

Introduction

My ancestor George Hawkes was a product of the times in which he lived his family were poor and to survive they used all resources available to them and one of those things was poaching.

George found himself in the unenviable position of being main breadwinner for his family after the untimely death of his father Robert Hawkes in 1875.

but before this I think perhaps he was a sore trial to his parents and my Great Grandfather Arthur Robert Hawkes has been heard to relate the tale of George being chased by his father Robert for some unknown misdemeanour of him running passed a gateway by which stood Henry Isham who was the village police constable and Robert shouting to the policeman "catch him Isham"

A week after his father's death in 1875 George appeared at Wellingborough Magistrate's Court for assaulting a policeman George got month's hard labour for that offence he was sixteen years of age. From then on it was downhill until that fateful appearance at the Assize court in Jan 1881 when he was sent down for seven years.

After his release from Woking Invalid Prison where he had been sent after his attempted suicide in 1885 in Pentonville Prison. George was sent to Berrywood Mental Hospital Northampton for a period of 11 months where the Dr's and Nurses rehabilitated him and got him talking and using his arm again eventually being released on Nov 19th 1888.