

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				

1822

Brewer	Ann	Armstrong Wood Clark Wells Higgins Bird Taylor Grove	William James John James Henry George William William	27	01	1822	Sexual assault	Sa	Ann Brewer apparently lived apart from her husband, Benjamin. It appeared that for some reason a large crowd had gathered to chase after and humiliate Ann Brewer, who, initially at least, was protected inside a stable by James Smith. However, it then appears that she was chased down Chamberlain Street, Sadler Street and Tucker Street by a horde of up to 50 people, who pushed her, dragged her, pulled off her clothes until she was nearly naked. Witnesses who tried to help included George Knight and Sarah Nicholas (wife of Richard Nicholas, stone mason), but to no avail. William Armstrong was said to be particularly forward in his pursuit of Ann Brewer and had attempted to get his hands under her petticoats.	1822/001
Coolan	Martha	Oatley	Hugh	23	07	1822	Rape	R	Martha Coolan was a single woman subject to fits who would normally have been with Caroline Clements in the shop in the Poor House. In Clements' absence Coolan was on her own when Oatley, a labourer, came in to purchase a candle, Oatley attempted to take advantage of the situation and, although Coolan had resisted, she lacked the necessary physical strength to fight off Oatley. Her cries for help were heard by Frances Phelps and Elizabeth Huish who got there too late to save Coolan from rape. A warrant for Oatley's arrest was issued.	1822/002
Knight snr	George	Knight jnr	George	24	09	1822	Assault	A	George Knight the elder, carpenter, complained that his apprentice, George Knight the younger, had assaulted him and had also absented himself from work without permission.	1822/003
[Justices]		Various		28	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Working papers for subsequent prosecutions. Individual prosecutions shown separately below. Individuals not prosecuted as follows: Joseph Cready, Thomas Howell, Ann Hall (case suspended), James Barber, James Howell, Robert Strickland, Jeb Burr, ? Gatehouse	1822/004

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[Justices]		Various		28	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	The following retailers all appear to have been convicted and fined, but there is no separate documentation of their infractions, just a simple working list, as follows: John Walters to pay 5/- plus costs Adam Plowman to pay 5/- plus costs Mary Whitehead to pay 5/- plus costs of 5/6d William Hamblin to pay 5/- plus costs of 5/6d Ann Hale to pay 5/- plus costs William Stokes to pay 5/- plus costs John Biddle to pay 5/6d John Newton to pay 5/- plus costs of 5/6d.	1822/005
Hope Davies	Henry Stephen	White	William	30	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	White, a retailer, was convicted of using two weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 5/-, with an additional sum of 5/6d in costs.	1822/006
Hope Davies	Henry Stephen	Bussell	William	30	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Bussell, a retailer, was convicted of using three weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 5/-, together with an additional sum of 5/6d in costs.	1822/007
Hope Davies	Henry Stephen	Patch	John	30	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Patch, a retailer, was convicted of using three weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 5/-, together with an additional sum of 5/6d in costs.	1822/008
Hope Davies	Henry Stephen	Carter	Ann	30	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Carter, a retailer, was convicted of using three weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. She was fined 5/-, together with an additional sum of 5/6d in costs.	1822/009
Hope Davies	Henry Stephen	Clements	Ann	30	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Clements, a retailer, was convicted of using six weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. She was fined 10/-, together with an additional sum of 5/6d in costs.	1822/010
Hope Davies	Henry Stephen	Loxton	Samuel	30	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Loxton, a retailer, was convicted of using two weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 5/-, together with an additional sum of 5/6d in costs.	1822/011

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Hope Davies	Henry Stephen	Bowell	James	30	09	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Bowell, a retailer, was convicted of using three weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. In the case documentation the amounts that Bowell would be required to pay in terms of fine and costs were both left blank.	1822/011a
Taylor	Matilda	Perham	William	07	10	1822	Sexual assault	Sa	Matilda Taylor had been staying with her aunt, Mary Burridge, wife of Stephen Burridge, labourer. While her aunt had been away from home, Matilda had been approached by William Perham and taken into a stable where he exposed himself to her and apparently attempted to have intercourse with her, having sworn her to secrecy. Matilda was 9 years old. When she eventually admitted Perham's approach to her aunt, Martha, her mother and a single woman, had her examined by two surgeons, both of whom appeared to conclude (after two examinations in each case) that no penetration had taken place.	1822/012
Brooks Hope	Robert Henry	Foster	Francis	28	10	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Foster, a retailer, was found to be using two weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 5/- with additional costs to cover expenses of 5/6d.	1822/013
Brooks Hope	Robert Henry	Francis	James	28	10	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Francis, a retailer, was found to be using four weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 7/6d with additional costs to cover expenses of 5/6d.	1822/014
Brooks Hope	Robert Henry	Trott	John	28	10	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Trott, a retailer, was found to be using two weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 5/- with additional costs to cover expenses of 5/6d.	1822/015
	Robert Henry	Knight	William	28	10	1822	Incorrect weights and measures	Wm	Knight, a retailer, was found to be using four weights and measures that were deemed to be inaccurate. He was fined 7/6d with additional costs to cover expenses of 5/6d.	1822/016

