



Alderbury Workhouse c1970

### **Burglary at the Alderbury Union Workhouse**

William Tryhorn, 25, labourer, and Harvey Hatcher, 42, labourer, were charged with burglariously breaking and entering the Workhouse of the Alderbury Poor Law Union, on the 9th of May, and stealing therefrom five women's dresses, two flannel petticoats, 19s 6d, and various other articles, the property of the guardians.

Joseph Morley, master of the Alderbury Union Workhouse, said he went to bed at about 11 o'clock on the 8th of May last, and was called up at about five o'clock the next morning by the woman who lit the fires in the kitchen. In consequence of a communication made to him by her he went downstairs and found the place all in confusion, drawers and things having been pulled out and thrown all over the kitchen floor. He examined the windows and doors, and found that the door leading to the stoke-hole had been wrenched off. Any person who got into the stoke-hole had access to the kitchen. He found that the wire guards to the outer window of the kitchen had been forced. He sent for a policeman. Frank Hillier, porter at the Workhouse, proved locking up the place on the 8th of May, and Harriett Mussell, an inmate, proved that six dresses and two petticoats belonging to her were locked up in a cupboard in the kitchen of the 8th of May, but next morning all the things in the drawers and cupboards had been taken out, and those not taken away were strewn about the kitchen. Amongst the things taken away were some tea and sugar.

A boy living at the Workhouse was called, and stated that in the ditch of a field adjoining the building he found four bundles.

Supt. Stephens said the prisoners were apprehended on the 9th of May, and searched at the Police-station. He saw the constable take from the prisoner Hatcher about 3 ozs. of butter, 7 ozs. of sugar, and 14s 1d in money, and some papers. He asked the prisoner how he accounted for the possession of the

articles, and he replied "I have got nothing here but what is my own. The money is what I received last Saturday night for wages." The prisoners were brought up and remanded, and after that Hatcher made a statement in which he said he was innocent.

P.C. Jones said he apprehended the two prisoners at the "Catherine Wheel" on the 9th May. He said to Tryhorn "I want you," and Tryhorn turned to the other prisoner and said "I told you they would be after me for that Harnham job."

Sarah Early, wife of George Early, an inmate, and Inspector Ainsworth, of Salisbury, gave evidence for the prosecution, and some eye-witnesses were then called for the defence, the most important being Tryhorn, the other prisoner, who made a statement to the effect that Hatcher was entirely ignorant of the robbery.

The jury acquitted Hatcher, and the Judge agreed with them, but said matters had been communicated to him which showed that the prisoner had had a very narrow escape, for it seemed that both men had been convicted for robbing this very Union. Tryhorn was sentenced to 16 months' hard labour and four years' police supervision.

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