

# Assizes Records

## Wiltshire Quarter Assizes 1736

(From Wiltshire Quarter Sessions and Assizes 1736. Edited by JMP Fowle. Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Records Branch Volume XI 1955.)

Number	Details
<b>Easter Sessions – Great Roll</b>	
Recognizances to Appear and Answer	
191	17 Jan. William Bryant of Overton, yeoman, and George Webb of Kennett, blacksmith: for refusing to pay William son of John Hillman of Fifield, labourer, his 'weekly wages don in husbandry' : before George Hungerford
192	5 Feb. Thomas Smith and Thomas Edwards both of Overton, yeomen; Joseph Cowper of Overton, labourer, to appear and answer Thomas Sterry, labourer, and Anne Allin, spinster both of Overton concerning owper's theft from Sterry of a greatcoat and a pair of 'yarning stockings': before George Hungerford
Recognizances to Appear and Give Evidence	
230	5 Feb. Anne Allen of Overton, spinster: against Joseph Cowper of Overton, labourer, for stealing a great coat and a pair of 'yarning stockings'; before George Hungerford.
231	5 Feb. Thomas Sterry of Overton, labourer; against Joseph Cowper as above; before George Hungerford.
Indictments Not Found	
290	Joseph Cooper of Overton, labourer, for stealing a greatcoat and a pair of yarn stockings worth 5s from Thomas Terry; Overton, 5 Feb. Witness Anne Allen.
Informations and Examinations	
293	Thomas Sterry of Overton, laboure, taken before George Hungerford, 5 Feb. 'this informant upon his oath doth declare that he left a great coat and a pair of stockings in Thomas Smith's wagon, the said informants master, in a cart house in the said informants masters yard, and last night this informant says he suspects Joseph Cowper of Overton aforesaid to have stole the said coat and stockings; this informant declares his mistress Anne Allen told him she heard somebody make a noyse at the gate and the said Anne Allen got up to the window and called to know who was there, and she heard the voice of the said Joseph Cowper about two o'clock in the morning, but did not tell her what busness he came about' Mark of Thomas Sterry.
294	Ann Allen of Overton, spinster, taken before George Hungerford, 5 Feb;

	'this informant doth declare on oath that about two o'clock in the morning of the present instant February she heard a man, as she verily believes, shutting the gate of the backside belonging to the house of Thomas Smith of the parish of Overton, yeoman, upon which the said informant call'd out of [the] window, Sterry is that you, and immediately Joseph Cowper of the said parish, labourer, made answer, mistress are you not up yet: the said informant asked the said Joseph Cowper what made him up so early and the said Joseph Cowper went away without giving the said informant any farther answer.' Mark of Ann Allen.
297	William Hillman, son of John Hillman of Fyefield, labourer, taken before George Hungerford on 16 Feb; 'this examinant doth on his oath declare that he was hired as a currant servant by the week at the rate of four shillings and six pence a week to William Bryant of the parish of Overton..... yeoman; the said examinant says the said William Bryant owes him, the said examinant, for three weeks and one days work which he refused to pay the said examinant.' Mark of William Hillman.
<b>Easter Sessions – Minute Book</b>	
Recognizances delivered in court by the Justices	
353	William Bryant of Overton – appeared and discharged, received 4s 6d and for the justice's clerk.
354	Joseph Cooper of the same – appeared and discharged, received 4s 6d.
<b>Trinity Sessions – Great Roll</b>	
Recognizances to Appear and Answer	
479	10 July. William Bryant of Overton yeoman; for refusing to pay his wages to Benjamin James; before George Hungerford. Paid.
480	26 June. John Watkins of Highworth, brickmaker, Isaac Carter his servant, Richard Carter of St Mary's Marlborough, flaxdresser; John Watkins and Isaac Carter to swer for assaulting Thomas Hopkins of Overton, mason; before George Hungerford.
Recognizances to Appear and Give Evidence	
498	26 June Thomas Hopkins of Overton, mason; against John Watkins of Highworth and Isaac Carter his servant, for assaulting him; before George Hungerford – (not signed by the Justice)
Indictments Found	
519	John Watkins of Highworth, brickmaker, and Isaac Carter of Marlborough, labourer, for assaultin Thomas Hopkins: Overton, 12 June. Witness, Thoams Hopkins and George Shipway.
Informations and Examinations	
546	'William Bryant of Overton, debtor to Benjamin James of the said parish: For a quarters wages for sheep keeping at 2/ 14s per year 0 – 13 – 6

