

## Stealing Oats 1864

### Chute Forest



Ann Frankham (alias Dorcas), a vendor of sand, and John Miller, late head carter in the employ of Messrs Thomas and Harry Bailey, farmers, of Appleshaw, Hants, were brought up at Everley Petty Sessions under remand charged with stealing two bushels of unwinnowed oats, the property of Messrs Bailey, on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

It appeared that the prosecutors occupy a farm called "Soper's" in the parish of Chute Forest, in Wiltshire, and adjoining the village of Appleshaw, and during the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> January, a quantity of oats were stolen from a heap in a barn at the above farm, where the prisoner Miller lived.

Some of the same description was found at the prisoner Frankham's house, who is a widow and keeps a number of donkeys to hawk sand about the country. She had recently gone to reside at Appleshaw, is a very talkative woman, and cross-questioned several witnesses rather sharply.

Both prisoners, however, pleaded guilty and wished the case settled at once.

Frankham was then sentenced to three months imprisonment, upon hearing which she said "Thank God tid'nt no wus".

Miller was sentenced to six months.

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