



Bastardy Examination

Bremhill

At Calne Town Hall 24th July 1872

Ann Haddrell v Charles Wilkins

Ann Haddrell swore & saith:-

I am a single woman residing at Bremhill. I was delivered of a female bastard child on 8th June last. Charles Wilkins of Bremhill, labourer is the father. He is a dairyman at Mr. Butler's at Bremhill. I was in service there also at the same time as dairymaid and cook. He is a married man. He had connection in Mr. Butler's cheese room. He kept on for a twelvemonth, he never let me alone. He promised me marriage when his wife dies. His wife was very ill, she is still alive.

Samuel Lewis swore & saith:-

I am Mr. Butler's place a good deal. I have never seen anything imprudent between Wilkins & girl - only he always treated her differently - something more than with other girls - he would help her.

William Pontin swore & saith:-

I work for Mr. Butler - all along this man found fault with our girls, but never with this. She would bide in bed and he would do her work. I have seen defendant twice or three times with his arm round the girl's neck and once I saw him bustling her about up in the cheese room - he was taking advantage of her - he was trying to throw her down.

Cross Examined:-

This was in September last, they didn't see me I was at the bottom of the room, and they were half way down the room, the girl said leave me alone and he left her alone. She was unwilling at that time. She left in November. They heard me. It was a fortnight before when his arm was round her neck, another time was a little before that - in the dairy.

Adjourned to next meeting.

At Calne Town Hall 21st August 1872

Charles Pontin again cross-examined:-

In the morning about 10 o'clock when the defendant was exercising familiarity with her I was by the pump. We can stand by our pump and see into the cheese room opposite the cheese room door. They came about seven or eight yards in the cheese room. I went for water for the cattle. I don't know what came of the scuffle after I left. I went back. My master did not ask me if I had seen anything between the girl and Wilkins. I didn't tell Wilkins so. I came by there sometimes after 8 - usually finished at 8.

Cross examined:-

I can't say how long they were together after I left.

Robert John Butler swore & saith:-

I am master of the defendant, have been for some years. See both day by day, had constant opportunities of seeing them together. Never seen anything of his conduct which would lead me in to suspect defendant, never seen any difference between his conduct with this girl and other girls. There are nine or ten steps to go up into the cheese room. I couldn't see into the cheese room from the pump. I was obliged to go four or five steps to see half way down the room. He finished about 8 o'clock usually. Water from the pump usually taken from the yard unless when water short. Yard is pitched. I believe the greater part of the men if they knew anything about his matter. I can't swear I asked this man, the girl had no work in the cheese's room. She had been with us three years, knew nothing against her character

Charles Wilkins swore & saith:-

Complainant complained very often to go and see her young man, the first Monday in September last I remember seeing this young girl shake hands with her young man. She said to one of the men I wish you was coming this way to carry my bundle. She said I don't want any of you old married men to come. The young man's name was Henry Knott. They shook hands at the door of Mr. Healey's yard. I have never had connection with the girl.

Cross examined:-

The girl had been to Calne. I was going to Calne and saw her come out of the yard and shake hands with the young man.

Henry Wilkins swore & saith:-

I am son of defendant. I came into Calne last year with my father in August to Club. I saw the girl come out of Mr. Heale's barn. Henry Knott was working there. Four of us were there, she didn't come with us. She said she wouldn't come with any of us married servants, I go once a week to Club.

Order Made

Source:- B10/100/2 - Justices Minute Books, Calne County Division 1851-1883