COUNTY PETTY SESSIONS, NEWPORT.

SATURDAY.—Before H. P. Gordon, Bart., chairman, Sir John Simeon, Bart., and F. W. Popham, Esqs.

THE SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND SPIRITS AT NEWPORT.

George Jones, of Wroxall, carter, *Susannah*, his wife, and *John Toogood*, labourer, were placed at the bar charged by William Dear, Esq., collector of customs at West Cowes, with having a quantity of contraband spirits in their possession.

Mr. Beckingsale appeared on the part of the defendants.

George Wade, commissioned boatman of the coastguard at Ventnor, deposed that on the 25th of November he went to Wroxall. It was nearly eleven o'clock in the morning when he got there. He went to Jones's house, which is close to the railway; it is a double house, and he searched the apartment nearest to the roadside. He also went upstairs, where he found a tub of spirits near the head of the bed. Mrs. Jones was in the house. He delivered the tub to the chief boatman, who was present. The tub contained white brandy.

James Wade, chief boatman, stated that on Sunday morning last he went over the Down to Wroxall, and went with the last witness to George Jones's house, and searched round the house. He then went upstairs, and there they found a tub of spirits in the bed-room. It was not quite full; he tasted it, and found it to contain strong spirits. They then searched the outhouse, and Thomas Pill, boatman, found one tub of spirits there, which was full. William Pill afterwards found five more tubs in the outhouse, covered with furze.

William Nosworthy, boatman, said he was ordered to go to George Jones's, and found the five tubs in the shed, and passed them out to James Wade. They were perfectly full, with slings, under some furze. He took possession of them, and sent them to Cowes by James Wade.

P.C. Skeats deposed that on the previous Sunday evening he went with Pill to Jones's house at Wroxall, and from information he received apprehended him. The prisoner said he knew he had done wrong, and acted against the law of his country, and he must get out of it in the best manner he could.

P.S. Rossiter, stationed at Ventnor, said he went to Jones's house at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, the 25th of November. He first saw Toogood standing by the pig-stye, and then saw Mrs. Jones go from the wood-house door into the house; she was carrying something. He did not go into the house, but went down the village, and when he came back he saw the tubs handed out of the shed.

Mrs. Jones and her brother (Toogood) were then discharged, there being no evidence against them.

Mr. Beckingsale, in addressing the court in behalf of the prisoner, said he had been in the same service for the last 40 years, during which time no charge whatever had been brought against him by Mr. Johnson, of Wroxall Farm, and he hoped, from his good conduct, that a mitigated penalty only would be inflicted.

The Chairman said in this case there was no mitigation, and he was sorry to say he must convict the defendant in the penalty of 100*l*., and to be imprisoned until that amount be paid. Any application on his behalf must be made to the Commissioners of Customs.

"County Petty Sessions, Newport - The Seizure of Contraband Spirits at Newport," *Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle*, 05 Dec 1866, p. 3, col. 2; digital images, British Library, *British Newspapers 1800-1900* (http://newspapers.bl.uk : accessed 13 Jan 2026). Page 1 of 1.