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Parsons	Joseph	Harris	John	28	11	1822	Theft of brushes	T	Parsons ran a brush manufacturing business in Wells. It appears Harris had been employed in the business for a short period where he was in the habit of going into Parsons' shop run by John Phelps and acquiring products without paying for them on the promise of providing an alternative product - which was never delivered. Harris would then sell on the brushes to someone else, e.g. William Howell aka Thompson, Harris left Parsons' employ before the fraud was apparently detected, but he supposedly stole a watch from Luke Colman with whom he was lodging and Colman followed Harris to Chew Stoke where he was arrested.	1822/017
Helliar	William	Newman	George	02	12	1822	Unlawful toll	Ut	Helliar, a yeoman from Nempnett, had purchased two oxen from the fair in Wells and was driving them home. He was stopped by Newman who represented himself as being authorised to collect the toll due of 2d. Helliar paid the sum demanded but then found that Robert Fry, who was authorised to collect the toll, also demanded 2d. Helliar demanded recompense from Newman.	1822/018
Knight	George	Lawrence jnr	William	04	12	1822	Sureties for the peace	Su	Knight claimed that Lawrence had threatened to murder him. He requested that Lawrence be required to put forward sureties to ensure good behaviour for the future. Lawrence was bound over in the sum of £20 for a period of 3 months.	1822/019

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1823

Brewer	Ann	Brewer	Benjamin	22	01	1823	Assault	A	Ann Brewer claimed that her husband, Benjamin, had beaten her and cruelly ill-used her and, had it not been for the intervention of others, would potentially have killed her. She feared that he would continue his physical abuse and appealed that he should be required to put forward sureties as to his future conduct towards her. Brewer was required to find sureties to keep the peace towards his wife and also to attend trial at the next Quarter Sessions for which he was required to put forward further sureties. Brewer did not put forward the required sureties and was remanded in custody until the next Quarter Sessions unless, in the meantime, the necessary sureties were paid.	1823/001
Bowell jnr	Joseph	Hayes	William	07	02	1823	Theft of watch & chain	T	Bowell found that a silver watch with a chain and small seal was missing from his bedroom. From information he received he traced the watch to a pawn broker's (Moses Abraham and John Emdin) where it had been pawned for 18/- by William Hayes of Wells, lately an apprentice.	1823/002
Gooding	Thomas	Davis	James	14	04	1823	Offence against licence	L	Gooding had gone to a dwelling house run by Davis and asked for cider. Davis was not present and Davis' wife, Elizabeth, stated that they did not serve cider. James Pavey, who appeared to be a customer, went into a back room and brought back a quart of beer, asked Gooding for 3d, took the 6d offered by Gooding, handed it to Mrs Davis and took 3d from her before giving it to Gooding. Gooding claimed that Payne was not a regular servant, nor was it evident that he acted as a servant for Davis and / or his wife.	1823/003

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Rawlings	Richard	Cambray	Thomas Rusher	22	04	1823	Assault	A	An affray appears to have broken out in a shop run by Rawlings where Cambray threatened not to leave without giving Rawlings a good thrashing. This led to constables being called and Cambray arrested. Benjamin Brooks was taking Cambray into custody but there was a significant delay at the prison gate because the warder was asleep. In the period of delay several members of the public became involved in trying to release Cambray from custody. Those involved included: Christopher Counsell (a carpenter from Coxley), John Plenty, William Plenty (both blacksmiths), George Moyston (carpenter from East Wells), John Moyston, William Forward, Robert Wall and Joel Hewlett. All of these men were bound over with respect to their future conduct and they, or at least most of them, wrote to the magistrates apologising for their conduct and agreeing to give a donation of £5 to good causes in return for no further action being taken by the magistrates in respect of their participation in the earlier disturbances.	1823/004
Loveless	William	Parsons	Thomas	14	05	1823	Desertion of child	Ds	Loveless, one of the Overseers of the Poor, claimed that Parsons had run away, leaving his son, James, chargeable to the parish.	1823/005
Gardner	James	Teek	Mary	23	06	1823	Drunkenness	D	Gardner, a painter, claimed that Mary Teek, a single woman and common prostitute, had been drunk on a Sunday in the public streets and had exposed her private parts in High Street. Teek was sentenced as a rogue and vagabond to one month in prison at Shepton Mallet with hard labour.	1823/006

