

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

1850

Robson	William	Bobbett	John	08	01	1850	Desertion	M	18-year old John Bobbett had apparently deserted from 14th Foot and was identified by William Robson, a serjeant in the same regiment, who was awarded 10/- for his arrest of the deserter. Bobbett claimed that he hadn't actually deserted but had run out of money and had no means of getting back to his regiment in Newport, Monmouthshire. He claimed that he had applied to his serjeant major for money to get him back to the regiment, but had been refused. Bobbett was described as being 5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " with a fresh complexion, fair hair and grey eyes.	1850/001
Oxley jnr	Matthew	Bennett	James	12	01	1850	Assault	A	Matthew Oxley the younger, labourer, complained that James Bennett, also a labourer, had come to his house and after a short conversation had struck him between the eyes with his fist. Oxley claimed the assault was unprovoked. James Bennett was fined 2/6d with costs of 8/-or to spend one calendar month in Shepton Mallet gaol.	1850/002
White	John	Loxton	Stephen	26	01	1850	Felony	T	John White, gardener, accused Stephen Loxton, labourer, of the theft of a spade from his shed in Priory Road. A warrant for Loxton's arrest was issued. Loxton was apprehended on 21 July 1850 and committed for trial at the next assizes.	1850/003
Fry	Henry	Dredge	Frederick	05	02	1850	Absenteeism	Ab	Henry Fry, shoemaker, accused Frederick Dredge, his apprentice, of being absent without leave with effect from 4 February - and was still absent. Dredge had supposedly misbehaved on a number of occasions in his apprenticeship and he was now sentenced to 21 days in prison and to be whipped in the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet. (See also 1850/064)	1850/004
Chapple	Susan	Chapple	John	05	02	1850	Assault	A	John Chapple and his wife, Susan Chapple, were already living apart because of John Chapple's violence towards his wife. When he went to her lodging house to claim one of his possessions, he became violent; she claimed he had been drinking. John Chapple was fined 20/- with costs of 6/6d or to spend 14 days in prison at Shepton Mallet.	1850/005

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White	Hannah	Lester	Elizabeth	11	02	1850	Assault	A	Hannah White, single woman, complained that she had been subjected to an assault by Elizabeth Lester in Southover close to The Full Moon Inn with Elizabeth Lester calling her names and spitting in her face. Witness statements were provided by William Seal, tailor, and Mary Ann Burrige. Elizabeth Lester was found guilty and fined 6d with costs of 10/- or to spend 7 days in prison in Shepton Mallet gaol.	1850/006
Dredge	Priscilla	Crandon	William	11	02	1850	Assault	A	Priscilla Dredge, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by William Crandon, labourer, in the Liberty. He had allegedly struck her in the face with his fist. The case was settled without a hearing.	1850/007
Porter	John	Chamberlain Dix Dix Carter	William John William Thomas	08	02	1850	Petty trespass	Pt	Police serjeant John Porter complained that the defendants, William Chamberlain, John Dix, William Dix and Thomas Carter, having been arrested for causing a disturbance on the street, then damaged a door and its fastenings in the police station. They were fined 10/- to cover the damage with costs of 10/- or to spend 21 days in gaol with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1850/008
Hill	William	Axe	William	22	02	1850	Petty trespass	Pt	William Axe was accused by William Hill, porter at the Wells Union, of breaking 7 panes of glass in the workhouse. John Whitehead, an inmate of the workhouse, testified that he and William Axe had been working in the piggery and the room in which the window panes were broken looked out onto the piggery. As he, Whitehead, had not broken the panes of glass, then it must have been Axe who was guilty. Axe was fined 4/- with costs of 7/6d or to spend 14 days in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1850/009
Hawkins	Joseph	70 Company RM		27	02	1850	Furlough	F	Joseph Hawkins, a private in the Royal Marines, applied for an extension to his furlough, providing a note from a doctor saying that he was suffering from diarrhoea.	1850/010
Hawkins	Joseph	70 Company RM		28	02	1850	Furlough	F	A response from Joseph Hawkins' regiment to his request to extend his furlough (see 1850/010) ordered him to report back immediately and to undergo hospital treatment.	1850/011

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Brewer	Charles	Western	Aaron	01	03	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, representative of the RSPCA, complained that Aaron Western had been ill-treating a mare used for hauling coal carts when the mare had a large wound on its shoulders. Aaron Western admitted the offence and was fined 2/- plus costs of 8/- to be paid immediately or be imprisoned for 14 days with hard labour (see also 1850/011).	1850/012
Brewer	Charles	Western	John	01	03	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, representative of the RSPCA, complained that John Western, coal hauler, had been ill-treating a mare which was being worked with two large sores on its back. Western was fined 2/- plus costs of 8/- to be paid immediately or to be imprisoned for 14 days with hard labour (see also 1850/012).	1850/013
Savage	George	Seal	Francis	02	03	1850	Drunkenness	D	PC George Savage found Francis Seal, labourer, in a drunken state in a public street. Seal was found guilty and fined 5/- with costs of 4/-; Seal made a payment of 7/6d.	1850/014
Porter	John	Peach	John	05	03	1850	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant John Porter charged John Peach, publican of The Nag's Head, with allowing drunkenness and disorderly conduct on his premises. In particular, Peach himself was said to be drunk in Sadler Street and making a great commotion. Despite the testimony of two police officers, the case was dismissed for want of sufficient proof, since there were also a number of depositions from other witnesses stating that Peach had not been drunk (see also 1850/017)	1850/015
Buxton	William	72 Company RM		05	03	1850	Furlough	F	William Buxton applied to extend his furlough from his regiment. The regiment responded that he had not obtained permission for leave in the first instance and he was therefore required to rejoin his regiment immediately.	1850/016
Porter	John	Peach	Mary Ann	05	03	1850	Assault	A	Police serjeant John Porter brought an accusation against Mary Ann Peach, landlady of The Nag's Head, of striking a police officer. This incident was part of the same series of events that lead to the charge against John Peach for permitting drunkenness in his house (see also 1850/015). The case was listed to be heard at the petty sessions sitting on 25 March.	1850/017

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Card	Eliza	Foster	Robert	09	03	1850	Assault	A	Eliza Card complained that she had been assaulted by Robert Foster who had struck her twice in the face. However, witness statements called into question the alleged assault, as, apparently, Card had first made defamatory statements about Foster saying that he had purchased pigs but not paid for them and one witness testified that she struck Foster first. Eliza Card appears to have been ordered to pay 3/-.	1850/018
Tyler	Owen Blaythwaite	Duckett	William	12	03	1850	Highway Act	H	Owen Blaythwaite Tyler, clerk, accused William Duckett of Wookey Hole, farmer, of driving a waggon pulled by several horses without anyone to guide the horses. The case was settled without a hearing.	1850/019
Porter	John	Hunter	Charles	12	03	1850	Vagrancy	V	Police serjeant John Porter received information from William Rogers, chemist, that Charles Hunter had been begging in Powell's chemist shop in the Market Place. Rogers had refused to give him anything and informed the police. Hunter admitted the offence and was sentenced to 14 days with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1850/020
Allen	William	Somers	John	10	04	1850	Absenteeism	Ab	John Somers, apprentice mason, was alleged to have absconded from his work and had not returned. In addition, he was also alleged to have taken a suit belonging to his master, William Allen. Somers was found guilty and sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1850/021

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Lister	Thomas	Bryant	John	17	04	1850	Assault	A	Thomas Lister, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by John Bryant, carpenter. It was agreed that Bryant should pay the costs of the case and the summons was dismissed.	1850/022
Purnell	Charlotte	Purnell	Richard William	18	04	1850	Assault	A	Charlotte Purnell and her husband, Richard William Purnell, surgeon, had separated and were living apart. When Charlotte Purnell had returned home with her friend, Eliza Wright, a single woman, to collect some of her possessions, she claimed that she had been assaulted by Richard Purnell. Eliza Wright testified that Richard Purnell had attacked his wife with a horse whip and struck her a number of times as hard as he could. He was found guilty of the offence and fined £5 inclusive of the costs of the case.	1850/023
Brewer	Charles	Ball	Zachariah	22	04	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, a representative of the RSPCA, complained that Zachariah Ball, tailor, had been guilty of ill-treating an ass. Ball pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined 2/6d with costs of 8/6d. Ball failed to pay and was sent to Shepton Mallet gaol for 14 days with hard labour.	1850/024
Uphill	Edwin	Dredge Button Fry jnr	Frederick Robert Henry	22	04	1850	Assault	A	Edwin Uphill of Chewton Mendip, blacksmith, claimed that he was set upon by a group of youths in Priory Road. The defendants were named as Frederick Dredge, shoemaker, Robert Button, tailor, and Henry Fry the younger, shoemaker, and they were alleged to have struck Uphill several violent blows about the head and face and to have kicked various parts of his body. The case was dismissed.	1850/025
Peters	Ann	Loxton	John	25	04	1850	Assault	A	Ann Peters, wife of George Peters, labourer, claimed that she was assaulted in East Wells by John Loxton, labourer. Loxton admitted the offence and was fined 1/- with costs of 9/-.	1850/026
Savage	George	Burridge	John	30	04	1850	Obstructing footway	O	PC George Savage charged John Burridge, labourer, with totally blocking a footway on High Street. He was found guilty and fined, being allowed until 27 May to pay.	1850/027
Savage	George	Burridge	John	30	04	1850	Obstructing footway	O	This case appears to be a duplicate of 1850/027.	1850/028

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Brewer	Charles	Foster	Robert	30	04	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, shoemaker and a representative of the RSPCA, complained that Robert Foster, labourer, had been seen to strike a pig with a stick in Queen Street. Evidence against Foster was given by William Heal, blacksmith, who had witnessed the incident at first hand. Foster was fined 3/- with costs of 12/- or to spend 14 days in prison in Shepton Mallet with hard labour.	1850/029
Brewer	Charles	Crandon	William	01	05	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, shoemaker and a representative of the RSPCA, accused William Crandon, labourer, of ill-treating an ass. Crandon admitted the offence and was fined 3/- plus costs or to spend 14 days in prison in Shepton Mallet with hard labour.	1850/030
Powell	Henry	Oxley snr	Matthew	02	05	1850	Non-payment of church rates	N	Henry Powell, churchwarden for the parish of St. Cuthbert, accused Matthew Oxley the elder, gardener, of failing to pay church rates for 2 years. Oxley was required to pay 2/4d for the rate set in July 1848 and 2/8d for the rate set in June 1849 as well as 2/6d in costs.	1850/031
Hill	William	Allen Jones	Philip William	13	05	1850	Theft	T	William Hill, porter at Wells Union workhouse, accused Philip Allen and William Jones of absconding from the workhouse and stealing the clothes that they were wearing. The two defendants were recaptured after 6 days and sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour.	1850/032
Parsons	Charles	Carter	Joseph	13	05	1850	Desertion	M	Joseph Carter was apprehended by Charles Parsons at North Wooton as a deserter from the 37th Regiment of Foot. Carter was described as being 24 years of age, about 5'5½" in height with brown hair and hazel eyes. He had apparently enlisted in February 1846 and deserted in August of the same year. Private Charles Parsons of the 14th Regiment of Foot was awarded 10/- for capturing the deserter.	1850/033
Lister	Elizabeth	Lister	Thomas	14	05	1850	Assault	A	Elizabeth Lister complained that she had been assaulted by her husband, Thomas Lister, brushmaker. The domestic dispute was settled without a hearing.	1850/034

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Sweet	Eliza	Card	Eliza	20	05	1850	Assault	A	Eliza Sweet, wife of John Sweet, labourer, accused Eliza Card, wife of George Card, labourer, of assaulting her and striking her with some items of wet washing. Eliza Card had apparently been hanging out some washing but, according to Eliza Sweet, was infringing on her ground where she wanted to hang out some washing of her own. Eliza Card had become upset at being told to move her washing and used it to beat Eliza Sweet about the head. The case was adjourned until 17 June.	1850/035
Dix	Temperance	Lister	Elizabeth	21	05	1850	Assault	A	Temperance Dix claimed that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Lister, wife of Thomas Lister, brushmaker. Temperance Dix claimed that she had suffered several blows to the body. Lister did not appear in response to the summons issued against her and as a result Temperance Dix asked for an arrest warrant to be issued. However, it appeared that Elizabeth Lister had left Wells and the case did not proceed.	1850/036
Brewer	Charles	Maggs	Thomas	21	05	1850	Assault	A	Charles Brewer, shoemaker, complained that Thomas Maggs of Chewton Mendip, coal hauler, had assaulted him. Maggs initially did not respond to the summons, but was eventually apprehended and found guilty, incurring a fine of 1/- with costs of 12/2d, to be paid immediately or to be imprisoned at Shepton Mallet for 14 days.	1850/037
Brewer	Charles	Card	Eliza	21	05	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, a representative of the RSPCA, accused Eliza Card, wife of George Card, labourer, of cruelty to 6 calves which were hobbled in a cart that she was driving. She admitted the offence and was fined 3/- with costs of 8/6d (initially set at 7/- but subsequently increased) but, if in default of payment, then to be imprisoned for 14 days with hard labour at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet. Eliza Card was initially imprisoned in Shepton Mallet, but when the fine and costs were paid the justices formally requested the prison governor to effect her release.	1850/038
Salmon	Mark	Savage	George	24	05	1850	Assault	A	Mark Salmon complained that George Savage, son of William Savage, who was described as a labourer, had assaulted him. The case was dismissed.	1850/039

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Willcox	Charles	Ward	Charles	25	05	1850	Assault	A	Charles Willcox complained that he had been assaulted by Charles Ward who had struck him a blow on the back of his head. Both men were recorded as being sadlers. Ward confessed to the assault and was fined 1/-, with costs of 8/6d (initially set at 7/-, but subsequently increased) or to spend 14 days in prison at Shepton Mallet. Ward was given until 17 June to pay and when he failed to pay by this date an order was issued for him to be conveyed to prison for 14 days..	1850/040
Surveyor of Highways		Cox	Harry	29	05	1850	Obstruction	O	Harry Cox, a labourer, was accused of dumping rubbish in a watercourse and causing a blockage. The case was settled out of court.	1850/041

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Lane	Charles	Ward	Charles	29	05	1850	Assault	A	Charles Lane of Wookey, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Charles Ward, harness maker, who had struck him in the face with his fist. Neither party appeared at the hearing.	1850/042
James	Charles	Marsh	Joseph	17	06	1850	Theft	T	Joseph Marsh was accused of stealing various cuts of meat from the premises of Charles James, butcher. Marsh was initially to be held in custody but was bailed until the next assizes on the basis of bonds put forward by Edward Marsh and William Jacobs (see also 1850/045).	1850/043
Gullick	William	White	William	18	06	1850	Assault	A	William Gullick contended that William White had assaulted him by striking him a violent blow to the head and kicking him about the body. Both parties were described as butchers. Neither of them appeared at the hearing and the case was therefore dismissed.	1850/044
James	Charles	Francis	Richard	19	06	1850	Theft	T	Richard Francis was accused of the theft of meat from the butcher's premises owned by Charles James. Francis, who had until now been an employee of Charles James, was considered to be an accomplice of Joseph Marsh (see 1850/043). A warrant for Francis' arrest was issued describing the suspect as being about 22 years of age, around 5'5" in height, clean-shaven and wearing a blue smock and trousers with a Jim Crow hat.	1850/045
Beard	George	Nurse	Frederick	20	06	1850	Mutiny	M	George Beard, recruiting serjeant for the 14th Foot, claimed to have recruited Frederick Nurse to the army, but Nurse, having first passed his medical examination and then gone home to Glastonbury, refused to complete the enlistment, saying that he had been misled by Beard because he had wanted to join the Marines and not the 14th Foot. There was mention of a payment of 23/- which may possibly have been a payment by Nurse to escape enlistment.	1850/046
Fletcher	Silas	Bowden	William	22	06	1850	Vagrancy	V	Silas Fletcher, shoemaker, claimed that William Bowden, of no fixed abode, had entered his house, begged for money and verbally abused him. Bowden was found guilty and sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour.	1850/047

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Savage	George	Ford	Caroline	22	06	1850	Drunkenness	D	PC George Savage arrested Caroline Ford for being drunk in High Street. When arrested, she became very abusive. Ford was fined 5/- or, if in default, to spend 6 hours in the stocks.	1850/048
Dredge	Ann	Crandon	William	26	06	1850	Assault	A	Ann Dredge of East Wells, housewife, accused William Crandon, labourer, of entering her house, demanding a basin, threatening violence when she refused him and then striking her on the shoulder and in the face. Crandon was found guilty and fined 1/- with costs of 8/- or to spend 14 days in prison.	1850/049
Davis	William	Syms	Sarah	29	06	1850	Assault	A	William Davis, described as a sweep, complained that he had been assaulted by Sarah Syms, wife of Samuel Syms, confectioner. He alleged that she had struck him several times in the face. The case was settled out of court.	1850/050
Willis	Thomas	Padfield	George	04	07	1850	Offence against licence	L	PC Thomas Willis brought a charge against George Padfield, beerhouse keeper, of selling liquor outside permitted licensing hours, as his house was still open after 11.00pm. Padfield admitted the offence and was fined 5/- with costs of 7/-.	1850/051
White	Walter	White	Joseph	13	07	1850	Assault	A	Walter White, labourer, claimed that he had been assaulted by his brother, Joseph White, butcher, who had struck him with a stick about the head and body. Another brother, William White, carpenter, stated that he had seen Walter White walking down the middle of the street when Joseph White had come out of his house and attacked Walter White with a stick, knocking him down and kicking him when he was on the ground. William Badman, plasterer, testified that he had seen Walter White abusing Joseph White's wife and that she had clearly told Joseph White of the issue. Joseph White had then sought retribution but Badman stated that Walter White had struck the first blow against his brother. There was no fine, but costs of 13/6d were awarded and recorded as paid (possibly by Joseph but perhaps split between them).	1850/052

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Brewer	Charles	Phipps	Joseph	22	07	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, a representative of the RSPCA, accused Joseph Phipps of East Wells, labourer, of ill-treating a horse. Evidence against Phipps was given by Silas Fletcher, bootmaker. There appears to be some uncertainty about the outcome, one version being a fine of 1/- with costs of 6/-, the other being 'case dismissed'.	1850/053
Brewer	Charles	Gibbs	Jacob	22	07	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, a representative of the RSPCA, accused Jacob Gibbs of Somerton of ill-treating a horse in Wells. PC Thomas Willis and Joseph Woodburn, labourer, both testified that Gibbs had been driving his horse and cart towards the Southover turnpike gate as fast as the horse could go but Gibbs was beating the horse continually with a stick to try and go faster. Gibbs was fined 1/- with costs of 15/10d, these sums to be paid immediately or to be imprisoned for 14 days in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1850/054
Brewer	Charles	Green	John	22	07	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, a representative of the RSPCA, accused John Green of ill-treating a mare by having her pull a cart overloaded with people and then beating her to move more quickly. Testimony against Green was provided by Robert Foster, labourer. Green was found guilty and fined 1/- with costs of 6/6d. The fine and costs were recorded as paid.	1850/055
Welchman	William	Seal	Francis	31	07	1850	Leaving cart unattended	Rd	William Welchman, surveyor of turnpikes, accused Francis Seal, publican, of leaving a cart laden with coal on the turnpike for a whole day, unattended and with no horse attached, so that there was clearly no intention of moving it. Seal was fined 1/- with costs of 7/-.	1850/056
Tucker	Mary	Barnard	William	03	08	1850	Assault	A	Mary Tucker complained that she had been assaulted by William Barnard, son of James Barnard, butcher. The only documentation for this case is the summons issued to Barnard, so no further information is available.	1850/057

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City of Wells		Mills	John	12	08	1850	Drunkenness	D	Gunner John Mills, stationed in Bath with the Royal Artillery, got drunk in the City Arms in Wells. His regiment was informed and he was withdrawn from his post and returned to regimental headquarters for disciplinary action.	1850/058
Oakley	Charles	Serjeant	John	12	08	1850	Perjury	Pj	An application was received from Charles Oakley, a police officer in Bath, to arrest John Serjeant for perjury in the trial of Azariah Richardson. An arrest warrant was issued.	1850/059
Foster	Joseph	James	Charles	14	08	1850	Assault	A	Joseph Foster, glazier, was an eye-witness to an incident which resulted in Charles James, butcher, being fined £1 with costs of 11/-. (See 1850/060a for more information about the case).	1850/060
Foster	Joseph	Taylor	Thomas	14	08	1850	Assault	A	Thomas Taylor, brewer, and Charles James, butcher, (see 1850/060) were driving a dog cart through Wells when there was an accident involving a young girl. Joseph Foster, an eye-witness, upbraided Taylor and James for their part in the accident and each of them then assaulted him, leaving him with a black eye. Extensive testimony on the incident was sought from Charles Bendall, blacksmith; John Woodward, shoemaker; Henry Palmer, printer and bookbinder; George Nutty, beerhouse keeper, and his wife, Elizabeth; Ann Fry, widow; and Eliza Pearce. Taylor was fined £1 with costs of £1.0s.6d, but appears not to have paid since there is a committal document ordering him to be taken to prison for 14 days.	1850/060a
Porter	John	Fry	Eliza	14	08	1850	Assault	A	Police serjeant John Porter claimed that while he was trying to separate two fighting men, one of whom was Charles James (see case 1850/060) and the other was called Brookman, he was assaulted by Eliza Fry, wife of Henry Fry, shoemaker. She had grabbed Porter by the collar and tried to pull him away from Brookman. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1850/061

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Willis	Thomas	Fry jnr	Henry	14	08	1850	Assault Drunkenness	A D	PC Thomas Willis issued two summons against Henry Fry the younger, shoemaker. One summons was for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert, while the other was for assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty. The latter was the result of Fry putting his fists in the face of PC Willis when he was being arrested for drunkenness. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1850/062
Allen	Elizabeth	Beddoes	John	29	08	1850	Assault	A	Elizabeth Allen, a single woman and servant to Sarah Rees, complained that she was assaulted by the next-door neighbour, John Beddoes, when she went down to the end of the garden at Mrs Rees' house to look for a cat belonging to Mrs Rees. Sarah Rees and her neighbour, Sarah Beddoes, walked down the garden together when Elizabeth Allen seemed to have taken longer than expected. Sarah Rees claimed to have seen the assault where John Beddoes, son of Sarah Beddoes, had grabbed Elizabeth Allen by the throat and struck her with his other hand. Sarah Beddoes denied seeing her son carry out such an assault. John Beddoes was fined 1/- with costs of 10/- or, if in default, to serve 7 days in prison in Shepton Mallet.	1850/063
Fry	Henry	Dredge	Frederick	05	09	1850	Absenteeism	Ab	Henry Fry, shoemaker, complained that his apprentice shoemaker, Frederick Dredge, had again taken unauthorised absence from his work. Dredge promised to go back to work properly and make up all his time. (see also 1850/004).	1850/064
Buck	Abraham	Churches	Edward	12	09	1850	Non-payment of toll	Um	Abraham Buck, collector of tolls, claimed that Edward Churches, described as a beerhouse keeper, was selling potatoes in Queen Street, a location not licensed for market activity. Churches was fined 6d, the amount of the toll, with costs of 4/6d.	1850/065
Martin	Thomas	White	Joseph	16	09	1850	Indebtedness; non-payment of bill	N	Thomas Martin, an employee of Wells Gas Company, was trying to obtain payment of an outstanding account of 14/3d which Joseph White, a butcher in Wells High Street, was refusing to settle. The case was settled without a hearing.	1850/066

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Martin	Thomas	White	Joseph	16	09	1850	Non-payment of gas meter	N	This case was settled without a hearing. It appears to be a duplicate of 1850/066 involving Thomas Martin and Joseph White.	1850/067
Brewer	Charles	Davis	John	19	09	1850	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer of the RSPCA brought an action against John Davis, blacksmith, for cruel treatment of a dog belonging to Robert Binney Rawlings that resulted in the dog having to be put down. The following individuals were summoned as witnesses: George White, blacksmith, who was working with Davis at the time of the incident; Ann Russell, widow; Henry Williams, farmer, who put the dog down; John Allen. Davis was fined 5/- with costs of 11/6d or to spend 14 days in prison.	1850/068
Sparrow	Elizabeth	Dudderidge	Maria	25	09	1850	Assault	A	Elizabeth Sparrow, wife of Henry Sparrow, tailor, claimed to have been assaulted with a bundle of wet clothes by Maria Dudderidge, wife of Joseph Dudderidge, painter. Dudderidge was fined 6d with costs of 7/- or to spend 7 days in prison.	1850/069
Porter	John	Dix	William	30	09	1850	Assault	A	Police serjeant John Porter alleged that, when he was attempting to arrest William Dix for his part in a street argument and disturbance, the defendant struck him in the face. A faint note indicates 'Not used'.	1850/070
Porter	John	Dawe Hill	Richard Henry	04	10	1850	Suspicion of felony	S	Police serjeant John Porter found the defendants, Richard Dawe and Henry Hill, to be in possession of items such as a bottle of cologne and a linen handkerchief that did not match their station and circumstances. It appears that, having been remanded in custody, they were then transferred to another location.	1850/071
Porter	John	Jones	Thom	04	10	1850	Suspicion of felony	S	Police serjeant John Porter arrested Thom Jones on the basis that he matched the description of a criminal in the Police Gazette. Jones was then proven not to be the person concerned and he was discharged.	1850/072

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Savage	George	Day Clapp Cord Hopkins Masters Street	George John Thomas William Charles Robert	11	10	1850	Disturbing the peace / drunkenness	D	PC George Savage arrested the following individuals who were knocking on the door of William Vincent and creating a disturbance by shouting and kicking on the door: George Day of Wookey, labourer; John Clapp of Wookey, labourer; Thomas Cord of Wookey, miller; William Hopkins of Wookey, labourer; Charles Masters of Wookey, labourer. Most of the men appeared to be drunk. In addition, the name of Robert Street is very evident in the evidence of William Vincent as the ringleader but there is no summons in his name, nor is he shown in the names of those fined (but see case 1850/076). George Day was fined 4/-, while most of the others were fined 10/-.	1850/073
Turner	Philip	Day	George	22	10	1850	Assault	A	George Day was accused of being drunk and grabbing the bridle of Philip Turner's horse, pulling both horse and rider to the ground. Day was found guilty and fined 20/- with costs of 3/6d or to spend 14 days in prison at Shepton Mallet.	1850/074
Somers	Samuel	Pearce	John	01	11	1850	Suspicion of felony	S	PC Samuel Somers applied to have John Pearce and his wife, Sarah Pearce, remanded in custody for the alleged theft of a silk umbrella belonging to Richard Collins. However, Somers was unable to produce sufficient evidence to warrant this action resulting in Pearce and his wife being discharged.	1850/075
Porter	John	Street	Robert	07	11	1850	Disturbing the peace / drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged Robert Street of Wookey with being drunk and disturbing the peace. There is no documentation for this case other than the summons, but the dates involved suggest that it is part of case 1850/073, although there is no specific information that links it to the incident involving William Vincent. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1850/076

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Sweet	Ann	Card	Eliza	07	11	1850	Assault	A	Ann Sweet was a single woman and she claimed to have been assaulted and kicked violently on the leg by Eliza Card, wife of George Card, labourer. Witness testimony, not all of it helpful, was obtained from Thomas Hayes, labourer, Sarah Weeks and Jane White, single woman. The incident occurred in The Full Moon Inn and Card was ordered to pay a fine of 6d plus costs of 11/- or to serve 14 days in prison in Shepton Mallet. Note: Ann Sweet is shown on one document as a single woman, but on another as a widow.	1850/077
Charles	William	Loxton Young	Charles Alfred	07	11	1850	Petty trespass	Pt	William Charles, ironmonger, was having several new properties built in Water Lane and he accused the two defendants, Charles Loxton, plasterer, and Alfred Young, butcher, of breaking 5 panes of glass in one of the new properties to a value of 7/6d. They had refused to pay. The case was settled out of court.	1850/078
Porter	John	Yeudall	John	18	11	1850	Vagrantcy	V	Police serjeant John Porter reported that John Yeudall was found living in an outhouse belonging to Joseph Parsons. He had no apparent means of subsistence. Yeudall was sentenced to one calendar month with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1850/079
Porter	John	Willcox	John	21	11	1850	Vagrantcy	V	Police serjeant John Porter stated that John Willcox had approached several businessmen in Wells and asked for subscriptions for the families of miners supposedly killed or injured in an explosion at Brickhill Colliery near Sutton upon Mendip. The fraud was effectively exposed by one of those approached, John Beauchamp, a bookseller, the police were called and the suspect apprehended. Vagrantcy seems to be a very odd charge for this offence. Note: the documentation for this case includes the book in which Willcox recorded the donations he received from the various people that he approached.	1850/080

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Jones	William	Davies	Robert	27	11	1850	Assault	A	William Jones was a gentleman of Mold in Flintshire who claimed to have been subject to an assault by Robert Davies, a gentleman of Wells. Jones claimed that Davies had grabbed him by the collar and pushed him into the judge's seat at the Town Hall in Wells. At the hearing Andrew Ball, acting as agent for William Jones, formally withdrew the complaint against Davies and the case was therefore dismissed.	1850/081
Porter	John	Smith Smith Clark Clements Clements	James Ann Mary Frederick Harriett	03	12	1850	Vagrantcy	V	James Smith and his wife, Ann Smith, and their servant, Mary Clark, were from Shepton Mallet while Frederick Clements and his wife, Harriett Clements were from Taunton. Police serjeant John Porter arrested them together with William Carter but, unlike the other named defendants, he was not charged with vagrantcy. The others were discharged.	1850/082

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Cornish Perch	William Thomas	03	12	1850	Disturbing the peace / drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Cornish and Thomas Perch with a combination of drunkenness and disturbing the peace. Both defendants were discharged.	1850/083
Porter	John	Cranton Farnham	William John	02	12	1850	Theft	T	The defendants, William Cranton and John Farnham, were charged by police serjeant John Porter with absconding from Chard Union and stealing the clothes belonging to the Union. They were held in custody in Wells for several days before being returned to Chard.	1850/083a
Lane	Susannah	Hawkins Lovell Norman Sage Guppy Loxton	James Edwin John Thomas Charles John	04	12	1850	Petty trespass	Pt	The 6 defendants, James Hawkins, Edwin Lovell, John Norman, Thomas Sage, Charles Guppy and John Loxton, all described as being labourers of East Wells, were accused of breaking 6 panes of glass at Susannah Lane's house in East Wells; the value of the damage was assessed at 5/-. The case was settled without a hearing.	1850/084
Lawrence	Mary Ann	Bowell	Edmund	20	12	1850	Non-payment of toll	N	Mary Ann Lawrence was operating the Portway toll on behalf of her husband and claimed that Edmund Bowell, a carter, had driven through without paying. He argued that he had never had to pay the toll. He was fined 2/6d with costs of 8/-, but was unable to pay. It was agreed that taking goods by distraint would cause undue hardship to Bowell's family, so he was ordered to serve one calendar month in Shepton Mallet prison but without hard labour.	1850/085
Lawrence	Mary Ann	Allen Bennett	William James	20	12	1850	Assault	A	Mary Ann Lawrence, tollgate operator, claimed that William Allen and James Bennett, both coal haulers, had threatened to knock her down and strike her with a stick or whip. The case was settled without a hearing.	1850/086
Marshall	Thomas	Crandon	William	21	12	1850	Assault	A	Thomas Marshall, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by William Crandon, also a labourer. Marshall claimed that he had been struck in the head and his cap had been knocked off. Crandon had taken away the cap and had not returned it. The incident arose from a dispute about the return of money (1/-) which Crandon had loaned to Marshall and which Marshall had not paid back, despite promises to do so. Crandon was fined 2/- with costs of 9/6d or to serve 7 days in prison.	1850/087

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Badcock	Mr.	Brook	John	30	12	1850	Drunkenness	D	Mr Badcock complained that John Brook, labourer, was drunk in a public place on Christmas Day. The case was noted as settled.	1850/087a
Kemp	John	Green	George	26	12	1850	Vagrancy	V	George Green had allegedly approached John Kemp in High Street and asked to be bought a half-pint of beer. Kemp, a serjeant in the Royal Marines, had him arrested as a potential deserter from 83rd Foot. Green was sentenced to one calendar month with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1850/088
Tasker	Mr.	Glanson	Matilda	31	12	1850	Petty trespass	Pt	James Eades, a shopkeeper in Mr Tasker's linen shop, alleged that when he refused to give any money to Matilda Glanson, a beggar, she broke 6 panes of glass in the shop window at a value of £1.0s.8d. She was fined 21/- with costs of 6/6d or to serve one calendar month with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1850/089
Allen	James	Brown	John	31	12	1850	Theft	T	John Brown, a carpenter, was accused by James Allen of retaining a basket. The justices concluded that they had no jurisdiction over the case, but Brown did return the basket.	1850/090
Savage	George	Fry snr Fry snr Fry jnr Fry jnr Fry Hopkins	Henry Eliza Henry Eliza John William	31	12	1850	Assault	A	PC George Savage was called to The King's Head by the landlady, Mrs Harris, in order to sort out a disturbance. He was set upon by various persons when he got there and had difficulty in restoring order. Savage had initially become involved with William Hopkins who was arguing with someone called Cox. Savage claimed that he had been struck twice by Hopkins as the argument descended into a melee. Savage also claimed that he was abused by Eliza Fry the elder and then struck by her husband, Henry (Harry) Fry the elder, a shoemaker. Henry Fry the elder, Eliza Fry the elder and William Hopkins were fined 5/- each and there were also costs of at least £2 to be paid. Although Fry's children, Henry Fry the younger, Eliza Fry the younger and John Fry, were also named in the indictment as have been part of the group attacking PC Savage, they do not appear to have been fined.	1850/091

1851

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Fry	Henry	Dredge	Frederick	09	01	1851	Absenteeism	Ab	Henry Fry, shoemaker, complained that his apprentice, Frederick Dredge, had absented himself from work again without permission. The case was overlooked and not heard.	1851/001
Brewer	Charles	Brooks	William	10	01	1851	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, a representative of the RSPCA, accused William Brooks of Cheddar, pig jobber, of cruelty to a horse. Brooks was alleged to have overdriven the horse and cart by forcing it to gallop through the town centre in Wells at a furious pace. Brooks appears to have admitted the offence and may have been fined 5/- with costs of 7/6d but the documentation is far from clear.	1851/002
Brewer	Charles	Brooks	William	10	01	1851	Highways Act	Rd	Charles Brewer, a shoemaker and representative of the RSPCA, accused William Brooks of Cheddar, pig dealer, with driving a horse and cart without displaying the name of the owner on the side of the cart. Brooks appears to have admitted the offence, but there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1851/003
Brewer	Charles	Moss	George	10	01	1851	Highways Act	Rd	Charles Brewer, a shoemaker and representative of the RSPCA, accused George Moss of Glastonbury, labourer, with driving a horse and cart without displaying the name of the owner on the side of the cart. Moss admitted the offence and was fined 1/- with costs of 2/6d or to spend 14 days in prison on Shepton Mallet. The costs were recorded as being paid.	1851/004
[Justices]		[Various]		13	01	1851	Minutes of meeting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 13 January 1851. The cases shown are all recorded in earlier entries with the exception of the charge of drunkenness made by police serjeant John Porter against George Day and William Wills which saw both defendants convicted of the offence and fined 5/- each including costs (see case 1851/006 for the specific case entry).	1851/005
Porter	John	Day Wills	George William	13	01	1851	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged George Day and William Wills with being drunk in High Street. Wills was so drunk that he was offering to fight any man in Wells. See case 1851/005 for details of the outcome.	1851/006

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Russell	Edward	18	01	1851	Felony	T	The documentation in this case comprises letters addressed by Edward Russell in Birmingham to his girlfriend, Martha, from whom he is estranged and by whom he has had a son. The reason for the estrangement is not clear, but, possibly, he had been sent away because of a felony that he may have committed.	1851/007
Baker	Henry	Burridge	Ann	25	01	1851	Obtaining goods under false pretences	T	Henry Baker, draper in Mr Everett's shop, complained that Ann Burridge of Coxley had obtained from him calico, muslin and buttons by pretending that they had been requested by a regular customer of the draper, Miss Parsons of the firm of brushmakers. Miss Parsons denied sending anyone to obtain materials from Everett's shop. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1851/008
Porter	John	Clements	Harriett	25	01	1851	Suspicion of theft	T	Police serjeant John Porter had Harriett Clements arrested on suspicion that she had carried out a theft. When her bundles were searched Clements had in her possession a variety of male and female apparel, brushes and shaving equipment and other items. However, there was insufficient evidence to pursue a prosecution so Harriett Clements was discharged.	1851/009
Willis	Thomas	Heal	James	31	01	1851	Desertion from 95th Foot	M	PC Thomas Willis arrested James Heal as a deserter from the 95th Foot. Heal was recorded as having enlisted in October 1837 and claimed that he was not a deserter but had overstayed his leave as a consequence of having no money to get back to his regiment, despite having applied to the Bristol district office for funds. Heal was recorded as 32 years of age, 5'9" in height with a fresh complexion, brown hair and grey eyes. Heal was to be returned to his regiment in Winchester to face appropriate disciplinary proceedings.	1851/010
Rose	Arthur	Aiston	John	11	02	1851	Assault	A	Arthur Rose of Wookey Hole, journeyman paper maker, complained that he had been assaulted and struck in the face by John Aiston, also a journeyman paper maker. The case against Aiston was dismissed when the defendant did not appear at the hearing.	1851/011

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Trapnell	John	Bennett	William	13	02	1851	Assault	A	John Trapnell was a toll gate keeper and William Bennett a labourer from Compton Dundon. Bennett had given Trapnell 1/- to pay for 2 carts passing through the toll gate. Trapnell said that he had no change and would give Bennett the change the following day. Bennett reacted angrily to this and struck Trapnell in the face with his fist and then hit him over the head several times with the butt end of his whip. Joseph Eddington of Middlezoy supported Trapnell's version of events, but George Shoemark of Compton Dundon stated that Trapnell had first struck Bennett before the latter reacted. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1851/012
Hamblyn	William	Miles	George	18	02	1851	Incitement to commit a breach of the peace	lc	William Hamblyn, pork butcher, claimed that George Miles, fishmonger, had attempted to prompt him to commit a breach of the peace. He claimed that whenever he encountered Miles the latter would constantly abuse him. Hamblyn's view was that Miles was trying to provoke him into starting a fight or commit some other offence. Witness testimony was obtained from Ann Harris, wife of James Harris, landlord of The King's Head, in which one of the meetings of the two principals took place, and Jacob Bartlett, labourer. The case was settled with each side paying their own costs.	1851/013
Porter	John	Woodland (aka Webber)	William	20	02	1851	Suspicion of theft	T	Police serjeant John Porter had arrested William Woodland on suspicion of having carried out a theft. When he searched the bundle that Woodland (or Webber, as Porter discovered his real name was) had with him he found 3 coats, one pair of trousers, 2 shirts, 2 neckerchiefs and 2 pairs of stockings. Porter believed that these items had been stolen. Porter initiated enquiries with police at Taunton and Bridgwater where Webber alias Woodland said that he had come from. Woodland was remanded in custody until 22 February awaiting a response from these police forces but then, at his father's request, Woodland was sent home on 24 February as no further information had been obtained.	1851/014

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Paramor	George	Wallen	Edward	03	03	1851	Assault	A	George Paramor, a private in the Royal Artillery, complained that he had been assaulted by Edward Wallen, coal haulier, who had struck him a violent blow in the face. There is no indication of the outcome of the case. Note: the defendant's surname may be Welwyn or Walwyn.	1851/015
Tucker	Eliza	Tucker	Robert	10	03	1851	Assault	A	Eliza Tucker, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Robert Tucker, boot and shoemaker, who had struck her several times and knocked her down. There is no indication of whether or not they were related. There is also no indication of the outcome of the case.	1851/016
Porter	John	Dix	William	28	03	1851	Assault on police constable	A	Police serjeant John Porter had arrested William Dix since Dix was seen to be drunk and and creating a disturbance at the George Inn. Dix had become violent and assaulted the arresting officer both at the time of his arrest and later when he was in a cell at the police station. Dix was fined 5/- with costs of 6/6d, all to be paid immediately or to serve 21 days in prison with hard labour at Shepton Mallet.	1851/017
Hill	William	Walter	Job	28	03	1851	Deserting from Union Workhouse with clothes	T	William Hill, porter at Wells Union workhouse, complained that Job Walter, an inmate at the workhouse, had left the workhouse without authorisation and had been wearing the clothes issued to him by the Union. The costs of the case were recorded as 5/-. Hill noted that Walter had committed a similar offence some two years ago. Walter was sentenced to one month in prison with hard labour.	1851/018
White	John	Hewlett	William	02	04	1851	Search warrant	Sw	John White, gardener, complained that a number of sacks of potatoes had been stolen from his outhouse. He identified William Hewlett as the person responsible for taking them and requested that a search warrant be granted to check Hewlett's premises. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1851/019
Gane	Alexander	Vowles	William	05	04	1851	Assault	A	Alexander Gane of Priddy, farmer, alleged that he had been assaulted by William Vowles, butcher. Vowles admitted the assault and was fined 1/- with costs of 7/-; he was recorded as paying the fine and costs.	1851/020

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Vowles	Charles	Gane	James	05	04	1851	Assault	A	Charles Vowles, son of William Vowles, butcher, issued a claim of assault against James Gane, farmer from the parish of Emborough. Alexander Gane, brother of James Gane, testified that Charles Vowles had offered three pence for some milk from Gane's cow. However, once he had milked the cow, Vowles refused to pay anything for the milk. James Gane had then told Vowles to leave the milk, but Vowles had deliberately upset it. Gane had then hit Vowles with a stick while Vowles had then responded by throwing a stone that had hit Gane on the head. Gane had then struck Vowles three or four times. Vowles' case was dismissed on payment of 1/- costs (presumed to be by Gane).	1851/021
Thorley	Robert	Duckett	John	09	04	1851	Deserting wife and children	Ds	Robert Thorley, relieving officer for Wells, requested that an arrest warrant be issued for John Duckett. Duckett, who was regarded as able-bodied and capable of supporting his family by working, had deserted his wife, Mary Ann, and 5 children (John aged 10, Edwin 7, William 6, Sarah 1 and Eliza about 6 weeks) who had become chargeable to the In Parish of St. Cuthbert. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1851/022
Cook	Elizabeth	Davies	Mary	14	04	1851	Search warrant	Sw	Elizabeth Cook, wife of John Rayley Cook of High Street, grocer, claimed that a gold ring had been stolen from her. She suspected that it had been taken by Mary Davies of Glastonbury, single woman, who had been to her house and had actually tried on the ring. Elizabeth Cook requested that a search warrant be issued to check if the ring was in Davies' possession and the warrant was approved.	1851/023

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Charles	William	Mullins	James	16	04	1851	Assault	A	William Charles, sadler, complained that he had been assaulted by James Mullins, labourer. Philip Gregory, labourer, gave evidence to state that Charles had gone to Mullins' house to ask for rent. Mullins said that he could give him some rent that evening but Charles then began to assess the contents of the property with the aim of pursuing an action for distraint. At that point Mullins pushed Charles out of the property. Mullins was convicted of assault and fined 6d with costs of 8/6d, these sums to be paid immediately or to serve 14 days in prison at Shepton Mallet.	1851/024
Boulting	William	Moon	John	25	04	1851	Assault	A	William Boulting, pensioner, alleged that he had been assaulted by John Moon, labourer, who had allegedly struck him several times about the body. A summons was also issued to Robert Willcox, blacksmith, to give evidence. The case was settled without a hearing.	1851/025
Somers	Samuel	Oliver	Samuel	01	05	1851	Vagrancy	V	PC Samuel Somers arrested Samuel Oliver on a charge of vagrancy after being advised by William Gould, waggoner to Mr Plowman, that Oliver was asleep in one of Mr Plowman's waggons which was parked in Sadler Street. When arrested, Oliver admitted that he had been in the waggon. Nothing was missing from the waggon and Oliver had no money on his person. He was convicted as a rogue and vagabond and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1851/026
Rich	Ann	Westcott	Sarah	05	05	1851	Assault	A	Ann Rich, wife of John Rich, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by Sarah Westcott. Rich's claim was dismissed for want of evidence. Note: most of the documents in this case refer to the defendant as being Sarah Parfitt, but the summons has been modified to show the name as Sarah Westcott and this has been taken as being the correct name.	1851/027
Rich	Ann	Rich	Jane	05	05	1851	Assault	A	Ann Rich, wife of John Rich, labourer, alleged that she had been assaulted by Jane Rich, a single woman. The case was dismissed for want of evidence.	1851/028

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Sheppard	James	Rogers	William	10	05	1851	Petty trespass	Pt	James Sheppard of West Horrington, farmer, claimed that William Rogers, chemist and druggist, had deliberately inflicted damage on a field in the In Parish of St Cuthbert which Sheppard was cultivating as a grass crop. Sheppard claimed that Rogers had deliberately trodden down the grass causing damage to the value of 5/-. The case was settled without a hearing.	1851/029
Wootten	James	Pearce Willcox	George James	12	05	1851	Rescuing horse from being impounded	Op	James Wootten, a labourer employed by Mr Welchman, surveyor, to keep the turnpike roads clear, had found two horses straying on the Wells to Glastonbury turnpike and had been in the process of taking them to the pound when George Pearce and James Willcox, both described as labourers, came along and claimed ownership of the horses. Wootten refused to hand them over unless they paid the required sum of 4/-. Wootten refused to accept the promise of future payment, but Pearce and Willcox were able to take the horses away. The incident was witnessed by George Lowman and Robert Brown, both labourers. The case was withdrawn with Pearce and Willcox each paying costs of 9/-.	1851/030
Hill	William	Whitehead	John	20	05	1851	Deserting from Union Workhouse with clothes	T	William Hill, porter at Wells Union workhouse, complained that John Whitehead, an inmate at the workhouse, had left the workhouse without authorisation and had run away wearing the clothes issued to him by the Union. The case was withdrawn.	1851/031
Martin	Thomas Crisp	Miles	George	23	05	1851	Non-payment of gas bill	N	Thomas Crisp Martin, a representative of the Wells Gas company, complained that George Miles, fishmonger, had failed to pay his outstanding gas account for his shop in High Street. The amount outstanding for the last two quarters was £1.18s.0d. The case was settled without a hearing.	1851/032

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Millard	Aaron	Townsend	John	03	06	1851	Mistreatment of apprentice	It	Aaron Millard complained that he had been ill-treated by John Townsend, wheelwright, to whom he had been apprenticed since 1847. Townsend had supposedly refused to allow Millard to do any work, had refused to find work for him and had ordered him off the premises. Townsend's view was that Millard's work had been unsatisfactory for some time and, despite his complaints, it had not improved. As it was so poor as to be unsaleable he did not want Millard at work. The case was adjourned until the end of the month (see case 1851/038).	1851/033
Phipps	Sarah	White	William	12	06	1851	Assault	A	Sarah Phipps, wife of Thomas Phipps, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by William White, butcher. Sarah Phipps had been riding in a cart in East Wells with her husband and James Mullins. It appeared that some people wanted Thomas Phipps out of the cart (for some unexplained reason) and Sarah Phipps had taken her husband's part. She had struck William White twice with her whip before he had struck her a blow in the head with his fist. Testimony was provided by James Mullins, George Lockyear and Louisa Seal. The defendant was discharged. Note: confusingly, there are two statements said to be from George Lockyear. In one of them he refers to William White while in the other he refers to William Hawkins as the defendant. The statement from Louisa Seal also refers to William Hawkins (but see case 1851/037 where the defendant is William Hawkins and there is a small note bearing the names of George Lockyear and Louisa Seal).	1851/034
Porter	John	Phipps	Thomas	13	06	1851	Assault on police constable	A	Police serjeant John Porter claimed that he had been assaulted by Thomas Phipps, labourer, who had struck him a blow with his fist. Phipps was discharged on payment of the case costs of 4/6d.	1851/035
Savage	George	Robarts	Thomas	20	06	1851	Vagrancy	V	PC George Savage arrested Thomas Roberts on a charge of vagrancy. The defendant was discharged.	1851/036

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Phipps	Sarah	Hawkins	William	26	06	1851	Assault	A	Sarah Phipps, wife of Thomas Phipps, claimed that she had been assaulted by William Hawkins, butcher. There are highly inconclusive witness statements from John Pitman and Charlotte Gullick but the witness statements from George Lockyear and Louisa Seal in the documents for case 1851/034 are more illuminating. Hawkins was found guilty of assault and fined 6d, with costs of 17/6d, or to spend 14 days in prison.	1851/037
Millard	Aaron	Townsend	John	30	06	1851	Discharge of apprentice by justices after mistreatment by master	It	After the case brought by Aaron Millard against John Townsend (see 1851/033) the justices issued formal documentation to both apprentice and master to terminate the apprenticeship.	1851/038
Millard	Aaron	Townsend	John	30	06	1851	Discharge of apprentice by justices	It	The documentation in this instance is an earlier copy of the discharge documentation to terminate the apprenticeship of Aaron Millard with John Townsend (see 1851/038).	1851/039
Somers	Samuel	Jones	William	03	07	1851	Vagrancy	V	PC Samuel Somers charged William Jones with vagrancy for begging at the door of a private house and on the premises of The Royal Oak. A witness statement noting Jones' attempt to beg at Mr Savage's house was provided by Patience Lester, single woman. Jones was convicted and sentenced to 7 days in prison with hard labour.	1851/040
Savage	George	Hutchings	Isaac	08	07	1851	Vagrancy	V	PC George Savage charged Isaac Hutchings with vagrancy for begging and for having no visible means of support. Hutchings had asked for relief from Robert Thorley, the relieving officer, but as he had been previously provided with relief, he was denied further relief. Hutchings was convicted and sentenced to 14 days in prison in the House of Correction.	1851/041
Buck	Abraham	Lester	Henry	10	07	1851	Hawking on a market day	Um	Abraham Buck, collector of tolls, complained that Henry Lester of Glastonbury, labourer, had been hawking potatoes on a market day in an area not licensed for trading and without paying the necessary toll. The case was settled without a hearing.	1851/042

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Brown	William	12	07	1851	Suspicion of being deserter from 14th Foot	M	Police serjeant John Porter arrested William Brown on suspicion of being a deserter from the 14th Regiment of Foot. As the regiment was said to be based in Dublin, Porter requested that Brown be remanded in custody until 19 July in order to have time for communication with regimental administration. Agreement for the remand was granted but the response from the regiment (see case 1851/044) indicated that Brown was not a deserter and therefore an order to release the prisoner (a liberate) was issued by Mr Wainwright on 17 July.	1851/043
Porter	John	Brown	William	15	07	1851	Suspicion of being deserter from 14th Foot	M	Letter from Rainier Elwyn, Adjutant of 14th Foot confirming that William Brown had been discharged as being unfit for military service. See case 1851/043	1851/044
Bisgrove	John	Brook	John	15	07	1851	Drunkenness	D	John Bisgrove, a member of the police force, charged John Brook, labourer, with being drunk in the In Parish of St Cuthbert. The only documentation in this case is the summons; there is no indication of the outcome. Note: in later years John Bisgrove is described as Deputy Chief Constable.	1851/045
Sheppard	James	Oxley jnr	Matthew	19	07	1851	Petty trespass	Pt	James Sheppard, a farmer from West Horrington, claimed that Matthew Oxley the younger, a market gardener living in Tucker Street, had deliberately damaged one of his boundary fences by smashing through it. The cost of the damage was estimated at 6d. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1851/046
Porter	John	Emery	George	28	07	1851	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged George Emery with drunkenness in a public place. Emery was discharged on payment of the costs of 2/6d.	1851/047
Tucker	Edward	Sweet	Samuel	28	07	1851	Assault	A	Edward Tucker, plasterer, alleged that he had been assaulted by Samuel Sweet, also a plasterer, who was alleged to have struck him on the face and on the body with his fist. Neither party appeared at the hearing and the case was dismissed.	1851/048

