



Crime and Punishment

Hill Deverill

Theft of a Donkey

Who stole the donkey?

George Cox was indicted for having feloniously stolen a gelding ass, the property of Mr James Parfitt, the younger, at Hill Deverill, on the 21st of December.

Mr Snowden prosecuted.

The animal was missed on the morning of the 22nd, and a man named White, a labourer, deposed that in the course of that day he met the prisoner with it near Hindon. Prisoner asked him to buy it, and he eventually became the purchaser at 8s. The deal took place at the Queen's Head public house, and the landlord drew up a receipt, to which the prisoner affixed his mark. The animal was easily identified, from having a crack on one of its hoofs. The prisoner was working near the prosecutor's on the 21st of December, and it was shewn that he offered the donkey for sale at Hindon on the same day. The party however, to whom he offered it, refused to become the purchaser.

Prisoner denied all knowledge of the transaction, and called a man also committed for trial at these Sessions to prove that he was in the neighbourhood of Bruton, on the day of the robbery.

The Jury, however, were not easily convinced, and the prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to 4 calendar months hard labour.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 25 March 1858