

NORTHAMPTON MERCURY
1801 to 1845

1 21st February 1801

And on Thursday last, Joseph Malin was committed to the gaol of this county by John Clarke Esq charged with having, on Sunday last, feloniously stolen from a boat, then lying on the Grand Junction Canal in the parish of Weedon Beck, one velveteen jacket, one round or smock frock, three loaves of bread and two pounds of bacon, all the property of **Thomas Andrews**, boatman.

2 28 February 1801

The following prisoners are to take their trials at our Assizes, which begin on Monday next, before the Right Hon Sir Archibald Macdonald and the Hon Sir Robert Graham, viz :-

Joseph Malin, charged on suspicion of having stolen from a boat on the Grand Junction Canal in the parish of Weedon Beck, one velveteen jacket, one round or smock frock, three loaves of bread and two pounds of bacon, all the property of **Thomas Andrews**, boatman.

3 20 November 1802

Last week **Thomas Payne**, boatman of Foleshill, was committed to Warwick gaol, charged with stealing divers articles from the trading boats of Messrs Pickford, Bache and others. On searching this man's house, goods to a great amount were found, mostly articles for dress, not made up.

4 29 January 1803

On Thursday last was committed to our County Gaol, by the Rev Dr Bayley, **William Dayton**, late of Blisworth, boatman, charged with having stolen from the malt kiln of Cornelius Gudgeon a fowling piece and other articles, the property of the said Cornelius Gudgeon.

5 10 March 1804

DESERTED,
From the NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MILITIA, at
NORTHAMPTON,
ON FRIDAY the 2d of MARCH,

T **THOMAS JOHNSON**, serving for the Parish of CLIPSTONE:—He is 27 Years of Age, 5 Feet 9 Inches and three Quarters high, says he was born at Woodthorpe, Leicestershire, stout made, stoops in walking, has dark-brown Hair, hazle Eyes, dark Complexion, round full Face, and short Neck; had on an old plaid Waistcoat and Fustian Breeches; says he is by Trade a Stocking-Maker, but is thought to be a Boatman, as he has been frequently seen at Stoke-Wharf, Northamptonshire.
Also, deserted from the Northamptonshire Supplementary Militia,

J **OSEPH SMITH**, serving for the Parish of STANBERTOFT; is 25 Years of Age, 5 Feet 9 Inches and a Half high, says he was born at Woodthorpe, by Trade a Stocking-Maker, has dark-brown Hair, hazle Eyes, long Visage, is strait made, and walks very upright; had on a Corduroy Frock, old Corduroy Breeches, and an old striped Waistcoat.

Whoever will apprehend the above Deserters, and lodge them in any of his Majesty's Gaols, shall receive a Reward of FIVE GUINEAS, on Application to the Constable of either of the above Parishes.—If they will return immediately to the Constables with whom they engaged, Endeavours will be made to obtain a Remission of the Punishment to which they are liable.

☞ The above Men deserted in Company with W. Newman and Joseph Mason, of the same Regiment.—The Whole appeared to be Navigators; and are supposed to be now at Work on the Grand Junction Canal between Braunston and Great-Linford.

6 12 April 1806

STOLEN

A middle sized, pale red, SPANIEL DOG, about nine months old, with some White in his face and under his Neck and Belly, a few white hairs on one Hip, and all his feet White. He answers to the name of MERRY. The said dog was taken from two little girls, about nine o'clock on Saturday morning the 1st day of March last, off the Grand Junction Canal Tow Path near Bozenham Mill Bridge, by a man in a blue coat, with a pair of coal boats steering towards London.

Whoever will bring the said Dog either to Bozenham Mill, to **Jonathan Cowley**, boatman, at Stoke Wharf ; or to John Allen, Stoke Bruerne Bridge ; shall be well rewarded for their Trouble ; and whoever detains him after this public Notice, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.

7 21 November 1807

On Tuesday last, an inquisition was taken at Daventry, before Thomas Adams Esq, Coroner for that borough, on view of the body of **William Bucks**, a boatman of Little Brickhill, who was imprudently alone conducting a boat through the tunnel on the Grand Junction Canal near Daventry, and by accident fell into the water and was drowned. The jury, after examining the body of the deceased, and a man who was in another boat at some distance, but could not get up to render him timely assistance, returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

8 17 December 1808

Milton, Dec 10 1808

Whereas **John Staines** of the Parish of Shilton, in the County of Warwick, boatman on the Grand Junction Canal, having been detected in cutting down a Number of Ash Poles, belonging to Joseph Denton of Milton, near Northampton, has acknowledged the same before the Magistrates at their Petty Sessions this day holden at the Record Room ; and in Consideration of his having made satisfaction for the same, and asking Pardon in this public manner for the Offence, he is now forgiven by me,

JOSEPH DENTON

9 28 July 1810

The following inquisitions have been taken before Mr Gough, one of the coroners for Oxfordshire :- At Neithrop near Banbury, on the body of **Thomas Brown**, a boatman, who was found hanging on an ash tree ; he had been in a low and desponding state for some time.

10 29 December 1810

And on the following Friday, a coroner's inquest was held at Aynho, on the body of **John Barnes**, a boatman, who having passed one of the drawbridges on the Oxford Canal, on letting the same down, the pole broke, and part thereof falling upon one of his legs, lacerated it in a most dreadful manner, which occasioned such an effusion of blood that the poor man died in about eight hours afterwards. Verdict : Accidental death.

11 13 November 1813

I, **GEORGE ALCOCK** late of BRAUNSTON in the County of Northampton, Boatman, do hereby acknowledge the Impropriety of my Conduct by having on the twenty ninth day of October last, violently opposed and obstructed Henry Flecknoe the younger and John Boys, constables of the Parish of Braunston aforesaid, in the Execution of their Office, and for which Offence I was committed to his Majesty's Gaol of the said County ; and the said Henry Flecknoe and John Boys having kindly consented to stop all Prosecution against me, I hereby publicly acknowledge my offence, and return them Thanks for their Lenity towards me. Witness my hand this 6th day of November 1813.

The Mark (X) of GEORGE ALCOCK

Witness : J Wright

12 **7 May 1814**

TEN GUINEAS REWARD.
ABOUT Four o'Clock on the Morning of
Monday the 21 of May, 1814,
WILLIAM EDWARDS, and
JOSEPH SALISBURY,
BROKE OUT of the COUNTY GAOL, at
NORTHAMPTON.

William Edwards is about 23 Years of Age, committed for Horse Stealing, five Feet four or five Inches high, stout made, and fresh Complexion; escaped in a dark Green Jacket, with small white Pearl Buttons; by Profession a Boatman.

Joseph Salisbury, near 30 Years of Age, committed for stealing Cash Notes in a Dwelling-House, five Feet eight or nine Inches high, stout made, sallow Complexion, black Hair, and wore large Whiskers; escaped in a long drab-coloured Coat and shabby Breeches; by Profession a Blacksmith.

Both the Felons escaped with their Irons on.

Whoever will secure the above Felons, and give Information thereof to Mr. WRIGHT, the Gaoler, shall, on their Conviction, receive the above Reward; and whoever shall attempt to secrete them, or aid them in escaping from Justice, will be proceeded against with the utmost Rigour of the Law.

13 **26 October 1816**

At Warwick Sessions, held during the last week.

IMPRISONMENT IN THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION AND KEPT TO HARD LABOUR

William Hodgetts, boatman, for stealing hay, the property of R Cordell.

14 **11 January 1817**

EXTENSIVE ROBBERIES AND DISCOVERY OF MURDERERS It will be remembered that about eight years ago the murder of Lieutenant Johnson, Royal Navy, took place on the Kent road; to discover the perpetrators of which baffled all the efforts of the Police. At length it has been found that the murderers are no other than a gang of robbers, who have been, since the dreadful act which proved them desperate enough for any undertaking, however hazardous, living upon plunder. About six weeks ago, two men named Curtis and Giddons were apprehended upon various charges of felony, who confessed that they were guilty of several robberies; readily admitted that they had been a party and told the names of several others of the gang, and also of the receivers of the goods stolen; among the latter are two persons named Leopard, the one of Blackheath hill, the other of Bermondsey, grocers. In the course of the investigation, which was carried on with great privacy at the Thames Police Office, a man named Hatton was apprehended, and immediately pointed out by Giddons as having been a principal in several highway robberies; among others, one at the last Epsom races upon a Mr Holmes. Even while the examination of Hatton was going forward, the very hat which Mr Holmes wore on the night on which he was robbed, was taken from Hatton and identified as Mr Holmes's property.

Curtis was admitted King's evidence in an earlier stage of the business, in consequence of circumstances he has brought to light respecting the robberies in the East India Docks. He was the principal evidence against Baker and Gates, lately convicted at the Old Bailey for robbing a lime

burner at Limehouse. On entering the Office, he said he should make an acknowledgement of every bad affair in which he was concerned. He mentioned the names of several persons, besides those already mentioned. The following are parts of his evidence :- "Giddons and Hatton and I", said he, "were concerned in stealing a quantity of silk handkerchiefs on board a ship at the East India Docks in July last. We agreed to meet at the end of Cut-throat Lane, leading to the docks, at twelve at night ; we went into a potato field, adjoining Elder Hedge Lane. Giddons and Hatton had a ladder, and we proceeded across the marshes towards the East India Dock wall. We got upon the wall, pulled the ladder over, and went down into the Dock, in which a ship lay that we boarded, and found a chest of Bandana handkerchiefs, which we emptied into bags and got away. We soon met Mrs Giddons and her son, John Gardner, with a cart ; we put the bags into the cart ; Giddons drove the cart to the Commercial Road. Upon going home we lotted the handkerchiefs into three parcels, each of which contained about seventy pieces. Gates soon after gave me 35s a piece for the best of them. The person who gave us the information was named **Murray**, a labourer in the docks, for which we gave him £10 ; and in September he told us a tea ship was at work. We went in consequence, and emptied three boxes into our bags, and returned, leaving everything in the neatest order behind us ; my share amounted to about 77 lbs of tea. Some tea being produced in the office, Curtis said it was part of that stolen by him and his party from the ship in the docks. I was concerned also in getting hold of some gold, silver and muslins, about three or four years ago, in the East India Docks, and everyone but ourselves was in the dark about it. Hatton, Giddons, Brown and I met Curby at the Cherry Tree at Bromley, where we planned the robbery, and after its perpetration we met at Curby's house, where we divided the spoil. I took my gold to one Cohen, residing near the Bricklayers' Arms, who gave me upwards of £140 for it. But the first case in which I was engaged in the East India Docks was a little more than four years ago. Brown, Curby, Hatton, Pegg, who was hanged, Giddons, Mills, Turner and I, were all in it. We got some hoses of raw silk, which lay packed up amongst bales on the quay. We unpacked the bales, took as much out as we were able, repacked the bales in regular order, and returned the next night and took away the rest. We entrusted a Mrs Turner to dispose of it, but she was exchequered for having it in her possession, and we made little by the enterprise".

Giddons said he had other things to speak of, of vastly greater consequence than the Dock robberies.

