



Bastardy Examination

Calne

At Calne Town Hall

26th September & 17th October 1870

Fanny Duck v James Godwin

The hearing on the 26th September was adjourned on application by the defendant.

17th October 1870

Fanny Duck swore & saith:-

I am a single woman residing at Calne. On the 16th of June last I was delivered of a bastard child, James Godwin of Calne, Railway Porter is the father. He paid me money before the boy was born and since two nights before the baby was born he told me he spent 9/- on himself and he gave me 2/6 that night. About six weeks after the child was born I met him and he gave me ten pence he said it was all he had and said that he had settled with Mr. Stallard and would give me more when he took his wages.

Cross Examined:-

Just about 17/-. I have had nothing to do with any other men, at no other time. I know Holly , had no connection with him. I know Thomas Bush, never had anything to do with him. The Police have not found fault with me about going about with other men. Men have not been I the house with my mother. 10d not given me to buy beer. I asked him what he was going to do for the child. Godwin had connection with me 4th October. I kept account on a piece of paper, it was the first time he had connection with me. Mother has the paper I her pocket. In Cherhill it happened, he had his hands with me at home when he gave me 2/-

Ann Duck swore & saith:-

I am a widow I live in Calne and the mother of Fanny Duck. Godwin asked me one evening for my daughter and he said he would give her 5/-. I met him Godwin one day and told him he had got my daughter into trouble and I asked him what he was going to do as she was a cripple and kept at the Union and I was obliged to loose my work to look after her in her confinement. He said he did send

9/- each week. It was the 14th of June when he said that. I asked him what he thought of himself as he had a wife and family, he threw his hat down and said must take it out of that and went to put it on the girl's head, he then gave her half a crown. I saw it, it was a half a crown piece. Godwin gave me a 1/- besides and wanted something to eat and drink but he had nothing. My daughter went over way for some beer, Godwin came up and said the cup was not big enough and pulled out 6d and 4d. When she was confined Godwin came but I did not let him see her. He came three weeks after, came very late when I was in bed and asked to see my daughter and I told him he would see the P.C. He took the child and nursed it.

Cross Examined:-

Husband been dead nine years ago. No men had connection with me, know Holly, had no connection with him.

William Holly swore & saith:-

I am of Calne, clerk, I have had connection with Fanny Duck, it was on the 31st January 1870 at her residence. I paid her 2/6. I don't know of other men being there.

(Outcome Verdict Made

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