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Somers	Samuel	Smith	David	30	07	1851	Rogue & vagabond	V	PC Samuel Somers saw David Smith in the early hours of the morning in Chamberlain Street and later in the Market Place. He appeared to be a vagrant with no means of subsistence and was unable to give a satisfactory account of himself. Somers also established that Smith had been imprisoned in Devizes and in Hereford as a vagrant. Smith was charged and convicted of being a rogue and a vagabond. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1851/049
Porter	John	O'Neil	John Arthur	01	08	1851	Minute of previous statement	*	Police serjeant John Porter was shown as bringing a case against John Arthur O'Neil. There is no clear indication as to the precise nature of the case, but it is clear that the case against the defendant was dismissed. No other documents seem to exist for this case.	1851/050
Fry	Eliza	Weaver	Joseph	11	08	1851	Theft	T	Eliza Fry, wife of Henry Fry, shoemaker, complained that certain of her possessions from her clothes shop, most specifically a waistcoat, had been stolen and she identified Joseph Weaver as the likely thief because, until very recently, he had worked for her husband and had access to the shop in which the clothes were stocked. Frederick Dredge, shoemaker, testified that Weaver had admitted to him that he, Weaver, had stolen the waistcoat. The magistrates considered that Eliza Fry's accusation was not supported by appropriate evidence and the defendant was discharged.	1851/051
Gully	John	Drew Drew Oxley	William James James	19	08	1851	Stealing apples	T	John Gully, labourer, claimed that William Drew, James Drew and James Oxley had been stealing apples from the trees in James Barnard's garden in Tucker Street. He had watched the boys taking the apples for several minutes before challenging them when they effectively admitted the offence but appeared to be entirely unrepentant. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1851/052
Glanz	Lazarus	Lockyear	Charles	21	08	1851	Assault	A	Lazarus Glanz, a licensed hawkker from Bristol, claimed that he had been assaulted and beaten by Charles Lockyear, a carrier. The case was settled without a hearing.	1851/053

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Gale	Ann	White	Joseph	26	08	1851	Assault	A	Ann Gale, wife of John Gale, leather dresser, complained that she had been assaulted and beaten by Joseph White, butcher, who had allegedly struck her a violent blow on the body. Kitty Badman, Louisa Badman and Thomas Tilley, had all been in Joseph White's public house and had witnessed him push Ann Gale out of the door very soon after she entered the premises. The magistrates dismissed the case against Joseph White with each party being required to pay their own costs. The costs of the case were recorded as 8/6d.	1851/054
Woodford	Mary Ann	Woodford jnr	William	29	08	1851	Assault	A	Mary Ann Woodford complained that she had been subjected to a series of assaults by her husband, William Woodford the younger. A warrant for his arrest was issued and at the hearing he was found guilty of the offence. He was bound over to keep the peace for 6 months on the surety of a £20 bond from himself and a £10 bond from his father, William Woodford the elder.	1851/055
Savage	George	Rogers Young	Charles John	09	09	1851	Vagrancy	V	PC George Savage arrested Charles Rogers and John Young as vagrants. They were wandering around the town, had no visible means of support and were unable to give a good account of themselves. When arrested, neither had any money and they asked for relief, but were refused because each of them had previously been granted relief as recently as July 1851. They were each sentenced to spend 14 days in prison at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet.	1851/056
Savage	George	Lockyear	Samuel	15	09	1851	Drunkenness	D	PC George Savage charged Samuel Lockyear from the Castle of Comfort with drunkenness in a public place. The case was settled without a hearing. The costs of the case appear to have been 11/6d.	1851/057
Bartlett	Mary	Western	John	15	09	1851	Assault	A	Mary Bartlett, wife of Thomas Bartlett, labourer, claimed that she had been threatened with assault by John Western, coal hauler, who had allegedly held his fists in front of her face and said he would beat her brains out. Western was found guilty and fined 1/- with costs of 11/6d or to suffer 14 days imprisonment.	1851/058

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Willis	Thomas	Williams Williams	William Henry	17	09	1851	Theft of fowls	T	On the basis of information received PC Thomas Willis arrested William Williams and Henry Williams for stealing fowls. The defendants were remanded until 10 October. William Welsh, the magistrate, referred the case to the county magistrate on the basis that the borough magistrate had no jurisdiction in this instance because of the location in which the offence took place.	1851/059
Teek	James	Whitehead	John	17	09	1851	Petty trespass	Pt	James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, complained that John Whitehead had wilfully damaged property belonging to the workhouse. In particular, Whitehead was alleged to have wilfully damaged the door of one of the wards with a flagstone taken from the courtyard where he had been put to work breaking stones. Whitehead was fined 2/6d with costs of 6/6d or to be imprisoned with hard labour for 6 weeks.	1851/060
Lovell	James	Hamblin Hamblin Palmer	William Sarah Henry Dows	10	10	1851	Assault	A	The case was originally scheduled to be heard on 3 November, but was then rescheduled for 24 November because James Lovell was confined to bed by an attack of gout. According to Joseph Woodburn, a labourer, he saw William Hamblin, a butcher, come out of William Taylor's house and fall upon James Lovell, carpenter. After that, Henry Dows Palmer came out and likewise set upon Lovell, followed by Sarah Hamblin, wife of William Hamblin. Palmer, a printer and bookbinder, claimed that James Lovell had a tool in his hand and threatened him with it, so he had defended himself. Jane Willcox, wife of Robert Willcox, blacksmith, and John Jerrard, gentleman, were also summoned as witnesses, while testimony was also obtained from Robert Allen, mason. The case was dismissed.	1851/061

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Papps	William	Vowles	John	17	10	1851	Assault	A	William Papps, labourer, claimed that he had been assaulted by John Vowles, livery stable keeper. Papps had left a carriage and pair at the stables and when he returned to collect the horses it seemed there was an argument about payment involving Harriett Vowles, wife of the stable keeper. John Vowles was then called and, having failed to obtain money from Papps, struck him several times with his fist and once with a broomstick. Papps went to Dr Nicholls who dressed the wounds to his head but considered that the worst of them had not come from a stick but by contact with a sharper object. Vowles was found guilty of assault and was fined (the amount is not clear, it could be interpreted as 1/-, 4/- or 11/-) with the alternative being 21 days imprisonment in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1851/062
Horsington	William	White	George	23	10	1851	Detaining a whip and umbrella	T	William Horsington complained that George White of Northover, beerhouse keeper, had taken a whip and umbrella from him and was refusing to return them. The value of these items was assessed as being 6/-. John Rood of Street, farmer, was summoned as a witness for William Horsington, while Mary Hart, wife of Thomas Hart of Glastonbury, and George Godfrey of Street, shoemaker, were called to provide witness statements for George White. There is no information as to the outcome since the only documents for this case are the summons.	1851/063

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Dix	John Green	28	10	1851	Assault on police constable	A	Police serjeant John Porter accused John Green Dix, labourer, of assaulting him in the execution of his duty. Porter had been on duty at around 2.00am when he heard a noise in Grove Lane and went to investigate. He saw a man running out of Grove Lane into High Street with a woman running after him. Porter tried to stop the woman to ascertain the problem and she immediately struck him in the face. The woman was Mrs Dix, wife of John Green Dix, and while Porter was trying to talk to her, John Green Dix himself came up and struck Porter in the face with his fist and ran off. Porter then took Mrs Dix to the police station as she refused to go home and then went back to Grove Lane to find John Green Dix and lock him up. John Frederick Vincent, tailor, had been near Grove Lane at the time of the initial incident and confirmed a large part of Porter's account. John Green Dix was found guilty of assault and fined 2/6d. He was also ordered to pay Porter's costs of 4/6d with both sums to be paid immediately or the monies would be recovered by a distress process. Dix did not pay and a distress warrant was issued with the proviso that if this did not yield the required sum of money, then Dix would serve 14 days in prison with hard labour.	1851/064
Short	Harriett	Moon	John	31	10	1851	Disobedience of bastardy order	B	Harriett Short noted that John Moon had not been paying the maintenance order awarded against him of 1/6d per week after the birth of his illegitimate daughter; nor had he paid the bill for costs awarded against him at an earlier petty sessions hearing in May 1851. The maintenance arrears, including the costs of the current case were now £1.4s.0d while the costs awarded earlier were 10/6d. A process of distraint was begun to realise funds from Moon's assets but there appear to have been no assets to sell.	1851/065

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Savage	George	Mullins	Charles	08	11	1851	Drunkenness	D	PC George Savage charged Charles Mullins with being drunk in the Market Place. Savage had twice tried to get Mullins back to his home, but without success, so Mullins was locked up. Mullins was convicted of drunkenness and fined 5/- to be paid by 15th November or to be committed to the stocks for 6 hours.	1851/066
Brewer	Charles	Western jnr	John	22	11	1851	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, shoemaker and agent of the RSPCA, claimed that John Western the younger had been cruelly ill-treating a horse. Henry Cox, a labourer, had been trying to buy the horse from Western and found it covered in sores and bleeding. He was amazed that Western had been working the horse in that condition and considered it to be extremely cruel. Additional testimony was provided by Phillip Judd, labourer. Western was fined 20/- with costs of 14/-, all to be paid immediately or to be sent to prison at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet for one calendar month. Footnote: Cox bought the horse for 45/- having beaten Western down from the asking price of 50/-.	1851/067
Rich	Ann	Rich	John	24	11	1851	Assault	A	Ann Rich complained that her husband, John Rich, labourer, had assaulted and beaten her by striking a violent blow on her arm. John Rich was bound over to keep the peace for 6 months, particularly towards his wife, on his own bond of £10.	1851/068
Clements	Robert	Coles Butcher Sims Cleaves	John George John Jacob	01	12	1851	Suspicion of theft from shop	S	Robert Clements complained that John Coles, George Butcher, John Sims and Jacob Cleaves had conspired to steal half a pound of butter from his shop. All four were arrested on suspicion of theft and then subsequently discharged on the basis of the evidence put forward.	1851/069

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Thorn	Mary Ann	04	12	1851	Vagrancy	V	Police serjeant John Porter charged Mary Ann Thorn with vagrancy as she was lying around in the street with no visible means of subsistence and was unable to give a good account of herself. When arrested, she became very violent and it took two police officers to take her to be examined by Dr Livett as the officers were concerned for her welfare because she claimed to have been lately confined. Mary Ann Thorn was convicted as a rogue and a vagabond. She was sentenced to 14 days in prison.	1851/070
Porter	John	Gregory Reed	Philip James	15	12	1851	Vagrancy	V	Police serjeant John Porter arrested Philip Gregory and James Reed after they were found sleeping rough in an outhouse in Ash Lane. Gregory admitted that he had nowhere to stay and had been sleeping in the outhouse for a week, while Reed usually lived with his father but had chosen to stay with Gregory on that particular occasion. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1851/071

1852

Porter	John	Smith	Mary	16	01	1852	Vagrancy	V	Mary Smith came to the police station and asked for lodging for the night. She was referred to the Relieving Officer and the workhouse, but appeared to have left the workhouse and was found wandering around with no means of support. As a result, police serjeant John Porter arrested Mary Smith and charged her with vagrancy. Mary Smith was convicted as a rogue and a vagabond and was sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet.	1852/001
Street	Ann	Kiddle Barber	Mary George	24	01	1852	Theft	T	Ann Street complained that Mary Kiddle, single woman, and George Barber, labourer, had been removing tiles from her roof. The only documentation for this case is the summons. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1852/002

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Willis	Thomas	Linham	George	05	02	1852	Suspicion of felony	T	Robert Thorley, the relieving officer for the Wells Union, brought George Linham to the police station to be searched prior to being given a place in the workhouse. PC Thomas Willis arrested George Linham on suspicion of having stolen a handkerchief, several books and a looking glass that were unexpectedly found in his possession. The books were clearly identifiable as belonging to someone called Henry Whitehead of Corton Denham near Sherborne. On behalf of the town clerk, Robert Davies, W J S Foster contacted Henry Whitehead who identified the books and the handkerchief as belonging to his son, Henry Whitehead the younger, who had gone to London to work in service and was now supposedly en route to Liverpool to embark on a foreign trip, but had not advised his father that he had reached Liverpool. Linham was remanded in custody pending further investigation (see also cases 1852/006, 1852/007 and 1852/008).	1852/003
Parker	Jonas Lucas	Bennett	Eliza	09	02	1852	Preventing animal being taken to pound	Op	Jonas Lucas Parker, butcher, complained that Eliza Bennett, wife of John Bennett, coal hauler, had intervened when his young boy servant, John Barnard, was trying to take a straying donkey to the pound. Parker was informed that there was a donkey that belonged to someone else in one of his fields. He instructed his servant to take the donkey to the pound, but Eliza Bennett cut the rope by which the donkey was being led and made off with the animal. Eliza Bennett was found guilty of the offence and fined 2/- with costs of 8/- or to spend 14 days in prison with hard labour.	1852/004
Justices		Guppy	William	09	02	1852	Bestiality	By	Notification was received from the governor of Shepton Mallet prison to advise magistrates that William Guppy had been removed to Wells Lunatic Asylum on the order of the Secretary of State. A copy of Guppy's commitment to prison on 15 December 1851 for the crime of bestiality was also included.	1852/005

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Whitehead	Henry	Linham	George	12	02	1852	Theft	T	Letter from Henry Pinniger, town clerk of Westbury (presumed to be Westbury in Wiltshire), in response to an enquiry from Robert Davies related to the case of Whitehead v Linham. Pinniger was unable to provide helpful information and suggested that the address about which Davies was enquiring might be found in Bradford (-on-Avon). See also cases 1852/003, 1852/007 and 1852/008.	1852/006
Whitehead	Henry	Linham	George	12	02	1852	Theft	T	Letter from Henry Whitehead the younger explaining that he had walked from London westwards and from Farringdon he had walked with George Linham who had carried his books for him. When they had got near to Chippenham, Linham had taken the road to Devizes while he, Whitehead, had gone on to Bradford (on-Avon) from where he had written the letter. As a result Linham still had Whitehead's books in his possession. See also cases 1852/003, 1852/006 and 1852/008. Note: in Whitehead's letter the defendant is referred to as Limens.	1852/007
Whitehead	Henry	Linham	George	11	02	1852	Theft	T	Letter from Henry Whitehead the elder in which he refers to the letter that his son had written explaining how Linham had come to be in possession of the books and handkerchief. Whitehead requests that the books should be sent on to him at home. See also cases 1852/003, 1852/006 and 1852/007.	1852/008
Hoarde	Thomas	Williams	George	21	02	1852	Theft of admission tickets	T	Thomas Hoarde, a travelling comedian, claimed that when he was in The Coach & Horses in East Wells, the landlord of the pub, George Williams, effectively stole from his pocket a number of theatre tickets which resulted in several people gaining free admission to performances. Hoarde claimed that he had lost £1.4s.6d as a result of the theft. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/009
Porter	John	Stott	William	24	02	1852	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Stott with drunkenness in a public place. Stott was found guilty and fined 5/- which was to be paid immediately or to be put in the stocks for 6 hours.	1852/010

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Justices		29	02	1852	Discussion of Jurisdiction	*	Theoretical discussion among magistrates as to whether a case relating to a workhouse inmate who belongs outside the borough in which the workhouse is situated should fall within the jurisdiction of the borough justices or the county justices. No conclusion was reached.	1852/011
Hawkins	??	Guard	Francis	12	03	1852	Bail application	Ba	The documentation for this case gives no indication as to the nature of the complaint and no information about either plaintiff or defendant. It relates essentially to an application for bail on behalf of the defendant, Francis Guard. The names listed, possibly as those willing to provide bail guarantees are: Edwin Classey of Pitney near Langport, a former master baker; William Dudman of Pitney, clergyman; John Darby of Pitney, churchwarden and Francis Guard's brother (no forename given) who worked at Mr Pratt's mill in Glastonbury. The documentation also contains testimony from John Nicholls, surgeon, that Honor Willcox ,widow, was not fit to testify because of a throat inflammation. Her involvement in the case is not explained.	1852/012
Mansfield	Robert	Bennett	Thomas	19	03	1852	Vagrancy	V	PC Robert Mansfield found Thomas Bennett begging from house to house in High Street. He tried to persuade Bennett to go to the relieving officer (usually Robert Thorley) but Bennett refused. Mansfield therefore arrested him on a charge of vagrancy.	1852/013
Porter	John	Adams	William	22	03	1852	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Adams with being drunk in High Street on a Saturday evening. Adams was arrested as being too drunk to take care of himself and released the next morning on his own recognisance to appear at the hearing. Adams was convicted of the offence and fined 5/- including costs of 2/6d.	1852/014

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Young	John	27	03	1852	Vagrancy	V	Police serjeant John Porter charged John Young the elder, who was begging in High Street with a young lad also named John Young, with vagrancy. Porter advised him to apply for relief but Young stated that, having been in the Union a little time ago, he would actually prefer to go to gaol. The documentation appears confused with respect to the outcome. The cover shows the word 'Discharged' and also '14 days' while the body of the text states that the defendant was convicted and committed to the House of Correction for 14 days.	1852/015
Parsons	Joseph	Coleman	William	30	03	1852	Leaving work unfinished	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, contracted William Coleman, one of his employees, to make 6 dozen brushes. However, Coleman had left Parsons' employ, and possibly the town, with a quarter of the contracted quota unfulfilled. Parsons requested that a warrant for Coleman's arrest be issued and a warrant was duly raised.	1852/016
Willis	Thomas	Hawkins	John	31	03	1852	Vagrancy	V	PC Thomas Willis arrested John Hawkins when Hawkins was brought to the police station by Robert Thorley, the relieving officer, after Hawkins had applied for relief, having absconded from the Taunton workhouse entirely dressed in clothing marked as belonging to the workhouse. Hawkins admitted that he had left the workhouse without leave some two weeks ago together with three other boys: George Darby, Joseph Hurley and Robert Marks. There is no indication of the outcome of the case, although it is presumed that Hawkins would be returned to Taunton. Note: the charge of 'Vagrancy' seems surprising as the main focus appeared to be on having absconded with clothing belonging to the Taunton workhouse.	1852/017
Willis	Thomas	Grist	John	07	04	1852	Absconding from Bradford Union	Ab	PC Thomas Willis picked up John Grist who was wandering aimlessly about the Market Place. Grist had apparently absconded from the workhouse at Bradford. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1852/018

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Brewer	Charles	Bendall	Charles	08	04	1852	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, representative of the RSPCA, complained that Charles Bendall of Chewton Mendip, labourer, had cruelly ill-treated a calf in Sadler Street where it was seen tied up in a cart by the neck. Thomas Serel, bookseller, had seen that the calf was struggling because of tightness of the noose and approached Bendall to have the tie loosened but received abuse in response. Bendall was convicted of cruelty and fined 2/6d with costs of 8/- or to serve 14 days in prison in Shepton Mallet.	1852/019
Parsons	Edward	Vowles	Joseph	13	04	1852	Assault	A	Edward Parsons of Wells, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted and beaten by Joseph Vowles, farmer, who had struck him in the face with his fist and knocked him down. The case was settled without a hearing.	1852/020
Woodburn	Joseph	Loxton	Joseph	23	06	1852	Search warrant	Sw	Joseph Woodburn claimed that a quantity of lead had been stolen from a dwelling house and premises belonging to John Davis Sherston esq and asserted that Joseph Loxton was the likely culprit. Woodburn suggested that the lead had actually been stolen by Stephen Loxton, Joseph Loxton's son, and Richmond Loxton. Woodburn requested that a search warrant be issued to search Joseph Loxton's premises where the lead was potentially stored. Note: Richmond Loxton was described 'his brother' but it is not clear whether he was Stephen Loxton's brother or Joseph Loxton's brother.	1852/021
Mansfield	Robert	Mills	Peter	20	04	1852	Desertion of family	Ds	PC Robert Mansfield arrested Peter Mills from Witham in Essex on the basis that Mills had deserted his wife and 4 children and had run away leaving them chargeable to the local community. Peter Mills admitted that he had deserted his wife and family around two months ago. Robert Thee, the relieving officer in Witham, arranged for a police constable to be sent to Wells to bring Mills back to Essex and also agreed to pay the sum of £2 as a reward for the apprehension as well as any costs involved.	1852/022

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Brewer	Charles	Pearce	Robert	07	05	1852	Cruelty to animals	C	Charles Brewer, a representative of the RSPCA, complained that Robert Pearce, a farmer from Greendown near Chewton, had cruelly treated his animals by leaving his waggon and horses standing in the rain in Sadler Street for more than three hours while he was getting drunk in a beer house. Police serjeant John Porter examined the horses while they were standing in the street and found that both horses had a number of sores and appeared to have been neglected for some time. Pearce was found guilty of cruelty to his animals and was ordered to pay a total of £1.10s.0d, including a fine of 6/6d or, in the event of default, to serve 14 days in prison.	1852/023
Martin	Thomas Crisp	Miles	George	07	05	1852	Non-payment of gas	N	Thomas Crisp Martin, clerk of the Wells Gas Company, complained that George Miles, fishmonger, had failed to pay his outstanding gas account for his shop in the Market Place. The amount owing was £3.5s.4d. A distress warrant was ordered to try and realise the amount owing by selling goods belonging to Miles.	1852/024
Moore	Ann	Isgrove	Joseph	14	05	1852	Assault	A	Ann Moore, wife of Thomas Moore, complained that she had been assaulted and beaten by Joseph Isgrove. Ann Moore stated that Joseph Isgrove had come into her house while she was lighting the fire, but had then gone away only to return within 30 minutes when he abused her roundly and then grabbed her violently by the arm which sent them both tumbling to the floor. She assumed that Isgrove had come to her house because his children had taken refuge there because he had turned them out of his own house. Matthew Oxley testified that he had seen Isgrove at that time when Isgrove appeared to be drunk and his wife and children were fleeing from him. Isgrove was found guilty and fined 10/- with costs of 6/6d to be paid immediately or to be imprisoned in Shepton Mallet for 14 days.	1852/025

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barber	James	Lawrence	William	14	05	1852	Petty trespass	Pt	James Barber, pub landlord, claimed that William Lawrence broke 2 window panes in The Full Moon Inn. According to Barber, Lawrence had become drunk and abusive while in his establishment so he had evicted him into the passageway outside. At that point Lawrence had broken the two panes of glass with the damage being valued at 1/6d. Lawrence was fined 1/6d with costs of 6/- to be paid immediately or to spend 14 days in prison with hard labour. An order was issued committing Lawrence to prison because the money had not been paid, but it was then recorded that the necessary payment had taken place.	1852/026
Purnell	Charlotte	Purnell	Richard William	24	05	1852	Petty trespass	Pt	Charlotte Purnell complained that her estranged husband, Richard Purnell, surgeon resident in the parish of Westbury, had come round to her house and had wilfully damaged a number of windows and doors in the property. Charlotte Purnell had left her husband because of his repeated violence towards her and had gone to live in a house which she had been given by her father. Charlotte Purnell now claimed that she was in fear of being physically assaulted by her husband and asked that he be required to put forward sureties to guarantee his future conduct towards her. Richard Purnell was bound over in the sum of £200 to keep the peace, especially towards his wife, for a period of two years.	1852/027
Mansfield	Robert	Philpotts	Robert	26	05	1852	Absconding from workhouse	Ab	PC Robert Mansfield arrested Robert Philpotts as a vagrant who had absconded from the Bridgwater workhouse wearing the clothes issued to him by the Bridgwater Union. Mansfield requested that Philpotts be remanded in custody pending transfer back to Bridgwater.	1852/028
Pearce	George	White	Walter	28	05	1852	Threatening behaviour	A	George Pearce, labourer, claimed that he had been threatened with violence by Walter White, coal hauler, on at least two occasions in recent days when they had encountered each other. Pearce requested that White be required to put forward sureties with respect to his future conduct. The case was dismissed as neither man appeared at the hearing.	1852/029

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	
				DD	MM	YYYY			Ref. No.	
Allen	George	Brown	Isaac	03	06	1852	Ill-treatment of apprentice	It	George Allen had been apprenticed to Isaac Brown, mason, for a term of six years and three months. Allen had now served three and a half years of that apprenticeship. He complained that Brown had recently given him sixpence and told him to find work and sustenance elsewhere. Brown was now refusing either to feed him or give him work. The case was initially noted as being adjourned until 12 July, but was then noted as being settled. (See also case 1853/011)	1852/030
Bartlett	Jacob	Miles	George	03	06	1852	Assault	A	Jacob Bartlett, gardener, complained that he had been assaulted by George Miles, fishmonger, who had allegedly pulled his hair and struck him in the face with his fist. The defendant was discharged.	1852/031
Clements	Eliza	Clements	Charles	04	06	1852	Assault	A	Eliza Clements, wife of Charles Clements, labourer, complained that her husband had knocked her to the ground and then kicked her violently when she was down. Charles Clements was discharged.	1852/032
Mansfield	Robert	Stubbins	William	05	06	1852	Suspicion of felony	S	PC Robert Mansfield came across William Stubbins in a drunken state in the Market Place. When Stubbins refused to go home he was arrested. On searching the prisoner he was discovered to have in his possession a silk waistcoat and a piece of calico together with 4/5d in cash. Mansfield concluded that the waistcoat and calico were items that had been stolen. He requested that Stubbins be remanded in custody while he sought more evidence. Stubbins maintained that he had picked up the waistcoat and calico in the street and a response from police in Bridgwater indicated no record of these items being stolen and no criminal record for Stubbins. The defendant was discharged.	1852/033

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Taylor	George	14	06	1852	Assault	A	Police serjeant John Porter arrested George Taylor in St Cuthbert Street for drunkenness and took him into custody. In the course of this procedure Porter claimed that Taylor had assaulted him and he required assistance in order to lock up the prisoner. Taylor was found guilty of assault and fined 5/- with costs of 6/6d all to be paid immediately or to serve 14 days in prison at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet.	1852/034
Fry	Charlotte	Bird	Joseph	19	06	1852	Assault	A	Charlotte Fry, wife of David Fry, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by Joseph Bird, labourer, who had struck her in the face and knocked her down. Testimony was sought from John Hawkins, Betsey James and George Williams but there is only a brief note of the testimony of Betsey James, described as a single woman, suggesting that Joseph Bird had crossed the road towards Mrs Fry and that she had spit in his face. Joseph Bird appears to have admitted that he had assaulted Charlotte Fry but the case against him was dismissed. Note: the summons issued to Betsey James implies that the assault was committed by Charlotte Fry on Joseph Bird.	1852/035
Western	Elizabeth	Western	Aaron	21	06	1852	Assault	A	Elizabeth Western, wife of John Western, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by Aaron Western, coal hauler, who had pushed his fists into her face. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1852/036
Western	Eliza	Western	John	21	06	1852	Assault	A	Eliza Western, wife of Aaron Western, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by John Western, coal hauler, who had struck her a blow on the arm. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1852/037

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Seal	Eliza	Fry	Charlotte	22	06	1852	Assault	A	Eliza Seal, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Charlotte Fry, wife of David Fry, labourer. Seal alleged that she had been walking past The Coach & Horses in East Wells where Charlotte Fry was standing talking to several other people and, without provocation, Fry had called her really bad names. Seal had responded to the effect that similar names applied to Fry at which Fry had struck Seal in the face with her fists. Seal alleged that Fry was drunk. Witness testimony was obtained from John Pitman, Ann Parker and Sarah Judd, all of whom were supposedly present, but each offered a different view of events. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1852/038
Western	Aaron	Western	John	23	06	1852	Petty trespass	Pt	Aaron Western of Tucker Street, coal hauler, complained that his brother, John Western, also a coal hauler, had got into an argument with him and thrown a basin at one of his windows breaking three panes of glass with a value of 2/-. There is no indication as to the outcome of the case.	1852/039
Palmer	William	Bright	William	03	07	1852	Theft	T	James Dudderidge testified that William Bright had asked to meet him near the Bishop's Palace. When he got there, Bright had two bundles of straw with a weight of around 50lbs and wanted some help to get them onto a truck. Dudderidge refused to help believing that the straw belonged to William Palmer. There are no documents from the hearing but Bright was committed to prison, but no indication is given as to the length of his imprisonment or indeed whether he had actually been convicted or was being held on remand.	1852/040
Winter	James	Cox	Thomas	07	07	1852	Assault	A	James Winter, cordwainer, complained that he had been assaulted by Thomas Cox, labourer, who had struck him a violent blow in the mouth. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1852/041
Creedy	Emma	Winter	James	07	07	1852	Assault	A	Emma Creedy, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by James Winter, shoemaker, who had struck her two blows on the head with a poker. Winter admitted the assault but the magistrates dismissed the case saying that the defendant was justified!	1852/042

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Harris	James	Cox	John	10	07	1852	Petty trespass	Pt	James Harris, publican, refused to serve Cox when he came in to his establishment. Harris had Cox put outside, but Cox had then returned before being evicted for a second time. After the second eviction Cox then deliberately broke six panes of glass in a window. Cox was found guilty and fined 6/- plus costs to be paid immediately or to be imprisoned for one calendar month with hard labour.	1852/043
Jerrard	John	Woodard jnr Seal	John Francis	23	07	1852	Assault	A	John Jerrard, described as a gentleman, claimed that he had been grabbed and shaken by John Woodard the younger, shoemaker, and Francis Seal, publican, and had bread pushed into his mouth and the pockets of his jacket. Dinah Fry and John Lukins were summoned as witnesses but there is no record of their testimony. There is no information regarding the outcome of this case.	1852/044
Jerrard	John	Seal	Francis	23	07	1852	Assault	A	John Jerrard, gentleman, complained that he had snuff deliberately blown into his face by Francis Seal, publican. There were witness summons for Sarah Haynes, Sarah Lukins, Mary Sparrow, Marianne Oldfield and ??? Hayward but no evidence of their testimony. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/045
Boyce	George	Tucker	James	23	07	1852	Assault	A	George Boyce and James Tucker, both described as labourers, had been haymaking with others in Hawkers Lane. On the way back to East Wells Boyce claimed that Tucker attacked his brother and was about to do so again when he (Boyce) intervened. Tucker then attacked him, striking him twice and knocking him to the ground. Tucker then knelt upon Boyce and had him by the throat and it required Job Lacey and George Willis to get Tucker to release him. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/046

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Willcox	Honor	Vincent	Emily	29	07	1852	Theft of money	T	Honor Willcox ran a shop and claimed to have put a purse containing about £4.10s.0d by the till. Emily Vincent, who acted as a servant for Willcox's daughter, Mrs Knight, served behind the counter for a short time and Willcox then claimed the money was missing. Willcox's son, Robert, a blacksmith, confirmed that Vincent had been serving behind the counter. Emily Vincent was discharged as no further evidence was forthcoming.	1852/047
Justices		Various		31	07	1852	Memoranda	*	Rough memoranda regarding two cases: a) Job Dinham was charged with being drunk in the In Parish of St Cuthbert. Dinham appears to have been discharged. A note indicates that a letter was to be written. b) Albert Sheppard was arrested as a wandering lunatic and an order was signed for his admission to the lunatic asylum.	1852/048
Duckett	Mary Ann	White	Walter	02	08	1852	Assault	A	Mary Ann Duckett, wife of John Duckett, labourer, accused Walter White, also a labourer, of striking her several times and throwing stones at her. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/049
Badman	William	White	Joseph	07	08	1852	Assault	A	William Badman, plasterer, complained that he had been assaulted by Joseph White, butcher. Badman had been working at Joseph White's house applying a rough cast plaster to the exterior of the property and then painting it. He claimed that at various times White had pushed a door in his face, kicked him into the street and knocked him down before kneeling on him. Testimony was also obtained from Mary Waldie, one of White's neighbours, Henry James, Jane Hudson, James Baron, tailor and Benjamin Brookman, painter. All testified that they had seen violence involving Badman and White, but Brookman also stated that during the day Badman had been abusing Mrs White and calling her names. Joseph White was found guilty of assault and fined 1/- with costs of 16/- or to spend one month in prison at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet.	1852/050

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Chippett	Sarah	Willcox	Ann	11	08	1852	Assault	A	Sarah Chippett, wife of John Chippett, gilder, complained that Ann Willcox, wife of Charles Willcox, sadler, had deliberately struck her on the hand with the handle of a mop. It appears that a dispute had erupted between John Chippett and Ann Willcox which led to attempts to take a mop from Willcox. In addition to the Chippetts George Pearce also appears to have been involved in the struggle while Bartholomew Murrow and his wife, Eliza Murrow, witnessed at least part of the incident (see also case 1852/052). The case was dismissed with both parties being jointly responsible for the costs of 12/6d.	1852/051
Murrow	Eliza	Chippett	John	11	08	1852	Assault	A	Eliza Murrow, wife of Bartholomew Murrow, tailor, had been present when a row took place between the Chippetts (John and Sarah) and Ann Wilcox with the Chippetts trying to take a mop out of the hands of Ann Wilcox (see case 1852/051). Eliza Murrow, sister-in-law of Ann Wilcox, began to intervene but claimed that she was struck in the face by John Chippett who also tried to kick her. Testimony was also sought from George Pearce of Keward, labourer. The case was dismissed with the parties involved being jointly responsible for the costs of 9/-.	1852/052
Nutty	William	Oxley Oxley	Thomas James	17	08	1852	Assault	A	William Nutty had been proceeding down the street with his donkey and cart when Thomas Oxley had deliberately broken a basin that was in the cart. Nutty was annoyed and hit Oxley with the flat of his shovel. At this point James Oxley had grabbed Nutty by his hair and held him while Thomas Oxley had beaten him about the head and body. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/053

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Fry	Henry	Vowles	Joseph	21	08	1852	Assault	A	Henry Fry, shoemaker, alleged that he had been assaulted by Joseph Vowles, horse dealer, who had struck him several times about the face and body. Witness summons were issued to John Budge, cabinet maker, Robert Hatcher, labourer, and James Haines, hairdresser. The incident took place at The Sherston Arms where words were exchanged between Vowles and Haines, but then Fry became involved and a scuffle developed which led to Fry being knocked to the floor. Vowles was found guilty of assault and fined £1 with costs of 14/6d, all to be paid forthwith or to serve one calendar month in prison in Shepton Mallet.	1852/054
Wharton	Thomas	Boyce Dyke	Isaiah Robert	22	08	1852	Theft	T	Isaiah Boyce and Robert Dyke were accused of stealing a handkerchief from Thomas Wharton. Late at night in Southover Wharton had encountered a man called Brookman and they had a short sparring match in which a blow from Brookman caused Wharton's nose to bleed. When he went to his pocket for his handkerchief it was no longer there. Wharton claimed that Dyke must have stolen it and when PC Mansfield produced some pieces of a handkerchief taken from Dyke, Wharton claimed to identify it as his because part of the cloth had the initial 'W'. Dyke was discharged as was Boyce whose name is not mentioned at all in the documentation, except on the cover sheet.	1852/055
Willis	Thomas	Lane	Charles	26	08	1852	Drunk and disorderly Indecent exposure	D le	PC Thomas Willis arrested Charles Lane in High Street for being drunk and disorderly and exposing himself in a public place. Although these were the reasons for his arrest, Lane was convicted as a rogue and vagabond suggesting a charge of vagrancy (as shown on the cover sheet). He was sentenced to 21 days in prison with hard labour.	1852/056

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Mansfield	Robert	Smith	James	26	08	1852	Vagrancy	V	PC Robert Mansfield encountered a drunken James Smith at The George Inn where he had ordered beer and tobacco but then admitted he had no money to pay for them. He was put in the stables to sober up but Mansfield saw him later going into The King's Head where he ordered more beer. Mansfield prevented him from being given the drink and established that Smith had no apparent means of sustenance. He admitted being recently in gaol and was one of the Clutton Rioters. Smith was convicted as a rogue and vagabond and sentenced to 21 days in prison with hard labour.	1852/057
Mansfield Somers	Robert Samuel	Gardener Gardener	William Charles	31	08	1852	Disturbing the peace	Dp	PC Robert Mansfield encountered William Gardener and Charles Gardener late at night outside The Star Inn where they were kicking at the door and making a lot of noise. They both threatened violence to the police and both appeared to be armed, William with a dagger stick while Charles claimed to have a double-barrelled revolver in his pocket. Mansfield persuaded them to go home but they refused to go into the house and continued to make a great deal of noise. Mansfield had obtained support from PC Samuel Somers but they chose not to attempt an arrest since both men were armed. A warrant was then issued for the arrest of both Gardeners.	1852/058
Justices		Brooks	Benjamin	03	09	1852	Administration	*	Letter from the magistrates seeking to provide help to the widow of the recently deceased Benjamin Brooks. See Council minutes for more detailed explanation.	1852/059
Palmer	William Hippisley	Martin	Samuel	04	09	1852	Assault	A	William Hippisley Palmer, yeoman, accused Samuel Martin, farmer, of assaulting him by repeatedly grabbing the collar of his coat. Witness testimony was sought from Robert Crandon, butcher, Thomas White, also a butcher, and Matthew Gould, farmer. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1852/060

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Hale	Thomas	10	09	1852	Leaving horse and cart unattended on turnpike road	Rd	Police serjeant John Porter charged Thomas Hale of Ubley, farmer, with leaving a horse and cart unattended in Tor Lane for an unacceptably long time, i.e. from around midday until around 8.00pm in the evening. Witness testimony that the horse and cart were there throughout that period was obtained from John Bown, labourer. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: the name of the defendant is initially shown as Matthew Hale, but in the summons that name is crossed out and replaced by Thomas Hale.	1852/061
Bartlett	Sarah	Moore	John	15	09	1852	Petty trespass	Pt	Sarah Bartlett, wife of Charles Bartlett, complained that John Moore had come to her house asking for her husband. Moore was 'a little in liquor' and when he was told that Charles Bartlett was not at home, he tried to get into the house, only to be pushed out by Sarah Bartlett. Moore then used his fist to break a window pane. He was convicted of petty trespass and fined 10/- including costs or, if in default of immediate payment, to serve one calendar month with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1852/062
Baker	Mary Ann	Crandon	William	27	09	1852	Assault	A	Mary Ann Baker, widow, complained that she had been assaulted by William Crandon, butcher, who had struck her in the face with his hand. The case was settled without a hearing.	1852/063
Nutty	Elizabeth	Crandon	William	27	09	1852	Assault	A	Elizabeth Nutty, wife of George Nutty, beerhouse keeper, complained that William Crandon, butcher, had assaulted her by holding his fists in her face and attempting to strike her. The case was settled without a hearing.	1852/064
Barnard	James	Moore	Charles	29	09	1852	Stealing apples	T	Charles Moore was accused of stealing apples from James Barnard's orchard. John Slater, a labourer, had seen Moore picking the apples and had chased and caught him with 26 apples. The costs of the case appeared to be 6/6d, but there is no further information regarding the outcome.	1852/065

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Stacey	Sarah	Janes	Richard	05	10	1852	Bastardy	B	Sarah Stacey, single woman, accused Richard Janes, who was described as an ostler, of fathering her daughter born out of wedlock and sought a maintenance order against him. She appears to have been an inmate of the workhouse and testimony was sought from other women in the workhouse, namely Joanna Linaham, Mary Ann Wells and Elizabeth Hamson, that Janes may have been the father of Stacey's child. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/066
Oxley	James	Richards Richards	Samuel Mary Ann	06	10	1852	Assault	A	James Oxley, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Samuel Richards and Mary Ann Richards, who were man and wife. He claimed that they had struck him several times and knocked him down. There is no information as to the outcome of the case but see also case 1852/070 which includes witness statements and the indenture of apprenticeship for James Oxley.	1852/067
Green	Thomas	Fallon	John Ennis Paul	15	10	1852	Absent from his master's service	Ab	Thomas Green, bookseller, bookbinder and stationer, had taken on John Ennis Paul Fallon as an apprentice on a 5-year term in September 1851. In October 1852 Fallon had left his employ without consent and had not returned. Green requested that a warrant for Fallon's arrest should be issued and this was duly executed.	1852/068
Candy	Benjamin	Sweet	Eliza	18	10	1852	Assault	A	Benjamin Candy of Southover, butcher, complained that when he encountered Eliza Sweet in the street she roundly abused him and then struck him in the face. Eliza Sweet was found guilty of assault and fined 1/6d plus costs of 10/6d to be paid forthwith or to serve 21 days in prison in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet. It appears that Eliza Sweet did not pay the sums required since an order was issued committing her to prison for 21 days.	1852/069

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Oxley	James	Richards	Samuel	18	10	1852	Assault	A	The documents give detailed witness statements relating to case 1852/067. James Oxley, apprenticed to Samuel Richards, plaisterer and tiler, stated that he had been summoned across the yard to see Samuel Richards but first met Richards' wife, Mary Ann Richards. He claimed that she had asked him where he had been and then struck him in the face twice. He told her to stop or he would hit her. At this point Samuel Richards appeared and began beating Oxley for threatening his wife. Oxley had picked up an implement to defend himself and stated that Richards had knocked it out of his hand, although Frances Richards, daughter of the household, claimed that Oxley had thrown it at her father. The dispute ended with Oxley being knocked senseless. Witness statements were also obtained from William Oldfield, currier, and John Townsend, turner, who both worked in buildings adjacent to Richards' yard in St Cuthbert Street. The justices determined that Samuel and Mary Ann Richards were guilty of assaulting James Oxley and, as a result, Oxley's apprenticeship should be terminated. Samuel Richards was to pay back a moiety (half) of the sum of £5 paid to him at the start of Oxley's 7-year apprenticeship in 1846 and in addition was also made liable for the costs of the case.	1852/070
Edwards	William	Johnson Parker	Benjamin John	08	11	1852	Wilful damage	Wd	William Edwards complained that Benjamin Johnson and John Parker had wilfully damaged a lock and key on his dwelling house. The case was settled without a hearing.	1852/071

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Parsons	Joseph	Crease	Robert	13	11	1852	Theft of twine	T	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that one of his employees, Robert Crease, aged about 14, had stolen a ball of twine from the premises. Crease was charged with the offence and, having been seen to take the twine by John Wright, a foreman at the brushmaking factory, was found guilty, being sentenced to a private whipping rather than being sent to prison. The whipping was to be carried out by John Woodard, hall keeper. Parsons also indicated that other goods had gone missing from his premises and he suggested that, on the basis of information that he had received, they might be found on the premises of Henry Crease (father of Robert Crease), Joseph Johnson, John Francis and William Francis. A search warrant to examine the premises of these individuals was duly issued.	1852/071a
Porter	John	Flower	Nathaniel	15	11	1852	Vagrancy	V	George Savage, a china dealer with a shop in the Market Place, stated that Nathaniel Flower had come into his shop and asked him to contribute to a petition. Savage refused but was persuaded to give Flower a jug which Flower claimed that he would use to replace one which he had broken in a public house in High Street. Savage then contacted police serjeant John Porter who arrested Flower and charged him with vagrancy, having also seen him trying to sell the jug to a passer-by in the street. Flower was convicted and committed to prison in Shepton Mallet for 14 days with hard labour. Note: the documentation also includes the petition which Flower was trying to persuade people to sign and contribute money to him.	1852/072
Russell	Edward	Clarke	John	10	12	1852	Suspicion of felony	S	Edward Russell, shoemaker, complained that virtually all of his tools had been stolen from his workshop which lay next to his house in Keward. He found footprints near the workshop which he suspected belonged to John Clarke who lived at Polsham. Russell requested that a search warrant be issued to search Clarke's premises. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/073

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
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Porter	John	Read Read	James John	23	12	1852	Vagrancy	V	Police serjeant John Porter discovered James Read and John Read sleeping in an outhouse in a field belonging to Mrs Kitching. The men had no apparent means of subsistence and were unable to give a good account of themselves. They were convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1852/074
Francis	Ann	Francis	John	27	12	1852	Assault	A	Ann Francis, wife of John Francis, coal hauler, complained that her husband had assaulted her by striking her several times about the head and kicking her in the leg. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1852/075
Porter	John	Evans Beasley	William John	31	12	1852	Vagrancy	V	Police constable John Porter saw William Evans and John Beasley begging from door to door in the Market Place and arrested them on a charge of vagrancy, having previously told them to leave town. Evans and Beasley were convicted and committed to prison in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet for 14 days with hard labour. Note: in most cases John Porter is given the title of police serjeant, but in this instance the designation is police constable.	1852/076

1853

Collard	Edward	Rood	Elizabeth	03	01	1853	Vagrancy	V	PC Edward Collard arrested Elizabeth Rood in High Street at night when she was drunk and creating a considerable noise. Police serjeant John Porter, also a policeman, testified that he had known the defendant for four years and that she was a common prostitute who could often be found on the streets late at night. Rood was convicted of vagrancy and sent to prison in Shepton Mallet for 14 days with hard labour.	1853/001
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Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Green	Ann	Green	William Henry	08	01	1853	Assault	A	Ann Green claimed that William Henry Green, her husband, a watchmaker, had locked her out of the house and she had been forced to seek shelter elsewhere. He had also beaten her severely on two recent occasions. She requested that Green should be required to put forward sureties to guarantee his future conduct towards her. As Ann Green did not appear at the hearing, her husband was discharged.	1853/002
Hodges	Anna	Fry	Samuel	20	01	1853	Bastardy	B	<p>Samuel Fry from Evercreech had been the subject of an earlier bastardy order won by Anna Hodges, a single woman resident in Wells. Under the terms of the order Fry was to pay 2/- per week for the maintenance of the child until the age of 13. Anna Hodges claimed that she had not received payments for some time. There are two copies of an official statement setting out the position and showing that Samuel Fry owed the sum of £1.6s.0d for arrears of 13 weeks. A warrant for the arrest of Samuel Fry was issued.</p> <p>Note: there is also a scrap of paper which suggests that there were 32 weeks of payments due at 26 May 1851 and a further 40 weeks due at 4 October 1852. The total shown on this note is 75 weeks - which does not equate to the sum of these two numbers.</p> <p>Note: it may be that the arrears to 4 October 1852 were cleared and that the arrears outstanding on 20 January 1853 represented 13 weeks since 4 October 1852.</p> <p>Note: there is also a document, erroneously filed under 25 October 1853 (see case 1853/074), which actually appears to date from 25 October 1852. In 1852 this document was marked as 'Not used' but appears to form the basis of the case brought forward in January 1853, but perhaps without the appropriate modifications.</p>	1853/003

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Hannay	George	Edwards Bryant	Thomas John	24	01	1853	Non-payment of friendly society benefit	N	George Hannay was a member of the Wells Outparish Brotherly Society and complained that the Society's officers, Thomas Edwards and John Bryant, both described as labourers, had refused to pay out the sum of 3/- per week to which he had been entitled (in part by virtue of his blindness) since 4 January 1853. The amount owing was 6/-. The magistrates found in favour of George Hannay and issued Thomas Edwards with an order to pay the requisite benefit.	1853/004
Bacon	George	Rice	Joseph	04	02	1853	Cruelty to animals	C	George Bacon, a representative of the SPCA, complained that Joseph Rice of Glastonbury, labourer, had inflicted cruelty on a horse by making it work in drawing a laden cart when it was clearly in an unfit condition for work because of its weakness and the sores on its knees and shoulders. Testimony was also obtained from Joseph Woodburn, labourer, who testified that he had seen the exhausted horse fall down in New Street when drawing a laden cart and be unable to get up without assistance. The case against Joseph Rice was dismissed. Note: the documentation clearly states SPCA rather than RSPCA, although Queen Victoria had granted the Society 'Royal' status in 1839/40.	1853/005
Porter	John	Haines	William	08	02	1853	Felony	T	Police serjeant John Porter arrested William Haines on a charge of stealing a brass candlestick which was the property of Miss Palmer. At the time of the arrest Porter admitted that he did not have sufficient evidence to prove the case against Haines and requested that Haines be remanded in custody until the following day when he anticipated being able to produce the necessary evidence. On the following day William Haines was discharged as no further evidence had been produced.	1853/006
Townsend	Jane	White	Joseph	09	02	1853	Assault	A	Jane Townsend, a single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Joseph White, butcher, who had thrown mud in her face. The case against White was dismissed.	1853/007

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Jacobs	Lucy	Crandon	William	09	02	1853	Petty trespass	Pt	Lucy Jacobs, wife of William Jacobs, beerhouse keeper, complained that William Crandon, labourer, had wilfully broken two panes of glass in a window of the property which her husband ran as a beerhouse. Crandon had allegedly broken the panes by throwing a tree branch against them causing damage to the value of 1/4d. The case was settled without a hearing.	1853/008
Willis	Thomas	Gatehouse	James	11	02	1853	Vagrancy	V	PC Thomas Willis saw James Gatehouse going from house to house in Sadler Street begging for money and/or bread. He cautioned Gatehouse not to do this, but Gatehouse continued and was arrested on a charge of vagrancy. Gatehouse was found guilty and sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1853/009
Bacon	George	Churchouse	Edmund	19	02	1853	Cruelty to animals	C	Witness testimony from Mary Ann Rood, single woman, and John Stephens, labourer, reported that Edmund Churchouse, coal hauler, had been severely beating a horse in Southover when it was being required to draw a cart laden with coal. The horse was having great difficulty in pulling the heavy load, especially as one of the cart wheels was in the gutter. Churchouse had beaten the horse severely with a long, thick stick. When George Bacon, representative of the RSPCA inspected the horse he found multiple swellings on the head, body and legs where the horse had been beaten. Churchouse was fined 10/- with costs of 13/6d, all to be paid immediately, or to go to prison for one calendar month with hard labour. Note: the case documents appear to refer consistently to Edmund Churchouse. However, all other cases involving an E Churchouse - and there are quite a number of them in the 1850s and 1860s - refer to Edward Churchouse.	1853/010
Allen	George	Brown	Isaac	20	02	1853	Ill-treatment	It	George Allen, apprentice mason to Isaac Brown, complained that for the last few weeks Isaac Brown had failed to provide him with lodging and sustenance as required by the terms of his apprenticeship. The case was not heard as neither party appeared. See also case 1852/030 for an earlier incident.	1853/011

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barber	James Frederick	Foster	Joseph	05	03	1853	Ill-treatment	It	James Frederick Barber was apprenticed to Joseph Foster, a plumber & glazier, in 1846. The sum agreed for the apprenticeship was £18, of which £14 had been paid. When Foster sold up his business in late 1852 and moved to London, he took Barber with him, but did not provide him with work or with lodgings / food. James Barber found work for a short period but when Foster moved back to Wells, Barber followed soon afterwards. Foster still failed to provide him with food and lodging or work, so Barber asked him to transfer the apprenticeship to Mr Collins in Wells. Foster seemed amenable to this approach but left Wells for Weston without effecting the transfer, leaving Barber without support. The case was adjourned until 14 March unless Foster made the transfer of the apprenticeship in the interim.	1853/012
Lockyer	Sarah	Lockyer	Charles	05	03	1853	Sureties of the peace following assault	A	Sarah Lockyer claimed that Charles Lockyer, her husband, had threatened to murder her on a number of occasions and had thrown various objects at her including hot coals, boiling water and an iron fender. She feared that he would do her serious bodily harm and requested that he be required to put forward sureties as to his future conduct towards her. Charles Lockyer did not attend the hearing so a warrant for his arrest was issued so that he could be brought before the magistrates to answer the case against him. Charles Lockyer was ordered to put forward the sum of £50 of his money as a guarantee of his conduct towards his wife for a period of 6 months.	1853/013

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Jones Jones	William John	05	03	1853	Accusation of criminal felony	T	William Jones and John Jones were suspected of stealing a purse from the pocket of Ellen Churchouse (or Churches), a single woman. Edward Maher had seen William Jones, described as a boy, drawing his hand out of the pocket of Ellen Churchouse in the Market Place and when she was asked if she was missing anything, she discovered that her purse was missing. Maher approached both Jones, who appeared to be together and John Jones gave Ellen Churches two half crowns which she kept, but she did not recover her purse. PC John Porter arrested William Jones and John Jones on suspicion of committing a felony and they were remanded in custody. However, they appear to have been discharged for a lack of concrete evidence (see the minutes of the petty sessions meeting, case 1853/015). Note: the case header also shows the names Lazarus and Harkes (the latter name is not clear) but neither name appears again in the detailed documentation of the case.	1853/014
[Justices]		[Various]		07	03	1853	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 7 March. All the cases heard are documented above in earlier entries with the exception of the last line of the document which appears to contain a reference to Frances (?) Edghill, Charles Moody and a male bastard child but no further detail.	1853/015
Moon	John	Filer	James	07	03	1853	Assault	A	John Moon, labourer, complained that James Filer, also a labourer, had struck him a violent blow with his fist that had knocked him down. The case was settled without a hearing. Note: it is likely that both men lived in Queen Street with Moon being a maltster's labourer in his mid-forties and Filer an agricultural labourer in his early twenties. This information is derived from the 1851 census.	1853/016