The Magistrate having expressed a wish to hear him, he said, "I was concerned in the murder of Lieutenant Johnson in the Kent Road eight years ago ; Hatton, who is now in custody ; **Raines**, who was lately working as a bumb boatman at Chatham ; and another man, a stranger, were concerned with me in that murder. In the afternoon on which the murder was committed, Hatton, Raines and another man told me they were going to London to get impressed on board an East Indiaman. I went with them, and we went to the Swan in Leadenhall Street, where we had three half pints of gin and some beer. Raines asked a Jew crimp if he knew of a ship for four people. The Jew said no. After the Jew was gone, Raines said he'd take another day for it. We then left the Swan and went on to Deptford. When we got below the Halfway House, Raines picked up a stick. We heard a man coming behind us. Raines said, "Here's somebody coming, what do you say for having his money?" We all agreed, and when the gentleman came up to us we stopped him, and asked him for his money ; the gentleman replied, "He had none, and if he had, would not give it to us". Raines said, "If you don't give it us I'll knock you down". The gentleman snatched the stick out of his hand, and made a blow at me with it ; I put my hand up and received his blow on my wrist, which broke my wrist ; he then gave me another blow under the right eye and across the temple, and knocked me into a ditch, where I lay about a quarter of an hour, when Hatton, Raines and the other man picked me out ; they then told me that they had done the job, and got his money ; they said they had pulled him into a place out of the road and done his job, by which I understood they had killed him. They asked me if I could walk ; I told them no ; they took me into a field and left me ; they told me they would call on me next night ; I staid in the fields about two or three hours, and was then able to walk home. Hatton, Raines and the other man came to me next night at my lodgings, and gave me £2. They did not tell me what the gentleman had ; said they were going to

Northfleet to see if they could get work on board an Indiaman, and went away. Hatton came back in a little while, and asked me if I had heard anything. I said, "Nothing particular". When they met at my house, Hatton and Raines said they killed the man. I saw Hatton in the course of a week, and he had returned to his work as usual. I did not see Raines for about four or five years, when I met him at Chatham. I went to a chemist's in Butt Lane, and got some stuff for my arm ; but it never was set. We picked up a woman at the Bricklayers' Arms, and she went down the road with us ; she was with us when the gentleman was stopped, but I did not see her afterwards".

Raines (who was apprehended in consequence of the information given by the last witness) was then put to the bar, and Mr Kinnaird told him that Giddons had peremptorily sworn that he (Raines) was not only concerned in the murder, but that he was the person who had first suggested the robbery of Lieutenant Johnson. The prisoner asserted his innocence of the charge, and said he could prove that he had been industriously employed from the age of 17. He admitted his acquaintance with Hatton ; but denied that he had ever been engaged in any act with him, or any other person, of which he had reason to dread the consequences. "If", added the prisoner, "I was accused of robbery I should not feel as I do now ; but to be directly charged with murder is more than can be well endured by any poor honest man".

Raines did not, throughout the examination, betray the slightest agitation ; but this was not the case with Hatton, who turned pale at the mention of Lieutenant Johnson's name.

The prisoners underwent private examination at the New Prison, Clerkenwell, before they were brought to the office. Hatton has been sent to the House of Correction, as a place of greater security.

15 22 March 1817

BY order of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors. The Petition of WILLIAM HOLLAND, late of POLESWORTH, Warwickshire, Boatman; and WILLIAM BARRATT, late of HILMORTON, Warwickshire, Publican; but now prisoners for debt, confined in his Majesty's gaol of Warwick, in the county of Warwick, will be heard before his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said county, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, which will be holden at Warwick, in and for the said county, on Tuesday the 15th day of April next, at the hour of ten o'clock in the morning, and that a schedule annexed to the said petitions, containing a list of the creditors of the said prisoners, are filed in the office of the said court, No. 9, Essex street, Strand, to which the creditors of the said prisoners may refer, and we do hereby declare that we are ready and willing to submit to be examined touching the justice of our conduct to our creditors. WILLIAM HOLLAND.
WILLIAM BARRATT.
J. ROGERSON, Agent, 6, Graystone place, Fetter lane, London.

16 **31 July 1819**

To all traders on the Grand Junction Canal, and more particularly the traders of the town of Northampton, the following observations are submitted upon the novel and highly improper employment of men vulgarly termed Leggers, to conduct their respective boats through the different tunnels :-

It is a well known fact that some few years ago the employment of any men to conduct boats through the tunnels, except the boatmen actually employed by the trade, was unknown. Within these last few years the boatmen, without the consent of their employers, have attracted, by employing them, from 30 to 50 men on the Braunston and Blisworth tunnels, to the annoyance of the neighbourhood, the prejudice of their masters' interest, and to the encouragement of idleness in themselves. The general charge is 1s 6d through the Blisworth and 1s through the Braunston tunnel, thus is a tax of 2s 6d per voyage laid upon a pair of boats, supposing they (the boatmen) paid in money. But this is too often not the case : it does not require the calculation even of boatmen to ascertain whether, in paying the leggers with their master's goods and not in money from their own pocket, they do not save the 2s 6d. It also appears reasonable to conclude that from the avidity of the leggers to receive goods instead of money (which I am creditably informed is the case), that they are paid better in goods than money ; thus the trader is taxed to an extent he is not aware, by a set of men who are only governed by the medium between their rapacity and the boatman's fear of detection. Here then is a wide field : for whether the boatmen endeavour conscientiously to guess at the money's worth, or whether it is given without any idea of quantity or value, I know not ; but I must confess the latter case strikes me as the most consistent with their general character.

Numberless are the instances that might be adduced of the evil arising from men partially out of employ, as the leggers are, and particularly so when we regard the degraded state of the morals of these men, being composed of the most idle, disorderly and unprincipled characters in the neighbourhood. I would therefore propose to the trader to reduce his boatmen to what they originally were, servants not masters. If they can afford to lose 2s 6d per voyage by keeping in employment men to do their work, they cannot object as unreasonable a deduction to that amount, as it would only reduce them to the original and proper standard ; and if, after notice given, they should give goods instead of money, I would prosecute them for theft ; it would be dispersing a worse than useless set of men and, as it were, forcing honesty upon the boatmen.

The Canal Company are aware of the villainy practised on the canal by boatmen, as may be proved by the following circumstance :-

A friend of mine applied at their office in London purposely to state the loss to which he, as a considerable trader, was subjected, by the improper gauges taken by their clerks. Their answer was (and an extremely proper one), "Prove to us satisfactorily that it was our servants and not yours, and we will attend to it". What could he say, or how could he draw the line between the servants of the Company (whose gauge was probably beyond the real weight) and his servants (the boatmen), who had given a part of the goods, in lieu of money, to the leggers? I shall now more particularly address myself to the traders of Northampton, with many of whom I have the honour to be personally acquainted, and trust that they will take it into their mature consideration ; there can be no question as to the propriety of it, and an example from so respectable a body of traders, and from a town so well known in the commercial world, could not fail in producing, what the traders must generally see the necessity of, namely the expulsion of the leggers from the tunnels, and the resumption of the boatmen attending to their business themselves. Thus would the interest of the trader be confirmed, the honesty of the boatmen strengthened, and a horde of vicious, immoral and unprincipled characters ousted from a situation where they have been enabled in some measure, from the difficulty of obtaining evidence to prosecute, to persist in their conduct with impunity. If we regard public morality, let us endeavour to suppress vice – it is a duty we owe to society, setting aside individual interest. But when we see morality, interest and the security of the neighbourhood attacked by an idle and useless set of men, we ought not to hesitate, but adopt these measures which would prevent their having the opportunity to be vicious. It is the traders' province, in this instance, to step forward and crush the system at once. Let the cause be taken away, and it is perfectly logical

to conclude that the effect will cease. The cause in this instance, I conceive, originated in complete indolence on the part of some few of the boatmen ; a demand for labour consequently ensued ; it appears that the supply, in consequence of the universal want of employment, has exceeded the demand ; and the natural consequence is that there are a great many partially employed and, in some instances, idle hands with precarious means of support. The effect is robberies of various descriptions, from the boats on the canal to the traveller on the highway – the encouragement of vice and immorality, from swearing, drunkenness, &c. I anticipate with pleasure seeing an example set by the traders of Northampton, which will show to the world that amidst the hurry of business they do not forget the protection of morality. I am, very respectfully, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant
A TRADER

17 6 May 1820

ABSCONDED in the night of the 21st of April 1820 from a boat lying at Bosworth Wharf in the County of Leicester,

JOHN BROWN alias WILLIAM BROWN

A native of Gadsby, Leicestershire, (as he says) ; stands about five feet six inches high, broad set, very short legs, has dark eyes, dark brown hair, sandy whiskers and dark complexion ; had on when he left the above place a dark striped waistcoat with fustian sleeves, and light fustian trousers ; is about 25 years of age, and is suspected of picking the pocket of James Noon of a pocket book containing notes and cash to the amount of seventeen pounds fifteen shillings, and a watch ; (the notes were all of the Northampton banks).

Whoever will apprehend or give information of the said William Brown to MRS SHARPE, Orange Tree, North End, Leicester, shall receive, on his conviction TEN GUINEAS REWARD, and all reasonable expenses.

NB The above William Brown has been a boatman in the service of Edward Miller Munday Esq of Shipley Hall, Derbyshire, but formerly had been a groom in London.

18 26 January 1822

On Tuesday last an Inquisition was taken at Whilton Mill in this county, before R Abbey, Gent, one of his Majesty's coroners, on view of the body of **Thomas Fantham**, a boatman aged about 26 years. It appeared that the deceased, on the Sunday preceding, went with some companions into a boat lying in Whilton Locks, and partook of some strong spirits, to so great an excess that he was conveyed back to his own boat about nine o'clock in the evening in a state of complete intoxication and insensibility, from which he never revived, but was found dead at three o'clock the following morning. Verdict : Died from the effect of excessive drinking.

19 8 November 1823

On Saturday last, an inquisition was taken at Stoke Bruern, before Robert Weston, Gent, one of his Majesty's Coroners for this County, on view of the body of **George Shaw**, a boatman in the employ of Messrs Pickford and Co, who, on the tempestuous night of the preceding Thursday, was drowned in one of the locks of the Grand Junction Canal in that parish. The deceased was sent forward to fill the locks for the boat to pass, and is supposed to have missed his footing on crossing the gate of the lock where he was found, in consequence of the extremely dark and boisterous weather. Verdict : Accidental.

20 18 November 1826

William Revell, a boatman, was found on Thursday, suspended by the neck in a stable adjoining his house at Loughborough. He was quite dead when cut down.

21 25 November 1826

On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at Braunston before Mr Abbey, one of the coroners for this

county, on view of the body of **James Lowe**, a boatman, who was found drowned there on the preceding day, in the Oxford Canal. The last time that the deceased had been seen alive was about ten o'clock on the evening of the 12th inst, when he got out of a boat about two miles from Braunston, with the intention of walking to that place. The following morning, his hat and handkerchief, and a bottle containing some wine, were found in different parts of a field through which he must have passed, which induces a strong suspicion that he became intoxicated when in the boat (although it was positively sworn that he did not drink anything) and that he fell into the water. There were no marks of violence on the deceased, and his money was found in his pockets. Verdict : Found drowned.

