

*Signed G.C. Lewis."*

The Governor said that the Reverend Mr Shovelton, Wesleyan Minister, visited Richardson at 4.00pm until 4.30pm.


*"Richardson was very cheerful and continues to express his gratitude for the clemency extended to him."*

On January 17th 1861, Convict Richardson was transferred to the House of Correction at Wakefield. Superintendent Thomas Manton and PC McBrian are buried in Skirbeck Church Yard. Unfortunately PC McBrian's grave has not been found.

## POLICING DENBIGHSHIRE 1800-1850

Dr F. Clements

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTABLES, 1841



**County of Denbigh Constabulary Force.**

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTABLES.

To be under Forty Years of Age.  
 To stand Five Feet Seven Inches without Shoes.  
 To read and write, and keep Accounts.  
 To be free from any bodily Complaint, of a strong  
 Constitution, and generally intelligent.

No Person shall be appointed a Constable, who shall be a Gamekeeper, Wood Ranger, Bailiff, Sheriff's Bailiff, or Parish Clerk, or who shall be a hired-Servant in the employment of any Person, or who shall keep or have any Interest in any House for the Sale of Beer, Wine, or Spirituous Liquors by Retail; and if any Person who shall be appointed a Constable shall, at any Time after such his Appointment, become a Gamekeeper, Wood Ranger, Bailiff, Sheriff's Bailiff, or Parish Clerk, or shall act in any of the said capacities, or shall sell or have any Interest in the Sale of any Beer, Wine, or Spirituous Liquors by Retail, such Person shall thereupon become and be incapable of acting as such Constable, and shall forfeit his appointment of Constable, and also all Salary payable to him as such Constable.

The annexed Certificate of Character is to be signed by One or more respectable Persons who have had personal knowledge of the Candidate during the last Five Years at least, either singly or collectively.

Source: DRO. QSD/AP/1/1. General Administration of the Constabulary, 1840.

Before the onset of industrialisation, policing in much of Wales was a matter for the whole community. Often victims of crime took it upon themselves to search out offenders making use of neighbours, fellow-workers, tradesmen, publicans and even tollgate keepers. If they could afford it victims would publish details of crimes in local newspapers and on notice boards in rural areas, especially in closed communities, strangers were more

easily traced and brought to justice. Offenders who lived within such communities, however, were often dealt with locally and informally by recourse to arbitration, reparation and shaming, measures which were seen to be less expensive and more effective than official justice provided in local courts. Formal policing was then in the hands of parish constables who were appointed annually. They were mainly rate-paying farmers in rural areas and

shopkeepers or tradesmen in the towns. These unpaid constables were required to make presentments of offences, serve summonses and execute warrants. They did, however, receive fees and expenses, small compensation for an unpopular job that necessitated considerable loss of the time constables may well have otherwise devoted to occupational or family interests.

Although parish constables continued to operate in conjunction with professional police until well into the nineteenth century, acting alone their efficiency could be easily compromised, especially when they were asked to face determined and widespread social unrest. Under those exceptional circumstances, law and order became the concern of the local militia, if needs be, elements of the regular army, more especially cavalry regiments. Unfortunately, their deployment, which required the sanction of local magistrates, was often delayed by logistical difficulties so that their late arrival at a scene of rioting tended to reduce their effectiveness. Magistrates were sometimes reluctant to summon military aid because of instances of overreaction and indiscipline that in several occasions resulted in serious injury and death to rioters. By the 1830s, counties with coalfields frequently faced widespread social disharmony within mining communities. Emboldened by the growing power of their trade unions, miners everywhere began to demand improved working conditions, better pay and the end of the detested 'tommy' shops. Failure to meet expectations usually resulted in serious confrontation between the miners and local authorities. In January 1831, for example at Chirk on the Wales/England border, the march of 2000 striking Denbighshire miners intent on involving nearby Shropshire miners in their cause was halted by a large force of Shropshire Yeomanry, supported by artillery, special constables and Chelsea pensioners. Serious fighting that followed, popularly called - 'the last battle on British soil', resulted in many injuries to both sides.

