

## Litton Cheney Newspaper Articles 1826-1879

### **20.4.1826**

John Whittle, being a publican, for suffering drunkenness or tipping, and disorderly conduct in his house at Litton Cheney, imprisonment for one month unless penalty of £5 and 17s 6d costs he sooner paid.

### **26.10.1826**

The following are the sentences of the Prisoners at the Dorchester Sessions. Imprisonment – 12 months hard labour: Thomas Bridle, for stealing wheat from the bam of Job Legg, of Litton Cheney.

### **17.3.1831**

Mr. Erie, with whom were Mr. Moody and Mr. Crowder, addressed the Jury for the plaintiff. It was an action to try whether, from time immemorial, there had not been paid to the Rector of Litton Cheney, a modus in lieu of tithes, of 1s. for the milk and calf of a cow, of 4d. for the milk and calf of every heifer and 1s. for every hogshead of cider. The plaintiff, in the present case, wished to establish that it had been the custom in the parish to pay the modus in lieu of tithes in kind. The learned counsel proceeded to explain the nature of a modus and observed that, for the purpose of establishing the existence of the practice, it was necessary to shew that the modus had existed from beyond the time of legal memory, viz. the early part of the reign of Richard I. If, however, could not be traced up to that time, it was sufficient to prove that it had existed from beyond living memory, if nothing otherwise could be proved beyond that. To support his case, he should bring a mass of documentary and some parole testimony. This case was proceeding when we went to press.

### **14.7.1831**

Dorset Summer Assize

At the last assize for this county the court was occupied for a very considerable time on hearing the tithe-cause between Dr. Cox, the rector, and some of the parishioners of Litton Cheney, in which it was attempted to establish a modus. A verdict was returned in favour of the rector, the modus not being sufficiently established. A motion for a re-trial has been lately made to the Vice-Chancellor, who, on hearing the case, refused to grant it, thus confirming the verdict of the jury

### **5.4.1832**

Yesterday about 30 of Lord Ashley's staunch supporters sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by that public spirited and loyal yeoman Mr. John Groves, of Look Farm and served up, in good style, by Mr. Wm. Hawkins, at the White Horse. The evening was spent in perfect harmony, mirth, good fellowship and every other social feeling prevailing and the party separated for their respective homes, heartily gratified with their enjoyment and anxious to meet again on a similar occasion. Many loyal and constitutional songs were sung, and the following toasts (amongst many others) were given from the chair and drank with enthusiasm. The King, the Queen -the Royal Family, Lord Ashley, Lady Ashley, the Hon. Dawson Damer, late High Sheriff for the county, P. Williams, Esq., the Assessor, Sir Edward Baker, the present High Sheriff, the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Clergy of the Diocese, F. J. Browne, Esq. and the Loyal Yeomen of Dorset, James Templer, Esq. and the whole of Lord Ashley's professional agents—N W.. Peach, Esq. and Lord Ashley's London Committee, Mr. Wm. Hounsell and Lord Ashley's Bridport Committee, the free and independent Electors for the County of Dorset, who polled for Lord Ashley, &c. &c. It was unanimously agreed at this meeting that, in the event of Mr. Portman's resigning, the party would support with their votes and best interest, Wm. Bankes, Esq., provided he offers himself as a candidate.

### **23.10.1834**

James Hellier was indicted for assaulting and violently beating Thomas Palmer, of Litton Cheney, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August last. On that day the prisoner called at the prosecutor's house offering matches for sale. He was told that none were wanted but seemed indisposed to leave the door. The prosecutor at the time was about to start out with his wagon and, after proceeding a short distance, the prisoner ran after him, used very bad language, attempted to get into the wagon, struck the prosecutor down with a stick and beat him after he was down. The prisoner then ran off but was pursued and given into the custody of a constable. Guilty. 12 calendar months imprisonment in the house of correction.

### **11.3.1841**

John Hounsell, Edmund Hounsell and George Biles were this day put to the bar, charged with having, on the night of the 13th of November, unlawfully entered Broad Copse, at Litton Cheney, being for the purpose of taking and killing game. The evidence adduced in this case was the same as that brought before the Court against the prisoners yesterday, when they stood indicted with having shot the gamekeeper. The learned Judge having summed up, the Jury found all the prisoners guilty.

Mr Justice Erskine, in passing sentence, said to the prisoners that they were found guilty, not of the offence of shooting the gamekeepers, but of the offence of being out armed at night in the pursuit of game. The law had attached to the offence the serious punishment of transportation for fourteen years, not because they were out in pursuit of game, but because they were out armed and because it had been found by experience that when men are engaged in these unlawful transactions and are out armed in the pursuit of game, they also combine to resist those who are guarding that game; and that murder has been very frequently the consequence of such illegal transactions and, indeed, that this was no visionary fear was proved by this very case; for they (the prisoners) had no excuse to offer, that their guns were in their possession merely for the purpose of shooting game, because they had actually used them for another purpose. When they might have escaped they did not choose to do so, but fired upon the keepers and when they were going away, they saw one man by himself and even then, not being any danger, they fired upon him. The legislature, therefore, had wisely thought it right to visit such offences with a very serious punishment. It was satisfactory to find that there did not appear in this case to any very serious consequence; but still it was necessary to impose a severe punishment. He should not think it necessary to transport them, but their imprisonment would be severe and they must take care when they came out of gaol so to conduct themselves as to justify the lenient view which he had taken of the case. If they were again convicted, no doubt the full punishment would be imposed. The learned Judge then sentenced the prisoners to twelve months imprisonment each.

### **6.11.1845**

Exeter, Dorchester and Weymouth Junction Coast Railway

A public meeting was held at Weymouth Town Hall on Monday, especially convened by the Mayor, for the purpose of receiving a deputation from the promoters of the Exeter, Dorchester and Weymouth Junction Coast Railway

And of considering the propriety of supporting that line. The Mayor took the chair and said that, whilst he himself was not much acquainted with the merits of railway questions, he was decidedly of the opinion that Weymouth ought to have a railway (cheers).

