



Bastardy Examination

Calne

At Calne Town Hall, 22nd August 1881

Ellen Collier v John. W. A. Stanley

Ellen Collier swore & saith:-

I am a single woman and an inmate of the Calne Union Workhouse. On the 26th Day of May last I was delivered of a male bastard child. I say that the defendant is the father of the child. On 16th August 1880 the defendant insulted me and several times after. I was then and have been for fourteen years an inmate of the workhouse. He gave me a box of pills. There was no name on the box. I don't know how many. I had a pain in this side. He did not tell me what they were for. I had not then told him there was anything the matter with me. He told me not to say anything about it as he didn't want to lose his place. I was not well and Dr. Campbell saw me and gave me some pills. The defendant told me if I get into trouble to blame it to a porter who had gone away. John Hale by name. The master kept saying it was not by him. I did not accuse the master of being th father of the child until after I told Dr. Campbell I was in the family way. I was servant to the Master and Mistress in the house. I used to get their breakfast. Master was up Mistress was not up. Master took liberties with me and had connexion with me on the 16th August, Mrs Stanley was from home. He had connection with me in the parlour on the sofa between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Mrs. Stanley was never up. Often afterwards when Mrs. Stanley was out he had connection with me. I know the dates 25th and 26th August, but I cannot for the others.

Julia Pontin swore & saith:-

I am a nurse at the Union Workhouse for single women. She was frequently in the Master's room as his servant. I saw them together. I never saw any familiarity between Plaintiff and defendant.

Cross Examined:-

I never saw anything improper between Plaintiff and defendant. I saw what was grossly improper between a late porter and complainant. In consequence Hainsom (sic) was dismissed. I have had two illegitimate children myself.

Sarah Whale swore 7 saith:-

I am a married woman, the wife of William Whale, a soldier. I was an inmate of the workhouse in November last. On the 3rd November I was confined. I saw defendant kiss plaintiff on the 4th November. A month afterwards I was scrubbing the stairs. The Master and the plaintiff came upstairs. I saw defendant kiss plaintiff He then went downstairs. I never saw familiarities on any other occasion.

Cross Examined:-

My child was born on 3rd November. I went in on the evening before. Meant the 4th December instead of 4th November. I have never said anything to Mr. Stanley about it. I am now living at Curzon Street. The child born in the house was an illegitimate. Julia Pontin has told me that she had seen a good deal. If she has now said she saw nothing, she has said what is not true.

Complainant (Ellen Collier) Cross Examined:-

I (remember) the date of the 16th August and 25th and 26th August, the dates as being Chippenham Flower Show - the former because Mrs. Stanley was from home. Dr. Campbell came to see me because Mrs. Stanley sent for him. What took place between Hainsom and me as stated by Pontin was quite true. I had an illegitimate child some years ago. I first spoke to the witness Laurence this morning, about her evidence. I am not aware that the Master had kissed her in the dairy. He only kissed me once and that was in the parlour. I have been servant to Mr. and Mars. Stanley ever since they have been in the House.

Dismissed

Source:- Justice Minute Books, Cane County Division 1851-1883