



A Wilton Workhouse “Terror” sent to Prison

Sarum County Sessions - Tuesday

Samuel Henstridge (78), an inmate of the Wilton Workhouse, was charged with assaulting Isaac Edwards, on Wednesday, October 28th. Defendant pleaded not guilty. Isaac Edwards, an aged inmate of the Wilton Workhouse, said that on Wednesday morning the defendant came and commenced using filthy language towards him. He then struck him in the face with his fist making his nose bleed and giving him a black eye. Defendant said Edwards hit him first. George Musselwhite, another inmate, said he saw the assault, and went for Mr. Brown, the Master. Reuben Hibberd, another inmate, who saw the assault, said the defendant struck Edwards first.

Defendant (sharply): “You lying old b----, you never could speak the truth.”

Mr. Brown, the Master at the House, said he was called by the witness Musselwhite to the men’s day room, where he found Edwards bleeding from the nose and with a black eye. The men in the room said Henstridge did it for no reason at all. Witness gave the defendant into custody. Mr. Brown added that the defendant had a bad character, and was the worst behaved man in the House. The old men in the day room were afraid of him.

Defendant: “They be all down on me like a thousand of bricks. I don’t dare to speak.” Continuing, the defendant said he had to clean up the day room, and the night before some of the men upset the spittoon and made a mess on the floor for him to clean up. Edwards struck him first, so he “just touched his nose, which began to bleed.” Defendant’s son said he supported his father, who came out once a month, and told him he did not get a minute’s peace whilst in the House.

Supt. Longstone said the defendant was convicted in May of this year, and on that occasion went back to the House very drunk. The defendant had also been convicted on other occasions, and each time he went back to the House there was a row.

The Chairman said that he regretted having to send the defendant to prison considering his age, but his record was a very bad one. He would be sent to prison for 14 days without hard labour, and he hoped that when he came out he would live in peace with the other inmates.

Defendant: “No man in the world would live in peace with them.”

Salisbury Times, Friday, 6 November 1903