Rice Hopkins, Esq., the able and indefatigable engineer of the Company, said, in rising to address the meeting, he felt much pleasure in knowing that it was not necessary to point out the advantages of a railway connection generally, this being now almost universally admitted. They had themselves been anxious to have railway and he believed it was twelve years since that endeavours were made to form a company here. But they had the Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth line to afford them communication with the north of England and the Southampton and Dorchester line to connect them with the eastern parts of the country. There was only one link wanting to supply the chain of communication and that was to the Westward and this link would be supplied the line now offered them. (Cheers.) This railway was intended to commence at Exeter, by a junction with the Bristol, Exeter and South Devon railways, at their joint stations; from thence to proceed between Northernhay and the Devon county prison, on to Heavitree, thence to Topsham, Woodbury, Newton Poppleford, Sidford, Sidbury, Colyton, Uplyme, Charmouth, Symondsburys, Bridport, Burton Bradstock, Litton Cheney, Winterbourne Abbas, Steepleton, Martinstown and Dorchester, to join the Southampton and Dorchester station near the amphitheatre. One branch would diverge from Woodbury, Lmpstone and another branch from Litton Cheney by way of Abbotsbury, Buckland Ripers and Radipole to Weymouth, to join the station of the Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth railway. From thence it would be extended along the quay of the backwater to the extremity of the George public quay below the bridge, so that vessels of large burthen would be able to load and unload with the greatest convenience to merchants and ship-owners. The main line would be, in length from Exeter to Dorchester, 55 miles and from Exeter to Weymouth 56 miles. The branch from Litton Cheney to Weymouth would be 11 miles and from Woodbury to Exmouth 4 miles, making a total length of 70 miles of railway to be constructed. With regard to the capabilities of the line, although they could not say, in the ordinary language of prospectuses, that "there were no engineering difficulties", yet they could say there were none that had not been overcome elsewhere and which they could not overcome. Some parts of the country were certainly hilly, which must be met by tunnels; but there would be only four or five tunnels, the whole not exceeding four out of the 70 miles. As to the cost of construction, although the tunnels would increase the cost in some parts, yet they had many valleys to pass over, the work on which would be comparatively inexpensive, that one part would make up for the other, and the line would not exceed the average cost of £15,000 per mile, for which ample capital was provided. (Cheers.) The sentiments of the landholders throughout the line were very favourable to the scheme, the farmers were most anxious for it, as they were now well aware of the advantages of railways for reaching the markets and for obtaining manure. The towns were also well satisfied of the benefits to be derived from this mode of communication.

### **9.7.1850**

MESSRS. WIN STANLEY HAVE RECEIVED DIRECTIONS SELL BY AUCTION, At the Mart, on Wednesday", 17th July, THE PERPETUAL ADVOWSON and the next presentation to the Rectory of Litton Cheney, In the County of Dorset, a few miles from the Sea, midway between Dorchester and Bridport, with an excellent Parsonage House, beautifully situate and of very superior description. There are 120 Acres of Glebe Land of excellent quality and in high cultivation. The Rent Charge amounts to £650 per Annum and the Incumbent is his 46<sup>th</sup> year. Printed particulars may be obtained of Messrs. Cox and Williams, Solicitors, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; of Messrs. Templer and Son, Solicitors, Bridport; at the Mart; and Messrs Winstanley, Paternoster Row, London

### **29.5.1856**

Just Published, Price fourpence; free by post for five stamps. THE CURSE and the BLESSING of LABOUR. A SERMON Preached on the Anniversary the Friendly Society, Litton Cheney, by the Rev. JOSEPH MASKELL, Curate of West Lulworth.

An extract or two speaks for the general character and purpose of this excellent discourse far more effectually than anything we could say:

Add to true religion the cultivation of knowledge, the education and improvement of your minds. Knowledge is power; ignorance is helplessness; mind is capital. Educate and improve your minds then, in every possible way; by reading good books, by conversing with those who are wiser than yourselves and personal observation and thought.

Seek to acquire knowledge, for whatever your advantages, ignorance will tie you hand and foot, cramp your energies and cripple your usefulness, whereas the wiser you grow the better will you be able to help yourselves, the less dependent and helpless you will be, the happier and more cheerful too and the better fitted to discharge your obligations of duty to God and your fellow-men. And what is it but knowledge and industry that will help you to rise in society; this your capital, more useful to you, when rightly employed, than many a mine of wealth to more fortunate people. Cultivate knowledge; but further endeavour to secure, also, good health. Sickness is part of the curse of toil and yet the health of our bodies is, in great measure, in our own hands. We are very much what we make ourselves and, if we break God's rules in this matter, we must bear the consequences. To lighten the curse of toil then, we must seek for good health. These things go together in order to maintain health:- perfect cleanliness, pure air, plain wholesome food, strict temperance, active and cheerful industry. It is useless for the dirty man, the drunkard or the idle, to expect good health, or to expect that he will share the curse of labour without any extra cares and extra sorrows.

Briefly, in the last place, to lighten the curse toil practice rigid economy. Money wasted in the beerhouse, or spent upon fine dress, is so much wilful self-taxation. Give yourselves good wholesome food every day and then, if you can spare anything, put it by. At all events make up your minds to save that money which would otherwise uselessly be spent in the extra glass or the needless article finery. Never spend all you earn and, if you save very little, still the habit of saving will do a great deal for your moral character, for what does economy in man imply but a wise mastery over self and selfish desires? The man who practises economy must be a man of considerable self-control, of sensible forethought, of moral firmness and determination and such a man is no mean and common character. We see the result the general want of economy among the labouring poor in the shameless moral apathy with which they beg of the parish officer in the hour of distress. This is, of course, excusable in extreme sickness, when work is very scarce, but this begging system, when it becomes a rule, is sure to produce moral degradation and is destructive of independence of mind. It weakens and undermines the character; checks the growth of all honest and manly feelings and develops and produces only those which belong to the more selfish animal part of our nature. It is not difficult to economise as the poor suppose. By joining a benefit club, the healthy working-man, thirty years of age, by merely putting a few pence weekly during health, may insure £2 at his death and a proportionate sum during the hour of sickness. How much better in the season of sickness to feel that one is still, so to speak, independent? How much better to have the expenses of one's funeral decently provided for out of one's own savings than to be buried by order of the parish officer. Those, then, are the four things which you must seek and cultivate if you wish the curse of toil to sit lightly upon your brow, religion, knowledge, good health and economy. Without these it is your own fault if the curse of labour hangs like a chain about you and weighs you down. If you have them, by the grace of God you will not feel the curse; it shall turn insensibly into blessing. Though God has attached a curse to labour, yet still he does bless the diligent man in his work and by his work. That he does so we have one great proof in the fact that the temperate and industrious agricultural labourer is the healthiest person in the community. He has the healthiest occupation. Solomon thus compares his lot with the lot of the rich: "The sleep of the labouring man is sweet, whether he eat much little; but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep".

Finally, brethren, let me add a few more words of plainspoken practical advice. Depend upon it, the fonder you are of the alehouse and the less frequently you are seen in the House of God, the more surely are you

forging a chain for your necks which will tie you down to the earth in bitterer degradation and prove a heavier curse than the curse the text. Let each one learn to believe that every such sin of intemperance, or carelessness, or idleness in the things of this world, or of the world to come, is a sin against his whole class and order. Realise that you are immortal beings, God's property and not the devil's. Don't let it be said that the British workman drowns his cares in his mug of ale and does care how the world goes if he can get meat and drink. Don't let it be said that the peasantry of England, carelessly, without shame and as a matter of course, apply to the poorhouse when trouble comes and never lay by for a rainy day. Join the benefit society, which will help you help yourselves and make you lift up your heads in true English independence and give you the opportunity also of helping others in their turn.

