



Drunkenness of the Pearce's Bishopstone 1884 - 1895

Henry Draper Pearce, labour, of Bishopstone, was charged with being drunk in the high Street, Bishopstone, on Saturday night last.

P.C. Read proved the case. He saw, about ten o'clock, the defendant staggering drunk, creating a great noise opposite the "True Hart" Inn. He was trying to push his wife off, declining to fight with her. The wife struck her husband and aggravated him. He received great provocation from her. Fined 5s. and 7s. costs. Allowed a fortnight to pay.

Alice Pearce, the wife, was then charged with being drunk and disorderly at the same time and place. P.C. Read repeated his evidence. The defendant used very bad language and behaved in a very violent and abusive manner. He had to order her off several times before she would go on a threat of being apprehended. Fined 10s. And 7s. costs, and allowed the same time as her husband to pay.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 24 May 1884

Distress Warrant

Mr. Supt. North applied for a distress warrant against the goods of **Henry Draper Pearce**, of Bishopstone, who had failed to pay a fine of 5s. and costs for drunkenness, inflicted at this court a fortnight since. His wife, was convicted at same time, had paid her penalty, but the defendant had spent his money in drink when coming in to pay it.

The Bench decided to allow another fortnight for payment.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 7 June 1884

Faringdon Petty Sessions, Tuesday

Drunk and Disorderly

James White, of Kingstone, Ashbury, labourer, and **Alice Pearce**, wife of Henry Pearce, labourer, of Bishopstone, were charged with being drunk and disorderly in the village street at Ashbury on the 17th inst., White pleaded guilty. The case was proved against the female defendant. White was fined 12s. 6d.,

including costs. The woman Pearce, who was very violent in her demeanor in Court, was sentenced to ten days' hard labour.

Reading Mercury, 31 May 1890

Swindon Police Court, Thursday

Alice Pearce, wife of Henry Pearce, also of Bishopstone, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Bishopstone, on June 29th last.

Defendant pleaded not guilty.

P.C. Smith said on the day in question he found defendant about 10.20 p.m., in the High Street, Bishopstone, in a very drunken state, and using most obscene language.

Defendant denied the charge in a very rambling and rapid speech.

Supt. Collett proved three previous convictions against her for similar offences, and the Bench decided to convict, and fined her 10s. and 7s. costs, and allowed her 14 days to pay, or in default seven days imprisonment.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 13 July 1895