



Crime and Punishment

Oaksey

Court Case

William Henry Leyfield

A majority of the magistrates found William Henry Leyfield, an Oaksey labourer, guilty of the charge of having cruelly ill-treated a cat.

PC Phillimore deposed that, when on the Culkerton road on June 6, he saw Leyfield throwing at something in the hedgerow. The man at length admitted that he had shied at a tabby cat. Witness saw the carcass, which was quite warm.

Inspector Stevens, RSPCA, found that the cat had extensive bruising along its left side, and two ribs were fractured. Defendant, who pleaded not guilty, told the Court that he killed the cat with the first stone, but "top make certain it was dead", he kicked it. He was afraid that if he released the cat with his hands he would be bitten.

A penalty of £1 was imposed.

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