### **31.7.1856**

William Churchill, Benjamin Churchill and George Peach, three little boys from Litton Cheney, were summoned for cutting down and damaging three ash trees, growing in a plantation belonging to the Rev. Joseph Cox. Fined 4s 6d. each, including costs.

### **6.1.1859**

James Lake, of Litton Cheney, was brought up by P. C. Hill, who found him drunk and lying in the road, about three o'clock this morning. He was fined 5s. and costs.

### **24.3.1859**

To be Sold by Private Contract

An undivided Moiety of and in the FREEHOLD INN or BEERHOUSE, with the Orchard, Garden and Premises thereto adjoining and belonging, situate at Litton Cheney and in the occupation of William Hawkins.

### **12.5.1859**

SALE OF PARISH PROPERTY, AT LITTON CHENEY, DORSET.

(By the Authority of the Poor Law Board).

MESSRS CORNICK will SELL by AUCTION, on Tuesday the 24th day of May 1859, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, - All that very desirable BUILDING SITE, in a commanding situation, in the healthy and picturesque Village of Litton Cheney, together with the erections thereon, known as the Poor House.

### **17.11.1859**

William Marsh, of Abbotsbury, was defended by Mr. Weston charge of larceny. William Spriggs, of Gorwell, Litton Cheney, deposed that, having suspicion of this man, who had been his employ, he searched his house under warrant and found three small table-knives, his property. Elizabeth Eliot swore to the knives having been counted in her presence and those three missed. The housekeeper being away at the time, they were counted by her (witness's) daughter, who was staying at Mr. Spriggs during the housekeeper's absence. She could swear to one of the knives. P.C. Jas. Hill had assisted searching the house and deposed to finding the knives. The magistrates gave the prisoner the option of summary conviction, or being sent to the sessions and he, choosing the former alternative, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment with hard labour.

### **2.8.1860**

John Tompkins was found by P.C. Bridle very drunk and lying in the hedge by the highway, Litton Cheney, on the 25th. When ordered to go on, he refused and, being forced from the hedge, threatened to fight the constable. Defendant said he had been haymaking and had drunk no more than was given him by his master. The Bench, having heard a good character of him, fined him 2s. 6d. only, with a caution.

### **7.2.1861**

An Inquest was held last Monday by H. Lock, Esq., deputy coroner, upon the body of William OGibbs, aged 19, a shoemaker, apprenticed with his father at Litton Cheney, who was found dead about 8 o'clock on Sunday morning by the side of the turnpike road, a little distance from Longbreydy Hut. He had been to Dorchester the previous day, where there is little doubt he had rather too much liquor and to all appearance had been dead three or four hours. There were no marks of violence upon his person, nor anything to lend to the supposition that there had been any foul play and the probability is that he died from suffocation. From the evidence of a person named Marsh, it appeared that as he was going along the Bridport road, driving a horse and cart, when, about two miles from Dorchester, he overtook the deceased, who rode with him as far as Winterborne, where they had glass of rum and water together. On leaving that place the deceased said he would drive and took the reins. When they got a little way Marsh said he became unconscious and supposed he must have fallen asleep and when he awoke he found that the deceased was not in the cart. He stopped and walked back a little way, where he found the whip, but could not see anything of the deceased. He admitted that the deceased was in liquor.

Mr. Saunders, landlord of the Longbredy Hut Inn, deposed that he went to bed about ten o'clock on Saturday night and, shortly after he had gone upstairs, he heard someone trying the door, expressing astonishment that they had gone to bed. Witness fancied it was the voice of the deceased and believed he heard him talking to another person. About eight o'clock next morning he found the deceased quite dead, about twenty yards off, just beyond the turning for Litton. He was just off the turnpike-road and there were no marks of violence, nor did there appear to have been anything wrong. The jury returned a verdict of "found dead\*."

### **28.2.1861**

#### COUNTY PETTY SESSIONS

Ruth Cooke and Ann Lake, of Litton Cheney, each with a child in her arms, were charged by Mr. William Sprake with turnip stealing. P.C. Hill, having been set to watch, caught the defendants about two o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday, the 2nd, in the field, taking turnips. They then had a bushel and a half, of the value of 1s. 6d. Mrs. Cooke said she had nothing to give her five little children; her master had never denied her leave to take the turnips and she thought it was no harm. They could not use the gristing for which they had agreed. Mrs Lake said that her husband had only 8s. a week to keep six of them and the wheat that they sent to the miller could not be ground because it was so wet. It appeared that they had house-rent free and fuel for the cutting, but the husband would lose his time while he cut it and they often bought coal to avoid that loss. Their children were too young to work. Mr. Sprake had said did not wish to hurt them. They had come ten miles that day answer the summons. The Bench said that any person in distress could obtain relief in any part of this country and they had no right to pilfer any one's property. They were fined the value of the turnips, 1s. 6d. between them.

### **14.3.1861**

Dorsetshire Wages.

(A Dorset Farmer replies as under to a writer in the Times.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In your paper of the 6th inst. you have inserted, in large type, a letter from a philanthropic gentleman, who signs himself "Looker-on", in which by inference, if not expressly, I am held up to denunciation as guilty of abuse of what he describes as the prevailing system in Dorsetshire of paying agricultural labourers "partly in money and partly kind". He expresses his approval of the system, as having "its advantages" and being preferred by the labourer but, in the same breath, he "denounces" it, because, he says, it is certain to be abused. I might, just as consistently, express approval of the liberty of the press, but denounce it because it is occasionally abused by idle lookers-on. Mr. "Looker on" winds up charging me with having, by my alleged abuse, induced two poor women to be guilty of theft. Had he deigned to inquire as to the facts, as I think he ought to have done before making this attack, he would have learnt that, notwithstanding the usual agreement with my labourers, this year, owing to the wheat being inferior, I advised them not take it, but the money instead. They all acted on my advice except the two labourers Cooke and Lake and one other, who urged my letting them have the inferior wheat instead, saying "We would rather take the wheat, master, we can do better with it" Thereupon, I let them have the wheat, but at a considerably reduced price. Thus, so far from having compelled them to take wheat at all or, as charged, inferior wheat at full price, I actually endeavoured to dissuade them from taking it and, on yielding to their request, it was at a considerable reduction in price. The statement of Mr. Looker-on" is entirely unfounded. Philanthropy is, no doubt, a beautiful thing and "has its advantages", but I must beg to "denounce" it if it is certain to be abused by a flippant breach of the ninth commandment.

Your obedient servant,

William Sprake,

Gorwell Farm, Litton Cheney, Dorset, March 7.

