



Bastardy Examination

Corsham

At Calne Town Hall 18th November 1861

Catherine Archard v George Simmonds

No detail recorded

Case adjourned.

At Calne Town Hall 5th December 1861

Catherine Archard v George Simmonds

Catherine Archard swore and saith:-

I live in Calne parish. I am single. On the 6th October last I was delivered of a Bastard child, the child was born in Calne. George Simmons of Bowood is the father of such child. I became acquainted with Simmons in the month of November 1860. I was living with Mr. Chaplin, the Scripture Reader. The defendant was then living with Mr. Guthrie, he was in the habit of keeping company with me. An intimacy arose between us. In the middle of November the defendant had the 1st connection with me, the last evening in last year was the last time the defendant had connection with me. He has been present with me when Elizabeth Taylor was also present. I did not see the defendant from the last day of the year until the 2nd of July. On the 21st January last I went into a situation beyond Bristol. I remained 2 months and a fortnight there. It was in Corsham where I saw the defendant on the 2nd July. My father, mother and Mary Ann Hand were with me. The defendant said "he knew it was his child" the defendant also said in the presence of three witnesses that he would marry me. He gave me 1/6 on that time. Since July 2nd I have received a letter from defendant (Letter was submitted and read by the Bench) he gave me a Watchguard when I was at Corsham and he promised to come to my father's house in Mill Street.

Elizabeth Taylor swore and saith:-

I reside at Calne. I know George Simmons and Catherine Archard. I have seen them together many times, the first was in the middle of November and the last time on the last day of the old year. I and Archard went for a walk when we met defendant. I have heard the defendant promise her marriage many times and that I should be the Bridesmaid. I am sure about the last day in the old year.

Thomas Archard sore and saith:-

I am the father of the complainant and reside in Calne. On 2nd July I went to Cross Keys at Corsham, he, the defendant was living next door. The defendant said to me at the Cross Keys "Tom I knew what it was as soon as I see thee" he said he would be at my house in a month. He came to me in 3 weeks. Defendant gave her 1/6 he acknowledged it in my presence. The defendant accompanied my daughter a part of the way home. When he came to my house he said he would marry my daughter as soon as he could.

Mary Ann Hand swore and saith:-

I live in Calne I know Simmons. I was present when the complainant and her father were at Corsham at the Cross Keys. I heard the defendant say to the complainant, yes I have given Catherine 1/6 and he said he would give her more when he got some/ He also said that Catherine should not go into the Union whilst he had hands to work with. I have heard him offer marriage to her. I was present when the defendant came to complainant's house, he said he would rather for him (his brother) to keep the baby than to marry her. Defendant said to complainant's father in my presence I would have your daughter for my wife but not before she was two and twenty.

Susan Smith of Church Street, Calne swore and saith:-

I went to Quemerford on the 20th January last and I met Catherine Archard and young Bentley, Catherine Archard spoke to me. Several others were with the defendant about four or five.

Order Made.

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