



Poor School Attendances Wanborough 1887 - 1891

Swindon Police Court, Thursday

School Cases

There were a number of charges against parents, brought at the instance of the Wanboro' School Board, for whom Mr. Bevir, solicitor, appeared, for neglecting to send children to school.

Isaac Wheeler, of Upper Wanborough, with respect to his son Arthur, aged 12, who had made four only out of 44 possible attendances.

Defendant said the boy had passed the fourth standard, and would have had a labour certificate had he not been absent a fortnight from school. As he had a wife and six children to keep out of his wages of 12s. Per week he wanted the boy's assistance.

The Bench made an attendance order.

Henry Swatton, with respect to his son Thomas, aged 12, who had made 90 only out of 160 attendances. The mother attended, and said the boy had bad feet. They lived two miles from the school, and he could not walk.

Mr. Winchcomb, the attendance officer, however, said the boy was a truant, and ran fast enough when he saw him coming.

Mr. Bevir said the boy had passed only the third standard, so the parents were standing in their own light.

Attendance order made.

John Smith, with respect to two children. Alice, aged 12, and Sophia, aged 11. The attendances had been very bad, only the first standard being passed.

The wife attended, and said the children had been at her home at Bath because her husband had been out of work. They had been to the Bath school.

Mr. Winchcomb said he knew nothing of this. Attendance order made.

Robert Barrett, with respect to his two sons, Robert, aged 12, and William, aged 11. Each had only passed the first standard.

The wife appeared, and said the children had been sent back from school because she had not the fees. Her husband's wages were only 9s. Per week when he was in work. Attendance order made.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 5 March 1887

Swindon Police Court, Thursday

School Board Prosecution

John Avenell, the defendant in the last case [*assault on Wm. Lester, greengrocer*], was summoned by the Wanborough School Board, for whom Mr. Walter Winchcomb, clerk, appeared, for not sending his son, aged 10 years to school.

Mr. Winchcombe proved the case and asked that an attendance order be made.

The Bench issued an attendance order.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 23 July 1887

Swindon Police Court, Thursday

School Board Prosecutions

John Smith, of Wanborough, was summoned at the instance of the Wanborough School Board for disobeying an order in respect to his two children, Sophia and Alice.

Mr. Winchcombe (clerk and attendance officer to the Board in question) proved the case, stating that Sophia had only attended twice out of 72 times, whilst Alice had only attended five times out of a possible 72.

The Bench characterised this as a very bad case, and fined defendant 5s. For each child, stating that a distress warrant would be issued in default of payment.

Defendant's wife, who appeared for her husband, left the Court vowing that she would not pay a fraction.

William Tyler, labourer, of Wanborough, was summoned with respect to his son Thomas.

Mr. Winchcombe proved that only 21 attendances had been made out of a possible 62. Fined 5s.

John Avenell, road contractor, of Wanborough, was summoned in respect of his son John, who, Mr. Winchcomb said, had attended only 32 times out of a possible 60. Fined 5s.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 29 October 1887

Swindon Police Court, Thursday

School Attendance Case

Reuben Hughes, shoemaker of Wanborough, was summoned by the Wanborough School Board (for whom the Clerk, Mr. W. Winchcomb, appeared), for not sending his daughter Florence, aged 11 years, regularly to school. The child had attended very irregularly, and had only passed the first standard. Defendant said he had lost his wife, and was left with a family of six small children, the girl in question being the eldest, and he had kept her at home to look after the younger ones.

The Bench adjourned the case for a month.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 16 May 1891

Swindon Police Court, Thursday

School Board Case

Reuben Hughes, shoemaker of Wanborough, was summoned by the Wanborough School Board for not sending his daughter, aged 12 years, regularly to school.

The case was adjourned two months ago, and the Attendance Officer (Mr. Winchcombe) now stated that the child had only attended 16 times out of a possible 250.

Defendant said he had four children dependant upon him, and also a bed-ridden mother; his wife was dead.

He promised to send the child more regular in the future. The Bench made an attendance order.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 11 July 1891

Swindon Police Court, Thursday

School Case

Reuben Hughes, labourer of Wanborough, was summoned for neglecting to send his son Thomas, aged 12 years to school regularly.

The case was proved by Mr. Walter Winchcomb, who said the boy was a traunt, and had passed no standard; he ought to be sent to an Industrial School.

Defendant said he was a widower, with six children.

The Bench made an attendance order.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 27 June 1896