



# Crime Reports

## Melksham

1800-1849

**1818**

On Thursday the 5th inst. Daniel Bolwell, a baker, of Melksham, was convicted (before Charles Bythesea, Esq.) in the penalty of three pounds, for selling bread very much deficient of weight. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 14 March 1818**

**1821**

On the evening of the 13th instant the shop of Mr. J. Bollwell, of Melksham, was robbed of a half cheese, taken from the counter. And on the evening of the 15th the shop of Mr. Moxham was robbed of a warming pan, as was likewise the shop of Mr. A. Davis, of a pair of shoes, and patent stretchers. **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 22 November 1821**

**1824**

Committed to Fisherton Gaol William Rawlings, of Rowde, and Ambrose Phillis, of Seend, charged with stealing in the night of the 22nd inst, 3 pigs, the property of Thomas Mill, at Outmarsh, in the parish of Melksham. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday, 29 March 1824**

**1825**

Committed to Fisherton Gaol William Godwin, of Melksham, cordwainer, charged on the oath of John Shawl, of Melksham, with having inflicted a dangerous wound upon the thigh of the said John Shawl, with a knife or some sharp cutting instrument. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday, 7 February 1825**

Committed to Fisherton Gaol Thomas Briant, charged with stealing a long-handled brush belonging to J. and W. Fox, at Melksham; and William Hancock, charged with selling a long-handled brush, to John Kean, knowing the same to be stolen. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday, 7 February 1825**

**1831**

During the night of Friday, the 7th inst., a fat wether sheep was stolen from a field occupied by Mr. William Beaven of Queenfield, in the parish of Melksham. A reward of ten guineas is offered for the discovery of the offenders. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 20 January 1831**

Salisbury Assizes. Stephen Withers was convicted of stealing a pan of butter, the property of William Down, at Melksham. Having been before convicted of a felony, his Lordship sentenced him to be transported for seven years. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 14 March 1831** **OPC Note:** Stephen Withers was transported to New South Wales on the "Surrey", on 15 July 1831.

**1833**

John Baker, of Melksham, charged with stealing a shirt, on the 14th instant, the property of ... Hicks, of Durnford. **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 21 November 1833**

**1835**

Committed to House of Correction, Devizes. James Webb, Fred. Wiltshire, Thomas Mitchell, and William Hurn, for ten days each, for stealing apples from the orchard of William Butler, of Melksham. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 3 September 1835**

**1838**

Committed To The New Prison, Devizes William Huntley, for one month, for leaving his family chargeable to the parish of Melksham. **Wiltshire Independent, Thursday, 22 February 1838**

For Trial. Mary Rolf, charged with stealing one watch, one seal, and two watch keys, the property of William Axford, of Melksham. **Wiltshire Independent, Thursday, 22 February 1838**

**1840**

Daring Highway Robbery On Saturday morning about 2 o'clock as Rose the carrier of Steeple Ashton was going from Bath to Bristol with a load, on arrival at Newbridge Hill, three fellows robbed his cart of a cask, (supposed to contain spices) with which they made off with in sight of him. The cask was directed to Mr. Ruddle, Melksham. **Bristol Mercury, 26 December 1840**

**1841**

At a Petty Sessions held at Warminster on Thursday last For Trial - James Mills, charged with having stolen apparel, the property of Henry Taylor of Melksham. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 11 February 1841**

**1843**

Wilts Epiphany Sessions. Henry Richards and John Deverell, charged with having stolen a quantity of hay, the property of William James at Melksham. Guilty: 6 months imprisonment. **Wiltshire Independent, 12 January 1843**

**1846**

Committed to The New Prison, Devizes. Thomas Weston and Charles Mackintosh, for one month, for refusing to work in the Workhouse at Melksham. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 19 March 1846**

Last week the poultry yards of Mr. Wiltshire, of Red House, Melksham, and Mr. Sloper of Seend, were extensively robbed of fowls and geese; and on Friday, through the active exertions of Superintendent Foley and Sergeant Merret, two suspicious characters, Escot and Brown, of the Forest, Melksham were apprehended and committed for trial on the charge. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday, 14 November 1846**

**1847**

Committed to The New Prison, Devizes. Daniel Marsh, for six weeks, for misconduct in the workhouse at Melksham. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 20 May 1847**

John Harris, stealing a casting net, the property of James Gulliver, at Melksham. Sentenced to 2 months imprisonment. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday, 28 October 1847**