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Channell	Henry	Lawrence	William	15	03	1853	Assault	A	Henry Channell was a servant to Edmund Fry the elder, the holder of The Three Kings Inn. He had been working in the cellar when he was summoned by Fry's wife because William Lawrence, butcher, would not pay for 3 pints of beer and was trying to leave the premises. Channell stood in the doorway to prevent Lawrence from leaving and asked for payment. Lawrence then struck him in the face with his fist and Channell hit him in return. Witness testimony from Edmund Fry the younger, son of the innholder, confirmed Channell's version of the incident. Lawrence did not attend the hearing but in his absence was fined 3/- plus costs of 10/-, all to be paid immediately or to serve 21 days in prison in Shepton Mallet.	1853/017
Willis	Thomas	Mooney	John	31	03	1853	Vagrancy	V	PC Thomas Willis encountered John Mooney, an ex-serviceman and former shoemaker, going from door to door begging for alms. He cautioned Mooney at the time but then found him later in the day begging again and arrested him. Although Mooney had two testimonials pointing out that his near-blindness made it impossible for him to work, the defendant was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1853/018
Duckett	Eliza	Small	James	02	04	1853	Vagrancy	V	Eliza Duckett, wife of Edmund Duckett, pork butcher, kept the butcher's shop in High Street. She was in the kitchen adjoining the shop when she heard the noise of the till and found James Small at the counter but walking away from the till which was open. She claimed that she had locked it before going into the kitchen but could not say for certain whether any money had been taken out by Small. PC Thomas Willis testified that he knew Small as a regular thief who had frequently been involved in shop theft. Small was found guilty and sentenced to 2 calendar months in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1853/019

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Duckett	Edmund	Baker	George	12	04	1853	Vagrancy	V	Edmund Duckett, pork butcher, stated that George Baker had come into his shop and asked for some half pence. Duckett had given him a halfpenny and then notified the police that Baker was begging. Baker was convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1853/020
Porter	John	Robinson	William	11	04	1853	Vagrancy	V	PC John Porter encountered William Robinson begging in High Street and followed him to The George Inn where Robinson was asking for money. Porter arrested him at that point in the knowledge that Robinson had obtained an order to go to the Wells Union workhouse but had refused to remain there. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1853/021
Watts	Benjamin	Boyce De Grass	Thomas John	25	04	1853	Assault	A	Benjamin Watts, publican of The Mermaid Inn, claimed to have been struck several times about the face and head by Thomas Boyce and John De Grass, both of whom were described as labourers. There is no information regarding the outcome of this case, but see case 1853/023 for details of the incident, where the involvement of De Grass is detailed, but there is no mention of Thomas Boyce.	1853/022

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Watts	Benjamin	Boyce	Isaiah	26	04	1853	Assault	A	Benjamin Watts, publican of The Mermaid Inn, testified that Isaiah Boyce and two others had come into his house and demanded beer. Watts refused to serve them and said that he was going to close and they would need to leave. They insisted that they would not go without having a drink and when Watts went into the passage towards the door he claimed that John De Grass struck him a violent blow on the head and he was then subjected to a series of violent blows about the face and head until he was able to evict the men. An arrest warrant for Isaiah Boyce and John De Grass was issued, although the warrant initially referred to Thomas Boyce rather than Isaiah Boyce. Isaiah Boyce was convicted of assault and fined 40/- plus costs of 7/6d, all to be paid immediately or to serve 2 calendar months in prison at Shepton Mallet. Isaiah Boyce failed to pay the sums required and an order was issued for him to be conveyed to prison for the stated period of two months. In a witness statement dated 22 June (i.e. almost two months later) Benjamin Watts repeated his version of the incident and was supported by testimony from Ellen Joyce, one of his employees, who had witnessed some of the events but had not seen Watts being struck because that happened in the passageway. The defendant, who appears to be John De Grass, was convicted of assault and given the same punishment as Isaiah Boyce, that is to say a fine of 40/- plus costs of 7/6d, all to be paid immediately or to serve 2 calendar months in prison in Shepton Mallet.	1853/023

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Westcott	Elizabeth	Tripp	Elizabeth	06	05	1853	Assault	A	Elizabeth Westcott, wife of Michael Westcott, woolcomber, complained that Elizabeth Tripp, wife of William Tripp, publican, had come into her house and demanded to know what Michael Westcott meant by calling Elizabeth Tripp's father an old fool. Elizabeth Tripp issued threats of violence against Michael Westcott, put her fists in the face of Elizabeth Westcott and threatened her with violence, too. Elizabeth Westcott's account was supported by testimony from her neighbours, Elizabeth Terrell, wife of Richard Terrell, brush finisher, and William Coleman, brushmaker. Elizabeth Tripp was convicted of threatening assault and fined 5/- plus costs of 10/-, all to be paid immediately or to be committed to prison for 21 days in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet. The required sums were noted as paid.	1853/024
Clements	Robert	Loxton Loxton White	Joseph Richmond Walter	07	05	1853	Burglary	Be	Robert Clements, beerhouse keeper, claimed that his house had been burgled, with cash, amongst other articles, being taken. Clements identified Joseph Loxton, Richmond Loxton and Walter White as the individuals he suspected of carrying out the burglary and requested a search warrant be issued to check their premises. Confusingly, the documentation also contains an order committing to prison in Shepton Mallet an individual named Robert Pike formerly of Butleigh, labourer, on a charge of having burgled the premises of Robert Clements and having stolen a desk to the value of 2/- containing documents to the value of a further 2/-. Although the date of the burglary is the same for both sets of individuals suspected of the theft, there is no information linking them.	1853/025

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barnett	Rev. Canon	Pearson	Charles	09	05	1853	Vagrancy	V	Apart from a form issued by the dispensary at Kidderminster, the only document is a small hand-written letter from Charles Pearson. In the letter he is begging for food and shelter (he claims that he is writing it under a hedge). Pearson was clearly well-educated and from a good family, but seems to have got into bad company and bad habits at university. Although he became a schoolmaster, a serious injury meant he could no longer continue and his life spiralled downwards. The presence of the documents and the note on the cover implies that Pearson was arrested as a vagrant. However, there is no further information available.	1853/026
Collard	Edward	White	Walter	11	05	1853	Obstructing police officer in execution of his duty	Op	PC Edward Collard had arrested Edward Churchouse (Churches) for being drunk and causing a breach of the peace by breaking windows and assaulting a woman (for more details see case 1853/033). Collard was about to take the prisoner to the police station but Walter White, described as a labourer, had intervened and freed Churchouse from Collard's grip. White was fined 5/- with costs of 5/-, all to be paid immediately.	1853/027
Teek	James	Russell	Edward	14	05	1853	Vagrancy	V	James Teek, master of the Wells Union workhouse, noted that Martha Russell, aged 23, and her son Henry Russell, aged 4 months, had become chargeable to the parish after Edward Russell had deserted his family and made no provision for their support. Martha Russell testified that her husband, Edward Russell, had left her around 9 weeks ago and she had been supported by friends for a time but they could no longer continue in this role. She had two children by Edward Russell, but only the younger child was with her. The case against Edward Russell was heard and he was committed to prison in Shepton Mallet for 1 calendar month with hard labour.	1853/028

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Edmonds	Edgar	Tucker	James	20	05	1853	Embezzlement	Em	Edgar Edmonds, baker and confectioner of High Street, employed James Tucker, aged 14, as an apprentice and servant with effect from 7 May 1853. Part of Tucker's duties was to deliver bread to customers, to obtain payment for the bread delivered and to account correctly for the monies received. Edmonds claimed that Tucker had received 3d from one customer, Miss Louisa Wade, in payment for a loaf of bread but had not passed on the money to Edmonds. Tucker was found guilty of the offence and was sentenced to serve 14 days in prison with hard labour.	1853/028a
Parsons	Joseph	Wharton	Thomas	23	05	1853	Leaving work in unfinished state	Nc	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that Thomas Wharton, who had been an employee with his firm since March 1852, had failed to complete work assigned to him and had absented himself from his employment without permission. Wharton was paid according to the quantity and quality of work delivered and had failed to deliver an agreed amount of 36 pail brushes. He had also not appeared at work and was thought likely to be in Bristol. An order for the arrest of Wharton was issued and Michael Westcott, foreman, and a police constable travelled to Bristol where they found Thomas Wharton in the company of Michael White, another Parsons employee (see case 1853/030). Wharton pleaded guilty to the charge against him and was sentenced to serve 14 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1853/029

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Parsons	Joseph	White Wharton	Michael Thomas	24	05	1853	Leaving work in unfinished state	Nc	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that Michael White, one of his employees, had failed to complete work assigned to him and had absented himself from his employment without permission. White was paid according to the quantity and quality of work delivered and had failed to deliver an agreed amount of 36 brushes within a reasonable time frame, and then had gone missing. An order for the arrest of White (and Thomas Wharton, see case 1853/029) was issued and Michael Westcott, foreman, and a police constable travelled to Bristol where they found Michael White and Thomas Wharton together. White pleaded guilty to the charge against him and was sentenced to serve 28 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet. Note: the cover document for the case shows the names of both White and Wharton, while the arrest warrant also includes Wharton's name added in pencil after the warrant was prepared. All the rest of the documents for this case appear to relate to White, while the case against Wharton is recorded in 1853/029.	1853/030
Jacobs	William	Pearce	George	25	05	1853	Pound breach	Pt	William Jacobs, labourer, was the keeper of the pound in Southover on behalf of the Bishop of Bath & Wells. A horse had been brought to the pound by Henry Huish. Jacobs locked it securely in the pound. Some 3 hours later George Pearce came and demanded the release of the horse. Jacobs refused and Pearce then took an iron bar and burst the lock on the pound, releasing the horse. The case was noted as being settled without a hearing.	1853/031

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Collins	John	Moore	Charles	27	05	1853	Theft of lead	T	John Collins, a plumber and glazier residing in High Street, claimed that Charles Moore, said to be aged 11, had stolen lead weighing about 10lbs from his yard. Mary Collins, wife of John Collins, had seen Moore coming out of the yard with the lead wrapped in a towel, but he had run away. A neighbour, Elizabeth Sims, had seen the boy run away and chased him to Chamberlain Street where she caught him, but he no longer had the lead. Hester Willis, wife of PC Thomas Willis, found the lead wrapped in a towel in a hedge near her house in Chamberlain Street. Moore was found guilty of theft and sentenced to serve one calendar month in prison with hard labour.	1853/031a
Collard	Edward	Brookman Loxton Badman	Samuel Daniel William	30	05	1853	Disturbing the peace	Dp	PC Edward Collard found Samuel Brookman, Daniel Loxton and William Badman, all described as labourers, fighting in High Street and causing a disturbance of the peace. Brookman failed to attend the hearing. Badman appears to have pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined 5/- plus costs of 4/-. There is no indication of the outcome with respect to the remaining individuals.	1853/032
Collard	Edward	Churhouse	Edward	30	05	1853	Drunkenness	D	PC Edward Collard was called to a disturbance at a house in Southover where he found Edward Churhouse, labourer, pushing a girl called Mary Ann Rood out of the house. She asked Collard to take Churhouse into custody. When Collard had restored order, Mary Ann Rood went back into the house and locked the door. Collard was about to depart when Churhouse broke several windows in the house and was arrested for drunkenness and wilful damage. There was then interference from Walter White who succeeded in releasing Churhouse from Collard's custody and was subsequently charged with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty (see also 1853/027). Churhouse was found guilty of drunkenness and fined 5/- plus costs of 5/- and was given a week within which to pay.	1853/033

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Inland Revenue		Davis	R	03	06	1853	Game licences	La	This is a pro forma document issued by the Inland Revenue to the local Collector of Taxes. It is intended for completion by individual or companies seeking to deal in game.	1853/033a
Somers	Samuel	House	Samuel	07	06	1853	Suspicion of theft	T	PC Samuel Somers arrested Samuel House on suspicion of stealing oats from Mr Wills. Somers admitted that he did not have sufficient evidence to bring charges but expected to have that evidence by the following morning and requested that the defendant be remanded in custody until then. At that hearing Mr Wills did not appear as he could not swear to the oats having been stolen. Samuel House was discharged.	1853/034
Davis	Sarah	Davis	John	11	06	1853	Assault & threatening behaviour	A	Sarah Davis of Queen Street alleged that her husband, John Davis, had come home very late and had assaulted her and dragged the clothes from the bed. He had recently been in the habit of threatening her with extreme violence and she feared that he might do her grievous bodily harm. She requested that John Davis be required to put forward sureties governing his future conduct towards her. The case was then settled without a hearing.	1853/035
Fletcher	Silas	Payton	Benjamin	20	06	1853	Non-completion of contract	Nc	Silas Fletcher, shoe manufacturer, contracted with Benjamin Payton, shoemaker, to make him 2 pairs of shoes. Fletcher provided him with the materials to make the shoes and paid him in advance the agreed sum for the finished shoes. However, Payton delivered only one pair of shoes and refused to make the second pair. A warrant for Payton's arrest was issued. There is no indication of the outcome of the case. (See also case 1853/078).	1853/036
Porter	John	Stone	John	21	06	1853	Suspicion of felony	T	Police serjeant John Porter arrested John Stone on suspicion of horse stealing on the basis of information that he had received. As he did not have sufficient evidence to press charges, Porter requested that Stone be remanded until Thursday 23 June. However, no further relevant evidence was forthcoming and Stone was discharged. The costs of the case were recorded as £1.4s.0d and it is not clear if Stone was required to pay them.	1853/037

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Woodburn	Joseph	Loxton	Richmond	23	06	1853	Search Warrant	Sw	Joseph Woodburn, labourer, stated that there had been a recent theft of lead from a property belonging to John Davis Sherston. Woodburn alleged that the theft had been carried out by Richmond Loxton and his brother, Stephen Loxton. Woodburn proposed that a search warrant should be issued to check the dwelling house and outbuildings of Richmond Loxton for the stolen lead. There is no information on whether a search warrant was issued or on the outcome. Note: this case bears an uncanny resemblance to a case of 23 June 1852 (see case 1852/021) involving the same individuals. It seems likely that one of the sets of documentation has been misfiled. The year on both documents could be interpreted as 1852 or 1853 but, in any event the case documentation appears to have been duplicated.	1853/038
Adams	Thomas	Green	George	06	07	1853	Assault	A	Thomas Adams of Theale, yeoman, complained that he had been assaulted by George Green of Blackford, farmer, who had attacked him with his fists and inflicted a number of violent blows about his face, head and body. The case was settled out of court without a hearing.	1853/039
Rogers	William	Hall Boulting	William William	11	07	1853	Drunkenness	D	PC William Rogers separately charged William Hall of Wells and William Boulting of Wookey, both described as labourers, with being drunk in Wells. Hall was fined 2/- and Boulting 1/6d; both men were discharged on payment of the fines.	1853/040
Hill	William	James	Amelia	13	07	1853	Petty trespass	Pt	William Hill, porter at the Wells Union workhouse, complained that Amelia James, an inmate of the workhouse chargeable to the parish of Weare (although it could equally be read as Meare), had wilfully broken 11 panes of glass with her hands. The estimate of the damage was 5/-. James was convicted of the offence of petty trespass and fined 5/- plus costs of 5/-, all to be paid immediately or to serve 21 days in prison with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1853/041

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Fry	Eliza	Russell	Edward	15	07	1853	Assault	A	Eliza Fry was the wife of Henry Fry, shoemaker. She had gone to The Globe public house on hearing that her husband had been involved in a fight with Edward Russell and had cut his head. She had taken Henry home, but went back to The Globe with two of her sons, both of whom wanted to confront Russell. On returning to The Globe, the Frys and Russell had become involved in a fight. Eliza Fry had tried to grab Russell and drag him off one of her sons but Russell had struck her several times and knocked her down. George Isgrove, a labourer, and Richard Wilton, the publican, provided witness statements that gave differing accounts of the events. A warrant for the arrest of Edward Russell was issued.	1853/042a
Willis	Allen	Burley	George	18	07	1853	Begging	V	Allen Willis, letter carrier, saw George Burley visiting several houses in Chamberlain Street begging for alms. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1853/042b
Foster	Robert	Jones Andrews	John William	27	07	1853	Vagrancy	V	Robert Foster, a general dealer living in Southover, complained that John Jones and William Andrews had come to his house and begged for one shilling. Foster refused but did give them several halfpence. Robert Ridgeley saw the two defendants come out of a lodging house and one of them then urinated in the street. Jones and Andrews were convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to one calendar month's imprisonment in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1853/043
Porter	John	Rose Savage	Arthur Jacob	01	08	1853	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter arrested Arthur Rose and Jacob Savage for being drunk and fighting in High Street. Both men admitted their guilt. The costs of the case were recorded as 5/- and there appear to have been fines of 4/-. It is assumed that the two defendants were made equally responsible for the fines and costs, but this is not specifically shown in the documentation.	1853/044

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Hardwich	Mary Ann	Tiley	William	04	08	1853	Non-compliance with bastardy order	B	Mary Ann Hardwich, single woman, had won a judgement earlier in the year against William Tiley of Horrington which named him as the putative father of her bastard child. As part of that judgement Tiley was required to pay to Mary Ann Hardwich the sum of 3/- per week for the first six weeks of the child's life and then 1/6d per week until the child reached the age of 13 (provided that certain conditions were met). Mary Ann Hardwich now complained that Tiley had not been paying the sum of 1/6d per week and the arrears had now reached 7/6d, representing 5 weeks of non-payment. An arrest warrant was issued for Tiley's apprehension.	1853/045
Buck	Abraham	Jones	John	16	08	1853	Return from transportation	Im	Abraham Buck testified that John Jones, who had been sentenced to transportation for life in 1836 had returned illegally to England and was residing in East Wells. Jones had been convicted of breaking into the dwelling house of Thomas Parker and stealing beef and other articles, and had also been found guilty of stealing a bushel of wheat belonging to Charles Furber. Jones was now said to be at large in East Wells. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1853/046
Porter	John	Maule	William	31	08	1853	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Maule, labourer, with being drunk in a public place on 28 August. Maule was discharged on payment of the costs of the case.	1853/047

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Jacobs	William	Fry	Henry	02	09	1853	Petty trespass	Pt	William Jacobs, a publican running a beerhouse in Southover, complained that Henry Fry, shoemaker, had come into his house with a group of others and, while there, had deliberately damaged a table by throwing it around the kitchen. The cost of the damage was estimated at 2/6d. Testimony was obtained from Lucy Jacobs, wife of William Jacobs, Sarah Allen, a servant at the beerhouse, Thomas Messer, brushmaker, and Richard Churches, labourer. Lucy Jacobs and Sarah Allen claimed to have seen Fry throwing the table around while Messer and Churches stated that they had not seen Fry damage the table. Fry was found guilty of petty trespass and fined 2/6d as compensation for the damage plus a further 12/- to cover the costs of the case.	1853/048

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Jacobs	William	Francis Francis Churchouse Bottom Bennett Fry Crandon Churchouse Messer Francis Rood	George John Edward James John Henry William Robert Thomas William Mary	02	09	1853	Petty trespass	Pt	William Jacobs, a publican running a beerhouse in Southover, complained that a group of customers who had been drinking in his house had damaged a pair of boots which had originally cost 35/- and were still worth upwards of 20/-. He claimed that the party had been rowdy and had damaged other items in the room (see also case 1853/048). Testimony was obtained from Lucy Jacobs, wife of William Jacobs, Sarah Allen, a servant at the beerhouse, and Mary Bowell, single woman, although the last two had not witnessed any damage to the boots. Testimony was also obtained from Charles Granfell of Glastonbury, labourer, and James Francis to the effect that George Francis could not have been present in the beerhouse as he had spent most of the day in or near Glastonbury. Nine defendants were found guilty of petty trespass and were fined 12/- in compensation for the damaged boots plus a further £1.13s.0d in costs. Each was required to pay the sum of 5/- or to serve 21 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet. The individuals found guilty were John Francis, Edward Churchouse, James Bottom, John Bennett, Henry Fry, William Crandon, Robert Churchouse, Thomas Messer and William Francis. Note: Lucy Jacobs subsequently acknowledged the receipt of the sum of 14/6d being the compensation of 12/- paid for the damaged boots and 2/6d for the broken table (see case 1853/048).	1853/049
Money	James	Brookman	William	05	09	1853	Assault	A	James Money, publican, complained that he had been assaulted by William Brookman, baker, who had struck him several times about the body with his fists. The case was noted as being settled without a hearing.	1853/050
Money	James	Radford	Alfred	05	09	1853	Assault	A	James Money, publican, complained that he had been assaulted by Alfred Radford, labourer, who had struck him several times about the head and face with his fists. The case was noted as being settled without a hearing. Note: Radford is originally shown on the summons with a forename of Charles, but this was later amended to Alfred.	1853/051

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Young	Isaac	Taylor Chapman	Charles William Alfred	05	09	1853	Stealing apples from orchard	T	Isaac Young, farmer, alleged that he had had a peck of apples valued at 6d stolen from his orchard by Charles William Taylor, aged 12, and Alfred Chapman, aged 9. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1853/052
Millard	Mary	Millard	Aaron	05	09	1853	Assault	A	Mary Millard, wife of Aaron Millard, complained that her husband had assaulted her and struck her several times about the face, head and body. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1853/053
Collard	Edward	Lane	Charles	05	09	1853	Drunkenness	D	PC Edward Collard encountered Charles Lane in East Wells between midnight and 1.00am when a drunken Lane was making a great noise. Collard tried to get him home but Lane made even more noise. He was therefore arrested and locked up. Lane was found guilty of drunkenness and fined 5/- including costs, the fine to be paid by 12 September or distress proceedings would be initiated.	1853/054
Smith	George	Russell	Edward	07	09	1853	Drunkenness	D	George Smith complained that Edward Russell had come to his house at 11.00pm and tried to insist on seeing his wife, George Smith's daughter. Russell's wife and her two children lived with her father who supported them. Russell was drunk and caused a disturbance by constantly banging on the door. When his wife told him to go away and come back in the morning, Russell continued to create a disturbance until he was eventually taken away and locked up by police serjeant John Porter. Russell was fined 5/- for drunkenness and also required to put forward sureties to keep the peace, particularly towards his wife, for six months.	1853/055

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Badman	William	13	09	1853	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter had been walking up High Street when he was hailed by a drunken William Badman from a ladder on the other side of the street. Badman and Porter had clearly had some recent altercation about drunkenness and Badman issued some insults about Porter having been drunk the previous day. Porter arrested Badman on a charge of being drunk in a public place. Witness testimony from Charles Cock, who had been working on the ladder onto which Badman had climbed, confirmed that Badman was drunk. Badman was fined 5/- for drunkenness plus costs of 4/6d to be paid by 17 September. Badman was also required to put forward sureties of £10 of his own money to be of good conduct for six months.	1853/056
Clements	Caroline	Bailey	George	20	09	1853	Petty trespass	Pt	Caroline Clements, widow, complained that George Bailey had come to her dwelling house and, wilfully and without provocation, had broken 10 panes of glass and damaged the lead in one of her windows. The damage was estimated at 5/-. Bailey was found guilty of petty trespass and fined 5/- plus costs of 5/-. In default of immediate payment Bailey was to serve 21 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1853/057
Willis	Thomas	Phipps	Thomas	22	09	1853	Breach of the peace	lc	PC Thomas Willis issued a summons to Thomas Phipps, labourer, on a charge of inciting James Collins to commit a breach of the peace. There is no information on the outcome of the case and the only documentation available is the summons. Note: there appears to be some details of this case in the minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 3 October (see 1853/064) but the handwriting is difficult to read and it is hard to ascertain relevant or meaningful information.	1853/058

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Harford	Elizabeth	Starke	William	30	09	1853	Bastardy	B	Elizabeth Harford, single woman, testified that she believed William Starke of Mark, cheese dealer, was the father of her child born out of wedlock. Starke was summoned to attend a hearing to determine if Harford's allegation could be sustained. At this point there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1853/059
Porter	John	Harris	Charles	30	09	1853	Theft	T	Police serjeant John Porter arrested Charles Harris, barber, on suspicion of carrying out a felony. Mary Loxton, widow, was summoned to give evidence as a material witness in the case. Note: it seems likely that the case was referred to the next quarter sessions with the witnesses, including Mary Loxton and James Mullins, amongst others, being bound over in sums of £20 to attend.	1853/060
Porter	John	Carter	James	01	10	1853	Vagrancy	V	Police serjeant John Porter found James Carter sitting in a passageway near The Full Moon Inn. Carter appeared to have no means of getting a livelihood and had been going about in the open air for some time. He was unable to give a good account of himself and refused to be persuaded to go to the Wells Union. Carter was sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1853/061
Weeks	Samuel	Porter	Thomas	01	10	1853	Assault	A	In High Street Samuel Weeks of Priddy, farmer, had been called upon by police serjeant John Porter to assist in the arrest of Henry Fry. Weeks was then set upon by Thomas Porter, labourer, who struck him in the face with his fist. The defendant was fined 8/6d with costs of 11/6d to be paid immediately or be sent to prison for 1 calendar month with hard labour. (See also 1853/064).	1853/062
Willis	Thomas	Smith	George	03	10	1853	Vagrancy	V	PC Thomas Willis found George Smith begging for alms and bread in Vicar's Close where he appeared to be going from house to house. Willis had already cautioned Smith not to beg but Smith insisted on continuing in defiance of the instruction. Smith was found guilty of vagrancy and was sentenced to 7 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet. (See also 1853/064).	1853/063

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Various		03	10	1853	Minutes of meeting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 3 October. The handwriting in these minutes is extremely difficult to read and the notes are also very abbreviated, so they provide little help in explaining the cases covered. Identifiable cases are 1853/058, 1853/062 and 1853/063. In addition, there is also brief reference to a transfer of an alcohol licence from Francis Seal to John White. There is also a note indicating that three further special constables were to be added to the list, namely Smith of Sadler Street (no forename given), John Budge and Jacob Barnes.	1853/064
Bacon	George	Bennett	John	13	10	1853	Cruelty to animals	C	George Bacon, agent of the RSPCA, complained that John Bennett, coal hauler, had been ill-treating a horse by working it to haul heavy loads of coal when it had a large, raw wound on its shoulder close to its collar. Bennett was given a fine of 6d plus costs of 9/-, all to be paid immediately or to be sent to prison for 14 days with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol. (See also 1853/072).	1853/065
Showering	James	White	John	17	10	1853	Assault	A	James Showering, blacksmith, claimed that John White of Glastonbury, butcher, had assaulted him, striking him several times with his fists and beating him about the head with a piece of wood. The case was noted as being settled.	1853/066
Mizen	Charles	Welch	John	17	10	1853	Drunkenness	D	PC Charles Mizzen found John Welch creating a disturbance in the Market Place where he was very loud and very drunk. Mizzen tried to persuade him to calm down and go home but Welch refused. Mizzen noted that Welch had been before the Mayor a few days before for a similar offence and was told to leave the town. Welch was found guilty of drunkenness and fined 5/- plus costs of 4/6d. Alternatively, a distress order would be issued to try and recover these sums, or failing that, Welch would spend 6 hours in the stocks. (See also 1853/072).	1853/067

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Fry	Charles	Woods Filer	James James	17	10	1853	Nuisance	E	Charles Fry, surveyor of highways, complained that James Woods and James Filer had emptied nightsoil into the gutter in Queen Street near the house of Mr Taylor, brewer, and created filth and a health hazard because the gutter ran into the common sewer; it also created a blockage in the drains at Mr Taylor's. John Hodges, who rented a house in Queen Street, apparently commissioned James Woods to empty a privy which had become blocked and insanitary. Woods was helped by Filer and when Filer was emptying the nightsoil into the gutter he was cautioned by PC Charles Mizen who told him not to do it again. It then appeared that Woods and Filer emptied more nightsoil into the river from St John's Bridge. Woods and Filer were fined 5/- plus costs of 15/6d.	1853/068
Burton	William	Creymer (aka Woods)	Mary Ann	19	10	1853	Vagrantcy	V	Mary Ann Creymer, who also used the name Mary Ann Woods and claimed to be living in Southover, called at the house of Rev. Canon Pinder and through the servant, William Burton, pleaded with Rev. Pinder's wife for money to help get her to Bath that afternoon so that she could have her leg amputated. Rev. Pinder's wife got Burton to take a message to Mrs Tudway to get her view on the request and when Burton returned, the woman had gone. Rev. Pinder's wife had not given any money but was apparently prepared to send some money to Bath the next morning if Creymer's story appeared credible. Creymer alias Woods was charged with vagrantcy but there is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1853/069
Teek	James	Fursey	Edward	22	10	1853	Vagrantcy	V	Henry Livett, medical officer, wrote to James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, regarding Edward Fursey (could equally be Pursey), an inmate described as a vagrant. Fursey was refusing to leave his bed, but Livett's view was that Fursey, although he had a long-standing rupture, was not suffering from any disease and was exaggerating his condition. There is a pencilled note on the letter which may define the outcome of the case but it is hard to decipher it.	1853/070

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Willis	Thomas	Cooksay	William	23	10	1853	Vagrancy	V	PC Thomas Willis had encountered William Cooksay, who was not a resident of Wells, and had helped him secure an order for admission to the Wells Union workhouse. Next day Willis again found Cooksay begging in the streets of Wells and told him that he must stop. Later he was advised that Cooksay was begging at the house of Francis Fry in the Liberty of St Andrew and this was confirmed by Ann Woodland, servant to Francis Fry. Cooksay claimed that he was starving so Willis arrested him and took him to the police station where he was given breakfast. Cooksay then refused to leave saying that he would rather go to gaol than back to the workhouse. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1853/071
Justices		Various		24	10	1853	Minutes of meeting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 24 October. The notes are extremely rough and difficult to decipher. The cases for which detailed notes are recorded are 1853/065 and 1853/067. There is also a list of individuals who appear to owe money, possibly for general rates, but most of the names are not clear and some appear to have been granted relief from payment.	1853/072
Parker	Farnham	Day	James	25	10	1853	Assault	A	Farnham Parker, ostler at the Star Inn, complained that he had been assaulted in Sadler Street outside The Swan Inn by James Day, who had struck him in the eye with his fist, knocked him senseless and left him with a black eye. Parker had been helping a gentleman lead a tandem carriage and was holding one of the horses when Day seemed to try to interfere and then came up and struck Parker. Witness testimony was provided by Charles Barnard and Thomas Purnell, doctor, both of whom gave evidence that supported Parker's account. Day was fined £2.10s.0d with costs of £1.0s.6d, all to be paid immediately or to be committed to 2 calendar months in prison.	1853/073

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Hodges	Anna	Fry	Samuel	25	10	1853	Bastardy	B	Although this document appears to be shown on its cover as relating to 1853 it actually appears to be dated 25 October 1852. The cover also records the document as being 'Not used'. This may have been the case in October 1852, but the same document appears to have been copied and used as the basis of case 1853/003 where Anna Hodges again complained that Samuel Fry had not been making the maintenance payments.	1853/074
Francis	Isaac	Hawkins	John	27	10	1853	Assault	A	Isaac Francis, brushmaker, complained that he had been assaulted by John Hawkins, labourer. The case was marked as settled without a hearing, but there is no further information available since the only documentation is the summons issued to John Hawkins.	1853/075
Mead	James Henry	Silley	Elizabeth	28	10	1853	Petty trespass	Pt	James Henry Mead, chemist with a shop in the Market Place, complained that Elizabeth Silley (surname might possibly be Lilley) had broken a pane of glass in his shop window with a value of 4/4 ¹ / ₂ d. When passing the shop, Elizabeth Silley had pushed her friend into the chemist's boy, Thomas Reeves, who fell against the window and broke the pane of glass. Elizabeth Silley, a young girl, was reprimanded and released.	1853/076
Fletcher	Silas	Adams	Isaac	30	10	1853	Absenting himself without consent	Ab	Silas Fletcher, shoemaker, complained that Isaac Adams, who had been apprenticed to him in 1850, had left his employ without consent and had stayed away for several days. Fletcher had refused to pay his wages for the time that Adams was absent. Hannah Adams, mother of Isaac Adams, admitted that he had been absent from work and had been away from home, but stated that he had been ill. Her claim that Isaac Adams had been ill was supported by testimony from Thomas Weare and George Reeves. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1853/077
Inland Revenue		Collector of Taxes		01	11	1853	Tax relief on life insurance	*	This document is a notification to tax collectors and assessors on changes to tax relief with respect to life insurance.	1853/077a

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Loxton	William John	Payton	Benjamin	08	11	1853	Non-performance of contract	Nc	William John Loxton, shoemaker, contracted with Benjamin Payton of Glastonbury to make 12 pairs of patent slippers. However, despite having received all the materials needed to prepare the slippers, Payton had delivered only 3 pairs and was continuing to refuse to deliver the remainder. An arrest warrant for the apprehension of Payton was issued but the case was shown as settled. Note: Payton was involved in an earlier case of a similar nature. (See case 1853/036).	1853/078
Porter	John	Lane	Charles	09	11	1853	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter found Charles Lane lying drunk on the pavement in East Wells. Lane was fined 5/- plus costs of 5/-. In the event of default, distress proceedings were to be initiated and, if this failed to generate the necessary funds, Lane would be confined to the stocks for 6 hours.	1853/079
Dix	Richard	Willcox	Charles	10	11	1853	Leaving work in unfinished state	Nc	Richard Dix, sadler, commissioned Charles Willcox, harness maker, to carry out the stitching of a pair of traces, a back strap and breeching. After several days work Willcox had only completed the back strap and some breeching and was then refusing to complete the remainder of the work. The case was noted as settled.	1853/080
Buck	Abraham	Daunton	Charles	21	11	1853	Evasion of toll	Um	Abraham Buck, collector of tolls, complained that Charles Daunton of South Brent, fishmonger, had brought a cartload of sprats for sale in Wells. However, Daunton was not selling the fish in the market or in the Market Place but in an area not licensed for market trading. Buck demanded from Daunton the toll of 1/- which should have been applicable to his trading but Daunton refused to pay. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1853/081

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barnard	Sarah	Mizen	Charles	22	11	1853	Assault	A	<p>Sarah Barnard, wife of John Barnard, butcher, complained that she had been assaulted by PC Charles Mizen in Guardhouse Lane. It appears that Charles Barnard, one of Sarah Barnard's sons, had been out in the town with some friends and had been creating a considerable noise near the Bishop's Eye and had been cautioned by PC Mizen. The boys then moved off down High Street and were still making a lot of noise. PC Mizen then tried to arrest Charles Barnard in Guardhouse Lane but Barnard called upon Mrs Peach of The Somerset Inn to get his mother to help. Sarah Barnard came out with William Barnard, another of her sons, and she challenged PC Mizen on the reason for the arrest and called him a drunken blackguard. Mizen then claimed that he had raised an arm to push her away but Sarah Barnard argued that he had struck her a violent blow which knocked her down. Mizen's position was supported by PC Samuel Somers, who had come to Guardhouse Lane because of the noise, and George Brookes, beerhouse keeper, who had come with PC Mizen from the Bishop's Eye. Sarah Barnard's side was taken by Sarah Harris and Eliza Brown, who claimed to have seen PC Mizen strike Sarah Barnard with his fist. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.</p> <p>Note: the cover document of the case appears to be incorrect as it shows PC Mizen as the plaintiff and Sarah Barnard as the defendant.</p>	1853/082
Oram	Samuel	Graham	William	03	12	1853	Vagrancy	V	<p>Samuel Oram, hairdresser, testified that William Graham had come into his shop and asked for relief, saying that he had a wife and children who were starving. Oram had refused to give him money and told him to go away. Graham was convicted of vagrancy and was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.</p>	1853/083

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Cox	Elizabeth	Raines	Elizabeth	10	12	1853	Sureties to keep the peace	Su	Elizabeth Raines, wife of Thomas Raines, beerhouse keeper, was summoned to state why she should not provide sureties with respect to her future conduct towards Elizabeth Cox, wife of George Cox. Note: it seems possible that Elizabeth Cox had complained that she had been assaulted or verbally threatened by Elizabeth Raines, but the only documentation for this case is the summons issued to Elizabeth Raines.	1853/084
Justices		Various		31	12	1853	Administration	*	This document is a calendar of Petty & Special Sessions of the Peace scheduled for 1853. Note: the document was originally a calendar for 1852 and has been modified in pencil for 1853. Since it relates to 1853 it should arguably have been filed at the beginning of the year rather than at the end.	1853/085

1854

Willcox	Ann	Willcox	Charles	02	01	1854	Assault	A	Ann Willcox, wife of Charles Willcox of Grove Lane, sadler, complained that she had been assaulted and beaten by her husband on a number of occasions. On the most recent occasion she had been to her brother's but when she came home she was locked out. When she was eventually allowed in, Charles Willcox then beat her severely before pushing her out of the door and into the street. Ann Willcox, who had been married to Charles for three years, requested that he be required to put forward sureties as to his future conduct towards her. There is no indication of the outcome of the case. Note: According to the 1851 census Charles and Ann Willcox were living in Grove Lane. Charles, aged 30, was described as a collar and harness maker and Ann, aged 36, as a laundress.	1854/001
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Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Mizen	Charles	Wilson Webber Soames Brown Clarke	Henry Henry William William John	10	01	1854	Vagrancy	V	PC Charles Mizen found several men in a group begging in the street. James Hutton, beer retailer, also testified that the men had been on his premises and had asked for relief. In neither case was Henry Wilson identified as one of the men involved. He was discharged while Henry Webber, William Soames, William Brown and John Clarke appear to have been sentenced to 14 days imprisonment in Shepton Mallet.	1854/002
Buck	Abraham	Wills	Joseph	11	01	1854	Public health	E	Abraham Buck, Inspector of Nuisances, claimed that two properties in St John Street owned by Joseph Wills (and occupied by James Perry and Joseph Johnson) had filthy and insanitary connections from the privies to the drains. Buck had already served notice on Wills to have the privies cleaned and the drain cleared, but he had taken no action. Wills was ordered to pay a total of 7/6d and given three weeks to have the necessary cleaning carried out.	1854/003
Buck	Abraham	Broad jnr	William	11	01	1854	Public health	E	Abraham Buck, Inspector of Nuisances, claimed that a property in St John Street owned by William Broad the younger (and occupied by Thomas Keates) had filthy and insanitary connections from the privy to the drains. Buck had already served notice on Broad to have the privy cleaned and the drain cleared, but he had taken no action. There is no information as to the outcome of the case but the cover page shows '7/2' which may represent 7/2d and possibly the sum to be paid by William Broad the younger.	1854/004
Willis	Thomas	Wilson	James	24	01	1854	Vagrancy	V	PC Thomas Willis saw James Wilson begging in High Street. He cautioned Wilson not to beg but to go to the relieving officer which Wilson refused to do. PC Willis then saw Wilson go to the house of James Hawkins, baker, who gave him one pennyworth of bread. Willis then arrested Wilson on a charge of vagrancy. Wilson was convicted and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1854/005

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Bacon	George	Phipps	Joseph	25	01	1854	Cruelty to animals	C	George Bacon, an agent for the RSPCA, complained that Joseph Phipps, coal hauler, had been using a horse to draw a fully laden cart of coal when the horse was not fit to work. Bacon saw the horse drawing an empty cart but noted that the horse had four significant sores which were raw, particularly the one under the saddle and the one which was rubbed by the breeching. There is no information on the outcome of the case and the rough notes of the petty sessions sitting of 13 February (case 1854/011) shed no further light on the issue, even if they were legible.	1854/006
White	Matilda	Badman	William	31	01	1854	Assault	Sa	Matilda White, wife of Joseph White, butcher, complained that she had been assaulted by William Badman, plaisterer, who had pushed her with his hands. The justices dismissed the case. (See also case 1854/009 and case 1854/011).	1854/007
Doward	Edward	Bartlett	Thomas	06	02	1854	Encroachment on turnpike road	Ec	Edward Doward, surveyor to the trustees of the Wells to Highbridge turnpike, complained that Thomas Bartlett, labourer, had supposedly built a fence or wall that had reduced the width of the road near Portway. The justices dismissed the case. (See also 1854/011).	1854/008
Badman	William	White	Joseph	06	02	1854	Assault	A	William Badman, plaisterer, complained that he had been assaulted by Joseph White, butcher, who had struck him over the head with a shovel. The incident took place on the same date as the alleged assault by Badman on Matilda White (see case 1854/007) but it is not stated which event took place first. Joseph White was fined 6d for the assault plus costs of 9/-. (See also 1854/011).	1854/009

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Heathcote	Rev. William Beadon	Small Allen	James Charles	13	02	1854	Alleged theft	T	Ann Gregory, cook to Rev. Heathcote, complained that various items had gone missing from her larder, namely, loaves of bread, pats of butter, a joint of cold roast beef and a piece of bacon. Police serjeant John Porter had evidently recovered some of these items and Ann Gregory identified them as coming from Rev. Heathcote's larder. James Small and Charles Allen were identified as the likely culprits. No further information is available on the outcome of the case (but see 1854/081 where it is noted that Small had been arrested and convicted at the Easter Quarter Sessions and Allen had later given himself up to PC Samuel Somers).	1854/010
Justices		Various		13	02	1854	Minutes of meeting	*	Minutes of meeting of the petty sessions sitting of 13 February 1854. The rough notes of the meeting cover cases 1854/006, 1854/007, 1854/008 and 1854/009. Unfortunately the notes say little about the outcome of the cases and the handwriting is not easily read meaning that relatively little in the way of useful information can be obtained.	1854/011
Adams	Edward	Chamberlain	James	22	02	1854	Assault	A	Edward Adams, shoemaker, claimed that he had been assaulted by James Chamberlain, also a shoemaker. It appears that Adams had been going into or coming out of the City Arms when he had encountered James Chamberlain who had asked him to stand him a pint of beer. Adams seems to have refused and Chamberlain then struck him in the face. Inconclusive testimony was provided by Elizabeth Redding and Emily Clegg. Chamberlain was found guilty of assault and fined 6d with costs of 10/- or to be imprisoned for 7 days in Shepton Mallet.	1854/012

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Spackman	John	Loxton	Stephen	22	02	1854	Assault	A	John Spackman was a corporal in the Grenadier Guards who had been drinking in The Red Ox Inn with some of his recruits. As he was leaving he claimed that he was assaulted by Stephen Loxton, labourer, and Loxton's mother, Rosamond Loxton. She claimed that as Spackman was leaving he struck her without provocation and she grabbed him by the hair while Stephen Loxton had struck Spackman in the face. Stephen Loxton was found guilty of assault and fined 2/6d with costs of 8/- or to be imprisoned for 6 weeks in Shepton Mallet. Loxton appears not to have paid the sums involved and an order was issued that he should be conveyed to prison. (See also 1854/014).	1854/013
Porter	John	Hutton	James	25	02	1854	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant John Porter charged James Hutton, proprietor of The Red Ox Inn, with breaching the terms of his liquor licence by serving alcohol outside permitted hours. Rosamond Loxton, who was present with her son, Stephen Loxton, and became embroiled in an argument with a soldier (see case 1854/013), testified that she had seen James Hutton draw two pints of beer after the official closing time of 11.00pm. PC Charles Mizen had been on the premises but had not seen any beer being drawn after hours. There is no specific information regarding the outcome of the case, although the case header document shows figures of 4/6d and 1/6d.	1854/014
Buck	Abraham	Palmer	Elizabeth Mary	28	02	1854	Public health	E	Abraham Buck, inspector of nuisances, complained that he had found foul and offensive privies in properties in Queen Street owned by Elizabeth Mary Palmer of Westbury, widow, and occupied by Zachariah Ball and James Hodges. Buck asserted that he had already cautioned Elizabeth Palmer and issued an order requiring her to have the privies cleaned but no action had been taken. There is no specific statement of the outcome but it appears that Palmer may have been required to pay the sum of 7/2d.	1854/015

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Thorley	Robert	Moore	John	01	03	1854	Leaving family chargeable to parish	Ds	Robert Thorley, relieving officer for Wells Union, testified that John Moore, carpenter, had left his wife, Ann, and their three children, James, Henry and William, and they had all become chargeable to the parish. Moore was able bodied and capable of supporting the family. After some two months he had now been apprehended. Moore was convicted of deserting his family and was sentenced to one calendar month in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1854/016
Teek	James	Beard Bisgrove Whippy	Eliza Elizabeth Mary	06	03	1854	Failing to carry out assigned work	Rw	James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, brought a case against three pauper inmates for refusing to carry out the work assigned to them. Elizabeth Bisgrove, Eliza Beard and Mary Whippy all refused to carry out the task of picking 1lb of oakum between the hours of 8.30am and 12 noon. Elizabeth Bisgrove was found guilty of refusing to work and sentenced to spend 14 days in prison with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet. There is no information on the outcome for the other two defendants, although there is a separate document for each (see 1854/018 and 1854/019). (See also 1854/020).	1854/017
Teek	James	Beard	Eliza	06	03	1854	Refusal to work	Rw	The details of this case are the same as case 1854/017 but James Teek raised a separate complaint about Eliza Beard's refusal to work (possibly before the summary information was added to the document relating to Elizabeth Bisgrove).	1854/018
Teek	James	Whippy	Mary	06	03	1854	Refusal to work	Rw	The details of this case are the same as case 1854/017 but James Teek raised a separate complaint about Mary Whippy's refusal to work (possibly before the summary information was added to the document relating to Elizabeth Bisgrove).	1854/019
Teek	James	Bisgrove	Elizabeth	06	03	1854	Refusal to work	Rw	The details of this case are the same as case 1854/017 but James Teek raised a separate complaint about Elizabeth Bisgrove's refusal to work in addition to the composite complaint prepared earlier.	1854/020

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rood	Elizabeth	Dredge	Frederick	07	03	1854	Assault	A	Elizabeth Rood, single woman, claimed that she had been assaulted by Frederick Dredge, cordwainer, who had struck her a blow in the face. She asserted that she had been sitting in The Red Ox Inn when Dredge got up from where he had been sitting before coming over to her, raising his fists and hitting her in the head. James Bampton, carpenter, confirmed Rood's account and suggested there had been no provocation. Dredge was found guilty of assault and fined 2/6d with costs of 10/6d or to be imprisoned for 14 days.	1854/021
Berryman	Charles	Cox jnr.	Harry	07	03	1854	Felony	T	Charles Berryman, yeoman, complained that a cow and calf had been stolen from a field in his possession in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert. Berryman was convinced that the thief was Harry Cox the younger. He noted that Cox was currently in or near Wells and requested that a warrant be issued for his arrest. There is no information to show whether such a warrant was issued or not.	1854/022
Porter	John	Eades	Thomas	15	03	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter and PC Samuel Somers were drawn to a noise in the Market Place where a crowd of youths and children had gathered at Mr Bowell's door. The police officers told the crowd to disperse but Thomas Eades, who was amongst those present, refused to go. Porter claimed that he went to move Eades away but Eades lost his footing in the gutter and fell onto the pavement. Richard Dix, sadler, testified that Porter had pushed Eades against the wall, grabbed his hair and banged his head on the pavement. Porter claimed that Eades was drunk but the view of Dix was that Eades was no more drunk than the police officer. This view was supported by James Tate and William Fry. The police officers took Eades to the police station with Richard Dix and Mr Hoare also going along with the intention of providing bail for Eades, but in the end decided not to do so. There is no information as to whether Eades was prosecuted on a charge of drunkenness.	1854/023

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Moloney	David	Creedy	Major	17	03	1854	Assault	A	David Moloney, brushmaker, complained that he had been assaulted by Major Creedy, butcher, who had struck him twice in the face. Moloney had gone into The King's Arms Inn in the company of several others and ordered some beer. While the landlord, Thomas Perry, was drawing the beer an argument erupted between Moloney and Creedy with the latter heard by several witnesses to call Moloney abusive names. Thomas Perry, Thomas Lovelace, boot and shoe maker, William Oldfield, currier, and William Oldfield, currier, all testified but none claimed to have seen any blows struck. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1854/024
Buck	Abraham	Fry Parsons	Charles Joseph	17	03	1854	Public health	E	Abraham Buck, Inspector of Nuisances, complained that there was an open drain in Southover which was potentially injurious to public health. The responsibility for maintaining the drain lay with the Surveyors of Highways, Charles Fry and Joseph Parsons, who had been served notice that the drain needed to be cleaned but had taken no action. There is no information about the outcome of the case, but the costs were noted as being 9/6d, possibly to be borne by the Surveyors of Highways.	1854/025
Sweet	John	Willis	John	03	04	1854	Desertion	M	Serjeant John Sweet of the 47th regiment of foot arrested John Willis as a deserter from the 14th regiment of foot. Willis had enlisted at Wells in September 1850 but had deserted around September 1853 in Wedmore. Willis was described as being 23 years of age, 5'11" in height, with a fresh complexion, dark brown hair and hazel eyes. He denied being a deserter saying that his furlough had been extended because he was undergoing medical treatment and he was waiting an order for the receipt of his pay to enable him to rejoin his regiment. Serjeant Sweet was awarded 10/- for making the arrest of a potential deserter.	1854/026

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Doble	Thomas	Parsons	Alfred	04	04	1854	Payment of 'smart money'	M	Alfred Parsons had joined the Grenadier Guards and on 1 April 1854 had received the enlistment fee. On 4 April Alfred Parsons had made a payment of so-called 'smart money' to W J S Foster, acting in the role of town clerk for Wells. This payment, governed by the Mutiny Act, was to release Parsons from his enlistment obligations and to avoid being pursued as a deserter. Foster passed on the money received to Serjeant Thomas Doble of the Grenadier Guards, less Foster's fee of 1/-.	1854/027
Porter	John	Worsley	William	05	04	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Worsley, originally shown on the summons as 'Worzeley', with being drunk in a public place. Worsley admitted the offence and appears to have been fined 5/- plus costs of 4/-. There is minimal information for this case as the only available document is the summons issued to Worsley.	1854/028
Doble	Thomas	Dowling	William	11	04	1854	Payment of 'smart money'	M	William Dowling had joined the Grenadier Guards and on 6 April 1854 had received the enlistment fee. On 10 April William Dowling had made a payment of so-called 'smart money' to W J S Foster, acting in the role of town clerk for Wells. This payment, governed by the Mutiny Act, was to release Dowling from his enlistment obligations and to avoid being pursued as a deserter. Foster passed on the money received to Serjeant Thomas Doble of the Grenadier Guards, less Foster's fee of 1/-.	1854/029
Porter	John	Isgrove Burt	Jacob George	19	04	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged Jacob Isgrove and John Burt, both described as labourers, with drunkenness in a public place. A summons was also served on Benjamin Watts, publican, with respect to the drunkenness of Isgrove and Burt, presumably because Watts had allowed this offence to occur on his premises. There is minimal information about this case as the only documentation available is the three summons issued to the three individuals.	1854/030

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Tucker	Jane	Loxton	Caroline	01	05	1854	Assault	A	Jane Tucker, wife of Charles Tucker, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted and beaten by Caroline Loxton, spinster. Both women had been in The Red Ox run by James Hutton and, as Jane Tucker and her husband were leaving, she claimed that she had been insulted by Loxton who had called her names, pulled down her bonnet and upset a basket containing butter, tea and sugar that she had on her arm. Outside the pub the two women seem to have got into a fight and Charles Tucker, the husband of Jane, had become involved and knocked Caroline Loxton down. There were additional witness accounts from PC Charles Mizen, William Hawkins and Maria Slater that gave differing accounts of the incident. There is also a set of rough notes from a meeting of the magistrates that describes the testimony given, but does not provide any indication of the outcome of the case (but see case 1854/035 for the result).	1854/031
Chivers	Wiliam	Ricketts	James	02	05	1854	Assault	A	William Chivers, beerhouse keeper of The Queen's Head, and his wife, Elizabeth, both complained that they had been assaulted by James Ricketts. Ricketts was lodging at The Queen's Head, but had been out all afternoon drinking elsewhere. He was drunk when he returned to The Queen's Head, upset a table and broke a glass. When Elizabeth Chivers came to inspect the damage, Ricketts became violent and struck her across the bridge of the nose. William Chivers then intervened and with help from John Parfitt got Ricketts out into the street, but not before Ricketts had struck him on the forehead. Once in the street Ricketts was arrested by the police. Ricketts was found guilty of assault and fined 5/- plus costs of 8/6d or to serve 10 days in prison in Shepton Mallet. (See also 1854/033).	1854/032

