Cinderford Mercury - Friday March 25, 1881

A SERIOUS CASE OF SHOOTING AT RUARDEAN WOODSIDE

On Monday last a man named Thomas TRUMP was taken into custody for shooting at and grievously wounding Amos GIBBS, both residing at Ruardean Woodside. It appears that a Mrs READ, wife of William READ, had received visits from a man named BLANCH, who was accustomed to throw stones at the doors and windows to draw the attention of Mrs READ to the fact that he was "about". On one occasion several panes of glass were broken in this way. TRUMP (who was Mrs READ's son in law, and who lodged with her since the death of his wife,) was very much annoyed by these nocturnal visits and stone throwing business, so much so that he told GIBBS (who seems to have been a friend of TRUMP's) that he would shoot BLANCH; whereupon GIBBS said he (TRUMP) haven't the heart to shoot anybody. On Saturday night, after getting his "courage up," at a neighbouring inn, by certain potations of beer (the usual "accessory before the fact "), GIBBS thought he would prove the courage of TRUMP, and personated BLANCH in the throwing of stones, and to his cost TRUMP proved more "courageous" than was anticipated, for directly after the stone was thrown, the latter proceeded to the garden and fired at GIBBS, not recognising him. TRUMP returned to the house without troubling to see the effect of the shot. Shortly afterwards, however, on hearing groans, he exclaimed "That's Amos GIBBS' voice," and went to his assistance. It was found that GIBBS had been shot in the face, receiving very severe wounds, one part of his face being carried away, and his eye nearly out, besides dangerous injuries to the head. He was conveyed home, where he lives in a precarious condition. Dr. BEATTY, of Cinderford, was sent for, and has attended the sufferer (who is also a son-in-law of Mrs READ's. Great consternation was caused by the affair in the neighbourhood, on Sunday, and some sympathy felt for both parties.

Cinderford Mercury - Friday April 1 1881

Littledean Police Court Before Major PROBYN (chairman), Sir Thomas CRAWLEY-BOEVEY, Bart., Russell J KERR [sic. KEAR] and M.W. WEMYS-COLCHESTER, Esqs.

THE SHOOTING CASE AT RUARDEAN HILL

Thos. TRUMP, collier, of Ruardean Hill, was charged by Supt. McRAE with unlawfully shooting Amos GIBBS, on the night of the 19th March. Mr GOLDING defended the prisoner. Mr McRAE applied for an adjournment of the hearing, on the grounds that GIBBS was unable to be present. He added that since prisoner had been in custody he admitted shooting the person named, who was his brother-in-law, but that it was a mistake on his part in doing so. Mr GOLDING said he did not object, only he thought man for whom he appeared was entitled to his liberty. Major PROBYN: it is a very serious charge. How long would it be before GIBBS was sufficiently recovered to be able to attend? Supt. McRAE, in opposing prisoners release, said he hoped to proceed with the case next week. The Bench remanded the prisoner, refusing bail.

Cinderford Mercury - Friday April 8 1881

Littledean Police Court Before Sir Thomas CRAWLEY-BOEVEY, Bart., (chairman), Russell J KERR [sic. KEAR] and Maynard W. WEMYS-COLCHESTER, Esqs.

THE CHARGE OF SHOOTING AT RUARDEAN

Thos. TRUMP, collier, was charged on remand with shooting Amos GIBBS, on the night of the 19th March. Supt. MacRAE applied for a further remand, and said that GIBBS was lying dangerously ill, and was much worse than when the charge came before the bench a week ago. The injured man had now lost a eye - he had three large wounds on the face and shoulder, and had been unconscious several days during the interval. Mr GOLDRING, prisoner's solicitor, said it seemed to him that some evidence should be adduced against TRUMP before reminding him further. Supt. MacRAE having been sworn, deposed that on the 21st March he received information that a man had been shot at Ruardean Hill. He at once proceeded to Drybrook where he found the prisoner in custody, and charged him with the offence. TRUMP said it was the case that he shot GIBBS, but he did not mean to do so, as GIBBS was the wrong man. Mr GOLDRING asked that the prisoner be admitted to bail. Supt. MacRAE again objected, especially regarding the condition of the injured man. Mr GOLDRING: why do you object? Supt. MacRAE: suppose he died? Mr CARTER: it is apparent that the man was in so dangerous a condition that he might die. Mr GOLDRING: it cannot be a case of murder. Mr CARTER: Unquestionably if the man GIBBS dies from the injuries received, it would be a case of murder in law. After some further remarks, the Bench refused to admit prisoner to bail, and he was therefore remanded.

