



Measles Epidemic

On Sunday the 18th a very melancholy instance of mortality presented itself in the family of William Wentworth, a fisherman, at Britford, near this city. Four of his children died within 18 hours, in the measles, attended with a putrid fever, and the fifth and only child lay then dangerously ill. The four children were buried together in one grave on Wednesday last.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 26 February 1787

OPC Note:-

This news was thought to be of such significance it was even printed in the Daily Universal Register, a newspaper started 2 years previously and 2 years later became the newspaper we now know as The Times.