22 26 June 1830

NENE NAVIGATION – EASTERN DIVISION Notice is hereby given, That at a meeting of the Commissioners appointed for putting in execution the several Acts of Parliament for making the river Nene or Nen, running from Northampton to Peterborough navigable, so far as the same relate to the navigation between Peterborough and Thrapston Bridge, held at the Talbot Inn, in Oundle, in the county of Northampton, on Wednesday the ninth day of June instant, pursuant to due notice in the Northampton and Cambridge Newspapers, all former by laws theretofore made for the government and regulation of the said Eastern Division of the said Navigation, were revoked, repealed, annulled and made void, and the following by laws were made, ordained, constituted, appointed and allowed in lieu thereof (that is to say) :-

I We do ordain, order and direct, That the owner or owners of every boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, except boats used solely for pleasure, trading or navigating between Peterborough and Thrapston Bridge, being the Eastern Division of the said navigation of the said river, shall cause his, her or their christian and surname, and place of abode, or the christian and surname and place of abode of the principal partner or owner thereof, to be set in white capital letters, of not less than three inches in length, on a black ground, or in black capital letters of the same size on a white ground, on each side of the outsides of every such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, which said name or names and place of abode, shall, at all times after the same shall have been so set, continue and remain uncovered and exposed to view, on such parts of the respective vessels aforesaid as are hereinbefore mentioned ; and if the owner or owners of any such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, trading or navigating on the said Eastern division of the said river, shall not at all times have his, her or their name or names, and place of abode, plainly and legibly set upon the outsides of every such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel as aforesaid, or shall cause, permit or suffer such name or names, or place of abode, to be hid or covered, or if any master or person having the direction of any such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel shall hide or cover, or cause or permit to be hid or covered, such name or names, or place of abode as aforesaid, he, she or they shall, for every such offence, being convicted thereof by any Justice of the Peace for the county or place where such offence shall be committed, or the offender shall be or reside, forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *forty shillings*, as to such Justice shall seem meet.

II We do ordain, order and direct, That the masters, owners and managers of all boats, barges, lighters and other vessels navigating upon the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, or any part thereof, shall give a just account, in writing, signed by the master, owner or person having the government or command of every such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, to the collectors of the tolls, wharfage or duties, at the place or places where they shall be or attend for that purpose, what quantity of each sort of goods shall be in, upon, or belonging to each boat, barge, lighter or other vessel ; as also an account from whence and from whom such master, owner, or person having the direction or command of such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, brought such goods, and where they intend to land the same ; and in case they, or any of them, neglect or refuse to give such account, or shall give a false account, or shall deliver any part of their lading or goods at any other place or places contrary to what shall be expressed, mentioned and declared in such account (unless

they shall amend and make correct such account on their return), they, and each of them, being convicted thereof by such Justice of the Peace as in the first by law is mentioned, shall forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding *forty shillings*, nor less than *ten shillings and costs*, as to the Justice before whom the information of such offence shall be heard, shall seem meet, for every ton of goods which shall appear to have been on board of such boats, barges, lighters or other vessels respectively, over and above such account given, and over and above the respective rates and duties paid or due, and payable for the same.

III We do ordain, order and direct, That if any dispute or difference shall arise between the collector of the tolls, wharfage or duties, payable on the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, and the owner, master or other person having the direction and government of any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, or the owner of any goods, wares and merchandise, chargeable with, or liable to, the payment thereof, concerning the weight, measure or quantity of the same, such collector may, and is hereby authorised to make stay of and detain any such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, and to weigh, measure or gauge, or cause to be weighed, measured or gauged, all such goods, wares and merchandise as shall be in any vessel or vessels where and when such disputes shall arise ; and in case such goods, wares and merchandise shall, upon such weighing, measuring or gauging, appear to be of greater weight or quantity than such master, owner or person having the management of such boat, barge or vessel, or the owner of such goods or merchandise did affirm and allege the same to be before the weighing, measuring or gauging thereof, whereby a greater sum of money shall appear due and payable for the said tolls, wharfage or duties, than was offered to be paid for the same by such owner, master or person having the management of such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, or the owner of such goods, wares and merchandise, for the same before the weighing, measuring or gauging of such goods, wares and merchandise, the master, or person having the government of the said boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, or the owner of such goods, wares and merchandise, shall pay the full amount of all such tolls, wharfage or duties ; and shall also bear and pay the costs and charges of such weighing, measuring and gauging thereof ; and also shall, being convicted thereof by such Justice as aforesaid, forfeit and pay the the sum of *forty shillings and costs* for every such ton of goods by which such lading shall exceed the amount delivered in as aforesaid ; but in case it shall appear that the master, owner or person having the government of such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, had given unto the collectors of the tolls, wharfage or duties, a just account of the lading of every such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, then, and in that case, the proprietor or proprietors of that part of the said navigation where such difference shall arise, or such his or their collector as aforesaid, shall bear and pay all the costs and charges of such weighing, measuring and gauging, and also make such recompense for loss of time, or damage to goods, as shall in the judgement of any one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the county, liberty or place in which such dispute shall have arisen, be thought reasonable.

IV And to the end it may be known what quantity of goods any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, sailing or trading upon the said Eastern Division of the said river, will contain and carry, we do ordain, order and direct, That the proprietor or proprietors of the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, his, her, or their successors, heirs and assigns, and their agents or servants, shall, and may, whensoever they shall judge the same necessary or convenient, measure every boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, sailing or trading on any part of the said navigation, by putting weights into the same for that purpose, which shall be done at the expense of the proprietor or proprietors, or other persons interested in the tolls and duties, his, her, or their successors, heirs and assigns ; and also to set figures or marks at each end of every such boat, barge, lighter or vessel, on the outside thereof, showing how much or how far every ton weight of loading which shall be put into such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, will sink the same into the water ; and may remeasure every such boat, barge, lighter or vessel, so often as the figures or marks shall be altered or defaced, and mark again such boats, barges, lighters or other vessels as aforesaid ; and if the owner, master or

person having the command thereof shall obstruct or hinder the same, he or they shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *forty shillings and costs*, as to the Justice, before whom the information of such offence shall be heard, shall seem meet, for every such refusal or obstruction ; and if the owner, master or person having the direction, command or government of any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, shall alter, deface, remove, erase or destroy any such marks or figures, or shall suffer the same to be altered, defaced, removed, erased or destroyed, every such owner, master or person so offending shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the like penalty and costs.

V We do ordain, order and direct, That every master, owner or manager, or his agents or servants, navigating any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel through any lock upon the said Eastern Division of the said river, or any of the cuts out of the same, who shall suffer such boat, barge, lighter or other vessel to remain in the lock longer than to pen the same, except at Warmington Lock; or who shall suffer the water to remain longer in Warmington Lock than to pen the whole of his or her gang ; or who, in coming down the said river, shall neglect to shut the lower gates of such lock before he or they shall draw the slackers of the upper gates thereof ; or after he or they shall have brought his or their boat, barge, lighter or other vessel into the said lock, shall neglect to shut the upper gates before he or they shall draw the slackers of the lower gates thereof ; and every such person or persons opening any gate or gates in the haling or towing paths on the banks of the said river, or of any of the cuts made out of the same, who, so soon as the men or horses employed in hauling any boats, barges, lighters or other vessels upon the said Eastern Division of the said river, have passed the same, shall neglect to shut such gate or gates, shall, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit and pay the sum of *forty shillings and costs*.

VI We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person or persons shall put any horse, mare or gelding, or use any other means, to draw, strain, or force open, any of the gates belonging to any of the locks or stanches upon the said Eastern Division of the said river, he or they shall, for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding *five pounds* nor less than *forty shillings*, as to such Justice as aforesaid shall seem meet, over and above the damage done, to be ascertained by such Justice.

VII We do ordain, order and direct, That no boatman or other person shall fasten his boat to any lock, gate, paddle post, bridge, tree or fence on or adjoining to the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, nor make use of any anchor, by fixing it down upon the haling ways or any of the adjoining meadows (except to the posts set down for that purpose) under the penalty of *forty shillings and costs* for every offence.

VIII We do ordain, order and direct, That no boatman or other person shall moor his boat within forty yards of any lock head, upon the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, under the penalty of *twenty shillings* for every offence.

IX We do ordain, order and direct, That if any boat or other vessel shall be sunk in any part of the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, and the person or persons having the care of such vessel shall not, without loss of time, weigh and draw up the same, the proprietor of such part of the said navigation, or his agent or servants, may weigh or draw the same up, and detain the boat or vessel until the expenses of weighing or drawing up the same are paid.

X We do ordain, order and direct, That no person or persons shall run down any slackers or cloughs which are worked by tooth and pinion, but shall let them down carefully by a handle provided for that purpose, under the penalty of *forty shillings and costs* for every offence, over and above the damage done, to be ascertained by such Justice.

XI We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person or persons shall set any stanch upon the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, at any time, otherwise than for the purpose of navigation ; or shall throw any stones or other things into the river, so as to damage or injure any boats, or sluices, locks or stanches, or otherwise impede the navigation, he or they shall for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *forty shillings*, as to such Justice, as aforesaid, shall seem meet.

XII We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person shall lay out any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel so as wilfully to obstruct others from passing freely along the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, and shall not, if required, immediately remove the same ; or shall make any temporary stanch, or use any other device by which the free passage of the water shall by any means be impeded, he or they shall, for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit a sum not exceeding *forty shillings*, nor less than *ten shillings and costs*, as to such Justice shall seem meet. And it shall be lawful for any person so obstructed in his or their passage by a boat, barge, lighter or other vessel so lying out, to remove the same, and to remove or pull up any temporary stanch or device.

XIII We do ordain, order and direct, That if two boats, barges, lighters or other vessels, or gangs of boats, barges, lighters and other vessels, navigating upon the said Eastern Division of the said river, shall at any time meet on such part of the said river, the boat or gang which is or are going down the same, shall always give way to the boat or gang going up the same ; or if two such boats, barges, lighters or other vessels shall, at any time, happen to meet at any of the locks or stanches, upon the said division of the said river, the boat or gang which is or are going down shall always permit the boat or gang which is or are coming up the same to pass or pen first, but in every such case they shall pen up, and down, (that is to say) that the pen of water provided for the boats going up shall, after such boats have passed the locks, be used for the purpose of conveying the like number of boats going down ; and in case there shall be more than two gangs meet at any of the said locks or stanches, the gangs which shall first arrive thereat shall be entitled to pen and pass through the same first, in manner aforesaid, and so in turn until the whole of the gangs so meeting shall have passed ; and if the master, owner or other person having the management of such boat or gang so going down the said part of the said river, shall not give way to such boat or gang coming up the same, or suffer such boat or gang to pass or pen the said locks or stanches in the manner by this by law directed, or shall pen less than two lighters at a time, except in case of an odd one ; or if any person coming down with any boat or gang shall enter the pen until there is sufficient water to hale down or lay with lighters in the pen with the top doors open, he or they shall, being convicted of such offence as aforesaid, forfeit and pay the sum of *twenty shillings and costs*.

XIV We do ordain, order and direct, That if any boatman or other person, navigating the said Eastern Division of the said river, shall neglect to take out the jaming or steering pole of the boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, first entering the pen, when he pens in any of the locks on the said navigation ; or shall strike any pole or shaft, bar, or other instrument, against any lock, bridge, weir, sluice or other works, he shall for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit and pay the sum of *ten shillings and costs*, over and above paying the proprietor or proprietors for any damage which he may have done to such lock, bridge, weir, sluice or other works.

