

Sarah Willis Murdered Her New-Born Male Child

Salisbury Assizes

Sarah Willis was indicted for the wilful murder of her male child, on the 27th of August, at Hannington.

Prisoner, who was in the service of Mr. Willis, of Hannington, was ascertained to have been delivered of a child on the 27th of August last, and when pressed by the surgeon to state what she had done with her offspring, gave up the key of her trunk, in which the body of a full-grown male child was found, with a ribbon tied tightly round the neck, so as to produce a discoloration of the part. The surgeon was of the opinion that the ribbon must have been applied after the birth of the child.

The prisoner was found guilty of concealing the birth of her child, and sentenced to 18 months hard labour.

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