



# Crime and Punishment

## *Chippenham*

### **Lead Pipe Theft 1859**

#### **Committed for trial:**

Richard Townsend charged with feloniously stealing a piece of lead pipe, the property of Thomas Clifford at Bremhill.

#### **Wiltshire Independent Thursday 24 March 1859**

Richard Townsend was indicted for stealing a lead pipe value 10s, the property of Thomas Clifford at Bremhill. There was also another count, charging it as the property of John Baynton Starkey.

Mr H J Swayne appeared for the prosecution, and called Charles Clifford, the prosecutor, who deposed that he occupied a farm at Bremhill, and that the prisoner lives near him. There was a moveable leaden pipe on his premises, which conveyed water from a pump to an iron cistern; this pipe was missed on the morning of Sunday the 20th of March, and he could swear to the portion of it which was now produced. The prisoner is a marine store dealer, and collects old metal.

John white, a policeman, produced the lead which he got from a marine store dealer named Jones at Chippenham. witness apprehended the prisoner, and charged him with stealing the pipe, when he said, "Thank you".

William Hones of Chippenham deposed to purchasing the lead now produced of the prisoner. It weighted 31 lbs, and he gave 4s 6d for it, being at the rate of 16s per cwt.

James Wright measured the pieces of lead produced, and found that the length corresponded with the distance from the spout of the pump to the trough.

The prisoner in his defence said that he had bought the lead of a Mr Morris of Foxham, but he had no money to bring witnesses to prove his innocence.

The jury found him guilty, and a previous conviction for highway robbery having been proved, he was sentenced to 6 month's imprisonment with hard labour.

#### **Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 9 April 1859**