



Crime and Punishment *Oaksey*

Court Case

John Marsh and George Ricketts

Releasing a Prisoner

At the magistrates' office on Thursday, before the Right Hon. T H S Sotheron Estcourt, M.P., P A Lovell, and E B Estcourt, Esqs, John Marsh and George Ricketts, of Oaksey, labourers, were brought up in custody, charged with assaulting Sergeant Bustard and Constable Dawson, and attempting to rescue a prisoner.

It appeared that three warrants of commitment were out against John Matthews, an incorrigible vagabond who had already served seven years in gaol for various offences, and that on the evening of the 31st ult., the officers found him at the Wheat Sheaf public-house, Oaksey. He made (as on all former occasions) a violent resistance, when the two prisoners who were drinking with others in the tap-room, jumped up, laid hold of the prisoner, and swore they would rather lose their lives than for him to be taken from the house.

The officers were roughly handled in the scuffle, but they ultimately succeeded in securing their prisoner. In defence the prisoners pleaded that they had "a drop too much", and asked the Bench to be merciful.

It being their first offence, the Bench fined each of them £1 and 10s 6d costs, or in default to be imprisoned for one month. The fines were paid.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 18 September 1858

Another report relating to the above.

Apprehension of a Poacher

A well-known offender against the Game Laws, named John Matthews, who had been sentenced by the Cirencester Bench of Magistrates to six months imprisonment for poaching, on two occasions, in Earl Bathurst's woods, and who had for a time eluded the vigilance of the police, was apprehended on Tuesday last, at Oaksey, by two officers of the Wilts constabulary. The prisoner was drinking in a public-house, and on the approach of the officers, secreted himself in a bed-room. A strenuous resistance was made, and the prisoner was attempted to be rescued by a number of the villagers. The officers had to use their staves pretty freely, and some broken heads were the result. The prisoner was brought to Cirencester in a cart, and on the following day was conveyed to Gloucester gaol.

Gloucester Journal Saturday 4 September 1858