Driven by fear of continuing unrest on the coalfield and the confirmed threat of Chartism, together with a perceived increase in general crime and recent increase in disorder caused by Irish immigrants and vagrants, Denbighshire magistrates, together with counterparts elsewhere, began to press for greater powers to combat a real threat to the very fabric of local government. When the government responded by introducing the permissive Rural Police Act of 1839, along with Montgomeryshire, Denbighshire was the first Welsh county to adopt the provisions of that legislation which allowed for the introduction of a County Police Force.

At the Court of Quarter Sessions held at Ruthin in Easter 1840, magistrates appointed Major Wynn of Ruthin as the Forces' first Chief Constable. However, for reasons never disclosed, the Home Secretary refused to confirm his appointment and the Court had to reconsider the matter. Accordingly, they eventually chose Welsh speaking John Denman, aged 38, eldest son of the Rev

John Denman, Rector of Llandegla, who set up his headquarters at Ruthin later in the year. From the beginning, his was a controversial appointment. Unlike most of his counterparts in other counties Denman had no previous military or police experience, but he always enjoyed the support of the most powerful man in the country, the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, and other members of the Wynnstay Hunt who all recognised Denman as the finest horseman in the county. Additionally, Denman, a descendent of King James II was well connected in Westminster. Thomas Denman, a close relative, entered Parliament in 1818 and became Solicitor General to Queen Caroline in 1820. Within four years of becoming a King's Counsellor in 1829, he became Lord Chief Justice, a post he held until 1850. In 1834, he was created a peer and became the 1st Baron Denman of Dovedale in Derbyshire, the county that was home to the first Denman to reside in North Wales, Joseph Denman, a mine adventurer who settled in Minera about 1700.

Denman's initial salary was fixed at £250 per annum and three superintendents he was to appoint were to be paid £100 per annum while three constables were to receive eighteen shillings per week, three shillings more than the remaining twenty-one constables. In addition, each constable was to receive clothing and accoutrements. No record exists of the appearance of these first policemen but, in 1856, constables were dressed in rifle green body coats and trousers, high hats, oiled cloth coats and blucher boots.

Denman set about the daunting task of policing some 500 square miles of mainly demanding terrain with a force totalling three Superintendents and twenty-four constables by turning his attention to recruiting. We know Chief Constables everywhere tended to look kindly at applicants with previous experience of working the land mainly because they were judged to be physically suited to the strenuous demands of policing, and because of their supposed docility. It was also felt they understood the social relationships which then underpinned rural society.

While, unfortunately, no personal records of Denbighshire's first recruits exist, the personal records of 16 applicants survive. An analysis of these reveal their average to be twenty-eight years, that six were unemployed and only 18% worked on the land. Among the remainder was a schoolmaster, two former soldiers, a collector of taxes, a butcher and a glazier. With the exception of two applicants who lived in neighbouring Welsh counties, the rest were resident in Denbighshire. This suggests they were all bilingual, a qualification greatly prized by Denman and one that receives high priority in the present North Wales Constabulary. Denman strove to recruit local men until forced to look further afield as more suitably qualified bilingual local men sought better promotion prospects and higher pay in those English counties in need of their services to police

a growing Welsh presence in industrial centres. At the creation of the force a hierarchy had to be appointed not made, but later no man joined at any level higher than that of third class constable. Very few recruits went on to achieve the rank of inspector let alone superintendent, although promotion into the officer class became easier as the century progressed, especially at the behest of the inspectorate in the 1860s when constabularies were asked to accelerate general promotion to ensure good men were not lost to the service because of poor promotion prospects.



Denbigh Police Station

As it was, Denman, in common with many of his counterparts, was forced to dismiss a high percentage of early recruits mainly because of incompetence or drunkenness. Policing Denbighshire posed many difficulties. A county of sharp contrasts in relief, climate, land use, Denbighshire was further divided into rural and growing industrial areas on the coalfield. More importantly still, perhaps, there were clear linguistic divisions. Most people living in the industrial areas around Wrexham and Ruabon and also those in the developing coastal resorts were bilingual or spoke only English. Elsewhere, in market towns such as Denbigh and Ruthin, people tended to be bilingual, but Welsh was the dominant language of the countryside. There were also social and cultural divisions between nonconformists whose presence became more marked often, it seemed, at the expense of the established church.

