

## Cambridge Borough Police, Station House Journal, March 1837

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday 23 March 1837

### ***Robbery at Shelford***

Pc Earl reports that a Gentleman named Willes from Shelford stated to him and Pc Pond that some lead had been stolen from Shelford – viz. some piping belonging to a pump and another piece 8 ft long. Over-written in another hand “Enquire at Barnwell and report”.

[Under the Municipal Corporations Act the powers of Borough officers extended to the County in which the Borough was situated. It is interesting to note this is a report to the Borough Police of a crime committed outside the Borough but in the County. Apart from Parish Constables, the County did not have its own police force until 1851. A year later (19 March 1838) the Superintendent was to admonish his officers for interfering too much with County cases to the neglect of the Town. In this case the Borough Police clearly thought the offenders might be found at Barnwell, the poorest and roughest area of the town. See below a report on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1837 of the action taken.]

### ***Dog Stolen***

P.S. 4 Watts reports that Mrs. Carson of Honey Hill, Castle End complains she has lost a small Spaniel Dog and that a lad they called Sponcey Brown of that neighborhood has been seen to sell the same for 2/- and she wishes to have him taken into custody.

### ***Vagrants complained of - one taken into custody and disd. [discharged]***

In consequence of a representation from the Mayor and a note from Mr. P. Beals respecting four or six sturdy vagrants who were annoying the Public behind the colleges. P.S. Watts and two Pcs went after them and found them in that quarter. But they took to their heels so quickly up the St. Neots Road that the Police fail'd in taking them into custody - save one of the party who was brought to the station some time afterwards. [Patrick Beales was a Town Councillor and a member of the Watch Committee]

### ***Girl charged with disorderly conduct sent home***

Eliza. Wastell a servant aged about 18 was sent to the Station by Mr Superintendent from the Hall for causing a disturbance there this afternoon – the girl it appears is a little deranged and excited by the bad treatment she states she received from Mrs Dee for whom she obtained a warrant this morning. On the arrival of Mr Supt at the Station on being informed of the above circumstances sent the girl home to her fathers in charge of Pc Earl

### ***Pc Sick***

A little before 1 o'clock am PC Atkinson came to the Station to report himself unwell and unable to continue on duty.

### ***Vagrants***

PS Watts reports he visited the Lodging Houses at Barnwell at 7 o'clock and found 38 lodgers therein.

[there did not appear to be any attempt initially to collect and utilise information on individuals using poorer lodging houses – but this was soon rectified by the Superintendent - see entry on 25<sup>th</sup> March below]

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 1837

### ***Accident by furious riding***

Pc 21 Simkins Reports that Mr Chisholms servant rode against Mrs John Newland, she was knocked down and considerably hurt. It was on Parkers piece

## **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 1837**

### ***Prisoner on a warrant from Godmanchester***

Willm. Bright a Sweep Boy aged about 16 was confined at the Station under a warrant for Felony by the Constable from Godmanchester for a short time and taken away soon after 4pm. (P.C. Earl went with the Constable to apprehend him).

[William Bright was indicted for stealing a truss of hay, appearing at Huntingdon Quarter Sessions and receiving 14 days imprisonment – Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette 8 April 1837 p8]

### ***Pig found and restored to the owner***

P.S. Watts reports that a Man coming up Emanuel Lane lost a Pig out of his Cart which he found and restored it to the man 2pm also reports that he went in search of the lead belonging to a pump that was stolen from Shelford (see report 22 Inst) but was not able to find or hear anything of it.

### ***Vagrants Pail Found***

P.C. Richardson reports that he visited the Lodging House at Barnwell and found 73 lodgers therein - at 8pm - he also reports having found a Pail belonging to the Landlord of the Ship in Mill lane and took it home –

### ***Men to attend for their pay***

The Men will attend at ½ past 11 o'clock for their pay after which they will patrol the Town till 2 o'clock and take into custody all Vagrants.

[The Superintendent appears here to be acting in response to the earlier complaint from the Mayor about vagrants - See entry above, 22 March 1837]

### ***PCs to Report***

The Supt reports he found P.C. 25 Spinks and P.C. 18 Anable with two Prostitutes eating Bread and Cheese and drinking Bottled Porter in a Beer Shop kept by Mr. Palmer on the Market Hill at ¼ to Eleven o'clock pm.

