



# Crime and Punishment

## *Minety*

### Miscellaneous Crime Reports

**1875**

**Edwin Smart**, of Minety, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing from a trap some cheese, and also with stealing linen drapery. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to one month upon each charge. No evidence was offered. [Western Daily Press 13 February 1875](#)

**John Freeth**, of Minety, charged with drunkenness, was fined 1s and costs. [Western Daily Press 5 March 1875](#)

**William Packer** was charged with allowing horses to stray upon the highway at Minety. Case dismissed. [Western Daily Press 5 June 1875](#)

**Thomas Newman** was charged with allowing his horses to stray at Minety. Case dismissed. [Western Daily Press 5 June 1875](#)

**Thomas Scaplehorn**, of Minety, was charged with allowing six cows to stray upon the highway. Fined 6d each and costs. [Western Daily Press 5 June 1875](#)

**Nathaniel Ricks** was charged with allowing four cows to stray upon the Brinkworth Road, Minety. Case dismissed. [Western Daily Press 5 June 1875](#)

**William Packer**, of Minety, was charged with allowing a horse to stray. Packer was charged at the last session with a like offence, and discharged with a caution. Two previous convictions were proved against him. Fined 5s and costs. [Western Daily Press 6 August 1875](#)

**Richard Reed**, of Minety, was charged with allowing a horse to stray. The case was proved by PS Perrett. The bench took a lenient view of this case, and discharged the defendant with a caution. [Western Daily Press 6 August 1875](#)

**William Miles**, a lad, was brought up on remand charged with stealing an umbrella, value 2s, the property of Mr Beams, of Minety. The lad pleaded guilty, and, as he had been in the lock-up since Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, the bench ordered him to be further detained until Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. [Western Daily Press 19 November 1875](#)

**Mr Banning**, farmer, of Minety, charged with allowing pigs to stray, was fined 5s and costs. [Western Daily Press 3 December 1875](#)

**William Tidmarsh**, of Minety, charged with allowing horses to stray, was fined 5s and costs. [Western Daily Press 3 December 1875](#)

#### 1876

**Albert Daniels**, of Minety, was charged with assaulting Robert Freeth, his stepfather. Freeth appeared with a very bad cut under the eye, and his face as bruised badly. He stated that his stepson came to his house with a brood of ducks, and he said he would not have them left to trample the grass down, whereupon the defendant struck him. The bench said the cut must have been produced with some instrument and not the fist. Sent to hard labour for one month without the option of a fine. [Western Daily Press 9 June 1876](#)

**Robert Freetle**, labourer, of Minety, was brought up by warrant, charged with neglecting to maintain his wife and three children, whereby they became chargeable to the Malmesbury Union since the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. The amount of relief was 6s, and the prisoner paid 4s 6d, and was then discharged upon promising to pay the remainder the next day with the costs incurred. [Western Daily Press 14 July 1876](#)

#### 1877

**George Ricks**, 15, was brought up on remand from the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. charged with stealing a contribution box, containing 7s, from the waiting room at the Minety Railway Station, as reported last Week. Since the remand, the stolen box has been found by the side of the line, near Minety Station, by PC Orchard, who now produced the box, which was broken open, and denuded of its contents. The box was found at a spot where the prisoner said he had thrown it. He now pleaded guilty, and under the Juvenile Offenders Act was sentenced to ten days imprisonment, and afterwards to be sent to a reformatory for two years. Upon hearing the sentence, the prisoner cried vehemently. [Western Daily Press 12 January 1877](#)

**George Walker**, farmer, of Braydon, Minety, Wilts, was charged with a breach of the cattle plague orders, by removing from his farm to Cirencester one calf. The accused pleaded guilty. It appears that he was "dropped upon" by Mr Supt Wood, on Monday last, as he was taking the calf through Sheep Street to Mr Smith's slaughter-house. The defendant said he was "no scholar," and not having been from home for a fortnight, had not heard anything against the removal of cattle. He said he could not read and all his children having grown up and left him, he had not taken in a newspaper for about seven years, and now all the news he got was from the church. Under these circumstances he thought it would be hard if the bench fined hm. But the bench inflicted a fine of £5, to include costs. [Western Daily Press 18 April 1877](#)

