



Beer Theft 1866

Everley Petty Sessions Friday July 27.

Gideon Penells of Enford, was charged with stealing a wooden bottle value 6d, the property of John Pearse, carrier of Fittleton, at Collingbourne Ducis on the 24th July.

Complainant had been to Collingbourne Wood with his waggon and had the bottle, containing beer, hanging on behind. On the road home he fell in with the prisoner, who was also driving a waggon, and another man named James Carter, who works for Mr. Briant, of Littlecot Mill, and who was also returning home with his master's waggon.

Soon after they had passed complainant of the road he missed his bottle, and on getting home he gave information to the police, and on Sergeant Lucas questioning them they both denied having seen either Pearse or his bottle that day. Pennells however, after a little parleying produced the bottle (minus the beer of course) and said he picked it up in the road. Carter, however, who was admitted as witness against the other swore that he saw Pennells take it from complainant's waggon, and Pennells was convicted and sentenced to 21 days hard labour, the Bench telling Carter that he was quite as bad or worse than Pennells, and deserved to have been placed by the side of him.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 2 August 1866