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Clements	Hannah	Clements	Fanny	13	07	1823	Sureties for the peace	Su	Hannah Clements, widow, complained that Fanny Clements, wife of James Clements (and presumably therefore her daughter-in-law), had made a variety of threats against her, including setting fire to her room, that she had reason to fear physical violence. Hannah Clements requested that Fanny Clements be required to put forward sureties as to her future conduct towards her (Hannah). James Clements and Fanny Clements were each bound over in the sum of £20 for a period of 12 months.	1823/007
Fry jnr	John	Atwood	Luke	22	07	1823	Assault	A	Fry jnr, son of John Fry, tailor, complained that he had been assaulted by Atwood, a labourer, at the White Hart Inn. According to Fry, Atwood had knocked him down and had endeavoured to cover him with dung from the dung heap in the yard of the public house.	1823/008
Gardner	Margaret	Oxley	Matthew	05	08	1823	Sexual assault	Sa	Gardner was a servant to the Oxley family. She found that Matthew Oxley, a gardener and master of the household, had got up before her and tried to assault her sexually in the kitchen. She had resisted as he tried to lift up her petticoats but had not shouted for fear of waking the rest of the household. Oxley's wife, Mary, had come in and caught them; Oxley had left hastily and Gardner was left with Oxley's wife and Oxley's mother.	1823/009
Barnett	Elizabeth	Colman	John	05	08	1823	Assault	A	Elizabeth Barnett was the wife of Edward Barnett, a yeoman. She complained that she had been assaulted by Colman, knocked down and kicked about the shoulder and other parts of the body as she lay there. She feared further bodily harm from Colman and therefore requested that he be required to provide sureties of his good conduct towards her for the future.	1823/010

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Knight snr.	George	Lawrence jnr	William	01	09	1823	Sureties for the peace	Su	Knight, a carpenter, lived next door to and also owned the property occupied by Lawrence, a butcher. The relationship between the two men worsened quickly with Lawrence becoming upset over demands for rent, breaking up items in the garden and abusing his neighbour. Knight became so concerned about his neighbour's behaviour that he asked for Lawrence to put forward sureties as to his future conduct. Lawrence was required to put up £20, while William Taylor, a cooper, had to put forward £10 and be bound over to keep the peace for a period of 6 months.	1823/011
Walter	John	Clark	John	09	09	1823	Non-payment of market toll	N	Walter was a shopkeeper who was also clerk of the market. Clark was a stall holder. He was supposed to pay the standard fee of 6d, but refused and was therefore pursued for the fee due.	1823/012
Tucker	William	Woodburn	Joseph	14	10	1823	Non-payment of rent	Rg	Tucker, a yeoman, complained that Woodburn had deliberately and clandestinely removed goods from a dwelling in his occupation in order to avoid the goods being distrained by Tucker (or his agent) in order to recover the arrears of rent. Tucker claimed that the goods had been removed to a house in the occupation of George White.	1823/013
[Regina}		Stevenson	James	12	11	1823	Desertion / mutiny	M	Voluntary confession of Stevenson regarding his desertion from the army in 1820.	1823/014
Parker	George	Estelle	Rebecca	02	12	1823	Forged money	Fy	Parker claimed that he had tried to spend 6d at Wells Fair, but the coin was rejected by the stallholder, Rebecca Estelle as being counterfeit. Parker claimed that he received the coin from Robert Edghill in the Three Kings Inn, but Edghill claimed that the coins he gave Parker were good. It was possible that Estelle had switched the coins.	1823/015