XV We do ordain, order and direct, That the proprietor or proprietors of the said Eastern Division of the said river, shall, at his, her, or their own costs and charges, provide proper persons to draw the several stanches, between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, immediately after the time hereafter specified ; and that no stanch upon the said Eastern Division of the said navigation shall be permitted to remain set, after the water has arisen to the height of the clough, for a longer period than one hour at a time, except at Orton stanch, where one hour and a half shall be allowed, except there happen to be more than one gang of lighters at the same time requiring the

assistance of a stanch head of water, in which case the time to be allowed for setting the stanch shall be at the rate of one hour, or one hour and a half, as the case may be, for each setting, under the penalty of *ten shillings* for every half hour that the stanch shall continue undrawn between the said hours abovementioned, to be paid by the proprietor of that part of the navigation where such neglect shall be made, upon being convicted of the said offence, as aforesaid.

XVI We do ordain, order and direct, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any proprietor or occupier of any lands or mill adjoining or near to the said river, which are or may be in any way injured by the water being held up in any stanch on the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, or his, her or their agents or servants, on finding the water at any time above the clough, or a regular stanch head of water, although the same shall not have been set the time allowed for the setting thereof by the preceding by law, to draw the stanch so as to reduce the head thereof to a regular stanch of water.

XVII We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person or persons shall obstruct or prevent any agent or servant of the said proprietor or proprietors of the said navigation, or the proprietor or proprietors, occupier or occupiers of any lands or mill at or near any stanch, or any of his, her, or their agents or servants, from drawing the stanches according to the purport of the preceding by laws, he or they so offending shall, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *forty shillings and costs*, as to such Justice, as aforesaid, shall seem meet, for every such offence.

XVIII We do ordain, order and direct, That no person or persons, without the order in writing of the said commissioners, at some time or one of their meetings, being first had and obtained, under such regulations and restrictions as in such order shall be expressed, shall, at any time or times hereafter, on any pretence, put or place any flashboard upon any of the stanches on the said division of the said river, or use any other device whatever to raise such stanches above their accustomed height, under a penalty of such sum not exceeding *twenty pounds*, nor less than *five pounds*, as to such Justice of the Peace shall seem meet.

XIX We do ordain, order and direct, That if any Miller, upon the Eastern Division of the said navigation, shall run off any of the water other than by working his mill, unless the water shall run over the lowshot, except the said miller shall give twenty four hours' notice thereof to the proprietor or proprietors of that part of the navigation in which such mill shall be situate, and except for just cause, to be allowed by the Justice of the Peace, before whom information thereof shall be heard, he shall for every offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit a sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *forty shillings*, as to such Justice shall seem meet.

XX We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person or persons having the command or government of any boats, barges, lighters or other vessels, on the said Eastern Division of the said navigation, coming upwards, shall, in order to get over Sutton Ford, draw up the slackers of the stanch below Wansford, to make a flash of water, when there is any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel above the said stanch, waiting for the rise of water to get through the lock at or near Wansford Mill, until the water is risen to the height of the clough, and one hour more for passing through the said lock, he or they so offending, shall for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit such sum not exceeding *forty shillings*, nor less than *ten shillings and costs*, as to such Justice, as aforesaid, shall seem meet.

XXI We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person or persons having the command or government of any boats, barges, lighters or other vessels, shall set any stanch on the said Eastern Division of the said Navigation, more than one hour before his or their gang arrives thereat in going upwards, or at the sluice next above such stanch in going downwards, he or they so offending shall,

for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit such sum not exceeding *forty shillings*, nor less than *ten shillings and costs*, as to such Justice, as aforesaid, shall seem meet.

XXII We do ordain, order and direct, That whensoever it shall happen that any works of the said Eastern Division of the said Navigation shall want repairs, the person interested or employed in such repairs, shall give five days' notice to every miller, whose water, by being held up or drawn down, may prevent or obstruct such repairs, after which, the said miller shall, for the space of five days, either hold up or draw down his water, as shall be required by the said person so interested or employed in such repairs, and shall receive for the same two guineas each day, except for Alwalton and Castor Mills, which shall receive only one guinea and a half each per day, to be paid forthwith, or in case of non payment forthwith, the said miller shall not be liable to any penalties for not holding up or drawing down his water on the subsequent day ; and that every miller offending in this matter, shall for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit such sum not exceeding *twenty pounds*, nor less than *five pounds*, as to such Justice, as aforesaid, shall seem meet.

XXIII We do ordain, order and direct, That whensoever it shall happen that difficulties shall arise in the said navigation by scarcity of water, the owner, master or person having the direction, government or command of any boats, barges, lighters or other vessels, passing on the said Eastern Division of the said river, shall, on notice given by him to any miller of one or more vessels being within one thousand yards of the mill of such miller, be informed by such miller when and at what hour within the next twenty four hours the said miller purposes to draw down his water, or to hold up the same, that the opportunity of navigating may not be lost ; and that every miller refusing to give such information, or refusing and neglecting to draw down or hold up such water accordingly within the times aforesaid, except for reasonable cause, to be allowed by the Justice, before whom information of such offence shall be heard, shall for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit a sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor under *ten shillings and costs*, as to such Justice, as aforesaid, shall seem meet.

XXIV We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person or persons shall, without lawful occasion, or in case of flood, draw any slacker or slackers upon the said navigation, or any part thereof ; or shall let down the said slacker or slackers so long as the water overflows the meadows above and dependent on the said slacker or slackers ; or shall open any gates belonging to any mill, whereby the water shall or may be misspent or run waste, to the prejudice of the said navigation, or the occupier of such mill ; or shall take away or remove any flashboards placed on any lowshots under the authority of the Commissioners, except in case of flood, or according to the tenor of the terms of such authority ; or do or commit any wilful damage to any of the works of the said navigation ; or cut, break, or destroy any banks or dams made across the river for the purpose of repairing such works or mill, every such offender shall, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit such sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *forty shillings and costs*, as to such Justice, as aforesaid, shall seem meet.

XXV We do ordain, order and direct, That if any person or persons, having the command or government of any boats, barges, lighters or other vessels, shall navigate on the said Eastern Division of the said river at any time on a Sunday, he or they shall, for every such offence, being convicted thereof as aforesaid, forfeit a sum not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *twenty shillings and costs*, as to such Justice shall seem meet.

XXVI We do ordain, order and direct, That every master shall be answerable for the act or neglect of his servant in the breach of any of the foregoing By Laws, and shall be liable to the payment of the penalty or penalties to be incurred by such servant, and to the remedies and powers for recovery thereof.

XXVII And we do ordain, order and direct, That every information to be made for the breach of any of the said By Laws herein before mentioned, whereby a penalty is incurred, shall be made on oath, before a Justice of the Peace of the county or place in which the said offence shall be committed, or the offender shall be or reside, within twenty eight days after the same shall have been so committed as aforesaid ; and that such Justice shall use and exercise all and every the powers given and contained in and by the thirty sixth section of the said recited act of the thirty fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third ; and that the penalties and forfeitures imposed by the foregoing By Laws shall be recovered, levied, applied and disposed of – and for want of sufficient Distress, such Justice shall have power to commit the offender to the Common Gaol or House of Correction – in such manner as is directed in and by the same section of the last mentioned act.

SAMUEL TIBBITS
Clerk to the Commissioners

Oundle, 23rd June 1830

23 30 October 1830

An inquest was also held on the body of **John Saunders** of Banbury, a boatman, who, whilst in the act of letting the water into the lock on the canal in the parish of Offchurch, fell down on the bank and expired. Verdict accordingly.

24 27 November 1830

FATAL ACCIDENT A man named **Sims**, a boatman from Loughborough, was killed on Saturday night last in the Belgrave Gate in Leicester. It appeared the deceased got on the Courier coach at the Red Cow in a state of intoxication ; the coach had not travelled above 200 yards, when the unfortunate man fell off, and the wheel passing over his head, killed him on the spot. He has left a wife and family.

25 31 December 1831

On Wednesday last, a boatman named **George Storer** of Sutton Bonington was accidentally drowned. Owing to the late heavy rains, the water was very high ; he was passing along the towing-path, when both himself and the horse fell into the canal ; Storer was drowned, but his horse got safely out. While dragging for him shortly after, the body of another man, who had been missing for some time, was discovered.

26 5 May 1832

DEATH BY POISON On Monday last, a fine girl, eleven years of age, daughter of William Knott, a workman in Mr Thackery's factory, St James Street, in this town, unfortunately lost her life by partaking of some oatmeal and sugar mixed with arsenic, which had been placed under a basket on the floor of the factory, for destruction of mice. **Hannah**, the wife of **George Mather**, boatman, who worked in the factory and had mixed the poison, in consequence of her victuals having been spoiled by mice, happened to be out at the time the girl found it ; the latter ate a quantity of the preparation in the afternoon, and by eleven o'clock the same night she was a corpse! The inquest was held on the body on Tuesday, before Jonathan Dunn, Gent, Coroner, when the jury returned a verdict of accidentally poisoned.

Nottingham Journal

27 28 July 1832

Convinced that truth is the most compendious wisdom, and that a knowledge of it is calculated to diminish the aggregate of evil inseparable from such a severe visitation as that of cholera, as it has recently prevailed in this and other countries ; an aggregate, no inconsiderable portion of which is attributable to exaggeration on the one hand, and to concealment on the other ; we have made it our business to investigate the grounds of a report which has excited much alarm and consternation

amongst the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood. Our readers may rely on the accuracy of the following outline of the circumstances from which it has arisen :-

A boatman, named **Allen**, returned to Northampton about three weeks since, labouring under a chronic disease, apparently unconnected with cholera, which terminated fatally on Saturday last. Two females (Sarah Wooding and Elizabeth Elton), who were employed to prepare his remains for interment, have also since died. Wooding, who was 76 years of age and of a debilitated state of body, begun to complain on the preceding Thursday of disordered bowels, which on Sunday obliged her to take to her bed, and was followed by her death on Monday night. Elton, 55 years old, who was employed in the same offices about the body of Wooding, which they had mutually performed for that of Allen, on Tuesday began to suffer from diarrhoea, which was soon followed by sickness, cramps, and the other symptoms of cholera, which occasioned her death on Thursday between five and six o'clock in the afternoon. Want of space prevents us from entering into further particulars than that poor Wooding had not the advantage of any medical assistance whatever ; and that Elton, although visited by several of the faculty, was in the stage of COLLAPSE, in which medicines are usually of little avail, before their attention was drawn to her.

28 **13 April 1833**

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS

Robert Thompson, aged 30, was indicted for having broken open the hen roost of George Wallis of Wellingborough Mills, and stolen therefrom about twenty fowls and four ducks.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Thomas Lovell stated that he was in the employ of George Wallis of Wellingborough. He remembered on the 28th of March (Thursday) putting up his master's fowls. He locked the hen roost up and took away the key. There were four ducks and a drake, and between forty and fifty fowls.

William Hewlett stated that he was a miller in the employ of Mr Wallis. On the morning of the 29th March, he found his master's hen roost door broken open. One hen and a cock were lying dead within the door, and there were several feathers about. Only eight fowls remained in the roost, and about four or five in the yard.