### **24.4.1862**

TO SERVE MARES, this Season, that Celebrated HORSE, YOUNG BAY MIDDLETON, the property of Mr. R. Vine, of Ashley, Litton Cheney.

Thorough-bred Mares, Fire Guineas each Mare and Ten Shillings the Groom. Half-bred Mares, thirty Shillings and Fire Shillings the Groom. Young Bay Middleton is five years old got by "Bay Middleton", his dam "Defenceless" by "Defence", her dam by "Cain" out of "Ridotto" by "Reveller", Walton.

The Groom's fee to be paid at the time of serving, the remainder on or before the 24<sup>th</sup> of June otherwise 5s extra will be charged for collecting. All money to be paid to the owner of the horse except the groom's fee. Young Bay Middleton will attend as follows every fortnight, fairs and sickness excepted. His Brother being sold for 800 Guineas, all mares tried by this horse and afterwards served by another, will be charged for unless otherwise understood by the Groom.

Thursday April 10th, from home to Abbotsbury, Portesham, Upwey, Broadway and feed. From thence to Radipole, Weymouth and sleep. Friday, 11th, from Weymouth, at 2 o'clock, through Preston, Osmington,

Broadmayne and Stafford to Dorchester and sleep in the Three Mariners. From Dorchester at 2 o'clock, Martinstown, Litton and home; where he will remain until Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. In the morning at 8 o'clock from home to Askerswell, Loders, Powerstock and feed. From thence to Beaminster and sleep. Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup>, from Beaminster at 8 o'clock to Bridport and feed, thence to Burton and home.

P. S. He has proved himself a sure Foal Getter and his stock cannot be surpassed, if equalled.

HENRY CHURCHILL, Groom.

### **1.5.1862**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, By Messrs. BAKER and ENSOR, at the White House Inn, Litton Cheney, on Thursday, the 8th day of May, 1862, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon precisely (subject to such conditions as will be then produced) - All that FREEHOLD CLOSE of excellent MEADOW LAND, called Higher Hill Close, containing 3a. 3r. 26p. or thereabouts, situate in Litton Cheney aforesaid, late in the occupation of William Hawkins tenant thereof, but now of Wm. P. Roberts, Esq., the owner and by whom possession will be given to a purchaser on completion of the purchase.

### **6.11.1862**

Mary Marsh was summoned for stealing 41 turnips from a field belonging to Mr. William Sprake. Litton Cheney. Committed for one month's hard labour.

### **15.1.1863**

TO BE LET,

A comfortable HOUSE, consisting of Drawing-room, Parlour, Kitchen, Back Kitchen, Five Bedrooms, with Garden, Orchard and Two-stall Stable; also, a Seat in the Church; situated at Litton Cheney, eight miles from Dorchester and seven from Bridport. For further particulars apply to Mr. R. Gale, the tenant, on the Premises

### **28.2.1863**

John Scudden was charged with cruelty to a cat, at Litton Cheney. George White stated that on Friday he saw defendant hit a cat with stick and break its jaw. The cat belonged to Richard Trevitt and it got away. Mary Trevitt said defendant afterwards owned that he struck the cat. Its eye was beaten out of its head and the jaw was broken. Defendant admitted the case and, in answer to a question why he struck the cat, said "Because I was fool doing of it". Dismissed with a caution on paying 3s. 6d. costs.

### **16.4.1863**

*To the Magistrates and Gentlemen forming part of the Dorchester Highway District Board, that condescended to support application for the Office Surveyorship.*

ALTHOUGH unsuccessful, respectfully I beg leave to be allowed to tender my HUMBLE but SINCERE THANKS to YOU for YOUR GOODWILL. Gentlemen, I am your obedient and humble Servant,

WILLIAM SHIER

Litton Cheney, 13th April, 1863.

### **3.9.1863**

Mr. Symonds made an application on behalf of Mr. Samuel Wood, of the White Horse, Litton Cheney. There having been a complaint against the applicant, the Bench would not grant him a license.

### **26.3.1864**

James Cornick, a man-of-war's-man, of Abbotsbury, was charged with committing a trespass on land in the occupation of William Sprake, at Litton Cheney, in search of conies, on the 23rd of February. Fined 5s.

### **24.9.1864**

George Peach, William Churchill and George Trevitt, labourers of Litton Cheney, were summoned by Thomas Fry for trespassing in search of conies. Peach was the only one who appeared, the other defendants having absconded before the summons was served. Samuel Clements said on Sunday morning he saw defendant ferreting rabbits on land in the occupation of Mr. Fry, at Litton Cheney, together with the other defendants. On their seeing him they ran away and witness took a ferret and net from the whole. Fined 20s including costs.

### **30.11.1864**

DEATHS

Nov. 24, at Litton Cheney, Mr. Bernard Shier, water meadow maker and land drainer, aged 80.

### **10.12.1864**

John Fry v Rev. W. Palmer of Litton Cheney, claim for £1 6d for weeks waiting upon, washing and finding defendant and his wife in vegetables. Mr. F. W. Gundry defended and stated his client agreed for £1 on the 3rd of every month, instead of 5s 6d per week, as plaintiff stated. Plaintiff admitted having received £13 6s

in all. Defendant offered £1 2s to settle it. His Honour asked plaintiff if he would accept it and he wisely agreed to do so. His Honour directed him to be nonsuited, whereby he had to pay 4s, the hearing fees and receive the £1 2s at once.

### **28.1.1865**

TO BE SOLD, in FEE, by PRIVATE CONTRACT, all that valuable GRIST MILL, called "Litton Mill", situate in the village of Litton Cheney, working two pair of stones but, from the never-failing stream of water, capable of larger power, with the garden and appurtenances thereto belonging and three closes of most excellent MEADOW LAND containing altogether, by statute measurement, 4a. 1r. 19p. more or less.

### **3.6.1865**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION at the Bull Hotel, Bridport on Monday, the 5th day of June, 1865, at four for five o'clock in the afternoon, the undermentioned FREEHOLD LAND, situate in the parish of Litton Cheney, in the county of Dorset, in the following lots:

Lot 1. An arable field, called "Furze Allotment", numbered \*90 on the Tythe Map of the said parish and containing 1a. 2r. 6p.

Lot 2. An arable field, called "North Ground", otherwise as "Brown's North Close" numbered 93 on the said Tythe Map and containing 3a. 2r. 9p.

Lot 3. The site of two cottages and Garden Ground, situate in the Red Way, numbered 340 on the said Tythe Map and containing about 17 perch. The whole is in the occupation of Mr T. B. Baker, the owner. Immediate possession can be had.

### **26.8.1865**

#### LITTON CHENEY

A TEMPERANCE TEA will be held at the above place, on Wednesday, August the 30th, 1865, members to meet at two o'clock, to form a procession which will be headed by the DRUM and FIFE BAND. Tea to commence at 5 o'clock. A series of SPORTS and AMUSEMENTS to take place after tea. Tickets 1s, to be had at Mr Frost's, West Street, Bridport, Mr Long's, Bradpole Road and of the Temperance Friends at Burton Bradstock.