**Robert Freeth**, of Minety, was charged with wilful damage to a plum tree, the property of Mr Joseph Berry, of Cirencester. Mr Beaver, of Cirencester, appeared for complainant; Mr Jackson, of Stroud, for defendant. The case, according to Mr Berry' evidence, was that in 1871 he bought some property at Minety. Upon the land was a plum tree in good condition. A man named Daniels, who was the tenant, had since died, and he took the defendant as a tenant. From notice complainant gave him, Freeth quitted at Michaelmas last, and gave up the key. He afterwards cut down the tree, which complainant valued at £2 10s. On this Mr Jackson stated that the land where the tree had grown had been in the possession of Daniels and the defendant for over 30 years, and at the present time his client had not given up possession, neither was it in the admeasurement of the land which the plaintiff bought. The bench adjourned the case for a month. [Western Daily Press 8 June 1877](#)

**Thomas Scaplehorn**, Of Minety, was charged with allowing ten calves to stray. The case was proved by PC Orchard. The defendant was fined 1s and 8s costs. [Western Daily Press 11 April 1877](#)

**Eliza Timberal**, a married woman, who pleaded guilty to charge of drunkenness at Minety, was fined 2s 6d with 7s costs. [Western Daily Press 11 April 1877](#)

**John Grant**, 16, was brought up in custody charged with hawking cuffs, lace, &c, without a license at Minety. Supt Luffman said he should not press for a conviction, and the prisoner was discharged upon paying 7s costs. [Western Daily Press 15 November 1877](#)

**1878**

**Daniel Timbrel**, of Minety, labourer, summoned by Mr Wm Oxley, Excise officer, for carrying a gun without a license, pleaded guilty, and was fined in the mitigated penalty of £2 10s, with a recommendation that the amount be reduced by the commissioners to 30s. [Western Daily Press 7 February 1878](#)

**Emanuel Curtis**, of Leigh, was charged with unlawfully receiving one bushel of Indian corn from the goods shed of the Minety station of the Great Western Railway. After the deposition of Mr Carne the station master, and PC Orchard had been taken, Mr Supt Luffman asked for a remand until Tuesday, which was granted, bail being refused. [Western Daily Press 10 May 1878](#)

**1879**

**Thomas Smith**, a labourer, of Minety, pleaded guilty to being found on land of Mrs Fitzgerald, at Minety, on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> January, using wires for the purpose of snaring rabbits. Defendant was detected by Wm Timbrell, gamekeeper to Mrs Fitzgerald. The bench fined the defendant £1 including costs. [Western Daily Press 10 January 1879](#)

**1882**

**Luke Collar**, 17, a groom, on bail, was indicted for feloniously assaulting a girl of 12, at Minety, on the 21<sup>st</sup> March last. A second count in the indictment charged the prisoner with a common assault. Mr Bouverie prosecuted, and Mr Radcliffe defended. The prisoner was convicted, and sentenced to four months hard labour. [Western Daily Press 6 April 1882](#)

**1884**

**James Matthews**, Farmer of Minety, was summoned by John Russell Randall, officer of Inland Revenue, stationed at Cricklade, charged with keeping a four-wheel carriage without a license for the same on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 18983. Defendant pleaded guilty, but his plea was that he purchased the conveyance in October last, and thought there was no need to take out a license for the two months, as he should have to take out one in January, and he only used the conveyance a time or two. Defendant was fined £4 2s including costs.

**Joseph Painter**, Farmer, of Minety, was also summoned by Mr Randall, charged with a similar offence, on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1884. Mr Randall informed the bench that the wagonette in question was evidently over four cwt, and the higher rate of duty had been paid on it the year previous. Defendant said the carriage was only a little one. He could not tell the weight of it, as he had not got it now. The fact was he exchanged the wagonette with Mr Carter, of Cricklade, for a trap, and he took out a trap license in January, but as he (Mr Carter) could not get the trap ready until April he was obliged to use the wagonette a time or two. He had not had the two conveyances at one time, and he had no intention of defrauding the Inland Revenue. The bench said they did not think this was a very serious case, and fined the defendant 10s without costs. [Western Daily Press 5 June 1884](#)

