



Bastardy Examination

Calne

At Calne Town Hall 21st May 1877

Elizabeth Beazly v John Gunning

Elizabeth Beazly swore & saith:-

I am a single woman living in Calne. I was delivered of a bastard child on the 20th March last.. John Gunning of Calne assists his father as a plumber. He has not paid me any money bit I have Witnesses here who have heard him say she was in the family way that he wished he has not had connection with me. He has promised me marriage in November last.

Cross Examined:-

He promised me marriage on the 20th November. Mo one was present then. I know William Wiltshire. He lives in Calne. I have not been in the habit of walking out with him - not to walk with him as I have this one - not to have anything to do with him. I did not tell Wiltshire before I told it to anyone else that I was in the family way. I never told him so. I know Henry Bush, he is a cousin of mine... I have never had anything to do with him. I have not walked out with him. I know John Stanly, he has been away a long time - 2 or 3 years since I saw him. I know Thomas Gunning brother of John Gunning. I walked out with him some little time. His brother had connection with me but it was a long time ago. They are the only 2 who have had connection with me.

Jane Brewer swore & saith:-

I am a married woman. I have heard him say to Elizabeth Beazly to tell her mother. Or that he should tell her, or he would write to her. He said he had connection with her more than once, more than twice. He told me of it in my own house. Elizabeth Beazly is my niece. I heard rumours of her being in the family way and I joked him about it. He didn't deny it. I have seen them walking together.

Mary Beazly swore & saith:-

I am the aunt of Elizabeth Beazly. I heard John Gunning say in his father's house that he had connection with her, and she had called and asked him to go out with her and they went out for a walk, she asked him what he intended doing for her so her mother wouldn't hear of it - if he didn't do something she would go and clean herself.

John Gunning swore & saith:-

I have known Elizabeth Beazly some time. I don't deny that I kept company with her. She came to my house. I went to the door she said I am in trouble. We walked down to the Castle Field - going.... I said I didn't think it was my child, if I thought it was I would act honourably, this was on the 20th November. She said she would clean herself if I did nothing. I wouldn't let her do it. I was then at Borrow School. I advised her to tell her mother, but she didn't like to. I thought she had better keep it quiet. Her mother came and told mine of it on the 27th November. My master Mr. Brooks said he had a sad case to talk to me about. I said I didn't deny having connection with her but I didn't think it was my child. I am now working for my father. I was 4 years (apprenticed) as a pupil teacher. I have seen her walking out with others and had suspicions or should have acted honourably. I told her father it may be mine or it may not. I didn't deny having connection with her.

Order Made.

At Calne Town Hall 17th January 1879

Elizabeth Beazly v John Gunning

Elizabeth Beazly swore & saith:-

I remember the making of the order on 21st day of May 1877, he has paid me nothing since that day or before. I never seen him since, 8 weeks due which amounts to £2 8s.

John Gunning (Defendant):- I have no goods but what I now stand in.

Sentenced to 2 months imprisonment.

At Calne Town Hall 19th January 1880

Elizabeth Beazly v John Gunning

To enforce payment of arrears of bastardy.

No outcome recorded.

Source:- B10/100/3 - Justice Minute Books, Calne County Division 1851-1883