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Harris Rees Rawlings Foster	Mary Ann Edward Richard Anne	Hemmings	Ann	02	12	1823	Forged money	Fy	Several people who attended Wells Fair complained that they had been given counterfeit 6d coins as part of their change. All the coins appeared to have come from Ann Hemmings, in some instances the coins being produced from a drawer beneath the counter. The coins were examined by Cornelius Tyte, a watchmaker and silversmith. who pronounced them all as false and all being made from the same die.	1823/016
Millard	Elizabeth	Millard	Ann	16	12	1823	Sureties for the peace	Su	Elizabeth Millard, a single woman, complained that Ann Millard, wife of William Millard, labourer, had threatened her with physical violence. She appealed that Ann Millard should be required to put forward sureties as to good behaviour towards her in the future. William Millard was required to put forward recognisances for his wife's future behaviour, particularly towards Elizabeth Millard (his sister?)	1823/017
Frappell	James	Barnard	John	29	12	1823	Assault	A	Frappell, a labourer, had been walking down Tucker Street on Christmas Day when he heard a cry of 'murder' and saw William Bartlett lying in the road with several other people around him. Frappell went to Bartlett's assistance and found himself attacked by Barnard. Barnard struck him several times and then returned to strike him again, a particularly violent blow that left Frappell senseless. Frappell confirmed that he had not been drinking and was not intoxicated.	1823/018

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1824

Sherrin	James	Durham	Edward	24	01	1824	Desertion of wife and family	Ds	Sherrin was one of the Overseers of the Poor. He claimed that Durham had run off and deserted his wife, Ann, and his daughters, Mary Ann and Keturah, and leaving them chargeable to the parish. It appears that they may have been left chargeable to the parish for several years.	1824/001
Jerrard	John	Hucker	Henry	27	01	1824	Absentee apprentice	Ab	Jerrard, a woolcomber, complained that Hucker, who had been apprenticed to him in 1822, had absented himself from work without permission in 1823 and earlier in the current month had left work again without permission in order to enlist in the army. Hucker was sentenced to be corrected (usually considered to be physical punishment) and held to hard labour for a period of 21 days.	1824/002
Waistcoat	Susannah	Keeper of House of Correction		07	02	1824	Bail application	Ba	Bail application for Susannah Waistcoat, made on her behalf by Robert Waistcoat in the sum of £10. Susannah Waistcoat to be released from the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet but bound over to keep the peace towards Mary Ann Warne (surname uncertain).	1824/003
Palmer	William	Davies	Hopkins	20	03	1824	Vagrancy	V	Palmer claimed to have seen Davies begging on the streets in contravention of the law.	1824/004
King	George	Wall Filer Francis Seal Slade	George James Morgan Joseph Robert	23	03	1824	Assault	A	George King complained that he had been assaulted in the Market Place by a group of boys who threw stones at him and struck him with sticks. King's account was supported by testimony from Edward Parsons.	1824/005

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Smith	James	Ogleby Landagan	Mary William	13	04	1824	Assault	A	Smith had been commissioned by William Charles, a landlord, to carry out a distraint order against the assets of Mary Ogleby in order to recover rent arrears of £4.10s.0d. Smith had discovered that there was an open window in the property in Grove (Grope) Lane and had gained access in that way. The occupier, Ogleby, had become violent and begun smashing items which may have fallen under distraint. The situation had become worse when Landagan, Ogleby's co-habitee, had arrived. This necessitated the intervention of police constables John Melmouth and Thomas Crandon. Smith brought a charge of assault against Ogleby and Landagan when the latter threatened violence with a shoemaker's knife.	1824/006
Sherrin	James	Giddings	James	05	05	1824	Bastardy order	B	Sherrin, one of the Overseers of the Poor, was pursuing the interests of the bastard female child born of the body of Sarah Candy, a single woman. The father was determined to be James Giddings and he was assessed as being required to pay to the Overseers of the Poor the sum of £6.8s.3d, plus the sum of 2/6d per week. Giddings had apparently left his normal abode and the amount then outstanding to the Overseers of the Poor stood at £54.17s.6d.	1824/007
Cook	Eliza	Porter	William	28	06	1824	Sexual assault	Sa	Eliza Cook, a single woman, claimed that Porter had sexually assaulted her by throwing her on a bed, lifting up her petticoats and taking carnal knowledge of her. Porter and his wife, Mary, were each required to put forward sureties of the value of £10 to keep the peace towards Thomas Cook, his wife Anne and their daughter, Eliza, for the next 12 months.	1824/008
Lisk	William	Sheen jnr	Thomas	10	07	1824	Assault	A	Lisk, from Glastonbury, complained that, while in Wells, he had been assaulted by Sheen jnr. Lisk claimed that he had been struck twice in the face. Sheen jnr was required to put forward sureties of £10 with a further £5 being put forward by his father, Thomas Sheen. Sheen jnr was bound over for 6 months to keep the peace.	1824/009

