

## Introduction

*this document has been created by the History Data Service  
and is based on information supplied by the depositor*

### Database

The Cheshire coroners' inquest database comprises all of the coroner's inquests recorded in the Court of Great Sessions Crown Books (Public Record Office CHES 21 and Cheshire Record Office ZCR 580), supplemented by data from the original sessions files (PRO CHES 24) for years when no crown books remain extant.

All seven tables in the Coroners database were created in Visual FoxPro 3.0b for Macintosh, but are normally supplied by the History Data Service as tab delimited text files.

### Session

This table contains details of the data and location of each session of the Cheshire Court of Great Sessions, the equivalent of the assizes in other countries, between 1601 and 1800 at which coroners returned inquests. Each session is identified by a unique ID number, which provides the link to all the associated records in the database (377 records).

### Justices

This table contains the names of the Justices (assize judges), normally two in number, who presided at each session (569 records).

### Coroner

This table contains the names of the coroners who returned inquests and their jurisdiction. Note that it was not common for the names of the coroners to be recorded in the crown books, the principal source used in the construction of this database. (129 records).

### Inquest

This table contains details of the coroner's inquests, including the location at which the inquest was taken, the verdict and outcome, documentary references, alphanumeric codes to identify case characteristics, the number of decedents and any accused and indications of the type of penalty imposed where applicable. The location of the inquest has been grid-referenced wherever possible. (1655 records).

### Decedent

This table contains details of the decedent(s) upon whom the inquests were taken. (1627 records).

### Accused

This table contains details of any persons charged as a result of a coroner's inquest. (680 records).

### Codes

This table contains a list of alphanumeric codes used to identify case characteristics in the inquest table, the letter indicating broadly the type of case, e.g. 'M' for murder, 'H' for homicide, 'S' for suicide and the number the reticular type of offence. (190 records).

### Documents

The documents are extracts from sources including the crown books (PRO CHES 21), the original sessions files (PRO CHES 24), Cheshire quarter sessions files (QJF), Chester city quarter sessions examinations and depositions (Cheshire Record Office ZQSE) and an account of a murder case in Saighton in 1648, originally published in the *Cheshire Sheaf*.