



Trial at the Old Bailey for Stealing a Mare 20th February 1695

Robert Geeris a Chirurgion, was Tryed for stealing a Mare price 9l. from Richard Biggs, the Evidence was that the Mare was stolen out of the Orchard of Mr. Biggs, at a place called Branton Gleeferd [Broughton Gifford] in the County of Wilts, and that the Mare was found at London at the Woolpack at Smithfield-Bars, in the Custody of the Prosecutor, he being seized and taken; so the said Biggs had Intelligence by one of his Neighbours, that the Prisoner had the Mare, so the Mare was found at the Woolpack above said, and the Prisoner owned to Mr. Biggs his Son in Newgate that he had the Mare, and told him if it had not been for one damn'd Son of a Whore he might have had the Mare again; the Prisoner behaved himself very impudently in Court, and said that he bought the Mare of one Feazy a Prisoner now in Newgate who was fetch't down, and being examined, he said he had known the Prisoner for half a year, but that he never bought any such Mare of him, for which the Prisoner was Reprimanded; why says the Prisoner I thought he could have given an account but he will not, he can if he will, then the Prisoner said further, I had a Horse that I called Old Broom which I led in my hand to London, so I had no need to steal a Mare; Then being asked what Inn he Lodged at when came to London, he answered (with a kind of Laughter) that he was a stranger at this Town; and he had forgot the Sign, but it was like a Lyon, or some such Sign; then he being askt if he had any more to say, he answered, That he had no more to say, only that the Mare cost him 6 Guineas, which was a dear Bargain, and nothing vext him so, but that he had given the Mare so much Corn, which had cost him a great deal of money; so upon the whole he was found guilty of Felony, at which Verdict he Laught, but it was no Laughing matter, &c.

Verdict - Death Penalty

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