



## *Court Case*

### **Codford St. Peter, Appellant, Codford St. Mary, Respondent**

This Appeal, as well as occupying so much of the time, excited in no small degree the merriment of the Court. It appeared that the pauper, Thos. Topp, some 5-and-20 years since hired himself as a servant to Jas. Slade esq. of Codford St. Peter, boarding and sleeping during part of his service with his parents at Codford St. Mary, but frequently returning after his day's work to Codford St. Peter, to pass a few pleasant hours with one Martha Wheeler. Topp wished strongly to settle himself in the Appellant parish, but not having ostensibly slept there during his service, he wished to make the Court believe that he had a hiding place in his master's tallott in which, after he had left his sweetheart, he kenneled a sufficient number of night to gain him a settlement. The Appellants, like good sportsmen, unearthed him from his den, and the crafty old fox was ultimately run down. – Order quashed.

(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1824)