



Bastardy Examination

Tollard Royal

Louisa Bench v George Biddescombe
7th September 1853
Examination Heard at Tisbury Petty Sessions
Sitting at the Arundell Arms, Donhead St. Andrew

Louisa Bench swore & saith:-

I live at Tollard Royal, on the 29th January last I was delivered of a male bastard child. George Biddescombe is the father. On the 28th March last in the presence of my sister he said that he would keep the child and he also told my mother so. On 28th March he paid me 7/- in the presence of my sister and he would pay me every month or quarterly.

Cross Examined :-

I was a servant at Mr. Grave's and Biddescombe was a mason working there. I know Bench a relation of mine, we slept at West House in June 12 month. Bench has been nowhere else with me except on farm and at home. Left Club about 6 o'clock.

Maria Bench swore and saith:-

Somewhere between the Xmas's I went to Biddescombe about my daughter being in the family way, he told me I was to take her home and treat her kindly and he would pay all expenses and I was to send to him as soon as she was confined.

Order made.

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