



A Typical Straw Fold

### **SETTING FIRE TO A FOLD AT BRITFORD**

Henry Button, 18, labourer, was charged with setting fire to a fold, the property of John Taunton, Britford, on 8th April 1870. Mr Snowden prosecuted, and Mr Collins defended the prisoner. It appeared from the evidence adduced, that about six o'clock on the afternoon of 8th April, prisoner and several young men were returning from Salisbury, where they had been to be confirmed. The prisoner and two others took a short cut across prosecutor's yard and the others went on the straight road. Edwin Jacobs, labourer, in the employ of prosecutor, said he was engaged taking straw from a barley rick. He saw the prisoner near the rick, and after he came out of the cowhouse, where he had taken a pitch of straw, and he then saw the straw on fire. A large quantity of straw in the fold was consumed before the fire could be extinguished. A boy, also in the employ of prosecutor, said he saw prisoner standing near the straw with match in his hand. He threw something down, and immediately afterwards the straw was seen to be on fire. The prisoner then ran on after his companions. For the defence, it was stated that prisoner lighted his pipe, and threw away the match, and the fire was accidental. Henry White, a lad in company with prisoner, stated that while he was passing prosecutor's premises he gave prisoner a pipe of tobacco and a single match, the only one he had. The prisoner stopped to light his pipe, then ran on and overtook the others of the party. The prisoner had excellent character given him by his master, Mr Squarey, and by the Rev P E Miles, Rector of Odstock. The jury returned verdict of Not Guilty.

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