



Illegal Game Killing

Westbury Petty Sessions – Monday 12th September 1864 – Before H G G Ludlow, Chas Phipps and A. Laverton Esq.

John Dew and David Dowling labourers of Dilton's Marsh were summoned for killing game without a licence on land in the occupation of Wm Knapp Esq of Farewood House. On 4th August the defendant with several other labourers, were in a field called Woodlands, reaping. A hare started, and a dog went after it, being urged on by Dew, who took it from the dog, and Dowling went towards him and took part in the capture. The defense, as set up by Mr. Ames, of Frome, who appeared for Dew, was that the dog belonged to Dowling, and that he was the offender. The evidence on both sides showed that both parties were implicated, although the whole field of reapers hounded the dog on and were all guilty. The bench, to the surprise of everyone, fined the defendants 10s each, and 10s costs, amounting to £1 each, or in default, one month's imprisonment. Paid.

The same defendants, and George Hunt, were then summoned for being on land in the occupation of Mr Seth Moey, in search of game. On 16th of August, Isaac Ferris, cabman, saw the defendants on the land, with three dogs, and one of them with a gun. Dew and Dowling were fined £2 each, and costs 18s, and Hunt 10s and 9s costs. Paid.

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