



Maintenance Order Little Hinton 1873

Swindon Police Court

Thursday

Elijah Avenell, of Little Hinton, was summoned to shew cause why an order should not be made on him to contribute towards the maintenance of **Susannah Avenell**, his mother, who is chargeable to the common fund of the Highworth and Swindon Union, to the amount of 3s 1d a week.

Avenell, it appeared, is a labourer living at Little Hinton, and has a contract to break stones and repair roads in that parish.

Mr. Maule, the Surveyor of roads, was called and he stated that Avenell had a contract under the Highway Board, amounting to £34 10s for the year. Thought Avenell would be able to earn from 12s to 13s a week by his own labour under the contract. He had to break 260 loads of flints and lay them on the roads. Could not say what he would earn at harvest work.

Avenell said he could not make more than 12s a week all the year round. He left his contract this last harvest and cut six acres of grass at 3s 6d an acre. He called his wife, who, he said, was frequently prevented earning anything through having to wait upon his mother, she being helpless, and the Board allowing her only half a crown and a loaf of bread. She said her husband's wages did not come to more than 12s a week. In answer to the Bench, she said she took her husband's money frequently, but not always.

Mr. Archer said her evidence was of no account unless she could say what the earnings were every week from her own actual knowledge.

Avenell said he had consented to pay a shilling a week and had sent five shillings to the Relieving Officer before the summons was taken out.

The Bench ordered Avenell to contribute one shilling and six pence a week, and to pay the costs of making the order, amounting to 29s.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 13 October 1873

An Extraordinary Defence

Swindon Police Court

Thursday

Elijah Avenell, Labourer, of Little Hinton, was summoned for non compliance with an order, directing him to pay 1s 6d per week towards the maintenance of his mother, who is chargeable to the common fund of the Highworth and Swindon Union. The order was made in April 1873. There is now £1 19s 0d arrears due.

Defendant applied for an adjournment of the case, as he had a solicitor who was engaged to appear for him, but who could not attend today through the notice being so short, he only having the summons on Tuesday. He objected to pay the money because he could not afford to, and also because it caused much unpleasantness between himself and wife. As the Scriptures said " A man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife" he did not see why an unpleasant feeling should exist between himself and wife, who, as she said, would prefer him supporting an illegitimate child than paying towards the support of his mother.

The Bench refused to adjourn the case, and made an order for payment of the £1 19s, and 11s 6d costs. Defendant said he could not pay, he had no money, and in default was committed for six weeks imprisonment.

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