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Porter	John	Ricketts	James	02	05	1854	Assault	A	Police serjeant John Porter charged James Ricketts with assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty. Porter had initially been called to The King's Head where Ricketts was drunk and abusing the landlady. Ricketts was taken out of the inn and sent on his way. Later Porter was called to The Queen's Head where Ricketts had been put out of the inn by the landlord (see case 1854/032). PC Samuel Somers and Porter arrested Ricketts and took him to the station. At the time of the arrest Ricketts attempted to strike Somers but en route to and at the police station Ricketts became very violent and struck and kicked both Porter and Somers. Ricketts was fined 5/- plus costs of 5/6d or to serve 10 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1854/033
Teek	James	Hembury	Thomas	02	05	1854	Refusal to work	Rw	James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, testified that Thomas Hembury, a pauper inmate of the workhouse, had refused to carry out the task allotted to him. His role was to pack a quantity of oakum, a task which Teek insisted was appropriate to Hembury's age and capabilities. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1854/034
Loxton	Caroline	Tucker	Charles	03	05	1854	Assault	A	Caroline Loxton, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Charles Tucker, labourer, who had struck her several times about the body and had dragged her by the hair along the gutter. Loxton admitted that she had called Tucker's wife, Jane, an 'ill name' when they had been in The Red Ox (see case 1854/031). Outside in the street Charles Loxton had assaulted her with assistance from his wife and Loxton needed to be helped by Jane Hudson who pulled Charles Tucker off her when she was in the gutter. PC Somers also came to her assistance. This case and case 1854/031 were both dismissed by the magistrates with Charles Tucker required to pay 4/- towards the costs and Caroline Loxton 3/-.	1854/035

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Porter	John	Hatcher	Robert	04	04	1854	Court martial	Cm	While on furlough at his father's house in Wells in December 1853 Private Robert Hatcher of 1st Dragoon Guards suffered an accident which impaired his suitability for military service. The military authorities were considering whether Hatcher's accident merited a court martial and requested a deposition from police serjeant John Porter who had been present when the accident occurred. Porter testified that he had met Hatcher who was carrying a gun and asked where there were birds that he might shoot. Porter directed him to an adjacent field and Hatcher fired at a group of small birds. As he pulled the trigger the gun barrel exploded and his hand was damaged leading to a partial amputation of one of his fingers. Porter reported that the bursting of the gun barrel was entirely accidental and no blame was attached to Hatcher. Porter's deposition was sent to Lieutenant Adjutant E Bradbury at Newbridge in Ireland.	1854/036
Parsons	Joseph	Adams	William	19	05	1854	Leaving work in an unfinished state	Nc	Joseph Parsons, glove manufacturer, contracted with William Adams, glove cutter, to cut out 14 dozen pairs of leather gloves and leggings. Adams entered into the contract but some 10 days later he absconded from Parsons' employ, leaving the work in an unfinished state. Parsons requested that a warrant for Adams' apprehension be issued. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1854/037
Perry	Thomas Davidge	Dix	William	22	05	1854	Assault	A	Thomas Davidge Perry, publican, complained that he had been assaulted by William Dix, labourer, who had struck him in the face with a ten-gallon can. A warrant for Dix's arrest was issued and when Dix appeared before the magistrates he admitted the offence. Dix was fined 10/- plus costs of 10/- to be paid immediately or to spend one calendar month in prison in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1854/038

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Welchman	William	Sparrow	William	27	05	1854	Allowing water to flow onto footpath	E	William Welchman, Surveyor of Turnpike Roads, complained that William Sparrow, barber, had allowed a quantity of water to flow from his premises in High Street which flooded the pavement and the turnpike road. There is no information on the outcome of the case, although the magistrates did defer the case until their meeting in June. (See also case 1854/041).	1854/039
Porter	John	Kemston	William	29	05	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter saw William Kemston quarrelling with his wife in High Street; Kemston was drunk. Porter noted that it was a Sunday and that Kemston was in his shirt sleeves and wore no hat! Porter saw Kemston to the passageway by Levi Allen's establishment and left him there. Subsequently, William Kemston's wife asked Porter to arrest him for beating her but Porter did not pursue that option. The case against Kemston was dismissed with Kemston being made responsible for the costs of the case. (See also case 1854/041).	1854/040
Justices		Various		29	05	1854	Minutes of meeting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 29 May. The rough notes cover only cases 1854/039 and 1854/040 and provide little helpful information, partly because of the illegibility of the handwriting.	1854/041
Bacon	George	Perkins	John	13	06	1854	Abusing a donkey	C	George Bacon, agent of the RSPCA, complained that John Perkins of Midsomer Norton was working a donkey that had multiple sores on its rump and a large 3-inch sore underneath the cart saddle. Bacon also measured the load of coal as being 17cwt which was, arguably, more appropriate to a horse than a donkey. The case against Perkins was dismissed on his paying the expenses of the case which were shown as being 9/6d.	1854/042

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Bacon	Maria	Pearce jnr	John	15	06	1854	Assault	A	Maria Bacon, wife of George Bacon, labourer (and agent of the RSPCA) complained that she had been assaulted by John Pearce the younger, son of John Pearce the elder, labourer, who had thrown a large stone at her and hit her on the leg. The defendant admitted his guilt and was ordered to pay the costs of the case of 9/6d (including a fine of 6d) or to be sent to prison in Shepton Mallet for 10 days.	1854/043
Bartlett	Thomas	Bush	George	23	06	1854	Assault	A	Thomas Bartlett, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by George Bush, butcher, who had struck him in the head with his fist. Evidence in support of Thomas Bartlett's case was to be given by his wife, Mary Bartlett. The case was settled without a hearing.	1854/044
Porter	John	Jones	Thomas	26	06	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter found Thomas Jones drunk in High Street. Jones admitted the offence and was fined 5/- which was recorded as being paid.	1854/045
Mizen	Charles	Young	William	26	06	1854	Drunkenness	D	PC Charles Mizzen found William Young in Southover where he was drunk after a session in The Full Moon. Young was fined 5/-.	1854/046
Mizen	Charles	Smith Tyrrell	William Michael	26	06	1854	Stealing from a garden	T	PC Charles Mizzen charged William Smith and Michael Tyrrell (Terrell) with stealing lettuces and onions from the garden of Jacob Bartlett in Priory Road near The Sherston Arms. Mizzen had followed the pair up Priory Road to The Queen's Head Inn where he searched them and found lettuces in Smith's pockets and onions in Tyrrell's. Mizzen claimed that he was able to match at least one of the lettuces with a stump of lettuce that he found had been pulled up in Bartlett's garden and it was also evident that some onions had been recently taken from the garden. Police serjeant John Porter had also seen the two men in Priory Road very close to Bartlett's garden. Both men were found guilty, Smith was committed to serve one calendar month in prison in Shepton Mallet, but Tyrrell was discharged.	1854/047

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Mizen	Charles	Lane	Charles	29	06	1854	Drunkenness	D	PC Charles Mizen arrested Charles Lane for being drunk in a public place and creating a great noise in the street. Lane was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of 5/- plus costs of 4/6d. Lane did not pay these sums and, although a distress process was carried out, it found that Charles Lane had no assets that could be sold to raise these amounts. Lane was therefore committed to spend 6 hours in the stocks.	1854/048
Collins	William	Wills	Jemima	07	07	1854	Petty trespass	Pt	Jemima Wills, wife of Charles Wills, chimney sweep, allegedly came to William Collins' house in East Wells, verbally abused him and then broke two panes of glass in his window. The case against Jemima Wills was dismissed.	1854/049
Justices		Brooks	William Henry	14	07	1854	Manslaughter	Ms	George Ricketts, cabinet maker and employee of Mr Beavan in Sadler Street, made a deposition regarding the death of John Kerridge, a fellow employee. When Kerridge came to work, he noticed that the hat which he wore while working had been damaged. He accused William Henry Brooks, an apprentice at the firm, of causing the damage. Brooks denied that he was responsible but the argument between them developed into a fight in the course of which Brooks threw a piece of mahogany at Kerridge which hit him on the head. George Ricketts dressed the cut on Kerridge's head and Kerridge resumed work for a short while before collapsing and subsequently dying. Brooks was remanded in custody on a charge of manslaughter pending further hearings.	1854/050

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Mizen	Charles	Moloney	David	20	07	1854	Assault	A	PC Charles Mizen charged David Moloney with assaulting him in the Market Place. Mizen claimed that Moloney had come into the Market Place and set two dogs to fighting each other. Mizen tried to break up the fight and Moloney attacked him across the shoulders and body with a large stick that he was carrying. Mizen arrested Moloney who continued to be violent in the police station, kicking Mizen several times. Moloney was found guilty of assault and fined £1 with costs of 6/6d, these sums to be obtained via distress proceedings. If this did not produce sufficient funds, then Moloney would serve one calendar month in prison with hard labour.	1854/051
Fry	Charles	Foster	James	22	07	1854	Larceny	T	Charles Fry, miller, complained that various articles had been stolen from his dwelling house and mills over the last six months. The items stolen included a hatchet, hook, and hammer as well as cheese and eggs. Fry stated that he suspected that James Foster, his servant for the last two to three years, was the culprit and asked for a search warrant to be issued to check the house in Chamberlain Street where James Foster was living. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1854/052
Porter	John	Dix	William	24	07	1854	Assault	A	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Dix, labourer, with trying to strike and kick him while in custody. A warrant for Dix's arrest was granted. (See also 1854/054 and 1854/055).	1854/053
Willis	Thomas	Loxton	Stephen	24	07	1854	Drunkenness	D	PC Thomas Willis charged Stephen Loxton with being drunk in Southover. At the time Loxton was in the company of William Dix and Frederick Maule. Police serjeant John Porter noted that he had seen Loxton and Dix the previous evening and had apprehended them both because they were drunk, but Dix had succeeded in escaping (probably 1854/053). Loxton was convicted of drunkenness and fined 5/- with costs of 5/6d, all to be paid by 1 August or to spend 6 hours in the stocks.	1854/054

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Willis	Thomas	Maule	Frederick	24	07	1854	Drunkenness	D	PC Thomas Willis accused Frederick Maule, labourer, of being drunk in Southover. At that time Maule had been in the company of Stephen Loxton (see 1854/054) and William Dix (see 1854/053). There is no information about the outcome of this case as the only document is the summons issued to Frederick Maule, although the rough notes of the petty sessions sitting on 4 August (see 1854/059) appear to indicate that Maule was fined 5/- and given 7 days to pay. If in default he would be placed in the stocks for 6 hours as he had no goods that could be sold through a distress procedure.	1854/055
Clements	Ann	Clements	Thomas	27	07	1854	Assault	A	Ann Clements complained that her husband, Thomas Clements, labourer, had assaulted her when he was drunk, kicking her and beating her. She had two young children aged 4 and 2 and was concerned for their safety and her own. Thomas Clements had apparently threatened to destroy everything in the house and to kill her. She asked that Thomas Clements, who only worked at some times and had a pension of 7/- per week, be required to put forward sureties to guarantee his future conduct towards her. A warrant for the apprehension of Thomas Clements was issued. At a hearing the case against Thomas Clements was dismissed upon his paying the costs of the case of 7/6d.	1854/056
Porter	John	Worsley	William	01	08	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Worsley with being drunk and disturbing the peace in High Street at midnight. Porter had found Worsley in High Street in a drunken state and advised him to go home. Worsley went around the corner into Queen Street and immediately returned and continued to disturb the peace with loud shouting. Worsley was arrested and fined 5/- with costs of 4/6d, all to be paid by 8 August or to spend 6 hours in the stocks. Worsley admitted that he had no goods to sell so there was no point in issuing a distress order.	1854/057

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Justices		Hipwell Haskins	George James	02	08	1854	Vagrancy	V	Rough memorandum of notes describing two cases of vagrants who had been sleeping in the open air. The case against George Hipwell was heard on 2 August and the defendant was discharged, while James Haskins was charged on the following day and discharged on payment of the costs of 3/-.	1854/058
Justices		Various		04	08	1854	Minutes of meeting	*	Rough notes of the petty sessions sitting of 4 August. There are a number of cases recorded here for which there is no earlier documentation. Unfortunately, the notes are barely legible and it is difficult to create coherent records from them. The cases appear to involve, amongst others: Samuel Perham, and someone called Mogford (possibly 1854/063); Mrs Sparrow (possibly 1854/066); Jacobs, Bale and Baker, PC Charles Mizen and Richard Woodward (all possibly 1854/065).	1854/059
Parsons	Joseph	Jones	Thomas	04	08	1854	Leaving service	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, contracted with Thomas Jones, blacksmith, that Jones would work as a patten ring maker for a period of 12 months. Jones commenced work on 4 May, but left on 2 August and had not returned. A warrant for Jones' arrest was issued.	1854/060
Parsons	Joseph	Phillips	Phillip	04	08	1854	Leaving service	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, contracted with Philip Phillips, blacksmith, that Phillips would work as a patten ring maker for a period of 2 years. Phillips commenced work on 10 May, but left on 2 August and had not returned. A warrant for Phillips' arrest was issued. (See also 1854/083).	1854/061
Mizen	Charles	Bartlett	Charles	05	08	1854	Drunkenness	D	PC Charles Mizen encountered a drunken Charles Bartlett in Southover. Bartlett's clothes were badly torn. Mizen arrested him and charged him with being drunk in a public place. Bartlett was fined 5/- with costs of 5/ to be paid by 12 August. In the event of default a distress order would be issued but if that did not realise the necessary funds, Bartlett would have to spend 6 hours in the stocks.	1854/062

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Mogford	Thomas	Fry	David	07	08	1854	Assault	A	Thomas Mogford, gardener, complained that he had been assaulted by David Fry, coal hauler. Fry had allegedly struck him and knocked him down before proceeding to kick and beat him while he was down. Fry claimed that Mogford had been throwing stones at his children. Fry was convicted of assault and fined 6d plus costs of 10/-, all to be paid immediately or to serve 14 days in prison in Shepton Mallet. (See also 1854/059).	1854/063
Mizen	Charles	Rood	Elizabeth	07	08	1854	Disturbing the peace	Dp	PC Charles Mizen arrested Elizabeth Rood for disturbing the peace. Elizabeth Rood was discharged on paying the costs of the case of 4/-. The payment appears to have been made by Private Attwell. Note: the surname of the individual apparently paying the costs of the case is very unclear and open to several interpretations.	1854/064
Jacobs	William	Bale Baker	James Edward	08	08	1854	Pound breach	Op	William James, farmer, found 4 asses in a field of pasture of which he was the tenant. With the assistance of the police (one statement shows PC Charles Mizen, another shows PC Samuel Somers) James got the animals to the pound where they were locked in. William Jacobs, hayward responsible for the pound, reported that relatively soon afterwards the pound was broken into and the animals released. Richard Woodward, labourer, testified that he had seen James Bale break the lock on the pound with a stick and, together with Edward Baker, release the asses which they claimed belonged to them. Bale and Baker were fined 3/3d each plus costs of 6/9d or to serve 21 days in prison with hard labour. Note: one document refers to a witness as Richard Woodward, while another shows the name as Richard Woodford. Note: there appear to be rough notes of the case in the minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 4 August (see 1854/059) although these notes are very difficult to read.	1854/065

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Sparrow	Elizabeth	Green	Elizabeth	09	08	1854	Assault	A	Elizabeth Sparrow complained that she had been in Grove Lane when Elizabeth Green came up to her, abused her and threatened to strike her with her fist. There are witness accounts from George Brown, Elizabeth Balch and Joseph Short who all saw Green holding up her fist. Costs of the case appear to have been 10/- but it is not clear who was to pay them. (See also 1854/059).	1854/066
Beavan	George	Barber	Edwin	10	08	1854	Absenting himself from service	Ab	George Beavan was a cabinet maker in the In Parish of St Cuthbert and Edwin Barber had been apprenticed to him for four years. During this period Barber had absented himself from work on a number of occasions. This time he had not turned up on 4 August without advising or obtaining permission from Beavan and had not been seen since. A warrant for Barber's arrest was issued.	1854/067
Bush	George	Francis Francis	John George	11	08	1854	Assault	A	George Bush, butcher, complained that he had been assaulted by John Francis and George Francis, both coal haulers residing in the parish of St Cuthbert. The case was settled without a hearing.	1854/068
Teek	James	Ward	Charles	15	08	1854	Leaving wife and family chargeable to parish	Ds	James Teek was the master of Wells Union workhouse. Sarah Ward and her three sons, William (9), Charles (7) and Joseph (3) had been abandoned and left chargeable to the parish by Sarah's husband, Charles Ward, who had absconded. Ward was arrested and sentenced as a rogue and vagabond to 3 months at Shepton Mallet's House of Correction with hard labour.	1854/069
Woodard	John	Wing	George	21	08	1854	Vagrancy	V	John Woodard, hall keeper, had seen George Wing in The Royal Inn where he was begging from various people. Woodard had cautioned Wing and ordered him to leave town. Wing had refused and was arrested when he was found about the town on the following day. Wing was convicted and sent to the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet for one calendar month with hard labour.	1854/070

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barnard	Rev H W	Plenty	John	26	08	1854	Rider on waggon - not in control	Rd	John Plenty, yeoman of Coxley in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, was seen by Rev. Barnard riding in a horse-drawn waggon along Priory Road. Plenty was sitting in the waggon but there was no-one on foot or on horseback to control the actions of the horse. There is no documentation on the case except the summons and there is no indication of the outcome.	1854/071
Porter	John	Birt	George	26	08	1854	Indecent exposure	le	Police serjeant Porter accused George Birt, labourer, of openly, lewdly and obscenely exposing himself in High Street with the aim of insulting females. There is no documentation of the case other than the summons and there is no indication of the outcome.	1854/072
Porter	John	Knight	Henry	05	09	1854	Bread Act	Wm	Henry Knight, journeyman and servant, was given bread to deliver by Edward Classey, baker, but was not provided with the appropriate beam and scales to enable the correct weight of the bread to be checked. He was therefore deemed to be committing an offence against the Bread Act. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1854/073
Porter	John	Knight	Henry	05	09	1854	Bread Act	Wm	The case documents appear to refer to the same case as in 1854/073 where Henry Knight was accused of an offence against the Bread Act by selling a four pound loaf on behalf of Edward Classey, his master, without having been provided with the appropriate beam and scales to enable the bread to be weighed. One document was initially made out in the name of William North suggesting that he would be a witness for the prosecution, but the name was subsequently changed to Henry North, while the accompanying summons referred to Henry Knight (as per 1854/073). There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1854/074

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Mizen	Charles	Young	William	11	09	1854	Assault	A	PC Charles Mizen arrested a drunken William Young, labourer, near Young's residence in Southover. Young resisted arrest violently and kicked the officer several times. Young was then handcuffed and taken to the police station. Witness statements were obtained from John Phillips and Thomas Thallis with the latter averring that, although Young had clearly been drunk, he had walked as straight a line as any man could. Young was fined 5/- with costs of 4/- for drunkenness and then a further 20/- with costs of 8/- for the assault on PC Mizen. If in default of the fine and costs for drunkenness, Young was to serve 6 hours in the stocks and if in default of the fine and costs for assault, Young was to serve 14 days in prison with hard labour. Young could or would not pay and was sent to prison.	1854/075
Porter	John	Bath	Celia	11	09	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter saw Philip Perham and Celia Bath in Water Lane. Bath was very drunk and Porter requested her to go home - which she claimed was in Glastonbury. She was persuaded by Porter and Perham to go as far as The Sherston Arms, but refused to go further. At this point Porter arrested her. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1854/076
Justices		Various		11	09	1854	Magistrates notes	*	The documents comprise three pages of information relating to the costs of various cases, either for witness expenses or for the costs of overnight accommodation for prisoners.	1854/077
Hawkins	Henry	Dowling Brinson Bobbett	Edwin Joseph William	12	09	1854	Drunk & disorderly conduct	D	Henry Hawkins, beerhouse keeper of The Bell, complained that Edwin Dowling, Joseph Brinson and William Bobbett had been guilty of drunk and disorderly conduct in his house. He had initially refused to serve the three defendants because they were drunk, but was unable to get them out and eventually drew them a quart and provided some bread. The men eventually left but returned with several others and began fighting in the road. The police were called and the three men were arrested. There is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1854/078

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Cooke Rolle	Charles Richard	26	09	1854	Minutes of meeting	*	The abbreviated document refers to Charles Cooke and Richard Rolle who were alleged to have caused a breach of the peace. Both defendants were reprimanded and discharged on payment of costs of 3/6d each.	1854/079
Wilkins	Edwin	Collins	Henry	26	09	1854	Rescuing horses destined for pound	Op	Edwin Wilkins of Easton in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert complained that two horses had been found trespassing on a field that he was renting near Portway. He had his son, John Wilkins, take the horses to the pound, but when the lad was close to The Mermaid Inn he was approached by Henry Collins, coal hauler, who offered him 1/- to release the horses to him. When the young lad refused, Collins had allegedly pushed him aside and taken control of the horses. The case was settled without a hearing.	1854/080
Mizen	Charles	Allen	Charles	04	10	1854	Theft	T	See 1854/010. After the break-in at Rev. Heathcote's house, the two individuals involved had dropped the bundles of stolen goods which they were carrying when they were pursued by PC Mizzen. James Small had been arrested and convicted of the robbery, but Charles Allen had initially escaped. Allen had now given himself up to PC Samuel Somers and PC Mizzen requested that Allen be remanded in custody for several days while the necessary evidence was assembled. Allen was remanded in custody until 14 October.	1854/081
Duckett	Mary Ann	Porteous Porteous	James Mary	04	10	1854	Theft	T	Mary Ann Duckett of Southover, wife of John Duckett, had been renting a furnished room at 2/6d per week to James Porteous. Living with him were a woman he represented as his wife, Mary Porteous, and two children. Mary Ann Duckett claimed that the whole family had left their lodging and taken with them a number of items of bedding, glassware and other household effects from the room. In addition, she claimed that certain items of clothing and other articles had been taken from her room. She had also ascertained that at least one of the blankets had been pawned at Hilliers in the name of Mary Porteous. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1854/082

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Parsons	Joseph	Phillips	Phillip	27	10	1854	Absenting himself from service	Ab	On 10 May 1854 Joseph Parsons, patten ring manufacturer, had entered into a two-year contract with Phillip Phillips, blacksmith, for the latter to work for him as a patten ring maker. On 7 October Phillips had absented himself from his employment and had not returned. A warrant for Phillips' arrest was issued. Phillipps was apprehended and sentenced to three calendar months imprisonment in Shepton Mallet. Note: case 1864/061 appears to show another incident of Phillips absenting himself from employment with another arrest warrant being issued. This incident was presumably resolved and is not mentioned in the documentation of the current case.	1854/083
Johnson	Charles	Johnson	Benjamin	07	11	1854	Assault	A	Charles Johnson, millwright, complained that he had been assaulted by Benjamin Johnson, labourer, who had struck him a violent blow on the head. Benjamin Johnson apparently did not attend the hearing and a warrant for his arrest was issued. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case. Note: there is no indication that the two men were related.	1854/084
Welchman	William	Brice Buck	James John	13	11	1854	Environmental nuisance	E	William Welchman, who, in other cases, was described as Surveyor of Turnpike Roads, complained that the haywardens had stopped a trunk that led water across Southover into the river and the water now flowed across the road near The Sherston Arms and caused significant offensive smells. Note: it is assumed that James Brice and John Buck were holders of the office of haywardens.	1854/085

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Willcox	Sarah	Beauchamp	Betsy	13	11	1854	Assault	A	Sarah Willcox of West Horrington, wife of Edmund Willcox, gardener, complained that she had been assaulted by Betsy Beauchamp also of West Horrington, wife of John Beauchamp, labourer. Sarah Willcox claimed that Betsy Beauchamp had struck her in the face with her fist in Willmott's shop. Witness statements were obtained from Hannah Tattle, wife of James Tattle; Ellen Tattle, Hannah's daughter; Robert Knowlman of Bristol; and Thomas Binning, an assistant in Willmott's shop. Elizabeth (Betsy) Beauchamp was found guilty of assault and fined 6d with costs of 7/6d.	1854/086
Edwards	Robert	Brice Buck	James John	13	11	1854	Repair of road	H	Robert Edwards of Wedmore, clerk to the Wells to Highbridge turnpike roads, complained that James Brice and John Buck, surveyors of the highways for the In Parish of St Cuthbert, had failed to allocate sufficient funds for the repair and maintenance of the roads under their jurisdiction. There is no information to indicate the outcome of the case.	1854/087
Hodges	Anna	Fry	Samuel	22	11	1854	Bastardy order	B	Anna Hodges stated that she had been awarded an order against Samuel Fry in 1845 naming him as the father of her male child born out of wedlock and requiring him to pay the sum of 2/- per week for the support of the child. She complained that Fry had not been paying the mandated payments and was now 13 weeks in arrears with a value of £1.6s.0d. The justices agreed that Anna Hodges was owed the sum outstanding plus the sum of £1.1s.10d for the costs involved in obtaining this order. Fry appears to have been unable or unwilling to pay these sums and was therefore committed to prison in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet for three calendar months unless he was able to pay the sum of 3/- to defray the costs of commitment.	1854/088

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Teek	James	Seymour	Esau	24	11	1854	Petty trespass	Pt	James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, complained that Esau Seymour, an inmate of the workhouse, had been issued with a new shirt, but he had destroyed it by tearing it apart. The item was valued at 2/6d. Seymour was convicted of petty trespass and fined 2/6d plus costs of 7/6d. Payment was required immediately with the alternative being 14 days in prison with hard labour.	1854/089
Dudderidge	James	Price	Samuel	25	11	1854	Vagrantcy	V	PC James Dudderidge arrested Samuel Price on a charge of vagrantcy on the evening of 24 November. At a hearing on 25 November Price was discharged on a promise to leave the town immediately. (See also 1854/091).	1854/090
Mizen	Charles	Price	Samuel	27	11	1854	Vagrantcy	V	PC Charles Mizzen arrested Samuel Price on 25 November because he had seen Price begging from door to door in Silver Street. Police serjeant John Porter stated that Price had been discharged from custody earlier that day on a promise to leave the town immediately. Both Mizzen and Porter noted that Price seemed to subsist entirely by begging and had admitted as much. There is no indication of the outcome of the case. (See also 1854/090).	1854/091
Mizen	Charles	Harrison	William	30	11	1854	Vagrantcy	V	PC Charles Mizzen took William Harrison into custody for begging at the house of Francis Fry in the Liberty of St Andrew. Harrison had been cautioned previously for the same offence and was detained in custody for further examination on 1 December. A document recording his conviction for vagrantcy as an idle and disorderly person and authorising his removal to prison was begun but Harrison was then discharged.	1854/092

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Moloney	David	04	12	1854	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter and PC Samuel Somers went into The Sun Inn. Porter testified that David Moloney had addressed some insulting remarks to him and then threw a cup of beer over him. PC Somers stated that Moloney had accused Porter of killing a man in Ireland and being responsible for the death of a man near Bath. The officers then arrested Moloney and Porter handcuffed him to go to the police station. Others present in the bar, including James Vinen, carpenter, Charles Brown, labourer, John Biddle and William Kemp gave different interpretations of the events. The general view was that Moloney had not thrown beer over Porter and had been prevented from doing so by Mrs Stone, the landlady, and William Kemp. When arrested, Moloney had not been drunk, nor was he violent and resisting arrest. Opinion was also that PC Somers had struck Moloney with his fist or his staff and knocked him down when he was handcuffed to police serjeant Porter. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1854/093
Brown	Emanuel	Loxton Langley	Stephen John	08	12	1854	Theft of potatoes	T	Emanuel Brown, yeoman, claimed that almost a sack of potatoes belonging to him had been stolen from an outhouse near Haines' Orchard in the In Parish of St Cuthbert. Brown named Stephen Loxton of Wells and John Langley of Frome as suspects and requested that a warrant for their arrest be issued. A warrant was duly issued.	1854/094
Buck	Abrahan	Loxton	Joseph	31	12	1854	Breach of common lodging house regulations	L	Abraham Buck, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses, complained that Joseph Loxton, who was licensed to run a lodging house in Silver Street, had permitted eight persons to occupy a room licensed only to accommodate two people in one double bed. A summons was issued to Loxton but there is no information as to the outcome of the case.	1854/095

1855

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Masters	George	Jacobs	John	19	01	1855	Assault	A	George Masters of Glastonbury, farmer, complained that he had been assaulted by John Jacobs of Glastonbury, also a farmer. The two men had met in Wells when, in the course of their conversation, Jacobs claimed that Masters owed him money as part of his payment of taxes. Masters disputed that James had any role as a tax assessor and Jacobs then offered to fight him which Masters declined. However, Masters asserted that Jacobs had then struck him two blows in the head and face. Robert Young of Wells and William Merrick of Glastonbury were summoned to give evidence on behalf of Masters. Jacobs was found guilty of assault and ordered to pay £1.1s.6d in costs plus 2/6d for Masters' costs and a fine of 2/6d, a total of £1.6s.6d. In the event of default Jacobs would be required to serve 7 days in prison in Shepton Mallet.	1855/001
Bryce	Elizabeth	Guppy	Edward	20	01	1855	Assault	A	Elizabeth Boyce of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, wife of William Boyce, complained that she had been assaulted by Edward Guppy of East Wells, labourer. She claimed that she had been assaulted when Guppy had tried to take a pillow from her using force. There is no indication of the outcome of the case.	1855/002
Moyston	George	Francis	George	22	01	1855	Assault	A	George Moyston, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by George Francis, coal hauler, who had struck him a blow in the face. There is no information regarding the outcome of the case.	1855/003
White	Jane	Hole	George	23	01	1855	Assault	A	Jane White, wife of John White, blacksmith, complained that she had been assaulted by George Hole of East Wells, sawyer, who had struck her a blow in the eye. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/004

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Edwards	Louisa	Edwards	William	05	02	1855	Assault	A	Louisa Edwards, wife of William Edwards, reported that her husband had come home drunk and had asked her to go and get change for a half sovereign. She had gone and bought some food and gave him the change of 9/6d. William Edwards had swept the change off the table and then kicked his wife. He said that it was his doom to do for her that night. This threat to kill his wife was confirmed by the testimony of George Edwards, one of their children. The police were called and William Edwards was apprehended. William Edwards was bound over in the sum of £10 to be of good conduct, particularly towards his wife, for the next 12 months.	1855/005
Teek	James	Oxley	James	12	02	1855	Refusal to work	Rw	James Teek, governor of Wells Union workhouse, stated that James Oxley, an able-bodied inmate of the workhouse who was maintained there at the cost of the Parish of St Cuthbert, had refused to carry out the task assigned to him. Oxley was required to wheel quantities of lime and earth but refused to do so until he was given clothing by the Union. James Oxley was convicted of refusing to work and sentenced to spend 14 days in prison with hard labour in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1855/006
Glanz	Jonas	Boulton Creedy White	James Major John	17	02	1855	Destruction of property	Pt	Jonas Glanz was a traveller residing at The King's Head Inn. Major Creedy, John White and James Boulton came into the inn and, without provocation, Creedy grabbed the hat from Glanz's head and put it on. White and Boulton then proceeded to beat the hat while it was on Creedy's head and the hat wound up in the fire which meant it was damaged beyond repair. Glanz estimated the value of the hat at 4/6d. The case was settled without a hearing.	1855/007

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Brown	Mary Ann	19	02	1855	Theft	T	Police serjeant John Porter saw Eliza Brown going to Francis Tudway's property and then coming away again within a few minutes. She appeared to be carrying nothing when she arrived but had something under her shawl when she left. He stopped her and found she had two lumps of coal. Porter then went to Tudway's house and saw Mary Ann Brown, Eliza Brown's mother, a charlady at the house. She explained that she had given her daughter two small lumps of coal from the kitchen with the permission of Mrs Rickards, the housekeeper. They had no coal to make a fire at home and had been unable to obtain coal from their normal source. Police serjeant Porter arrested Mary Ann Brown on suspicion of stealing the coal, but the justices discharged her.	1855/008
Hodges	Anna	Fry	Samuel	20	02	1855	Non-compliance with bastardy order	B	This case is the latest in a series going back to at least 1853/003. Anna Hodges, single woman, complained that Samuel Fry was continuing to ignore warrants that required him to pay 2/- per week to help maintain the son which he had conceived out of wedlock with Anna Hodges in 1845. The most recent warrant dated from 13 November 1854 (See 1854/088) and Anna Hodges complained that the terms of this warrant did not seem to be enforced in Wiltshire where Fry was said to be living at Farley Wick near Bath. A further warrant was issued for Samuel Fry to pay 13 weeks arrears totalling £1.6s.0d. This was in addition to the warrant issued in November 1854 which was also for 13 weeks arrears.	1855/009
Bacon	George	Baker	Edwin	03	03	1855	Cruelty to animals	C	George Bacon, labourer and agent of the RSPCA, saw Edwin Baker, labourer, driving two asses pulling a load of coal along Beggar Street. When he checked the asses he noted that both of them had substantial sores on their backs and sides which were sufficiently bad that the asses should not have been at work. Baker was reprimanded for his cruelty to the animals but discharged on payment of the costs of 4/6d by 12 March.	1855/010

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Teek	James	Durbin	Ann	07	03	1855	Deserting a child	Ds	James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, accused Ann Durbin of deserting the son to whom she had given birth out of wedlock some 6 months previously while she was already an inmate of the workhouse. Durbin had recently gone to Teek and told him she intended to leave the workhouse. She had then done so, taking the child with her, but later that same day the child was returned to the workhouse by Mrs Hatcher. It appeared that Ann Durbin had left the child with Charlotte Hatcher while she went to The Sherston Arms for a drink. Ann Durbin had abandoned the child and continued towards Bristol before she was overtaken at Ston Easton by George Huish and William Hill who had been sent from the workhouse to find her. Ann Durbin claimed that she was going to find a situation in Bristol and then come back for her child after a week. Ann Durbin was found guilty of deserting her child and sentenced to one calendar month in prison with hard labour.	1855/011
Churchouse	Mary Ann	Churchouse	Edward	20	03	1855	Assault	A	Mary Ann Churchouse, wife of Edward Churchouse of Coxley, complained that her husband had struck her in the face and pulled her hair. Edward Churchouse was discharged as neither party appeared at the hearing.	1855/012
Lukins	William	Walter	Carl	20	03	1855	Assault	A	William Lukins, labourer, complained that he was assaulted by Carl Walter, who struck him on the head with a stick with such force that the stick broke in two. Lukins stated that he had been walking along Southover when Walter ran past him in pursuit of his wife to give her a beating, striking Lukins as he passed him. John Chapman confirmed Lukins' version of events. Walter was fined £5, including costs, to be paid immediately or to be sent to prison for 7 days.	1855/013

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Somers	Samuel	Rose	William Henry	02	04	1855	Drunkenness	D	PC Samuel Somers was on duty Behind Walls and encountered William Henry Rose who was drunk and making a great disturbance. Somers had previously cautioned Rose and advised him to go home. Police serjeant John Porter came along and took Rose into custody. Rose admitted that he was drunk and was fined 5/- with costs of 3/6d or to be put into the stocks. The fine was recorded as paid.	1855/014
Porter	John	Young	James	04	04	1855	Not in control of waggon and horses	Rd	Police serjeant John Porter saw James Young driving two horses harnessed to an empty waggon in East Wells. Young had no reins to control the horses and there was no one on foot or on horseback to assist in controlling and directing the horses. For information on the outcome of the case see case 1855/017.	1855/015
Chamberlain	James	Moloney	David	04	04	1855	Assault	A	James Chamberlain, shoemaker, complained that he had been assaulted by David Moloney in what appeared to be a continuation of a disagreement that had taken place between them some two months ago. Chamberlain had been in the yard of The George Inn when Moloney had appeared and provoked a fight between them. At one point Moloney drew a knife from his pocket and stabbed at Chamberlain but then put the knife away. Chamberlain requested that Moloney should be required to put forward sureties regarding his future conduct, particularly towards Chamberlain, who claimed that he feared Moloney would do him severe bodily injury. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/016
Porter	John	Young	James	06	04	1855	Not in control of waggon and horses	Rd	This document is the summons that relates to case 1855/015. James Young was summoned by police serjeant John Porter for not being in control of a waggon and two horses. Young was fined 2/6d plus costs of 2/6d.	1855/017

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Bacon	George	Collins	Edward	24	04	1855	Furious driving	Rd	George Bacon, labourer and agent of the RSPCA, complained that Edward Collins, servant to Jonas Parker, butcher, had been driving a horse and cart along the Bath Road at a furious pace endangering people on foot and other road users. The cart which Collins was driving belonged to Jonas Parker. Collins admitted the offence and was fined 6d with costs of 6/6d. These sums were recorded as paid.	1855/018
Sares	Sarah	Francis	Ann	25	04	1855	Assault	A	Sarah Sares, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Ann Francis, wife of John Francis, labourer, who had held her fists in a threatening attitude and threatened to strike her. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: the surname of the plaintiff is shown as 'Sares' and it seems likely that it might be intended as 'Sayers'.	1855/019
Bacon	George	Short Cook	Joseph Stephen	03	05	1855	Cruelty to cat	C	George Bacon, labourer and agent of the RSPCA, accused Joseph Short and Stephen Cook, both described as labourers, of cruelty to a cat. The defendants were accused of throwing the cat into water and knocking out one of its eyes. It seems likely that they were required to pay costs of at least 7/6d and possibly as much as 10/-; these amounts are shown in different parts of the documentation but there is no specific information as to the outcome of the case.	1855/020
Duckett	Ann	Sweet Sweet	John Eliza	20	05	1855	Assault	A	Ann Duckett complained that she had been threatened with violent assault by John Sweet, butcher, and his wife, Eliza Sweet. She claimed that the couple had held their fists in her face in an aggressive manner and had threatened to run her through with a knife. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/021

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Somers	Samuel	Andrews	John	21	05	1855	Drunkenness	D	PC Samuel Somers encountered a drunken John Andrews in East Wells where he was creating a disturbance and using a good deal of bad language. Andrews admitted that he had been drunk and was fined 5/- with costs of 4/6d, all to be paid by 28 May. Andrews said that he would be unable to pay and had no goods that could be sold in a distraint process. He was therefore sentenced to be placed in the stocks for 6 hours at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet. Note: the surname of the police officer is shown as 'Summers' on the case header; in other cases it is given as 'Somers'.	1855/022
Day	Elizabeth	Day	William	21	05	1855	Assault	A	Elizabeth Day went to the house of her mother-in-law in Tucker Street in search of her husband, William Day, because he had not been home for several days. She found him and, seeing him by the fire, she opened the window and threw a slice of stale bread at him since that was the only food she had for her child to eat. William Day had come out of the house followed by his mother and sister. They had all attacked Elizabeth Day and, she claimed, struck her several times. There was also a suggestion that some window panes had been broken, possibly by Elizabeth Day. Mary Sage witnessed the events and confirmed most of Elizabeth Day's version, except for Day's assertion that she had been knocked down by her husband. Elizabeth Day accused her husband of assault and it was suggested in return that she was drunk, an accusation that she denied, although she did admit to having had some drink. The case against William Day was dismissed on payment of the expenses of 4/6d.	1855/023
Porter	John	Tully	Mary	22	05	1855	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged Mary Tully with drunkenness after he encountered her in Sadler Street and ascertained that she had no lodgings to go to. Tully had also made use of abusive language to Mrs Mead, the landlady of The Swan, where Tully had been staying. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/024

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Pearce	George	Loxton	Isaac	30	05	1855	Assault	A	George Pearce, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Isaac Loxton in The Full Moon Inn in Southover. Pearce had been in the bar when Loxton came in and wanted to clean his hat. Pearce refused but Loxton ran off with the hat before returning with it and demanding 1/- for cleaning it. Pearce refused to pay, saying that he had not wanted the hat cleaned. However, he was willing to give Loxton a glass of beer from the quart mug which he had. Loxton refused the beer but struck Loxton in the face and knocked him down before jumping on him and kicking him several times. Both Charles Gorman and George Moyston testified that they had witnessed Loxton strike Pearce and that Pearce had not struck the first blow. Loxton was found guilty of assault and fined 2/6d plus costs of 8/-, all to be paid immediately or to be imprisoned in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet for 14 days.	1855/025
Teek	James	Allen	Charles	07	06	1855	Desertion from Union Workhouse with clothes	T	James Teek was the master of Wells Union workhouse. Charles Allen had entered the workhouse as an inmate in December 1854, but in January 1855 he had absconded wearing several items of clothing that were the property of the workhouse. Allen had now been apprehended but none of the items of clothing issued to him as an inmate were found on him. Allen was convicted and sent to prison in Shepton Mallet for 21 days.	1855/026
Berryman	William Chester	Mullins	Hannah	07	06	1855	Taking extra toll	Ut	William Chester Berryman, who ran a courier service for merchandise between Wells and Glastonbury, claimed that Hannah Mullins, toll collector at the Southover turnpike gate, was charging his driver, Henry Wear, a double toll. Berryman testified that Wear was paying the toll when taking his waggon and two horses to Glastonbury and was then being asked to pay a further ninepence on the return journey when only one toll per day was supposed to be collected on any vehicle. The case against Hannah Mullins was dismissed, possibly because the plaintiff did not appear at the hearing.	1855/027

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Frith	William	Churchose	Edward	14	06	1855	Breach of the pound	Op	William Frith of Beryl Farm complained that he had found three horses illegally put out to pasture on his land. He had instructed two of his men, Joseph Gould and Shadrach Simmons, to take the horses to the pound. They had driven the horses as far as Water Lane when Edward Churchose, labourer, had emerged from one of the houses and whipped the horses, causing them to bolt and run away from Frith's men. Churchose was found guilty of obstructing Frith's men in their execution of the law and was fined £1 plus costs of 14/6d, all to be paid immediately. (See also 1855/032).	1855/028
Thorley	Robert	Clements	Charles	18	06	1855	Leaving wife and family needing relief	Ds	Robert Thorley, Relieving Officer for the Wells Union, was approached by Eliza Clements asking for assistance because her husband, Charles Clements, had left her. Thorley initially gave her two loaves of bread and, with the approval of the Board of Guardians, subsequently gave her three shillings and four loaves of bread. An arrest warrant for Charles Clements was issued and, on his apprehension, he was convicted of desertion and sentenced to one calendar month in prison at Shepton Mallet as a rogue and a vagbond.	1855/029
Mizen	Charles	Sayer Parsons Duckett	Sarah George Ann	20	06	1855	Illegal burial (of child)	Ib	PC Charles Mizzen received information from Priscilla Dredge that Sarah Sayer of Southover had given birth to a stillborn child that had been buried in the back garden of their house by her partner, George Parsons. Priscilla Dredge also stated that Mrs Ann Duckett had provided Sarah Sayer with three pennyworth of bitter apple in an attempt to cause the baby's birth to be aborted. Priscilla Dredge's information had come from a confession made to her by Sarah Sayer. PC Mizzen applied for a warrant to arrest Sarah Sayer, George Parsons and Ann Duckett for concealing the birth of the child and then illegally burying it. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/030

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Bacon	George	Lockyer	George	28	06	1855	Cruelty to animals	C	George Bacon, agent of the RSPCA, complained that George Lockyer of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert was guilty of cruelty to an ass by working it when it was not in a fit condition. Bacon saw Lockyer using two asses to pull an empty cart along New Street and noted that one of the asses had a large sore on the shoulder under the collar. Bacon had cautioned Lockyer the previous week about working animals when they were carrying large sores and Lockyer had promised that he would not work his animals in such a condition. Lockyer was found guilty of cruelty and fined 3/- plus costs of 9/- making a total of 12/- to be paid. If in default, Lockyer would be required to serve 14 days in prison with hard labour. (See also 1855/032).	1855/031
Justices		Various		07	07	1855	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	The document contains rough notes of the petty sessions sitting of 7 July. The notes cover the cases of Frith v Churchose (1855/028) and Bacon v Lockyer (1855/031). There are also notes of a case involving James Smith v Robert Brown and Charles Brown (1855/034). The case header appears to refer to a case of Salmoni v Salmoni involving drunkenness and assault, but there is no further information and a search of the census data for 1851 and 1861 reveals no results for 'Salmoni' in either instance. Note: the notes of the meeting are very rough and it is difficult to derive from them meaningful entries for the cases involved.	1855/032
Evans	Sarah	Gleaves	Joseph	14	07	1855	Assault	Sa	The document involves alleged sexual harassment as Joseph Gleaves, writer, was said to have put his arm around the waist of Sarah Evans, servant. There is no information on the outcome of the case (but see case 1855/037 for summons issued).	1855/033

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Brown Brown	Robert Charles	20	07	1855	Driving without reins	Rd	Police serjeant John Porter brought a charge of driving without reins against Robert Brown and Charles Brown, both described as labourers. They had been driving in a donkey-pulled cart along Sadler Street without reins and with no-one on foot or on horseback to control the movement of the donkey. As a result of their negligence an accident occurred where a child of James Smith was knocked down and nearly suffered a broken leg. Robert and Charles Brown pleaded guilty to the charge and were each fined 5/6d plus costs of 4/6d each to be paid immediately or to serve 14 days in prison. (See also 1855/032).	1855/034
Mizen	Charles	Phipps jnr	Thomas	21	07	1855	Cruelty to an ass	C	PC Charles Mizzen charged Thomas Phipps the younger with beating and ill-treating an ass in the Liberty of St Andrew. Phipps was not fined but was required to pay costs of 4/6d.	1855/035
Porter	John	Ball	Zachariah	23	07	1855	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged Zachariah Ball with being drunk in a public place. Ball was found guilty and required to pay 5/- immediately.	1855/036
Evans	Sarah	Gleaves	Joseph	23	07	1855	Assault	A	The documents comprise a set of summons related to case of Sarah Evans v Joseph Gleaves (see 1855/033). In addition to the summons served on Joseph Gleaves there are also two summons for witnesses named as Matilda Perry, wife of Thomas Davidge Perry, and James Frederick Knight Barber.	1855/037
Wilkins	Mary b6Ann	Morgan	Henry	23	07	1855	Assault	A	Mary Ann Wilkins, wife of John Wilkins, turner, claimed that she was assaulted and struck in the face by Henry Morgan, also a turner. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/038

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Phipps	Sarah	Allen	James	27	07	1855	Assault	A	Sarah Phipps, single woman, complained that James Allen, painter, had assaulted her by striking her in the head with a stick that he had thrown at her. Allen was found guilty and fined 6d plus costs of 13/-. If in default Allen was to serve 14 days in prison in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet. Note: there is also a reference on the back of the summons to a fine of 5/- but it is not clear if it applies to this case. (See also 1855/046).	1855/039
Porter	John	Lane	Charles	27	07	1855	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter encountered Charles Lane in East Wells where he was drunk and creating a disturbance. Porter tried to persuade Lane to go home but Lane refused and was locked up. Lane was found guilty and fined 5/- plus costs of 4/6d, all to be paid by 3 August.	1855/040
Teek	James	Whitehead	John	30	07	1855	Stealing gooseberries	T	James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, charged John Whitehead, an inmate of the workhouse, with stealing gooseberries to the value of one penny from the workhouse garden. The case against Whitehead was dismissed when James Teek chose not to press the charge on the basis of the defendant's promise not to re-offend.	1855/041
Jacobs	William	Fry Fry	Harry John	02	08	1855	Assault	A	William Jacobs of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Harry Fry, shoemaker, and his son, John, also a shoemaker. Between them they had allegedly struck him several times. Joseph Short, labourer, was summoned to provide witness evidence on behalf of William Jacobs. Evidence was also heard from Lucy Jacobs, mother of William Jacobs, while Alfred Hatcher and William Crandon were called upon to give evidence for the Frys. Harry Fry was ordered to pay 12/- including a fine of 6d, while his son, John, was to pay 13/6d including a fine of 6d. If in default they would be required to serve 21 days in prison. (See also 1855/046).	1855/042

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Howell	John	07	08	1855	Assault	A	Police serjeant John Porter charged John Howell of Southover, labourer, with violently assaulting and beating his own daughter, Elizabeth Howell. John Sweet, a neighbour of Howell's, testified that Elizabeth Howell had asked him and his wife to sit with her until her father came home because he had threatened to kill her. When Howell did come home, he ordered his daughter inside and proceeded to beat her with a strap. William Hawkins, butcher, lived a few doors further away and was alarmed by the shouts of 'murder' from the area of Howell's house. He went into Howell's house to ensure that the child was not harmed further and was followed by other neighbours. Howell ordered them out and both Hawkins and Sweet testified that they had heard Howell say to his daughter that he was going to kill her, but no further sounds of beating were heard. Sweet had called the police and when they arrived Howell admitted the assault and was taken into custody. Howell was fined 2/6d plus costs of 6/-, all to be paid immediately or to be confined at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet for 14 days.	1855/043
Porter	John	Dix	William	08	08	1855	Assault	A	In July 1854 police serjeant John Porter arrested William Dix, labourer, for drunkenness in Southover and took him into police custody. At the police station Dix became violent, kicked Porter several times and succeeded in escaping. A warrant for Dix's arrest was issued and it was more than a year later that he was apprehended. Dix was found guilty of common assault and fined 4/6d plus costs of 10/6d, a total of 15/-. Dix was required to pay this sum immediately and was either unable or unwilling to do so, and was therefore committed to prison for 14 days.	1855/044

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Wilton	Martha	Wilton	Richard	11	08	1855	Sureties to keep the peace	Su	Martha Wilton, wife of Richard Wilton, innkeeper, complained that she had been assaulted by her husband, who had struck her several violent blows with his fists and on a subsequent occasion had attacked her with an iron poker. Witness testimony was obtained from Mary Saint, who was a servant to the Wiltons and who had run from the house after seeing her mistress following the attack with the poker and had called the police. Richard Wilton was bound over in the sum of £20 of his own money to keep the peace, particularly towards his wife, for 6 calendar months.	1855/045
Justices		Various		13	08	1855	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Rough minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 13 August. The scrawled notes of this session cover, amongst others, the cases of William Jacobs v Harry and John Fry (case 1855/042), PC Charles Mizen v John and Frederick Brook (case 1855/050), and Sarah Phipps v James Allen (case 1855/039). The writing is very unclear and the notes add little to the information obtained from the other case documentation.	1855/046
Porter	John	Christopher	James	14	08	1855	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter had charged James Christopher with drunkenness, an offence for which he had been fined 5/-. As Christopher did not pay the fine a distraint warrant was issued to try and sell some of his assets to realise the money. Porter reported that the distraint process had shown that there were no assets to be realised.	1855/047
Mac'Edwards	Elizabeth	Stacey	Elizabeth	20	08	1855	Theft	T	Elizabeth Stacey was charged with stealing a calico shift of the value of 1/9d, the property of Elizabeth Mac'Edwards. Stacey was found guilty and sentenced to one calendar month in prison at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet. (See also 1855/051).	1855/048
Isgrove	Joseph	Barnard	Charles	21	08	1855	Assault	A	Joseph Isgrove, labourer, claimed that he had been assaulted by Charles Barnard, butcher, who had struck him several times about the head and face. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/049

