

Theft of ducks

The examination of Angell Smith of Milborne Port in the said county baker taken this 4th day of September 1704 before John Trent? One of her Majesties of the Peace for the said county.

This examinant saith upon his oath that last Tuesday night he lost two ducks.

The examination of Edward Oliver of Milborne Port in ye said county butcher taken this 4th day of September 1704 before John Hunt Esq one of her Majesties of the Peace for ye said county.

This examinant saith upon his oath that between 11 and 12 of the clock Tuesday night last he heard some ducks cry as he lay in his bed upon which he arose and went to his window and saw a man come from his gate, and also saw a dogg upon ducks at the same time upon which he called the man to take off hiss dogg, and that the same person called to ye dogg, and that he this examinant believes that the said man was William Jarvis of Milborne and this examinant saith further that the same night he lost a duck and a mallard and that the same dogg seemed a darke coloured dogg.

Signed: John Hunt, Edward Oliver

The examination of William Marks of Milborne Port in the said county taken this 4th day of September 1704 before John Hunt Esq one of her Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said county.

This examinant saith upon his oath that last Tuesday night about 11 o'clock as he was _ing from his father in lawe's house in Milborne aforesaid to his home, he heard the noise of ducks, which caused him, this examinant, to stop, about William Sansome's house and that he then walked down the street and that against Oliver's house a red liver coloured bitch left chasing the ducks and came to him, and leapt up against him this examinant which said bitch William Jarvis has owned to be his, and does now, and that at the same time he saw a man going from him, and that the same man leapt over a wall of Guy White's jnr into the said White's Pigg Stye, and that ye said bitch followed the person, and this examinant saith further that he did at the time he saw the man as aforesaid thinks and verily believes ye same man to be William Jarvis, and does now at this time believe in his conscience that ye person that was stealing the ducks was Wiliam Jarvis as above mentioned.

Signed: John Hunt, William Marks

The examination of Richard Lambert of Milborne Port in the said county Constable taken this 4th day of September 1704 before John Hunt Esq one of her Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said county.

This examinant saith upon his oath that last Wednesday morning one Angell Smith of Milborne aforesaid came to him and told him that he had lost ducks ye night before, and desired him this examinant (he being one of the Constables of the said Burrow) to search if he could find them upon which he this examinant and the said Smith went to a place where Guy White's said Pigg Stye were and William Marks of Milborne aforesaid, had told the said Smith a person went over the night before, (as ye said Smith told this examination) and that at the same place they found feathers upon the ground and that they trackt feathers from that place to one William Jarvis's house in Milborne aforesaid, over several walls, upon which where they found feathers at the doore of the said Jarvis's house, he this examinant and the said Angell Smith called for one John Barrett the Bailiff of the said towne who, all went into the said Jarvis's house, the doore being open, to search for the ducks that was lost, and that under a shop board in ye said Jarvis's house they saw a place where straw lay, where seeming by ducks or some thing also had lay thereon and that in the same place they also saw a feather resembling such as they had trackt, and saw at the doore of the said Jarvis's house.

Signed: John Hunt, Richard Lambert

The examination of William Jarvis of Milborne Port in the aforesaid county tailor taken this 4th day of September 1704 before John Hunt Esq a Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid county.

This examinant saith that notwithstanding he is accused by ye examinations of Angell Smith and Edward Oliver of Milborne aforesaid and others aforesaid under suspicion of stealing ducks from ye said Smith and Oliver last Tuesday night, he this examinant declaring that he went to bed about half an hour after eight that night and never stirred thereout until next morning about 7 o'clock and that he knoweth nothing at all of the ducks layed to his charge.

Signed: John Hunt, William Jarvis

Transcribed by Valerie Jackson
October 2023