A constable said that in consequence of some information which he had received he went after some boats that had been lying near Mr Wallis's Mill. He went on board **Butcher's** boat, and found the prisoner there alone. Witness asked him whether he conducted the boat. Prisoner answered that he did. Witness told him that there was a suspicion that some of Mr Wallis's lost fowls and ducks were on board, and wished prisoner to allow him to make a search. Prisoner answered, "I suppose you have a warrant". Witness answered that he had not, and prisoner said he should not search unless he produced a warrant. Witness said that he should leave a person in charge of the boat, and would fetch a warrant. Prisoner then allowed witness to search the cabin. He found nothing there, and they then went to the other end of the boat. Witness asked him to remove the trap door in the hold ; prisoner said there was no occasion for it, as there was nothing there. Witness accordingly opened it himself, and on looking down he saw four dead fowls and a duck. Witness took them up, and laid them on the deck. Prisoner asked what he was going to do with them, and witness said he was going to take them. Prisoner said, "You shall not take them, they are my property". Witness asked how he came by them, and prisoner said he found them in the stream of water near Mr Wallis's mill. Witness then took the prisoner into custody.

Cross-examined by Mr Humfrey : They had the appearance of having been in the water. There had been several boats on the other side of the mill. Witness found one fowl in the boat of another person.

Re-examined by Mr Miller : There was not water enough to wet the fowls all over, which certainly appeared to have been in the water. Witness produced the fowls, which were identified by Thomas Lovell.

Prisoner said that on Thursday himself and mate lay at Wellingborough with the boats, and started in the morning to hale up the river towards Northampton, but the water was so strong they were unable to get on. They moved the boat about half a mile from the mill, and remained there for the

night. The next morning early a boat passed them. While prisoner was going to look after the horse, he saw the fowls lying in the river. He picked them out, and they afterwards went down to White Mills. Several other boatmen said that fowls were found in the river, and one was given to the constable by a boatman named **Burton**.

Guilty. Six months' imprisonment and hard labour.

29 7 September 1833

Yesterday an inquest was held before Mr Alderman Stockburn, one of the coroners for this town, on view of the body of **Thomas Brandrum**, who died in the General Hospital on Thursday last. The deceased, who was about 27 years of age, was a boatman in the employ of a person named **Burton**. On Tuesday evening last, Brandrum and his employer had a dispute, the former being in the boat on the river, and the latter leading the horse along the towing-path. When the boat reached Hayes's Mill, deceased jumped from the boat and knocked Burton down. A fight ensued, but two or three rounds only were fought. Burton returned again to his boat, leaving Brandrum lying on the grass near the river's side. It was then about half past six. A miller at Mr Spokes's mill went shortly after and spoke to the deceased, who complained of a pain in his neck and arms. He was conducted to the mill and placed on some straw in a stable. At eight o'clock he complained of increased pain, and he was found to be unable to stand. He remained at the mill all night, and in the morning Mr Spokes sent to the overseers, by whose directions he was conveyed to the Infirmary, where he died on Thursday morning as before stated. On the examination of the body by the jury, no marks of violence were apparent, and the lungs, intestines, brain &c were all found in a perfectly healthy state. It appeared to be the opinion of the medical gentlemen that the deceased died from exposure to cold, and the jury ultimately returned a verdict to that effect.

30 11 January 1834

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS (Concluded from our last)

Thomas Burton and **John Jones** were indicted for stealing eight sacks of corn, the property of Messrs Pickford.

John Robinson is book keeper to Messrs Pickford. About the middle of November he sent forty sacks to the granary, Colton End. On Friday the 22nd November saw five of these sacks in Burton's boat and three in Jones's boat.

Cross-examined by Mr Humphreys : Cannot say that those sacks are the very same which were lost of the 40 sent down. Knows they belonged to Messrs Pickford.

Re-examined by Mr Miller : After witness saw the sacks in the boat, he examined the granary.

Cross-examined by Mr Humfrey (*sic*) : The prisoners are boat owners.

Halsey went to the granary, and found that the oil cloth had been removed. The beans appeared to have been moved about, and some gone. Twelve sacks were also taken away. He had counted them the previous Friday. Some of the oats were mixed with the beans.

Cross-examined by Mr Humfreys : Was in the granary on the night before. They must have been stolen at night.

By Mr Miller : It was the morning after the robbery that he found them in the boats.

John Boothey is in the employ of Messrs Pickford's. Was sent for on the Friday morning, to assist in removing the sacks found in the boat. Saw the prisoner Burton, who said he knew nothing about them.

William Watts is in the employ of Mr Pettifer. Early on Friday morning, the 22nd November, he was in his master's yard. Heard a noise like the rattle of coke. Went to the wall, and saw T Burton's boat near it. He listened, and then the sound seemed like the rattle of beans or peas shooting from a sack. He then looked over the wall, and saw some persons in Burton's boat, but could not distinguish them. One was dressed in something light, but in what he could not perceive – it was so dark. He heard one of the persons say, "Come, let's move the boat"; and they then shifted the boat near to Mr Higgins's yard. After the boat passed he saw a glimmering of light in the cabin.

Cross-examined by Mr Humfrey : Burton's boat only was near the wall ; Jones's boat was in another

part of the town.

William Perrin is a constable. On the morning of the 22nd of November he was sent for to Mr Higgins's wharf, and took Burton into custody. On his way he called at Whitehouse's, and found Jones there. He told Jones he was going to search for stolen sacks in his boat, and Jones said he would go with him. Jones and witness went accordingly, and on reaching the boat Jones went to the hatchway, and found three sacks there, and said, "These don't belong to me, Mr Perrin". The sacks were marked with Mr Pickford's name. One of them had beans in it. This was between nine and ten o'clock. Witness had at this time no warrant.

Burton said he went to bed on the night of the robbery between ten and eleven, and did not get up until seven the next morning.

J Robinson called by Mr Humfrey : Two other men were taken up on this charge, but were released.

Thomas Robinson is boatman to the prisoner Burton. On the night of the robbery witness went to bed at eight ; his master came to bed at eleven. There were no sacks in the boat when he went to bed. He saw nothing of them until eight o'clock in the morning. There was a fire in the cabin all night. In the course of the night, two men came on board and asked the time. Don't know what time it was. Witness awakened his master. One of the men had a red waistcoat.

Thomas Scott lives at Smethwick, where the prisoners lived. Has known both from childhood. They both bear a most respectable character. Witness has been constable for many years. Smethwick is fifty miles distant, in Staffordshire.

John Besworth, who also lives at Smethwick, gave a similar testimony.

John Hurley is a coal dealer at Wellingborough. Has known Burton about three and Jones four or five years. Both of them bear good characters.

John Ward is a coal dealer living in Northampton. Has known Burton these six years. He has borne a good character. Has had dealings with both.

Daniel Norman is a coal dealer in Northampton. Has known both several years. Both have borne good characters.

Thomas Lister lives at Northampton. Has known Burton for 27 years – never knew him to have a stain on his character in his life.

Not Guilty.

31 18 January 1834

An inquest was held at Blisworth on Monday last, on the body of **Edward Dekin**, a boatman, who, on passing through the tunnel about one o'clock that morning, while removing some bags on the top of the cabin, fell into the water and was drowned. The body was not found until more than half an hour had elapsed. Verdict : Accidental death".

32 12 July 1834

NORTHAMPTON SUMMER ASSIZES

Edward North (27) and George Bridgeman (25) were charged with having, on the night of the 2nd April last, broken open a warehouse at Daventry, and stolen therefrom a quantity of fur, of the value of eighty pounds, the property of John Mollady.

Mr Clarke appeared for the prosecution.

John Wild said he was a journeyman hatter in the employment of Mr John Mollady of Daventry. There is a yard belonging to Mr Marfell adjoining the premises of Mr Mollady. On the morning of the 3rd of April, witness discovered that the door which serves as a communication between the premises had been broken open. There was a ladder in Mr Mollady's brewhouse, and in an upper room, the window of which looks into the brewhouse, there was a quantity of furs. The ladder was placed against this window, and part of the window was taken out, sufficient to admit the body of a man.

Mr John Mollady resides at Daventry, and is a hat manufacturer there. The window of the room in which witness keeps his furs looks into the brewhouse. Between ten and eleven o'clock of the night preceding the robbery, the premises were all safe and locked. About six the following morning, part

of the panel of the door communicating with Mr Marfell's premises was discovered to have been taken out with a centre bit, the fur room entered, and some bags of beaver, musquash and hares' fur, to the value of nearly eighty pounds, stolen. Some of the fur was found scattered about the premises, and in a field near the town. He afterwards went to Newbury, where he found the two prisoners in custody, and the greater part of the fur in the possession of Mr Bance. Among it was a small portion of Newter fur, to which witness could positively swear as his property. He also found a chisel under his window. Witness accompanied the prisoners in a chaise from Newbury, and Norton said it was a bad job – that Mr Mollady was all right, and he (prisoner) was all wrong – that he expected to cross the water for fourteen years, and hoped Mr Mollady would ask for mercy. He had quitted Mr M's employ about a fortnight, and knew where the fur was kept.

Sarah Bosworth said the prisoner lodged at her house at the time he was employed at Mr Mollady's. The chisel produced she had seen in the bedroom of the prisoner.

Thomas Rutter keeps a public house at Aynho wharf, about 25 miles from Daventry. On the 3rd April last, he saw the two prisoners about nine in the evening. They came in witness's house with two bundles. They remained all night, and left the next morning. The bundles were large – one about the size of a bushel of chaff in a bag, and another of a two bushel chaff bag – but very light. Is sure the prisoners are the two men.

David Nash, a boatman, said that on the morning of the 4th April, his boat started for Oxford from Aynho wharf. The two prisoners came about eight o'clock with two bundles, and asked to be allowed to ride. They went with witness to Oxford.

Alfred Milsom, a constable of Newbury in Berkshire, was directed to search the house in which the prisoner Bridgeman resided. He apprehended North in a field. North told him, on hearing that Bridgeman was charged with the robbery, that Bridgeman knew nothing about it, that the property was his, and that he had bought it. Witness asked him how he came by foreign furs, which were very valuable. He replied that he did not know there was any foreign fur among it, till he looked it over.

William Bance is a hat manufacturer residing at Newbury. He obtained a search warrant on the 6th April, and searched North's and Bridgeman's lodgings, and the houses of some other persons. He found the fur in different parts of the house occupied by Bridgeman.

Both prisoners denied all knowledge of the furs.

Guilty. Transportation for life. The learned Judge, on passing sentence, produced a document by which it appeared that from the year 1825 both the prisoners had been in custody almost innumerable times for offences of various kinds in Oxfordshire and elsewhere.

33 1 August 1835

PURSUANT TO THE ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS IN ENGLAND The Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors. The matters of the Petitions and Schedules of the Prisoners hereinafter named (the same having been filed in the Court) are appointed to be heard as follows :- At the COURT HOUSE at NORTHAMPTON in the County of Northampton, on the 24th day of August 1835, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon precisely :

JOHN MEE, formerly of SANDIACRE near Derby, Derbyshire, boatman, and late of DAVENTRY, Northamptonshire, Coal Hawker.

