



Death Sentences Passed at the County Assizes

Salisbury, March 14 At our Assizes for the County of Wilts, which ended Wednesday Evening, the four following criminals were capitally convicted and received sentence of death, viz. Barnardo Varda an Italian, by trade a Plaisterer, and John Philips, a Welchman and Carpenter, for robbing the Rev. Mr. Samuel Collins, on the 15th of September last on the Plain, as he was going hence to Shaftesbury, of his money, horse and portmanteau, to which they have both pleaded guilty.

Daniel Swanborrow for feloniously entering the dwelling house of Jane Rivers at Beechingstoke, and stealing a pair of stays, an apron and shift.

And, Edward Matthews, for stealing a weather sheep, the property of William Matthews, which he confessed.

Richard Hawkins, Ann his wife, and Abraham Long, for murdering Jane Butcher of Dursley in Gloucestershire, were all acquitted; as were likewise John Taylor, for a misdemeanour, George Martin, for suspicion of stealing a lamb, and Thomas Stallard for house-breaking. Henry Silly, for suspicion of stealing a pair of silver shoe buckles and other things out of a box and chest of drawers at the Lamb Inn at Warminster, was ordered to be whipped.

Matthews for sheep stealing, the Judge was pleased to reprove for transportation, and the other three he has left for execution.

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The Executions at Fisherton

Salisbury, March 28 On Tuesday, about Ten o'clock in the morning, were executed at Fisherton Gallows, pursuant to their Sentence at our last Assizes, Barnardo Varda, and John Phillips, for a robbery on the highway, and Daniel Swanborough, for house-breaking. They behaved very calm and decent, as become persons in their unhappy circumstances, and went to the place of execution dressed in their

shrouds. Varda, a genteel young fellow, about 22 years of age, an Italian, died a Roman Catholic, and behaved with a remarkable air of composure to the last. he had a fine head of hair, which in general he wore platted, but on this occasion it was curled, hung loose over his shoulders, and was powdered to excess. they neither of them at the place of execution denied, or so much as endeavoured to palliate the crimes for which they suffered. Varda, whom Phillipps had just taken his final leave of with a kiss, a few minutes before the cart drew away addressed himself to the spectators, but with a low voice, and begged them to take notice of his wretched end, and to let it be a warning to all, especially those who are wickedly inclined, to shun his unhappy fate.

Salisbury And Winchester Journal Monday, 4 April 1757