



Bastardy Examination

Calne

At Calne Town Hall, 4th September 1865

Harriet Britten v Joshua Hillier

Harriet Britten swore and saith:-

I am a single woman residing at Calne. I was confined on the 12th July of a female bastard child. I charge the defendant Joshua Hillier with being the father of the child. The defendant first had connection with me about 2 years ago last haymaking. He has continued to do so from time to time. We lived near each other. I live in Wood Street, Calne. The defendant lives at Beversbrook. The defendant has not given me money but on the 21st August he gave me 6s for the child. He used to come up to my sister's house with me. On Sunday evenings he used to meet me at my sister's house in New Road. The prisoner said the child was not his and he should not pay to it unless he was made, he said this after the birth of the child.

Cross Examined:- I am 18 years of age. The first connection was 2 years ago at Mr. Greenwood's at Beversbrook. From February till Lady Day I was at Thickthorn. I went to live at Mr. Baker's at Compton on the 9th May and left on Old Michaelmas day in last year. There were 2 young men in Mr. Baker's service, living in the house at the same time and another female servant, neither Job Franklin nor Thomas Southwood came with me to Calne when I left. I know Alfred Haines of Calne. I have not seen him to speak to him since I left Mr. Baker's. I know Rebecca Smith. I saw the defendant on the 14th October last as I left on the 11th. I did not tell Rebecca Smith that I was in the family way until a month after I left Mr. Baker's.

Emma Britten swore & Saith:-

I am sister to Harriet Britten. The defendant came to my house 2 or 3 times with Harriet Britten. One Sunday evening they were alone together whilst I was out. I knew he was keeping company with her. It was about the 5th November when they were alone at my house.

Ann Dew swore & saith:-

I am sister of the defendant. I live near the complainant a little ways out of Calne. I have known her nearly 2 years. I live at Lickhill. I have seen the complainant in company with young men of bad character, talking with them. I am sure it was the complainant.

(Order Made).

At Calne Town Hall, 5th October 1865

Harriet Britten v Joshua Hillier

Harriet Britten swore and saith:-

On the 4th September last the Justices granted me an order upon the defendant adjudging him to be the father of my bastard child and ordering him to pay 1/6 per week, 5/- for the Midwife and 13/6 the cost of obtaining the order. The defendant has not paid me any money in obedience of such order. I asked him if he was going to pay me the money and he said he should not pay unless he was made.

(Committed for 2 calendar months)

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