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Millard	Jemima	Millard jnr	William	15	07	1824	Sureties for the peace	Su	Jemima Millard had been selling vegetables in the Market Place at Wells when she had been roundly abused and cursed by her son, William, a gardener. She feared that his attack on her would potentially result in physical violence, so she requested that her son be required to put forward sureties as to his future conduct. Millard jnr was required to put forward a surety of £20 with a further surety of £10 provided by Richard Millard (not his father who was William Millard snr). This second surety was required to secure the release of Millard jnr from Shepton Mallet House of Correction. The period for which Millard jnr was bound over with respect to his conduct towards his mother was 6 months.	1824/010
Loxton	James	Harris Barber	Suzanne Ann	15	07	1824	Breach of the peace	Dp	Loxton, a resident of Back Lane, complained that Harris, a single woman, and Barber, the wife of John Barber, stone cutter, did assemble in a riotous and disorderly fashion at around 1.00am on a Saturday night and cause a breach of the peace. Harris was required to put forward a surety of £5, while Barber was required to do the same on behalf of his wife, both sureties to run for a period of 6 calendar months.	1824/011
Corp	Ann	Mills	William	13	09	1824	Bastardy order	B	Mills was arrested on a charge of fathering a bastard child to Ann Corp. Bound over in the sum of £40 with a further surety of £20 put forward by William Cordwell for Mills to appear at the next sessions.	1824/012
Hodges	Edward	Swanton	Joseph	01	10	1824	Assault	A	Hodges from Kilmersdon had gone into the Mermaid Inn together with Abraham Coles and they had ordered a quart of beer. Soon after, Swanton had appeared and began to argue with Hodges. During the course of the quarrel, Swanton struck Hodges a violent blow which caused a significant flow of blood. A warrant for Swanton's arrest was issued.	1824/013

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Sherrin	James	Moore	John	21	10	1824	Non-payment of poor rate assessment	N	Sherrin, one of the Overseers of the Poor, charged Moore with refusing to pay the poor rate assessment of 19/-. Although it was confirmed by John Oxley that the necessary summons had been served, Moore failed to respond, so the court proceeded as though he had appeared.	1824/014
Parsons	Joseph	Vowles	William	21	10	1824	Non-payment of poor rate assessment	N	Parsons, one of the Overseers of the Poor, charged Vowles with refusing to pay the poor rate assessment of £1.	1824/015
Garnsey	Charles	Mogford	Thomas	21	10	1824	Non-payment of poor rate assessment	N	Garnsey, one of the Overseers of the Poor, charged Mogford with refusing to pay the poor rate assessment of 8/-.	1824/016
Knight	Sarah	Knight	William	29	10	1824	Sureties for the peace	Su	Sarah Knight was the wife of William Knight, a cooper. She complained that he had knocked her down and when she was down had beaten her further. She feared that he would do her further physical violence and requested that he be required to put forward sureties to ensure good behaviour for the future. Knight was ordered to provide 2 sureties of £20 each, plus £30 on his own account and to appear at the next quarter sessions to prove that he was keeping the peace.	1824/017
Melmouth	John	Parfitt	Thomas	20	12	1824	Vagrancy	V	Melmouth, a constable, reported that he had frequently seen Parfitt wandering around the town with no employment and had recently arrested him on a charge of committing a felony. An interview with Parfitt revealed that he had been unemployed for several months since leaving his role as a shoemaker with Henry Bisgrove, and was spending his time sleeping in stables, barns etc.	1824/018

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Loxton	James	Norris Sheen jnr Gale Rendall	William Thomas Charles Robert	24	12	1824	Assault	A	Loxton had been passing along High Street on his way home. Several youths were on the pavement and one of them put out a foot to trip up Loxton. They then decided to follow him home and have some sport by knocking off his hat and pushing him in the dirt. Loxton grabbed hold of Norris by the waistcoat and tore it before Loxton was rescued by his neighbours coming out into the street with a light; Loxton's assailants ran off. Subsequently, Sheen turned up at Loxton's house to apologise and attempt to put matters right.	1824/019