Cinderford Mercury - Friday April 15 1881

Littledean Police Court Before Russell J KEAR (Chairman), M.W. WEMYS-COLCHESTER, and A. THOMAS, Esqs. The latter took his seat for the first time.

THE CHARGE OF SHOOTING AT RUARDEAN

Thos. TRUMP, Collier, was charged on remand with shooting Amos GIBBS, on the night of the 19th March, at Ruardean Woodside. Mr GOLDRING defended. Amos GIBBS, whose head was bound up, and apparently suffering still from the injuries, stated that he was a collier, living at Ruardean Woodside. On Saturday, 19th March, at about 10.30 p.m., he was talking to Edmund HALE, near to William REED's house. REED was witness's father-in-law. HALE said something, and he looked over into Seth SMITH's garden. He then went into REED's garden, and shortly afterwards TRUMP came out of the cottage with a gun in his hand. Witness made a "grab" at the gun. He was stepping down on, and close to TRUMP when he made the "grab", and missed seizing the gun. Didn't hear TRUMP speak before firing the weapon. As witness was in the act of "grabbing" the gun, he said "Ah." Cross examined: had visited Mr WIKE's [sic WILKES'] public house that night. Had been to club from eight until ten o'clock. Was there drinking about two hours. Went to REED's in order to fetch his wife; he married REED's daughter. TRUMP, who lived at REED'S, married another daughter, but his wife was dead. On going towards the house he threw some dirt at a cat, and TRUMP then came out. Didn't see whether the dirt went against the door or window. When prisoner came out of the cottage, he (GIBBS) sprang right at him, and immediately the gun went off. Did not see TRUMP point the gun at witness. Re- examined: Did not see the gun when I made the jump. By Mr GOLDRING: It was a very dark night. Wm. REED, the father in law of both men, residing at Newham Bottom, near Ruardean, deposed that at a little after 10 o'clock on the night in question, he heard some dirt or some stone strike the door. TRUMP got up and went out of the house, and in a minute or two he heard the gun fired. Did not see TRUMP take the gun when he went out. On hearing the report of the gun, he went outside the house, and saw GIBBS in TRUMP's arms, and he was taken into the cottage. Did not see the gun until an hour afterwards, when he found it against the back kitchen door, about five yards from where GIBBS was shot. Before the gun was discharged he heard his wife say "There is somebody playing a bit of a lark." Cross examined: Persons having made attacks on the