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Mizen	Charles	Brook Brook	John Frederick	23	08	1855	Drunkenness	D	PC Charles Mizen arrested John Brook and Frederick Brook for drunkenness. Both defendants were from Southover and both were described as labourers. Each of them was fined 5/- plus costs of 2/6d. Note: the case header suggests that the case was one of assault, but there is no reference to this in the summons. Note: the minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 13 August (case 1855/046) contain some notes of the cases against John Brook and Frederick Brook, but it is difficult to extract meaningful information from the rough handwriting.	1855/050
Mac'Edwards	Elizabeth	Stacey	Elizabeth	27	08	1855	Commitment for felony	T	This document represents the instruction to commit Elizabeth Stacey to prison for one calendar month following her conviction for stealing a calico shift that was the property of Elizabeth Mac'Edwards (see case 1855/048).	1855/051
Barnard	James	Standard	James	27	08	1855	Stealing pears	T	John Slater, who worked for James Barnard in the latter's garden in Bull Lane, saw James Standard in the garden collecting pears from the base of a pear tree. When Slater tackled Standard the latter had seventeen pears in his possession with an estimated value of three pence. These were handed to PC George Burleton who apprehended Standard and charged him with theft. Standard was found guilty and sentenced to ten days in prison with hard labour.	1855/052
Mizen	Charles	Hopkins	Henry	27	08	1855	Stealing apples	T	Some time after midnight PC Charles Mizen saw Henry Hopkins in a garden in Bull Lane belonging to James Barnard collecting apples from under a tree. When Mizen apprehended him Hopkins had pockets full of apples with a value of around six pence. Hopkins was convicted of theft and sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet.	1855/053

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Fry	Francis	Fry	Harry (aka John)	15	09	1855	Breaking windows	Wd	Francis Fry, maltster, accused Harry otherwise known as John Fry of breaking into an empty property that he owned in Southover. Harry Fry had broken several window panes and damaged the lead which held them in place. In addition he had also damaged some door fittings. Francis Fry estimated the damage at 10/-. The case was shown as being settled out of court.	1855/054
Oxley snr	Matthew	Oxley jnr	Matthew	20	09	1855	Assault	A	Matthew Oxley the elder of Tucker Street, gardener, complained that he had been assaulted by his son, Matthew Oxley the younger also resident in Tucker Street, labourer. The younger Oxley was alleged to have struck his father with his fist. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/055
Dredge	Priscilla	Francis	Phillis	22	09	1855	Assault	A	Priscilla Dredge of Southover, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Phillis Francis, wife of George Francis of Southover, labourer. Phillis Francis had allegedly struck her in the face with her fist. The case did not proceed as neither party appeared at the hearing.	1855/056
Fry	William	Lukins	Joseph	25	09	1855	Apprentice absentee	Ab	William Fry of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, currier, complained that his indentured apprentice, Joseph Lukins, had left his employ without notice. Lukins had been apprenticed to Fry in 1850 for a period of 7 years with no premium being paid at the time of binding. During the apprenticeship Lukins had been guilty of some misbehaviour and had deserted Fry's employ on a previous occasion. This time it was said that Lukins had enlisted in the Royal Navy. A warrant for the arrest of Lukins was issued and he was apprehended. He was then committed to the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet for 14 days with hard labour.	1855/057

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Fry	Henry (Harry)	Kennison	William	29	09	1855	Theft	T	Henry Fry, shoemaker, complained that in recent months a number of articles had gone missing from his workshop. The articles included hemp, leather and instep leathers. He suspected that the items had been taken by William Kennison of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, shoemaker, who had been working on Fry's premises and had access to the materials that had gone missing. Fry applied for a warrant to search Kennison's dwelling house and premises. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/058
Woodard	John	Smith	William	16	10	1855	Vagrancy	V	John Beauchamp, surveyor, had been in the Market Place when he was approached by William Smith who asked for a pencil and paper. He received these items from Beauchamp and went off without offering to pay for them. Subsequently, Smith approached Beauchamp again and pretended to be deaf and dumb when begging for relief. Beauchamp refused and handed Smith into police custody. John Woodard, described as a constable, had been alerted to Smith's method of operation by Mr Somerville who had given Smith one shilling when Smith asked for alms using a petition in the name of James Mason and pretending to be deaf and dumb. Smith was charged with vagrancy and convicted as a rogue and a vagabond with a sentence of three months in prison at Shepton Mallet.	1855/059
Perkins	Joseph	Norris	Robert	30	10	1855	Deserter from army	M	Corporal Joseph Perkins of 47th Regiment of Foot testified that he had recruited Robert Norris to the regiment in September 1855, had him confirmed as fit for service and paid him the enlistment fee of 1/-. On the following day Norris said he was going to his master's house at North Wootton but never reappeared to be attested. Perkins had then apprehended Norris in Godney some days later (see case 1855/061 for details of the entries on the document recording the arrest).	1855/060

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Perkins	Joseph	Norris	Robert	30	10	1855	Deserter from army	M	As noted in case 1855/060 Corporal Joseph Perkins of 47th Regiment of Foot accused Robert Norris of being a deserter from the regiment. He alleged that Norris had enlisted at Wells in September 1855 and had absconded on the following day and never appeared to be attested, even though due notice was served at his last registered place of abode. Norris was described as being aged 21 and standing 5'5 ¹ / ₄ " in height with a fresh complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes and a distinguishing mark on his left jaw. Norris had been apprehended at Godney and was refusing to say whether he was a deserter or not. Norris was committed to prison at Shepton Mallet prior to being returned to his regiment.	1855/061
Thorley	Robert	Moore	John	08	11	1855	Desertion of wife and children	Ds	Robert Thorley, Relieving Officer for the Wells Union, was approached by Ann Moore asking assistance for herself and her two sons, Henry and William, because her husband, John Moore, had left her. Thorley gave Ann Moore two shillings but issued a warrant for John Moore's arrest because he deemed Moore to be fit and capable of supporting his family by working. Ann Moore and her children were taken into the workhouse to be fully supported by the In Parish of St Cuthbert. John Moore was arrested and convicted of deserting his family. He was sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour. Note: John Moore was convicted in 1854 of deserting his wife and family and was sentenced to one calendar month in prison (see 1854/016). At that time his wife, Ann Moore, had three children with her, but James, the eldest, was no longer with her in 1855.	1855/062

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Smith	Francis	07	11	1855	Letting off firework	Dp	Police serjeant John Porter accused Francis Smith, tinman, of letting off dangerous fireworks outside a house in Priest Row less than 50' from the centre of the carriageway. There was an altercation with Smith who threatened to dash out Porter's brains with a stone. Smith's father had intervened to take his son away from the policeman. Allen Willis was summoned to provide a witness statement for the prosecution but, although he had been at Smith's house for most of the day, he denied that Francis Smith had let off any cannons or squibs or fireworks of that nature. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/063
Churchouse	Mary Ann	Churchouse	Edward	14	11	1855	Sureties to keep the peace	Su	Mary Ann Churchouse, wife of Edward Churchouse of Southover, complained that over the last twelve months her husband had constantly ill-treated her and had threatened to kill her. The previous evening he had come home from the coal pit and begun to beat her with a horsewhip. There was also evidence from PC Sidney Vinnell who had seen Edward Churchouse drag his wife out of the house by her hair and beat her while she was on the ground. Mary Ann Churchouse feared that she would suffer serious bodily harm at the hands of her husband and requested that he be required to put forward sureties as to his future conduct towards her. There is no information on the outcome of the case although there is a list of costs of the case which total 11/6d.	1855/064

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Foster	Jane	Clements	Thomas	15	11	1855	Assault	A	Jane Foster, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Thomas Clements, her brother-in-law, who had almost choked her. Foster lived with her mother along the same passageway as Thomas Clements and his wife, Jane Foster's sister, who had recently been confined as she was about to give birth. Thomas Clements came home drunk and was threatening to pull his wife out of bed but Jane Foster intervened to try and prevent him doing so. She struck him in the face and he grabbed her around the neck as they struggled. Mary Ann Parsons provided witness evidence to support Jane Foster's allegations. Thomas Clements was found guilty of assault and sent to prison at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet for 14 days.	1855/065
Jenkins	Catherine	Biddle	John	19	11	1855	Assault	A	Catherine Jenkins, wife of John Jenkins of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, brushmaker, alleged that John Biddle, also of the In Parish of St Cuthbert and also a brushmaker, had struck her twice on the head with his fist in Southover. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: case header shows defendant as 'Bittle' but see also case 1855/067.	1855/066
Biddle	John	Jenkins	John	24	11	1855	Assault	A	John Biddle of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, brushmaker, claimed he had been assaulted by John Jenkins, also a brushmaker, who had struck him in the head with his fist. The incident took place in Southover. It seems probable that John Jenkins may have been exacting retribution for the alleged assault on his wife (see case 1855/066), since both incidents took place on the same day. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1855/067

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Allen	James	Whitehead	John	04	12	1855	Assault	A	James Allen and John Whitehead were both inmates of the workhouse and had been sharing a room with George Corp. Corp claimed that some of his money had gone missing and Allen immediately accused Whitehead of having stolen it. Whitehead responded by attacking Allen and striking him in the neck. He would have struck him again but for the intervention of George Huish. Whitehead was fined 10/- plus costs of 4/6d all to be paid immediately, or to be sent to prison for 14 days In Shepton Mallet.	1855/068
Brewitt	Hannah	Hill	Ann	06	12	1855	Vagrancy	V	Hannah Brewitt testified that Ann Hill had come to her house and using the name of Loxton had given her to believe that she was seriously ill and was going to Bristol Infirmary to seek a cure. Hannah Brewitt had given her two shillings and six pence. Mary Powell stated that Ann Hill had come to her house and using the name of Ann Parsons had begged for old shoes, although she then offered lace in exchange for the shoes. Ann Hill was charged with vagrancy and attempting to obtain money by false pretences. She was convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to hard labour for 14 days in the prison at Shepton Mallet.	1855/069

1856

Fry	William	Lukins	Joseph	02	01	1856	Absenteeism	Ab	William Fry, currier, complained that Joseph Lukins, who had been bound to him as an apprentice for seven years in 1850, had deserted his employment on 1 January 1856 to enlist as a soldier. A warrant was issued for Lukins' arrest. It was noted that Serjeant Doble had produced a baptismal certificate indicating that Lukins had been born in January 1836 and had been above the age of 14 when bound as an apprentice in 1850. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: Lukins had absented himself from his master's business on an earlier occasion when he tried to enlist in the Royal Navy (see case 1855/057).	1856/001
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Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Thorley	Robert	Day	William	12	01	1856	Leaving family chargeable to parish	Ds	Robert Thorley, Relieving Officer for the Wells Union, complained that Elizabeth Day together with her daughter, Mary Ann, aged about two, and an infant about a week old, had become chargeable to the In Parish of St Cuthbert because William Day, labourer, had neglected to maintain them, even though he was able-bodied and capable of maintaining his family by working. Thorley noted that he had already expended the sum of 3/10d on relief for Elizabeth Day and her offspring. A warrant for William Day's arrest was issued. Day was apparently apprehended but then discharged as it was noted that his wife and children were actually chargeable to the Out Parish of St Cuthbert.	1856/002
Porter	John	Collins	William	21	01	1856	Drunkenness Indecent exposure	D le	Police serjeant John Porter charged William Collins of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, labourer, with being drunk in the In Parish of St Cuthbert and also with exposing himself. Collins admitted being drunk and was fined 5/- plus costs of 6/6d, all to be paid by 4 February.	1856/003
Drew	James	Oxley	Matthew	29	01	1856	Theft	T	James Drew of the In Parish of St Cuthbert complained that a cock, six hens and a ferret belonging to him and his mother, Maria Drew, had been stolen from an outhouse at their home. James Drew claimed that the theft had probably been carried out by Matthew Oxley and requested a search warrant be issued for Oxley's dwelling house and premises in Tucker Street. A search warrant was duly issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: there is no indication whether the defendant was Matthew Oxley the elder or Matthew Oxley the younger, both of whom lived in Tucker Street (see 1855/055).	1856/004
Reed	Octavia	Maundrell	Thomas	11	02	1856	Assault	A	Octavia Reed of East Wells, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Thomas Maundrell of East Wells, labourer, who had thrown a piece of bacon at her. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/005

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Gale	Silvester	Champany Starks	William William	15	02	1856	Evading toll	N	Silvester Gale, tollgate operator at the Portway turnpike gate, complained that William Champeny of Blackford and William Starks of Mark had driven their gig through the turnpike gate at some pace and had not paid the toll of four pence. George Chilcot testified that he had come through the Portway gate early that morning with William Starks and the latter had paid the toll of four pence. In the evening they had returned through the same gate and had not needed to pay. Testimony was also obtained from Richard Janes, ostler at The Somerset Hotel, but his evidence was not germane to the alleged avoidance of the toll. William Starks also testified that he had paid the appropriate toll early that morning. The magistrates appear to have found against the defendants since there is reference on the cover document to a sum of 6/9d (or 6/3d, depending upon the interpretation of the figures) needing to be paid. Note: in the case header the first defendant is named as William Champeny, but there is no further reference to that name in the description of the case and the name of the person accompanying William Starks was shown as George Chilcot.	1856/005a
Slocombe	Robert	Maynard	Hannah	18	02	1856	Assault	A	Robert Slocombe, labourer, accused Hannah Maynard, wife of James Maynard, tailor, of assaulting his daughter, Eliza Slocombe. There is no further information on this case as the only documentation is the summons issued to Hannah Maynard.	1856/006

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Adams	Mary	Adams	Edward	20	02	1856	Assault	A	Mary Adams, wife of Edward Adams, shoemaker, complained that her husband had assaulted her, striking her several times around the head with his fist. She alleged that he had assaulted her several times in recent months and expressed concern that he might leave the country. She therefore requested that a warrant to arrest him should be issued so that he could answer the complaint that she had made. A warrant was issued and Edward Adams was apprehended and bound over in the sum of £10 of his own money to keep the peace for the next twelve months, particularly towards his wife.	1856/007
Creedy	Major	Weatherly	Henry	21	02	1856	Assault	A	Major Creedy, butcher, complained that he had been assaulted by Henry Weatherly. Weatherly had apparently come into Creedy's public house in Water Lane and begun singing. Many of the other patrons present objected to the singing and Creedy asked Weatherly to stop. When Weatherly refused, Creedy claimed that he had taken Weatherly by the arm and led him outside. At that point Weatherly had turned and struck Creedy in the face with his fist. Elizabeth Tucker testified in support of Creedy's statement and confirmed that Creedy did not use any violence in getting Weatherly outside. Weatherly was found guilty of assault and fined 10/- plus costs of 4/6d. Weatherly was unable to pay and was committed to prison in Shepton Mallet for 7 days. Note: the case header shows the name of the defendant as 'Wheatherall'; all other references are to 'Weatherly'.	1856/008
Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	Stevens	Elizabeth	21	02	1856	Assault	A	Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, complained that Elizabeth Stevens also of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, single woman, had assaulted her and struck her in the face with her fist. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/009

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Mead	James Henry	Reeves	Solomon Henry	23	02	1856	Theft of money	T	James Henry Mead was a chemist and druggist with premises in the Market Place. He found a young boy, George Bartlett, near his shop with two pennies which he, Mead, had deliberately marked and put in the shop till because he suspected that his young assistant, Solomon Henry Reeves, aged 15, had been taking money from the till. Bartlett admitted that he had received the money from Reeves who was arrested and convicted of theft, being sentenced to 7 days in prison at Shepton Mallet with hard labour. Note: the case documentation also contains an itemised list of the costs involved in the prosecution of the case.	1856/009a
Woodard	John	Cambridge	John	10	03	1856	Vagrancy	V	John Woodard, hallkeeper, Louisa Sealey, single woman, and Elizabeth Williams, wife of George Williams, innholder, all gave evidence in the case of John Cambridge who was accused of vagrancy. Cambridge turned up with an order enabling him to be lodged at Wells Union but he did not wish to go there and sought to beg money at The Nag's Head in Sadler Street to enable him to find lodgings elsewhere. He was convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to 7 days in prison with hard labour at Shepton Mallet. Note: most of the notes in this case are in very scrawled handwriting and are therefore difficult to interpret. More information may be gleaned if the handwriting can be read.	1856/010
Welsh	William Inman	Boulton	James William	05	04	1856	Removal of goods to avoid distraint	Rg	James William Boulton, butcher, was renting property in Wells High Street from William Inman Welsh, gentleman and JP. Boulton had failed to pay the rent of £13 when it became due on 25 March. Welsh's agents were threatening to seize Boulton's assets and sell them to pay off the arrears. Boulton had allegedly moved his effects clandestinely to the house of James Boulton in East Wells to avoid distraint. The case was settled out of court.	1856/011

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Churchouse	Edward	Churchouse	Mary Ann	10	04	1856	Assault	A	Edward Churchouse, coal hauler, complained that he had been assaulted by his wife, Mary Ann Churchouse, who had allegedly struck him several times with a poker and a stick. The hearing was adjourned for several days and the case header has a reference to the sum of 2/6d but it is not clear to what this amount relates. There is no further information on the outcome of the case. Note: there was previous history between this couple in recent months as per cases 1855/012 and 1855/064.	1856/012
Cox	Frances	Crandon	William	12	04	1856	Assault	A	Frances Cox, wife of Thomas Cox, butcher, claimed that William Crandon, also a butcher, threw a poker at her and spat in her face. The case was settled without a hearing.	1856/013
Allen	James	Porter Vinnell	John Sidney	12	04	1856	Assault	A	James Allen of East Wells, plumber and glazier, claimed that he had been assaulted by police serjeant John Porter and PC Sidney Vinnell after he had been stopped on suspicion of having stolen a ball. When he was stopped by Porter, Allen claimed that he offered to go home and get the ball but Porter would not allow him to do so. Allen then ran away but was caught by PC Vinnell. Allen then alleged that at the police station the two police officers had beaten his head against the wall and had almost strangled him. Witness statements from Mary Hayes, wife of Samuel Hayes, labourer, and Charles Foxwell indicated that they had not seen Allen offer any resistance to the officers when he was taken into custody. PC Vinnell, however, claimed that Allen had resisted very much. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1856/018).	1856/014

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Greedy	William	Fry	Francis	28	04	1856	Assault	A	William Greedy was a servant working for Francis Fry the maltster and living in Fry's house in the Liberty of St Andrew, along, it would appear, with a number of other people. Fry apparently argued that Greedy was failing to keep the house tidy and was not putting objects back where they should be. The two men had a disagreement which led to Greedy picking up a bottle and threatening Fry, while Fry had assaulted Greedy by grabbing him by the collar, pinning him to the wall and attempting to push him out of the house. Witness statements were obtained from Mary Cox, Fry's niece; John Cox, Fry's nephew; Elizabeth Phillips, single woman and servant to Mrs Clark who lived at Fry's house; Sarah Sheppard, single woman and dressmaker working for Mrs Clark; and Harriet Crocker, single woman also working as a servant for Mrs Clark. Despite the differing interpretations of the various witnesses Francis Fry was found guilty of assault and fined 6d plus costs of 11/6d. (See also 1856/018).	1856/015
Gawler	Mary Ann	Sweet	Eliza	29	04	1856	Assault	A	Mary Ann Gawler, wife of Charles Gawler of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, printer, complained she had been assaulted by Eliza Sweet, wife of John Sweet, butcher. Gawler claimed that Sweet had struck her and kicked her. The case was settled without a hearing.	1856/016
Buck	Abraham	Hares	Thomas	01	05	1856	Non-payment of toll	N	Abraham Buck, collector of market tolls, found Thomas Hares of Shipham, potato dealer, selling potatoes in High Street and Queen Street. Neither street was licensed for market operation and Hares refused to pay the toll of 6d demanded by Buck. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1856/018).	1856/016a
Barnard	Charles	Bartlett	Thomas	03	05	1856	Stealing ducks	T	Charles Barnard, butcher, testified that he had had 10 ducks in an outhouse in the lane leading to Back Lane. Recently he had found that 6 of the ducks were missing and then he claimed that he had seen 3 of his ducks at Thomas Bartlett's house in Portway. Bartlett's wife had refused to surrender the ducks to Barnard, so he proceeded to issue a summons against Bartlett for theft. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/017

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Various		05	05	1856	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Rough notes from the petty sessions sitting of 5 May 1856. The cases dealt with at this session were Allen v Porter & Vinnell (case 1856/014), Greedy v Fry (case 1856/015) and Buck v Hares (case 1856/016a). Unfortunately, the handwriting is hard to decipher and it is difficult to determine meaningful additional information related to these cases.	1856/018
Watts	Benjamin	Ball	William	14	05	1856	Assault	A	Benjamin Watts, innkeeper, complained that he had been assaulted by William Ball, labourer, who had struck him a violent blow in the face. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/019
Badman	William	May	Mary	22	05	1856	Vagrancy	V	William Badman, plasterer, was working on a house in the Market Place when he saw Mary May begging from two women on Cathedral Green. He also saw James May in the same place but did not observe him in the act of begging. Mary May was found guilty of vagrancy and was committed to prison for 7 days with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1856/020
Beauchamp	Francis	Maule Oxley	William Matthew	23	05	1856	Search warrant	Sw	Francis Beauchamp, sugar boiler, complained that 2 of his hens had been stolen from an outhouse close to his dwelling house in the In parish of St Cuthbert. He suspected that the fowls had been taken by Thomas Maule the elder, labourer, and then concealed in the dwelling houses or premises of William Maule or Matthew Oxley the younger, both described as labourers. Beauchamp appealed for a search warrant of their dwelling houses and premises to be granted. A search warrant was issued.	1856/021
Parker	Farnham	Miles	George	30	05	1856	Assault	A	Farnham Parker, porter, complained that he had been assaulted by George Miles, fishmonger, who had struck him in the face with a dead fish. The case was settled out of court.	1856/022

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Foster	Jane	Baulch	Jane	31	05	1856	Assault	A	Jane Foster, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Jane Baulch, wife of John Baulch, patten maker. She alleged that Jane Baulch had struck her several times in the face with her fists. There are rough notes of the hearing but the handwriting is so poor that they provide no useable information. Jane Baulch was found guilty of assault and fined 6d with costs of 10/-, all to be paid immediately, or to serve 7 days in prison at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet.	1856/023
Francis	James	Miles	George	31	05	1856	Assault	A	James Francis complained that he had been assaulted by George Miles, fishmonger, who had allegedly struck him several times with a stick. The case was settled without a hearing.	1856/024
Badman	William	Day	William	02	06	1856	Assault	A	William Badman, plasterer and tiler, complained that he had been assaulted by William Day, labourer, who had allegedly seized him by the arm and threatened to knock his brains out. The case was settled without a hearing.	1856/025
Beauchamp	John	Jones	John	05	06	1856	Vagrancy	V	John Beauchamp, bookseller, claimed that John Jones entered his premises in the Market Place and begged for money, claiming to be deaf and dumb and proffering a subscription book which allegedly listed those people who had already given him money. His notes claimed that he was from Ireland and was trying to get back there but did not have the means to do so. Beauchamp threatened him with the police and Jones left the shop, suggesting he was not as deaf as he claimed. Police serjeant Porter later arrested Jones when he found him in The Red Ox drinking a glass of beer bought for him by someone in the tavern. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/026

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Bennett	Eliza	Collins	John	09	06	1856	Assault	A	Eliza Bennett, wife of John Bennett, labourer, accused John Collins, also a labourer, of attacking James Scott (aka Isgrove). She claimed that she had seen Collins with a baby on his arm walk up to Scott (aka Isgrove) and strike him in the face with his left fist. Scott fell backwards, hit his head on the pavement and was knocked unconscious. Initial examination by Henry Livett, surgeon, expressed concern that Scott was partially insensible with a scalp wound at the base of the skull and there was a possibility that he might not recover. Henry Livett carried out a subsequent examination and reported that Scott was improving significantly and he should recover fully. Collins was arrested and bound over to keep the peace in the sum of £10.	1856/027

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Stock	John	Lane Lane	George Lucy	10	06	1856	Theft	Aw	John Stock from Ditcheat, cordwainer, had been present at Major Creedy's in Water Lane, Wells on the previous Saturday evening. He had with him a bag containing a number of pairs of boots, shoes and slippers. Stock admitted becoming drunk and was unable to remember precisely when he no longer was in possession of his bag. The testimony from Major Creedy indicated that when he was closing his public house he put Stock out on the street and gave him his bag containing various shoes and slippers. When Stock awoke on the Sunday morning near the Sherston Arms, he had neither bag nor money, although he could recollect someone guiding him towards The Sherston Arms. On advice, he went to Hillier's pawn shop where he found two pairs of shoes that were his and had been pawned by Ellen Lane, daughter of George Lane; she was wearing another pair of Stock's shoes. George Lane claimed to have found the bag in the street. Hillier had contacted the police because he thought that the items were likely to have been stolen. PC John Vinnell went to George Lane's house where Lane gave him the bag and its contents and Vinnell also obtained a pair of boots from Lucy Lane, another daughter of George Lane who said that she had been wearing them. However, George Lane denied having pawned any of the footwear; Stock accused him of theft and applied for an arrest warrant for George Lane and his daughter, Lucy, but there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/028

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Brooks	Robert Benjamin	Allen	John	13	06	1856	Theft	T	Jane Norman, single woman and servant of Robert Benjamin Brooks, complained that she and her friend, Ann Creedy, had been walking home from The Red Lion Inn in the Market Place when John Allen of Walcombe, labourer, had grabbed the umbrella under which she was sheltering from the rain and had refused to return it to her. She had gone after him but he refused to give up the umbrella and pushed it into her face. Jane Norman had then gone home and told her employer what had happened to the umbrella which was his property. Ann Creedy, single woman and servant to Miss Curwood, confirmed Jane Norman's story and also indicated that there was someone with Allen when he took the umbrella. That person was Henry Webb who confirmed that Allen had taken the umbrella as a frolic and was sorry for doing so as he did not know where to return it. However, George Williams, innkeeper of The Nag's Head, stated that he had seen John Allen parading the umbrella up Grove Lane. All were agreed that Allen was in liquor and in high spirits. Brooks evidently wished to pursue the charge of theft since Allen's representatives approached him to settle the case out of court and he refused. Police serjeant John Porter felt it necessary to issue summons against Jane Norman and Ann Creedy since otherwise he believed that they would not testify at the hearing at which John Allen submitted a plea of not guilty. Despite all the documentation associated with the case there is no information on the outcome.	1856/029
Sayer	Sarah	Creedy	Major	20	06	1856	Assault	A	Sarah Sayer, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Major Creedy, butcher, who had snatched the bonnet from her head and thrown it into the gutter. The case was recorded as being settled without a hearing.	1856/030

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Chapple	Susan	Chapple	John	23	06	1856	Assault	A	After a marital argument Susan Chapple claimed that her husband, John Chapple, labourer, had violently assaulted her hitting her in the face, chest and back. As a result, she needed medical attention and a letter from Henry Livett, surgeon, some 2 weeks after the assault indicated that she was still confined to bed but was beginning to recover. The couple had been married for 9 years but there had been previous incidents of violence and it may have been that the couple were partly separated as Susan Chapple notes that she went to see her husband at George Foster's house. John Chapple was convicted of assault and sentenced to 14 days in prison. In addition Chapple and his bondsman surnamed Bacon (no forename shown) were each required to put forward sureties of £20 to guarantee Chapple's behaviour, particularly towards his wife, for the next 6 months. It also appears that there were certain costs associated with the case to be paid by Bacon.	1856/031
Wilkins	Edwin	Allen Oxley jnr	William Matthew	25	06	1856	Rescuing horses en route to pound	Op	Matthew Oxley the younger and William Allen, both labourers, had apparently been unlawfully grazing a horse and 3 asses in a field in Portway leased to Edwin Wilkins of Easton by Thomas Gilling. Thomas Vincent, servant to Mr Wilkins, had discovered the animals and was about to impound them when Oxley and Allen appeared and took the animals away after threatening him with violence. Matthew Oxley the younger was fined £2 plus costs of 5/9d, while William Allen was fined £1, also with costs of 5/9d. These sums were to be paid immediately. Neither Oxley nor Allen paid and both were sent to prison for one calendar month with hard labour.	1856/032

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Woodard	John	Wall	John Barrow	03	07	1856	Furious riding, drunkenness	Rd D	John Woodard, hall keeper, saw John Barrow Wall, yeoman of West Houghton in the parish of Wedmore, riding his horse at a furious pace up and down the Market Place in Wells and also in Sadler Street, causing danger to pedestrians. Woodard cautioned him and suggested that he should go home, but Wall refused and continued riding up and down the Market Place on and off the pavement. Woodard eventually caught hold of the horse's bridle at which point Wall struck him with his riding stick. Woodard grabbed hold of the stick and apprehended Wall. He also determined that Wall was apparently drunk but was released on bail. Wall was found guilty of furious riding and fined 20/-, together with a further fine of 5/- for drunkenness and 23/6d in costs, totalling £2.8s.6d, all to be paid immediately.	1856/033
Jacobs	William	Francis	George	03	07	1856	Assault	A	William Jacobs, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by George Francis, also described as a labourer. Francis was alleged to have struck Jacobs several times and also to have kicked him. The alleged assault occurred in Southover. Jacobs also had a summons served on a witness, Mary Ann Nicholls, so that she could testify in his favour. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1856/034
Chamberlain	Sarah	Badman	William	07	07	1856	Drunkenness	D	Sarah Chamberlain complained that she had been subjected to great abuse from a drunken William Badman, plasterer. Her daughter, Susan Moger, wife of John Moger, confirmed her mother's account of the incident. Elizabeth Allen, wife of James Allen, confirmed the account. William Badman was found guilty of drunkenness and abusing a lady and fined 5/- plus costs of 7/-. These amounts were recorded as paid.	1856/035

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	
				DD	MM	YYYY			Ref. No.	
Gibbs	George Pitman	Mullins	Edward	08	07	1856	Leaving work unfinished	Nc	George Pitman Gibbs, master tailor, commissioned Edward Mullins, journeyman tailor, to make a waistcoat. Gibbs paid Mullins the full sum in advance of completion but Mullins failed to appear to complete the work. Gibbs requested that an arrest warrant should be prepared since he had heard that Mullins was planning to leave the city. An arrest warrant was issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/036
Loxton	William	Porter	John	11	07	1856	Assault	A	William Loxton, cabinet maker, accused police serjeant John Porter of grabbing him by the throat and striking him with a stick. Porter had gone to Loxton's house searching for Edward Mullins (see 1856/036). Loxton claimed that Porter became involved in an argument with his sister, Fanny Loxton, and he went to assist her. He was then assaulted by Porter. Loxton called his sister and his wife, Hannah Loxton, as witnesses both of whom affirmed his story and confirmed that he had not struck Porter at any stage. Robert Porter, John Porter's son, had also been present at the incident and, although he admitted hearing a scuffle, he could not see what had happened because the candle had gone out. Porter was convicted of assault and fined £1 plus costs of 12/-.	1856/037
Jones	William	Fry snr Fry jnr Fry Fry	Henry Henry john Eliza	17	07	1856	Breach of peace	Dp	PC William Jones charged Henry Fry the elder, Henry Fry the younger, John Fry and Eliza Fry, wife of Henry Fry the elder, with committing a breach of the peace. Henry Fry the younger and John Fry were sons of Henry Fry the elder. There is no information as to the precise nature of the breach of the peace that had been committed since the only documentation for the case is the summons. A fine of 3/- was levied plus costs of 2/- with the possibility that the defendants would have to put forward sureties to guarantee their future conduct.	1856/038

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Jones	William	Fry snr Fry jnr Fry	Henry Henry John	17	07	1856	Drunkenness	D	PC William Jones charged Henry Fry the elder, Henry Fry the younger and John Fry all with being drunk in a public place. The summons was not served on John Fry and, as a result, only Henry Fry the elder and Henry Fry the younger were convicted of the offence. Each of them was fined 5/- while the costs of 5/6d were divided between them.	1856/039
Young	Isaac	Boyce jnr	William	19	07	1856	Failure to carry out work satisfactorily	Nc	Isaac Young of Portway Farm, yeoman, employed William Boyce the younger as a servant and one of his tasks was to milk several cows twice a day. One of Boyce's colleagues, Mary Lane, identified that Boyce was not milking the cows dry. She checked one particular cow that Boyce always milked and found that he had left at least one quart of milk in her. A consequence of Boyce's laziness was that the cow went off her milk and became dry, thus significantly reducing her value to the owner who had to sell the cow for £4 less than he had paid for her. Young decided not to press the charge and the case was dismissed on payment of the costs of 8/6d. It is not stated who was responsible for paying these costs.	1856/040
Richards	Samuel	Hodges	Mark	26	07	1856	Absenteeism	Ab	Samuel Richards complained that Mark Hodges, plasterer, had unlawfully absented himself from Richards' service. Hodges was found guilty of the offence and required to forfeit to Richards, his master, the sum of 2/3d in wages and, in addition, to pay the costs of the case of 2/6d. If in default, Hodges was directed to serve one month in prison. The sums noted were recorded as paid. (See also 1856/049a).	1856/041
Porter	John	Phipps	Sarah	30	07	1856	Obstructing highway	O	Police serjeant John Porter charged Sarah Phipps, wife of Thomas Phipps, labourer, with wilfully obstructing the footway and highway in Wells High Street. Sarah Phipps was reprimanded and discharged on promising not to offend again. It appears that she was not required to pay the costs of the case. (See also 1856/049a).	1856/042

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Savage	William	Fry snr	Harry	04	08	1856	Assault	A	William Savage, thatcher, complained that he had been assaulted by Harry Fry the elder, shoemaker, who had allegedly thrown a quantity of water over him. The case was recorded as being settled without a hearing and there is a note stating that the sum of 4/6d had been paid. (See also 1856/049a)	1856/043
Vinnell	Sidney	Small	Absalom	08	08	1856	Drunkenness	D	PC Sidney Vinnell charged Absalom Small, labourer, with being drunk and disorderly in the In Parish of St Cuthbert. Small was reprimanded and discharged without being required to pay the costs of the case. (See also 1856/049a).	1856/044
Porter	John	Hawkins	John	09	08	1856	Obstructing highway	O	Police serjeant John Porter charged John Hawkins of East Horrington, coal hauler, with wilfully obstructing the highway in High Street. Thomas Tucker Boyce, brushmaker, was summoned to provide evidence in support of the complaint. However, the case was recorded as settled without a hearing.	1856/045
Carter	James	Francis	George	09	08	1856	Assault	A	James Carter, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by George Francis, coal hauler, who had struck him with several violent blows and knocked him down. The case was settled without a hearing and the costs of 4/6d were recorded as paid. (See also 1856/049a).	1856/046
Brooke	Caroline	Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	09	08	1856	Assault	A	Caroline Brooke, spinster, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis, coal hauler. Brooke alleged that she had been struck by several violent blows and had also been kicked. The case was recorded as settled.	1856/047
Porter	John	Grant	George	05	08	1856	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant John Porter charged George Grant of Cheddar with being drunk in Wells Market Place on 4 August. Grant pleaded guilty and was fined 5/- with costs to be deducted. The costs appear to be recorded as at least 5/6d.	1856/048

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Wilton	Richard	11	08	1856	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant John Porter charged Richard Wilton, landlord of The Globe Inn, with allowing drunkenness and disorderly conduct on his premises. Testimony was obtained from Charlotte Parker, who lived opposite, and her younger son, George Parker, who admitted that both he and his elder brother had got drunk on the premises. Statements were obtained from James Percy who whose son also frequented The Globe and from Sarah Crossman and her mother, Mary Crossman, who lodged at The Globe, and from Charlotte Shean, who rented a cottage in the yard of The Globe. One of the attractions of The Globe, particularly for the young men, was the regular presence of Mary Ann Pitman and Eliza Collings (see 1856/052) who seemed to enjoy enticing customers into the house and frolicking with them (and perhaps more). The magistrates determined that there was clear evidence that individuals had been allowed to get drunk on the premises but the evidence for running a disorderly house was not so clear. Richard Wilton was fined 1/- with costs of 17/6d. Note: there is a set of rough but detailed notes of the testimony of most of the witnesses, but clearer and legible notes are available in the minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 11 August (see 1856/049a).	1856/049
Justices		Various		11	08	1856	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 11 August 1856. These minutes cover the cases of Richards v Hodges (1856/041), Savage v Fry (1856/043), Porter v Phipps (1856/042), Carter v Francis (1856/046), Vinnell v Small (1856/044) and, in great detail, Porter v Wilton (1856/049).	1856/049a

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rolls	Jane	Churchouse	Mary	13	08	1856	Assault	A	Jane Rolls, widow, complained that she had been assaulted by Mary Churchouse, wife of Edward Churchouse, labourer. Rolls claimed that she had been struck several times in the head. She had been at the door of her house when Churchouse and Ann Francis passed by. Rolls claimed that they were drunk and called her offensive names. They had come into her house and knocked her about and tried to interfere with her putting up the shutters on her house. Other witnesses testifying in the case and thus the related case involving Ann Francis (see 1856/051) were Edward Maher, Mary Ann Moyston, Sarah Ford, Frederick Barber and Ellen Hewlett. None of them seem to have seen Jane Rolls being struck but some saw her strike Mary Churchouse with one of the shutters. Mary Churchouse was discharged on payment of the costs (see also 1856/051 re possible case costs). (See also 1856/058).	1856/050
Rolls	Jane	Francis	Ann	13	08	1856	Assault	A	Jane Rolls, widow, complained that she had been assaulted by Ann Francis, wife of John Francis, coal hauler. Rolls claimed that she had been struck several times about the head. There is no information about the outcome of the case, although there is a list of costs which amount to 17/-, although it is possible that the costs cover both this case and the apparently related case 1856/050. (See also 1856/058).	1856/051

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Porter	John	Pitman Collings	Mary Ann Eliza	13	08	1856	Vagrantcy	V	Police serjeant John Porter found 3 girls and 2 soldiers lying in a barn. The girls could not give an adequate account of themselves and Mary Ann Pitman of Lympham near Bridgwater and Eliza Collings of Weston Zoyland (see also case 1856/049) were charged with vagrantcy. They were each sentenced to one calendar month in prison at Shepton Mallet. In both cases W J S Foster, town clerk, wrote to the families of the girls to explain that they had been convicted and had been living a vicarious existence for the past month or so. The letter asked that they should make arrangements to look after the girls when they were released. In response a letter was received from William Huckman who wrote on behalf of George Collings to say that Eliza Collings was not his daughter but was the offspring of Charles Hatch. Huckman also suggested that they might wish to contact Joseph Crocker who now lived at Lympham.	1856/052
Porter	John	Snelgrove	James	14	08	1856	Obstructing footway	O	Police officer John Porter accused James Snelgrove, ironmonger, of obstructing the footway in Wells High Street by displaying goods from his shop on the sidewalk. Snelgrove appears to have been discharged without the responsibility for paying the costs of the case. (See also 1856/058).	1856/053
Porter	John	Sparrow	William	14	08	1856	Obstructing footway	O	Police officer John Porter charged William Sparrow, hairdresser, with obstructing the pedestrian footway in Wells High Street. Sparrow appears to have been discharged without the responsibility for paying the costs of the case. (See also 1856/058).	1856/054
Ford	Elizabeth	Churchose	Mary	15	08	1856	Assault	A	Elizabeth Ford, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Mary Churchose, wife of Edward Churchose, coal hauler. Ford claimed to have been struck on several parts of her body. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1856/055

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Bacon	George	Francis	John	29	08	1856	Cruelty to animals	C	George Bacon, agent of the RSPCA, complained that John Francis, coal hauler, had been ill-treating his horse by making it pull a heavy load of coal, while suffering from sores caused by its collar. Bacon had first observed the horse and cart in Beggar Street and followed Francis to Wookey Hole Lane where he examined the horse and found a substantial old wound that had been made worse from the chafing of the collar. Francis was fined 12/6d with costs of 7/6d to be paid immediately or to spend one calendar month in prison. (See also 1856/058).	1856/056
Sweet	Eliza	Howlett	Ellen	30	08	1856	Assault	A	Eliza Sweet, wife of John Sweet, butcher, complained that she had been assaulted by Ellen Howlett, single woman, who had allegedly struck her with several violent blows and kicked her. The incident took place in The Full Moon Inn where Eliza Sweet had got into an argument with William Crandon. Howlett had come into the house and struck Crandon in the chest and the eye and had then attacked Sweet. Testimony was provided by Jane Rolls and Frederick Barber. The magistrates dismissed the case. (See also 1856/058).	1856/057
Justices		Various		08	09	1856	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 8 September. The cases covered involve Rolls v Churchouse (1856/050), Rolls v Francis (1856/051), Bacon v Francis (1856/056), Sweet v Howlett (1856/057), Porter v Snelgrove (1856/053), Porter v Sparrow (1856/054) and Somers v Whitchurch. The last of these has no separate documentation. PC Somers had apparently found James Whitchurch drunk and lying in the street, but the defendant was discharged.	1856/058
Tanner	Edward	Fry jnr	Henry	11	09	1856	Assault	A	Edward Tanner, servant, complained that he had been assaulted and beaten by Henry Fry the younger, shoemaker. Fry had allegedly struck Tanner and knocked him down. Fry admitted the assault and was fined 5/- with costs of 9/- or to spend 7 days in prison.	1856/059

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barber	James	Francis	John	15	09	1856	Assault	A	James Barber, innkeeper, complained that he had been assaulted by John Francis of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, labourer. Francis had allegedly grabbed Barber by the collar of his coat and struck him. The case was recorded as settled.	1856/060
Garnsey	Charles	Potter	Robert	27	09	1856	Wilful damage to coat	Wd	Charles Garnsey, labourer, complained that Robert Potter of Ashcott had wilfully damaged and spoilt his greatcoat which he assessed as being worth fourteen shillings. Garnsey had been drinking in Levi Allen's beerhouse in High Street but when he got up to leave Potter had accosted him, refused to let him go and damaged his greatcoat. The case was recorded as settled.	1856/061
Porter	John	Ridge	Henry	27	09	1856	Vagrancy	V	Police serjeant John Porter had found Henry Ridge lying asleep in the road in Back Liberty. Ridge was drunk and was unable to give a good account of himself. Ridge was convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to 21 days in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet gaol. (See also 1856/064).	1856/062
Woodard	John	Parker	George	26	09	1856	Assault	A	John Woodard, hallkeeper, complained that he had been assaulted by George Parker, labourer, who had struck him several times on the body. Parker was found guilty of assault and fined 1/- plus costs of 7/- or, in default, to spend 7 days in prison.	1856/063
Woodard	John	Small	Henry	27	09	1856	Breach of peace	Dp	John Woodard, hallkeeper, was involved in taking Henry Ridge into custody (see 1856/062) and handing him over to PC William Jones. However, Henry Small, carpenter, had intervened, abused Woodard with extremely bad language and encouraged others to participate in trying to rescue Ridge from custody; Woodard also claimed that he had been struck several times during the incident. PC Jones testified that he had taken Ridge into custody and encountered some difficulties with those who were trying to rescue the prisoner, but was unable to say with confidence that Small had been involved.	1856/064

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Thorley	Robert	Chappell	John	02	10	1856	Desertion of family	Ds	Robert Thorley, Relieving Officer for the Wells Union workhouse, reported that John Chappell, cordwainer, had left his wife and three children chargeable to the parish, although he was perfectly capable of supporting them and himself by work and other means. A warrant for Chappell's arrest was issued. On his arrest Chappell was tried and agreed to pay the sum of 15/1d in two stages with half on 8 October and the other half on 15 October.	1856/065
Porter	John	Thomas	John	13	10	1856	Stealing a coat	T	Police officer John Porter received information that William Withers, labourer, had a coat stolen from him and that the offender was John Thomas, by then a prisoner in Shepton Mallet gaol. Porter reported that Elijah Willis was a material witness in pursuing a charge of theft against John Thomas and requested that a summons be issued to Willis to ensure that he attended the hearing of the case.	1856/066
Western	John	Filer	James	14	10	1856	Assault	A	John Western, coal hauler, complained that he had been assaulted by James Filer, labourer, who had struck him several times and knocked him down. Western had been in Tucker Street and was looking after his little boy when Filer had come up to him, knocked him down and dragged him along the pavement for some distance. Martha Western saw the incident and begged Filer to stop beating her son. William Brookman and James Isgrove both provided testimony and both stated that Western had been near the wall of Filer's house when Filer had returned home. Filer had supposedly told Western to get off his property and when Western refused, he had assaulted him. Filer was fined 6d plus costs of 11/-; or, if in default, to spend 7 days in prison in Shepton Mallet. Filer could not or would not pay and was committed to prison (see 1856/072).	1856/067

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Ward	Charlotte	Hill	Ann	17	10	1856	Assault	A	Charlotte Ward, wife of Andrew Ward, bootmaker, complained that on 16 October she had been assaulted by Ann Hill, wife of John Hill, butcher. Ann Hill had allegedly struck Charlotte Ward several times about the head and body. Ann Hill admitted the assault and was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/ or, if in default, to spend 7 days in prison. (See also 1856/069).	1856/068
Ward	Charlotte	Hill	John	17	10	1856	Sureties for the peace	Su	Charlotte Ward, wife of Andrew Ward, bootmaker, complained that on the evening of 16 October she had been in Tor Lane when she was accosted by John Hill, butcher, who made a number of extremely violent threats against her person. She feared that he would do her bodily harm and requested that Hill be required to put forward sureties to guarantee his future conduct towards her. A summons to this effect was issued to John Hill. Note: the incident occurred on the same date as the assault on Charlotte Ward by Ann Hill (see 1856/068) but it is not clear which incident took place first.	1856/069
Porter	John	Hastell	William	19	10	1856	Drunkenness	D	Police officer John Porter charged William Hastell with being drunk in a public place. The defendant was held in custody overnight. Hastell was reprimanded and discharged after paying 1/- for his lodging at the police station.	1856/070
Porter	John	Moore	John	19	10	1856	Drunkenness	D	Police officer John Porter charged John Moore with being drunk in a public place. Moore was found guilty and fined 5/- including costs of 2/- for 2 meals provided by John Woodard, hallkeeper. (See also 1856/077).	1856/071
Porter	John	Filer	James	21	10	1856	Assault	A	James Filer was about to be taken to prison for 7 days after failing to pay the fines / costs involved in case 1856/067. Filer refused to be taken to prison and became involved in a physical altercation with police serjeant John Porter. Porter had put handbolts on Filer who lay down and refused to walk. Porter dragged him along the ground out into the Market Place with Filer fighting and kicking all the way. Filer was convicted of assault and committed to prison for 2 months as he could / would not pay the fine of £5.	1856/072

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Tucker	Caroline	Tucker	Robert	22	10	1856	Assault	A	Caroline Tucker complained that she had been assaulted and beaten by her husband, Robert Tucker, labourer. She alleged that he had struck her several times very violently, kicked her and knocked her down. According to the minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 10 November Robert Tucker was found guilty of assault and fined 5/- plus costs of 13/- or, if in default, to spend 14 days in prison at Shepton Mallet. It is not clear from the minutes, but it seems possible that Robert Tucker went to prison. (See 1856/076a).	1856/073
Collins	Stephen	Churchose	Edward	01	11	1856	Pound breach	Pb	Stephen Collins, servant of George Kitching of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, yeoman, had gone to a field near Southover that was being leased by his master and found that a horse had been pastured illegally on the land. He had been about to impound the horse when Edward Churchose, the owner of the horse, had arrived and attempted to take the horse away, preventing it from being impounded. Despite Collins' efforts to prevent it, Churchose took the horse from the field wilfully damaging a fence in the process. Collins estimated the value of the damage at 2/6d. The case was recorded as being settled out of court. (See also 1856/075).	1856/074
Kitching	George	Churchose	Edward	01	11	1856	Petty trespass	Pt	In addition to the charge against Edward Churchose in case 1856/074, George Kitching, yeoman, also complained that Churchose had deliberately damaged his fence when taking his horse out of the field in which it was being unlawfully pastured. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1856/075
Bacon	George	Barnard	Charles	05	11	1856	Cruelty to animals	C	George Bacon, agent of the RSPCA, complained that Charles Barnard, butcher, had cruelly ill-treated a dog in High Street by kicking it and dislocating its shoulder. The dog belonged to Edward Collins, butcher. Barnard was found guilty and fined 8/- plus costs of 12/- or to be imprisoned for 14 days with hard labour at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet. (See also 1856/076a)	1856/076

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Various		10	11	1856	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 10 November. The cases covered in these minutes were Bacon v Barnard (1856/076) and Tucker v Tucker (1856/073). Unfortunately, the notes are very rough and it is difficult to extract meaningful information from them.	1856/076a
Porter	John	Moore	John	17	11	1856	Breach of peace	Dp	Police officer John Porter was alerted by a noise in Priest Row just after one o'clock in the morning. He found John Moore, carpenter, to be drunk and kicking at a door. Porter noted that Moore had been arrested the previous month for drunkenness but had failed to pay the fine of 5/- (see case 1856/071). The magistrates determined that, given Moore's previous record of drunkenness and his failure to pay his most recent fine, he would be required to put forward £10 of his own recognisance and find a surety of a further £10 to guarantee his conduct for the next three months. Moore was unable or unwilling to agree to this and he was therefore committed to prison for three calendar months, unless in the interim he was able to provide the necessary recognisance and surety to guarantee his conduct.	1856/077
Vinnell	Sidney	Fry	William	24	11	1856	Drunkenness	D	PC Sidney Vinnell saw William Fry, shoemaker, in High Street where he was both extremely drunk and making a great noise. He was being helped along by his brother who was taking him home, so Vinnell allowed that to happen. It is possible that no charges were preferred but the documentation contains details of the costs of the case, so Fry may have been charged.	1856/078
Vinnell	Sidney	Sherlock	George	24	11	1856	Refusal of entry to police	Op	PC Sidney Vinnell called at the Three Kings Inn at half past one in the morning where he had heard a great noise which led him to believe that drinking was going on after licensing hours. When he knocked on the door and announced who he was, he was not given admittance. He stayed nearby and about half an hour later saw five people leave the inn, at least one of whom was very drunk. PC Vinnell requested the issue of a summons to George Sherlock, the landlord. At the hearing Sherlock was discharged on payment of the costs of the case of 6/6d.	1856/079

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Murrow	Elizabeth	Andrews	John	26	11	1856	Assault	A	Elizabeth Murrow, wife of Charles Murrow, plasterer and tiler, complained that she had been assaulted by John Andrews, labourer. She alleged that Andrews had put his fists in her face several times and threatened to strike her. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1856/080
Porter		Hawhey	James	02	12	1856	Desertion	M	Police officer John Porter reported that John Hawhey had voluntarily given himself up as a deserter from the 66th Regiment of Foot. Hawhey, aged 19, had enlisted in February 1856 at Plymouth but deserted in November. He was described as being 5'4" in height with a fresh complexion, dark brown hair and hazel eyes. Porter noted that Hawhey was listed in 'Hue and Cry' as a deserter and he fitted the description given in the paper. Note: it seems possible that the surname of the defendant may be 'Hawley' rather than 'Hawhey', although the name shown on the form which describes the deserter is very clearly 'Hawhey'.	1856/081
Morgan	Eliza	Marsh	Emma	02	12	1856	Assault	A	Eliza Morgan of Dorchester, wife of John Morgan, dealer in silks, complained that Emma Marsh of Beaminster, married to a dealer in hardware, had assaulted her. Both women had been in The King's Arms when Marsh had offered Eliza Morgan a drink. Morgan had refused and claimed that Marsh then assaulted her, striking her several times, pulling her hair and pulling out one of her earrings. Morgan's account was supported by Edward Mitchell, her nephew. It appears that Marsh was fined 5/- plus costs of 9/-. Note: the information document refers to the defendant as 'Marshall' rather than 'Marsh'. None of the documents gives the name of Emma Marsh's husband.	1856/082

