

The Notorious GIB, Gentleman Isham Baggs

Miranda Kaufman (see website article 'Portraits by Tilley Kettle') has found in 'The Cuckold's Chronicle: Being Select Trials for Adultery, Incest, Imbecillity, Ravishment, Etc (1793)', which includes a brief summary of the trial of Catherine Newton, a line drawing of Isham Baggs and Catherine Newton near the Trent called 'The Anglers'. It is quite similar to the drawing which we already have taken from Lister's pamphlet and which featured in Kings Bromley Historians' publication 'The Scandalous Divorce of Catherine Newton' which is reproduced here on the right.



The scandal magazines of the time clearly enjoyed themselves hugely with this case. In the drawing on the left Isham Baggs is wearing his Oxford University mortar board. Possibly the Manor is in the background. The wages of sin were not particularly onerous: Isham Baggs married Editha Pearman in 1804, and in the 1841 census was an 85 year old clergyman living in Wark.; he died aged 92. After her divorce Catherine married a Jacob Constant of Cleves and died aged 67 having received her £400 per annum pension from the Newtons and then the Lanes for 41 years.

Allan Howard, 30th September 2020