



# Crime News – Theft & Assault

*Draycott Foliatt  
1874*

## EXTRADORDINARY PROCEEDINGS

SWINDON POLICE COURT

Thursday

**William Cook** and **Joseph Archer**, two boys, of Draycott Foliatt, were charged with stealing plums from growing trees, the property of **Mr. Thos. Arkell**, of Draycott. Cook did not appear.

Mr. Arkell's bailiff proved seeing the boys in the orchard picking the plums up. He did not see either of them in the trees, or see either of them knock any fruit down.

The Chairman pointed out that the boys were charged with stealing plums growing on trees. There was no evidence to rove this. If they picked the plums up from the ground it would be a case of felony.

Witness said the boys acknowledged to him that they broke the boughs off the trees, and then picked the plums off. Archer denied this, and, said they only picked up what were lying on the ground. As there was not the slightest evidence to convict on this charge the Bench said another summons must be issued, *and bound defendant;s father over in the sum of £5 for his boys appearance next week*, to answer an offence with which he has never yet been charged.

## ASSAULT

**John Whitehorn**, of Draycott Foliatt, and **William Cook**, one of the defendants in the last case, were charged with an assault on **George Archer**, Mr Arkell's bailiff, at Draycott. Cook did not appear.

Plaintiff said the defendants, who were on the same farm, accused him of telling his master that they had stolen plums. Cook ran against him, and knocked him down, and Whitehorn laid on him. One of them kicked him in the eye.

Defendant Whitehorn denied touching plaintiff, and said on the contrary, that he pulled Cook off him when he knocked him down. This was corroborated by a witness named **Robinson**, who said all Whitehorn did

was to try and get Cook away from Archer. Plaintiff said this witness was as bad as the others, and called on the others to “kill the b----”, meaning him.

The Bench said they should believe plaintiff in preference to the witness, and ordered Whitehorn to pay 5s and 8s costs. A warrant was issued against Cook.

**Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 07 September 1874**