### **16.9.1865**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY MR, R. CORNICK at the Bull Hotel, Bridport, on Wednesday, the 20th of September, 1865, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in one lot, the undermentioned FREEHOLD PROPERTY, comprising all that Cottage or Dwelling house, with the stable, coach-house and offices and orchard, situate in the village and parish of Litton Cheney, Dorset, comprising 2 roods and 2 perches, (more or less.) and numbered on the tithe apportionment map of the said parish. An excellent parcel of MEADOW LAND called Townsend Plot, situate in or adjoining the said village, containing 4a 0r 6p (more or less) and numbered 280 in the said map. A productive plot of GARDEN GROUND, with a barton, stable, cow stall and cart shed, also situate in the said village, containing together 1 rood and 6 perches and numbered respectively 290 and 291 in the said map, but being part only of 291, All the above property adjoins and communicates.

### **1.9.1866**

#### TEN POUNDS REWARD

Notice is hereby given that the above reward will be given for such information as shall lead to the conviction of any person or persons found trespassing in pursuit of game, or damaging fences, timber, &c., on lands in the occupation of Mr R. Groves, of North Bowood, situate in the parishes of Netherbury. Stoke Abbott and Litton Cheney.

### **4.1.1867**

#### Fatal Accident.

On Saturday last, Mr. John Gale, butcher, of Litton Cheney, who has attended Bridport market for some years, met with a fatal accident in returning from the latter place. An inquest was held on the body the following Monday, before G. Symonds, Esq., coroner.

Thomas Gale stated that he resided at Litton Cheney. On Saturday night last he went to enquire if the deceased had returned home from Bridport market. Finding he was not, he, in company with deceased's daughter, went up the road leading to Bridport in search of him. On their way they found the deceased's horse and dog in the road. The horse had a part of the harness off. Witness procured further assistance when, with Joseph Fry, his son, Joseph Hounsell and the deceased's daughter, he went further on the road. About a quarter mile from the village and about half way down the hill leading from the Bridport turnpike-road, they found the deceased lying on his right side in the road. His cart was a little distance off on one side. He examined the bank and found it was clear that the cart had run along the side for some distance

and then turned over. Where they found the deceased was at a very steep part of the hill. The jury returned a verdict of "found dead".

#### **4.1.1867**

John Tomkins, of Puncknowle, labourer, was summoned for wilful damage to the extent of 3d, at Litton Cheney, December 20th. P.C. Bridle stated that he saw defendant breaking a hedge belonging to Mr. W. Symonds, farmer. He had got one large bush and two smaller ones. On witness going up, defendant ran away. Defendant admitted taking the sticks. The Chairman remarked it was not much the value the wood but the injury done the hedge. Fined 2s 6d, including costs and value.

#### **15.2.1867**

Walter Mellish, stealing timber at Litton Cheney—14 days' hard labour.

#### **25.5.1867**

**FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES AND GARDENS FOR SALE. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**, by Messrs. CORKNICK, at the White Horse Inn, Litton Cheney, on Monday, the 27th day of May, 1867, at 3 for 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the undermentioned PREMISES, in lots;

Lot L1. A convenient and substantial built Dwellinghouse, with carriage house, 2-stall stable cowhouse, carpenter's shop (with lofts over the carriage and cowhouse and floors over the stable and carpenter's shop), piggery, productive garden and small orchard, situate in the village of Litton Cheney, containing 1r. 28p, more or less, partly in the occupation of Mr Henry Hayne and partly unoccupied, together with the exclusive right to the use of the pew in Litton Cheney Church, lately occupied by the owner of the premises, Mr Wm. Shier. The premises are well supplied with pure spring water and, in addition, the river flows alongside.

Lot 2. -A Dwellinghouse, garden and stable, situate in the village of Litton Cheney, containing 23 square perches of land (more or less), now in the occupation of Mr W. Pitcher, baker, under lease, which will expire on the 6th April, 1873, at the yearly rent of £9.

#### **2.8.1867**

Shocking Case of Suicide.

Since Michaelmas last, Mr. Isaac Joseph Baker Fry had lived in a house in Redway Lane, where, up to within a few months, he had carried on the business of baker. The only other person living the premises was his sister, Sarah Ann Fry. For years, Fry has been in a low, desponding state of mind, but it was never contemplated that he would do harm to himself or to others. On Wednesday morning, just before nine o'clock, he was seen at his bedroom window by Frank Cousins, whom he asked if it was time to get up. He appeared rambling in his conversation and strange in his manner. He got up, however, about nine o'clock and, when he came down stairs, complained of pain in his stomach and went out into the garden. He shortly afterwards returned and went again to his bedroom, whither he was followed by his sister, who carried him a cup of tea. He came down again, sometime before eleven and went into the fuel-house, with the brushes in his hand, as if to clean his boots. The fuel-house is a small, low, thatched building, just in front of the house. Here, from what can be gathered, he tied a rope several times round one of the beams and was particular enough to push the end of the cord underneath. He then seems to have stood upon a small manger and, securing the rope round his throat with what is known as a "half-hitch", to have sprang forward, launching himself into eternity.

On Thursday morning, Mr. Lock, of Dorchester, the deputy coroner, held an inquest and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed suicide whilst labouring under temporary insanity.

#### **22.1.1869**

On the 24th of December, on the information of P. C. Furnell, Joseph Holt, Thomas Daw, Abraham Harvey and George Beale were summoned for being drunk and riotous at Litton Cheney, on the 7th of January. The charge was proved by P. C. Chaffey. Harvey and Beale were fined 10s each and costs; Holt and Daw 5s each and 3s costs. Samuel Wood, of Litton Cheney, was fined 40s and costs for keeping his house open for the sale of beer at unlawful hours. The offence, which was committed on the 7th of January, was proved by P.C. Chaffey.

#### **6.3.1869**

**LITTON CHENEY SCHOOL**

Half way between Dorchester and Bridport, approached from the main road by deep lanes, often not more than six or seven feet wide, at the base of the southern slope of the great chalk range which stretches from the Isle of Purbeck to Bridport, lies the village of Litton Cheney, containing 500 inhabitants and 3,817 acres. A brook of the purest water bursts from the hill and runs through the village.