**1885**

**George Brain**, labourer, **and John Day**, farmer, of Minety, were summoned by Mr Superintendent Luffman, the first charged with refusing to leave the Old Red Lion inn, Minety, when requested to do so by the landlord, Mr James Matthews, and the latter with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty. The case was

proved by PC Phillips. Brain was fined 2s 6d and 15s 6d costs, and Day 5s and 15s 6d costs. The bench remarked that Day was liable to a penalty of £10. [Western Daily Press 8 May 1885](#)

**1886**

**Thomas Booker**, labourer, of Minety, was summoned by Mr Asher Newman, school attendance officer, charged with not sending his child, Mary Ann Booker, aged 11 years to school. Mr M H Chubb, solicitor, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Board of Guardians. The certificate of the schoolmistress showed the child to have only made 12 attendances out of 311. An order was made accordingly. [Western Daily Press 10 April 1886](#)

**George West**, a labourer of Minety, was charged on remand with stealing three fowl, value 7s 6d, from the cottage of George Skuse, labourer of Minety, on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. Prisoner resides about fifty yards from Skuse's cottage, and about a week before the theft he had a conversation with Mrs Skuse about the fowls, when he told her that he knew someone who would buy any quantity of fowls. The fowls were safe between seven and eight o'clock on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup>, and missed early next morning. The police ascertained that a man named Charles Hay, brother in law of the prisoner, who takes eggs and poultry to Swindon, had taken fowls that day and sold them to Mr Thomas Chapman, butcher of Swindon, for West, at 1s 4d each. The fowls were produced and identified alive; two of them were only six months old, and had only commenced to lay the previous day. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to one months' hard labour. [Western Daily Press 1 April 1886](#)

**Thomas Brown, (22), and Stephen Maskell, (32)**, labourers, were indicted for robbing John Freeth, at Minety, on January 7<sup>th</sup>, with violence. Mr Bouverie prosecuted. Brown was sentenced to a month's imprisonment with hard labour; and Maskell to six weeks' had labour, and fifteen lashes of the cat; the latter prisoner receiving a bad character. [Western Daily Press 6 May 1886](#)

**Thomas Scaplehorn**, dealer, of Minety, was fined 19s including costs, for allowing a mare and colt to stray on the highway, at Minety, on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. [Western Daily Press 8 October 1886](#)

**1888**

**Edward Messenger**, labourer, of Minety, was charged with assaulting James Webb, labourer, of Brinkworth, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, at Brinkworth. Mr F E Smith appeared for the prosecution. The evidence was of a conflicting nature, and the bench dismissed the case. [Western Daily Press 6 January 1888](#)

**Jessie Ellison and Silas Ellison**. John Ody, a farmer, of Minety, near Swindon, was assaulted and robbed last Wednesday while returning from Wootton Bassett market. On Monday, at Swindon, Jessie Ellison and Silas Ellison, father and son, were remanded, bail being refused, charged with being concerned in the crime. [Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 15 March 1888](#)

**Alfred Painter and David Sparrow**, of Minety, were charged with using profane language. The bench fined defendants 8s 6d each, including costs. [Bristol Mercury 5 September 1888](#)

**Stephen Mascoe**, of Minety, was summoned by Charles H Pike, school attendance officer, for neglecting to provide the sufficient elementary education for his daughter, Louisa. Defendant was fined 5s. [Western Daily Press 9 November 1888](#)

**1889**

**George Brain**, labourer, of Minety, was summoned by George McConkey, Inland Revenue officer, charged with carrying a gun without a license. The defendant did not appear. PC Drake, stationed at Minety, proved meeting the defendant in Hornbury Hill with something bulky in his pocket. Witness found it was a gun in two

parts . He said he had not shot it off for months, but witness found an old cap on the gun. Mr Pye, supervisor, said the defendant had no gun license, nor had he applied for one. Fined £1 and costs. [Western Daily Press 6 February 1889](#)

**John Brain and George Brain**, brothers, of Minety, were summoned by William Vizor, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game on his mother's lands at Minety, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. One of the men had a greyhound and the other a gun. George aimed at a hare but the gun missed fire. Andrew Baden, of Ashton Keynes, corroborated complainant's evidence. Both defendants denied the offence, and swore they were at home at the time. Previous convictions were proved, and defendants were fined £1 12s 6d each, including costs, and allowed a fortnight. [Western Daily Press 9 May 1889](#)

