



News Articles on Charles Rolfe

*Little Hinton
1850 - 1899*

SWINDON PETTY SESSIONS

2nd December

Charles Rolph, of Little Hinton, farmer, was fined 5s and costs, for trespassing on land of Mr Choules, at Badbury, in search of game.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 09 December 1858

SWINDON COUNTY COURT

Wednesday, Mat 15

Joseph Hibbard v. Charles Rolfe. This action was brought to recover £5, "for that the defendant did wrongfully and maliciously on the 16th of March, 1861, cut the hair from the tail of a horse belonging to the plaintiff, and disfigured the said horse to the plaintiff's damage to to the amount stated." Mr Foote appeared for the defendant. Plaintiff not appearing, Mr Foote applied for defendant's expenses, and in doing so, stated that it was understood that Hibbard had left the county, and had had no intention of appearing in support of his claim. An order was consequently made for the payment of the expenses of two witnesses and attorney.

The Swindon Advertiser 20 May 1861

1863

ASSIGNMENTS – Gazette Nov, 13, 1863

ROLPH Charles, (Oct 16) trainer of horses, Little Hinton. Trustee – Alfred Turtle, yeoman, Earls Court Farm, Wanborough.

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette 14 November 1863

1864

DISGRACEFUL PROCEEDINGS AT THE SWINDON POLICE COURT

To the Editor of the Swindon Advertiser

Sir – I happened to be at the Swindon Police Court on Thursday last, and was greatly astonished to see that the Court of Her Majesty's Justices should have been reduced to such an abyss of degradation

by tolerating the disgusting, bullying, profane conduct of one **Charles Ralfe**, trainer, of Little Hinton, who was charged with insolent conduct, tending to provoke a breach of the peace. Some of your readers may have witnessed the desire and anxiety of the officers of the Court to suppress the noise of "latent Mewlling and puking in the surers arms" the hum of conversation as well as the heinous offence of having one's head covered during the business of the Court. Is it not singular that there should not have been an equal anxiety to suppress the blustering, obscene, profane conduct of the party in question; verily this is straining at a gnat, and swallowing a camel. Greater latitude and licence it is impossible to conceive could have been conceded to any individual as was tolerated to this refractory horse trainer.

// [letter now digresses, but carries on in same vain]

Yours, Sir, obediently,

OBSERVER

The Swindon Advertiser 8 August 1864

1864

HORSES IN TRAINING
AT LITTLE HINTON LODGE, NEAR SHRIVENHAM
By C. ROLPH

C by Kingston, 5 yrs Willie the Beau, 4 yrs	Regenerator, 4 yrs	F by Neville, dam by Voltigeur, 2 yrs
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Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30 January 1864

1865

LITTLE HINTON

USING OBSENE LANGUAGE

At a recent sitting of the Wallingford magistrates, **Charles Ralph**, of Little Hinton, was summoned for using abusive and obscene language, in a railway carriage, on the 7th December last. Mr Walsh, of Oxford, appeared on behalf of the company, and Mr Lee, of Witney, for the defendant. The defendant did not appear. Mr W. Freer, of Benson, said he was a passenger in the train on the day in question: the defendant used the most disgusting language from Reading to the Wallingford-road Station. The language, as stated in the evidence, was unfit for publication, Fined 40s. And costs.

The Swindon Advertiser 11 February 1865

1865

SWINDON POLICE COURT

Monday, January 9'

Charles Rolfe, of Little Hinton, was charged with being on land at Wanborough, on the 30th of December last, in search of game, and with shooting a partridge. Defendant denied the charge in toto. The Bench, however, considered the case proved, and ordered Rolfe to pay a fine of £2, including costs.

The Swindon Advertiser 5 June 1865

1867

GROSS CRUELTY TO A HORSE BY A HORSE TRAINER

At the Marlborough County Petty Sessions on Saturday last, before H.N. Goddard, Esq., chairman, the Rev. C. Soames, and the Rev. Preb. St anton, **Charles Rolfe**, for many years a trainer of race horses at Little Hinton, but now keeper of the Calley Arms, at Upper Wanborough, near Swindon, was charged with cruelly overdriving, beating, and torturing a horse, the property of Mr J. Carter, of the Ailesbury Arms Hotel, on the 18th of June, so as to cause its death. It appeared that the horse was ordered by Mr C. Chambers to go to Tedworth, but for some reason Mr Chambers did not go, and the defendant then drove the horse off to Stockbridge, a distance of nearly thirty miles.

Thomas Brookes stated that on the 18th of June, about nine o'clock in the morning, he saw defendant drive a horse and dog cart through St Margaret's turnpike gate, and gallop up the Salisbury Hill; he had a whip or stick in his hand, and used it repeatedly ; he never stopped at the gate to pay the toll. Witness knew it was Mr Carter's horse and dog cart.

Sarah Grace Foord said she lived at Ludgershall. On the 18th June, about half-past eight in the evening, she saw defendant driving a horse and dog cart through Ludgershall towards Collingbourn. The horse was in a most exhausted state, and could scarcely walk. Defendant leant over the splash board and beat it with s stick larger than a walking cane. The horse was walking, and looked as if it would drop; its mouth was covered with foam, and he could not get out of a walk. It tried to get towards Ludgerhall pond to drink, but defendant continued to beat it, and would not allow it to do so. The sight was so sickening that she turned away from it.

Thomas Choules said: I am an Innkeeper at Collingbourn Ducis. On the 18th inst., defendant called at my house about 10 o'clock in the morning with a horse and dogcart. He gave the horse some hay and water; stopped there about three quarters of an hour, and left, taking Mr Tom Oliver with him.

Defendant returned to my house alone about a quarter before 10 o'clock the same evening. The horse was then very much fatigued. We tried it twice with gruel, and did it well up. At 6 o'clock the next morning the horse was dead. I had it skinned. There was much blood between the skin and the flesh all along the right side of the back as far as a stick would reach, but I can't say that the bruises were caused by beating.

Defendant stated that he hired the horse to go to Collingbourn; paid the gate at the Salisbury road, got out and walked part of the way up the hill; drove on to Collingbourn , then to Stockbridge, and back to Collingbourn; the horse having been fed four times and carefully attended to at Mr Day's stables there. He called Tom Oliver, jun, who said he was a trainer of horses, at Wroughton, and met the defendant at Collingbourn on the 18th inst., and drove the horse in question from there to Stocksbridge at defendant's request. He drove about seven miles an hour. He did not see defendant or the horse after he got to Stockbridge.

Maria Axam, keeper of the St. Margaret's gate, having been sent for, stated that between nine and ten o'clock on the morning of the 18th, a man drove Mr Carter's horse and dog cart through the gate very fast. When she got to the gate he had gone through, and she understood him to say that he was going to the station and would pay coming back. She watched him up the hill and he beat the horse three or four times and went very fast.

The Bench retired, and on their return ordered the defendant to pay £8 and £1 19s. Costs or two months hard labour. The money was eventually paid.

A summons was then applied for by the gate keeper against defendant, for evading the toll, and in this case defendant also paid the amount claimed.

The Swindon Advertiser 8 July 1867