Robert Thorner, by his will in 1690, appointed £20 per annum to be paid towards the maintenance of a free school to teach the male children of Litton Cheney to read, write, cast accounts and grammar, from the age



of 6 to 15. The foundation was augmented by the gift of a schoolhouse in 1776 by Thornes Hollis. There is also an apprenticing fund, forming part of Thorner's charity and established by his will, whereby boys from this parish as well from Salisbury, Dorchester and Southampton, are entitled to £5 as an apprentice fee and £5 more when they are set up in trade. The founder nominated his own trustees and directed that they should each nominate his own successor. The present trustees are three in number and all nonconformists and non-resident. One, a dissenting minister, resides at Southampton and the other two gentlemen are laymen and reside in London. A gentleman, a dissenter, lately a wine merchant at Dorchester, who takes an interest in school matters, at the request the trustees, manages for them whatever business may require personal attention at Litton. The trustees are allowed by the founder £10 a year for their trouble, a sum which might with advantage be given up to increase the small endowment.

The master receives £25 a year in money. He occupies a tolerably large house or cottage, half of which he lets off to another family. He once took eight boarders at £16 each, but found it unprofitable and has discontinued it. He occupies about two acres adjoining the house, rent free, belonging to the charity, on condition that keeps the premises in repair. The slates and the plastering of the roof were in bad condition when I visited the house.

The trustees live at too great a distance to see much of the school. There are no examinations. For four years together the master only saw one trustee on one occasion. I understand that the predecessor of the present master was a Unitarian, a Kentish gardener, who, by violent preaching and still more violent temper, disgusted the parish and emptied the school.

In 1838, the stipend of £25 being considered, as in fact it is, wholly insufficient for the payment of a competent master, the trustees promulgated notice that they intended to raise his salary by the imposition of a capitation fee upon those boys whose parents could afford to pay it. The parish rose up in arms against this, considering that, by the terms of the will, the richest as well the poorest were entitled to a free education and that this attempt of the trustees was entirely *ultra vires*. The parishioners seem to have had no objection to the principal of the proposed charge, but only to the manner of making it. At a vestry meeting held on April 23rd, 1833, it was agreed that "all persons above the class of common labourers should, by a voluntary payment, contribute 3s per quarter for the instruction of each child and that this should not grow into a customary right, this document was to be entered into the vestry book repeatedly every year". This agreement was signed by 19 of the principal inhabitants. Under this authority the head master now receives 3s every quarter from each of about 13 children.

The existence of this school in the parish renders it impossible to establish a National School. The present head master attends the parish church and works well with the rector, who speaks of him highly and who pays him £5 a year for holding a night school on two days in the week. It is unnecessary, perhaps, to say that the rector has no authority whatever in the school. He is never consulted as to what boys in the parish are deserving objects for the apprentice fee and any interference on his part would be regarded with jealousy. An application made by him to the trustees for the use of their schoolroom, when it was disengaged, for his Sunday school, was refused. The rector now holds his Sunday school in a room has fitted up for the purpose his own house.

There is no day school for girls in the parish, who are obliged to attend the schools in the neighbouring villages, several of which, though smaller than Litton, have good parochial schools. Were it not for its "endowed grammar" school a good parish school would also probably be found at Litton Cheney.

#### **14.5.1869**

Strange Suicide at Litton Cheney.

An inquest was held by H. Lock, Esq., deputy-coroner, on Thursday afternoon, touching the death of Phillip Daw, aged 57. The deceased was a labourer and unmarried. For nearly forty years he lived with William Lake, labourer, in the village. Some years ago he was hurt by an accident with some horses and twelve months ago he was injured by the bursting of gun. Since then he has not been able to do labourer's work and has been in the receipt of parochial relief. He had been employed by Mr. W. Sprake bird-scaring and on Wednesday fortnight was so engaged. On that morning he went out to his duty about six o'clock in the morning and, on Wednesday morning, Lake and his son found the decomposed remains of Daw lying amongst the branches of a felled ash tree in Ashley copse, on the estate of Mr. Sheridan. A string was round his neck and a corresponding piece was fastened to the branch of a neighbouring tree, so that it would seem the cord broke after Daw had hanged himself. He had been rather curious at times. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst in an unsound mind".

#### **3.7.1869**

FOUND, on Monday, June 21st, 1809, a black and white SPANIEL DOG. -The owner may have it by paying the expenses. If not owned in a fortnight after this date, the dog will be sold. Apply to Mr John Bligdon, Litton Cheney

### **9.7.1869**

An inquest was held on the 30th ult., before Giles Symonds, Esq., coroner, on the body of Frank Crabb, of Litton Cheney, 14 years of age, who, while in a hayfield on the previous day, fell down in a fit (an ailment to which he was subject) and the fore wheel of a waggon went over his head, killing him on the spot. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

### **3.12.1869**

TO BE SOLD by AUCTION, on Thursday, December 9th, 1869, the following HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., &c., the property of the late Mr John Gladwyn, deceased. Comprising four-post and tent bedsteads and furniture, 2 stump ditto, washstands and dressing tables, chest drawers, 2 night commodes, bedside carpeting, kitchen and work tables, two-lap dining table, 1 mahogany music stand, 6 mahogany chairs, 6 kitchen ditto, 2 arm ditto, painted dresser, dressing glasses, old oak chest, corner cupboard, thirty-hour clock, set china, quantity of ware, large safe, 2 clothes boxes, footstools, knives and forks, fender and fire irons, brushes, washing tubs, salter, flatheaters, 2 copper kettles, saucepans, jars and bottles, cucumber frame, 1 hogshead barrel, half-hogshead ditto, 2 single barrel guns, wheelbarrow, garden tools, quantity fire-wood and oak slabs, 2 beach planks 7ft long, 1ft wide, 4 inches thick, &c, &c. Sale to commence at two o'clock.

### **27.1.1871**

On Wednesday afternoon last week a distressing gun accident befell Mr. Walden of Came. He was engaged with some friends shooting rabbits on Combe Down, Litton Cheney. The double-barrelled shotgun which he carried with him accidentally exploded while in his possession. It seems that he had moved his left hand to catch some shots that were rolling from one the barrels, while the other hand remained on the trigger and this movement was the cause of the accident. The result was that Mr. Walden's hand was completely riddled with the shot. It was found necessary, from the serious nature of the injury, to amputate the fingers and the hand. Dr. Hollis administered chloroform and a most successful operation was performed. The patient, we learn with pleasure, is as well as can be expected.

### **17.11.1871**

The people of Bridport have been for years in a the painful position of the thirsty victims a desert mirage. The supply of water, badly needed and so ardently longed for, has appeared a dozen times be within their reach, but on every occasion it has somehow or other eluded their grasp. Once more, the prospect is bright and this time, we trust, the inhabitants will not be disappointed. A Company, whose local solicitor is Mr. Gundry, the Town Clerk, has given notice of its intention to apply to Parliament, in the approaching session, for power to appropriate the water of certain springs at Litton Cheney, about six miles from the town and conduct it a service reservoir on some high ground in the parish of Bothenhampton, near the road which leads from that village to Shipton. The estimated cost of the works is £11,000. We are glad that some definite steps are at last being taken, but we are of opinion that the Town Council would have acted wisely in undertaking the work itself.

