



The Murder of Mr. James Wigmore of Knoyle

The murder of Mr. James Wigmore, of Knoyle, in this county, on 23d of October 1805, must be in the recollection of many of our readers. He had been to Winchester, with a load of Cheese for the Fair, and had set out the same evening on his return home, but was murdered ere he reached Stockbridge, his body being found on the road the next morning, shot through by a musket-ball, but it did not appear that his pockets had been rifled.

Notwithstanding the most diligent search, the perpetrator of the murder could never be traced; nor did suspicion light on any one, till recently. It now points at Allen, the wretch who murdered Mr. Sargent. The spot where the deed was perpetrated is not so remote from Allen's residence, but that the prospect of plunder, in consequence of the fair, might induce him to cross the country into that road; the direction of the fatal ball indicated that Mr. Wigmore had been shot by a person on foot; Allen always robbed on foot, and it now appears that he made no scruple of firing at any one who did not immediately stop at his mandate, and submit to be robbed; but in that public road, a sudden foot-step, after he had fired, might alarm even that ferocious villain to the abandonment of his victim, and drive him to re-trace his guilty steps back to his accustomed haunts. This is only conjecture, but it has strong probability to support it.

It was stated in this Journal, relating the murder, that Mr. Wigmore had left a widow and nine children. Another melancholy incident is now to be added to the narrative:- Mrs. Wigmore never recovered from the shock; but after first sinking into a melancholy despondency, her intellects became more violently affected, and she died a few days ago, in a state of total mental derangement.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal, 23 November 1807