1825

Lovelace	Benjamin	Lovelace	William	22	01	1825	Absentee apprentice	Ab	Benjamin Lovelace, tailor, complained that William Lovelace, his apprentice, had run away without his let or consent and had not returned to work. No indication is given of the relationship between plaintiff and defendant.	1825/001
Coles	Joseph	Boyce Perram	William Richard	31	01	1825	Theft of flannel	T	Coles, a paper miller from the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, complained that 7 pieces of flannel used in the preparation of writing paper had been feloniously removed from his mill. He named William Boyce and Richard Perram, both of Tucker Street, as suspects. A search warrant was issued for the premises of William Boyce.	1825/002

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Bartlett	Cornelius	Gould	Abraham	04	03	1825	Non-payment of arrears of rent	Rg	Bartlett was landlord of a property in Tucker Street occupied by Gould on which there were outstanding arrears of rent. Bartlett claimed that Gould had clandestinely removed goods and chattels from this tenement to another, also in Tucker Street and occupied by John Gully, or to a third property in Queen Street (in the Verdery of Southover) occupied by Joseph Hill. The aim of removing these goods was to prevent Bartlett distraining against them and selling them to recover some of the arrears of rent.	1825/003
Wilkins	Edmund	Main Loxton Bartlett Simmons	John Joseph Jacob William	04	03	1825	Breach of the peace	Dp	Wilkins was the innholder of the Mermaid Inn. When the defendants turned up at his house early on Sunday evening they were all in liquor. Wilkins refused to serve them. They became abusive, particularly Main, a shoemaker, and Loxton, a tailor. Wilkins called for a constable and had Main arrested. The defendants were all required to put forward sureties of £10 (or possibly more in Main's case) as to their future conduct.	1825/004
Hassell	Charles	Haggitt	Sarah	07	05	1825	Theft of pocket handkerchief	T	Hassell, of Witham Friary, complained that Haggitt, apparently from Axbridge, appeared to have stolen a pocket handkerchief that belonged to him.	1825/005
Raines	James	Bumble	George	28	06	1825	Theft of ham and tongue	T	Raines, innholder of the Crown Inn, claimed that he had lost a ham and two tongues from his stores. Charles Cross claimed that he had information that the ham served at the Swan Tap had been stolen by private Bumble from the stores at the Crown.	1825/006
Hyde	Silas	Hyde	Mary	13	07	1825	Sureties for the peace	Su	Serjeant Hyde of the Royal Marines had been away on duty for some time and, when he returned home, his wife had been very angry at his long absence. She had tried to attack him with his sword and was only prevented by the intervention of Thomas Twines. Sgt Hyde feared that his wife would do him physical violence and requested that she be required to put forward sureties as to her future conduct towards him.	1825/007

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Oxley	Matthew	White	John	18	08	1825	Theft of plums	T	Oxley claimed that White had entered his garden and stolen a quantity of plums growing on the trees. White admitted the offence, was convicted and ordered to pay Oxley the sum of 6/6d immediately. However, payment had not been effected.....and the documentation runs out at this point.	1825/008
Parsons	Joseph	Hucker	Thomas	22	08	1825	Absentee apprentice	Ab	Parsons, a brush manufacturer, reported that Hucker, an indentured apprentice, had absented himself from work since March. Parsons requested that a warrant be issued for Hucker's arrest.	1825/009
Salvidge	James	Groves Burge	John Richard	29	08	1825	Theft of beef, clothes and fowls	T	James Salvidge claimed that Groves and Burge, described as labourers, were guilty of breaking and entering his premises and stealing four pounds of beef, a linen cloth, a cloth coat as well as five fowls from his hen house. His complaint was supported by testimony from his wife, Hannah, and from William Montague (some of whose property had been stolen). The defendants were remanded in custody at Ilchester prison pending trial at the next Assizes or General Gaol delivery.	1825/009a
Say	George	Wall	Robert	22	09	1825	Theft of hay, oats and beans	T	Say, a gentleman, claimed that trusses of hay, oats and beans had been taken feloniously from his wife's stables. He suspected that the culprit was Wall, a coal carrier, who had taken the trusses early in the morning. Say suggested that the trusses would be found on Wall's premises.	1825/010
Dix	John	Davis	James	24	09	1825	Duplicate enlistment	M	John Dix, a recruiting officer, enlisted three men at the Hare & Hounds public house in Shepton Mallet; William Reeve, James Hurd and James Davis. All three confirmed their freedom to enlist in the Plymouth Division of the Royal Marines before a JP. However, Davis had already enlisted in the First Somerset Regiment of the Militia, so that his enlistment with Dix was illegal.	1825/011