### ***Complaint***

The Superintendent feels confident the Sergeants do not do their duty as they ought, and if there is not more attention paid he will be obliged to make a serious report to the Committee.

### ***PC to Report***

Inspr Corbyn reports that he could not find PC 7 Barton on his Beat (New Town) till 10 minutes to 2 o'clock am – I waited some time at Hyde Park Corner and went all over New Town twice to Cambridge Place, Russell Street behind Downing Terrace etc etc at last saw him hurrying out of Coronation Street (where he lives) on to the Hills Road – I was very near an hour looking for him. J.C.

Over-written across the entry "Fined 1/- J.T."

[Officers were marched out to a designated "Post" at the start of their beat. Beats were designed by the Watch Committee so that every part of the beat could be reached every half hour. This meant that anyone requiring an officer would have to wait no more than half an hour anywhere on his beat. The Force does not at this time appear to have allocated officers "points" i.e. a requirement for an officer to be at certain locations at set times where he could be met by his Sgts and Inspectors – important for disciplinary and supervisory purposes and a potential lifeline should an officer be incapacitated on his beat]

### ***Complaint PC to report***

Mr. Gage (Clothes Cleaner) came to the Station ¼ to 12 pm. to complain that P.C. 25 Spinks had (indecently) ill used his apprentice Girl Palmer. Spinks came along with Gage and the girl. I considered him unfit for duty being drunk and I ordered him home. J.C.

## **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 1837**

### **Orders for Sgts**

The day duty sergeants who visit the Lodging Houses will for the future take the names of each individual, where they lodge and their mode of getting their living, a list will be given him every day to fill up, which he will give to the Inspector on coming off duty.

[This suggests that the Force kept some sort of information records of the poorer classes at Barnwell]

### **Robbery at Harston**

Mr. Whitechurch of Harston came to the Station and charg'd Samuel Rayner with stealing some hymn books and Bibles from a Dissenting Chapel at Harston also for having in his possession two fowls with their heads and legs cut off. Rayner is also charg'd on suspicion of having stolen from a chapel at Eversden the Pulpit Bible and a large copy of Watts hymns from the same pulpit which hymn book has been sold to Mr. Benstead of the Six Bells at Fulbourn and the Bible to some persons at Bottisham lodge.

[Cambridge Chronicle 1 April 1837 p2 reported under "Cambridge Police Intelligence" "Samuel Rayner (33) of Harston, a reputed thief, was charged by Mr Wm Whitechurch with stealing several bibles and hymn books from Harston Chapel and committed by E S Pearce Esq to the county gaol for trial."

Cambridge Chronicle 20 May 1837 p2 "Two male convicts viz. Charles Turner and Samuel Rayner, have been removed from the castle and put on board the Leviathan hulk, lying at Portsmouth, to be transported for seven years".]

### **Robbery**

Mr Edwards a cook on the Kings Parade has had some pork which was hanging in his passage stolen yesterday between 11 and 12 at noon. The thieves used Mr Edward's steps which were standing in the passage to reach the meat. This evening they have been again and stole some loins of mutton hanging in the same place the steps being taken into the house the thief bought a ladder with which he reach'd the meat, the ladder is left.

Across the entry is written "I cautioned and told them their meat would be stolen if they did not get a safe some time since J.C."

### **Horses Found**

PC 13 Ballard reports that he found a horse at Castle End at 4am and brought him to the Station.

### **[P.C.s to report]**

PC11 Clements and [9] Richardson ½ an hour late for duty 26<sup>th</sup> March reported by Sgt Stearn

### **PC10 Leave**

P.C. 10 David Carson [Curson?] has leave of absence for three days to go to London to bury a brother, 25<sup>th</sup> March J.C.

### **P.C. to report**

The Superintendent reports he saw P.C. 14 Young and 17 Robinson coming out of the New Inn Beer House kept by Mr. Seaden (or Leaden) on Parkers Piece at 20 minutes before one o'clock on Sunday morning the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. He also heard several Persons singing therein at the same time but did not go in the house. J.C.

