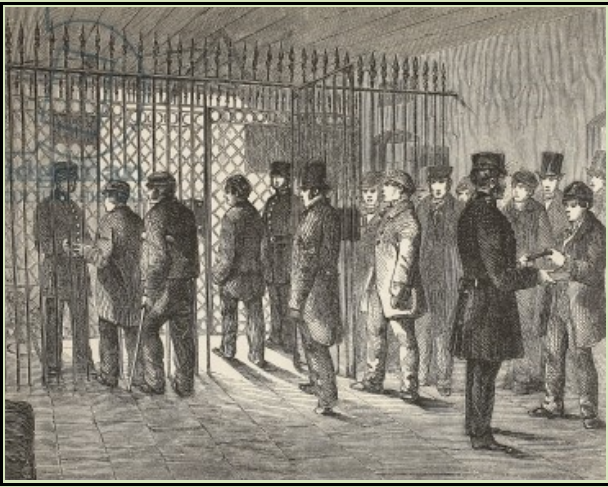


# Crime and Punishment

*Seend*



## *THE TALE OF CATHARINE HILL*

Whereas Catharine Hill of Seend in the county of Wilts; a single woman was, on Saturday last the 28th August, by the Coroner's inquest found guilty of feloniously and .....  
[paper creased and unreadable here]

And whereas Mary the wife of Joseph Smart, and John Ring her brother, both of Seend aforesaid, were likewise by the said inquest charged with being accessory to the said felony and murder by procuring, counselling, commanding, advising and directing her, the said Catharine to commit the same.

And the said John Ring having fled for the said offence, and at present not to be found.

This is therefore to caution all persons from harbouring or concealing the said John Ring, as they will be prosecuted for so doing, as the law directs. And it is hoped that all persons who shall either hear of, or know where the said John Ring is to be found, will immediately give notice thereof to the Parish Officers of Seend aforesaid, or the above Office.

NB: The said Catharine Hill confessed before the Coroner's inquest, that the said John Ring was the father of the child she murdered as aforesaid.

John ring is about 53 years of age, about five feet six inches high, dark complexion, very bald, with a few dark brown hairs that curl on the sides and hinder part of his head; flops a little in his walk; his teeth before are remarkably long; had on when he went away a dark grey coat, with white metal buttons, and leather breeches, and carried with him a bundle, in which it is supposed was wearing apparel. He was lately employed in harvest work at Easton or Milton near Pewsey. **Newcastle Courant Saturday 11 September 1779**

At the assizes at Salisbury, which ended on Tuesday, five prisoners were capitally convicted, viz..... Catharine Hill, for the murder of her bastard child, at Seend, by throwing it into a well;..... **Hampshire Chronicle Monday 13 March 1780**

Several favourable circumstances appearing in behalf of Catherine Hill, of Seend, who was capitally convicted & condemned at Salisbury assizes for the murder of her bastard child, his Majesty had been pleased to grant her a free pardon. **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 25 May 1780**