



Wilful Damage Charge

George Mills, of West Knoyle, and Thomas Mead, of Mere, were summoned for maliciously destroying a quantity of cabbages and beans growing in a garden at West Knoyle, occupied by James Gray. The charge was proved by Frank Whitehorn, who assisted in committing the offence, and afterwards told upon the other defendants. The witness stated that on Saturday night the defendant Mead asked him to fetch a hook from a coppice at West Knoyle and cut complainant's beans and cabbages. He accordingly got the hook and in company with Mead went and committed the offence stated, whilst Mills stood and watched; there were altogether 60 cabbages destroyed and several lugs of beans. Mead was ordered to pay 15s. damages and a fine of £2 and costs.

George Mills and Phineas Mead were also summoned for committing damage to a window and a picture, property of John Carey at West Knoyle, on the same day. The offence against Mills was not proved, and the summons was dismissed, but Mead was convicted and ordered to pay the damages, 5s., and a penalty of 10s. and costs. In default of payment, Mead was committed to prison upon both charges.

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