



Bastardy Examination

Studley, Calne

At Calne Town Hall 30th March 1870

Mary Jane Hand v Joseph Bryant

Mary Jane Hand applies for bastardy summons against Joseph Bryan of Studley. He has paid 30/- towards the maintenance of my bastard child at different times within the last twelvemonth - the last payment was in December last the child was born on the 2nd of May 1869.

No further details recorded

At Calne Town Hall 20th June 1870

Mary Jane Hand v Joseph Bryant

Mary Jane Hand swore & saith:-

I am a single woman and live at Studley in Calne Parish. I was delivered of a female bastard child on 2nd May 1869. Joseph Bryant of Studley, carpenter, a single man, is the father. He has paid me money towards the support of my child about six times - the first payment was on the 1st May 1869, on the 15th May following he gave me some more when he was paid out of the Militia. He has paid me at different times since then, about 30/- in the whole. Mary Brindle and John Hand have been present when the money was paid to me. Bryant has promised to marry me, the Bands [Banns] were asked at Calne Union, but Bryant has refused to marry me since. Bryant had the Bands [Banns] put up.

Cross Examined:-

I can't tell why he refused to marry me. He is the father of my child. I have not been with others. He has been with me for two years. He gave me 1/- on 1st May and 2/6 on 15th May. 6d, 3d and 2d, like that on other occasions. 5/- was paid me when Brindle was present. My father John Hand was present several times when money was paid. He was present on the 1st and 15th of May, also at other times. It was not more than six times altogether, he gave me 5/- two or 3 times. 5/- was the

largest sum at one time, he was out of work when he gave me 2d and 3d. Brindle was present on 15 December in Curzon Street, Calne when he gave me 5/-. Father present when 5/- was paid me.

John Hand swore 7 saith:-

I live at Studley. Father of last witness. I know Joseph Bryant. Mary Jane Hand lives with me. Defendant has been at my house. I have seen Bryant give money to my daughter several times. He gave her 1/- the night before the child was born. He gave her 2/6 on the 15h of May. He has given her money at several times in my presence and we calculated altogether about 30/-, the largest sum at one time given her was 5/-. I only saw him give her 5/- once, night before 15th December.

Cross Examined:-

His friends persuaded Bryant to stay away. His mother didn't wish her to marry him. I don't know if there was any doubt as to who was the father of the child.

Mary Brindle swore & saith:-

I am wife of William Brindle of Studley. I know Mary Jane Hand and Joseph Bryant. She has had a bastard child. I have seen Bryant give her money, on 5th of December I saw him give her 5/- in Curzon Street, Calne.

Cross Examined:-

The money was given for the child. He said he would give her some more within course of a week or two, he didn't say what it was for

Order Made

Source:- B10/100/2 - Justice Minute Books, Calne County Division 1851-1883