**Stephen Mashell**, labourer, of Minety, was summoned by Jane Willis, single woman, of the same place, for assaulting and beating her on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. It appeared the woman formerly lived with defendant, and on the day in question, on returning from work, he struck her twice, giving her a black eye and a bruised face. Defendant said complainant knocked him down first and broke his pipe. Fined 5s and 3s costs. [Western Daily Press 12 July 1889](#)

#### 1890

**George Woodward**, labourer, of Minety, was summoned charged with stealing seven pieces of elm board, 22 by 7½ By ¼, the property of Daniel H Yeo, timber merchant, of Lyneham, on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. PC Drake deposed to meeting the defendant on the night in question coming from the direction of the Old Inn, Minety, with the boards under his arm. Witness asked him how he came by them, and he replied that Edgar Rudman, a young man, who worked for Mr Yeo, gave them to him. Edgar Rudman denied ever giving any board to the defendant. Daniel Yeo deposed that he was a timber merchant living in Lyneham. In November he had a large quantity of timber to cut up at Minety Old Inn. Mr F Cousens, his foreman, had charge of the job. The witness Rudman had been in his employ for years. He had no reason to doubt his honesty. There having been five –previous convictions against defendant, he was sent for trial. [Bristol Mercury 8 January 1890](#)

**George Woodward**, 27, was indicted for stealing several pieces of elm board, the property of Daniel Joseph Yeo, timber merchant, of Minty, Wilts, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr Lopes prosecuted. The jury, after a brief deliberation, found a verdict of not guilty. The Judge, in discharging prisoner, said he had had a very merciful jury. [Western Gazette 28 February 1890](#)

**Thomas Telling**, dealer, of Minety, was summoned for obstructing the footway in Castle Street on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Fined 5s. [Gloucester Citizen 23 September 1890](#)

**George Brain**. George Read v George Brain, both of Minety. This was an adjourned case from the last court, when an order was made by the bench for the appearance of both parties. The charge was for assault committed on Read on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Defendant admitted the assault. Plaintiff said the defendant had been to him and apologised, and he wished the matter to be settled. Defendant was fined 15s including costs. [Western Daily Press 9 October 1890](#)

#### 1892

**William Mutloe and Frederick Jones**, young men of Minety, were summoned by the Rev W W Butt, rector of Minety, charged with having unlawfully created a disturbance in the porch of the parish church and also in the churchyard, on Sunday evening during divine service. The Rev W W Butt stated he was much disturbed while preaching on Sunday evening by sounds proceeding from the porch and the churchyard like the scuffling of feet and kicking of tombstones. The congregation were greatly disturbed, and kept looking to the door. Eventually the sexton went out and found the defendants. Mutloe had been rebuked by the sexton on a previous occasion. He did not wish to press the charge against Jones, who had apologised. The bench said

Jones would have to pay 6d and 13s costs, and Mutloe 2s 6d and 15s costs. [Western Daily Press 4 February 1892](#)

**George Brain**, late of Minety, who did not appear, was summoned by Abel Garland, grocer, of the same place, charged with wilfully damaging two gates and a hurdle by flinging them in the brook on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The case was proved by two witnesses, and the bench fined defendant 6d, damages 1s, and costs £1 5s 6d, or one month. [Western Daily Press 4 February 1892](#)

**Francis Bateman and Richard Emerton**, young men of Minety (who did not appear), were fined 10s each and costs for fighting on the highway at Minety on the 28<sup>th</sup> July. PC Smith proved the case. [Western Daily Press 9 September 1892](#)

**Mrs Thomas Scaplehorn**, Landlady of the Old Inn Minety, was summoned by James Ward, Inspector of Weights and Measures for the county of Wilts, charged with having in her possession, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, 41 cups and jugs of different sizes which were unstamped and not of the proper measure. Defendant pleaded guilty, owing to being ill and not able to attend to her business. Fined 21s and everything forfeited. [Western Daily Press 9 September 1892](#)

**1896**

**Wm Tidmarsh**, of Minety, for obstructing the highway at South Cerney, by leaving a horse and cart thereon unattended, was fined 7s 6d to include costs. [Cheltenham Chronicle 23 May 1896](#)