34 26 December 1835

DREADFUL ACCIDENT FROM THE CASUAL DISCHARGE OF A GUN **Richard Turner**, a boatman employed by Mr Bishopp of Cosgrove, received the full charge of a gun in the thigh on Monday afternoon, at Linford near Newport Pagnell. As the woman was giving the gun from the boat to her husband, the trigger accidentally caught, and the gun went off. Thomas Daniel, the surgeon of Newport, bound up the wounds, and the unfortunate man was conveyed to the General Infirmary. He arrived in the middle of the night, and it was found necessary to amputate the thigh immediately. The poor man lies in a very dangerous state.

35 16 April 1836

CORONERS' INQUESTS Yesterday morning an inquest was held before G Abbey Esq, on view of the body of Charles Brady, a youth about 10 years of age. The jury having viewed the body, which was in a state of advanced decomposition, the following evidence was adduced :-

Austin Knight, carpenter, stated that yesterday morning about five minutes before six, while gauging a boat, he saw the body of the deceased between the two gates of a lock on the River Nen. A boy who was near pointed it out, and **Clifton**, a boatman belonging to the boat which witness was gauging, pulled it out of the water. The clothes were on, and the flesh was greatly decomposed. Did not observe any bruises or marks of violence. The body was taken to the Crown and Anchor. Catherine Wilkinson of Broad Lane stated that she knew the deceased. His father lodged at her house. He was about 10 years of age. She saw him the last time on Tuesday the 22nd of March, the day of the Races. Had no reason whatever to suppose him likely to commit self destruction ; he was a remarkably quiet and well tempered lad. John Brady, the father of the deceased, is a boot closer. On Tuesday the 22nd March, about three o'clock, witness sent the deceased to Mr Bryan's, the boot manufacturer in Cotton End, for some work, and to fetch some silk. He gave him a shilling for the purpose. Deceased did not return, and witness went out and searched for him, but gained no tidings of him. On the following day witness went to Mr Bryan's, where he learned that the deceased had been there on the Tuesday. He received two pairs of Wellington boot legs from Mr Bryan's, and returned again in about an hour and borrowed one shilling. Witness had not told him to draw money, nor did he know what he had done with the boot legs. Had made every inquiry after him since, but had been unable to obtain any further information until this morning. Had no reason for supposing that he would destroy himself. He had not quarrelled with his father, nor was he at all addicted to drinking. He was a quiet well behaved lad. Witness has examined his pockets today, but found nothing in them whatever, not even the shop book which he had with him. He had never before borrowed money of Mr Bryan except by his father's desire. None of his playfellows had seen him. Tuesday the 22nd of March was the first day of the Races. The inquest was ultimately adjourned to Wednesday next, to obtain the evidence of Mr Bryan, and also in the hope that other information might also transpire.

36 23 April 1836

ADJOURNED INQUEST ON CHARLES BRADY

On Wednesday morning last, the adjourned inquest on the body of the boy found in the river on Friday week was resumed.

Samuel Bryan lives at Cotton End. Remembers Charles Brady calling at his warehouse on Tuesday the 22nd March about three o'clock, for work for his father. He received two pairs of Wellington boots to close, and went away. In about five minutes he returned to borrow 1s for his father, which witness gave to him, and he again went away. Could not say whether he had the work with him, as he was served through a sliding door. Never saw him alive after this. When he asked for the shilling, witness asked him whether his father was at work, and he answered that he was, and that he wanted the money to purchase grindery. Had never since seen either the boot legs or the book. The father came to the shop the next morning with work which he had out on the previous morning, and he asked whether the boy had been there. Witness told him he had been there on the previous day, and that he knew he had, as he had received two pairs of boots to close, and 1s. He said that he declared to God he did not. He had sent him out the day before to buy some candles, and had given him a shilling for the purpose, and had not seen him since. He had not sent him to shop at all. The impression on witness's mind was that he must have known it, from the boy's bringing the book. The father said the boy knew where the book was, and could get it without his knowledge. There was a good deal of conversation. The father did seem a good deal concerned about the boy's absence, and said he had been about searching for him the best part of the night. Witness had told the father the previous morning to send for work, and the boy was not then present. The value of the boot legs in their then state was about 12s or 14s.

John Blunt lives in Bridge Street and is a porter. About twenty minutes to five o'clock on the 22nd

March, he met a boy at the foot of the South Bridge, who offered to sell him a pair of (as he understood) boots. He had a book with him, which he dropped, and which witness picked up and gave to him. He seemed to be about eleven years old, but cannot state precisely. He had a blue jacket on and a cap. Witness went with him into the wharf yard by the river, and the boy showed him two pairs of unclosed boot legs. Witness, seeing what they were, said they were of no use to him. He offered them at 4s, and then 3s, then 2s 6d, and at last 1s. Witness asked him where they were from, and he replied, "Mr Bryan's". Witness said he thought then that he had no right to sell them, and he would have nothing to do with them. The boy replied, "I must sell them before I go home ; if I do not, my father will murder me". Witness then left him, and a man, who seemed to be drunk, crossed over towards the boy from Mr Norman's. Don't know who the man was. He had a checked shirt on, but witness would know him best by his features, as he ran against witness in crossing towards the boy. Saw the man and boy together about a minute, and watched them together. When the man crossed over to the boy, he said to him, "---- your eyes, why didn't you sell 'em". Witness went away, leaving them together. Never heard of the boy being missing till Sunday night last. The boy was crying when witness left him.

The father was called, and stated that his boy had on a blue jacket, grey trousers and cap.

Blunt here stated that the father was the man whom he saw cross toward the boy. He never saw the father before that day nor afterwards, till yesterday. Did not say anything to the father about his being the man. He said he was quite sure the father was the man.

The father was, however, quite collected, and said Blunt's evidence did not give him the least uneasiness.

Blunt proceeded to state that Ward called upon him on Tuesday, and took him to the father's lodgings, where witness identified him. There was one other person in the room at the time. Witness had been previously called upon by Ward, the sergeant-at-arms, and told him he should know the man who ran against him if he saw him twice. Ward then took him to Brady's lodgings. Brady has not now so much hair about his eyes and nose as he had when he ran against him. The boy cried when witness refused to buy the boots.

Webb, one of the jury, said that on Sunday evening last he went to the Bull and Butcher for a glass of ale. There were several persons there, and the conversation turned upon the inquest. Blunt then called Webb aside, and told the story he had told today, and went with witness and showed him the spot where the alleged conversation took place.

Mr Bryan had known John Brady on and off three or four years. Does not observe any difference in the hair about his eyes and nose. Never observed that he had more hair about him than he has at present. Should no doubt be able to see any particular alteration. Has no reason whatever to believe that the father behaved ill to his son.

Catherine Wilkinson is satisfied that the father was at home till seven o'clock in the evening, from dinner time. He seemed very uneasy about the loss of his son. He said he thought he might be gone to his grandmother's, but he would not go there because they had had some words. At seven he went out to look after the boy. He returned sober, nor did witness believe he had been drinking the whole day. He went out the next day.

Ann Cole stated that, on Sunday the 20th of March, the deceased called upon her, went out with her, and supped with her. Witness went to his father, and asked him whether he would allow him to go to the races with her. The father said, "Yes", and he should be with her by three o'clock. Witness waited for him till between five and six o'clock, but he did not come, and she never saw him after. Witness went to his father to inquire why he did not come, and the father asked her if she had not heard that he had sent him to Mr Bryan's on the Tuesday, and he had never been home since. The father had always given witness reason to suppose that the boy had no mother living, and the boy had said so too. The father had offered witness marriage. She had lately understood that the mother of the boy was living.

The mother of the boy was in court. She stated that she was Brady's wife, and had been married to him for sixteen years.

Thomas Kemp had known the father eleven years. His conduct to his son was kind. The father

came to him the day after he was missing. He seemed much depressed, and talked about going to Wellingborough. On Friday he told witness that he had been to Wellingborough, but that his wife would not speak to him. The boy knew that his mother was living ; he had been to Wellingborough to see her. Brady and his wife did not live on good terms, and had been separated for some time. Every witness but Blunt stated that there was no alteration in the hair about Brady's countenance.

John Ward is a sergeant-at-arms to the corporation. In consequence of instructions he had received to collect evidence, he called upon John Blunt on Monday last. He gave witness the same story which he had already stated in his evidence. Yesterday, about two o'clock, he saw Blunt again. He said he should know the man, if he saw him again, from 500. He asked why he should know him, and he answered that he had something on his nose. [Brady has a mole, with hair, on his nose]. He did not say what it was. Witness then took him to Brady's lodgings, where Brady and another man were at work. Witness asked some question not connected with the present affair, and in the course of conversation Brady asked if anything had been made out about his poor boy. Blunt then pointed down to Brady, signifying that was the man he had seen. This was after Brady's question had been put respecting his boy. When Ward and Blunt quitted the room, Blunt said Brady was the man. Witness cautioned him to be careful that what he said was the truth. He replied that he could swear to him.

By a Juryman : Brady said, "My boy".

Webb, the juryman who had before given evidence, stated that he saw Blunt at the Bull and Butcher public house yesterday morning – that he then said that he could not swear to the man. Witness said he thought that strange, as Brady had something remarkable about him. Blunt asked what it was, and Webb then told him that he had some hair on his nose, and otherwise described him. Blunt had identified Brady as the man he had seen.

James Webb, a lad 13 years old, saw something in the water, close to the lock gates, on Monday the 11th. He thought it was a football, and he said to himself how he should like to be over there, to get that football out. On Friday morning last, he was opening the lock gate for the boat to go through, and he saw the supposed football again ; but on going to pick it up he found it was a boy. It was between the locks, and as upright as could be. He told the boatman that there was a boy drowned, and the boatman got him out of the water. It was in a very bad state, so that if it had been pulled about much the flesh would have come off. It was impossible to see whether there were any bruises or not. Did not know the deceased.

John Kidney is a labourer. Yesterday morning, was at the Bull and Butcher between 10 and 12. John Blunt was there. The conversation turned upon the death of the deceased. Blunt told the story which is already stated in his evidence, and Mr Webb asked him whether he should know the man who crossed over to the boy again if he saw him. He said, "I will not swear to the man while I see him again". Mr Webb then asked if he had any particular marks about him. He said, "No – not that I know of. He's a thin faced, white looking man". Mr Webb said, "You cannot swear to the man then?" and added that he had got a bit of something on his nose, and a few hairs growing upon it. In the evening witness went to the same house again, and the subject was brought up again. Blunt said, "I could not swear to the man the first time I saw him ; but turn him out and turn him in again, and I should know him among 50. He has a mark and a few hairs growing on his nose". He never said anything about marks until Mr Webb had put the words into his mouth.

The Coroner then summed up, and the Jury, after some deliberation, returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown".

37 28 May 1836

On Thursday the 12th inst, **Geo Farr**, boatman of West Stockwith, was committed to Nottingham county gaol for trial at the next assizes, charged with committing a rape upon the body of Hannah Hackitt, who it appears comes from Northampton. The woman, with a child in her arms, had come that morning from Ferry, and was on her road to Northampton. When she arrived at Clayworth, she went into the public house and asked for a drink of small beer, but was treated by the landlady with a draught of ale, and then took her departure. Prisoner was in the house at the time, and shortly

afterwards followed her ; when he overtook her, he requested to carry her child, which she refused, but at length he got it from her. On coming to a bye lane near Hayton, he told her it was the way to Retford, but she refused to go for some time, and he would not give up the child ; she then followed him partly down the lane, until he got hold of her, threw her down, and accomplished his purpose. The poor woman's cries were heard to a very considerable distance, but unfortunately no assistance arrived in time to save her. The ruffian ran off, but was apprehended the next morning at Worksop, and is fully committed on the capital charge.

