30 October and bought a half loaf of bread, he paid with a halfcrown. The coin was accepted, and 2/1½d change was given. Taylor followed the prisoner when he was informed that the coin was bad. When challenged Yardley returned the bread and the money. The same evening Yardley went to John Jacobs shop and asked for a half loaf of bread. He paid with a halfcrown and received change of 2/1½d. Yardley denied that he knew the coin to be counterfeit. This latter coin was stated by Robert Summerhayes, silversmith, to be 'false and counterfeit'.

Although Horton and Yardley appear in the Calendar for the Quarter Sessions they may well not have been tried, neither appears in the list of sentences. The two could have been linked, although this is nowhere stated. The Mint refused to support prosecution in either case. SHC QS/R 455 contains two letters from the Mint solicitor, Joseph Blunt, sent from 36 Lincolns Inn Fields.

8 December 1829:

'The Mint decline to prosecute these Prisrs. because the Evidce. is not sufft. to prove guilty Knowledge.

I do not see any Examination of the Officer who apprehended them. If he found other Countr. Money upon them the Case would be difft.

The Mint never prosecute for Uttering one piece of Countr. Money unless other Countr. Money be found upon the Prisr. or unless there are other Circes. very decisive to show that he is an habitual Utterer.

The previous tenders by these Prisrs. will not do to shew guilty knowledge. A Person having accidentally a bad halfcrown & wishing to get rid of it is not alone sufft. Evidence of the guilty knowledge contemplated by the Statute.

It is a pity I was not advised of this Case before the Witnesses were bound over as their Expenses cannot be allowed at the Sess.'

The letter was signed by Blunt, Solicitor of The Mint. There is no addressee on this or the next letter.

Further correspondence obviously passed, but is untraced, producing another letter from Blunt on 30 December 1829 on the two cases:

'This case still will not do - it does not appear that there was any more than one halfcrown in the possession of each Prisr. indeed one of the Witnesses Taylor says the halfcrown produced by Jacobs is the same that had been first paid to him, how can he be certain of that? but whether or not there is no Evidence that the Prisr. Yardley dealt with anymore than one & the same halfcrown. [In his statement Taylor said he believed: 'the halfcrown produced is the same as I took of the prisoner.']}

What passed with the other man not in custody has nothing to do with the Case. Why did not the Constables search the Prisrs. that should be the first thing done. Nothing however has yet been stated of what happened at the Apprehension of Yardley & Horton - in the Depon. now sent in only speaks of the apprehension of the person not in Custody.

I will attend to any furr. explanation but as yet this Case is not in a state to be reported to the Board - at least if reported they would certainly decline the prosecution.'

There was clearly an un-named third person involved. It is not stated who these two letters were sent to. One useful issue to arise relates to the witnesses' ability to identify the counterfeit coin they have received at the time of making their statement. The frequent references to the marking of the coins before handing them over to constables or others in authority was obviously for the purpose of identification at the time of making a statement.

Thomas Facey is listed in the *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 31 March 1830 as having been committed to Wilton Gaol for further examination in connection with the uttering of base coin. The fact that he does not appear in a subsequent trial implies that there was no prosecution.

1831

Henry Horton (21), baker, **Daniel Fowler** (23), hawker, **William Thompson** (27), hawker, and **George Howe** (19) were charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Thomas Batt and another counterfeit shilling to Thomas Guppy. This charge was superceded by the more serious one of burglary, they appear not to have been prosecuted for uttering, uttering is not referred to in TNA ASSI 21/57. The Jury found all of the prisoners guilty of burglary and a sentence of death was passed.

The *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* for 6 April 1831 focuses on details of the burglary but includes some data on the uttering. Thomas Batt, keeper of the turnpike gate at Galhampton, stated that the prisoners had passed the gate on 15 February when Thompson tendered a bad shilling. Thomas Guppy stated that the four prisoners went to his 'house' on the same day where they had beer for which they paid with a bad shilling.

