



Crime News

Assault

Bishopstone 1895

Swindon Police Court, Monday

A Fight at Bishopstone

Thomas Tasker, blacksmith, of Bishopstone, was charged with assaulting **Henry Osman**, groom, of the same place, on the 7th inst. There was a cross-summons, and the two were heard together.

Mr. A. E. Witby appeared for Tasker but Osman was not legally represented. Osman's story was that he was in the True Heart Inn, having some beer, and Tasker was there also. He (Osman) was talking to a man named Johnson, when Tasker interfered and assaulted him. He was struck several times, and returned the blows. The landlady would not allow them to fight, and then they went outside.

The Magistrates' Clerk : What for ? - Osman: To finish it off, I suppose. Osman further stated that he might have "touched" Tasker, but he did not hit him hard. He knew Tasker had a black eye, but he did not give it him. He (Osman) was knocked insensible, and he had to keep his bed for four days. When out in the street Tasker knocked him down twice. This happened about 12 yards from the True heart.

James Johnson, a farm labourer was called by Osman, but he was of opinion that it was a fight, and that both men struck blows at each other at the same time. William Nash, labourer, another witness for Osman, did not know which man struck the first blow, although he saw the row commence.

There were a number of other witnesses, but as it appeared that it was merely a fight between parties, the Bench dismissed the summons, and the cross-summons was withdrawn.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 19 October 1895