Stamford Mercury

38 7 January 1837

NORTHAMPTON TOWN ASSIZES

Joseph Morris Field was indicted for stealing 1 1/2 cwt of coals, the property of Mr John Smith of the Shipley Wharf.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and urged in extenuation that he was "fresh" at the time he committed the robbery. He was a boatman in the employ of Messrs Worster and Stubbs. One month's hard labour.

39 25 February 1837

Yesterday se'nnight, an inquest was held before John Gregory Esq, Coroner for Leicester, on view of the body of Edward Goodwin, 27 years of age.

It appeared from the evidence of Samuel Hawkins that he and the deceased had been drinking together at a beershop near the bottom of Barkby Lane on the 7th of January. He afterwards accompanied deceased to his house in Russell Street, about 12 o'clock on that night. Deceased had half a sovereign in his possession. After remaining there a long time, deceased went out at the back door and was never more seen ; he was rather intoxicated, but could walk very well. Jane Goodwin, wife of the deceased, stated that he left his home between seven and eight o'clock on the evening in question, to take a walk ; some time before two the next morning, deceased came home, in company with Hawkins, who wished to see Caunt, a man lodging at deceased's house ; Mrs G called deceased up to her, he promised to return soon, but left the house before witness got downstairs ; deceased had had some ale, but was not past his guard ; deceased used to visit his mother and sister every week, in Frog-island, sometimes oftener, and usually went across the pasture. The night on which deceased left home was very dark. **Thomas Powell**, boatman, was passing up the canal with a boat about half past seven o'clock this morning, and saw the body floating ; and procuring some assistance got it out, and placed it in the Canal Company's warehouse. Verdict : Found drowned.

40 3 June 1837

At the Banbury Petty Sessions on Monday, **W Line**, a boatman, was charged with leaving his wife, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

41 23 December 1837

A violent affray took place on Wednesday week, on Box Moor. Mr Price of Piccott's End, having informed a resident Magistrate that one of the boatmen on the canal was in the act of carrying off a quantity of peas, his property, was directed to take a peace officer and apprehend him. One of the Police Constables accordingly accompanied him to the boat, where the boatman (**Thomas Footman**) made a desperate resistance, and both Mr Price and the policeman were repeatedly plunged into the water. They had, however, partially succeeded in handcuffing him, when his wife, armed with a hatchet, and the boatman came up, and the woman struck the officer a violent blow with the hatchet which, if his hat had not been protected with whalebone strips, must have proved fatal. After a severe struggle, the prisoner was rescued amid the cheers and shouts of the bystanders, consisting of a set of wretched hardened depredators, who have long infested the Moor. Warrants were immediately issued against the three offenders, who were captured the same night at Berkhamsted, and fully committed for trial.

CORONERS' INQUESTS On Wednesday morning last, an inquest was held at the Infirmary in this town, on the body of Ann Simpson, who met her death under the following distressing circumstances.

E Whitehouse, a boatman living at Tipton in Staffordshire, stated that on Saturday night last, about a quarter past ten, he was going down Bridge Street, when he met a man who told him that there was a fire in a house below. Witness went to the house (opposite Mr Phipps's) and on going in he saw the deceased sitting in a chair beside the parlour fire. Her clothes were all burnt to a tinder ; there was no flame, the clothes being completely burnt. Witness pulled her down on the floor and gave an alarm. There was nobody else in the room. The house was in the occupation of the deceased. After the alarm was given, the neighbours came in, and she was brought to the Infirmary. Witness could not say whether she was sensible or not ; he did not hear her speak. The deceased is about 66 years of age, is a married woman, and her husband is a blacksmith in the employ of Mr Barwell.

Mr Mash, House Surgeon to the Infirmary, stated that the deceased was brought to that Institution on Saturday night, a little before eleven o'clock. She was perfectly sensible. On removing the burnt clothes, he found her left arm extremely burnt, and also her chest, and some part of her back. He stated to her friends that there was no chance of her recovery. Every means was used for her relief, but she expired about the same hour on Monday. She had lingered longer than witness expected. She could give no account of the cause of the accident.

Thomas Wood, a boot closer living in Quart Pot Lane, stated that he met a young woman in Bridge Street, who told him there was a fire below. Witness went with her to the house, and upon opening the door, he saw the room full of smoke and heard a groaning. He saw something sitting by the fire, which he afterwards found to be the deceased. She was not then in flames. Witness called to Whitehouse, who went in immediately.

Eliza Tyler was passing by the house, about ten minutes past ten, when she heard a groan. She opened the door, but the room was so full of smoke, she could see nothing. She ran out immediately and gave the alarm to the last witness and a watchman who were together. The watchman said he must go first to Meadow Court, and then he would go immediately. He was there in a few minutes. Deceased had been ironing a shirt, and there was an iron at the fire.

A Juryman stated that he met her husband a few minutes before going to the Woolpack. He expected a parcel with a Christmas present, and he was going to meet it.

Another Juryman, who lives next door but one, heard the alarm, and went immediately with a candle. Whitehouse was then there. The place was full of smoke, so full that he was nearly stifled. He did not know how Whitehouse managed to stay in so long. Banks the Watchman was not there till some time after, and Whitehouse told him he was a pretty fellow for a watchman, half the town might be burnt down for him.

The witness Wood added that Banks said the house would not be burnt down till he got there.

Eliza Tyler, in answer to a question from a Juryman, said that she told the Watchman that Mrs Simpson was burning. Is sure the Watchman heard her say a person was burning,

John Briggs, a blacksmith working at Mr Barwell's, and lodging in the house of the deceased, saw the deceased about twenty minutes before the accident, sitting at the fireside ironing. She was alone. She was ironing when witness left her. There was nobody else in the house.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental death ; at the same time requesting the Coroner to represent to the Chairman of the Watch Committee their opinion that great blame attached to the Watchman Henry Banks, for not affording assistance immediately upon receiving information from the witness Eliza Tyler.

[Since the inquest, the Watchman, Henry Banks, has been to our office and given the following version of the melancholy affair ; so far as he was implicated. He was on duty at the time of the accident, at the lower part of Bridge Street, and was walking with a young man named Henry Ward, when a female (the witness Eliza Tyler) met him, and said she thought there was a house on fire a little lower down the street. He replied that he had only to go into Meadow Court, and he would go

to the house directly. When he reached the house, the door was open, and a man was supporting the poor creature who was burnt. He was the *second* person in the house, and Henry Ward the third. As soon as he got into the house, he knocked the fire off the woman with the skirts of his coat. The next person who came in was Mr Mee, a butcher, who was requested to fetch a candle and some water, which he did immediately. Banks denies that even *two* minutes elapsed between his being told of the fire by Eliza Tyler, and his arrival at the house ; and he positively denies also that he heard her say that a woman was burning. In fact he does not believe she did say so, and Henry Ward, who was with him, is of the same opinion. Her manner, Banks asserts, was calm, and not such as to lead him to suppose that anything serious was the matter. Banks was not summoned to the Inquest, because, according to the information received by the Coroner, he had reached the spot much later than many other persons, and could therefore throw no additional light upon the occurrence. Banks states that he fully expected to be summoned.]

43 13 January 1838

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY SESSIONS

Gostelow Hammond, boatman in the employ of Messrs Pickford, was indicted for an assault on **John Slater**, a rival boatman in the employ of Messrs Crowley. A squabble had taken place between the parties, and the prisoner was required to find sureties to keep the peace towards the prosecutor. Failing to do this, he was committed to gaol, where he had remained until Thursday, when the prosecutor preferred a bill of indictment against him for the assault. The Jury found him Not Guilty.

44 28 April 1838

THE BRAUNSTON MURDER The Inquest on the body of the unfortunate woman of whose murder an account was given in the *Mercury* of last week, was resumed on Saturday last, before George Abbey Esq, Coroner. The name of the deceased was Ann Chown ; she was a single woman, about 46 years of age, and lived on the Green at Braunston. The person who first discovered the murder was a woman named Elizabeth Bennett, who lived within a few yards. She went about eight o'clock on Wednesday morning the 18th instant, for some soft water which the deceased was in the habit of selling. On opening the front door, which was not locked, she saw the deceased lying dead on the floor, which was covered with blood. The surgeon, Mr Stubbs, who examined the body, stated that he found a wound on the forehead over the left eye, two inches in length, extending into the brain. Taking away part of the skull, he found that a piece of bone from the orbit of the left eye had been driven into the brain. There were also two flesh wounds near to this, each of them an inch and a half in length, and two similar wounds behind the left ear, two inches and a half in length ; a wound on the left cheek an inch and a half in length, with a fracture of the upper part of the cheek bone ; three wounds on the left jaw, one on the upper lip an inch long ; two teeth knocked out ; a wound on the left arm an inch and a half in length and an inch wide. The immediate cause of death was, of course, the severe injury inflicted on the brain. It appeared to have been occasioned by a blunt but heavy instrument, and a sharp instrument seemed also to have been used. A bill hook or a coal peck might have inflicted both descriptions of wounds. At least eight or ten blows must have been inflicted. There was blood on the floor, on the wall, on the clock case and on the mantelpiece, but no impression of fingers. Mr Simons, the constable, examined the house. There were two rooms on the upper floor, one which the deceased used as a bedroom, and one in which she kept her trunks and various goods. In this latter room, which had a window in it looking towards the street, Mr Simons found a chest of drawers containing five drawers, four of which were open, and one closed but not locked. The open drawers had linen in which had been turned over. In the lock of one of the trunks in the room, there was a key with a bunch of other keys attached to it. The key in the lock was not the right one, and was removed with difficulty. The proper key was, however, in the bunch, and upon opening the trunk, it was found to contain a red pocket book in which were £22 10s in gold ; a purse containing nine sovereigns, a bag, and some rags also containing gold, amounting, in the whole, to £73 11s. In another trunk in the same room was a silver tea caddy,

