



Bastardy Examination

Calne

At Calne Town Hall 14th October 1860

Ann Head v Robert Clifford

Bastardy after birth.

W. Bakewell, Attorney at Law, Chippenham, appeared for the defendant Robert Clifford and admitted the service of the summons.

Ann Head on her oath saith:-

I am an inmate of Calne Workhouse and have been so for the last two months. I am chargeable to the parish of Heddington in this County. I am a singlewoman. I gave birth to a male child on fifth day of August last. I was confined at my grandmothers at Heddington. Robert Clifford of Studley in the parish of Bremhill, farmer, is the father of the child. I lived servant with Mr. Clifford for twelve months. I went to live with him as a servant at Lady Day 1859. I left my service at Lady Day 1860 because I was in the family way. Mr. Clifford did not give me notice I left on my own accord. I afterwards saw Mr. Clifford at Chippenham and I told Mr. Clifford I was in the family way and he said "Oh! be" I say yes and it is your child and nobody else's he said "I suppose it is", ~~just afterwards~~, it was about a month before I was confined that I saw Mr. Clifford at Chippenham. He gave me half a crown and told me not to say anything about it to anybody and would give me two shillings a week while I was not able to do anything, he did not give me two shillings a week.

Application made for adjournment to the next meeting the 19th November 1860 at eleven.

Costs of the day to be allowed and paid for by the defendant.

Adjourned to the next meeting accordingly

Costs Paid	2/6	
	1/-	P. C.
Total	3/6	

At Calne Town Hall 19th November 1860

Ann Head Cross Examined by Mr. Bakewell:-

I first went into Mr. Clifford's service a year ago Lady Day 1859 - I left last Lady Day (1860), I left on my own accord. I had no wages to take. I saw Mrs. Clifford when I left. I did not say for what reason I was leaving. I went to Heddington to my grandmother's, she is not here. I stopped there two months. I told her I was in the family way after being there a month. She asked me who was the father of the child, I said Robert Clifford. When I left my grandmother's I went to Miss Jervis on the Green. I lived with her for a fortnight. I then went back to my grandmothers. I stayed there more than a month till I was confined. I had no further conversation with my grandmother about Clifford being the father except when I first went there. Before I was confined I told Mr. Clifford I was in the family way. I only told him once. This was at Chippenham at the Rose & Crown. I went there to see him. My aunt went with me and was there. I told my aunt I was in the family way about a fortnight before I went to Chippenham. She said I must go and see him and tell him of it. She said she would go with me, that was the only time I spoke to Clifford about it. I know William Strange by seeing him pass by. I have not got his likeness and have never seen it. I know John Simkins by sight. I have only seen him and Strange on going or returning from Church. I have not been in the company of William Strange or John Simkins. I know Mrs. Handy the dress maker of Studley. I never saw Simkins while at Clifford's when I was going to and from Mrs. Handy's. I knew Arthur Bullock for about a month before I left Clifford's. I never spoke to him except when he was going to Church. I know Thomas Gingell by sight. I don't know Samuel Townsend.

The bench here adjourned the further hearing of this case till the 17th December having sat till it was dusk and also the other cases on the paper not disposed of.

At Calne Town Hall 17th December 1860

Adjourned from the last meeting.

Called by complainant.

Louisa Head swore & saith:-

I am the wife of John Head I did live at Heddington now I live in the Parish of Rowde. I am aunt to Ann Head the complainant. Ann Head came to the house of Mary Head at Heddington some time after leaving Robert Clifford's service. She went away and then came back again a month or two before her confinement. She told me before her confinement that Robert Clifford was the father of the Child. A month before her confinement Ann Head went with me to Chippenham. We met Robert Clifford there at the Rose & Crown. I told Clifford what I had brought her for. I said Ann Head was in the family way and that she said he was the father of the child. Clifford said "if he was he would keep it without her having the trouble to swear it". I then asked him if he could give her any money then and he gave her half a crown. He said he would give her more on the next great Market Day. He further said he would give her 2/- a week after her confinement because he did not want her to swear any thing. He gave her the half crown before me.

Cross Examined by Mr. Bakewell:-

I am a married woman and have been married ten years. I have three children since my marriage. I had none before. Ann Head left Clifford's service about Lady day and came to Mary Head not long after. She did not say she was in the family way the first time she came. She did not stay a week then. She said she had left Mr. Clifford for want of wages. She was away three or four weeks. She

came back and stayed till her confinement. It was about two months before her confinement that she told me she was in the family way. She was confined on the 5th of August. It was about 3 o'clock on the day when we saw Clifford, it was about a month after she told me that we went to Clifford. There was a room full of people at the Rose & Crown. We went into the back parlour looking into the yard, there was no one there when we went in, someone came in before we left. We were there a good part of an hour.

Ann Head swore & saith:-

I am aunt to Ann Head the complainant. I live at Heddington. I am a single woman. I remember Ann Head coming to our house about Lady day. She stayed first less than a week. She came back again. She was confined the Sunday before the Great Market Day she was to meet Robert Clifford at Chippenham. I went to meet him and he was not there. I then went to Studley and sent for him. He and his wife both came out of their yard to me. Mrs. Clifford wanted to know what I wanted Mr. Clifford for. I said I wanted to speak to him but did not tell her what it was. ~~Then~~ He left his wife and walked the lane with me. I told him Ann Head was confined and he then asked me when she was confined, I told him. I then asked him what he was going to leave her. He said I don't think that it is my child. I said "She had been living with him" He said "Oh yes." I said "You know it is your child and no one else" Then he said "I suppose it is then" He then gave me five shillings and said he would send her some money in the course of a week. I asked him how he was going to send it. He said he would send it by a Post Office Order, but he did not send any.

Cross Examined by Mr. Bakewell:-

I am a single woman. I have been in the family way. It was about six weeks before she was confined that she told me she was in the family way. She said "It was Mr. Clifford's" She did not tell me for some time.

This finished the complete case when it was further adjourned at Mr. Bakewell's request in the absence of his To the 21 of January next.

Further adjourned in absence of Mr. Bakewell's Witness.

At Calne Town Hall Monday 21st January 1861

Before G. H. W. Heneage, Esq., Captain C. H. Wyndham and Captain Warren.

Adjourned from last meeting

The evidence taken at the last meeting having been read and no evidence offered for the defence.

Ordered that the Defendant pay the Complainant two shillings and sixpence a week to commence as from the 19th of September last. Costs allowed to be paid and debt of 8/- to Ann Head the aunt and 2/- to Louisa Head.

Source:- B10/100/1 - B10/100/2 - Justice Minute Books, Calne County Division 1851-1883