



Bastardy Examination

Tollard Royal

Elizabeth Adlam v David Compton
18th February 1852
Examination held at Tisbury Petty Sessions
Sitting at the Arundel Arms, Donhead St. Andrew

Elizabeth Adlam swore and saith:-

I live at Tollard, on the 2nd December [1851] I was confined with a bastard child. David Compton is the father. I have known him for 2 years, I have worked for him, I was connected with him in the Oat Higher Barn on 3rd March, at Bushey Row Ground on 23rd April, my brother caught us there, he has had connection with me several times but with no one else for the last 12 months. Nor at any other time.

Cross examined:-

Not within the last 12 months or at any other time.

George Adlam swore and saith:-

I am brother to Elizabeth Adlam, I saw her and David Compton go into Bushey Ground Row. I saw them having connection together. I went home and asked my father the day of the month he said it was on the 23rd April. I did not tell my father why.

Cross examined:-

I never mentioned it till after the child was born.

Thomas Adlam swore and saith:-

I am the father of Elizabeth Adlam. I recollect my son asking me the day of the month, it was the 23rd April.

Cross examined:-

My son told me what had happened between my daughter and Compton, I put it down upon the Almanack and upon the paper produced the same day, he mentioned it to me a few days afterwards, he told me he was not ten yards from them.

Jane Kimber swore and saith:-

I know Compton and Adlam. I was at her father's house. Compton came and called for her, she went out, they went away together, it was about 6 weeks before the child was born. I met him Monday week, he said he would kick me as far as he could see because I told Thomas Adlam what he said, he said if Adlam did not swear he would give her a shilling or two but if she did he would never give her anything.

Cross examined:-

He began the conversation, he asked what stories I had told about him, I said he must stop till the day, nothing else said, I have got a bad memory.

Stephen Read swore & saith:-

I now live at Sherborne, I lived at Mr. Compton a 12 month. I know Elizabeth Adlam, I have had criminal connection with her on Tollard Club Day 1851 (May) between 10 and 11 in the Orchard, she came to me, my father is thatcher to Lord Digby.

David Compton swore & saith:-

I have had connection with Adlam, the last time in September 1851, not between September 1850 and 1851. I can't tell how many times.

Application dismissed.

Source:- Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Chippenham, WRO/B20/100/2