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Sampay Sampay	John William	20	12	1856	Hawking without a licence	N	Police serjeant Charles Boug, charged William Sampay and his son, John Sampay, with hawking articles such as stockings, handkerchiefs and cloth without a licence. Boug initially saw them selling articles in The Antelope Inn and subsequently in The Queen's Head. The prisoners claimed that they were unaware that a licence was required for their trade and they thought that paying the toll of sixpence meant they were free to trade. Both men were convicted of the offence of hawking without a licence and committed to the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet for one calendar month with hard labour as idle and disorderly persons.	1856/083
Buck	Abraham	Collier	John	20	12	1856	Hawking oranges	N	Abraham Buck, collector of tolls, claimed that James Collier, fruit seller, was hawking oranges from door to door in the Market Place but had not paid a toll. Buck noted that he had cautioned Collier on previous occasions for hawking fruit on a market day without paying the toll. However, Collier had taken no notice and continued crying his wares. The case was recorded as settled out of court.	1856/084
Gillbanks	Henry	Conroy	Terence	24	12	1856	Assault	A	PC Henry Gillbanks had been called to The Full Moon public house in Southover by James Barber, innkeeper. Barber's problem was that Terry Conroy was creating a disturbance. Gillbanks asked Conroy to be quiet but he refused and then proceeded to strike Gillbanks several times. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1856/085
Dredge	Mary	Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	29	12	1856	Assault	A	Mary Dredge, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis, coal hauler. Mary Dredge claimed that the defendant had pulled her hair. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1856/086
Boug	Charles	Cardwell	Elizabeth	30	12	1856	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Elizabeth Cardwell with opening her licensed premises for retail sales at 11.30am on Christmas Day when the permitted opening time was 12.30pm. Elizabeth Cardwell was fined 1/- plus costs of 11/6d. (See also 1856/088).	1856/087

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Cardwell	Elizabeth	30	12	1856	Offence against licence	L	The details of this case correspond almost exactly with case 1856/087, except that the actual opening time of the inn on Christmas Day was noted as midday (rather than 11.30am). The case appears to have been dismissed.	1856/088
Boug	Charles	Hawkins	Henry	30	12	1856	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Henry Hawkins, beerhouse keeper, with opening his licensed premises for retail sales at 11.35am on Christmas Day when the permitted opening time was 12.30pm. Henry Hawkins was fined 1/- plus costs of 8/-. These sums were recorded as paid.	1856/089
Boug	Charles	Maynard	Richard	30	12	1856	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Richard Maynard, beerhouse keeper, with opening his licensed premises for retail sales at 11.40am on Christmas Day when the permitted opening time was 12.30pm. Richard Maynard was fined 1/- plus costs of 8/-. These sums were recorded as paid.	1856/090
Boug	Charles	Money	James	30	12	1856	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Money, beerhouse keeper, with opening his licensed premises for retail sales at 11.55am on Christmas Day when the permitted opening time was 12.30pm. James Money was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-. These sums were recorded as paid. (See also 1856/092).	1856/091
Boug	Charles	Money	James	30	12	1856	Permitting drunkenness	L	The details of this case correspond almost exactly with case 1856/091, except that the actual opening time of the inn on Christmas Day was noted as midday (rather than 11.55am). Despite the apparent duplication this seems to be recorded as a second offence and James Money was fined 10/- plus costs of 7/-. These sums appear to have been paid.	1856/092
Boug	Charles	Nutty	George	30	12	1856	Beer house	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged George Nutty, beerhouse keeper, with opening his licensed premises for retail sales at 11.40am on Christmas Day when the permitted opening time was 12.30pm. George Nutty was fined 5/- plus costs of 10/-. These sums were recorded as paid. Note: there are two summons, apparently relating to the same offence.	1856/093

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Hutton	James	30	12	1856	Permitting drunkenness	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Hutton, beerhouse keeper, with permitting drunkenness, fighting and disorderly behaviour on his licensed premises in High Street on 26 December. Elizabeth Stevens, wife of George Stevens, labourer, was summoned to give evidence in support of the plaintiff. There is no information on the outcome of the case, although it was apparently regarded as Hutton's first offence against his licence. (See also 1856/095 and 1856/096).	1856/094
Boug	Charles	Hutton	James	30	12	1856	Permitting drunkenness	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Hutton, beerhouse keeper, with permitting drunkenness and other disorderly behaviour on his licensed premises in High Street on 27 December. Charles Garnsey, labourer, was summoned to give evidence in support of the plaintiff. This case was recorded as a second offence against Hutton's licence (see 1856/094 for the first). There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1856/096).	1856/095
Boug	Charles	Hutton	James	30	12	1856	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Hutton, beerhouse keeper, with being drunk on his own premises on 27 December. The fines and costs shown on the back of the summons amount to £2.7s.4d and appear to cover both this offence and at least one, if not both, of the two preceding summons (1856/094 and 1856/095).	1856/096

1857

Coleman	Mark	Moore	George	02	01	1857	Assault	A	Mark Coleman, pensioner, complained that he had been assaulted by George Moore, mason, who had struck him violently several times about the face and head and knocked him down. The outcome of the case is not clear. (See also 1857/002 and 1857/003).	1857/001
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Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Moore	George	Coleman	Mark	02	01	1857	Assault	A	George Moore, mason, complained that he had been assaulted by Mark Coleman, pensioner, who had allegedly thrown a basket at him and struck him in the face. See also 1857/001. The outcome of neither this case nor 1857/001 is clear, but it seems likely that in both instances the defendants were found guilty and required to pay a fine plus costs. (See also 1857/003).	1857/002
Coleman	Elizabeth	Moore	George	02	01	1857	Assault	A	Elizabeth Coleman, wife of Mark Coleman, pensioner, also complained that she had been assaulted by George Moore, mason, who had struck her about the face and head with his fists. This case is clearly linked to 1857/001 and 1857/002 and, like the others, the outcome is unclear, although it seems probable that George Moore was found guilty of assault.	1857/003
Boug	Charles	Allen	James	03	01	1857	Felony	T	Police serjeant Charles Boug arrested James Allen on a charge of potential theft (possibly of hay; the document is badly damaged by damp and some of the wording has been lost). However, Boug had insufficient information to press the charge immediately and requested that the defendant be remanded for 2 days while he gathered the necessary evidence. The case was adjourned until 5 January.	1857/004
Tasker	Joseph John	Symes	Josiah	15	01	1857	Theft	T	Joseph John Tasker, linen draper, complained that items had been taken from his shop over a period of time. He specifically referred to black silk handkerchiefs and he had been given information that led him to suspect that these items could be found on the premises of Josiah Symes, patten maker. He requested that a search warrant for these premises should be granted. It appears that request was granted (see 1857/005a and 1857/006).	1857/005

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Tasker	Joseph John	Symes	Josiah	15	01	1857	Theft	T	This document is a witness statement from Henry William Oldfield, nephew of Josiah Symes. He had seen a pile of silk handkerchiefs, both black and coloured, in a box in Symes' shop. When Mrs Anning came in to buy a mourning handkerchief, Eliza Symes, daughter of Josiah, had offered her a second-hand handkerchief. Henry Oldfield had then suggested that there were also some new ones and was promptly told to shut up by Eliza. The message was reinforced by his aunt and uncle who told him to say nothing about that box of handkerchiefs. This admonition was repeated after the police had visited the premises. (See also 1857/005 and 1857/006).	1857/005a
Tasker	Joseph John	Symes	Josiah	17	01	1857	Theft	T	This document presents police serjeant Charles Boug's request to summon a number of witnesses for the prosecution in the case of Tasker v Symes (see case 1857/005 and 1857/005a). Boug had already arrested a woman called Eliza Gait, wife of Zachariah Gait of Worminster, on suspicion of the theft of 20 black silk handkerchiefs from Mr Tasker's shop. He asked for the following people to be summoned: Mary Ann Pike the elder of Worminster, Mary Ann Pike the younger also of Worminster, Ann Adams of Wells, Mary Ann Symes and Eliza Symes both of Wells. The requested summons were issued.	1857/006

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Tasker	Joseph John	Gait	Eliza	19	01	1857	Minutes of petty sessions sitting Theft	* T	Rough notes of petty sessions sitting of 19 January where the justices discussed three cases, namely Tasker v Josiah Symes (1857/005), Tasker v Eliza Gait (1857/007) and Tasker v Zachariah Gait. The notes are largely illegible and consist primarily of names of witnesses who were bound over to give evidence in one or more of the above cases, presumably at the next quarter sessions court. In addition to the individuals already referenced in cases 1857/005 to 1857/006, the following names can be discerned: Frederick William Dunston, Maria Brown, Mr John Hillier and Mrs Jane Hillier, and Emma Mary Foxwell. Note: Ann Adams (see 1857/006) is now shown as Hannah Adams. Perhaps surprisingly, the name of Henry William Oldfield does not appear.	1857/007
Gillbanks	Henry	Hutton	James	19	01	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC Henry Gillbanks charged James Hutton, landlord of The Red Ox beer house, with allowing individuals of 'notoriously bad character' to congregate in his pub and drink together. Maria Slater and Ellen Edwards were two individuals specifically mentioned as falling into this category (see also 1857/009). It appears that Hutton was fined 2/- plus costs of 4/6d.	1857/008
Palmer	William	Slater	Maria	19	01	1857	Theft	T	William Palmer of Westbury, labourer, accused Maria Slater of stealing from him a silver watch guard and key. (See 1857/008 where the plaintiff and defendant were seen drinking together in The Red Ox beer house.) There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/009
Masters	Job	White	William	24	01	1857	Assault	A	Job Masters of Wookey, butcher, complained that he had been struck a violent blow in the eye by William White of Wells, also a butcher. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/010
Teek	James	Scott	John	24	01	1857	Wilful damage	Wd	James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, reported that John Scott, pauper and vagrant, had been admitted to the workhouse, fed and given clothes to wear. By the next morning he had destroyed the clothes and had to be given another set. He was described as 'an Idle & disorderly person', convicted and sentenced to 21 days with hard labour in Shepton Mallet prison.	1857/011

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Fowles	William Henry	Bath Bath	Alice John	24	01	1857	Assault	A	William Henry Fowles complained that on 13 January he had been assaulted by John Bath, innkeeper at The Red Lion Inn, and Alice Bath, widow, who had allegedly collared him and pushed him down onto the ground. Witness testimony was sought from Thomas Pitman Gibbs, Thomas Fiever and Ann Wilkins, all of whom testified that they had not seen John Bath or Alice Bath strike Fowles or push him around. The justices determined that the charge was not proven and dismissed the case. The costs of the case, presumed to be borne by Fowles, were shown as 10/-. (See also 1857/013 and 1857/015).	1857/012
Fowles	William Henry	Bath	John	24	01	1857	Assault	A	William Henry Fowles complained that on 24 January he had been assaulted by John Bath, innkeeper, who had allegedly collared him and pushed him to the ground (the same complaint as in 1857/012). Witness testimony was sought from Ann Wilkins, Thomas Fiever, Thomas Raines and John Jenkins, brushmaker. The justices determined that the charge was not proven and dismissed the case. The costs of the case, presumed to be borne by Fowles, were shown as 10/6d. (See also 1857/015).	1857/013
Fowles	William Henry	Cardwell Moon Mutton	Elizabeth John Eli	24	01	1857	Assault	A	William Henry Fowles complained that on 24 January he had been assaulted by Elizabeth Cardwell, innkeeper, John Moon, ostler and Eli Mutton, writer, who allegedly had violently pushed him about. Witness testimony was sought from Henry Fry, shoemaker, and John Wills. The justices determined that the charge was not proven and dismissed the case. The costs of the case, presumed to be borne by Fowles, were shown as 9/6d. (See also 1857/015).	1857/014
Fowles	William Henry	Bath & others	John	26	01	1857	Minutes of meeting	*	Minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 26 January. The cases discussed were Fowles v Bath & Bath (1857/012), Fowles v Bath (1857/013) and Fowles v Cardwell, Moon and Mutton (1857/014). There are extensive rough notes of the meeting including witness statements, but it is difficult to derive much relevant information from the handwriting which is almost illegible.	1857/015

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Gillbanks	Henry	Campbell	William	31	01	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	PC Henry Gillbanks charged William Campbell of Godney, labourer, with driving a horse-drawn cart down Priory Road but without reins with which to control the two horses which were pulling the cart. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/016
Gillbanks	Henry	Judd	Phillip	05	02	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	Rd	PC Henry Gillbanks charged Philip Judd of Wells, coal hauler, with an offence against the Turnpike Act. Judd was driving a horse and cart along a stretch of the public turnpike in Bath Road but the cart did not bear the name of the owner or the owner's abode on the side as required by law. Judd was also the owner of the vehicle as well as the driver. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1857/018).	1857/017
Gillbanks	Henry	Judd	Phillip	05	02	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	On the same day as PC Henry Gillbanks saw Philip Judd, coal hauler, committing an offence under the Turnpike Act (see 1857/017) Gillbanks also noted that Judd was sitting on his horse-drawn cart but was driving with no reins with which to guide and control the horse that was pulling the cart. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/018
Gillbanks	Henry	Gunning	George	06	02	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	PC Henry Gillbanks charged George Gunning of Glastonbury, labourer, with driving a horse-drawn cart down High Street - but with no reins with which to control and guide the horse which was pulling the vehicle. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/019
Bacon	George	West	Susan	10	02	1857	Cruelty to a dog	C	George Bacon, an agent of the RSPCA, complained that, on the basis of information that he had received, Susan (otherwise, Susannah) West of the Liberty of St Andrew, domestic servant, had wilfully and cruelly ill-treated a dog belonging to Joseph Gleaves. However, Gleaves chose not to press the charge and the case was dropped.	1857/020
Justices		Parker	Josiah	11	02	1857	Commitment for wilful murder	Mu	One document shows the justices committing Josiah Parker to prison in Shepton Mallet on a charge of murdering his wife, Ann Parker on 10 February prior to a hearing in a further week, while a second document shows the commitment of Josiah Parker to prison pending a trial at a higher court.	1857/021

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Green	Charles	12	02	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Charles Green of Bridgwater, labourer, with driving a timber carriage drawn by two horses along Priory Road (classified as a turnpike road) with Green sitting on the carriage but without reins to control and guide the horses drawing the cart or the presence of a person on foot or horseback to control the horses. Mr Ashford, the defendant's master, appeared and admitted the offence. He was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-. These sums were recorded as paid together with the expenses of 6/- incurred by PC Brown.	1857/022
Gillbanks	Henry	Griffin	Joseph	12	02	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	PC Henry Gillbanks charged Joseph Griffin of West Horrington, labourer, with driving a waggon drawn by two horses along the Bath Road but without reins with which to control the horses or the presence of a person on foot or on horseback to guide the horses. The waggon and horses belonged to James Sheppard of West Horrington. A fine of 1/- was imposed plus costs of 7/- or, if in default, a prison sentence of 14 days in Shepton Mallet gaol. The fine and costs were recorded as paid.	1857/023
Gillbanks	Henry	Cardwell	Elizabeth	12	02	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC Henry Gillbanks charged Elizabeth Cardwell, landlady of The City Arms, with selling alcoholic beverages outside the permitted opening hours. Gillbanks had seen a man leaving The City Arms at twenty minutes to one in the morning with half a gallon of beer which he had just purchased. Elizabeth Cardwell was fined 2/6d plus costs of 7/-. Both sums were recorded as paid. (See also 1857/038).	1857/024
Justices		Fowles	William Henry	18	02	1857	Sureties against future behaviour	Su	William Henry Fowles had been involved in a number of cases that had been dismissed and had also been abusive to a local coroner. He was regarded as a vexatious nuisance and the justices requested him to find two referees who would each put forward a £50 bond to guarantee his future conduct. Fowles refused to do so and was sentenced to 6 months in prison at Shepton Mallet, although he could end the sentence by coming forward with two referees as requested.	1857/025

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Bacon	George	Seal Ball	Martha Charles	27	02	1857	Cruelty to a donkey	C	George Bacon, an agent of the RSPCA, noted that he had seen Charles Ball driving along Sadler Street in a cart pulled by two donkeys and had spotted a bad sore on one of the animals. When he examined the donkeys he found that both had multiple bad sores and should not have been working. Charles Ball and his employer, Martha Seal, widow, appeared at the hearing. A fine of 11/- was imposed with the addition of costs of 9/- and, if in default, a sentence of one month in prison.	1857/026
Boug	Charles	Bennett	James	27	02	1857	Cruelty to a donkey	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Bennett, described as a labourer but more probably a coal hauler (see 1857/028), with cruelty to a donkey. Boug saw Bennett riding along High Street in a cart drawn by two donkeys. Boug examined the donkeys and found that one of the animals had a very large sore on its shoulder under the collar and should not have been working in that condition. Bennett was fined 5/- plus costs of 7/- or, if in default, one month's imprisonment with hard labour in Shepton Mallet.	1857/027
Boyce	Thomas Tucker	Bennett	James	28	02	1857	Offence against Wells Market Act	Wm	Thomas Tucker Boyce, who was operating the weighbridge in Wells on behalf of his mother, the lessee, complained that James Bennett, coal hauler, had materials in his cart for which he was not licensed under the Wells Market Act. Bennett had come to the weighbridge to have his load of coal weighed. Boyce pointed out that the cart also contained an iron chain and wood, items for which Bennett was not licensed. Boyce suggested that Bennett remove these items but Bennett responded with abuse so that Boyce chose to file a complaint. Bennett was found guilty of an offence against the Wells Market Act and fined 5/-. No costs are shown on the documentation (although it is possible that the costs shown on 1857/027 relate to both cases). If Bennett were to be in default, he would be sentenced to one month in prison with hard labour in Shepton Mallet (it is not clear how such a sentence might relate to a similar sentence noted in 1857/027).	1857/028

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Allen	Levi	Godfrey	Edward	02	03	1857	Bestiality	By	Levi Allen, blacksmith, went into a stable behind his property in High Street. He found Edward Godfrey, baker, in the process of leaving the stable in which there was a female ass. Allen examined the ass and also checked Godfrey's clothing. His findings led him to the conclusion that Godfrey had been indulging in sexual intercourse with the animal. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/029
Wines	George	Allen	William	06	03	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	PC George Wines saw William Allen, labourer, driving a cart pulled by a donkey along the Portway turnpike. He noted that Allen was sitting on his cart but had no reins with which to control the movements of the donkey. William Allen, also recorded as the owner of the cart, pleaded guilty to the charge. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/030
Wines	George	Allen	Robert	06	03	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	PC George Wines saw Robert Allen, labourer, driving a donkey cart along the Portway turnpike without reins to control the movement of the donkey. The case was dismissed on the defendant paying the costs of the case of 4/-. The dismissal may have been because Allen was not the owner of the cart.	1857/031
Wines	George	Wilton	Richard	06	03	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC George Wines had visited The Globe public house outside licensing hours at 4.35pm on a Sunday afternoon and found a man who was not a 'traveller' drinking a pint of beer. Richard Wilton, the landlord, was charged with a breach of the licensing laws. The case was dismissed on Wilton paying the costs of 5/6d.	1857/032
Wines	George	Phipps	Joseph	06	03	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	Rd	PC George Wines saw a donkey cart proceeding along Portway at around 2.00am with no one either in the cart or on foot guiding its direction. Two or three minutes after Wines had stopped the cart Joseph Phipps appeared on foot and was therefore clearly not in control of the cart and its movement. The justices dismissed the case on payment of the costs of 4/6d by Phipps. He was given one week in which to pay.	1857/033

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Wines	George	Welchman	William	06	03	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC George Wines entered The Antelope Inn at 12.30am and found several people in there drinking grog. Wines determined that the people drinking were not 'travellers' and that the landlord, William Welchman, was in breach of his licence by having his premises open outside the permitted licensing hours. Welchman pleaded guilty and was fined 5/- plus costs of 7/-. These sums were recorded as paid.	1857/034
Plenty	Charles	Boyce	Andrew	09	03	1857	Assault	A	Charles Plenty of Coxley, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Andrew Boyce of Wells, labourer, who had struck him several violent blows about the face and head and knocked him down. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1857/035
Appleby	Edwin	Badman	Edward	09	03	1857	Assault	A	Edwin Appleby of Coxley, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Edward Badman of Wells (possibly Tucker Street), labourer, who had struck him a violent blow in the face and knocked him down. The case was settled without a hearing.	1857/036
Brown	George	Mills	John	14	03	1857	Offence against Bread Act	Wm	PC George Brown saw John Parker, journeyman baker, with a barrow of bread in the Market Place. Brown asked to buy a loaf of bread but was refused and then asked to see the scales on which the bread being sold was to be weighed prior to the sale being completed. Parker admitted that he had not been provided with a set of scales and weights and indicated that Brown would need to talk to his master, John Mills of Southover, baker. PC Brown charged John Mills with delivering and selling bread without the means to check and prove its weight, thereby committing an offence against the Bread Act. Mills was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1857/037

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rogers	William	Curry (late Cardwell) Curry	Elizabeth George	14	03	1857	2nd Offence against licence	L	PC Rogers had been on duty in High Street a little before midnight on a Friday night when he heard a noise from The City Arms. He went in and found several people to be drunk and disorderly, and also identified several common prostitutes and individuals of notoriously bad character drinking there. Elizabeth Curry (formerly Cardwell) and her husband, George Curry, were charged with an offence against the terms of the licence by allowing drunkenness on the premises and permitting people of bad character to associate there. As it was Elizabeth Curry's second offence against the terms of her licence (see 1857/024), she and her husband were fined 40/- with costs of 9/3d.	1857/038
Brown	George	Catcott	William	14	03	1857	Offence against Bread Act	Wm	PC George Brown charged William Catcott of Tor Lane, baker, with delivering and selling bread without the means to check and prove its weight, i.e. a set of scales and weights. Catcott pleaded guilty to the offence against the Bread Act, but there is no indication of the fines and costs for which he was liable.	1857/039
Brown	George	Small	Abraham	14	03	1857	Riding without reins	Rd	Abraham Small of Coxley was seen by PC George Brown driving a horse-drawn cart along the turnpike road to Glastonbury. Small was sitting in the cart but had no reins with which to control the vehicle and there was no person on foot or on horseback to guide the direction of the cart. Small was found guilty and fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1857/040
Rogers	William	Wood	Luke	14	03	1857	Offence against Wells Town Act	O	PC William Rogers charged Luke Wood of Binegar, labourer, with leaving a waggon and two horses unattended in Wells High Street for a significant period of time. There was no evidence of loading or unloading activity and had there been the waggon and horses were left there too long. The waggon and horses belonged to John Frappell of Binegar, but Luke Wood had care of them. Luke Wood was discharged on payment of the case costs of 6/6d.	1857/041

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Fry	Stephen	14	03	1857	Offence against Bread Act	Wm	Police serjeant Charles Boug saw Frederick Toke, a journeyman baker working for Stephen Fry, in Queen Street taking out a truck laden with bread. Boug stopped him and ascertained that he had no scales for weighing the bread that he was selling. Boug charged Stephen Fry with an offence against the Bread Act. Fry pleaded guilty and was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1857/042
Sydenham	George	Cook	Henry	14	03	1857	Furious riding	Rd	PC George Sydenham saw Henry Cook of Wells, labourer, riding a horse at great pace down Sadler Street. Cook was charged with furious riding but was discharged on payment of costs of 4/6d.	1857/043
Brown	George	Baker	John	14	03	1857	Offence against Bread Act	Wm	PC George Brown stopped John Baker of East Wells, baker, in Queen Street where Baker had a hand barrow full of bread for sale. Brown ascertained that Baker had no means of weighing the bread that he was selling and charged him with an offence against the Bread Act. Baker pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1857/044
Justices		Various		14	03	1857	Drunkenness, fighting and obstructing the police	D Af Op	The documentation comprises solely of a series of summons issued for a variety of incidents taking place in the period from 10th to 14th March. As only the summons are available there is very little information on each case and, in most instances, no information on the outcome. The individual cases covered in the documentation are described in the entries that follow.	1857/045
Justices		Allen Allen	Thomas William	14	03	1857	Causing an affray	Dp	William Allen and Thomas Allen, both described as labourers, were charged with making an affray by fighting in a public street on 10 March.	1857/045a
Justices		Isgrove	Joseph	14	03	1857	Drunkenness	D	Joseph Isgrove, labourer, was charged with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 10 March. The case was dismissed on Isgrove paying the case costs of 1/6d. This sum was recorded as paid.	1857/045b
Justices		Hill	John	14	03	1857	Drunkenness	D	John Hill, butcher, was accused of being drunk in a public place in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 11 March.	1857/045c
Justices		Wills	John	14	03	1857	Obstructing police in execution of duty	Op	John Wills of Wells was accused of abusing PC Rogers in the execution of his duty on 12 March.	1857/045d

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Allen	John Robert	14	03	1857	Drunkenness	D	John Robert Allen of East Wells was charged with drunkenness in a public place on 13 March.	1857/045e
Justices		Marshall Allen	John John Robert	14	03	1857	Causing an affray	Dp	John Marshall and John Robert Allen, both of Wells, were charged with causing an affray by fighting in the street on 13 March.	1857/045f
Justices		Small	John	17	03	1857	Drunkenness	D	John Small, carpenter, was charged with being drunk in a public place in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 14 March. Small was fined 5/ and given one week within which to pay.	1857/045g
Gillbanks	Henry	Badman	Edward	15	03	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	PC Henry Gillbanks saw Edward Badman, labourer, driving a light horse-drawn cart along Wells High Street without using the reins. Badman pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-; these sums were recorded as paid. Note: the header document for this case gives a date of 15 March but all the other documents suggest that the events actually took place one month earlier.	1857/046
Catcott	William	Small	John	28	03	1857	Theft	T	William Catcott, baker, had been renting a flat in Tor Lane to carpenter John Small and his family for a number of years. Catcott complained that when the Small family moved out a quantity of lead had suddenly disappeared from the roof. He suspected that the Smalls had carried away the lead and he requested a search warrant for the new family home in Lawpool Lane.	1857/047
Corp	James	Bennett	John	30	03	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	Rd	James Corp, yeoman, reported that he and some others had been riding in a horse-drawn cart along the Glastonbury Road. In the darkness his cart had collided with another horse-drawn cart and he and his passengers had been thrown onto the road. There was no-one with the other cart but after a few minutes John Bennett, coal hauler, appeared and claimed the horse and cart as his. Corp complained that Bennett was in breach of the Turnpike Act because he was clearly a long way from his horse and cart and not in control of its movement. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1857/052).	1857/048

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rogers	William	Barber	James	03	04	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC William Rogers accused James Barber, landlord of The Full Moon, of keeping his premises open for business outside the permitted licensing hours. Rogers had seen a woman called Jane Coxley come out of The Full Moon at around 12.45am with a can of beer which he had tested to confirm what it was. Barber was found guilty of an offence against his licence and fined 1/-. The costs of the case are not shown in the documentation. (See also 1857/050 and 1857/055).	1857/049
Rogers	William	Barber	James	03	04	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC William Rogers accused James Barber, landlord of The Full Moon, of the same offence as before (see 1857/049) exactly one week later. On this occasion he had seen a woman come out of The Full Moon with a can of beer at 12.40am. Barber was found guilty of this second offence against his licence and was required to pay the sum of 23/- to cover the fine and costs (possibly including the costs of the earlier case). (See also 1857/055).	1857/050
Fox	James	Cannon	George	03	04	1857	Driving without reins	Rd	PC James Fox saw George Cannon, labourer, driving a horse-drawn cart belonging to Mr Berryman along the Portway turnpike. Cannon was sat on the cart - but without reins to control the vehicle and there was no one on foot or on horseback to control the two horses drawing the cart. Cannon pleaded guilty to driving without reins and was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/6d. Cannon was recorded as paying 5/- on account.	1857/051
Bennett	John	Corp	James	08	04	1857	Furious driving	Rd	John Bennett, coal hauler, claimed that he and his son were driving separate carts along the Glastonbury turnpike close to the Wells Union workhouse, when both of them were in collision with a horse and cart driven at a furious rate by James Corp of West Pennard, yeoman (see also 1857/048). Bennett's estimate of damage sustained by his vehicles and his donkey was 20/-. Bennett also called as witnesses George Huish of Street, carpenter, and Robert Henry Morgan of Wells, schoolmaster. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/052

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Paul	Thomas	Fry Fry Parrott Ford	William Frederick Henry William	11	04	1857	Assault	A	Thomas Paul complained that he had been assaulted by a group of youths made up of William Fry, Frederick Fry, both of them being sons of Henry (Harry) Fry, Henry Parrott and William Ford. He alleged that they had thrown earth and stones at him. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/053
Sydenham	George	Perry	Thomas Davidge	11	04	1857	Alehouse information	L	PC George Sydenham charged Thomas Davidge Perry, licensed victualler, with keeping The King's Arms open beyond the statutory licensing hours. At around 12.15am on a Saturday morning Sydenham had heard a noise from the inn and when he went in he found five men drinking beer in the bar and a further four in the tap room. Perry was found guilty of an offence against the terms of his licence and was fined 1/- plus costs of 7/6d; these sums were recorded as paid.	1857/054
[Justices]		Various		13	04	1857	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Rough notes of the petty sessions sitting of 13 April. The cases heard were those of Rogers v Barber (1857/049) and Rogers v Barber (1857/050). Unfortunately, the handwriting is almost illegible and it is difficult to derive any useful information from the notes.	1857/055
Boug	Charles	Perry	Thomas Davidge	28	04	1857	Keeping a disorderly house	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug had received complaints that Thomas Davidge Perry, landlord of The King's Arms, was keeping a disorderly house and upsetting the neighbours. Boug went to visit the inn and found a sizeable group of young men bowling for beer. They were extremely loud, used lots of offensive language and engaged in disorderly and unruly behaviour. Boug charged Perry with keeping a disorderly house and allowing customers to make a noise that would disturb nearby residents. This was considered to be Perry's second offence against the terms of his licence and he was fined 1/- plus costs of 9/-; the sum of 10/- was recorded as paid. (See also 1857/121).	1857/055a

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Moyston	Mary Ann	Churchose	Mary	01	05	1857	Assault	A	Mary Ann Moyston, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Mary Ann Churchose, wife of Edward Churchose (Churches), coal hauler. She alleged that Mary Ann Churchose struck her several times about the head and face. Mary Ann Churchose responded by saying that Revd John Pegler had been present at the time of the alleged assault and she requested that he be summoned as a witness. The case was adjourned firstly to 25 May and then to 15 June on account of the defendant's illness. Note: the surname of the witness called by Mary Ann Churchose is shown as Packer in the documentation, but there is a pencilled note that indicates that it should have been Pegler.	1857/056
Bartlett jnr	Joseph	Allen	Mark	09	05	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	Rd	Joseph Bartlett the younger encountered a cart laden with coal on the Portway turnpike at around 6.00pm. There appeared to be no-one with the cart but Bartlett then spotted Mark Allen of Wookey, labourer, walking along around 50 yards behind the cart and therefore in no position to control its movement. When Bartlett challenged him, Allen allegedly abused him and would not allow him to pass. It appears that Allen did not attend the hearing. He was reprimanded by the justices and required to pay the case costs of 6/6d; this sum was recorded as paid.	1857/057
Seal	Matilda	Cox	Elizabeth	16	05	1857	Assault	A	Matilda Seal, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Cox, wife of George Cox, innkeeper. She claimed that Elizabeth Cox had struck her several times about the head and had pulled her hair. Neither party appeared at the hearing.	1857/058

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Perry	Thomas Davidge	18	05	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Thomas Davidge Perry, landlord of The King's Arms, with serving alcohol outside the permitted licensing hours. PC George Sydenham had visited the inn at 3.30pm and found three men drinking beer; this was outside the permitted licensing hours. However, the drinkers were proven to be travellers (whom it was legal to serve outside statutory hours) and the case was dismissed.	1857/059
Boug	Charles	Money	James	18	05	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Money, landlord of The Queen's Head, with keeping his premises open beyond the permitted licensing hours. PC George Sydenham had visited the beer house at 3.35pm on a Sunday afternoon and found two men drinking. The justices dismissed the case, although the reason for the dismissal is not documented.	1857/060
Boug	Charles	Chard	William	18	05	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged William Chard, landlord of The Fountain Inn, with opening his premises for drinking before the time permitted by the statutory licensing hours. PC William Rogers had visited the inn at 8.15am on a Sunday morning and found one person already drinking ale. The justices dismissed the case, although the reason for the dismissal is not documented.	1857/061
Boug	Charles	Barber	James	18	05	1857	Refusing to admit police officer	Op	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Barber, landlord of The Full Moon Inn in Southover, with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty by refusing admittance to PC William Rogers. Rogers heard voices from The Full Moon at 12.50am on a Sunday morning and sought to gain entry to see what was going on. After some time Mrs Barber, the landlord's wife, came to the door but refused to open it, even though Rogers clearly stated that he was from the police. James Barber was found guilty of the offence and fined 1/- plus costs of 9/-.	1857/062

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Seal Ball	Martha Charles	18	05	1857	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Charles Ball, labourer, and his employer, Martha Seal, widow, with cruelty to a donkey by working the animal when it was in an unfit state. Boug had examined the donkey in Chamberlain Street and found that it had a large sore on its shoulder caused by the rubbing of its collar. The animal had recently been drawing a load of coal but Boug considered that it should not have been working at all. The case was adjourned to 15 June, but if the defendants paid the case costs of 6/6d in the meantime, then the case would not proceed.	1857/063
Boug	Charles	Barber	James	18	05	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Barber, landlord of The Full Moon Inn, with selling alcohol before the time permitted by the statutory licensing laws. Boug had been on duty in Southover on Sunday 17 May and at 11.20am saw a girl named Moyston come out of the inn holding something under her clothes. She told Boug it was a bottle of vinegar but he tasted it and it was beer. Barber pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined 20/- plus 9/- costs.	1857/064
Boug	Charles	Nutty	George	18	05	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged George Nutty, landlord of The Bull's Head in Queen Street, with opening his premises for the sale of alcoholic liquor outside statutory licensing hours. PC William Rogers had visited the beer house on Sunday 17 May at 11.00am and found three people already drinking when the premises should not have been open until 12.30pm. Nutty was found guilty and fined 10/- plus costs of 10/-, all to be paid immediately. In the event of default, distress proceedings would be commenced and if they failed to raise the necessary sum, then a prison sentence of one month would be imposed.	1857/065

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Hawkins	Henry	18	05	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Henry Hawkins, landlord of The Bell in Portway, with keeping his premises open for the consumption of alcohol beyond the statutory licensing hours. PC William Rogers had visited The Bell on Saturday 16 May at 11.30pm, i.e. after the statutory closing time, and found four people in the bar drinking beer. Hawkins was found guilty of an offence against his licence and fined 5/- plus costs of 9/-. (See also 1856/089 and 1857/105).	1857/066
Boug	Charles	Sweet Sweet	John Eliza	18	05	1857	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged John Sweet, butcher, and his wife, Eliza Sweet, with being drunk in a public place. The case was dismissed on John Sweet paying the costs of 1/6d. Note: the only documentation for this case is the summons issued to the Sweets.	1857/067
Ridewood	Ann	Dudderidge	Maria	20	05	1857	Assault	A	Ann Ridewood, widow, complained that she had been assaulted by Maria Dudderidge, wife of Joseph Dudderidge, painter. Ridewood claimed that Dudderidge had struck her several times about the head. Maria Dudderidge was found guilty and fined 1/- with costs of 9/-; in default of immediate payment, she would be required to serve 14 days imprisonment.	1857/068

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Wicks	Thomas	Loxton	William	21	05	1857	Leaving work in unfinished state	Nc	Thomas Wicks, cabinet maker, had employed William Loxton as a journeyman cabinet maker for some time and had then begun paying him on a week by week basis at a rate of 15/- per week. He had assigned Loxton to a job at Wells Cathedral but Loxton had left the job unfinished and had refused to go back to it. Wicks claimed that Loxton had not offered any reasonable explanation for his attitude and therefore took out a summons against him. In his defence Loxton summoned Albert Parker, an apprentice employed by Wicks, to give evidence on his behalf. The costs of the case were 7/6d and were recorded as paid, possibly by Wicks. Loxton appears not to have been convicted of the charge but was ordered to pay the sum of 3/- out of his wages which were shown as 7/10 ¹ / ₂ d (possibly reduced from 15/- because Loxton had not worked a full week).	1857/069
Boug	Charles	Whitehead	John	21	05	1857	Assault on police officers	A	Police serjeant Charles Boug had prosecuted John Whitehead, labourer, for an assault on two of his police constables, George Brown and Charles Richard Coles on 20 May. Whitehead was convicted of the assault and ordered to pay £4.14s.0d plus costs of 6/-. As it was impossible for him to pay this sum or to sell assets to this value, he was sentenced to prison in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet for one calendar month with hard labour. (See also 1857/071).	1857/070
Boug	Charles	Whitehead	John	21	05	1857	Assault on police officers	A	This document is a copy of the commitment related to case 1857/070. It was noted that this sentence of one month in prison should commence only after Whitehead's current 3-month sentence for other misdemeanours had been completed.	1857/071

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Curry	George	Moon	John	22	05	1857	Leaving master's work without leave	Ab	George Curry, described as an innkeeper at The City Arms, complained that John Moon, who was employed as an ostler at a weekly rate of 1/- plus full board and lodging, had failed to turn up for work on two occasions during the week (and had a record of similar absences in the past). Moon had apparently left work on Tuesday afternoon without permission from his employer, had returned to work on Wednesday morning, but then left again on Wednesday afternoon and had not been seen since. Moon pleaded guilty to leaving his employment without authority from his employer and was required to pay the costs of the case of 6/6d.	1857/072
Symes	Sarah	Allen	Mary	25	05	1857	Sureties for the peace	Su	Sarah Symes, wife of Samuel Symes, confectioner, complained that Mary Allen, wife of John Allen, had abused her and threatened her with physical violence. Sarah Symes requested that Mary Allen be bound over with respect to her future conduct to prevent further verbal abuse and potential physical violence. The case was dismissed with costs of 1/6d, presumably to be paid by Sarah Symes.	1857/073
Rogers	William	Ham	William	25	05	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC William Rogers charged William Ham, labourer, with being drunk in the Liberty of St Andrew on 3 May. The justices reprimanded Ham but the case against him was dismissed. It is not clear if he was required to play the costs of 3/6d.	1857/074
Rogers	William	Hole	George	25	05	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC William Rogers charged George Hole, sawyer, with being drunk in the Liberty of St Andrew on 3 May. The justices reprimanded Hole but the case against him was dismissed. It is not clear if he was required to play the costs of 4/6d.	1857/075
Rogers	William	Buck	George	25	05	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC William Rogers charged George Buck, pensioner, with being drunk in the Liberty of St Andrew on 3 May. The justices reprimanded Buck but the case against him was dismissed. It is not clear if he was required to play the costs of 5/-.	1857/076

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rogers	William	Sheppard	William	25	05	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC William Rogers charged William Sheppard, sawyer, with being drunk in the Liberty of St Andrew on 3 May. The justices reprimanded Sheppard but the case against him was dismissed. It is not clear if he was required to play the costs of 4/6d.	1857/077
Rogers	William	Allen	James	25	05	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC William Rogers charged James Allen, glazier, with being drunk in the Liberty of St Andrew on 3 May. The justices reprimanded Allen but the case against him was dismissed. It is not clear if he was required to play the costs of 3/6d.	1857/078
Justices		Various		25	05	1857	Minutes of petty sessions sitting	*	Rough minutes of the petty sessions sitting of 25 May. The cases heard were Boug v Perry (1857/055a), Boug v Perry (1857/059), Rogers v Hole (1857/075), Rogers v Ham (1857/074), Rogers v Allen (1857/078), Rogers v Sheppard (1857/077), Rogers v Buck (1857/076), Boug v Chard (1857/061), Boug v Sweet (1857/067), Boug v Money (1857/060), Boug v Nutty (1857/065), Boug v Hawkins (1857/066), Boug v Barber (1857/064), Boug v Barber (1857/062), Wicks v Loxton (1857/069), Symes v Allen (1857/073), Boug v Seal (1857/063), Ridewood v Dudderidge (1857/068), Curry v Moon (1857/072), Bartlett v Allen (1857/057). As with all of the rough minutes of petty sessions sittings, the handwriting is difficult to read and it is hard to derive information of material value.	1857/079
Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	Francis	Thomas	26	05	1857	Assault	A	Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by Thomas Francis, labourer, who had struck her violently several times and knocked her down. There is no indication if the plaintiff and defendant were related. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: there are some handwritten notes on the summons but the names (Fry, Moyston and Curry) and the amounts shown appear not to relate to this case.	1857/080

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Oatley	Sarah	Curry	Elizabeth	03	06	1857	Assault	A	Sarah Oatley, single woman, claimed that Elizabeth Curry, wife of George Curry and landlady of The City Arms, had pushed her downstairs. The case was dismissed with Sarah Oatley being required to pay a further 5/- (over and above the costs incurred in making the complaint).	1857/081
Rogers	William	Fry	John	04	06	1857	Drunkenness	D	<p>PC William Rogers charged John Fry, shoemaker, with being drunk in a public place. Fry was convicted of this offence and also of assaulting a police officer (see 1857/083).</p> <p>The information shown with respect to the fines and costs that he incurred is unclear. There is a list of costs on this summons amounting to 12/- but there is also a pencilled note on the reverse of the document stating a fine of 40/- plus costs for each conviction. The information on the reverse of the complaint for case 1857/083 is clearer in that it lists two sets of fines and costs but does not clearly identify to which case each set of figures relates. It is therefore assumed that the fine of £2 plus costs of 10/- relates to this case. It appears from a note on the front of the summons that John Fry's father, Harry Fry, promised to pay. However, there is also the possibility that these two sets of figures actually relate to the convictions of Eliza Fry rather than John Fry.</p> <p>In addition, John Fry was also required to provide sureties as to his future conduct for an unspecified period. The number of months is not shown but, on the basis of information in case 1857/083 it is assumed to be 3 months. The two individuals putting forward bonds of £5 each were George Foster and Harry Fry.</p>	1857/082

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rogers	William	Fry Fry Dredge Boyce	John Eliza Eliza Isaiah	04	06	1857	Assault	A	When John Fry was arrested (see case 1857/082), several others involved in the disturbance tried to rescue him from PC William Rogers' custody and were successful in doing so. Those particularly involved were his mother, Eliza Fry, wife of Henry (Harry) Fry, Eliza Dredge, wife of Frederick Dredge, shoemaker, and Isaiah Boyce, labourer. All were fined and ordered to pay costs. Eliza Fry was fined 40/-, but costs are not shown. In the event of default there would be a prison sentence of one calendar month in Shepton Mallet. Eliza Fry was also required to put forward two sureties of £5 each to keep the peace for 3 months. Eliza Dredge was fined 10/- plus costs of 9/-; these sums were recorded as paid with the help of a loan of 1/- from Harry Fry. Isaiah Boyce was fined 10/- plus costs of 11/-; these sums were recorded as paid. (See also 1857/084).	1857/083
Wines	George	Fry	Eliza	04	06	1857	Assault	A	In the same incident as cases 1857/082 and 1857/083, PC George Wines claimed that he was also assaulted by Eliza Fry, wife of Henry Fry. She was found guilty and fined £2 with costs of 8/- (fined £2 and costs of 10/- for attacking PC Rogers). In addition, there were also costs of 4/- in setting up two sureties of £5 each regarding her future conduct over the next 3 months. Note: details of the fines and sureties may actually relate to John Fry rather than Eliza Fry.	1857/084

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Phipps	Elizabeth	Churhouse	Mary	22	06	1857	Assault	A	Elizabeth Phipps, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Mary Churhouse, wife of Edward Churhouse, coal hauler. Phipps alleged that she had been struck a violent blow. She called upon John Francis of Southover, coal hauler, to provide evidence on her behalf. Mary Churhouse was found guilty of assault and was required to pay the sum of 10/6d. She paid 7/- and was granted until the next meeting of the petty sessions court to pay the remaining 3/6d. Note: in an earlier case (see 1857/056) Mary Churhouse was named as Mary Ann Churhouse, and in later cases in 1857 the name appears to vary between Mary and Mary Ann.	1857/085
Fry Salmon	Charles Henry	Hale	Richard	23	06	1857	Leaving master's employ	Ab	Charles Fry and Henry Salmon ran a business as millers and corn factors and employed Richard Hale in husbandry and as a general servant at a rate of 10/- per week. Salmon complained that Hale failed to turn up for his assigned role in the harvest on 21 June and had not returned to their employ since. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/086
Furlong	Charles	Justices		25	06	1857	Repayment of amount incorrectly claimed	*	Letter from Bristol district paymaster, Charles Furlong, requesting repayment of 1/- which had been paid to the magistrates clerk in Wells in respect of smart money related to a recruit named William Brooks. The remittance was sent in the form of postage stamps on 25 June.	1857/087

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Various		01	07	1857	Convictions against licencees	*	This document gives a list of innkeepers convicted of offences against the Beer Act since August 1856. The list was used in September 1857 when the award of new licences was discussed. The innkeepers listed in this document were: - Richard Wilton with one conviction and two cases pending - James Money with two convictions - Elizabeth Cardwell (now Curry) with three convictions - William Welchman with one conviction - Thomas Davidge Perry with two convictions - James Barber with three convictions of which one was not granting admittance to a police constable.	1857/088
Sweet	Ann	Creedy	Major	11	07	1857	Assault	A	Ann Sweet, widow, complained that she had been assaulted by Major Creedy, butcher, who had allegedly thrown her to the floor and kicked her. Ther justices deemed the case not to be proven and it was therefore dismissed. Note: Ann Sweet did not pay the charge of 4/6d to initiate the case.	1857/089
Loxton	Rosamond Alice	Churchose	Mary	20	07	1857	Assault	A	Mary Churchose, wife of Edward Churchose, coal hauler, was accused of assaulting Rosamond Alice Loxton, an infant. The case was presumably brought by the child's parents, but they are not named in the summons which is the only documentation available for the case. There is no information on the outcome of the case..	1857/090
Boug	Charles	Brookman	William	21	07	1857	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged William Brookman, baker, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert. The only documentation for this case is the summons. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/091
Boug	Charles	Armstrong	Ann	21	07	1857	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Ann Armstrong, wife of Charles Armstrong, tailor, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert. The only documentation for this case is the summons. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/092

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rogers	William	Fry	Henry	23	07	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC William Rogers charged Henry (Harry) Fry, shoemaker, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert. Henry Serjent Boddy, shipman, was summoned to give evidence for the plaintiff. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/093
Dredge	Priscilla	Stephens	George	29	07	1857	Assault	A	Priscilla Dredge, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by George Stephens, labourer, who had thrown a shirt sleeve in her face. Stephens was convicted of assault and fined 6d with costs of 11/-, or to spend 14 days in prison. He was given until the following Monday to pay. (See also 1857/125).	1857/094
Boug	Charles	Ball	James	31	07	1857	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Ball, coal hauler, with ill-treating one of his donkeys. Boug was shown blood stains in Sadler Street and the Bath Road and was informed that the blood came from the donkey that had been beaten by Ball. Ball was found guilty of cruelty and fined 5/- plus costs (no figure is given) or to be imprisoned for 14 days with hard labour.	1857/095
Clements	Ann	Clements	Thomas	06	08	1857	Assault	A	Ann Clements, wife of Thomas Clements, complained that her husband had assaulted her striking her several times about the head and face. A warrant for the arrest of Thomas Clements was issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/096
Boug	Charles	White	John	12	08	1857	Driving furiously	Rd	Police serjeant Charles Boug accused John White, butcher, of driving his horse and cart at a furious and, in Boug's opinion, dangerous pace along High Street. The hearing of the case was postponed until 7 September, but White was then found guilty and fined 5/- plus costs of 9/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1857/097

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Wilton	Richard	12	08	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Richard Wilton, landlord of The Globe, with two offences against his licence to sell alcohol. One charge was for having his premises open for the sale and consumption of alcohol outside statutory licensing hours. PC James Dallas had gone to The Globe at 4.40pm on a weekday afternoon and found four men and two women in the bar with a jar of ale on the table in front of them. The other charge was of keeping a disorderly house where drunkenness was permitted and where prostitutes and persons of notoriously bad character were allowed to associate. Boug himself claimed to have seen evidence supporting the latter charge and evidence was also sought from Catherine Kingman, spinster. Wilton was convicted on both charges with fines and costs totalling £3.1s.0d.	1857/098
Boug	Charles	Cook White Giles	John Joseph William	12	08	1857	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug saw two vehicles being driven down Sadler Street, namely a waggon pulled by two horses and a cart pulled by a horse and a donkey. He noticed a sore on one of the horses and when he checked all the animals at least two of the horses had multiple old wounds and new sores. Charges of cruelty were brought against the two drivers, Joseph White and William Giles, and against the owner of the animals, John Cook of Shepton Mallet. The verdict in the case was recorded as guilty, but it is not clear if this applied to all the defendants and there is no information as to the fines and costs resulting. (See also 1857/102).	1857/099
Brown	George	Edwards	William	13	08	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC George Brown accused William Edwards, labourer, of being drunk in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 12 August. The only documentation in this case is the summons and no further information is available.	1857/100
Parsons	Joseph	Kittson	Robert	14	08	1857	Leaving his work	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that he had employed Robert Kittson at the beginning of May and Kittson had signed a one-year contract at that time, but he had now absented himself from work without leave and had not returned. A warrant for Kittson's arrest was issued.	1857/101

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rogers	William	Cook White	John Joseph	14	08	1857	Cruelty to animals	C	PC William Rogers saw Joseph White driving a waggon drawn by two horses on the Glastonbury road. Rogers suspected that one of the horses had sores and on investigation found that the sores were significant and had been present for some while. Charges of cruelty were brought against the owner, John Cook of Shepton Mallet, and Joseph White. A guilty verdict was reached but there is no indication as to whether both defendants were affected. No details of fines and costs were recorded although the alternative in the event of a default was given as one month in prison. Note: see also case 1857/099 where driver, owner and possibly the horse appear to be the same.	1857/102
Anderson	William	Walker	Alexander	17	08	1857	Absconding	Ab	William Anderson ran a drapery and grocery business in High Street. He employed Alexander Walker as a travelling salesman. Walker was given an account book, a supply of tea and miscellaneous drapery items and sent off to sell them. He failed to return with the unsold goods and proceeds of his sales. Anderson suspected that Walker had absconded and requested that a warrant for Walker's arrest be issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/103
Clarke	Ellen	Healey	Mr	17	08	1857	Sexual assault	Sa	Ellen Clarke, single woman, agreed to take on a position as servant to Mr Healey (no forename recorded), a drill serjeant in the Wells troop of yeomanry cavalry. She claimed that in the first two days of her employment Healey constantly tried to kiss her, invaded her room at night, asked her to sleep with him and finally conducted a serious sexual assault on her. Healey was convicted and fined £2 with costs of 9/-; these sums were recorded as paid. Ellen Clarke was refunded the sum of 4/6d which she had paid in order to initiate the complaint.	1857/104

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rogers	William	Hawkins	Henry	21	08	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC William Rogers encountered two men, Zachariah Ball and Joseph Isgrove, in Broad Street at 1.30am on a Sunday morning with beer in their possession. Rogers ascertained that they had just bought it from The Bell in Portway. Henry Hawkins, the landlord, was charged with selling beer outside statutory licensing hours. The magistrates noted that he had previous convictions for recent offences against his licence (see cases 1856/089 and 1857/066). He was fined 5/- for a second offence plus costs of 20/-. If in default, the alternative was one month in prison; the fine and costs were recorded as paid.	1857/105
Rogers	William	Keates	Thomas	26	08	1857	Offence against licence	L	PC William Rogers charged Thomas Keates, licensed victualler and landlord of The Golden Heart, with keeping his premises open beyond the permitted licensing hours to serve guests who were neither travellers nor residents. When Rogers entered the bar at 11.15 on a Sunday morning he heard the sound of a cup being placed on the floor. In the bar he found Thomas Keates and John Millard, butcher. Millard denied having anything to drink but Rogers found a pint cup half full of beer beneath the seat on which Millard was sitting. Keates was found guilty of the offence against his licence. The fine appears to have been 1/- with costs of 10/6d.	1857/106
Buck	Abraham	Locke	William	29	08	1857	Evasion of toll	N	Abraham Buck, collector of tolls, complained that William Locke, potato dealer, had brought a cart load of potatoes into Wells to sell them, but refused to pay the toll of 4d demanded by Buck. The case was settled without a hearing.	1857/107
Sayer	Sarah	Francis	Elizabeth	31	08	1857	Assault	A	Sarah Sayer, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Francis, wife of George Francis, coal hauler. Sayer claimed that she had been struck several times around the head. The case was settled without a hearing. Note: in most parts of the documentation the forename of the defendant is given as Phillis but is corrected to Elizabeth on the summons.	1857/108

