



Bastardy Examination

Calne

At Calne Town Hall 21st August 1854

Magdalene Hopkins v Robert Besent

Magdalene Hopkins swore & saith:-

I am a single woman in the Union House. I was confined in the Union House on the 11th June last with a male child. I charge the defendant Robert Besent with being the father of the child. I have had three other children also of the defendant. I have known him for about 7 years one of the children is dead and the second died 3 years ago. About 10 or 11 weeks ago I went into the Union House and up to that time I received aid from the defendant.

The defendant admitted to being the father; Order Made

At Calne Town Hall 25th September 1854

Edwin Richmond swore & proved leaving sums at the house of defendant's [sic] father.

Magdalene Hopkins swore & saith:-

I am a single woman living in lodgings in Calne. I charge the defendant Robert Besent with being the father of the child born 15th April 1848, it was a girl. He has given me money before it was 12 months old and since.

Adjourned.

Magdalen Hopkins swore & saith:- I am a single woman living in lodgings in Calne. I was confined with an illegitimate child a boy on the 19th of June 1851. I charge the defendant Robert Besent with being the father of the child. He gave me money towards the support of this child before it was 12 month old and since.

Adjourned.

At Calne Town Hall 18th February 1861

Magdalen Hopkins swore & saith:-

My child in 9 years old last June he was born on the 19th of that month. Robert Besent who is now present is the father of such child. I swore this child to the defendant but the case was not settled. Defendant has supported this child, he gave me money at different times within twelve months next after its birth for its support. I was then living with my father.

Owing to the non-appearance of witness case adjourned.

A case for a second child born in June 1858 was also heard and adjourned for the non-appearance of a witness.

At Calne Town Hall 18th March 1861

At this hearing the two cases heard on the 18th February 1861 were dismissed

Source:- B10/100/1 & B10/100/2 - Justices Minute Books, Calne County Division 1851-1883