



Crime and Punishment

*Steeple Ashton
1850-1899*

1851

Crown Court (Before the Lord Chief Justice) Richard Hawkins, aged 27 and Thomas Lovington, aged 15, were indicted for feloniously assaulting John Cox of Steeple Ashton on the 1 February last and robbed him of divers money, his property....he received several blows to the head and was told "Your doom is nigh".The Lord Chief Baron, after commenting on the enormity of the crime of which he the prisoner (Hawkins) had been convicted was sentenced to be transported for 20 years. The sentence against Lovington to be deferred. **Morning Post, 13 March 1851**

1856

At the Yarnbrook Petty Sessions, on Monday, before T. Clark and H. B. Poole, Esqs., John Kingham, of Steeple Ashton, labourer, was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment, for stealing bacon from Jacob Orchard, blacksmith and shopkeeper of Bulkington. Both the prosecutor and the prisoner belonged to the sect of Mormonites, or Latter Day Saints, and the latter was just on the eve of departing for the Salt Lake. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday, 12 April 1856**

1866

At Wiltshire Assizes, Walter Long, Esq. versus Thomas Angel. This action commenced against the defendant who occupied a small farm at Steeple Ashton as tenant at will for committing waste on the estate and leaving it in a bad and impoverished condition.....not cropping and cultivating the land in a husbandlike manner and according to the customs of the country. The jury gave verdict of £72, the amount of 2 years rent. **Ipswich Journal, 22 March 1866**

1867

John Collings, bailiff for Mr. Hooper of Littleton, and a drover named William Hillier (of Seend), were charged by Superintendent Wolfe with unlawfully removing a bull on the 2nd September. The Bench however, after hearing the evidence, did not consider that there had been any intention to evade the law, and after cautioning the defendants as to their future conduct let them off upon payment of the costs (3s 6d). **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday, 12 September 1867**

1871

A murder has been committed at Trowbridge, Wilts. At ten o'clock on Wednesday, William Handell, a native of Trowbridge, went for a walk through Steeple Ashton Park with a girl named Emily Pullen, who belongs to Worcester. Yesterday morning she was found murdered in the wood. Handell was apprehended and was committed for willful murder. **Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer, 15 September 1871**