### **2.2.1872**

TO BE SOLD by AUCTION, by Messrs. L WOODWARD and SON, on Tuesday, the 6th of February, 1872, the following DAIRY OOODS, &c., the properly of Mr James Groves, removed from Ashley Dairy House to the White Horse Inn for the convenience of sale, comprising: milk leads and stands, double-lever cheese press, churn and stand, cheese tub and stand, milk tank, swimmer, 3 pair milk buckets, 1 horse power churning machine, 2 best cheese vats, quantity of household cheese ditto, I large copper furnace, iron and oak pig troughs, closed dresser, oak table, firedogs, &c., &c. Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

### **16.5.1873**

Note for Veterinaries and Farmers.

A horse belonging to Mr. J. Bligdon was shot a few days ago as it had long been ill. When it was opened, a stone 15 inches in circumference and weighing nearly 31bs was found in its stomach. It is supposed to have been formed by an accumulation of gritty matter in the bran on which the animal bad been fed. A horse belonging to Mr. Luckham, Broadway, which died a short time since, had similar stones in its stomach.

### **1.8.1873**

FOUND at Litton Cheney, a BLACK SOW PIG. If not claimed within one week it will be sold to defray expenses – a considerable damage baa been done by the same. Apply to James Clements, Litton Cheney.

### **28.11.1873**

Charles and William Cheney were fined 5s and costs for being drunk in the parish of Litton Cheney and sleeping on the highway.

### **23.10.1874**

Primitive Methodist Chapel.

On Wednesday the first anniversary of the new Chapel was celebrated. At half-past five o'clock, a good number of persons sat down to tea, provided by Mrs. J. Bligdon. The walls of the chapel were beautifully illuminated with appropriate mottoes, some choice bouquets of flowers were placed on the tables and the chapel presented "a very pretty appearance". The following ladies presided at the various tea tables: Mrs. J. Bligdon, Mrs. J. White, Miss M. Ellery and Miss L. Shire. After tea a public meeting was held in the Chapel, when the chair was taken Mr. Robert Vincent. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer by the Rev. E. Richardson, of Portland, after which the chairman gave a brief address. Addresses were also given by Mr. Joseph Carter, of Abbotsbury, Mr. Samuel Vallins, of Longbredy and the Rev. E. Richardson, of Portland. During the evening some very appropriate pieces were sung by the Abbotsbury Congregational Choir, assisted by members of the Primitive and Church choir. Mr. W. Gibbons, of Abbotsbury, presided at the harmonium. At the close of the meeting a liberal collection was made. The meeting was brought to a close about half-past nine o'clock in the usual manner.

### **4.12.1874**

The Rectory of Litton Cheney, Dorset, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. J. S. Cox, M. A., who has held it for the long period of 41 years. Formerly in family patronage, it is now the gift of Exeter College, Oxford and its value stated be £800 per annum, with a considerable glebe.

### **25.12.1874**

M. L. Bagge, miller, Litton Cheney, v. The Great Western Railway Co. £5 6s 2d damage occasioned by loss of wheat and barley upon defendants' line railway. Mr. Gundry, for plaintiff, said that the Company had yielded to the claim on the previous day and had telegraphed to his (plaintiff's) witnesses on the morning of the court not to appear. The message, however, had not arrived in time to prevent some of the witnesses from appearing and he applied for costs, which were allowed.

### **12.3.1875**

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Salisbury on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult., instituted the Rev. Frederic Thomas Colby, clerk, B.D., to the Rectory of Litton Cheney, Dorset, void by the death of the Rev. J. S. Cox, on the presentation of the Rector and Scholars of Exeter College, Oxford.

### **14.4.1876**

James Lake, an idle drunken fellow, of Litton Cheney, was fined 5s and costs after a second conviction for being drunk at Puncknowle on the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. The case being proved by P. C. Trowbridge, who had repeatedly cautioned the defendant about his conduct.

### **27.10.1876**

TO LET, from 25th March, 1877, all that newly erected CORN and GRIST MILL, working four pairs of stones, with the DWELLING HOUSE. STABLES, COTPAGES and about three acres of valuable meadow and pasture LAND, in the village of Litton Cheney, with the valuable water power and rights appertaining to the said Mill and Premises.

Litton Cheney Is situated 7 miles respectively from Dorchester, Bridport and Malden Newton, each of which has a Railway Station and to which are good roads. For permission to view, apply Mr. Legg Bagg, the present tenant.

### **18.1.1878**

SALISBURY DIOCESAN CHURCH BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

In the case of Litton Cheney the Rev. Dr. Colby, the rector, made an application for help to enlarge the parish church there and to reseal it, whereby 40 additional sittings would be secured. It appeared, however, that the works were in an advanced stage and as the application, moreover, was unaccompanied by the requisite plans, the committee were only able express their regret that the rules of the society did not allow them to entertain it.

### **26.4.1878**

The Parish Church was re-opened on Easter Sunday after restoration. The roof had fallen into decay and has been replaced by a new one with open woodwork. The inconvenient and unsightly pews have been removed and in their stead open seats substituted. The gallery, which blocked up three windows, is gone and the beautiful western window archway laid open. To compensate for the loss of accommodation afforded by the gallery, a transept has been thrown out to the north, the old windows being thrown back to the end of the transept, so avoiding any novelty in the architecture. Two pretty niches and a piscine have been discovered and carefully restored. Stained glass has been placed in the two windows now laid open in the nave and the west window by members of the Legge family, who have been the largest contributors

to the Restoration Fund, one of whom, the Rev. Eugene Legge, has superintended the whole work. The porch has been restored and the whole put in a state of thorough repair. The altar cloth and desk hangings were the work and gift of Mrs. Colby. The services on Easter Day were attended by large congregations. The Church was tastefully decorated with flowers by the kind efforts of Mrs. Colby, Mrs. T. Fry, Mrs. R. Gale, Miss Affleck and Miss Hussey. The services were partially choral, the Psalms being chanted and anthems introduced both morning and afternoon, which were effectively rendered. In the morning, the prayers were read by the Rev. E. Legge and the sermon preached by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Colby. In the afternoon an excellent sermon was delivered by the Rev. E. A. Dayman, B.D., late Fellow and Tutor of Exeter College, Oxford, Rector of Shillingstone and Prebendary of Sarum. The amount collected at the services, or subsequently received to be added to the offertory, was upwards of £45.

