



Bastardy Examination

Calne

At Calne Town Hall 21st March 1870

Elizabeth Cleveland v James Hardy

Elizabeth Cleveland swore & saith:-

I am a single woman residing at Calne. I was delivered of a female bastard child on the 7th January last. James Hardy of Calne Stoke is the father. He has paid me money. He is a married man.

Cross Examined:-

You had connection with me at night - when he came home from work - several times. On 7th Aril last he had connection and before then. I did not tell my mother before then but I did not know myself then. Mrs. Holtman's little boy's birthday was on the night before the 7th, that is how I remember. I did not tell Mrs. Webb it was on the 16th my aunt's birthday. I did at first but afterwards reckoned back and found it was the 6th of April. You could have carried me across the kitchen without anyone hearing. I did say at first that neither you nor any one had laid any hand on me - this was before Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Hardy and Trotman. I said you had kissed me once before your own wife. I did tell your wife the same night as I was confirmed to Mrs. Webb, that there was nothing the matter with me. I did not like to tell your wife, that was the reason. It was evening 11 o'clock p.m. when I told Mrs. Webb that you would be the father of the child. You never paid me anything. I knew you were married.

William Webb of Back Street, swore & saith:-

I have seen Cleveland and Hardy several times together hanging about one another. I have seen him place his hand indecently upon her. Defendant lodged with us, the girl was our servant.

Cross Examined:-

At night in my place. I frequently saw you both wispehering (sic) together in my back place. I was aware that you were looking at me. You were a very respectable man when in my house previous to that. I saw nothing improper till then. I have seen you frequently together, when you were not watching.

Julia Webb, wife of William Webb swore & saith:-

I have never seen anything improper between Hardy and Cleveland. I have gone into the yard and saw them just parted, but never seen anything improper. The girl was too long about for me.

Cross Examined:-

You had free access to the yard and kitchen. You came at meal times night to work. She said no one had interfered with her - girls generally deny those things - till the very last. She denied anything being the matter with her when I and your wife accused her of it. She never went out of the house except with the children. She went out to the Lansdown to fetch beer about 5 or 6 times - did not stop on her errands - was a good girl for that. I have given her a character. I have threatened to discharge her for wearing my things and my sister's gloves. I never found any thing wrong with you till this affair took place. I told your Mistress she had better settle this case and have no more disturbance about it.

Re Cross Examined:-

On the Sunday morning after I had accused her the girl I called Mr. Hardy in and told him in her presence "Is this true, the girl tells us she is in trouble by you". He said "When did I do that, this is the first time I have heard of it". The girl said in his presence no other man had ever laid a hand on her.

Mary Jane Hardy swore & saith:-

I am wife of James Hardy. The paper produced is in my handwriting - he knew nothing about it - and it was not done with his authority.

Outcome - Order Made

Source:- B10/100/1-3 - Justice Minute Books, Calne County Division 1851-1883