house, and had thrown stones and half bricks through the bedroom window. He had had a hundred squares broken since prisoner had lived with him. By the Bench: Prisoner had lived with him about 12 months and his wife died in October last. Jesse CLARKE, in charge at Lydbrook, deposed to apprehending TRUMP, on the 21st March, and charged him with the offence. Prisoner said, "Well, it was I who shot him; I did it because I thought I was going to have a knife put into me, as BLANCH told me when he could catch them it would be but one blow." BLANCH was the person suspected of giving certain annoyance. Prisoner added that he should not have gone outside the door if the stone had not been thrown against the door. Prisoner spoke to the injured man in witness' presence, and said "Amos, did you not throw the stone at the door." GIBBS answered "No," but he afterwards added " I threw a stone at a cat in the garden." Inquired of prisoner for the gun, and he answered "I don't know where it is, but it is about the building somewhere." He (CLARKE) found it in the back kitchen behind the door, and now produced the same. Cross examined: Prisoner said he did not know it was GIBBS, until after he had shot. P.C. CONDUIT gave corroborative evidence as to prisoner's statement when apprehended. Dr BEATTY, surgeon, at Cinderford, who attended GIBBS, deposed to the injuries, and stated that he visited him on the morning of the 20th, when he found him suffering from a large wound in the face, and he had a lot of shots in the left shoulder and neck. Could not find shot in GIBBS' face. Observed it was gun shot injuries. GIBBS' eye was also injured, and he had since lost it; his head was lacerated. He did not think it was a dangerous wound. Cross-examined: In his opinion the shots entered under the shoulder first, or from the back. By the Chairman: I should think the man was in a crouching position, and was in the act of turning his head when the gun was fired. There were a number of shots in the skin of the shoulder. This was the case for the prosecution, Mr GOLDRING addressed the Bench, and submitted that there was no case for jury, on the ground that there was no evidence of intent, and cited a case. Mr KEAR said this was a case for the jury to distinguish as to the charge. Mr CARTER said, in the first place using of the gun would be an unlawful act, and especially if the party intended wounding somebody else. Mr GOLDRING contended there was no intention of doing any harm to GIBBS. After further discussion, prisoner was committed for trial at assizes, but admitted to bail.

Cinderford Mercury, Friday, 5th August 1881

'GLOUCESTER ASSIZES.

CHARGE OF SHOOTING AND WOUNDING AT EAST DEAN

Thomas Trump surrendered to his bail and was charged with feloniously shooting and wounding Amos Gibbs, on the 19th March last, at East Dean, with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Tom Blanch. Mr James prosecuted, and Mr Goold, instructed by Mr E Goldring, defended.

Mr James pointed out that if the prisoner took out a gun and discharged it with the intent to shoot Blanch, he was guilty of the crime with which he was charged. Mr Goold contended that the gun was taken out in self-defence, and that the result was purely caused through accident, and probably through an unfortunate joke on the part of Gibbs. He pointed out that the prisoner rendered all the assistance in his power after the occurrence, and that both were good friends at the present time. The jury found the prisoner guilty of unlawfully wounding, but recommended him to mercy. The Judge passed a lenient sentence of one month's hard lab
our.'

Additional Notes fom Jim Ashton

Thomas Trump was born 30.5.1855 Morse Lane, Ruardean, emigrated to LaSalle in late 1800's. He died 17.4.1919, Clay, IN. USA. After the death of his first wife Dora Read 26.10.1880 Ruardean, he married Emily Yemm, 9.8.1894 in Brazil, Clay, IN, USA, she was born 24.6.1877 Ruardean. Amos Gibbs who was shot, was the husband of Dora Read's sister Rachel. Amos also emigrated to US arriving 6.8.1904 on ship Campania.

The wife of William Read in the first report is Selina nee Marfell. I believe the Thomas Blanch mentioned is the wife of Mary Ann Marfell. The Edmund Hale mentioned is also in my Family Tree.

1881 Census

Dwelling: Church Street House of Remand
Census Place: Little Dean, Gloucester, England

Gilbert WHITE M 38 M Gloucester, Gloucester, England Rel: Head Occ: PoliceConstable

Annie WHITE M 31 F Minchinhampton, Gloucester, England Rel: Wife

Annie Louisa WHITE U 7 F Cheltenham, Gloucester, England Rel: Daur Occ: Scholar

Harry Gilbert WHITE U 6 M Cheltenham, Gloucester, Englan Rel: Son Occ: Scholar

Walter Wm. WHITE U 5 M Cheltenham, Gloucester, England Rel: Son Occ: Scholar

Arthur Edwd. WHITE U 4 M Cheltenham, Gloucester, England Rel: Son Occ: Scholar

Helen Mary WHITE U 2 F Cheltenham, Gloucester, England Rel: Daur

Emily Mary WHITE U 8 m F Cheltenham, Gloucester, England Rel: Daur

Thomas TRUMP W 25 M Ruardean Gloster, Gloucester, England Rel: Prisoner Occ: Coal Miner

16 November 2006