



## **Rachel Bayly - Murder of Her Male Infant Child**

### **Country News: Bath July 27**

Last Wednesday an inquest was taken in Wilts on the body of a male infant child. The jurors after sitting more than eight hours, returned their verdict Wilful Murder, and charged Rachel Bailey, mother of the child, with being the cruel perpetrator. The unhappy woman appeared and gave voluntary and circumstantial account of the murder the Coroner, which by her earnest desire, was taken down in writing. She was delivered in a bye-road near Nettleton Field, where she fractured the child's skull and beat its head flat; but fearing it would not die after these bruises, carried it to a brook and threw it in, the side whereof she stood observing the child struggle, with no more concern than if it had been a dog or a cat, the poor wretch termed it. After the child had been in the water about half an hour, she took it out and buried it in a dung-heap. Her guilt pursuing her, she said, occasioned an open confession.

### **Stamford Mercury, Thursday, 6 August 1772**

At Assizes, which ended on Wednesday last, the four following criminals received sentence of death, viz. Rachel Bayly, for the murder of male infant child at Nettleton.

### **Reading Mercury, Monday, 17 August 1772**

On Thursday Rachael Bayly, pursuant to her sentence, was executed at Fisherton gallows. Her behaviour was very decent: she acknowledged her guilt, and received the Holy Sacrament the morning she left the prison. Her body, after hanging the usual time, was cut down, and delivered to Mr. Forsyth, to be dissected.

### **Salisbury & Winchester Journal, Monday, 10 August 1772**