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Thorley	Joseph	Grist	Ellen	31	08	1857	Minutes of meeting	T	Ellen Grist, spinster, was accused of taking a silver pocket watch and gold ring worth upwards of three pounds from Joseph Thorley. The property was recovered when Thorley visited Joseph Burr, a member of the Vicars Choral. Joseph Burr and his daughter, Eliza Burr, spinster, were summoned to provide evidence for the prosecution. There are rough minutes of the meeting of justices to hear the case but these notes are very difficult to read and it is not possible to determine how the items came to be stolen or how they came to be in the possession of Joseph Burr. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/109
Sydenham	George	Browne	Eliza	05	09	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham charged Eliza Browne with being drunk in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 3 September. Eliza Browne was noted as being married but the forename of her husband was not recorded. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/110
[Justices]		Various		07	09	1857	List of fines and costs paid at Petty Sessions meeting	*	This document contains a list of fines and costs paid from recent cases. Individuals who were recorded as paying were John White, Henry Hawkins, Thomas Keates and someone named Wall. Expenses were also disbursed to PC William Rogers.	1857/111
Green	Elizabeth	Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	15	09	1857	Assault	A	Elizabeth Green, wife of George Green, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis, labourer. Elizabeth Francis had allegedly pushed her fists into Elizabeth Green's face and threatened to strike her. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1857/122).	1857/112

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Johnson	George	01	10	1857	Selling obscene publications	Pr	Henry Olive, working in Everett's shop in the Liberty, was approached by George Johnson who wanted to sell him a book, supposedly by Aristotle. Olive purchased the book which actually had the title 'Short Prayer' embossed in gold on the front and paid Johnson 4/- for it. Johnson told him to keep the book to himself and not let others see it. The book turned out to be an obscene publication, as did others in Johnson's possession when he was arrested by police serjeant Charles Boug. Johnson agreed to hand over all the publications in his possession and was discharged.	1857/113
Fry	Francis	Bird	James	01	10	1857	Assault	A	Francis Fry, maltster, complained that he had been assaulted by James Bird, mason, who had pushed his fists towards Fry and threatened to strike him. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/114
Boug	Charles	Wallin	Edward	02	10	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	O	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Edward Wallin of Ashwick with leaving a horse and cart unattended for more than two hours in Water Lane. The cart was neither being unloaded nor loaded and Boug believed that Wallin had spent the entire time in The Angel Inn kept by Major Creedy. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1857/124).	1857/115
Turvill	PC	Adams	William	05	10	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC Turvill charged William Adams of Sedgmoor, yeoman, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 3 October. The summons is the only documentation and there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/116
Turvill	PC	Eades	Thomas	05	10	1857	Drunkenness	D	PC Turvill charged Thomas Eades of North Wootton, yeoman, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 3 October. The summons is the only documentation and there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/117

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	Creedy	Major	06	10	1857	Assault	A	PC James Dallas had gone to The Angel Inn, a public house run by Major Creedy, to find the owner of a cart parked in the street (the owner subsequently turned out to be John White). Creedy, also described as a butcher, had allegedly assaulted Dallas while he was carrying out his duties by violently grabbing him by the arm and knocking him against the wall several times as well as verbally abusing him and threatening bodily violence. Sarah Sealy, domestic servant working for Creedy, was summoned to provide evidence on behalf of the plaintiff. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1857/119 and 1857/123).	1857/118
Dallas	James	Fry	Henry	06	10	1857	Assault	A	PC James Dallas charged Harry Fry, shoemaker, with aiding in an assault on a police constable. Dallas had gone into The Angel Inn to fined the owner of a waggon parked in Water Lane. The owner turned out to be John White who came out and refused to give his name to Dallas before driving off. Dallas had gone back to The Angel Inn where he claimed to have been abused and assaulted by Major Creedy (see 1857/118) While the incident with Creedy was taking place, Harry Fry of Water Lane, shoemaker, came along and began to encourage and incite Creedy to assault Dallas while also threatening to carry out an assault himself. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1857/123).	1857/119
Boug	Charles	Stephens	John	09	10	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	O	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged John Stephens of Westbury, butcher, with leaving his horse and cart unattended outside The Red Ox beer house in High Street for more than half an hour. The cart was parked on the public turnpike road and potentially constituted an obstruction to other road users. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/120

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Perry	Thomas Davidge	09	10	1857	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Thomas Davidge Perry, landlord of The King's Arms, with keeping a disorderly house, an offence against his licence to sell alcoholic liquor. Boug had visited the premises in High Street between 10.00pm and 11.00pm. He found 13 or 14 people in the bar with many of them being drunk. A number of them had taken off their jackets and there had clearly been fighting. There was also a great deal of noise. Boug noted that he had been aware of similar occurrences in the recent past. He also pointed out that Parry had been convicted of previous offences against his licence earlier in the year and presented to the justices the text of their judgement against Parry in May 1857 (see 1857/055a). There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/121
Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	Green	Elizabeth	12	10	1857	Assault	A	Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Green, wife of George Green, also a coal hauler. Green allegedly struck Francis with a shovel and threw a lump of coal at her. Joseph Paul, milkman, was summoned to testify on behalf of Elizabeth Francis. The hearing was delayed until 17 November because Elizabeth Green was suffering from jaundice and was unable to leave the house. Elizabeth Green was found guilty of assault and fined 6d with costs of 17/6d, including 2/6d for witnesses. She was given until 7 December to pay and in the event of default would be sent to prison for one calendar month. As Elizabeth Green did not pay the required sums, an order was issued on 16 February 1858 committing her to prison for one calendar month. Note: there was previous history between the two women (see case 1857/112).	1857/122

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	White jnr	John	13	10	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	O	PC James Dallas charged John White the younger of Glastonbury with leaving a horse and cart unattended for a considerable length of time opposite The Angel Inn in Water Lane. White himself was in The Angel Inn and when Dallas went into the bar to find the owner of the vehicle, White refused to give his name but eventually said that it was John White of Street. There is no information on the outcome of this case. Note: when Dallas sought the owner of the vehicle parked in Water Lane this proved to be the trigger for the incident leading to Major Creedy's alleged assault on the police constable (see 1857/118 and 1857/119).	1857/123
Boug	Charles	Walwin	Edward	15	10	1857	Offence against Turnpike Act	O	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Edward Walwin of Shepton Mallet, coal hauler, with leaving a horse and cart unattended without being loaded or unloaded for more than 3 hours outside The Three Kings Inn in High Street. Boug recorded that there were actually three carts parked opposite the inn, but brought the charge specifically against the vehicle bearing Walwin's name. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: Walwin is almost certainly the same individual who was charged with a similar offence in an earlier case (see case 1857/115), although the surname was then shown as Wallin and his domicile was recorded as Ashwick which lies just north of Shepton Mallet.	1857/124
Dredge	Priscilla	Stephens	George	17	10	1857	Arrest warrant	Aw	In July 1857 Priscilla Dredge won a judgement against George Stephens for an assault upon her (see 1857/094). As a consequence of that judgment Stephens was required to pay Priscilla Dredge the sum of 13/6d and in the event of his failing to do so he would be sent to prison for 14 days. Stephens had not paid the money due and a warrant for his arrest was issued so that he could be sent to Shepton Mallet gaol to serve his sentence. In addition, the amount that he needed to pay was increased by 3/9d to 17/3d.	1857/125

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Overseers of the Poor		Chapman	Mary Maria	17	10	1857	Transfer of dependent to another parish	Tr	The Overseers of the Poor submitted an application to move Mary Maria Chapman to her legal place of settlement, presumably because she was a chargeable burden on their funds. John Chapman, whose link to Mary Maria Chapman was not specified, was summoned before the magistrates to provide information before they took their decision.	1857/126
Perham	Martha	Fry	William	11	11	1857	Firearms offence	Fm	Martha Perham of East Wells, wife of Samuel Perham, labourer, complained that William Fry, labourer, had been discharging a firearm on a public path adjoining the public highway, so therefore well within the limit of 50' of the centre of the public carriageway. He had discharged the firearm at least twice on a Sunday morning. The case was dismissed.	1857/127
Sweet	Charles	Pearce	James	16	11	1857	Assault	A	Charles Sweet of East Wells, labourer, complained that James Pearce also of East Wells, labourer, had assaulted him by striking him in the face. Neither the plaintiff nor the defendant appeared at the hearing.	1857/128
Parsons	Joseph	Heskins	Charles	17	11	1857	Theft of hay	T	Michael Westcott, brushmaker employed in the firm of Joseph Parsons, saw Charles Heskins, an apprentice with the firm, coming out of the gates of the firm's premises with a bundle of hay under his arm. Westcott stopped to question Heskins about the hay and established that Heskins was taking it home for his rabbits. Westcott persuaded Heskins to return the hay to the waggon house. Parsons still appears to have brought a case against Heskins for theft of hay of the value of around 2d. However, it seems likely that the magistrates dismissed the case because Charles Heskins was under the age of 16 (he was 15 years of age), although the document they were preparing was not completed in full and the eventual verdict was not clear.	1857/128a

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Brown	James Sims	Winter Vowles	Nimrod Charles	23	11	1857	Assault	A	James Sims Brown, cordwainer, complained that he had been assaulted by Nimrod Winter, cabinet maker, and Charles Vowles, butcher. He claimed that both of them had struck him and pushed him to the ground. Both men appear to have been convicted of assault and it seems likely that there was a fine of 2/- plus costs of £1.0s.6d with a prison sentence of 14 days for non-payment.	1857/129
Wangford	William	Walwyn	Alfred	26	11	1857	Assault	A	William Wangford, serjeant in the Grenadier Guards, complained that he had been assaulted by Alfred Walwyn of Ashwick, coal hauler. Wangford claimed that Walwyn had struck him multiple times about the head and other parts of his body. James Hawkins of Back Lane in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, labourer, was summoned to give evidence on behalf of the defendant. There is no information on the outcome of the case, although there is a table of costs which amounts to 17/6d. (See also 1857/131).	1857/130
Wangford	William	Walwyn	Alfred	26	11	1857	Wilful damage	Wd	William Wangford, serjeant in the Grenadier Guards, complained that he had been assaulted by Alfred Walwyn of Ashwick, coal hauler, who had also wilfully damaged Wangford's coat (see case 1857/130 for the case involving the alleged assault). Wangford assessed the wilful damage to his coat as being at least 30/-. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1857/131
Boug	Charles	Phipps jnr	Thomas	07	12	1857	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Thomas Phipps the younger with being drunk in a public place on 7 December. Phipps admitted the offence and was discharged on payment of the case costs of 2/-.	1857/132

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Foster	Robert	Creyghton	Mary	15	12	1857	Assault	A	Robert Foster of Wookey Hole, dairyman, complained that he had been assaulted by Mary Creyghton, wife of Alexander Creyghton, labourer. He alleged that she had struck him several times with a bucket and also with her fists. The case was noted as being dismissed by the justices with the costs of 4/- recorded as paid (presumably by Foster). Note: see also case 1857/134. Note: in this case Alexander Creyghton is described as a labourer, but in 1857/134 as a stoker.	1857/133
Creyghton	Mary	Foster	Robert	16	12	1857	Assault	A	Mary Creyghton, wife of Alexander Creyghton, stoker, complained that she had been assaulted by Robert Foster of Wookey Hole, dairyman. She claimed that he had struck her several times and knocked her down. The case was dismissed with the costs of 4/- recorded as paid (presumably by Creyghton). Note: see also case 1857/133.	1857/134
Churchouse	Mary Ann	Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	23	12	1857	Assault	A	Mary Ann Churchouse, wife of Edward Churchouse, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis, also a coal hauler. Mary Ann Churchouse alleged that the defendant had struck her several violent blows and attempted to stab her with a knife. As witnesses Mary Ann Churchouse summoned the following to give evidence on her behalf: Robert Brown, labourer; Mary Ann Nicholls, spinster; and Ellen Crandon, wife of William Crandon, butcher. The plaintiff appears to have been required to put forward 4/6d to bring the complaint plus a further 4/- for summoning her witnesses, but it is uncertain if these sums were paid. On the reverse of the summons it states Churchouse 7/- and Francis 2/-, although it is not clear if that represents all the costs imposed upon them. Note: see also case 1857/136 where it is possible that the verdict might actually cover both cases.	1857/135

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	Churhouse Churhouse	Edward Mary Ann	24	12	1857	Assault	A	Elizabeth Sarah Francis, wife of George Francis, coal hauler, accused Edward Churhouse, coal hauler, and his wife, Mary Ann Churhouse, of assault, alleging that they had struck her several times about the head and face and had also kicked her. The plaintiff was apparently required to put forward 5/- in order to pursue the case and this sum was recorded as paid. Mary Ann Churhouse was found guilty of assault and fined 1/- with costs of 6/6d to be paid forthwith or to serve a prison sentence of 21 days if in default. Mary Ann Churhouse did not pay the sums involved and on 27 March 1858 a warrant was issued committing her to prison for 21 days. Note: on the reverse side of the summons is written Churhouse 2/- and Francis 2/-, but it is not clear how these figures relate to other sums in thie judgment of this case. Note: see also case 1857/135.	1857/136

1858

Barber	James	Fry Fry	John William	21	01	1858	Assault	A	James Barber, innholder, complained that he had been assaulted by John Fry and William Fry, both described as shoemakers. Barber claimed that the two defendants had struck him several times and knocked him down. He called George Pearce of Southover, coal hauler, and Thomas Lansdown, brewer, to give evidence to support his case. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/001
Marshall	Thomas	Dudderidge	James	06	02	1858	Assault	A	Thomas Marshall, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by James Dudderidge, painter, who had thrown him violently to the ground. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/002

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Guardians and Overseers of Poor & Highway Surveyor		20	02	1858	Waste near Palace moat	E	Police serjeant Charles Boug issued a notice of a foul-smelling nuisance on the south side of the Palace Moat emanating from a pool, ditch, gully or watercourse that needed to be removed because it represented a potential health hazard. Boug noted that he had addressed the notice to the recipient organisations since there appeared to be no other board, local authority or committee in place with responsibility for that particular stretch of land. The individuals receiving copies of the notice were listed as: - George Thorn, assistant overseer - Richard Collins, overseer - James Garrod, guardian - John Withers, warden - Henry Coles, guardian - James Teek, haywarden - W H Palinor, haywarden - Peter Fry, guardian - Edward Lemon, overseer.	1858/003
Boyce	Thomas Tucker	Oxley snr Oxley	Matthew Charles	23	02	1858	Malicious damage	Wd	Thomas Tucker Boyce owned a parcel of garden ground adjoining Tucker Street on which he had planted a quick-set thorn hedge some years ago. He was informed that someone had cut down part of his hedge and then later that all the hedge had been cut down. Both reports were correct. Boyce suspected that the culprits were Matthew Oxley the elder and his son, Charles Oxley, who held an adjoining piece of garden ground. Boyce charged them with malicious and wilful damage. The justices determined that the case involved complicated questions of property rights and considered such questions to lie outside their jurisdiction. The case was therefore dismissed.	1858/004
Thomas	Joshua	Mullins	Edwin	26	02	1858	Assault	A	PC Joshua Thomas complained that he had been assaulted in the course of the execution of his duty by Edwin Mullins, tailor, who had allegedly seized him violently by his coat and pushed him into a cellar. The case was dismissed by the justices.	1858/005

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	Carey Carey	John Joseph	26	02	1858	Cruelty to animals	C	PC James Dallas charged Joseph Carey and John Carey, both of Coxley, with cruelty to a horse by working it when it was not in a fit condition. Dallas had seen John Carey driving a waggon pulled by two horses along High Street. He observed that one of the horses appeared to be in pain and when he examined it found a large and relatively fresh sore on its shoulder. John Carey stated that he knew the horse had a sore but his master, Joseph Carey, who was also the owner of the horse, had insisted that he continue working the animal. The defendants were not convicted of the offence but they were required to pay the case costs of 7/6d.	1858/006
Brown	George	Francis	John	26	02	1858	Offence against Turnpike Act	Rd	PC Brown encountered a horse and cart near Keward Bridge with no-one in control. He stopped the horse and cart at the turnpike gate and walked back down the road. After about half a mile he met John Francis, coal hauler. Francis claimed the horse and cart belonged to him and he had been searching for the horse and cart for 2 hours. Brown claimed that Francis was drunk. It is not clear whether Francis was convicted of the offence with which he was charged but he is recorded as having paid 8/-; this appears to be made up of a fine of 1/- and costs of 7/-.	1858/007
Sydenham	George	Watts	Joseph	19	03	1858	Offence against licence	L	PC George Sydenham visited The Globe Inn at 11.25pm on the evening of 10 March where he found one man, Charles Cardwell of East Wells, and three women in the bar. He also found beer in a glass. Cardwell claimed that he was going to spend the night there (statutory licensing hours did not apply to individuals who were residing on the premises) but Sydenham later saw him walking towards East Wells. As a result of Sydenham's findings he charged Joseph Watts, beerhouse keeper, with keeping his premises open outside statutory opening hours, this being an offence against the terms of his licence. Watts was found guilty of the offence and fined 1/- plus costs of 12/-.	1858/008

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	Watts	Joseph	19	03	1858	Refusing to admit constable	Op	PC James Dallas was passing The Globe Inn at midnight on a Sunday night and heard voices coming from the inn. He knocked on the door and announced who he was. He knocked several times but no-one opened the door, until after around 15 minutes, a fully-dressed woman opened the door and stated that there was no-one in the house other than lodgers. Dallas went up to a sitting room on the first floor and found a fully dressed man on the sofa. The man gave his name as Gillard and said that he was staying the night. Dallas charged Joseph Watts, beerhouse keeper, with refusing to admit a police officer who was executing his duty. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/009
Dallas	James	Cox	George	19	03	1858	Offence against licence	L	PC James Dallas visited the premises of George Cox in East Wells at 10.25am on a Sunday morning. Cox was the landlord of The New Inn and also ran a shop which was attached to the inn which sold articles including groceries. When Dallas went into the shop he found four people there, two men and two women. William Carter, one of the men, was seen to hide a cup behind his back and when Dallas examined it he found that it had contained porter. The other man gave his name as William Montagu of Tucker Street, but turned out to be Henry Montagu of East Wells. Dallas charged Cox with having his premises open for the sale of alcohol outside statutory licensing hours, an offence against the terms of his licence. Cox was found guilty and fined 1/- plus costs of 8/-.	1858/010
Chamberlain	Ann	Gardner	James	26	04	1858	Assault	A	Ann Chamberlain, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by James Gardner, painter, who had struck her twice and knocked her down. Witnesses for the prosecution were Susan Moger and Frank Hulse, while the defence called upon Henry Gardner and Mrs Gardner. James Gardner was found guilty and fined 1/- plus costs of 13/-, but if in default he was to serve 14 days in prison. The fine and costs were recorded as paid and Ann Chamberlain was refunded the sum of 4/6d which she had paid to bring the complaint.	1858/011

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Cox	Harry	Judd	Philip	30	04	1858	Assault	A	Harry Cox, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Philip Judd, coal hauler, who had grabbed him by the neck and attempted to throw him to the ground. The case was adjourned until 24 May, but if the case costs of 7/6d were to be paid by then (by Judd), then there would be no conviction. The costs were not paid and the hearing took place on 24 May and Judd was convicted of assault. He was fined 1/- plus costs of 11/6d, all to be paid immediately. As Judd could or would not pay, he was sentenced to 14 days in prison and a warrant for his commitment to gaol was issued.	1858/012
Dallas	James	Keates	Thomas	05	05	1858	Offence against licence	L	At around 9.00am on a Sunday morning PC James Dallas visited The Golden Heart in St John Street where Thomas Keates was the alehouse keeper. As he entered the premises he saw three men leaving the tap room where he found cups on the table and distinct marks of liquid on the table and the floor. He tasted the liquid on the table and declared it to be malt liquor. He then followed the landlord and the men (Thomas Francis, Joseph Phipps and one who gave a fictitious name) out into the yard where two of the men took away trusses of hay. Francis stated that he had bought the hay from Keates but had not yet paid for it. PC Dallas charged Keates with opening his premises for the sale of alcoholic liquor outside statutory licensing hours and also for opening his premises to sell hay when he should not have been open. Keates argued that the three men were regular customers and he would always try to serve them. Keates was not convicted for opening his house to sell alcoholic liquor but was convicted of selling hay illegally on a Sunday. He was fined 1/- plus costs of 13/6d; these sums were recorded as paid.	1858/013

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	Cox	Elizabeth	05	05	1858	Refusing to admit constable	Op	<p>PC James Dallas visited The New Inn in East Wells at around 3.45pm on Sunday afternoon 18 April. He was about to enter the property when Elizabeth Cox, wife of George Cox, alehouse keeper, stepped in front of him and blocked his path saying that he had no business there. Dallas could only have entered by using some force to push his way in and chose not to do so. However, he had been informed that there were one or more customers inside, so he continued to insist on entering. After some time Elizabeth Cox allowed Dallas into the premises but there was no-one there since they had had sufficient time to make their exit. Dallas charged Elizabeth Cox with refusing to admit a police officer and obstructing him in the execution of his duty. She was found guilty and fined 1/- plus costs of 10/-, but the table of costs on the reverse of the summons includes a further 12/- bringing the total charge to £1.3s.0d. This sum was recorded as paid.</p> <p>Note: the sum of 12/- added to the table of costs matches the fine and costs shown for case 1857/015.</p> <p>Note: the forename of George Cox's wife was obtained from the census data for 1861.</p>	1858/014
Dallas	James	Cox	George	05	05	1858	Offence against licence	L	<p>PC James Dallas visited The New Inn in East Wells at around 3.45pm on Good Friday 2 April. On the premises he found John Hill of Tor Lane, although both Hill and Cox claimed that the former was lodging there. Dallas had then gone out into the yard and demanded access to part of the house there because he had been informed that some people had been hiding in there. Cox refused to allow him access saying that he had no business there. As Dallas was leaving, Cox did offer to open that portion of the house but Dallas decided not to return. Cox was not found guilty of opening his premises outside statutory licensing hours but was found guilty of refusing entry to a police officer and fined 1/- plus costs of 11/-.</p> <p>Note: the fine and costs totalling 12/- match the sum noted on the reverse of the summons for case 1857/014.</p>	1858/015

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Berry jnr	James	Brooks	George	10	05	1858	Assault	A	James Berry the younger, a letter carrier living in St Cuthbert Street, heard a loud banging on his shutters and door at 1.00am. Outside he saw Brooks with an iron poker beating on his house and the adjacent property. Brooks was shouting and cursing with threats of considerable violence and continued in this vein for some time. Berry considered Brooks to be very drunk. Berry was concerned that, in view of the threats issued, Brooks would potentially do him serious bodily injury and requested that Brooks be required to put forward sureties to govern his future conduct. He also expressed the view that Brooks was likely to leave the city if a summons against him was issued. A warrant for Brooks' arrest was issued.	1858/016
Marshall	Hugh Graham	Bendall	Albert	15	05	1858	Cruelty to animals	C	Hugh Graham Marshall, described as a gentleman, complained that his dog had been seriously injured at around 9.00am in the Market Place by a blow from Albert Bendall, son of Robert Bendall, carpenter. When challenged about the incident, Albert Bendall apparently admitted that he had struck the dog. Robert Bendall was fined 1/- plus costs of 9/6d or to serve 14 days in prison.	1858/017
Boug	Charles	Poole	Charlotte	21	05	1858	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug served a summons on Charlotte Poole, wife of William Poole, tailor, for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 21 May. Ther initial accusation was made by Mr Fostyer (no forename given). A fine of 3/- appears to have been imposed. The only documentation for this case is the summons served on Charlotte Poole.	1858/018
Boug	Charles	Sweet Sweet	John Eliza	02	06	1858	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug served a summons on John Sweet, butcher, and his wife, Eliza Sweet, for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 2 June. The initial accusation was made by Mr Sayers (no forename given). The only documents for this case are the two summons issued to the Sweets and there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/019

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	White	John	10	06	1858	Furious driving	Rd	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged John White, butcher, with driving his horse and cart at a furious pace in High Street endangering other road users and pedestrians. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/020
Boug	Charles	Creedy	Major	10	06	1858	Furious driving	Rd	PC James Dallas had observed Major Creedy, butcher, driving a horse and cart along High Street at a furious rate, endangering other road users and pedestrians. Dallas reported this occurrence to police serjeant Charles Boug who brought a charge of furious driving against Creedy. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/021
Boug	Charles	Vaughan	Fanny	10	06	1858	Obstructing highway	O	Police serjeant Charles Boug observed a donkey and cart had been left unattended in Priston Row (Priest Row) for more than 5 hours during which time it was obstructing the passage of traffic along the highway. The donkey and cart belonged to Joseph Vaughan of Easton, mason, but was being driven by his wife, Fanny Vaughan. She was charged with obstructing the highway. She was not convicted of the offence but was required to pay the case costs of 4/6d.	1858/022
Boug	Charles	Fry	Henry	11	06	1858	Rescuing prisoner from custody	Op	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Henry (Harry) Fry, shoemaker, with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty by forcibly rescuing his son, William Fry, from the lawful custody of PC Joshua Thomas on 2 June (see also case 1858/025).	1858/023
Boug	Charles	Ball	James	11	06	1858	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug had been on duty in High Street when his attention was drawn to a cart belonging to James Ball, coal hauler. The cart was being drawn by two donkeys which appeared to be in some difficulty. When Boug examined the animals he found that one of them had several sores under the collar and the other had broken knees. Neither of the animals was in a fit state to work hauling cartloads of coal. Boug charged Ball with cruelty to the donkeys. It is not clear whether Ball was convicted of the offence but he seems to have been required to pay the case costs of 6/6d.	1858/024

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Fry	William	11	06	1858	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged William Fry with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 2 June. Fry was fined 5/- plus costs of 4/6d, these sums to be paid by 21 June. In the event of default, distress proceedings would be initiated and if this process did not realise the necessary money, then William Fry was to be committed to the stocks for 6 hours. It appears that Fry did not pay the fine and costs and the distress proceedings showed that he had no goods and chattels that could be sold to raise the money. On 28 June the magistrates issued a document committing William Fry to 6 hours in the stocks for non-payment. Note: the date on which William Fry was arrested for drunkenness (2 June) corresponds with the date on which his father rescued him from the custody of PC Joshua Thomas (see 1858/023). Note: on the reverse of the document of 28 June committing William Fry to the stocks there is an entry of 17 February 1859 stating that the warrant had been executed and the money paid. It is not clear if this relates to when Fry actually served his time in the stocks or whether it relates solely to the payment of the outstanding monies.	1858/025
Boug	Charles	Nutty	William	16	06	1858	Offence against Turnpike Act	Rd	Police serjeant Charles Boug received a report from PC Joshua Thomas, one of his officers, that at around 3.15am on Sunday 13 June he had seen a donkey and cart moving past The Sherston Arms with no-one apparently in charge of it. Thomas had followed the donkey and cart up to The Somerset Hotel where at around 3.40am William Nutty, labourer, had come up to take charge of it. Boug charged Nutty with an offence against the Turnpike Act for not maintaining adequate control over the movement of the donkey and cart in his care. Nutty was required to pay the sum of 8/-.	1858/026

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Hutton	James	16	06	1858	Offence against licence	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug received a report from PC Joshua Thomas, that at around 5.10am on Sunday 13 June he had visited The Red Ox Inn where James Hutton was the beerhouse keeper. Thomas found the premises were open and he saw two men go in. When he entered the house he saw four men leaving the property by the back door and, when challenged, they refused to give their names. Thomas also claimed to have heard the rattling of cups being cleared away. Boug charged Hutton with keeping his premises open outside the statutory licensing hours for the sale and consumption of alcohol. It is not clear whether Hutton was convicted of the offence but he appears to have been required to pay the sum of 8/-.	1858/027
Boug	Charles	Mogford jnr	Thomas	16	06	1858	Cruelty to dog	C	John Hillier complained to the police that his dog had been injured by Thomas Mogford the younger, butcher. Police serjeant Charles Boug examined the dog and found that it had been severely injured and appeared to be in considerable pain. Boug charged Mogford with cruelty to a dog. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/028
Kelly	Jane	Spurlock	Ann	21	06	1858	Pawning goods belonging to complainant	T	Jane Kelly, single woman, stated that back in March she had left a number of items of clothing in the care of Ann Spurlock, namely: one dress, three shifts, one shawl, one skirt, two aprons, one child's skirt, one petticoat and one pair of stockings. When she asked for the items to be returned, Spurlock had said that she could not have them as they were locked up in John Bobbett's box. Kelly subsequently established that some of the items had been pawned at Hellier's shop, namely: the dress, the shawl, two aprons and the child's skirt. Neither party appeared at the hearing. Note: there is a small piece of paper attached to the documentation with a note from James Teek, master of Wells Union workhouse, stating that if it was necessary for the woman (presumably Kelly) to have a warrant he would provide the money for it. This appears to imply that Jane Kelly was resident in the workhouse.	1858/030

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Trickey	William	Hopkins	William	29	06	1858	Wilful damage	Wd	William Trickey, mason, claimed that William Hopkins, carpenter, had seized his hat in The Queen's Head beerhouse and had then cut it into pieces. Trickey valued the hat at around 1/- and said that it was now useless to him. Neither party appeared at the hearing so the case was dismissed.	1858/032
Walbrook	Robert	Brett	William	03	07	1858	Assault	A	Robert Walbrook, brushmaker, complained that he had been assaulted by William Brett, also a brushmaker, who had allegedly struck him in the face. Walbrook suggested that Brett was likely to abscond and, as a result, a warrant for Brett's arrest was issued. The case was dismissed as the charge was considered not to be proven.	1858/033
Sydenham	George	Veale	Edward	06	07	1858	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham charged Edward Veale, tailor, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 6 July. It seems likely that Veale was found guilty and was required to pay a total of 9/-.	1858/034
Churchose	Edward	Sweet	John	16	07	1858	Search warrant	Sw	Edward Churchose of Southover, coal hauler, complained that a pair of black trousers had been stolen from his house. Churchose suggested that John Sweet, also of Southover, was the culprit and requested that a search warrant for Sweet's house should be issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1858/048b, 1858/055 and 1858/059).	1858/035
James	Sophia	Sage	John	16	07	1858	Wilful damage (to apples)	Wd	Sophia James, widow, had a garden attached to her house in East Wells with a large apple tree bearing unripe fruit. On 15 July she saw John Sage, labourer, throwing stones at the apple tree in order to dislodge some fruit. He was successful in that several apples fell from the tree. The value of these apples was about one penny. Neither party appeared at the hearing.	1858/036
Dallas	James	Ashman	Benjamin	16	07	1858	Drunkenness	D	PC James Dallas accused Benjamin Ashman, labourer, of being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 16 July. The summons issued to Ashman is the only document for this case and there is no information on the outcome.	1858/037

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Loxton	Rosamond	Francis	George	30	07	1858	Assault	A	Rosamond Loxton, widow, complained that she had been assaulted by George Francis, coal hauler, who had struck her in the back with a whip. George Francis was found guilty of assault and fined 5/-, plus costs of 8/-. If in default, he would be required to serve one month in prison. Note: the date on the front cover is given as July 1858 but all the dates in the detailed documents are shown as August 1858. It is therefore possible that the case has been misfiled.	1858/038
Day	James	Lewis	Charles	05	08	1858	Threat of violence	Su	James Day heard an argument between his wife and Charles Lewis' wife and asked them to be quiet. At this point Charles Lewis intervened and threatened Day with physical violence now and in the future, at one point grabbing an iron poker and threatening to beat his brains out. Day feared that Lewis would do him bodily injury and requested that Lewis be required to put forward sureties to keep the peace particularly towards him. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/039
Dallas	James	Sweet	John	13	08	1858	Drunkenness	D	PC James Dallas charged John Sweet, pork butcher, with being drunk in a public place in the Liberty of St Andrew on 8 August. The summons issued to John Sweet is the only document for this case and there is no specific information on the outcome of the case, but there is a table of costs amounting to 5/- and it seems likely that Sweet would be required to pay this amount, possibly with a fine on top.	1858/040
Trimmer	Jane	Gosney	John	24	08	1858	Assault	Sa	Jane Trimmer, wife of John Trimmer, gardener, complained that she had been assaulted by John Gosney, coach trimmer, who had put his hands on her and kissed her. Neither party appeared at the hearing.	1858/041

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	Nutty	George	30	08	1858	Offence against licence	L	PC James Dallas visited The Bull's Head at 11.35pm on a Thursday evening and found two customers still in the bar, namely Edward Howell and a woman with the surname of Bath. There was a cup and a glass in the room and both had beer in them. When questioned, both customers stated that they were not lodgers at the inn. Dallas charged George Nutty, beerhouse keeper, with an offence against his licence by having his premises open for the sale and consumption of alcohol outside the permitted licensing hours. Nutty admitted the offence and was fined 1/- plus costs of 9/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1858/042
Harvey	Mary	Harvey	Job	06	10	1858	Assault	A	Mary Harvey, wife of Job Harvey, carpenter, complained that her husband had assaulted her and struck her a violent blow in the face. The case was dismissed by the magistrates.	1858/043
Parsons	Joseph	Standert	Mary Ann	07	10	1858	Leaving master's service without leave	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that Mary Ann Standert, who had been apprenticed to his firm for some time, had absented herself from work without her employer's consent and without just and lawful cause. Parsons also noted that Mary Ann Standert had a history of misbehaviour and absenting herself from work without permission. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: see also case 1859/030 where the surname of this defendant is clearly recorded as Standard.	1858/044
Parsons	Joseph	Brown	Elizabeth	07	10	1858	Leaving master's service without leave	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that Elizabeth Brown, who had been apprenticed to his firm for some time, had absented herself from work without her employer's consent and without just and lawful cause. Parsons also noted that Elizabeth Brown had a history of misbehaviour and absenting herself from work without permission. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: see also case 1859/030 where the forename of this defendant is recorded as Eliza.	1858/045

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Boyce	George	07	10	1858	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Boug charged George Boyce of Westbury in Somerset, potato dealer, with being drunk in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 6 October. Boyce was ordered to pay 9/- for the case costs plus an unspecified penalty to be paid within 7 days. Boyce paid 5/- towards the costs at the hearing.	1858/046
Boug	Charles	Hill	John	13	10	1858	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug was on duty in the Market Place where he saw John Hill, butcher, driving a bullock along the street. Boug then saw Hill strike the bullock a violent blow on the leg with a stick, such that the bullock walked up Sadler Street in considerable pain and essentially on three legs. Boug charged Hill with cruelty to an animal. Hill was found guilty and fined 1/- plus costs of 9/-, all to be paid within 14 days or to serve time in prison with hard labour. Note: it is possible that the final note on the summons indicates that Hill was in fact committed to prison for the offence.	1858/047
Boug	Charles	Sweet	Eliza	14	10	1858	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged Eliza Sweet, wife of John Sweet, butcher, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 13 October. The only document for this case is the summons issued to Eliza Sweet and there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/048a
Churchouse	Mary Ann	Sweet	Eliza	15	10	1858	Assault	A	Mary Ann Churchouse, wife of Edward Churchouse, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by Eliza Sweet, wife of John Sweet, butcher. Sweet had allegedly pushed her fists into Churchouse's face and threatened to strike her. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1858/035, 1858/055 and 1858/059).	1858/048b

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices		Cook	James	23	10	1858	Drunkenness	D	On 23 October James Cook was found to be drunk in a public place in the In parish of St Cuthbert. He was ordered to pay the sum of 5/- as a fine plus a further 5/- in costs, all to be paid by 30 October but, if in default, to serve six hours in the stocks. Cook did not pay the sums required and, although distress proceedings were initiated, they showed that Cook had no goods and chattels that could be sold to raise the necessary funds. As a result, an order committing Cook to spend six hours in the stocks was issued on 1 February 1859.	1858/049
Small	Mary Ann	Clements	Eliza	26	10	1858	Assault	A	Mary Ann Small, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Eliza Clements, wife of Charles Clements, labourer. Small alleged that Eliza Clements had deliberately struck her twice in the back when they were in The Full Moon. The case costs of 6/6d were awarded against Eliza Clements but, if the costs were paid before the next sitting of the petty sessions court, she would not be convicted of assault.	1858/050
Hutton	James	Stitch Williams	George Mary	28	10	1858	Theft of potatoes	Sw	James Hutton, beerhouse keeper of The Red Ox Inn, claimed that he had experienced several thefts of potatoes from his outhouse located to the rear of The Somerset Hotel. He suspected that one of his employees, George Stitch, labourer, was responsible for the thefts. He engaged another man, James Hawkins, to watch the outhouse. Hawkins then notified him that a theft appeared to be taking place, so Hutton went to the outhouse where he saw Stitch emerging with a sack on his shoulder. He followed Stitch towards LaPool Lane where he saw him hand over the sack to Mary Williams. Hutton then followed Williams and took both the sack (which he claimed belonged to him) and the potatoes from her. He accused Stitch and Williams of theft. A warrant for the arrest of both George Stitch and Mary Williams was issued but there is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/051

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barber	James	Standard Scott	James James	30	10	1858	Application for warrant	Ev	James Barber was renting properties in Silver Street to James Standard and James Scott. Both were paying 1/6d per week on week by week contracts and both were in arrears on their rent. Barber issued a notice on 13 October requesting them to deliver possession of their properties to him by 25 October, warning them that he would then charge them rent at twice the current rate for any time following that date for which they still retained possession. Barber also notified them that if he had not received possession, then on 15 November he would formally request possession orders from the petty sessions court.	1858/052
Gough	John Knight	Pearce	George	02	11	1858	Wilful damage	Wd	John Knight Gough of Eastwater in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, yeoman, accused George Pearce, labourer, of wilfully damaging the bridle on his horse by cutting it into pieces. The incident happened when Gough was at The Three Kings Inn and he had left the horse in the care of William Peach. Gough estimated the value of the bridle was 3/-. He challenged Pearce over the damage and the latter said that he would not pay and would do the same again. At the hearing Pearce was found guilty of wilful damage and was fined 1/- plus costs of 10/-, all to be paid immediately. Pearce did not pay and was committed to prison to serve 14 days with hard labour, unless the sums outstanding were paid together with a further charge of 3/9d for the commitment to prison. Note: the order committing Pearce to prison was not signed until 17 December. (See also 1858/153b).	1858/053a
Rideout	John	Pearce	George	02	11	1858	Drunkenness	D	PC John Rideout charged George Pearce, labourer, with being drunk in The Three Kings Inn on 1 November. Pearce was found guilty and required to pay the sum of 5/- to cover the costs of the case. See also case 1858/053a	1858/053b

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Taylor	William	Ball Salmoni Salmoni Pearce Scott Scott Small	Edwin William Marcus James James John John	08	11	1858	Stealing apples	T	William Taylor, brewer, alleged that a group of boys had been stealing apples from his orchard near the bottom of Tucker Street. The defendants were named as: - Edwin Ball - William Salmoni - Marcus Salmoni - James Pearce - James Scott - John Scott - John Small. Taylor also requested that Henry Kynaston, labourer, be called as a material witness to the actions of the boys. The outcome of the case is not stated but the case costs were recorded as 16/6d.	1858/054
Corp	James	Churhouse	Edward	09	11	1858	Highways Act	Rd	James Corp was driving down Southover in the dark at around 7.00pm when he collided with a cart that had been left unattended in the road. Corp was thrown out of his vehicle and injured while his cart was also damaged. He proposed to use John Sweet of Southover, butcher, as a witness. The cart that had been left in the road was determined to belong to Edward Churhouse of Southover, coal hauler, and he was charged with an offence against the Highways Act. The outcome of the case is not explicitly stated but the costs of the case were recorded as 12/6d. Note: the Churhouse and Sweet families in Southover had recent history of conflict between them (see cases 1858/035, 1858/048b and 1858/059).	1858/055
Dredge	Ann	Allen	Thomas	18	11	1858	Assault	A	Ann Dredge, wife of Joel Dredge, sawyer, complained that Thomas Allen, mason, had assaulted her. Dredge stated that Allen had come into her husband's alehouse and asked for a quart of beer. She served him the beer but he refused to pay for it and this led to an argument between them. In the course of the altercation Allen was alleged to have thrust his fist into Ann Dredge's face and threatened to strike her. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/056

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Budge	John	Fowles	William Henry	22	11	1858	Assault	A	John Bridge, cabinet maker, complained that he had been threatened with assault by William Henry Fowles, who had raised his stick at Bridge and threatened to strike him. Bridge expressed concern that Fowles would inflict some bodily injury upon him. There is no information on the outcome of the case but the case costs were recorded as 6/6d.	1858/057
Baker	Sidney	Oxley	Henry	27	11	1858	Assault	A	Sidney Baker, printer, complained that he had been assaulted in the Liberty of St Andrew by Henry Oxley, labourer, who had thrown him violently to the ground. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/058
Sydenham	George	Sweet Sweet	John Eliza	29	11	1858	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham charged John Sweet of Southover, butcher, and his wife, Eliza Sweet, with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 28 November. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: the cover of the documents for this case shows it to be Churhouse v Sweet, although the name of Churhouse never appears in the detail of the summons which provides the only information for the case. However there was considerable recent history between the Churhouse and Sweet families (see case 1858/035, 1858/048b and 1858/055).	1858/059
Rideout	John	Walling	Alfred	30	11	1858	Obstructing highway	O	PC John Rideout charged Alfred Walling of Oakhill, coal hauler, with leaving a horse and cart unattended and close to the centre of the highway near The City Arms. Rideout claimed that the horse and cart were there much longer than necessary for loading or unloading and, as it was causing a potential obstruction to traffic, he removed it to the yard of The City Arms. He subsequently met Walling, the owner and driver of the horse and cart, who had emerged from The Globe and was tipsy. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: on the basis of earlier cases the surname of the defendant is most likely to be Walwyn rather than Walling.	1858/060

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Peach	Mary Ann	30	11	1858	Offence against Alehouse Act	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug reported that one of his officers, PC John Rideout, had visited The Three Kings Inn just after 4.00pm on 28 November and found a number of people still on the premises with five men and two women being drunk. Boug charged Mary Ann Peach, ale house keeper, with allowing drunkenness on her premises and having her house open outside statutory licensing hours, both offences against the terms of her licence. There is no information on the outcome of the case, although it seems likely that Mary Ann Peach was found guilty. Note: there are some jottings of costs on the reverse of the summons issued to Mary Ann Peach. They appear to refer to 'Hawkins' and therefore to case 1858/062 but there are different figures shown on the reverse of the summons issued to Henry Hawkins. If these figures refer to Mary Ann Peach, they seem to imply costs of £1.9s.0d plus a fine of 7/- and they seem to have been paid.	1858/061
Boug	Charles	Hawkins	Henry	30	11	1858	Offence against Beerhouse Act	L	Police serjeant Charles Boug reported that one of his officers, PC John Rideout, had visited The Bell beerhouse in Portway at 10.15am on Sunday 28 November and found two men already in the bar with one of them drinking from a cup of cider and the other smoking. Although Henry Hawkins, beerhouse keeper and landlord of The Bell, and the men attempted to conceal what they were doing, Rideout was certain of what he had seen. Boug charged Hawkins with opening his premises outside statutory licensing hours. Hawkins was found guilty and fined 10/- plus costs of 6/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1858/062
Ring	Martin	Moon	James	03	12	1858	Assault	A	Martin Ring, maltster and brewer, complained that on 30 November in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert he had been assaulted by James Moon of Little London near Oakhill, coal hauler. Ring claimed that Moon had struck him a violent blow in the face. Moon was found guilty of the offence and fined 5/- plus costs of 11/-.	1858/063

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
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Boug	Charles	Moon	James	04	12	1858	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Moon of Little London near Oakhill, coal hauler, with cruelly beating and ill-treating a horse on 30 November. It is not clear if Moon was convicted of the offence but he was ordered to pay costs of 8/6d.	1858/064
Rideout	John	Francis	George	04	12	1858	Obstructing highway	O	PC John Rideout found three carts laden with coal parked in Southover in a position where they might cause an accident. He noted that at around 10.30pm the carts had remained unattended for at least an hour and a half. He determined that the owner of the carts and the coal was George Francis, coal hauler, and Francis told him that he intended to leave the carts there all night. Francis was charged with obstructing the highway and was ordered to pay the case costs of 6/6d and was recorded as having paid this sum.	1858/065
Boug	Charles	Francis	John	04	12	1858	Obstructing highway	O	Police serjeant Charles Boug reported that at around 10.30pm PC John Rideout had found a cart laden with coal parked in Southover where it represented a hazard to other traffic. Boug was then advised that the cart had remained in the same place overnight and was still there the next morning. It was established that the cart belonged to John Francis, coal hauler, who was charged with obstructing the highway. It is not clear if he was convicted of the offence but he was required to pay the case costs of 6/6d.	1858/066

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Parsons	Joseph	Brown	John	06	12	1858	Cruelty to a horse	C	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that John Brown was guilty of cruelty to one of his horses by stabbing it while under instruction to clip it. Parsons had apparently contracted Brown to clip the horse around 5 weeks previously but felt that Brown had done a poor job and would not pay him. Brown was asked to come back and do the work properly now that the horse's coat had grown. James Crease, servant to Joseph Parsons, had been around the stable when Brown was working. He saw Brown duck under the horse's neck so that he was out of Crease's sight and then almost immediately Brown left the premises. A few minutes later Crease found that the horse was bleeding badly from the shoulder. On Parsons' instruction Crease took the animal to Robert Bunney Rawlings, veterinary surgeon, who stated that the gash in the horse's shoulder was around one inch long and four inches deep and could not have occurred by accident but must have been the result of the animal being stabbed with a sharp instrument like a pair of scissors. In his view the wound would heal in around ten to twelve days. Brown was found guilty of cruelty to the horse by deliberately stabbing it and was sentenced to spend two calendar months with hard labour in gaol at the House of Correction in Shepton Mallet.	1858/067
Bowell	John	Oxley jnr	Matthew	10	12	1858	Assault	A	John Bowell, tailor, complained that he had been assaulted by Matthew Oxley the younger, fishmonger, who had struck him and knocked him down and struck him several times afterwards. Bowell summoned Mary Ann Peach, innkeeper, to give evidence on his behalf. Oxley was found guilty of assault and fined 1/- plus costs of 11/6d; these sums were recorded as paid and Bowell was reimbursed the sum of 4/6d which he had to pay to bring the prosecution. (See also 1858/069).	1858/068

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Bowell	John	Plenty	George	10	12	1858	Aiding and abetting in execution of assault	A	John Bowell, tailor, complained that when he had been assaulted by Matthew Oxley the younger, fishmonger, in The Three Kings Inn (see case 1858/068), George Plenty of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, yeoman, had assisted in the assault by extinguishing the gas light on the wall and by other (unspecified) means. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/069
Edwards	William Collins	Wills	John	23	12	1858	Assault	A	William Collins Edwards, gardener, complained that he had been assaulted by John Wills, horse dealer. Edwards claimed that Wills had dealt him three violent blows to his face and head. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/070
Justices		Fry	Harry	29	12	1858	Drunkenness	D	Harry Fry, shoemaker, was charged with being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 29 December. He was fined 5/- including costs and this sum was recorded as paid.	1858/071
Rideout	John	Pester	Thomas	29	12	1858	Obstructing highway	O	At around 6.00pm PC John Rideout saw a waggon parked outside The Full Moon in Southover. It was unattended and there was no horse attached, but it was parked in a position that made it dangerous for passing traffic. At 11.00pm the waggon was still parked in the same position and, although a quantity of cyder had apparently been unloaded from it, Rideout considered that it had been parked too long in a dangerous position. He determined that the wagon was owned by Thomas Pester of West Pennard, yeoman, and charged him with obstructing the highway. The justices imposed a fine/costs of 9/- but this sum appears to have been paid by James Barber, landlord of The Full Moon.	1858/072

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Pitman	Charles	Hill	John	29	12	1858	Theft of money	T	Charles Pitman ran a carrier service between Bath and Wells. He had employed John Hill to drive one of his vehicles and to collect and deliver parcels for him. Hill's responsibilities also included collecting money from those people who wanted their parcels carried. Pitman claimed that he was aware of monies that Hill had been paid by particular individuals in Wells but he had not received any money or accounts from Hill, despite requests to do so. Hill was therefore charged with the theft of money from his employer. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/073
Cardwell	Ann	Cardwell	Charles	29	12	1858	Sureties for the peace	Su	Ann Cardwell of East Wells, widow, complained that she had been assaulted in her own home by her son, Charles Cardwell. She stated that he was drunk and this was far from the first time that he had assaulted her. On this occasion she had called for help and was rescued by a Mr Willcox. However, she feared that her son would inflict bodily injury on her and she requested that he be required to put forward sureties as to his future conduct. A warrant for Charles Cardwell's arrest was issued and at the subsequent hearing Charles Cardwell was instructed to provide two securities of £10 each and be bound over to keep the peace, particularly towards his mother, for the next three months.	1858/074
Slade	Charles	Hawkins	William	29	12	1858	Assault	A	Charles Slade, innholder, complained that he had been assaulted by William Hawkins, butcher, who had pushed his fists into Slade's face and threatened to strike him. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1858/075
Justices		Various		29	12	1858	Payment accounts	*	Payments received for witnesses in the cases of Lapham v Clements and Parker v Huson (Hewson?). These payments are described as County Allowances and were made to William Lapham and John Parfitt for the first of these cases and to Jonas Parker and Stephen Fry for the second. However, there are no documents for these cases in the petty sessions records available for review.	1858/076

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rideout	John	Hill	John	06	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC John Rideout served John Hill of Ashwick, coal hauler, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 4 January. Hill was found guilty and fined 5/- including costs. The fine was recorded as paid.	1859/001
Creyghton	Charles	Hill	Albert	06	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC Charles Creyghton served Albert Hill of Ashwick, coal hauler, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 4 January. Hill was found guilty and fined 5/- including costs. The fine was recorded as paid.	1859/002
Day	James	Mead	John	07	01	1859	Assault	A	James Day, ostler, complained that he had been assaulted by John Mead, innkeeper, who had struck him on the head and kicked him. The two parties retired and settled the matter between them. Day paid costs of 2/-. See also 1859/007.	1859/003
Rideout	John	Moore	John	07	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC John Rideout served John Moore, carpenter, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 6 January. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/004
Sydenham	George	Willmott	John	10	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham served John Willmott, labourer, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 9 January. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/005
Boug	Charles	Bird	Elizabeth	10	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug served Elizabeth Bird, wife of James Bird, mason, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 9 January. Elizabeth Bird was found guilty and fined 5/- including costs.	1859/006
Mead	John	Day	James	10	01	1859	Assault	A	John Mead, innholder, complained that he had been assaulted by James Day, ostler, who had struck him on the body with his fists. The two parties retired and settled the matter between them. Mead paid costs of 2/-. See also 1859/003 for the reverse case.	1859/007

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Bird	Ann	11	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	Police serjeant Charles Boug served Ann Bird, spinster, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 9 January. The justices dismissed the case and let the defendant off with a caution, since they considered that the evidence was insufficient.	1859/008
Oram	William	Norman	John	17	01	1859	Assault	A	William Oram, tollgate keeper, claimed that he was assaulted by John Norman of Wedmore, yeoman, who had struck him and knocked him down. Norman was found guilty of assault and fined 10/- plus costs of 10/6d. William Oram appears to have been paid 5/- from the costs. Note: the testimony of William Oram refers to George Green as his assailant, but other documents refer to John Norman.	1859/009
Vincent	James	Dix	Richard	22	01	1859	Neglecting to repair highway	H	James Vincent of Burcott, one of the surveyors of the Tything of Burcott in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, complained that Richard Dix, surveyor of the In Parish of St Cuthbert, had neglected to repair a stretch of road running from the Portway Turnpike Gate to the Portway Elm which lay on the eastern border of the Tything of Burcott; the length of this stretch of roadway was around one hundred yards. Dix appeared to claim that repairing this section of road was not his responsibility. There is no information on the outcome of the case, although costs of 4/6d were recorded as paid - but not by whom.	1859/010
Sydenham	George	Moore	John	18	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham served John Moore, carpenter, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 14 January. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See 1859/012).	1859/011
Sydenham	George	Moore	John	18	01	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham served John Moore, carpenter, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 15 January. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: this case refers to the day after the charge shown in case 1859/011.	1859/012

