

# Moses Angel Hanged for Murder 1828.

Moses was baptized in Steeple Ashton, on 25 Jan 1807, the son of Thomas ANGEL and Sarah née CROOK. Baptismal records indicate Moses was their 8<sup>th</sup> child followed by Ann in 1812 and Thomas in 1814. Not all the children survived to adulthood.

A local census of 1800 shows the family lived in Ashton Street at that time and there were 5 members of the household. A later census dated 5 Aug 1813 is slightly confusing as it states ANGEL, John or Thomas, living in Silver St, occupation butcher and 5 in the family.

The family are not recorded in the list of poor people given bread by Walter Long in 1826 which would indicate they were sufficiently well off not to require charity at that time.

In 1827 when Moses was 19, the following account appeared in the newspaper: Jackson's Oxford Journal. Nov 29 1827.

## **Violent Assault and Robbery.**

Five men were apprehended at Trowbridge, under circumstances which justified a very strong suspicion of their having robbed and cruelly treated a man named BAILEY of Keevil on Tuesday evening previous. Two of the men Richard DOGGETT and Moses ANGELL of Steeple Ashton were fully committed to Fisherton gaol for trial.

Three months later the extent of their crime was reported, following their trial:

## **WESTERN CIRCUIT — SALISBURY, MARCH 13**

*The Morning Chronicle* (London, England), Saturday, March 15, 1828

Moses ANGEL and Richard MIZEN were this morning placed at the bar charged with the wilful murder of Daniel BAYLEY of Hilperton on the 20 Nov last; they were also arraigned on the charge of assault and robbery on the same day.

The prisoners, who were decently attired, on being placed at the bar, exhibited none of the emotions which their situations ought to have excited, and we were sorry to observe that on more occasions than one that the prisoners laughed.

Mr GUNNING stated the case to the jury.

Ann PEARCE examined; I am a married woman and the daughter of the late Dr BAYLEY; the deceased lived in Keevil, he had a house of his own, he was 63 years of age, she recollects his leaving home on the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov at 8 o'clock in the morning, he had a silver watch, a metal chain in his pocket, also about 9 shillings in silver. I do not know where he was going at that time. I saw him the following day, at noon, at the Cat and Fiddle, at Hilperton, on a bed on the floor. He was very dangerously ill, he was much bruised on the left side of his head, the wound had been dressed and I saw the surgeon, Mr MITCHELL, dress it while I was there. I asked my father if he knew me and he said "Ah". He could not walk. He was afterwards taken home; he died on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the next month, he did not recover, he was a healthy man before, he did not appear to be in his proper senses afterwards; he died of the bruises on his head.

George WINSLOW examined; I am a gardener, I was at Trowbridge on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov last, I live at Steeple Ashton and left Trowbridge just as the lamps were lighted at 5 o'clock and went towards home. On the course of the way I saw ANGEL on the road, he was talking to a girl. I said; Is that you Moses? Are you going to Steeple Ashton? He said he was. We went together to the Lion and Fiddle in Hilperton and had a pint of beer together. There were about a score of people in there, then the deceased came in.

(The next part of the article is confusing with descriptions of people talking to each other but continues with :-)  
on looking around I found Mizen, Angels and the deceased gone....Angels returned after about 20 minutes....Angels, Gettings and me went towards Steeple Ashton and about 100 yards distance I saw a quantity of people together. They had a candle and a lantern and Daniel Bayley on a hurdle...I parted the people and said this is poor Daniel Bayley who was in the Lion and Fiddle; he looked like a dead man.

Henry Pernall examined "I was the Osler at the Wool packs, nr Trowbridge. I know the prisoner ANGEL; saw him at the Inn, on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov last, about 12 o'clock, in the day. He asked me if I would buy a watch as I am broke down and want some victuals and drink. I then bought the watch, I observed his small clothes were torn and told him it was not proper for a young man to have them so, so he said he had jumped over a hedge the night before; I asked him how he'd come by the watch? He said his father had given him a 4 guinea one and didn't want two. In consequence of what I heard the next morning I went to Constable FOLEY and gave him the watch.

Jane BAYLEY, widow of the deceased examined the watch and said it was the property of her husband; he had it on the morning he went away.

A surgeon in attendance proved the deceased death was occasioned by the wounds he received on the head. Other evidence was also adduced, which however, did not appear sufficient to convict MIZEN.

The jury accordingly found ANGEL "Guilty". MIZEN "Not guilty".

Mr Justice LITTLEDALE then passed sentence in the usual form, ordering him for execution on Saturday next.

March 17 1828  
Berrow's Worcester Journal  
Tuesday's Post

'At the Assizes Moses ANGEL received the sentence of death for the murder of Daniel BAILEY and was executed on Saturday last.

Angel was only 19 years of age. He confessed that his first step in the career of crime was poaching.'

He was hanged at outside Fisherton gaol, Salisbury 15 March 1828.

Other papers also reported this sad event:

" This case exhibited, in a remarkable degree the dangers which beset every point of a life devoted to intemperance and immorality and with what rapidity a man who keeps bad and vicious company may in a moment and without previous ill intent, be plunged into the lowest depth of guilt, and exposed to the last punishment of the law...(details of crime).

The unhappy convict showed sincere contrition for a considerable time before his death and particularly tormented by the recollection of his having kicked the old man upon the head after he believed life to have been extinguished".

There are a few records regarding the Angel family in Steeple Ashton following these sad events but it must have had a terrible effect on all their lives.

In 1823, Moses sister Sarah born 1797 had married the widower John SIMS on 15 Oct of that year. Another sister Elizabeth born 1804 never married but became a house keeper for her uncle Thomas Crook in Hinton.

Another newspaper account 30 years later relates to Thomas Angel who may have been a brother of Moses

Ipswich Journal Mar 22 1866

At Wiltshire Assizes, WALTER LONG Esq versus THOMAS ANGEL.

This action commenced against the defendant who occupied a small farm at Steeple Ashton as tenant at will for committing waste on the estate and leaving it in a bad and impoverished condition.....not cropping and cultivating the land in a husbandlike manner and according to the customs of the country, The jury gave verdict of £72, the amount of 2 years rent.