1834

Thomas Littlefield and **Edward Bundy**. Information on this case derives from the depositions in Bath Record Office (BNES/SHC QS/3/106/3). There is no reference to the prosecution in the *Bath Chronicle, Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* or Ilchester Gaol Felons Register and there are no costs assigned to the case in TNA MINT 15/12. Indications are that the case did not go to court although the statements imply the evidence was convincing.

At between 5pm and 6pm on 28 July 1834 officers William Miller and William Hall arrested Littlefield and Bundy in their lodging house belonging to Mrs Matthews in Avon St. The lodgings were searched but no counterfeit coins found. The officers were investigating the passing of a counterfeit halfcrown to a shopman in payment for a pair of stockings. Littlefield appears to have been the suspect. Littlefield said he was from Bristol and had not been to Bath before. He said he did not know Bundy until Saturday, that is the day before when both had booked into the lodging house. Bundy said he was from Marlborough.

On 18 July James Hicks, apprentice to Mr Hick of 7 George St, said Littlefield went into his master's shop at between 4pm and 5pm and asked to buy a 'blue ware' cup. He was told the price was 5d and he tendered a halfcrown. The coin was shown by Hicks to his master who said it was base. Littlefield said he had borrowed the coin and it was given back to him. He said he would return later to buy the cup but never did.

Caroline Morey who lived with her father, a tinman, in Avon St. made her statement on 1 August 1834. She said she had been employed to watch Littlefield. On Friday 18 July she saw him go from his lodgings to the shop of baker Jane Mitchell, Kingsmead Square. Looking through the window she saw him buy a loaf of bread with a halfcrown. Jane Mitchell was seen to look at the coin and weigh it. Littlefield then left without the bread. Littlefield went back to his lodgings and left again about quarter of an hour later with Bundy. Morey followed them. Littlefield went into Mr Tuckwell's linen draper's shop in George St. Again, Morey observed through the window and saw him buying a handkerchief with a halfcrown. Littlefield left and joined Bundy who had been standing in the street a short distance away. Morey then went into the shop and asked Tuckwell if he had just received a base halfcrown. He said not. At that point Bundy went in and asked for some black ribbon for 'shoe strings'. Bundy rejoined Littlefield when he left, and they ran off together.

About half an hour later Morey saw them together again. Littlefield went into Mr Nation's butcher's shop in Westgate St. She saw the shopman weighing out meat. Littlefield left shortly without meat.

On the following day, Saturday 19 July, at about 9pm Morey saw Littlefield enter the shop of Mr Arthur, baker, Beaufort Square. Morey went in. Littlefield asked for cakes which were put in a bag and tendered a shilling in payment. Arthur weighed it on a balance and said it as not good, the coin was handed back. Littlefield left and rejoined Bundy. Before leaving Littlefield appologised, he said that he did not know the coin was bad and would change it and return, he never did.

1840

John Webb (26), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit sovereign.
No Bill

1843

Geoeg Totterfield (37), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit halfcrown to Ann Lodge.
No Bill

Charlotte Atwool (14), labourer, charged with uttering 2 counterfeit shillings and 5 counterfeit sixpences and with having 20 other pieces of counterfeit money in her possession.
No prosecution. The incident happened at Somerton and the case was due to be heard at the 1844 Wells Lammas Assizes.

TNA MINT 15/15

'Upon investigating this case at Wells it was deemed expedient by the Counsel to abandon the Prosecution in which Lord Chief Justice Tindal concurred.'

Mr Moody and clerk with brief	£3-5-6
Mr Fitzherbert	£2-4-6
Court fees	£1-4-0

Witnesses	£7-18-6
Magistrates clerks fees	£2-2-0
Chaise and expenses attending this Pron.	<u>£16-16-0</u>
	£33-10-6

1846

Anne Rogers (22), labourer, charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling.
No prosecution

1851

Thomas Price (18), cordwainer, charged with uttering a counterfeit coin.
Bill ignored