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Fry	Henry	Allen	Edwin	25	01	1859	Absconding apprentice	Ab	Henry Fry of Broad Street, shoemaker, complained that Edwin Allen, who was apprenticed to him at the beginning of March 1853, had frequently absented himself from work and had now absented himself again without permission and without a lawful reason. Allen, who was born on 4 March 1838 in Wookey to Samuel and Charlotte Allen, had not turned up for work on 15 January and had not returned since then. A warrant was issued for Allen's arrest.	1859/013
Purnell	Richard William	Collins Maule Bowell	Henry Frederick Sidney	29	01	1859	Not in full control of waggon and carts on turnpike	Rd	Richard William Purnell, surgeon, and his son, Richard Purnell, had been travelling from Westbury-sub-Mendip to Wells in their gig with his son driving when they were in collision with a cart resulting in the plaintiff being thrown heavily from the gig. The cart was one of three vehicles belonging to John Francis, coal hauler, that were being taken along the Portway Turnpike by Henry Collins, Frederick Maule and Sidney Bowell, all described as labourers. None of the three drivers were actually with these vehicles but were walking along some distance behind and, in the view of Purnell, had no control over the vehicles and if they had been with their vehicles the accident would never have happened. Purnell called on William Oram, gatekeeper at the Portway Gate, to give evidence on his behalf. There is no information on the outcome of the case but there is a table of costs on the reverse of the summons that indicates costs of at least 13/-.	1859/014
Allen	James	Small	Henry	08	02	1859	Assault	A	James Allen, plumber and glazier, alleged that he had been assaulted by Henry Small, carpenter, who had dealt him several violent blows to the head and other parts of his body. Allen called upon William Oldfield, plasterer and tiler, to give evidence on his behalf. The case was dismissed by the magistrates.	1859/015

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Boug	Charles	Ball	James	11	02	1859	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug charged James Ball, coal hauler, with cruelty to animals by working three donkeys when they were in an unfit state. Boug had seen Ball and the three donkeys in High Street and, when he checked them, all of the animals had bad sores under their collars which would have been very painful. The case was scheduled to be heard on 14 February but was adjourned until 20 February as the defendant failed to appear. Ball was eventually convicted of the offence and fined 10/- plus costs of 9/-. He was given 2 weeks within which to pay and if in default he would have to serve one calendar month in prison with hard labour. (See also 1858/024 and 1859/100)	1859/016
Forbes	William	Ramsay	Charles	11	02	1859	Non-payment of toll	N	William Forbes was the lessee of the turnpike tolls on the Wells Trust. Thomas Bryant worked for Forbes as the collector of tolls at the Southover Gate. Bryant reported that Charles Ramsay, who operated an omnibus service between Wells and Glastonbury, had refused to pay the toll of nine pence due on an omnibus drawn by two horses. Ramsay claimed an exemption from the toll on the basis that he was carrying mails under the authority of the Post Master General. Forbes disputed this claim and charged Ramsay with non-payment of a legal toll. There is no information on the outcome of the case in these documents but see case 1859/025 where the summons issued to Charles Ramsay is filed.	1859/017
Slade	Charles	Clements	Eliza	12	02	1859	Wilful damage	Wd	Charles Slade, innkeeper of The Golden Heart Inn, asked Charles Clements and his wife, Eliza Clements, to leave the premises when it got to midnight on Friday 11 February. They refused to do so and he had to evict Charles Clements; his wife followed him out of the inn but then Eliza Clements pulled back the window shutter and broke 5 panes of glass with her hands and by throwing loaves of bread at the glass. Slade assessed the cost of the damage at 3/4d. Eliza Clements was ordered to pay a total of 9/10d, including 3/4d to cover the costs of the damage.	1859/018

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Stephens	Ann	Clements Clements	Charles Eliza	12	02	1859	Assault	A	Ann Stephens, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by Charles Clements, labourer, and his wife, Eliza Clements on 11 February. She alleged that they had seized her and thrown her violently to the ground. The outcome of the case was recorded as settled out of court, although there is a note to show that 5/- was paid, but it is not clear by whom or for what reason.	1859/019
Sydenham	George	Badman	James	14	02	1859	Obstructing footpath	O	PC George Sydenham served James Badman, labourer, with a summons alleging that he had obstructed the footpath in High Street on 7 February. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/020
Sydenham	George	Green	Elizabeth	14	02	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham served Elizabeth Green, wife of George Green, labourer, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 5 February. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: the case header shows 'Churhouse' as the plaintiff, but the name of the plaintiff is not mentioned in the documentation. 'Churhouse' is also a most unlikely plaintiff, see 1859/023.	1859/021
Smith	George	Boaden	William	14	02	1859	Assault	A	George Smith, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by William Boaden, labourer, who had allegedly struck him several times in the face. A warrant for the arrest of William Boaden was issued. The case was recorded as settled. Note: the case header shows the case as being initiated on 14 February but all references to the date in the main documents show 14 March. The document may therefore have been misfiled.	1859/022

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rideout	John	Churhouse	Mary Ann	17	02	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC John Rideout served Mary Ann Churhouse, wife of Edward Churhouse, coal hauler, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the In Parish of St Cuthbert on 14 February. Mary Ann Churhouse was found guilty and fined 5/- with costs of 10/-. Note: the case header shows 'Smith' as the plaintiff, but there is no mention of the plaintiff's name in the remaining documentation. Smith was also the plaintiff in the preceding case (see 1859/022).	1859/023
Hayes	Mary Ann	Hayes	John	24	02	1859	Assault	A	Mary Ann Hayes, wife of John Hayes, shoemaker, complained that her husband had ill-treated her and struck her in the face. A warrant for John Hayes' arrest was issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/024
Forbes	William	Ramsay	Charles	25	02	1859	Non-payment of toll	N	The only document for this case is a summons and it relates to case 1859/017 where Ramsay was accused of evading payment of a toll for his omnibus. Ramsay was found guilty of the offence and fined 1/- plus costs of 6/6d.	1859/025
Curry	Elizabeth	Parsons	John	04	03	1859	Assault	A	Betsy Curry (previously Elizabeth Cardwell), wife of George Curry, innkeeper, accused John Parsons, labourer, of grabbing her arm and throwing her violently down the stairs. A warrant for the arrest of John Parsons was issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/026
Sydenham	George	Rich	Sarah	06	03	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC George Sydenham served Sarah Rich, wife of John Rich the younger, with a summons for being drunk in a public place in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 6 March. Sarah Rich was fined 5/- with costs of 10/- and given one week to pay.	1859/027
Justices		Various		17	03	1859	Criminal Justice Act payments	*	Tables of costs and details of payments to witnesses in the cases of James Oliver v Matilda Wickham for felony and Josiah Hayward v Samuel House for petty theft. Neither of these cases is recorded in the documents of the petty sessions court.	1859/028

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Pratt	William	Wilmot	John	17	03	1859	Assault	A	William Pratt complained that he had been assaulted by John Wilmot, labourer, who had struck him on the nose with his fist. Wilmot admitted the assault and was fined 20/- plus costs of 8/6d. He was given one week within which to pay or to be sent to prison for 7 days. (See also 1859/038).	1859/029
Parsons	Joseph	Standard Oatley Brown Showering Brooke	Mary Ann Mary Eliza Theresa Ann Caroline	17	03	1859	Leaving work without permission	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that several of his apprentices had absented themselves from work without consent and without lawful cause on 4 March. Parsons noted that Mary Ann Standard, Mary Oatley, Eliza Brown, Theresa Ann Showering and Caroline Brooke, had all been employed by him as apprentices for some time and in the past they had all been guilty of misbehaviour. He now requested that their failure to adhere to the terms of their apprenticeship be dealt with by the court. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1858/044, 1858/045 and 1859/063).	1859/030
Dallas	James	Williams Williams	? ?	18	03	1859	Cruelty to animals	C	PC James Dallas was on duty in Sadler Street where he saw two donkeys pulling a cart-load of coal. He could see that both animals had large sores on their rumps and matter was oozing from one of the sores. One of the donkeys seemed barely able to walk. The donkeys and the cart belonged to William Williams, labourer, and the cart was being driven by two relatives, one of whom was William Williams' daughter, but both refused to give their names. A charge of cruelty to animals was brought against the two drivers but it appears likely that there was to be no conviction provided that the costs of the case of 6/6d were paid by 11 April.	1859/031
Rideout	John	Bird	Harry	18	03	1859	Making an affray	Af	PC John Rideout served Henry Bird, son of James Bird, mason, with a summons for creating a disturbance in East Wells by making an affray in the public highway. The magistrates cautioned the defendant and dismissed the case.	1859/032

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rideout	John	Bath Bath	Alice John	18	03	1859	Offence against licence	L	PC John Rideout visited The Red Lion Inn at 11.40am on Sunday 13 March. In the bar he found two men and the inn's ostler. There were mugs and a glass on the table and some liquid on the table which Dallas determined to be beer. Alice Bath and John Bath, alehouse keepers, denied knowing that the two men were in the bar and stated that they had not served them any alcohol. However, John Bath did admit that he had drawn a pint of beer for the ostler. Alice Bath and John Bath were charged with an offence against their licence by serving alcohol outside statutory licensing hours. They were fined 1/- plus costs of 7/-; both amounts were recorded as paid.	1859/033
Winsor	Elizabeth	Anderson	William	26	03	1859	Assault	A	Elizabeth Winsor, wife of Henry Winsor, patten maker, complained that she had been assaulted by William Anderson, grocer and draper. She alleged that he had kicked her twice. On 16 March, 2 days after the alleged assault, Elizabeth Winsor was examined by Henry Livett, surgeon, and he testified that he had found a bruise about 3 inches in diameter on the lower abdomen that had arisen from a recent injury either the result of a blow or a fall against a hard object. Anderson was found guilty of assault and fined 6d plus costs of 10/-.	1859/034
Pearce	Henry	Creyghton	Emily	05	04	1859	Assault	A	Henry Pearce, son of George Pearce, carrier, complained that he had been assaulted by Emily Creyghton, daughter of Alexander Creyghton, labourer. He alleged that she had struck him about the head with a brush. Emily Creyghton was found guilty of assault and fined 2/6d plus costs of 8/-, to be paid immediately or to serve 7 days in prison.	1859/035

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	Lockyear	Charles	06	04	1859	Leaving waggon in public street	O	PC James Dallas saw a waggon containing empty hampers parked in High Street at around 4.00pm on 23 March and the waggon was still in the same place at around 6.00am the following morning. The waggon belonged to Charles Lockyear, carrier, and Dallas charged him with an offence against the Local Government Act for parking the vehicle in a public thoroughfare for longer than needed to load or unload it. Lockyear was convicted of the charge and fined 5/- plus costs of 9/-, to be paid immediately. In the event of default, distress proceedings would be initiated to sell Lockyear's personal goods and chattels to realise the money necessary to pay these sums. (See also 1859/073).	1859/036
Boug	Charles	Parker	George	07	04	1859	Indecent exposure	le	Police serjeant Charles Boug served George Parker, labourer, with a summons for exposing his person in the Liberty of St Andrew on 21 March. Parker was found guilty and fined 2/6d plus costs of 5/-; these sums were recorded as paid.	1859/037
Barnard	Charles	Willmott	John	22	04	1859	Cruelty to animals	C	John Willmott, labourer, was charged with cruelty to an animal for allegedly beating and ill-treating a horse owned by Charles Barnard, butcher. Willmott was convicted of the offence and sent to prison for 14 days with hard labour. Note: the spelling of the defendant's surname differs from the previous case in which he was involved. In 1859/029 it was a single 'l' and single 't', and in this instance both characters are doubled.	1859/038
Dallas	James	Buck	John	25	04	1859	Offence against licence	L	PC James Dallas visited The Sherston Arms at 11.25pm on a Sunday evening. He entered the premises through a rear entrance which was open and therefore accessible to anyone and found five or six men and one woman in a back room. He could see empty pewter cups and glasses on the table and one man drank a glass, probably containing beer, in his presence. Dallas charged John Buck, alehouse keeper, with an offence against his licence for allowing drinking to go on outside statutory licensing hours. It seems likely that Buck was not convicted of the offence but was required to pay the case costs of 6/6d.	1859/039

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Barber	James	Standard	James	14	05	1859	Warrant to evict tenant	Ev	On 23 April James Barber, landlord, had issued an eviction notice to James Standard in respect of a property in Silver Street that Standard was renting from Barber on a week by week basis. The notice required Standard to leave the property by 7 May. Standard had evidently not left the property as on 14 May Barber issued a further notice advising Standard that, unless he released the property within 7 days, he, Barber, would apply to the justices on 23 May for an eviction order that would enable officers of the law to take possession of the property and evict anyone still on the premises. Note: see also case 1858/052 where Barber sought Standard's eviction from what was presumably the same property. (See also 1859/041).	1859/040
Barber	James	Scott	James	14	05	1859	Warrant to evict tenant	Ev	On 23 April James Barber, landlord, had issued an eviction notice to James Scott in respect of a property in Silver Street that Scott was renting from Barber on a week by week basis. The notice required Scott to leave the property by 3 May. Scott had evidently not left the property as on 14 May Barber issued a further notice advising Scott that, unless he released the property within 7 days, he, Barber, would apply to the justices on 23 May for an eviction order that would enable officers of the law to take possession of the property and evict anyone still on the premises. Note: see also case 1858/052 where Barber sought Scott's eviction from what was presumably the same property. (See also 1859/040).	1859/041

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Marshall	Hugh Graham	Ongley	Lord?	14	05	1859	Forgery	Fy	Hugh Graham Marshall, manager of the Wells branch of the West of England and South Wales District Bank, complained that a person had come into his branch claiming to have lost his luggage which contained his money and asking to draw a cheque for five pounds on Coutts Bank. Marshall had acceded to the request and the customer had signed a cheque solely with the name Ongley suggesting that he was Lord Ongley. Coutts returned the cheque as a forgery and Marshall now sought to pursue the fraudster to recover the money. He requested that an arrest warrant be issued for the man involved. There is no indication if a warrant was issued and there is no further information on the outcome of the case.	1859/042
Francis	George	Webb Syers	Charles Sarah	16	05	1859	Search Warrant	Sw	George Francis of Southover, coal hauler, claimed that in a box in his house he had £40 in £5 notes. He had been away from home all day planting potatoes in Sedgmoor and when he returned he saw immediately that someone had forced entry into his home, broken open the box and taken his money. Francis suspected that the culprit was one of his employees, Charles Webb. Webb had not been at work that day and had been drinking in a local tavern, but Webb also had access to Francis' house. Francis requested that a search warrant be issued for the property where Webb was lodging with Sarah Syers (Sayers?). A search warrant was duly issued naming both Sarah Syers and Charles Webb. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/043
Pearse	Elizabeth	Moore	John	16	05	1859	Disturbing the peace	Dp	Police serjeant Charles Boug served John Moore, carpenter, with a summons for knocking on the door of Miss Eliza Pearce and deliberately disturbing her peace. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: there are handwritten notes in pencil on the reverse of the summons, but they are barely legible and appear to relate to a different case entirely.	1859/044

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	
				DD	MM	YYYY			Ref. No.	
Parsons	Joseph	Groom	James	17	05	1859	Leaving work without permission	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that James Groom, brushmaker, had signed a one-year contract to work for Parsons on 24 January 1859 but had been guilty of multiple absences from work without prior consent. At the time of the complaint Groom was absent from work again and had done so without consent or without just cause. Parsons sought to have Groom adhere to the terms of his legal contract to work. There is no information on the outcome of the case, although there is a list of costs which totals 5/6d.	1859/045
Maynard	Hannah	Robertson	?	17	05	1859	Assault	A	Hannah Maynard, wife of James Maynard, tailor, complained that someone with a surname of Robertson, also described as a tailor, had assaulted her by striking her a violent blow in the face. No forename is given for defendant on any of the documentation. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/046
Jones	Elizabeth	Brampton	James	18	05	1859	Wilful damage	Wd	Elizabeth Jones of East Wells, widow, complained that she had been in her home when James Brampton, wheelwright, and his wife forced their way into her property. Brampton had then deliberately damaged a chamber pot, a partition and a window shutter which he broke by hitting it with a glue pot. Elizabeth Jones assessed the damage at 2/-. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/047
Cook	William	Curry	George	18	05	1859	Assault	A	William Cook of Hay in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, yeoman, complained that he had been assaulted by George Curry, innkeeper, who had allegedly struck him several violent blows and knocked him down. The case was adjourned from 18 May to 13 June. Curry appeared at the hearing but Cook, the complainant, did not. The case was dismissed.	1859/048

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Oram	William	Bartlett	Joseph	18	05	1859	Evasion of toll	N	William Oram was employed by William White to act as the keeper of the Portway Gate and to collect the tolls. Oram complained that Joseph Bartlett of Burcott, yeoman, had passed through the toll every day from 7 April to 9 May inclusive and had paid the toll on every occasion except on 9 May when Bartlett refused to pay because he claimed that he should be exempt from the toll when he was going through to milk his cows which were being pastured in one of his fields that lay on the other side of the toll gate from his farm. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/049
Sweet	John	Churchouse	Mary Ann	19	05	1859	Wilful damage	Wd	John Sweet of Southover, butcher, was at home when at around 6.00pm Mary Ann Churchouse, wife of Edward Churchouse, coal hauler, forced open the door of his property and assaulted his wife, Eliza Sweet. John Sweet pushed the intruder out into the street whereupon Mary Ann Churchouse deliberately broke the window causing damage estimated to be at least 2/-. Both parties were summoned to appear at the hearing but neither did so. (See also 1859/051).	1859/050
Rawlings	James	Churchouse	Mary	20	05	1859	Using profane language	Pr	PC James Rawlings charged Mary Ann Churchouse with using profane language in a public street. On the evening of 17 May (the same day on which she was accused of causing wilful damage to John Sweet's window, see case 1859/050, so this incident may have occurred immediately after she was put onto the street by John Sweet) Rawlings found a very excited Mary Ann Churchouse in the street, shouting and swearing and causing a great disturbance for a period of 20 to 30 minutes. She was found guilty of using profane language and fined 5/- plus costs of 9/-. If in default, distress proceedings would be initiated but she stated that she had no goods of her own that could be sold, so the alternative would be to serve 7 days in prison with hard labour.	1859/051

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Allen	Mary	Dyer	John	23	05	1859	Assault	A	Mary Allen, wife of John Allen, complained that she had been assaulted by John Dyer of Grove Lane, journeyman to Mr Christopher Counsel, coachbuilder. Mary Allen alleged that Dyer had struck her in the face. Dyer was discharged on payment of the case costs of 6/6d and he was allowed until 5.00pm on the day of the hearing to do so.	1859/052
Parsons	Elizabeth	Lacy	Maria	30	05	1859	Assault	A	Elizabeth Parsons, wife of James Parsons, complained that she had been assaulted by Maria Lacy, spinster, who had pushed her fists in Mrs Parsons face and threatened to strike her. Maria Lacy was convicted of assault and fined 1/- plus costs of 10/- to be paid immediately or to serve 7 days in prison at Shepton Mallet. Subsequently, the justices allowed her until 20 June to pay.	1859/053
Hayes	Hannah	Gleaves	Elizabeth	02	06	1859	Insulting and abusive language	Pr	Hannah Hayes was in service at the house of William Harris in Vicars Close. Living opposite was Mrs Elizabeth Gleaves, wife of Joseph Gleaves of the Vicars Choral, who had allegedly frequently abused Hannah Hayes and called her insulting names such as 'dirty stinking strumpet'. On 1 June Elizabeth Gleaves had come to the door of Mr Harris' house and delivered more abuse to Hannah Hayes before trying to force her way into the house. When she was ejected she went back towards her own house but kept up an abusive tirade for the next 15 to 20 minutes. Hannah Hayes requested that Elizabeth Gleaves be required to put forward sureties to keep the peace, particularly towards her. Joseph Gleaves put forward a surety of £10 to guarantee his wife's good behaviour and commitment to keep the peace, particularly towards Hannah Hayes, for the next 12 months. (See also 1859/055).	1859/054

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Harris	Keturah	Gleaves	Elizabeth	03	06	1859	Assault	A	Keturah Harris of Vicars Close, wife of William Harris, accountant, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Gleaves, wife of Joseph Gleaves of the Vicars Choral. She alleged that Elizabeth Gleaves had raised her hand towards her and threatened to strike her. The incident appears to have taken place on the same date as the altercation involving Elizabeth Gleaves and Hannah Hayes (see case 1859/054). There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/055
Dallas	James	Bartlett	?	06	06	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC James Dallas charged Bartlett (no forename given) with being drunk in a public place on 4 June. Bartlett admitted the offence and was bound over in the sum of £10 to be of good behaviour for two calendar months or to serve 7 days in prison in the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet.	1859/056
Fowler	Caroline	Pearcey	Edward	07	06	1859	Assault	A	Caroline Fowler, wife of George Fowler, millwright, complained that she had been assaulted by Edward Pearcey, labourer, who had struck her violently in the face. Neither party appeared at the hearing.	1859/057
Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	De Grass	John	20	06	1859	Assault	A	Elizabeth Sarah Francis of Southover, wife of George Francis, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by John de Grass, labourer. She alleged that de Grass had struck her a violent blow in the face and knocked her down. She also called Jane Rowles of Southover, wife of William Rowles, to give evidence on her behalf. The justices dismissed the case and ordered the plaintiff to bear the full case costs meaning that she needed to pay a further 7/6d over and above the sum of 6/6d already paid.	1859/058

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Berryman	Charles	Small	John	25	06	1859	Theft of wool	T	George Hares, an employee of William Chester Berryman and his son, Charles Berryman, was passing the warehouse used by Charles Berryman which lay behind his father's property in High Street. He saw John Small, labourer, coming out of the warehouse with a quantity of wool. When Small saw Hares he threw the wool to the ground. Hares stated that the wool was the property of Charles Berryman and it was worth at least sixpence. Small was charged with the theft of the wool and a warrant for his arrest was issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/059
Parsons	Joseph	Johnson	Aaron	29	06	1859	Leaving apprentice role without consent	Ab	Joseph Parsons, brush manufacturer, complained that Aaron Johnson sometimes known as Burley, who had been apprenticed to his firm since March 1856, had left his employ without consent and without any just cause on 10 June and had not returned. Parsons asked that a warrant for Aaron Johnson's arrest should be issued. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/060
Dean & Chapter		Fry Sage Marshall	William John Frederick	29	06	1859	Damaging monuments	Pt	William Fry, son of David Fry, John Sage, son of Samuel Sage, and Frederick Marshall, labourer, were charged with wilfully and maliciously damaging a statue or public monument in the Cathedral of St Andrew. The youths were cautioned and, on promising not to commit a similar offence, discharged.	1859/061
Rawlings	James	Hedges	James	01	07	1859	Assault on PC in execution of his duty	A	PC James Rawlings complained that he had been asaulted while in the execution of his duty by James Hedges, labourer. Rawlings stated that Hedges had put his fists in his face and threatened to strike him. Hedges was convicted and fined 10/- plus costs of 9/-. If he was unable or unwilling to pay, distress proceedings would be initiated but Hedges stated that he had no goods or chattels that could be sold to raise the money. The alternative was that Hedges would serve one calendar month in prison. The outcome appears to be that an order was given for Hedges to be committed to prison, but the case header document also shows the word 'paid' against the sum of 19/-.	1859/062

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Parsons	Joseph	Brown	Eliza	02	07	1859	Absent from work without consent	Ab	Joseph Parsons of High Street, brushmaker, complained that Eliza Brown, one of his apprentices, had absented herself from work for the past two days without consent and without just cause. A verdict on the case was adjourned until 25 July and, if in the meantime Brown's behaviour was satisfactory, then the charge would not be pressed but Brown would need to pay the case costs of 4/6d. The final resolution was that the case was dismissed with Brown paying the costs of 4/6d on 15 August. Note: Eliza Brown was one of several apprentices charged with similar misbehaviour earlier in the year (see case 1859/030).	1859/063
Gibbons	Elizabeth	Allen	William	07	07	1859	Assault	A	Elizabeth Gibbons, wife of William Gibbons, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by William Allen of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, labourer. She claimed that he had struck her several times about the head. Allen was found guilty and fined 1/- plus costs of 12/- or, if in default, to serve one month in prison at Shepton Mallet.	1859/064
Rawlings	James	Sweet	John	07	07	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC James Rawlings served John Sweet, butcher, with a summons for being drunk and riotous in Priory Road on 7 July. Sweet was fined 5/- plus costs of 6/-.	1859/065
Rawlings	James	Sweet	Eliza	07	07	1859	Drunkenness	D	PC James Rawlings served Eliza Sweet, wife of John Sweet, butcher, with a summons for being drunk and riotous in Priory Road on 7 July. Eliza Sweet was fined 5/- including costs.	1859/066
Creese	Robert	Edwards	Ellen	10	07	1859	Stealing apples	T	Robert Creese of East Wells, labourer, complained that he had seen Ellen Edwards standing on a wall to pick apples from an apple tree in the orchard of his neighbour in East Wells, Thomas Raines. Creese assessed the value of the apples taken to be at least one penny. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/067

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dudderidge jnr	James	Boulting	James	13	07	1859	Assault	A	James Dudderidge the younger, painter, complained that he had been assaulted by James Boulting, butcher, who had struck him a violent blow in the head. Boulting was found guilty of assault and fined 5/- plus costs of 11/-; these sums were to be paid immediately or Boulting would go to prison for 7 days.	1859/068
Justices				21	07	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, to W J S Foster, town clerk, seeking clarification on whether the justices had or should have the power to send lunatics to the County lunatic asylum. Welsh offered the view that the magistrates should not be able to do this.	1859/069a
Justices				29	07	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, to W J S Foster, town clerk, pointing out that he had not had a reply to his earlier letter on the subject of lunatics (see case 1859/069a).	1859/069b
Justices				30	07	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from Thomas Serel on behalf of W J S Foster, town clerk, to W I Welsh, one of the magistrates. In this letter Serel advises Welsh that Foster will lay Welsh's letter of 21 July before the rest of the justices at the earliest convenient opportunity.	1859/069c
Justices				30	07	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, to W J S Foster, town clerk, in response to Thomas Serel's letter of 30 July. While Welsh was happy for his letter to be circulated to the other magistrates, he considered that Foster in his role as legal adviser to the magistrates needed to put forward his own opinion on the subject and provide positive guidance to the justices.	1859/069d
Justices				01	08	1859	Lunatics	*	This document appears to be an attempt to set out the implications of the law as applied to lunatics, particularly wandering lunatics, and the options available to magistrates. It is possible that the notes were prepared by W J S Foster or someone acting on his behalf.	1859/069e

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices				01	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from Thomas Serel on behalf of W J S Foster, town clerk, to W I Welsh, one of the magistrates. The letter was sent in response to Welsh's letter of 30 July (see case 1859/069d). Foster gives the opinion that the law as drafted at that time gave adequate powers for the magistrates to act in the way that the mayor had recently done in sending a person to the lunatic asylum.	1859/069f
Justices				02	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, to W J S Foster, town clerk, in which Foster is criticised for his slow response to Welsh's letter of 21 July. Welsh now suggests that the issue should be referred to a barrister called Edwards and he proposes to save time by setting the communication process in motion himself.	1859/069g
Justices				02	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from Thomas Serel on behalf of W J S Foster, town clerk, to W I Welsh stating that Foster does not agree with Welsh's proposal in his letter of 2 August (see case 1859/069g).	1859/069h
Justices				08	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, to W J S Foster, town clerk, complaining about Foster's rejection of his recent proposal and insisting that Foster should get details of their different views to the other magistrates as soon as possible. He also demanded that Foster respond to him immediately.	1859/069i
Justices				08	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W J S Foster, town clerk, to W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, in response to Welsh's letter of 8 August and stating that he intended to lay Welsh's original letter before the mayor and other magistrates on 15 August.	1859/069j
Justices				16	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, to W J S Foster, town clerk, stating that as he had been unable to stay at the previous day's meeting of the magistrates after 11.00am, he wished to be informed of the results of the discussion related to his original letter of 21 July.	1859/069k
Justices				16	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Draft letter from W J S Foster, town clerk, to Sir G C Lewis, Secretary of State, setting out in detail the points of discussion related to policy and jurisdiction of magistrates with respect to lunatics and requesting guidance and direction.	1859/069l

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Justices				16	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W J S Foster to Sir G C Lewis, Secretary of State. This is a fair copy of the draft referred to in case 1859/069l.	1859/069m
Justices				19	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Letter from W I Welsh, one of the magistrates, to W J S Foster, town clerk, noting that he had asked to be informed on the discussion that had taken place in the magistrates meeting about their jurisdiction related to lunatics, but he had not had the courtesy of a response.	1859/069n
Justices				20	08	1859	Lunatics	*	Reply from Secretary of State in Whitehall to W J S Foster, town clerk, and his letter of 16 August (see case 1859/069m). The reply indicates that the action taken by the mayor in sending a person to the lunatic asylum was appropriate within the law. This supported the opinion of Foster and not that of Welsh.	1859/069o
Bennett	Eliza	Terrell	Elizabeth	23	07	1859	Assault	A	Eliza Bennett, wife of John Bennett, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by Elizabeth Terrell, wife of James Terrell, labourer. She claimed that Terrell had shoved her fists into her face and threatened to kill her. Elizabeth Terrell called upon Eliza Weston of Tucker Street to give evidence on her behalf. The case was dismissed with the defendant paying the case costs of 7/6d.	1859/070
Maundrell	Sarah	Wills jnr	Charles	23	07	1859	Assault	A	Sarah Maundrell, wife of Thomas Maundrell, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by Charles Wills the younger, chimney sweep, who had struck her and wounded her in the eye with a pair of scissors. Wills was convicted of assault and fined 1/- plus costs of 7/6d, all to be paid on the date of the hearing (25 July) or to be imprisoned at Shepton Mallet for 7 days.	1859/071
Chard	William	Hale	William	28	07	1859	Assault	A	William Chard of the Out Parish of St Cuthbert, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by William Hale, ganger on the Somerset Central Railway. Hale was alleged to have struck Chard several times with a whip and to have kicked him. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/072

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Dallas	James	Lockyear	Charles	29	07	1859	Obstruction of street	O	In April 1859 Charles Lockyear was convicted of an offence for leaving a waggon parked on the public highway (see case 1859/036). He was fined 5/- plus costs of 9/- and if he defaulted on those payments, distress proceedings would be initiated. As Lockyear had not paid, a warrant was issued to commence distress proceedings to seize personal goods and chattels of Charles Lockyear and to sell them in order to recover the money owing.	1859/073
Curry	George	Vincent	Ann	01	08	1859	Theft	T	George Curry, innkeeper of The City Arms, alleged that various items had been stolen from his house in the last month or so, in particular two blankets, a sheet and a bolster cloth. Curry suspected that the items had been taken by Ann Vincent, who occasionally worked for him as a charlady and had been doing so recently. He applied for a search warrant for the property in Tucker Street where Ann Vincent lived. There is no indication if a search warrant was issued nor any details of the outcome of the case.	1859/074
Dallas	James	Allen	James	03	08	1859	Rescuing horse en route to pound	Op	PC James Dallas had been on duty in New Street when he found a horse and an ass feeding at the side of the road with no-one in charge of them. Dallas captured the animals and took them to the pound in Southover. He was just opening the pound when James Allen, labourer, appeared and grabbed the horse by the mane with the aim of preventing it from being impounded. Dallas warded off the attempt to release the horse and got both animals into the pound. He then charged Allen with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty. The justices dismissed the case against Allen on his paying the costs of 4/6d and promising not to offend again.	1859/075
Taylor	Thomas	Whitcombe	George	03	08	1859	Assault	A	Thomas Taylor, brewer, complained that he had been assaulted by George Whitcombe, freestone mason, who had struck him a violent blow on his head. The case was noted as being settled without a hearing.	1859/076
Dredge	Priscilla	Tilly (aka Carde)	Eliza	01	08	1859	Assault	A	Priscilla Dredge, single woman, accused Eliza Tilly (otherwise Carde) of hitting her several times about the head and body. The case was noted as being settled.	1859/077

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Gait	James	Oram	William	04	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	James Gait was a yeoman farmer, who held land on either side of the Portway Turnpike gate. When his cattle were on land in the Burcott Tything he needed to pass through the turnpike gate in order to milk them. On 28 July Gait needed to pass through the turnpike gate in order to milk his cattle, but William Oram, who was operating the gate refused to let him through unless he paid the toll of 4d. Gait claimed that he was exempt from the toll by virtue of the exemption in the Act of Parliament related to agricultural produce. On 15 August the magistrates ruled in favour of James Gait with four of the five magistrates holding the view that milk constituted an agricultural product while the fifth magistrate disagreed.	1859/078a
Gait	James	Oram	William	04	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	On 16 August William Oram, presumably through his solicitor, Samuel Hobbs, sent a letter to the mayor and justices objecting to their judgement in the case of Gait v Oram.	1859/078b
Gait	James	Oram	William	17	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	This document represents a rough draft of a case to be sent to the Court of the Queen's Bench in the light of the objection raised by William Oram.	1859/078c
Gait	James	Oram	William	16	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	This document is an initial draft of a response to William Oram and William White (lessee of the tolls) noting that in order to pursue the appeal which they have made, recognisances of £40 would need to be put forward and would become forfeit if the appeal were not pursued in line with statutory requirements.	1859/078d
Gait	James	Oram	William	04	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	Fair copy of a case to be sent for the opinion of the Court of the Queen's Bench.	1859/078e
Gait	James	Oram	William	04	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	Three different versions of the case to be sent for the opinion of the Court of the Queen's Bench. It is possible that the final version may include changes to reflect the suggestions of Samuel Hobbs.	1859/078f
Gait	James	Oram	William	23	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	Letter from Samuel Hobbs to W J S Foster, town clerk, noting that he has restructured the form of the case to be presented to the Court of the Queen's Bench and suggesting that as his version is much better than Foster's, then it ought to be adopted.	1859/078g

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Gait	James	Oram	William	16	08	1859	Unlawfully demanding turnpike toll	Ut	Judgement of the Court of the Queen's Bench issued on 5 January 1860. This judgement comes down against the opinion of the majority of the Wells magistrates and overturns the previous verdict favouring James Gait.	1859/078h
Stewart	Robert	Radford	James	01	08	1859	Theft	T	James Humphries had seen a young boy, James Radford, trying to sell a knife to another boy in the street. He asked to look at the knife and eventually took it from the child. He then gave the knife to his wife, Martha Humphries, who then gave it to Jane Radford, the boy's mother. Jane Radford did not recognise the knife as one of hers and asked her son where he had got it from. He claimed he had swapped it with another boy for a piece of brass, but did not know the name of the other boy. Jane Radford did not believe her son's story and took the knife around a number of shops to see where it might have been taken from. She found her answer in Robert Stewart's fancy goods shop where they realised that they were missing three knives of the same type that Jane Radford had with a value of 1/9d and they were the only shop in the area that sold that style of knife. Police serjeant Boug was called and James Radford admitted the theft and also admitted that he had sold one knife to another boy, William Salmon, for three pence. Boug recovered that knife from Salmon. James Radford was found guilty of the theft and despite being a juvenile of 10 years was sentenced to 16 days in prison at the County gaol in Taunton. On completion of his sentence it was determined that he would be sent immediately to a reform institution at the Philanthropic Farm School in Redhill at Reigate for a period of three years.	1859/079
Jesse	Mary	Bendall	Sophia	05	08	1859	Assault	A	Mary Jesse, wife of Thomas Jesse of East Wells, gardener, complained that she had been assaulted by Sophia Bendall, wife of William Bendall of East Wells, carpenter. Mary Jesse alleged that she had been struck several times about the head and other parts of her body. The justices dismissed the case.	1859/080

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rolls	Jane	Bird	Ann	11	08	1859	Assault	A	Jane Rolls, wife of William Rolls, carpenter, complained that she had been assaulted by Ann Bird, spinster, who had struck her several times about the head and other parts of her body. Ann Bird was found guilty of assault and fined 20/- plus costs of 10/-, or, if in default, to serve 14 days in prison.	1859/081
Larcombe	Hannah	Brook	Caroline	22	08	1859	Assault	A	Hannah Larcombe, wife of George Larcombe, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by Caroline Brook, single woman, who had deliberately kicked her in the side. There is no information on the outcome of the case. (See also 1859/083 and 1859/084).	1859/082
Larcombe	Hannah	Webb	Mary Ann	22	08	1859	Assault	A	Hannah Larcombe, wife of George Larcombe, labourer, complained that she had been assaulted by Mary Ann Webb, widow, who had struck her twice in the face with violent blows. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: this incident took place on the same day as both those involving Caroline Brook (see cases 1859/082 and 1859/084).	1859/083
Brook	Caroline	Larcombe	George	25	08	1859	Assault	A	Caroline Brook, single woman, complained that she had been assaulted by George Larcombe, labourer, who had held up his fists in her face. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: this incident took place on the same day as that involving Caroline Brook and Larcombe's wife, Hannah Larcombe (see case 1859/082 and 1859/083).	1859/084
Churchouse	Mary Ann	Sweet	Eliza	25	08	1859	Assault	A	Mary Ann Churchouse, wife of Edward Churchouse, coal hauler, complained that she had been assaulted by Eliza Sweet, wife of John Sweet, butcher. Eliza Sweet had allegedly landed violent blows on her head and arm. There is no information on the outcome of the case. Note: this represents another incident in what appears to be a long-running feud between the two sets of couples.	1859/085

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Francis	Ann	Francis	Elizabeth Sarah	30	08	1859	Sureties for the peace	Su	Ann Francis of Southover, wife of John Francis, complained that she had been verbally abused by Elizabeth Sarah Francis also of Southover, wife of George Francis, coal hauler. Ann was allegedly called 'Major Creedy's bloody whore' and other offensive names on more than one occasion. Priscilla Dredge, single woman, was called to give evidence on behalf of the complainant. Ann Francis requested that Elizabeth Sarah Francis should be required to put forward sureties to guarantee her good behaviour in the future, particularly towards her. Elizabeth Sarah Francis was ordered to provide a surety of £10 to ensure her good behaviour for the next 6 months. The case was adjourned from 5 September to 19 September and Elizabeth Sarah Francis was instructed to appear before the magistrates at 10.00am on 20 September with her surety.	1859/086
Brock	Susan	Elliott	Eliza	02	09	1859	Sureties for the peace	Df	Susan Brock of East Wells, single woman, complained that Eliza Elliott also of East Wells, wife of George Elliott, labourer, had verbally abused her and called her offensive names including 'bunting whore', 'rotten legged whore' (Brock apparently needed to use a crutch) and 'not one, not ten nor twenty men would satisfy her'. Brock also claimed that Elliott had threatened her with physical violence if they met in the street. Brock stated that she feared bodily injury from Elliott and requested that Elliott be required to put forward sureties to ensure good behaviour in the future. The case was dismissed with Brock being ordered to pay the case costs of 6/-.	1859/087
Bendall	William	Bendall	George	06	09	1859	Assault	A	William Bendall, carpenter, complained that George Bendall, coal hauler, had assaulted him by thrusting his fists into his face and threatening to strike him. George Bendall was convicted of assault and fined 1/- plus costs of 9/-. These sums were recorded as paid. No indication is given of any relationship between the two men. (See also 1859/105 and 1859/106).	1859/088

Plaintiff		Defendant		Date Case			Crime/accusation		Document	
Surname	Forename	Surname	Forename	Initiated			Description	Type	Notes	Ref. No.
				DD	MM	YYYY				
Eades	Jemima	Allen	William	26	09	1859	Assault	A	Jemima Eades, domestic servant, complained that William Allen of Walcombe, mason, had assaulted her by striking her violently several times on her head. The case was heard in the defendant's absence. The outcome was that Allen was found guilty and fined 10/- plus costs of 9/-.	1859/089
Millard	Silvanus	Millard	Aaron	28	09	1859	Assault	A	Silvanus Millard, post office messenger, complained that Aaron Millard, cabinet maker, had assaulted him by striking him in the left eye and throwing him to the ground. The costs of the case appear to have been 14/- but the verdict in the case is not apparent and therefore who would be responsible for paying them. There is no indication of the relationship between the two men.	1859/090
Clements	Ann	Clements	Thomas	28	09	1859	Assault	A	Ann Clements, wife of Thomas Clements, labourer, complained that she had been ill-treated by her husband who had hit her, kicked her and pulled her hair. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/091
Perham	Samuel	Marshall	Frederick	05	10	1859	Assault	A	Samuel Perham of East Wells, milkman, complained that he had been assaulted by Frederick Marshall also of East Wells, labourer. Marshall was alleged to have shaken his fists in Perham's face threatening to strike him. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1859/092
Rawlings	James	Moon	Simon	07	10	1859	Using obscene and profane language	Pr	PC James Rawlings was on duty in the Market Place when he was approached by Simon Moon of Shepton Mallet, pig dealer, who required Rawlings to arrest a man called Fry for an assault on Moon himself. Rawlings had seen no assault and refused to make an arrest. Moon then berated him abusively, using obscene language, for a full ten minutes. Moon summoned Thomas Hobbs of Shepton Mallet to give evidence in his defence (and paid 2/6d to do so). There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/093

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				DD	MM	YYYY				
Rawlings	James	Money	James	07	10	1859	Selling beer during prohibited hours	L	PC James Rawlings was near The Queen's Head Inn before the permitted Sunday opening time of 12.30pm. He saw a woman called Mary Ann Allen coming out of the inn with a basket. When he examined the contents of the basket Rawlings found a bottle containing beer which Mary Ann Allen stated had come from the inn kept by James Money. The verdict in the case is not recorded, but there is a list of costs amounting to 13/6d and it is assumed that Money would have needed to pay at least that sum.	1859/094
Rawlings	James	Baker Allen	Charles Thomas	10	10	1859	Causing an affray	Dp	PC James Rawlings served Charles Banker and Thomas Allen, both described as labourers, with summons for causing an affray and fighting in the highway in Bath Road. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/095
Ayres	George	Ring	Martin	14	10	1859	Assault	A	George Ayres, labourer, complained that he had been assaulted by Martin Ring, labourer, in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert. Ayres claimed that he had been struck several times and knocked to the ground. Ring was found guilty of assault and fined 1/- plus costs of 11/-.	1859/096
Dredge	Ann	Moyson	Mary Ann	14	10	1859	Assault	A	Ann Dredge, wife of Joel Dredge, sawyer, complained that she had been assaulted by Mary Ann Moyson, spinster, who had struck her a blow in the face. Mary Ann Moyson was found guilty of assault and fined 2/6d, plus costs of 10/- or, if in default, to serve 7 days in prison. Moyson was given three weeks within which to pay meaning that payment was required on or before 14 November.	1859/097

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Humphry	Ruth	Champeny Tucker	William Edwin	17	10	1859	Wilful damage	Wd	Ruth Humphry was the toll collector at the Portway turnpike gate. On Sunday 11 November she was called to open the turnpike gate and even before she got down the stairs someone was kicking the door of the toll house and breaking the glass in the toll house window; the lamp above the toll house door was also broken. There were two men in a horse-drawn gig and one of them immediately swore at her and demanded that she open the gate. Humphry requested their names but they refused to give them and one of the men jumped out of the gig and struck her in the face. Humphry ran away from the violence and got the police to attend. She established that the two men were William Champeny of Blackford, cheese dealer, and Edwin Tucker of Blackford, farmer. Both men were found guilty of wilful damage and each appears to have been fined 10/-, plus costs of 6/- each and a share of the damage at 1/3d. These sums add up to a total of £1.14s.6d. A brief note from William Champeny enclosed a cheque for £4 and a rough note showing costs appears to show the balance from this amount received less the fines/costs being paid to William White who was the lessee of the tolls and seems to be recorded as receiving £2.5s.6d. (See also 1859/099).	1859/098
Humphry	Ruth	Champeny	William	17	10	1859	Assault	A	Ruth Humphry, toll collector at the Portway turnpike gate, complained that she had been assaulted and struck in the face while she was carrying out her duties by William Champeny of Blackford in the parish of Wedmore, cheese dealer (see case 1859/098 for details of the incident). William Champeny was convicted of assault and fined £1 plus costs of 9/- and a service fee of 1/3d making a total of £1.10s.3d. Note: it is possible that a portion of Champeny's payment of £4 noted in 1859/098 relates to the fine and costs incurred in this case.	1859/099

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Boug	Charles	Ball	James	03	11	1859	Cruelty to animals	C	Police serjeant Charles Boug was on duty in High Street when he saw two donkeys drawing a cart-load of coals. He considered that the animals were struggling and when he examined them he found that one was suffering from sores and was lame in the hip joint while the other had sores under the collar. Boug considered both animals to be unfit for work, especially drawing coal. The animals belonged to James Ball, coal hauler, and Boug noted that Ball had previous convictions for cruelty to animals (see, for example, 1858/024 and 1859/016). Ball was convicted of the offence and fined 5/- plus costs of 8/-, or, if in default, to serve 7 days in prison. Ball was allowed until next Monday to pay.	1859/100
Buck	Abraham	Sheppard	Henry	03	11	1859	Sureties for the peace	Su	Abraham Buck, collector of market tolls, took money for a toll from a hawker called Henry Sheppard who roundly abused him calling him a robber and various other uncomplimentary epithets. Buck requested sureties as to Sheppard's future conduct but the defendant failed to appear, so the case was adjourned.	1859/101
Rawlings	James	Perry	Thomas Davidge	04	11	1859	Running a disorderly house	L	PC James Rawlings was on duty in High Street on Saturday evening 29 October when he heard the sounds of a great disturbance coming from The King's Arms Inn run by Thomas Davidge Perry. Rawlings waited near the inn while the disturbance continued and people inside were clearly drunk. Eventually a number of men spilled out into the street and began fighting. On the following day Rawlings was cautioning Perry for allowing disorderly and drunken persons to assemble on his premises. At that time there were several people in the inn who were drunk and beginning to fight. Rawlings also pointed out that he had already reported disorderly behaviour in Perry's premises on several occasions and it seemed that such behaviour was apparent almost every weekend. The case against Perry was dismissed by the magistrates.	1859/102

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Thorne	George	Scott	George	07	11	1859	Assault	A	George Thorne, shoemaker, complained that he had been assaulted and struck a violent blow on the face by George Scott, also a shoemaker. The case was dismissed by the magistrates.	1859/103
Hopkins	William	Filer	James	07	11	1859	Assault	A	William Hopkins, haulier, complained that he had been assaulted and struck several times in the face by James Filer, labourer. The case was recorded as being settled out of court.	1859/104
Bendall	William	Bendall	George	10	11	1859	Wilful damage	Wd	William Bendall of Tor Lane, carpenter, complained that George Bendall, coal hauler, had wilfully damaged a gate leading to the yard adjoining his house. He claimed that George Bendall had damaged the ironwork on the gate and thrown the gate to the ground causing damage that he assessed as being around fifteen shillings. The case was adjourned until December (but see also case 1859/106). Mr (Samuel?) Hobbs offered to meet George Bendall or his representatives to settle matters between them. Note: there is no information on the relationship between the two Bendalls. Note: there was previous history of discord between the two men; see case 1859/088.	1859/105

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Bendall	William	Bendall	George	10	11	1859	Sureties for the peace	Su	This case involves the same incident as that described in case 1859/105 where George Bendall was accused of wilful damage to the gate to the yard adjoining William Bendall's house in Tor Lane. When William Bendall's wife told him that George Bendall was breaking down his gate with a coal pick, William Bendall went out to remonstrate with him. George Bendall had then threatened him with the coal pick and told him to get out of the way otherwise he would put the coal pick in his head. William Bendall felt concerned that George Bendall would do him bodily harm either at that time or subsequently and requested that George Bendall be required to put forward sureties to ensure his good behaviour in the future, particularly towards him (William Bendall). The justices ordered George Bendall to put forward a bond of £20 of his own money plus two sureties of £10 each to cover a period of six months. In addition, George Bendall was required to pay costs of 9/6d for the arrangement of these recognisances. (See also 1859/088).	1859/106
Rawlings	James	Fry	William	14	11	1859	Obscene language	Pr	PC James Rawlings charged William Fry, shoemaker, with using profane and obscene language in High Street on 29 October. William Fry was convicted of the offence and ordered to be imprisoned for a period of 14 days.	1859/107
Brown	Joseph	Hedges	James	14	11	1859	Obscene language	Pr	PC Joseph Brown charged James Hedges, labourer, with using profane and obscene language in St Thomas Street in the Out Parish of St Cuthbert on 23 October. Hedges was found guilty and fined 10/- plus costs of 8/-, or, if in default, to serve seven days in prison. Hedges was allowed one week within which to pay the fine and costs.	1859/108
Webb	John	Gibbs	Thomas	15	11	1859	Assault	A	John Webb, plasterer and tiler, complained that Thomas Gibbs, brushmaker, had set himself in a threatening posture and threatened to strike Webb. Gibbs pleaded guilty to threatening assault and was fined 2/6d plus costs of 7/-, or, if in default, to serve seven days in prison.	1859/109

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Hodges	James	Creedy	Major	26	11	1859	Assault	A	James Hodges, described as a servant, complained that he had been assaulted and struck on the head by Major Creedy, butcher. The magistrates ordered that Creedy should be discharged provided that he paid the costs of 8/6d; this sum was recorded as paid.	1859/110
Dallas	James	Francis	George	01	12	1859	Turnpike Act	Rd	PC James Dallas was on patrol at night near the Southover turnpike when he found a waggon laden with straw and drawn by two horses standing in the middle of the road. He waited for around fifteen minutes to see if anyone would come to claim the waggon and horses but when no-one arrived he took them to The Sherston Arms Inn. There he found thir owner, George Francis, coal hauler. Francis pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined 10/- plus costs of 9/-. He was allowed until 12 December to pay.	1859/111
Rawlings	James	Frampton	Alfred	03	12	1859	Assault	A	PC James Rawlings charged Alfred Frampton of Walton, dealer, with adopting a threatening attitude and threatening to strike the constable who was in the process of executing his duty. Frampton was found guilty and fined 12/- plus costs of 8/-. The full amount was paid by Charles Foxwell who had earlier testified on behalf of Frampton.	1859/112
Charles	William	Brine	John	08	12	1859	Notice to quit	Ev	William Charles, a landlord with many properties, served an eviction notice on John Brine for a property in St Cuthbert Street where Brine was a tenant. Brine had not given up the tenancy as requested on Charles' initial eviction notice, so Charles now advised Brine that he would be applying for a warrant to obtain legal possession of the property early in the month of January 1860.	1859/113
Vowles	John	Court	Edward	10	12	1859	Wilful damage	Wd	John Vowles, innkeeper of the Coxley Pound Inn, had sent some pipes to the Gas House in Wells to be burnt. He had sent the pipes with William Francis of Coxley, but Francis reported that Edward Court, labourer, had thrown stones at the pipes and broken them. The damage was estimated at about 3/-. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/114

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Boug	Charles	Allen	James	22	12	1859	Offence under Highways Act	Rd	Police serjeant Charles Boug served James Allen, labourer, with a summons for allegedly discharging a firearm in Back Lane. The prosecution was initiated by a report to the police from someone with the surname of Seymour (no forename given). The costs of the case were recorded as 7/- but there is no information on the actual outcome.	1859/115
Thomas	Tom	Wills	John	28	12	1859	Assault	A	Tom Thomas, dealer in ores, complained that he had been assaulted and struck in the face by John Wills, horse dealer. Thomas called upon Richard Jones to give evidence on his behalf. There is no information on the outcome of the case.	1859/116
Justices		Various		31	12	1859	Accounts of unpaid justices fees	*	List of expenses incurred but unpaid in cases where the police were the complainants and the recompense was payable from the County Police Fund. The amount claimed across all the cases was £11.5s.0d and this sum was recorded as being paid on 1 February 1860.	1859/117