



Edith Carter, (Daughter of Ex-Sergeant Carter), Married by Bigamist

His Three Wives - DOUBLE BIGAMY CHARGE

The matrimonial exploits of a carpenter who had three "wives" were related to the Pewsey (Wilts) magistrate, when John Wright Trotman, a labourer, said to be a native of Bristol, was charged with having bigamously married Edith Mary Carter at Collingbourne Ducis, on June 2, 1906, and Florence Laura Sampson, at St. Thomas's Church, Birmingham, on August 2 1913.

The cases were dealt with separately, the three wives being present in court. One, Edith Mary Carter, of Collingbourne Ducis, whom it is alleged that prisoner married in 1906, wept bitterly while giving her evidence, while the woman with whom it was alleged prisoner last contracted a bigamous marriage, Florence Laura, Hampson, became hysterical and had to be carried be out of court in a helpless condition. It was subsequently stated that her condition was such as to preclude her returning to court, to give evidence.

Prisoner's lawful wife was not called, but in evidence it was stated that the prisoner married Alice Maria Burt at the City Road Baptist Chapel, Bristol, in 1902, that there were five children of the marriage, three of whom were now living, and that the parties lived at Bridgstock Road, Bristol, until they afterwards removed to Cardiff.

Prisoner afterwards appeared to have gone to Collingbourne Ducis where he was employed as a carpenter by a firm of contractors to the camps on Salisbury Plain.

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2016/Maureen Withey

While at Collingbourne in 1906 he went through a form of marriage at the Parish Church with Edith Mary Carter, daughter of an ex-police sergeant. There were four children by the union and the parties lived together until a few months ago, when the prisoner went to Birmingham, in which city he went through a form of marriage with Hampson, this "marriage" taking place at St. Thomas's Church on the 2nd of last month.

Prisoner was arrested at Worcester, and when the warrant in respect of the first charge was read over to him said, "That is right, sir. I could not get on with my first wife so I left her." When told that he would be charged with having feloniously married Hampson he said, "I could not get on with Carter's daughter and that was my reason for leaving her. I have made a mistake in marrying Miss Hampson.'

Asked if he had anything to say on the first charge prisoner said. "Not having heard from my first wife in seven years or more I thought that I was free to marry again."

He reserved his defence, and was committed to the assizes on both the charges.

The Evening Star (Boulder, Western Australia), Friday, 17 October 1913