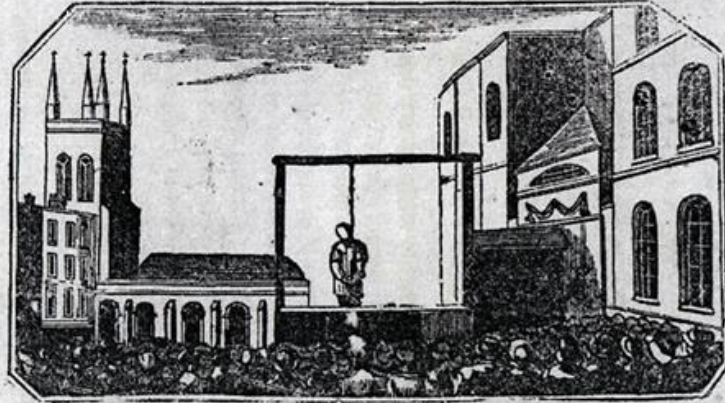


January 5. 1844

TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF MARTHA BROWNING, Who was Executed this Morning, before the Debtors' Door, Old Bailey, FOR THE WILFUL MURDER OF ELIZABETH MUNDELL.

At an early hour this morning the Rev. Chaplin visited the wretched woman, and remained with her untill the last moments of her earthly career. Precisely at 10 minutes before 8 o'clock the prison bell commenced to toll. At that time the whole of the vacant ground in the front of the goal and near to it was literally studded with human beings, many of whom had been waiting many hours to witness the awful scene.



About 8 o'clock the mournful procession reached the top of the gallows, led by the chaplin, who read in a most impressive manner the burial service, the wretched woman Browning followed, with her eyes turned heavenwards, but we were unable to hear whether or not she responded to the prayers.

In the course of a few minutes all the preliminaries being finished the fatal bolt was drawn asunder, and the wretched woman was sent hence into eternity. The body having hung the usual time was cut down and taken inside the goal.

Trial and Execution of MARTHA BROWNING.

At the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, Martha Browning aged 23, was indicted for the wilful murder of Elizabeth Mundell, by strangling and suffocating her.

As soon as the Judges had taking their seats on the bench, at 10 o'clock the prisoner pleaded "Not Guilty". She bowed respectfully to the bench, and appeared perfectly calm and collected.

It appeared that the prisoner was lodging with deceased in Providence Place, Brewers' Green, Westminster, and that on the 1st of December, about eight in the morning, she went to the house of deceased's daughter, and told her that Mrs. Mundell was very ill, and had a fit, and wished her to go and see her directly. She told her that her mother had called out murder. On the daughter, whose name was Gaize, going to her, she found her lying on her back with her head resting on a box, and in her night clothes. She had a thick cord round her neck, and was quite dead. Assistance was procured, but was found of no avail. A coroner's inquest was held on the body the same night, and a verdict of Temporary Insanity was returned. The prisoner subsequently offered to lend Mrs. Gaize some money, and said she would get change of a £5 note she had saved in service. She went to a public-house, but returned immediately, said that she had been played a trick, and had received a Bank of Elegance note instead of a Bank England. She showed the note to Mrs. Gaize, who recognized it as having belonged to her mother. She, however, did not hint her suspicious to the prisoner, but asked her where she had received it, and she replied in Bedford-street. Mrs. Gaize's husband who was present at the time, asked her to go and show him the house, which she offered to go, and they started for that purpose. They had not gone far, however, before the prisoner attempted to go back, but finding that Gaize would not allow it, she fell into his arms saying, "I can keep it no longer; I murdered the old woman and deprived your wife of a mother." She was immediately given into custody. It was proved by a surgeon that the deceased could not have committed the act herself, and Mr. Clarkson having addressed the jury for the prisoner, they, after consulting for about a half an hour, returned a verdict of Guilty.

Mr. Harker, the usher of the Court, then made the usual proclamation for silence, and the Learned Judges having put on their black caps, Mr. Justice Patteson proceeded to pass sentence of death upon the prisoner.

The Lordship said that after a very long, painful and patient inquiry, the Jury had come to the conclusion that she was guilty of the charge of murder of which she was accused. She had had the advantages of a Learned Counsel, who had urged every topic in her behalf that was likely either to induce the Jury to believe that she was innocent, or that the evidence for the prosecution was insufficient, and the Jury, after a full inquiry, had felt that the facts which had been disclosed were quite incompatible with her innocence. The Learned Judge entirely concurred in the verdict, and did not entertain the slightest doubt that she was guilty of this foul murder. It would appear, that while residing with the deceased, she became impressed with the idea that she was possessed of money, and it was very probable that in the first instance her only intention was to possess herself of that money, and this had ultimately led to her killing the deceased in a most cruel and deliberate manner. He was induced to believe, from her own statements, that the weight of the crime laid heavily upon her mind, and that she had already probably turned to the Almighty and sought forgiveness; but if she had not done so, he entreated her to make the best use of the short time that remained to her on this earth for that purpose. Her life, by the law of the land, was forfeited, and the crime was of such a nature and was committed under such circumstances, as precluded him from holding out to her the slightest hope that the law would not be allowed to take its course. He therefore exhorted her to make her peace with God, and to obtain that mercy from him which could not be granted by an earthly tribunal. His Lordship concluded by passing sentence in the usual form.

The prisoner was then asked formally, whether had any thing to urge in arrest of judgement, the object being for her to state whether she was in the family-way or not.

Upon this being explained to her, she said, "I am not Guilty."

One of the female turnkeys then explained the matter to her, and said as it appeared that there was no ground for an arrest of judgement, the sentence was recorded, and the prisoner was removed from the bar.

Sharp, Printer, 30, Kent Street, Borough.

A COPY OF VERSES

Good people all attend in time,
While I relate my awful crime,
The murdering of a female I will unfold,
O! God have mercy on my soul,
Martha Browning is my name,
I've brought myself to death and shame,
By murdering of a female you shall see,
Who was both good and kind to me.
I do confess I done the deed,
Would make the stoutest heart to bleed,
In Brewer st. Westminster, it is well known,
Where I this deed of blood have done.
In service I have spent my days,
And now am only in my prime,
Being out of service and in misery,
No home nor friends to shelter me.
The poor old creature took me home,
And permission gave me to her room, (sood
She shared with me her room and gave me,
Which I returned with ingratitude.
What Devil tempted me to sin,
When she so kind to me had been,
With the blackest ingratitude I did repay,
And murdered her in a cruel way.
I saw some bank notes she possessed,
When murder entered in my breast,
For the sake of her money I do aver,
I with a rope did strangle her.
She struggled hard her life to save,
No mercy I my victim gave,
For a Bank of Elegance note I own,
This cruel deed of blood I've done.
I with the corpse all night did lay,
And passed that awful night away,
Then lifted the body on the box with care,
That suicide it might appear.
And true indeed I might be free,
But the eye of God was fixed on me,
No peace but comfortless I did remain,
Till I confessed this deed of shame.
On Monday next I'm doomed to die,
I deserve my fate no mercy's nigh,
For murdering of a female cruelly,
O! Let my end a warning be.
Farewell dear friends don't mourn nor grieve
That I this world so soon shall leave.
When my wretched body grim death entolds
Then God receive my guilty soul.