	Due to my son Arter James for husbandry wages 0 – 6 – 0 0 – 19- 6 Taken and sworn before me the 10 <sup>th</sup> of July 1736. Signature of George Hungerford and mark of Benjamin James.
547	George Shipway of Overton, 'juner', taken before George Hungerford, 7 July; 'this informant deposeth that on or about the 12th of June last he, the said informant, went into the George alehouse in Overton to drink a pint of beer, and see John Watkins, brickmaker, and Isaack Carter his servant, drinking in the said alehouse; and the said informant heard the said John Watkins abuse Thomas Hopkins of Overton, mason, and call the said Hopkins roge and son of a whore; and the said John Watkins pulled the said hopkins by the nose, while the said Isaack Carter throwed a glass of beer in the said Hopkinses fase, without any provocation; and the said Carter threatned the said Hopkins that if he came near the said brick kill where he worked he, the said Carter, would beat him, the said Hopkins" Mark of George Shipway.
548	Thomas Hopkins of Overton, taken before George Hungerford, 26 June; 'this examinant deposeth that on the twelfth of this instant June he was in company at the George alehouse in Overton with John Watkins, brickmaker, and Issack Carter his servant; that the said John Watkins told him Mr Hungerford had not done him, the said John Watkins, justice on the warrant the said examinant had lately taken out against him, the said John Watkins; that after that the said John Watkins ran up to the said examinant and pulld him by the nose, while the said issack Carter throwd a glass of beer in the said examinants face without any provocation given by the said examinant.' Signature of Thomas Hopkins.
<b>Trinity Sessions – Minute Book</b>	
Recognizances delivered in court by the Justices	
600	William Briant of the parish of Overton – appeared and discharged and ordered to pay 19s 6d to his servant and 20s for costs, received my fees.
601	John Watkins of Highworth – Isaac Carter of Marlborough, himself 10
602	Isaac Carter of the same – himself in 10 [bracketed with the above entry under] justice's clerk not paid, received but 14s of both.
<b>Michaelmas Sessions – Great Roll</b>	
General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held on Tuesday the 5 <sup>th</sup> October at Marlborough.	
668	Schedule: Return of Grand Jurors.
	Michael Cook of Overton.
Recognizances to Appear and Answer	
673	18 August. Thomas Messenger of Overton, labourer; to appear at next session and meanwhile to be of good behaviour; before George

	Hungerford
Recognizances to Appear and Give Evidence	
694	18 August. Nicholas Dobson, blacksmith and Mary Brown, widow, both of Overton; both against Edward Messenger for stealing a horseshoe and a piece of old iron out of Edward Dobson's shop; before George Hungerford.
Informations and Examinations	
704	Mary Brown of Overton, widow, taken before George Hungerford, 17 August; 'this informant doth on her oath declare that about a week ago in the evening Edward Messinger, son of Thomas Messinger of the Parish of Overton ... labourer, came to the house of the said examinant and offered an old horseshoe and another old piece of iron for sale; that she objected to buying the said iron, believing it to be stoln, but upon the said Edward Messinger's declaring he had found the said iron she bought the same. Examinant further declares that Nicholas Dobson of the said parish, blacksmith, has claimed the said iron as his own; and that the said horseshoe and the other old piece of iron has since been deliver'd to Nicholas Dobson aforesaid.' Signature of Mary Brown.
705	Nicholas Dobson of Overton, blacksmith, taken before George Hungerford, 17 August; 'this examinant doth on his oath declare that about a week ago he miss'd out of his shop in the parish of Overton aforesaid a whole bottom'd horseshoe with a barr and a rivett through it and that he believes it was stoln out of his said shop; and that he lost at the same time a pin of a plough share which he believes was stoln at the same time as the horseshoe was stoln.' Signature of Nicholas Dobson.
Presentments of the jurors of the Hundreds	
713	Selkley: all well, Robert Church.
Bailiffs' returns of jurors and constables to serve for the Hundreds.	
721	Elstub and Everly – James Cue, John Smith both of Fifield.
726	Selkeley: Grand Jury – Michael Cooke of West Overton. Hundred Jury – Robert Church of West Overton.
<b>Michealmas Sessions – Minute Book</b>	
Traverses	
753	John Watkins of Highworth – not guilty.
754	Isaac Carter of Marlborough – not guilty [bracketed with th above under] received but 4s on the travers; received all fees but 4s 10d.
Fellons	
771	Edward Messenger of Lockeridge, labourer – pleads guilty to be whipt.
Recognizances now delivered into court by the justices	
777	Edward Messenger of Overton – appeared and discharged.

<b>Process Book of Indictments</b>	
939	Inhabitants of East Overton – H 1735, appeared and discharged, received the fees, fined 6d.
941	Edward Messenger of Lockeridge, felony – guilty.
<b>Proceedings Before The Justices of Assizes. Process Book – Lent Assizes</b>	
P 122	Inhabitants of the parish of Avebury; not repairing between the Hare and Hounds and the further part of William Caswells meadow next Overton, in length one mile and breadth 10 feet, leading from Marlborough to Calne. [crossed out].
<b>Freehold Book. Persons qualified to serve on juries</b>	
East Overton – Mr Robert Wells: John Stretch; Thomas Smith (Elstub and Everley)	
West Overton – Michael Cook; Robert Church (Selkley)	

**Source:** West and East Overton. A Collection of Documents And Maps. Extracts with permission of Clive Dorling, who retains copyright.