



# *Crime*

## *Compton Chamberlayne*



### **SHOOTING WITH INTENT TO WOUND**

Charles Watts, labourer, of Compton Chamberlayne, was brought up on remand, charged with having, on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, fired a gun at Benjamin Emms, with intent to do him bodily harm. The parties had settled the matter between them, but the magistrates refused to allow the settlement. – Mr Hill appeared on behalf of the defendant. – As the witnesses were not in attendance, the case was further adjourned till next week.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1867)*

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### **ALLEGED SHOOTING WITH INTENT TO DO BODILY HARM**

Charles Watts was indicted for shooting at Benjamin Emms with a gun loaded with shot, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, at Compton Chamberlayne, on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Snowden prosecuted and Mr T.W. Saunders defended the prisoner.

The prosecutor and Watts had been working together in their gardens with another man. Emms had given them some cider in the course of the day. It began raining heavily and the three men went into the prisoner's cottage and while there they asked him to give them some cider, but he pretended not to hear them. They went out into the garden where there was a way to Watt's cellar. When they returned the prisoner went out, but soon came back in a great passion. He then took a gun out of its case and pointing the weapon at the prosecutor, swore he would blow his brains out. Emms, however, put aside the barrel, but the gun went off and a hole was made in the coat of the prosecutor.

For the defence it was urged that there was no proof that the gun was loaded with shot and it was suggested that the gun had gone off accidentally.

Middlewick, the man who was with the prosecutor, stated that the gun was not pointed at any one. The prisoner was not in a passion. The coat Emms wore was an old one, was very ragged and full of holes.

A female witness gave evidence to the same effect.

The learned Judge having summed up at great length, the jury found the prisoner guilty of an assault.

The Judge said he supposed the prisoner would have pleaded guilty of the assault.

The prisoner then pleaded guilty to the indictment for an assault.

The Judge asked if he could find bail to keep the peace and he also asked the prosecutor if he was afraid of him.

The prosecutor said that he was not of the prisoner had nothing in his hand.

At length the prisoner entered into his own recognizances to keep the peace and to come up for judgement.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1867)*

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