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Brayne	Edward	Hayes	William	10	10	1825	Deserter	M	Brayne, a serjeant in the Plymouth Division of the Royal Marines claimed that Hayes was a deserter from the 33rd Regiment of Foot. Hayes admitted the charge, having enlisted in August 1823 and deserted in the following month.	1825/012
Parsons	Joseph	Clark	Elhannah	13	10	1825	Theft of patten ties	T	Parsons, a brushmaker, complained that his foreman, Clark, had been guilty of stealing patten ties and selling them to customers.	1825/013
Bacon	George	Francis	John	18	10	1825	Theft of money	T	Bacon, an innkeeper, had employed Francis as a driver and postboy and had authorised him to collect monies owed by his customers for the provision of postal services. Francis had collected cash of eight pounds from different customers and had not passed it on to Bacon. Francis had then disappeared with the proceeds.	1825/014
Bacon	George	Dyke	Henry	18	10	1825	Theft of money	T	Bacon, an innkeeper, had employed Dyke as a driver and postboy and had authorised him to collect monies owed by his customers for the provision of postal services. Dyke had collected cash of around twenty eight pounds from different customers and had not passed it on to Bacon. Dyke had then disappeared with the proceeds.	1825/015
Testy	Joseph	Demarier	Andrew	24	10	1825	Theft of basket	T	Testy was a hawker from Somerton. He claimed that he had had one of his baskets stolen from him and had since seen the same basket in the possession of Demarier, also a hawker. He therefore accused Demarier of theft.	1825/016
Knight	Sarah	Knight	William	12	11	1825	Sureties for the peace	Su	Sarah Knight complained that her husband, William, had issued various threats against her and she feared that he may carry out physical violence against her. She requested that he be required to put forward sureties as to his future conduct towards her. Knight was required to put forward a surety of £10 with Samuel Francis being required to provide a surety of £5, both to apply for a period of 3 months.	1825/017

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Davis	John	Baker Brake Dudden	William Henry Benjamin	22	12	1825	Theft of fowls	T	Davis, a yeoman resident In Portway, claimed that his outhouse had been broken into and several fowls had been stolen. He accused Baker and Brake of the theft. However, a statement from Dudden indicated that, although Baker and Brake were the instigators of the action, he, Dudden, played a major role in executing the theft.	1825/018

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
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1826

Garnsey jnr	Charles	Sims	William	14	02	1826	Theft of garments	T	Garnsey claimed that various articles belonging to him had been stolen from his house by Sims, a plasterer. The items included a pair of trousers, a fustian jacket and a silk handkerchief. Sims was said to have stored these items in the residences or outhouses belonging to James Sims and Richard Hares, both located in Queen Street. A search warrant for these premises was issued.	1826/001
Edgell	Robert	Phillips	Joseph	16	02	1826	Absentee apprentice	Ab	Edgell, a plaisterer and tiler, complained that his apprentice, Phillips, had absented himself from work and had not returned. Phillips' conduct had apparently been unsatisfactory for some time.	1826/002
Tredgold	Thomas	Wills	John	13	03	1826	Sureties for the peace	Su	Tredgold, a labourer, claimed that he had been assaulted by Wills, a glazier. He expressed concern that Wills would seek to do him physical harm and requested that Wills be required to provide sureties with respect to his future conduct. Wills was instructed to put forward £10 on his own account, with additional sureties of £5 each from William Holloway, a tailor, and William Willis, a sadler; the sureties were to run for a period of 4 months.	1826/003
Thorley	George	Bird	John	13	03	1826	Arrest warrant	Aw	Thorley, a tailor, had stood surety for John Bird, a shoemaker, in two cases of assault, one brought by James Barber, the other brought by John Knight; George Oxley was also a guarantor in both instances. Thorley believed that Bird would not attend the assizes for the cases of assault to be heard and did not wish his sureties (£20 in each instance to be lost). Thorley therefore requested that Bird be arrested and held until the trial at the assizes. It appears that a warrant was issued and Bird was arrested.	1826/004