[The licensee was in fact Mr W.T. Leeding who died in June 1837 aged 47]

### **Robbery**

Stolen from Long Stanton a sack of Clover seed from Mr Coales value £12 and another sack of clover seed from Ainger's Coton value £5 – this week, both members of "Twisses" Association – supposed to be taken by some parties at Girton.

["Twisses Association" was the Cambridge And Cambridgeshire Association For The Speedy Apprehension And Effectual Prosecution Of Felons And Thieves Of Every Denomination And Of Other Persons Committing Offences In The Town And County Of Cambridge On The Persons Or Property Of Any Of The Subscribers. George J Twiss was the Association's Solicitor and the Borough Coroner. In the event that a member became the victim of a crime, the Association would be likely to offer rewards for

information leading to arrests and may have had processes in place to ensure prompt police action.]

***Public Houses visited***

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> I visited most of the Public Houses in Barnwell between the hours of 11 and 1 o'clock and found them all in good order. J.C.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 1837**

Mr Inspector Green and P.S.Smith went to Wisbech this afternoon.

***P.C.14 to report***

P.C.Young came to the Station at 9 ½ PM after being suspended by Mr Supt to say that he offered himself for duty.

***Complaint***

Mrs Wallis George Street Barnwell complains that some Persons have broken down a fence in Gas Lane and carried it away it is near to the Hoop, the Man on the East Road will attend to it.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 1837**

***Beer Shop to Report***

P.S.Watts reports that the Beer Shop "Every House in the Town" was open at 1 o'clock AM and a dance thereat but very quiet.

***Disturbance in Market Street***

P.S. Stearn reports that he put a stop to a disturbance in Market Street at 12¼ o'clock. He saw a Young Man named Smith who resides in the Crescent forced out of the Waggon and Horses kept by R.Stevens there were several other persons in the House that I saw come out directly after, Smith says he shall lay an information against the Landlord for allowing card playing on Sundays he says he has played from 9 o'clock on Saturday evening to 11 o'clock on Sunday morning.

Inspector Green and P.S. Smith returned from Wisbeach about 10 P.M.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

***[Gas lamps]***

P.S. Watts reports the two gas lamps in Fitzroy Street giving scarcely any light during the night as also the one opposite the Town Gaol.

***[Knocker damaged in Silver Street]***

P.C. 7 Barton reports that a knocker was wrenched off Mr. Markham's door in Silver Street at ¼ before 10pm. He suspects three Gownsmen did it that met him on the small Bridge.

***Door Open***

P.C. 25 Spinks reports that he found Mr Hammonds Yard Door workshop (sic) open in Regent Street – he attempted to call them up but could not make them hear – left all safe in the morning.

***Complaint of Gas Lights***

P.S.Watts reports the two gas lamps in Fitzroy Street giving scarcely any light during the night as also the one opposite the Town Gaol.

***Shutters Open***

P.C. Deborix reports that he found the window shutter of Mr Chapman Sun Street open at 1 o'clock am –

he called them and they were fastened.

***Report of Gas***

P.C.24 Rocket reports that several gas lamps went out during the night on his beat Market Hill.

***Door Open***

P.C.Barton reports Mrs Gray's door was left open at Newnham – he called them up and they were thankful.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March (1837)**

***Robbery***

Stolen on Wednesday night last from the Premises of Wm. Hardwick of Fulbourne a copper boiler that will hold about 2 pails, a puter (sic) hand Bason (sic) and a Brass Kettle, that will hold about 2 ½ Pailsful, the Robbery is supposed to have been committed by two sweeps

***P.C. to report***

P.C. 10 Curson P.C.12 Earle neglected to attend the 3 o'clock parade. P.C. 7 and 22 Barton and Pond came too late.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 1837**

***P.C. to report***

P.C.s 7 Barton and 21 Simkins absent from the 3 o'clock parade. Across Barton's name is written "admonished" and Simkins has the word "leave" inserted near his name.

**Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 1837**

***Shutters open***

P.C.22 Pond reports that at 12 o'clock W.Smiths window shutters in Castle St were unfastn'd he called and they were thankful.

***Ditto***

P.C. 25 Spinks reports that at 11pm Mr Lee's shutters and windows in St Andrews were not fastnd he called & they thank him.