In 1840, Denman decided to station his constables in the main towns and other key locations. At Wrexham, by far the largest town in North Wales, he stationed four policemen with five others in neighbouring industrial and mining townships. At that time, the Borough of Denbigh supported its own force of two policemen, a force entirely independent of the county constabulary. At the same time, Denman appointed a Superintendent to take charge of the Wrexham area, another went to Llanwrst in the Conway Valley and a third to Ruthin with the proviso he should reside at Denbigh, then beyond Denman's control. The cost of the new force was to be entirely met by the county's ratepayers.

In its formative years, the Constabulary did not enjoy widespread support for many failed to make allowances

for their lack of training and police experience. A considerable number of magistrates, too, expressed their disaffection in Quarter Sessions demanding the Constabulary be disbanded immediately. Afterwards, not surprisingly, ratepayers also began to petition Quarter Sessions for a return to the old system of policing, believing the new police to be an expensive extravagance. Rural ratepayers particularly felt most aggrieved because they believed they were heavily subsidising policing the coalfield. While Denman insisted that a policeman's main duty was the prevention of crime, many believed a crime could only exist after it had been committed. In the Constabulary's early years, Constables mainly undertook a system of beat patrols which necessitated tramping considerable distances. Small wonder the general public saw these activities as an unnecessary waste of time.

Policemen and their families were expected to live exemplary lives and were forbidden to attend race meetings, or enter hotels and public houses and, as if to underline a total commitment to their duties, policemen were required to wear uniforms at all times. Their wives were forbidden to enter the labour market and, of course, policemen were forbidden to undertake any other paid employment without the sanction of the Chief Constable.

They were also required to record their whereabouts and time of departure on a slate outside the station whenever their duties took them elsewhere, and to faithfully record their daily activities in a daybook. Regardless of their religious affiliation, they were also required to regularly attend their local Anglican Church. Failure to adhere to these regulations meant dismissal especially in the early years.

Only one daybook of the period survives, that of PC Jones written at Llangollen.

1845-47. The following extracts are taken from Jones' daybook:

EXTRACTS FROM P.C JONES DAYBOOK. 1845-1846

1845

December

1. I left at 7am for Burras, 12pm, 12 miles
2. On duty at Recidence [sic] 8 am, 10 miles
3. I left at 7am for Marchweil 12pm, 20 miles
4. On duty at Recidence [sic] 8am - 12pm 8 miles
5. I left at 7am for Sutton Green 12pm, 12 miles
6. On duty at Recidence [sic] 8am - 1am 1.2 miles
8. On duty at Recidence [sic] and Wrexham to the mitting [sic] 7am, 15 miles
9. I left at 8am for Burras 12pm, 15 miles
10. I left at 8am for [illegible] 11 pm 15 miles
11. On duty at Recidence [sic] 6am - 12pm, 10 miles
12. I left at 7am for Sutton Green 12pm, 10 miles
13. Duty at Recidence [sic] 7am - 11pm, 10 miles
14. On duty at Recidence [sic] 6am and went round the public houses 12pm, 22 miles
15. I left at 7am for Marchweil, 12pm, 21 miles

18. On duty at Recidence [sic] at Wrexham  
7am - 12pm, 15 miles
19. Onto Wrexham for 3 warrants for 3 mane  
[sic] and Is y Coed serving a summons.

1846

January

20. Visited at his beat P.C. No 23. Richard Edwards,  
Inspector.

February

4. Visited at his beat, P.C. No 23. Richard Edwards,  
Inspector.

June

16. On duty at Burras and Wrexham faire [sic] day 1  
day and night putt [sic] a man in Bridewell June 17th  
got the man remanded till the next day he was  
discharged no proof agensnt [sic] him for stiling  
[sic] a dog.

