



# Crime and Punishment

## *Sutton Mandeville*

### **STEALING A HORSE**

William Bovey Lang, a deserter from the 16<sup>th</sup> Lancers, was charged with stealing a horse, the property of Mr Thomas Hawkins, landlord of the Bell Inn, Sutton Mandeville. It appeared that on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., the prisoner came to the Bell Inn, about eight o'clock in the morning, and had some refreshment, and remained there some little time. About twelve o'clock the prosecutor went to the stable for the purpose of feeding his horse, when he discovered that it had been taken away. He then went in search of it, traced it on towards Ludwell, and informed Police-sergeant Tydeman of his loss. They accordingly both went on to Shaftesbury, and in the High-street there they saw the prisoner riding the horse. The police-sergeant took him into custody, and charged him with stealing the animal. The prisoner replied, "I did not steal it; I found it on the road, and thought I would have a ride a little way." A witness named Henry Burt was cleaning the horse about nine o'clock in the morning, when he saw the prisoner pass by prosecutor's stable; there was then a blind halter and rein in the stable, together with a head stall and chain, and when the prisoner was apprehended the horse had these things on. There was also the thong of a whip found upon the prisoner, but the handle had been separated from it and left behind in the stable. The prisoner, in answer to the charge, said he found the horse and the whip by the roadside, about three miles from Hawkins's house, and he intended to make enquiries about it when he got to Shaftesbury. He was committed for trial at the quarter sessions in October next.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 6 August, 1870)*

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### **SECOND COURT**

(Before Mr R. L. Lopes (chairman), Mr T. E. Fowle, the Rev. J. H. Gale and Mr G. Alexander)

Wm. Borry Lang, sawyer, said to be a deserter from the 16<sup>th</sup> Lancers, was indicted for stealing a mare, the property of Thomas Hawkins, at Sutton Mandeville, on the 24<sup>th</sup> July last. He pleaded not guilty. About eight o'clock on the morning of that day the prisoner had some refreshment at Mr Hawkins's inn at Sutton Mandeville, and at 11 in the forenoon his mare was missed from the stable. The prisoner being suspected of having stolen it was followed to Shaftesbury, and there he was found riding the animal. He was immediately taken into custody, and on being asked how he came by the horse stated that he found it on the road side, and he thought he would have a ride a little way. Shaftesbury is about eight miles from Sutton Mandeville. It was also proved that the bridle on the horse and the whip

in the prisoner's possession at the time he was apprehended was Mr Hawkin's property. The Jury found him guilty, and he was committed to prison for six months with hard labour. – Mr HADOW prosecuted.

*(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 20 October, 1870)*

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