

In Search of Game 1895/6

Tisbury Petty Sessions

James Cuff, retired innkeeper, of East Tisbury, was charged on the information of Alfred Fred Perrett, gamekeeper, in the employ of Mr J Bennett-Stanford, with trespassing on lands in the occupation of Mr Philip Genge, of Wickwood Farm, West Tisbury, in search of game. Mr W Marsh, of Tisbury and Yeovil, appeared for the prosecution, and the defendant pleaded not guilty.

Perrett said that on the night of the 13th instant, he was at Wickwood Farm, when he heard a gun fired about 70 yards from him. He ran to the spot, when he saw the defendant getting over the hedge. On seeing witness, Cuff turned and ran away.



Witness saw a hare lying in the field about 20 yards from where defendant got over. Cuff ran some distance, and then commenced walking. He then appeared to be taking the gun apart, as witness saw it protruding from his side and afterwards over his shoulder. He then opened his coat and put something in it. As soon as the defendant had put the gun away, he stopped, turned round, and said "I've got nothing" and witness replied, "All right, Mr Cuff" and went back to the hare, which he found to be twitching.

Mr Philip Genge said that some years ago, when the defendant kept an inn, he gave him permission to shoot rabbits, but nothing else. In fact, he told him that if he shot anything else, he should stop him. Since then witness had told the defendant not to come on his land again, and he (Mr Genge) had himself been on the lookout for him. In cross examination Mr Genge said that if he had found him on his lands he should have summoned him. Witness distinctly remembered telling Cuff not to come there again.

John Jesse Jesty identified the handwriting of a letter which the defendant had written to Mr Bennett-Stanford acknowledging his guilt and seeking forgiveness. Defendant, in defence, endeavoured to prove that the permission given him had never been withdrawn. The Bench imposed a fine of £1 and 9s costs, the prosecution not asking for the expenses of the witnesses. Western Gazette Friday 22 February 1895

Hindon Petty Sessions

John Lloyd, of Tucking Mill, West Tisbury; John Ford, of Duck Street, East Tisbury; Edward Coombs, of Gaston, Wardour, all young labourers, were summoned at the instance of Samuel Marks, gamekeeper, of Ebbesbourne Wake, for trespassing in search of game on land in the possession and occupation of George Blandford Matthews, at Alvediston, on the 1st October.



Marks, who is gamekeeper to Mr Matthews, stated that on the date named he was on the down at Swallowclift Corner, about two o'clock, when he saw the three defendants poaching on land belonging to Lord Arundell and Mr Keevil.

They afterwards came to Mr Matthew's land, where they commenced to beat the bushes, being at the time accompanied by a terrier. He saw one of the lads catch a rabbit.

Witness subsequently followed the defendants, and found them out with the assistance of the Police Superintendent at Tisbury. Defendants were each fined 1s and 8s costs. Western Gazette Friday 25 October 1895

Tisbury Petty Sessions

Frank Rogers, labourer, of East Tisbury, was summoned by Jabez Barnes, gamekeeper, of Fonthill Bishop, for being on land in the occupation of Mr James Bracher, at East Tisbury, on the 12th October, for the purpose of taking game. Evidence was given by Frederick Abbott, of Ashley Wood, and Ernest Phillips, gamekeeper, showing that the shooting of the land was rented by Mr Morrison and that the defendant was observed upon it setting snares.



Defendant, who admitted the offence, pleaded that he had been out of work for some time and having a wife and family of six children, he went on to the land with the intention of catching a rabbit, but got caught himself. Fined 8s and 19s costs. Western Gazette Friday 23 October 1896