August

19. You should make enteries [sic] in this book  
everyday pray do so in future. I shal [sic] be at  
Ruabon on friday morning next at 11 o'clock and if  
you can meet me there at that time I shall be glad, if  
not be sure to write to me at Wrexham on that day to  
inform me whether you have been paid all your  
wages. Edward Griffiths, Inspector.

August

26. I left at 8am with a prisoner to Ruthin having leafe  
[sic] to stop all night. Return home 3pm, 27 August.

December

26. I left at I Oarn for Chirk to sine [sic] summons had  
to stope [sic] till 1am for his Lordshipe [sic], 4pm,  
20 miles.

1847

April

10. On duty at 8am at Llangollen and its environs all  
day. Village Pretty quiet untill [sic] 1pm Sunday  
morning.
11. On duty at 9am examined the public houses found  
them rather in bad order. At the village all day. Off  
duty at 11pm.
12. On duty at Sam went as far as Glyndyfrdi gate  
returned by 3pm. All right. Off duty 12pm.
17. On duty at 7am went to Mr Jones Bache inspecting  
sheep which had been impounded by Evans.
22. On duty at 7am being fair day at Llangollen all past  
on well nothing to my knowledge was done wrong.
25. On duty at 9am examined the public houses were all  
correct. Went to Church twice. Off duty at 11 pm.
27. On duty at 5am. Went to apprehend Mr Evans  
Brynhowels from thence to Chirk meeting. Mr  
Evans fined £5. Returned from Chirk by 8pm all  
night.

May

1. On duty at 8am went to Pentre Dwr visited Mr Perry  
returned to Llangollen by 9pm. In the evening a little

fighting but soon desisted. Off duty at 1 Sunday  
morning.

8. On duty at 7am at the village and its environs all  
day. Few drunkards about the village at night some  
squabble between Evans the Butcher and some  
fellows but of no moment.
10. Went to Mr Richard Bache told me to call again  
respecting the Butcher.
12. On duty at 7am went to apprehend John Thomas  
Butcher to Cefn Mawr found him. Returned to  
Llangollen by 4 following morning then went to  
bed.
13. On duty at 10am went with the prisoner to Mr  
Richard Bache for me to see his Lordship the  
prisoner was committed. His Lordship granted a  
warrant to apprehend Edward Evans Butcher. I did  
so. Was committed and could not find bail to keep  
the peace. I locked him up. Off duty at 12pm.

The most telling insight into the Constabulary's  
administrative policy is provided by the abrupt change of  
strategy in 1847, when the beat system gave way to  
community policing, perhaps in response to ratepayers'  
concerns. The December 1845 extracts illustrate the  
physically demanding nature of beat patrols undertaken  
by Jones over difficult terrain probably in inclement  
weather. The distances quoted are 'one-way distances'  
so that for example, on 8 December, he walked at least  
thirty miles. The 1846 extracts typify the degree of  
supervision he experienced and the 1847 extracts reveal  
something of his daily round at Llangollen, the  
expanding role of police officers, the difficulty Jones  
encountered in obtaining warrants and the surprising  
extent of his working day.

Throughout this period, Denman had to face  
exceptional difficulties including a rapid turnover of  
personnel, continuing recruiting problems, widespread  
criticism from the general public and from within  
Quarter Sessions plus a perceived sharp increase in  
crime rates. In 1848, criticism of the police began to  
appear regularly in Wrexham newspapers. One reader  
demanded a 'recipe on how to find a policeman in  
Wrexham', to which the editor replied 'it is quite out of  
our power here though there would be no difficulty  
elsewhere'. In June the next year, angry Wrexham  
ratepayers demanded to meet Denman, but the Chief  
Constable kept them waiting for several hours saying, on  
arrival, he was 'elsewhere inspecting a fox trap'. A  
newspaper report of the meeting marvels at the way  
Denman deflected ratepayers' concerns by regaling them  
with a string of anecdotes connected with various  
robberies elsewhere in the county and with an account of  
the annual dinner in London for all the Chief Constables  
of England and Wales, where 'they recounted to each  
other how many hundreds of pounds they got for doing  
nothing at all'. Finally, he promised to employ none but  
teetotalers in the force and that he and his men would

strive to be better boys in the future'.

