



The True Heart Inn

Bishopstone 1865

SWINDON POLICE COURT Thursday, August 30, 1865

Magistrates present: H. N. Goddard, Esq., Major Prower, and D. Archer, Esq.

Richard Simpson, Henry Hebsworth, Francis Cockhead, John Hewlett, William Nash and Jessy Looker, were charged with assaulting William Cole, a policeman stationed at Wanborough, on the 25th of July last. Mr. J. S. Lovett appeared for Simpson and Hebsworth.

Cole, sworn, said he was stationed at Wanborough, and on the 25th of July, on the occasion of a club being held at the True Heart Inn, Bishopstone, he went there to assist the constable stationed at the village. About 12 o'clock he was called upon by the landlady to clear her house; he, in consequence, went to the people in the house, and got them to leave/ He (complainant) shortly after left by the back door, where there were a great crowd of men standing, demanding to be let into the house, and the defendants threatened to knock his (witness's) b--- head off unless he let them in. He cautioned them that if they struck him he should return it. They then left the yard, and he thought they had gone home; but upon leaving the house by the front door he found they had not left, and one of them (Howlett) said, "Here's the b-----; go into him," and Looker, coming up to him with a long stick, struck him across the head with it. Witness was then knocked down, and Hebsworth fell upon him. Whilst on the ground he received a number of kicks on the head, and on various parts of the body, the bruises caused thereby remaining for upwards of a fortnight. He cried "Murder," and after that the men left, and he saw nothing of them afterwards. Could nor swear to Simpson and Cockhead striking him, but they backed the others on.

By Mr. Lovett: Had part of a pint of beer at the True Heart about two o'clock. Went to the house again about seven o'clock, but did not have any beer then, nor did he sit down. Went to the house again about eight o'clock, and did not go there again until he was called in at twelve o'clock. There were about 20 persons in the room when he went in, did not know all of them personally. Did not know who it was who said "Knock his b--- head off". Did not notice Simpson or Hebsworth in the yard. Simpson made a rush at him (witness) when he was out in the road, and when he was knocked down. It was not a very dark night. Afterwards went about the village to enquire who were at the True Heart on the night in question.

John Povey deposed to seeing from his window the whole of the defendants, with the exception of Simpson and Hebsworth, in front of the True Heart on the night in question, and creating a great row. **P.C. John Johnson**, stationed at Bishopstone, said he saw Nash kick at the complainant. He also saw Hebsworth in the yard when the row began.

This being the case for the complainant, Mr. Lovett addressed the Bench on behalf of Simpson and Hebsworth, and then called the following witnesses on their behalf.

Henry Simms, of Ashbury, Knew Richard Simpson and Henry Hebsworth. was at the True Heart on the night in question. Did not see Simpson there; did see Hebsworth there about eleven o'clock, but not at the time of the row.

By **Supt. Haynes** : Saw nothing of what took place out of doors.

Mary Simms, wife of the last witness, was at the True Heart, with her husband at the time of the row. Did not leave the house till after the row was over. Hebsworth left the house before the row began. Did not see Simpson there at all.

Mary Hewett went to the True Heart between eleven and twelve to look for her son. Saw the two policemen there, and all of them were drunk. She and her son went off home together. The Bench retired, and on their return stated that the charge would be dismissed against Simpson and Cockhead. Hebsworth, Nash, Looker, and Hewlett would pay a fine of £1 and 9s. costs each, or in default to be imprisoned for one month.

Henry Simms, of Bishopstone, was charged by William Cole, police constable, with having assaulted him at Bishopstone, on the 25th of July last. This case arose out of the same circumstances as those under which six men were charged by the same complainant with assault, and previously disposed of by the Bench.

After hearing the evidence in the case, the Bench ordered Simms to pay a fine of £1 and 9s. costs.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 21 August 1865