



Crime News



“Finding” a Watch

Swindon Police Court – Monday

Thomas Lane, 23, labourer, of Wanborough, was brought up charged with stealing a silver watch the property of **Thos. King**, labourer of Bishopstone, on the 21st of June. The prosecutor said he lost his watch whilst walking from Ragnell Farm to Bishopstone. On missing it he told prisoner of his loss, and they walked back down the road to see if they could find the watch. He saw prisoner stoop and pick something up, and asked him if it was the watch. Prisoner denied that it was. Three or four days after he saw prisoner again, and he then expressed his sorrow for his loss, and said if he had a shilling he would give him (prosecutor) one towards making it up.

Jesse Williams, stone cutter of Lockeridge, working on the Russley estate, said prisoner sold him the watch on the 25th June for 3s. 6d., saying he had purchased it at New Swindon of a pawnbroker, for 7s. Prosecutor said he gave 30s. for the watch.

P.C. F Read proved apprehending prisoner on the 26th inst., at Lambourne, where he charged him with the theft he denied that he had ever had a watch in his life.

Prisoner now denied he stole the watch, saying he found it.

The Chairman said it was a clear case of stealing, and to convince prisoner of it committed him to two months imprisonment with hard labour.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 4 July 1885