Carhampton magistrate district in relation to the 1856 County and Borough Police Act: a case for non-statutory policing

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Abstract
The 1856 County and Borough Police Act had a pronounced effect on the criminal statistics in Somerset. Assize and Quarter Session committal statistics dropped across the county as a whole and this fall was reflected in six of seven individual magistrate areas studied. The seventh, the Carhampton magistrate district, showed no reduction in recorded crime. The records, in fact, suggest that the area was either subject to little criminal activity, or that people were not reporting offences. The lack of petty session records in Somerset prevented their inclusion in this study. In this thesis a number of criteria are applied to the recorded crime rate, including geological and geographical input, weather conditions, crop surplus and shortages, industry, cost of living, employment, wages, poor relief and instances of stability within individual districts. The Carhampton magistrate district had the advantage of stability in population levels and a long serving constable. There was also a continuity in parish officers. The paternalistic, major landowner used a degree of coercion in controlling his tenants and employees. However, in some instances the district was distinctly disadvantaged, particularly in terms of the isolation of small settlements, contracting into aase a lack of communication networks to the outside world. Two major factors appear to have influenced recorded crime in the district. One stemmed from the controlling attitude of the major landowner and the other from the social cohesion of the mainly labouring communities living within small and isolated settlements. Theoretical and model evidence suggests that communities in this district accepted social responsibility and self regulation in relation to crime according to local perception of wrong doing. This thesis does not suggest that the Carhampton magistrate district was devoid of crime but rather that its isolation resulted in the approach to crime being dictated by the social structure of the area. It is not claimed that this district is unique, but that the findings here might be applied to other isolated areas both historically and contemporarily.

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The County and Borough Police Act 1856 (19 & 20 Vict c 69) was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. It was one of the Police Acts 1839 to 1893. The Act made it compulsory for a police force to be established in any county which had not previously formed a constabulary. The Act required that in any county where a constabulary had not already been established for all or part of the county, then the Justices of the Peace for the county should at the next General or Quarter Sessions held after county and borough police act 1856 flying, county and borough police act 1856 country The County and Borough Police Act 1856 19 & 20 Vict c 69 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom It was one of the Police Acts 1839 to 1893 The Act made it compulsory for a police force to be established in any county which had not previously formed a constabulary. However, boroughs maintaining a separate police force and having a population of 5,000 or less were to receive no financial support, thereby encouraging smaller forces to consolidate with the county police. County Police Act 1839 — Parliament of the United Kingdom Long title An Act for the Establishment of County and District Constables by the Authority of the Justices of the Peace Statute b … Wikipedia. Devon and Cornwall Police — Badge of the Devon and Cornwall Police. Motto In Auxilium Omnium … Wikipedia. 1856 — Year 1856 (MDCCCLVI) was a leap year starting on Tuesday (link will display the full calendar) of the Gregorian Calendar (or a leap year starting on Sunday of the 12 day slower Julian calendar). Events of 1856January June * January 8 Borax… … Wikipedia. County Borough of Salford — For the metropolitan borough of Greater Manchester, see City of Salford. City of Salford County Borough of Salford Motto: Integrity and Industry …