



Murder of Ann Tucker

An inquest was held at Bradford, on Monday last, on the view of the body of Ann Tucker, the wife of Samuel Tucker, where a verdict was returned of wilful murder, against the husband, who was committed to the county gaol, for trial at the next assizes.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday, 25 March 1811

Samuel Tucker was indicted for the wilful murder of Ann Tucker, his wife, at Bradford, in the county of Wilts. This was a case of the most atrocious kind. It appeared in evidence, that the prisoner, who was originally a weaver, but has practised medicine and called himself Doctor before the High Court of Justiciary, at Tucker, many months since conceived the design of murdering his wife, on account of the disparity of ages, she being about 25 years older than himself.

In order to effect her death, he kept her continually confined in his house, without allowing any one to see her from the 1st of January last till the 8th March last, on which day she died, and giving her only a small quantity of half-boiled potatoes and barley bread, and a little water.

He frequently left house for two days together, during which she was locked up, and without food; and her room, by reason of the non-admittance of air, and certain offensive things left therein, was nearly sufficient to create putridity.

By this treatment she became to greatly emaciated, as to be unable to move out of her bed, during which time he still continued his ill-treatment, and she was actually starved to death.

The Surgeon stated that, on examining the corpse, it was literally nothing but skin and bone.

The chief witnesses against the prisoner were people of the name of Byfield, who were the deceased's children by a former husband.

The prisoner, in his defence, stated that his wife had a disorder in her bowels, which prevented him from sleeping or associating with her, and that she had a voracious appetite, which could never be satisfied. The Jury found him guilty, and the Judge immediately passed upon him the awful sentence of the law, and ordered him for execution on Friday the 2nd August, and his body to be delivered to a Surgeon, to be dissected.

The prisoner appeared to be totally void of agitation during the whole trial, which lasted seven hours. He confessed his guilt when at Chapel on Thursday, and was executed next day.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal, 31 July 1811

Assizes

At Salisbury, Samuel Tucker was indicted for the wilful murder of Ann Tucker, his wife, at Bradford, Wilts. It appeared that the prisoner, who was originally a weaver, and has since practised medicines, and called himself Doctor Tucker, many months since conceived the design of murdering his wife, on account of the disparity of ages, she being about 25 years older than himself. That in order to effect her death, he kept her continually confined in his house, without allowing anyone to see her, from the 1st of last January till the day when she died, the 8th March last, allowing her only a small quantity of half boiled potatoes, and barley bread and a little water.

That he frequently left his house for two days together, during which time she was locked up and without food; and that her room, by reason of the non-admittance of air and certain offensive things left therein, was nearly sufficient to create putridity. By this treatment she became so greatly emaciated as to be unable to move out her bed, during which time he still continued his ill-treatment and she was actually starved to death. The surgeon stated, that on examining the corpse, it was literally nothing but skin, bone, and muscle, every vestige of flesh having disappeared. The chief witnesses against the prisoner were the people by the name of Byfield, who were the deceased's children by a former husband. The prisoner, in his defence, stated that his wife had a disgusting disorder in her bowels, which prevented him from associating with her and that she had a voracious appetite which could never be satisfied. The jury found him guilty, and the Judge immediately passed upon him the awful sentence of the law, and ordered him for execution on Friday next, and his body to be delivered to a Surgeon to be dissected. The prisoner appeared totally void of agitation during the whole trial, which lasted seven hours.

Saunders News-Letter, Dublin, Wednesday, 7 August 1811