



# Crime and Punishment

## *Minety*

### **Court Case**

#### **John Hicks & James Prater**

John Hicks was brought up on remand charged with stealing two rabbits, the property of Thomas Curtis, of Minety, and James Prater charged with receiving one of the rabbits, knowing it to be stolen.

Jane Curtis proved that the rabbits were stolen on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., and swore that the skins produced were those of her rabbits.

John Daniels proved seeing the prisoner on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> come from the prosecutor's house carrying something under each arm.

Jane Packer swore that on the 20<sup>th</sup>, about seven o'clock, both prisoners came to her house and left together, stating that they were going to Ashton Keynes.

Edward Poole deposed that on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., about 8 o'clock, the prisoner came to his house and brought a rabbit, and asked him to purchase it, which he did, and gave him 1s 6d for it.

PC Davis said that on the 21<sup>st</sup> he made inquiries of Prater, who told him that he came from Minety in company with Hicks on the previous night; that Hicks was carrying a bundle under each arm, but he (Prater) did not know what they contained; that Hicks walked with him to the gate. The following morning, in company with PS Perrett, witness was near Prater's house when Prater handed Perrett a rabbit skin, and admitted that he purchased one of the stolen rabbits from Hicks on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup>, and that it was being cooked on the previous day at the time Davis was in the house.

PS Perrett produced the skin referred to, and corroborated Davis's evidence.

Matthew Whitwell detailed a conversation he had with the prisoner Prater.

PC Orchard proved the apprehension of Hicks, and finding fur on his coat and on two pocket handkerchiefs found upon him.

Both prisoners were committed for trial at the quarter sessions. Hicks was also further charged with stealing a tame rabbit, the property of Mr James Prior, of Minety. Supt Woodman applied for a remand, which was granted.

Western Daily Press 31 October 1873

#### Quarter Sessions

John Hicks, for stealing tame rabbits, the property of Thomas Curtis, at Minety, was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment.

No Bill -- James Prater, receiving a tame rabbit at Minety.

Western Gazette 16 January 1874