



Accused of Poaching

Devizes Monthly Petty Sessions.

Frank Kent of Fittleton was charged by Baker, game keeper for Miss Mills of Siston, with having used a gun for the purpose of killing game on the 13th January, at the parish of Tilshead. Baker stated that between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the day in question, as he was going his rounds, he heard the report of a gun, and shortly after a second, and he then saw a man come from a chalk pit and towards a spot where a hare was lying dead on the ground, warm and bleeding; that he said to the man "I shall have the hare instead of you, and shall also have your gun". That the man objected; but that he (Baker) persisted in taking him down to the farm, when the gun was given up, and the man gave his name Frank Phillimore of Netheravon; but that he had since ascertained it was Frank Kent.

Witness was cross examined by Mr. Wittey, but he positively asserted that the defendant was the man that he caught on the day in question. He had seen him a few nights afterwards at the "Dog and Gun" at Netheravon; and he also knew him when living in the service of Mr. Coleman at Tilshead some few years ago. Mr. Wittey said his defence was an alibi, which he should prove by different witnesses. The first called was Mr. Edwin Harris, a farmer at Hacon, who stated that he was working in his own garden the whole day on the 13th with the defendant, and that Kent did not leave until after 5 o'clock in the evening, except at dinner time, and that he lived six miles from the spot which the keeper had spoken to as having seen him the same afternoon. This fact was confirmed by a man named Maggs, who was working on the farm at the same time, then he said the case must be dismissed as it was clearly one of mistaken identity.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday, 18 February 1864