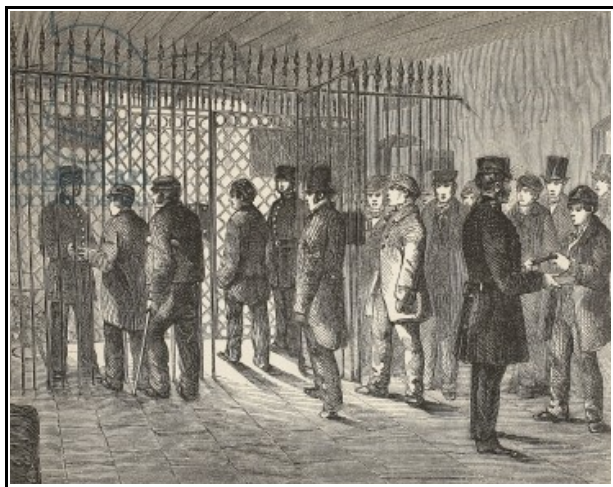


# Crime and Punishment

*Hankerton*



## County Police Malmesbury

Before Colonel Luce

### Trial of Daniel Stratford

Daniel D Stratford, aged 62, a baker, was brought up in custody of PC Webb charged with embezzling money the property of Rebecca and Georgina Hayes, his employers, bakers of Crudwell, in April and May last. The prisoner was further charged with obtaining goods by false pretences of Charles Wm Grimshaw, of Oaksey. It appears that prisoner was engaged by the Misses Hayes in January 1883, to bake and to deliver the bread, with a horse and cart, to customers. He kept a book for the purpose of making entries of bread sold and money taken, which it was his duty to hand over to his employers every night. On the 7<sup>th</sup> April he took a bill to Mrs Eliza Major, of Hankerton, for £3 0s 3½d due to the 20<sup>th</sup> March, and she paid the prisoner £1 on account, and he receipted it on her bill. Prisoner did not then hand over the £1, but on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, he received from Mrs Major another £1, and on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, he paid his employers £1 and kept the other sovereign. In the bill for £4 0s 3½d sent by the Misses Hayes to Mrs Major the figures were altered £1 to make his case good. Sarah Ann Snuggs, another customer, of Hankerton, paid the prisoner 13s 10d on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, which he never accounted for. Daniel Jones, labourer, of Chedglow, paid him on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 10s 1d, which he also kept. Mrs Major when she received the third account from the Misses Hayes and found that it was wrong went and saw her, and the Misses Hayes taxed the prisoner with keeping the money, which he denied. This was on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> May, and on the following morning the prisoner absconded. He was apprehended by the Gloucestershire police on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Coleford, where PC Webb went and fetched him. The constable read the warrant to him charging him with embezzling 13s 10d from Sarah Ann Snuggs, the property of his employers. He said he never received it, but afterwards said he had received other sums which he had not accounted for, but should have paid them if he could have got the money from his wife on the Sunday when he went to see her. The prisoner made no defence, and the next case was gone into. Charles Wm Grimshaw, landlord of the Wheatsheaf Inn at Oaksey, proved being a customer of the Misses Hayes for bread. He always paid for it at the time. Some time during the month of April the prisoner said the Misses Hayes wanted a ham. He showed the prisoner a side of bacon and the prisoner said "Cut it straight across, as they are not particular to a pond." The piece weighed 20 lbs and came to 11s 8d, and the prisoner took it away. The following week when he called and had a griskin of pork value 4s, which he said was to put with the other

item, and he would pay next time he came. Prisoner also said at the same time that the Misses Hayes wanted a chine of bacon, but they were not ready for it, and witness was to put it by for them. The prisoner asked him several times afterwards about the chine, and he said they were not ready for it yet. A fortnight or more after this, he asked the prisoner how it was the Misses Hayes didn't send the money for the meat, and he said they must have forgotten it. He said that he had not taken enough money that morning to pay for it, but would ask the Misses Hayes and be sure to bring the money next time. Before the next week the prisoner absconded, and the Misses Hayes came round to the customers to see what money he had taken. They brought him a bill for 7s for bread for which he had paid, and he gave them a bill for 16s 3d for meat which they had never had. The Misses Hayes stated that they ordered the chine, which they had since had, but not the other meat. They asked the prisoner two or three times how it was he did not bring it and he always said it was not ready. Prisoner for the defence endeavoured to show that he ordered the meat for himself. The Bench committed him for trial on both charges.

Western Daily Press Friday 12 September 1884

David Dainton Stratford, 54, charged with obtaining goods by false pretences at Oaksey in April last, and also with embezzling certain sums of money received by him on behalf of his employers, Rebecca Hayes and Georgina Hayes, of Hankerton and Crudwell, was acquitted. Mr Radcliffe defended.

Western Daily Press Friday 17 October 1884