

**Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette, 16 March
1833**

POACHING—DESPERATE ATTACK.

WILLIAM WESTNOTT, CHARLES CARTER, and CHARLES ALLGOOD, were charged with feloniously and maliciously shooting at William Kidd, of Wimpole, in Kingston Wood, on Saturday, the 5th of January last. In support of which,

William Kidd was called, who said that he is assistant gamekeeper to the Earl of Hardwicke; was in Kingston Wood on the 5th of January last—it is in Lord Hardwicke's occupation. Witness was protecting the game at four o'clock in the morning—John Cater was with him; there were two other persons in the wood. Witness heard a gun fired in the wood; about an hour afterwards, he saw a man in the wood. Witness stood, and the man made a stop also; he then walked a few paces towards him. Witness was in a ride, as also the man. Witness got close upon him—within three yards; two men then lifted up their guns, and discharged them, one at his head and the other at his body. One discharge struck witness in the face, the other in the arm. (Witness said he had now got some of the powder and shot in his face.) His arm was much hurt by the shot. (Witness's coat and waistcoat were produced, which seemed very much cut by the shot.) When the men ran away, he saw another behind. Witness staggered about—he was “unsent.”* He then called out to John Cater, and said he was shot; John Cater came up. Witness went to Dr. Pyne, of Royston, the next morning. His arm did not hurt him until after a few days. On the following Monday morning witness met one of the men whom he supposed fired at him—this was Westnott; believes him to be one of the men who fired at him.

John Cater was out in Kingston Wood on the morning of the 5th of January, assisting in the detection of poachers. It was about four o'clock when he saw the flashes and heard the report of two guns. Kidd called out, and said he was shot. Witness then went towards Kidd, and found him on the ground, bleeding from the face. He picked him up, also a piece of a gun-barrel, which was delivered to Mr. Hill; would know it again if he were to see it.

Dennis Maile lives at Toft, the adjoining parish; is a wheelwright and a constable. Knows Westnott; met him on Monday, the 7th of January, in the afternoon. Witness had heard before he saw Westnott that Kidd had been shot. He told Westnott that he had heard Kidd had been shot, and that he, Westnott, had been blamed for it. Westnott said at first he did not know anything of it; witness then said he heard there were three concerned. Prisoner answered, there were six. Witness said, how should you know, if you were not one of them; Westnott said, "I don't mind telling you—I was." Prisoner then said, "I shot him in the cheek—some one else in the elbow." Creek was present at the time. Nothing more passed at that time; prisoner and Creek went up the town. In the evening, between four and five o'clock, witness saw Westnott at the public-house at Caldecot; after which, he left the public-house in company with Creek and Westnott, and went towards home. Westnott went into a gap, and pulled out a gun; he gave it to Creek, and said, "This is the gun you bought of me." They went on a little further, and Westnott took out another gun, and said, "This is the gun that shot the man; when it was fired the top part of it came off." It was a short gun; witness put his finger in the muzzle, and found a worm where another part screwed on. He did not see it after—Westnott took it away with him.

Henry Creek deposed that he is a shoemaker, at Toft; and on Monday afternoon, 7th January, saw Westnott, who owed him 5s. for shoes, and he asked him for the money. Westnott offered to give a gun for the debt, and witness agreed to take it. Maile was with witness. Saw Westnott again that evening at the public-house, at Caldecot; Maile was also there. He went out with Westnott, who brought a gun out of a spinney, and said, “That’s the gun I had when I shot the man.” (The gun was produced.)

Mr. Hill is head keeper to Lord Hardwicke, who occupies Kingston Wood—there are pheasants in the wood. Witness engages Kidd and Cater to assist him. He had the gun from Thomas Chapman; it is in possession of Stephen’s, the Bow-street officer.

Thomas Chapman deposed that he was in Kingston Wood, and trod upon part of a gun-barrel; he took it to Mr. Hill.

Francis Pym, jun., Esq., deposed that he is a magistrate; Carter was examined by witness, and his examination was taken down. Hill was in the magistrate’s room at the time. Witness took it down on the 12th of January; no one but Hill was in the room at the time. Witness told Carter he need not say anything unless he liked; if he did it must be taken down, and it would be produced against him. Before Hill came into witness’s room, he said, “Carter wishes to speak to you, Sir”—it was in Carter’s presence. What Carter then said was taken down, but he did not sign it. Witness afterwards asked prisoner, at the gaol, whether he had anything to add; he did add something, but would not sign it.

Carter’s statement was then read; it was nearly as follows:—“I should not have went if a person had not called me up out of bed. I shot first, but did not take any particular aim.” The prisoner

afterwards added at the gaol: —“I should not have said this if Mr. Hill and the other gentleman had not said, ‘If I said I was the man, I should go home.’”

Mr. Hill and the other witnesses were then recalled, who all negatived the last declaration made by Carter.

Westnott’s declaration was then read, which said: —“I was in Kingston Wood, on Saturday, the 5th of January last, between four and five o’clock in the morning; I was in company with two other persons. I was not the man who shot at Kidd—I had not got a gun.” Mr. Pym also took this examination of Westnott’s.

Allgood’s confession was also read as follows: —“I was with two other persons in Kingston Wood. I do not think one of the men would have shot at Kidd if it had not been for the other man. Kidd was running towards them and he said ‘Shoot, rather than be taken.’”

The learned Judge then summed up, and the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners.

The word “unsent” is unclear in the image; this is the apparent printed reading.