

# Crime and Punishment

*Upton Lovell*



John Dew was indicted for stealing a quantity of hay, the property of Mr S. M. Rowden, at Upton Lovell, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

The prisoner and two of his nephews were seen cutting the grass early in the morning and taking it away in a cart. The value of the hay was about 5s. It appeared that for several years the prosecutor had been in the habit of allowing the prisoner to cut this hay for his own purpose, as it was a rough piece; the prisoner had always asked him to allow him to cut it, but had not done so on the present occasion, The land adjoined a turnpike road, and no secrecy was observed.

The prisoner said he had no thought of stealing the hay; he had taken it for nearly 20 years, and did not think he was doing any harm. The jury acquitted the prisoner.

*(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 21 July, 1864)*