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Rees	Edward	Fowles	William Henry	13	03	1826	Sureties for the peace	Su	Fowles, a schoolmaster, had been required to put forward sureties of £40 for an assault on Rees, while George Wilkins, an innholder, and Richard Capleton, a yeoman, had put forward sureties of £20.	1826/004a
Edgell	Robert	Syms Syms	John William	13	03	1826	Sureties for the peace	Su	John and William Syms, both labourers, had been required to put forward sureties of £40 each in respect of an assault on Robert Edgell. James Syms and Robert Tucker had also been required to out forward £20 as guarantors.	1826/004b
Bartlett	George	Carter	Joseph	13	03	1826	Sureties for the peace	Su	Carter had been required to put forward the sum of £20 as a surety in respect of an assault on Bartlett. William Carter and Robert Harris, a butcher, were each guarantors to the value of £10.	1826/004c
Salvidge Montague Hawkins Oxley	James William William Joseph	Groves Burge	John Richard	13	03	1826	Sureties for the peace	Su	The four named individuals were subject to put forward recognizances of £40 each to testify against Groves and Burge in a trial for felony. Note: the forenames of Groves and Burge are swapped in subsequent references.	1826/004d
Mayger	William	Filer jnr Dix Rees	James John William	17	03	1826	Sureties for the peace	Su	Mayger had been working up a ladder when Filer, Dix and Rees came along, insulted him and shook the ladder to such an extent that Mayger was forced to stop work and come down. He was then further abused and requested that the defendants be required to provide sureties as to their future behaviour. James Filer snr put forward £10 on behalf of his son, while Edward Rees did likewise for his son.	1826/005
Knight	Sarah	Knight	William	02	05	1826	Assault	A	Sarah Knight, wife of William Knight, a cooper, complained that her husband had assaulted her and struck her in the breast.	1826/006
Cordwell	Abraham	Green	Thomas	17	05	1826	Sureties for the peace	Su	Cordwell complained that Green had abused, insulted and threatened him with physical violence. He requested that Green be required to find sureties to guarantee his future conduct.	1826/007

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Wilkins	George	Stoneman	Sarah	18	05	1826	Theft of household goods	T	Wilkins, an innkeeper in Wells, accused Stoneman, one of his servants, with stealing a pillow case, table cloth and silver spoon. He further suggested that those articles could be found in the property of Elizabeth Bacon in Bridgwater.	1826/008
Grist snr	William	Backhouse	Benjamin	26	07	1826	Absentee apprentice	Ab	William Grist the younger had been apprenticed to Benjamin Backhouse for a period of 7 years at an indenture fee of £30. He had served around two and a half years, He had absented himself from work for a period of time and when he went back, Backhouse refused to accept him and slammed the door in his face. Backhouse eventually agreed to pay Grist the sum of 3/4d owing to him for work done. Grist senior requested that Backhouse be required to take back the apprentice to complete his training. The court ruled that Backhouse should take back the apprentice.	1826/009
Giffard	Henry	Rogers	Thomas	29	07	1826	Vagrancy	V	Henry Giffard, chief constable, charged Rogers with vagrancy. Rogers had presented himself at Giffard's residence and begged for alms and had subsequently repeated his story at the Somerset Hotel, where Giffard had him arrested. It then came out that Rogers had tried a similar story at the houses of Mrs Tudway and John Hoare earlier in the day. Rogers was convicted as a rogue and vagabond and sentenced to one month in prison at Shepton Mallet with hard labour.	1826/010
Gibbons	Mary	Gibbons (aka Parker)	William	31	07	1826	Assault	A	Mary Gibboms complained that her husband, William, had come home while she and the children were still in bed. He had beaten her with a stick, and when she fled the house, had dragged her back inside and beaten her with a mop handle. She was badly bruised and required medical attention.	1826/011
Wadman	Jane	Wilkins	Mary Ann	13	09	1826	Theft of money	T	Jane Wadman was a servant in the house of Edward Mead, an innkeeper. She claimed that a sum of money amounting to 15/- had been stolen from her in Edward Mead's house by Mary Ann Wilkins, a single woman.	1826/012

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1827

No Wells Petty Sessions papers survive for this year.

1828

Lewis	Thomas	Hilborne	Thomas	02	08	1828	Assault	A	Lewis complained that he had been assaulted by Hilborne and averred that Hilborne had beaten him about the head, arms and other parts of his body with a large stick. Hilborne was found guilty and ordered to pay the sum of £2 plus costs of 7/6d.	1828/001
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1829

No Wells Petty Sessions papers survive for this year.