#### **14.6.1878**

Water Rights – Captain Groves v. The Rev Eugene Legge

It was a claim for damages sustained in consequence of the defendant having diverted the course of stream called Bedlake. Captain Groves was the owner of a mill at Litton Cheney and Mr. Adams is the tenant of the mill, which he holds under a lease from the former gentleman, the mill being worked by the stream in question. The course of the stream carries it past some fields in the occupation of the defendant, one of which is named "The Hams" and it was in this field that the complained-of divergence of the stream took place. For many years past it had been the habit to dam the stream at a certain point in order that the water might flow over the above-named and two or three other fields, for the purpose of irrigation, the matter being so arranged between the respective owners of the mill and the fields that no inconvenience should be caused to either and everything went on satisfactorily until the mill was bought and enlarged by the present proprietor, Captain Groves (who is a cousin of the defendant's), when it was found that the water being used for irrigating the fields made a great difference in the working of the mill. Frequent disputes took place between the parties. The defendant persisted in turning the water over his fields by means of hatches and the plaintiff just as persistently had the hatches removed, both persons considering that they had sole right to use of the stream. Of course this state of affairs could not continue and the defendant determined that the matter should be settled by an action at law. Some months ago, therefore, he caused a large cutting to be made into the centre of his fields, thus causing the course of the stream to be changed. The consequence of this was of course to greatly deteriorate the value of the mill and Capt. Groves immediately applied for an interim injunction to stop defendant from making any alterations until after the matter had been tried and this under the circumstances was granted. The result of the whole affair was the present action, under which the plaintiff claimed damages on the grounds that the stream had been used for the working of the mill without interruption for at least 40 years. The defendant, on the other hand, claimed the right of diverging the stream for the better use and improvement of his land, on the ground that this had been done without interruption for upwards of 20 years and he pleaded that the acts complained of were done under that right. In support of the plaintiff's case, several witnesses were called and examined by Mr. Cole, including some of the former holders and tenants of the mill as well some very old inhabitants of the parish, one being 90 years of age; and these witnesses all alleged that the sole right of using the water belonged to the owner of the mill and that, whenever the water had been turned over the fields it had been with the consent, previously obtained, of the miller. Evidence was given with regard to the cutting of the trench in Mr. Legge's field and the damage sustained by Mr. Adams in consequence was stated to be between £9 and £10. For the defendant several witnesses were called who stated that, during their remembrance, the water had been turned over the fields without any application to the miller, sometimes for three weeks or a month at a time and some of them said that they had heard the millers ask the owner of the fields to permit the water to be turned off in order to allow them to grind their corn. His Lordship delivered a very elaborate summing up. After dealing at some length with the evidence, he pointed out to the jury that the only points on which they had to decide were the following:

1. Had the plaintiff the right to apply the water to his mill?
2. Had the defendant a right to divert it for agricultural purposes when he pleased, or only at certain times?
3. Had the trench in question been a user of that right or excess?

With regard to damages, His Lordship said no doubt the plaintiff, if they found in his favour, would be perfectly satisfied with merely nominal damages. The jury retired to consider and, after absence of 35 minutes, they returned and delivered the following verdict:

"Plaintiff has the right to apply the water to his mill; defendant has no right to divert the water except for the purpose of irrigation at reasonable times ; in making the trench he has acted in excess of his right and not according to user. We therefore give damages of £9 12s to the tenant and 1s to the owner".

His Lordship said that was a verdict for the plaintiff who was, therefore, entitled to judgment. Mr. Cole applied for a perpetual injunction to restrain defendant from again altering the course of the stream but His Lordship decided to defer that question and allowed the present injunction to continue until the application should be made in chambers, the defendant promising to take no further steps in the matter.

### **19.7.1878**

Lewis Pitcher, baker, was summoned for delivering bread at Litton Cheney, on the 4th inst., without being provided with scales and weights. Defendant was in the employ of Mr. Bligdon, baker, of Litton Cheney. As it was shown that defendant's master was generally most particular about having his scales and weights with him, the Bench inflicted a fine of only 10s and 9s 6d costs.

### **8.11.1878**

Litton Cheney, Nor. 5th, 1878

I say, what shall it come to, two bonfires and 3d. worth of Pyrotechnic display! Surely the schoolmaster must be abroad, though still domiciled in the noble building erected by the trustees of Thorner's charity and contributions. Can we doubt that knowledge is progressing in the land when the late lamented Guido Faux still is burnt in effigy? It can't do him much harm and the cremation of the Martyr amuses little minds.

Yours very truly, E. E. P. L.

8.30. The fires are nearly out.

### **6.2.1879**

County Petty Sessions – Thursday, before Captain Groves.

William Williams, alias Slasher, mason, of Shipton Gorge, appeared on remand from the previous day on a charge of assaulting and attempting to rob on the 17th of January Elizabeth Hester Groves Walden, daughter of Mr. G. Walden, farmer, of Cockold's-corner, Loders. Prisoner, who was defended by Mr. Manley, is a daring character. He was at one time in the employ Mr Wellspring, builder, of Dorchester and, while the county town had him a resident, was convicted of rolling a tar barrel in the street. He had since been residing at Shipton Gorge and, after the alleged attack on Miss Walden, he went to Brighton, where he enlisted in the 75th Regiment. He was apprehended at Aldershot on the charge now under investigation. Miss Walden was, of course, the principal witness. It seemed she was returning home from Litton Cheney, where she had been collecting rents for her aunt, having £5 15s 9d. in her possession, when the prisoner accosted her, demanding her money "or something". He took hold of her shoulder and threw her down. He searched one of her pockets, but could find nothing. She screamed "Murder" and he threatened to take her life, but she struck him on the nose end and made it bleed. She got from his clutches when, on her rising, he again demanded her money. She told him he would not have it and ran away. He called out "if my mate had been here he would have taken your life". Evidence was also given by Mr. Shepherd, jun., who was on horseback, the prisoner opening Combe gate to let him pass. Annie Pry, who accompanied the prosecutrix as far as Combe Gate, was another witness. She distinctly saw the prisoner. P.C. Pearce testified to the apprehension of Williams at Aldershot camp on January 28<sup>th</sup>. On his way to Dorchester in the train the prisoner said he expected to "get six months". The young man also stated he had not been right at times and that he should stick to soldiering after he had got over this charge. He reserved his defence, pleading not guilty and was committed for trial, bail refused.

### **8.8.1879**

Elizabeth Clerk, the wife of a labourer living at Litton Cheney, was summoned for assaulting Mary Bligdon, on the 19th July. It appeared that defendant's husband owed a considerable sum of money to Mr Bligdon, who carries on business as a baker and Mrs. Bligdon was going to endeavour to get a settlement of the accounts. Complainant handled her very roughly and used threatening language towards her. As there was virtually no defence, the Bench imposed a fine of 13s, including costs, which defendant denounced a scandalous decision, at the same time intimating that she was unable to pay the same.

### **15.8.1879**

BAKERS. Young man, aged 22, wants a SITUATION as BAKER. Second hand, references can be given. State wages, Address A.8.C., Post-office, Litton Cheney, Dorchester, Dorset.