That cavalier performance was shortly followed by a request that Quarter Sessions sanction the payment of his income tax. Thereafter, not surprisingly, his days as Chief Constable were numbered for, in 1851, he was asked to resign, a decision that failed to attract official explanation or comment in the Court records of the day. A newspaper, however, quoted the Chairman of Quarter Sessions explanation that they dismissed their Chief Constable in a cost-cutting exercise.

They also, uniquely, disbanded the Constabulary and in its place formed two separate police forces, one to police the coalfield area under the control of a Superintendent at Wrexham the second to police the rest of the country under the direction of another Superintendent at Denbigh. So began a system of policing, dubbed by a local newspaper as 'The Divided Empire', which continued until the introduction of the mandatory Police Act of 1856, when the County Constabulary was reformed and, in an extraordinary volte-face, Denman was reappointed Chief Constable to remain in office until retirement in 1876. A notable survivor, Denman even overcame being declared

bankrupt shortly after his dismissal, a development entirely caused by an extravagant lifestyle that included keeping his own pack of hounds.

#### Short Bibliography

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#### Acknowledgement

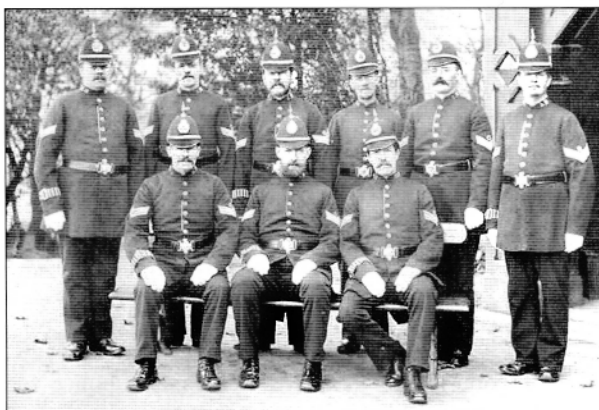
I am grateful to the County Archivist, Mr Kevin Matthias, for permission to refer to records kept in the Public Record Office, Ruthin.

## ROWLEY & BROCK GET AHEAD WITH THEIR HATS

Bob Dobson

I recently examined some 1889 correspondence between the Chief Constable of Blackburn, Mr Lewis, and Messrs Rowley & Brock of *The Royal Hat Works, London*, which I believe worthy of being recorded.

The Blackburn Watch Committee sent out a blank tender form, asking that it be completed and returned by 19th September 1889. Firms were asked to price "For Inspectors. 2 great coats, 5 dress coats (braided with hooks & eyes) and 9 pairs of trousers. "For Sergeants and Constables they wanted 18 great coats, 119 tunics (blue wool dyed with double linen thread), 238 pairs of trousers, 80 silver star badges and 40 silver chevrons "similar to Metropolitan sergeants". Rowley & Brock chose to submit their price only for 5 Inspectors' caps, "same as Metropolitan Inspectors" — this was 7s/6d per cap. Their price for 119 Sergeants and Constables' helmets without plates was 5s/9d each. The tender form made it clear that "the contractor will be required to supply and attach the silver stars, chevrons and merit badges, also buttons, the latter of which will be supplied by the Corporation. The whole of this tender must be of the best



make and workmanship, and every article of clothing, unless properly cut and made to fit, will be rejected". Four pockets to be made for each pair of trousers, viz- 2 side pockets, one watch pocket and one staff pocket" The cloth had to be double-milled, of the best quality dark blue wool, dyed. "Samples of trimmings must be sent with samples of cloth".

The company sent CC Lewis a sample helmet along with a letter pointing out the improvements they had effected in the head leather, "it being free from dyes or chemicals, does not stain or irritate the forehead as is frequently the case with the black head leathers. The new leather is greatly liked, feeling far more comfortable and cooler to the forehead. Should you honour us with the contract on this occasion, it shall be carried out to your satisfaction as previously".

A week later, following a telegram from the Chief Constable, the company wrote that they would put white metal fittings on the helmets without further charge, "though usually we charge about three pence higher, as they not only cost more but have to be handled with