



Damage to Empty House Bishopstone 1884

Swindon Police Court, Monday Mischief at Bishopstone

Charles Johnson, 12, **William Stone**, 9, and **James Johnson**, 11, all school boys of Bishopstone, were charged with committing wilful damage to an empty house at Bishopstone, by breaking the windows, the property of Isabella Williams.

Mr. John Williams, father of the complainant, put the damage at from 10s. to 12s.

P.C. Read, stationed at Bishopstone, said on Friday, the 27th ult., he received a complaint from the last witness, and on going to a house found sixteen panes of glass broken, one of the windows being burst open. On making enquiries, he went to the defendants. Charles Johnson admitted breaking three panes one day and two another. James Johnson made similar admissions, and Stone said he broke one pane with a stone, and hit the woodwork with another. From what witness could learn, the elder Johnson appeared to be the leader, and commenced the mischief.

Stephen George proved seeing Chas. Johnson do some of the mischief, and another witness, a little boy, deposed to seeing James Johnson throw at the window and brake the glass.

Johnson said this was not correct, for the stone he threw went through a hole another boy had made. William Rigley gave evidence against Stone.

Mr. Supt. North said it was the common practice in the villages directly a house was void for the boys to smash the windows.

The parents of the defendants offered to pay the damage, and wished the police to thrash the boys. The Bench offered to let the boys off without conviction if the damage and costs were paid – 6s. 6d. each.

This the parents undertook to do.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 4 December 1886