which contained £22 5s 6d in silver, and a Savings Bank Book. The key of this trunk was found in a cupboard below stairs. There is no reason to suppose that anything had been taken away. In the bedroom which looks backwards, the bed bore the impression of some one person having lain *upon* it, but it did not appear that it had been slept in. The Gingerbread Baker, to whom we alluded last week as having been under examination, is named Feavers. Suspicion had attached to him merely because it was understood that he had kept company with the unfortunate woman. The constable found him at his own residence at Staverton. It appeared, however, that he was at Daventry from nine in the morning of the Tuesday on which the murder was committed, till four the next morning, at the house of Elizabeth Baker, who keeps a grocer's shop there, and the jury were perfectly satisfied of his innocence. A porter in the employ of Messrs Pickford named **William Green**, a distant relation of the unfortunate woman, also underwent an examination, but nothing whatever was elicited which could justify his detention. A boatman named **Joseph Hemmings** heard the deceased in conversation with a man at five minutes past eight on the evening of the murder, as he was passing by the house. He paid no attention to what was said, as the voices were not unusually loud. Between half past eight and nine, a person named Mary Foster saw a light through the window of the upper room next the street – that wherein the trunks were kept. It seems pretty clear, therefore, that the murder was committed between five minutes past eight and half past eight o'clock. Green, however, was shown to have been at the wharf from seven till a few minutes before eight, and at the Ship Public House from five or ten minutes after eight till half past eight. His whereabouts was afterwards distinctly traced till eleven o'clock, when Mary Foster observed the light in the upper room. She observed also that the curtains were drawn quite close. She thought it strange, because she had never seen them drawn since the mother of the deceased died, which was about two years ago, and she had only once even seen a light in the room. At this very time, in all probability, the murderer was ransacking the drawers. A labourer named William Boyes, who lives in the yard into which the back door of the house of Mrs Chown opens, locked the gate which is the common entrance to this yard at precisely half past eight. It is not unlikely that the murderer was disturbed by the noise ; the key left in the trunk in which the money was contained affording ample proof that he had made a precipitate retreat. At present, notwithstanding the very minute enquiries at the inquest, which lasted three days, the case is involved in mystery, not the slightest clue having as yet been obtained to the murderer. A verdict of wilful murder was returned against some person or persons unknown. The deceased was a person of incommunicative disposition, and none of her neighbours or relations seem to have been aware that she had any property in the house. She always, indeed, represented herself as being very poor, and used frequently to borrow a shilling or sixpence for a day or two of her neighbours. The house in which she lived was her own, and it is said that she paid the purchase money – about £70 – entirely in silver. This purchase was supposed to have absorbed the whole of her savings. It was stated by one of the witnesses at the inquest, that the deceased had told her that on the previous Sunday night, after her door was fastened, some person had tried the latch. She did not, however, appear alarmed at the circumstance, but it has not yet been ascertained who was her visitor. The murderer had, no doubt, gained better information as to the extent of her property, and the place in which it was deposited, than her neighbours. A short time back she waited upon a solicitor at Daventry, for the purpose of making her will, but, upon learning the expense, went away, saying she could not afford it. She died, therefore, intestate, and the whole of her property falls to a niece, to whom she had often declared her intention of leaving it. A reward of £100 is offered by government for the detection of the murderer.

45 2 March 1839

An inquisition was taken at Husband's Bosworth on Saturday week, on the body of **John Williams**, a boatman, who was found dead by the side of the Grand Union Canal, near the tunnel in the parish of Husband's Bosworth, on Thursday morning. It appeared that the deceased had been in company with several boatmen at Kilworth, where they had been drinking a quantity of gin, until they became in a state of intoxication. The parties subsequently set off with a boat in the direction of Bosworth tunnel, and when nearly approaching it, the deceased got out of the boat, laid himself

down on the towing-path, and notwithstanding the entreaties of his companions, he refused to proceed any further. Two of the men, who were also drunk, left him to fetch a wheelbarrow for the purpose of conveying deceased back to the wharf, but they neglected to return for the unfortunate man, who was found the next morning by John Kenworth, lying by the side of the canal, a corpse. Verdict : Died from exposure to the cold, when in a state of intoxication.

46 15 June 1839

PICK POCKETS A person calling herself Sarah Ann Walton was apprehended this week by C Smith, policeman, and brought to the Station House on the night of the 10th instant, charged with picking the pocket of ---- **Jones**, a boatman. Jones not being willing to prosecute, the Magistrates sent her to the gaol for three weeks for being drunk, and to keep her from bad company during Boughton Green Fair.

47 24 August 1839

On Tuesday last, a boy aged seven years named **Golding**, the son of a boatman living in Bridge Street in this town, was drowned in the lock at Braunston. He was with his father while the boat was weighing at the lock, when he slipped into the canal. Although in the water little more than three minutes, and life was evidently not extinct when he was rescued, it was found impossible to recover him. It was supposed that his head struck against the keel of the boat.

48 28 September 1839

Messrs Percival, Treasurers to the General Infirmary, have received the sum of 5s by Mr Daniel Simons of Middlemore, an acknowledgement paid to him upon his withdrawing proceedings against **George Pollard**, a boatman, for stealing turnips from his field at the parish of Drayton.

49 21 December 1839

On Thursday last, another inquest was taken before the same coroner (G Abbey Esq) at Braunston, on view of the body of **William Baker**, a boatman aged 18 years, who was drowned in the locks in that parish. It appeared that the last time deceased was seen alive was at four o'clock on Wednesday morning, when he was standing on the deck of one of two barges that were linked together in the locks, apparently endeavouring to unloosen them, as he was in a stooping position. He was shortly afterwards missed, and after some difficulty his body was found drowned in the locks. There is no doubt but he must have fallen under the boats, and was thus prevented from rising. Verdict : Accidentally drowned.

50 1 August 1840

ASSIZE INTELLIGENCE

WHEAT STEALING BY A BOATMAN **William Turton** stood charged with stealing some wheat, the property of T W Lucas and John Wright. Mr Clarke briefly stated the particulars of the charge and called John Wright : I am in partnership with Mr T W Lucas. We are corn factors in this town. On the 17th June, I purchased 83 quarters of wheat in Wellingborough Market ; and about 53 quarters of Mr Smith of Kimbolton. I also made purchases elsewhere, and employed the prisoner to bring the wheat in his boat to Northampton. After it arrived there I examined it, and used 10 qrs without weighing ; the rest I weighed, and found about two bushels deficient. Each sack of Mr Smith's was to weigh 18 st 4 lb ; and I found a deficiency in each of his sacks, some five, some six, and some seven pounds ; altogether amounting to 96 lbs. The sacks were in very good condition. George Smith : I am a corn dealer at Kimbolton. On the 17th June I sold some wheat to Messrs Lucas and Wright of Northampton. There were 116 sacks, each weighing, including the sack, 18st 4lbs. Cross-examined by Mr Flood : I delivered the wheat to my waggoner, but did not see it put into the boat.

Thomas Hinch : I am a waggoner employed by Mr George Smith. On the 19th June I took the sacks to Iron Wharf, and Christian Hawkes took charge of them. I took sacks there several times ; on the

19th, 20 sacks, on the 20th, 39 sacks ; and on the 22nd, 30 sacks. Cross-examined by Mr Flood : The prisoner was not present when I delivered the sacks at the wharf.

Christian Hawkes : I am clerk at Iron Wharf. On the 18th, a boy of the name of Flander brought nine sacks of wheat. The last witness brought 30 sacks on the 19th ; on the 20th he brought 39 sacks ; and on the 22nd 30 sacks. I saw a moiety put out of the warehouse into the boat, and more carried from the wagon to the boat. 116 were put into the prisoner's boat ; there were some sacks put into the boat which were not for Messrs Lucas and Wright.

George Whitlock deposed that the prisoner told him last month that he had a little corn in his boat to dispose of, and asked me help him to do so. He never told me how much corn, nor where it was. When I told you he said it was in the boat, and afterwards said that I did not know where it was, I meant that I did not know in what part of the boat. I went to a Mr Greenough to inquire the value of wheat. I asked Mr Greenough if he would buy half a sack of wheat, and he refused to have anything to do with it.

Francis Greenough : The prisoner came to me on the 29th June, and asked me if I would buy half a sack of wheat of him, and I told him I would have nothing to do with it.

Charles Smith : I searched the prisoner's boat on the 28th. I afterwards apprehended him, and he owned he had taken the corn, and was sorry for it. I went again and examined the boat, but found nothing.

James Collis : I am a constable of this town. I assisted in apprehending Turton on the 29th June. Turton told Smith that he wanted to see Mr Lucas, and said he was sorry for what he had done. He would pay for it, and wished Mr Lucas to settle the matter without carrying it any further. Smith told him he could not see Mr Lucas, but would have an opportunity of saying what he wished before the magistrates.

Mr Flood addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner. He called the prisoner's master, **Mr Wright**, who stated that Turton had been in his employ as a boatman about two months, during which time he had borne a good character.

John Marsden : I was with the prisoner when the sacks were taken from Higham. Several of the sack strings broke when the sacks were thrown down, and some wheat got out. Such accidents frequently happen. The boys in the boats and the captain claim the sweepings. I have been a boatman 20 years, and have known the prisoner perhaps 12 years, during which time he has behaved uncommon well. Cross-examined by Mr Clarke : I have often known more than 127 lbs of sweepings from one cargo. I was brought before the magistrates, but there was no charge made against me.

John Timmings : I am a boat proprietor, and have known the prisoner a dozen years, and he has never been accused of anything wrong. I have always allowed the boys to have the sweepings, when under a certain quantity. If there were half a sack of sweepings, I should not think of keeping them.

Mr Clarke shortly replied.

Mr Hill summed up with admirable perspicuity, and the jury returned a verdict of Guilty, recommending him to mercy on account of his youth and his good character. Mr Hill said those were very good grounds. He told the prisoner that the prosecutor concurred in the recommendation, but the punishment of loss of character would be very great, and it was not in his (Mr Hill's) power to relieve him from that ; in consequence, however, of that loss, and the jury's recommendation, he would sentence him to only three months' imprisonment, and hard labour.

51 15 August 1840

KREOSOTE A few drops of Kreosote to as many gallons of ink will effectually prevent mouldiness. When added to whisky, it gives it the peat flavour ; and we may say that a large quantity of the "genuine Hollands" sold in London is nothing more than gin, or cheap whisky, with the addition of a little Kreosote.

52 19 December 1840

SINGULAR ESCAPES On Tuesday week, a boatman named **Linnell** accidentally fell into the tail of a lock at the Northampton arm of the Grand Junction Canal at Rothersthorpe. Nobody but a boy was with him, and after in vain endeavouring to get out, he contrived to support himself above water by a hole in the brick wall. In this state, he desired the boy to go to **Mr Turner**, who holds a situation under the Company, about a quarter of a mile from the spot. Mr Turner immediately hastened to his assistance and drew him, with great difficulty, from his perilous situation, nearly insensible and quite paralysed with cold, having been in the water full twenty minutes. Mr Turner put him to bed in the cabin, and rendered him every assistance that humanity could dictate, and the next day he was sufficiently recovered to proceed on his voyage. About six o'clock of the same day, only two hours after the former accident, Mr Turner was summoned to the aid of another boatman, named **John Howe**, who had met with a similar accident, having fallen into the lock while endeavouring to open the gates. By Mr Turner's exertions, he was got out without further injury. The previous day, **Mr Henry Labrum**, keeper of the next lock, rescued a man who had fallen in under similar circumstances.

53 3 April 1841

POLICE INTELLIGENCE

WORSHIP STREET – A NIGHT ADVENTURE ON THE CANAL **Samuel Conliff**, a stout and rugged canal boatman, was put to the bar before Mr Bingham, under the following circumstances :- It appeared from the evidence of William Taylor, a private watchman at the City Basin, City Road, that he was on duty at one o'clock that morning, when he heard the cries of a woman in distress, apparently proceeding from one of the barges on the canal, and on repairing to the spot, he perceived the prisoner leaning over the side of a barge, and grasping the arm of a woman who was up to her chin in the water. It did not appear that his object was to save her, for he was bobbing her head up and down in the water, and it was the impression of witness that he intended to drown her. He immediately jumped into a boat and made towards the woman, and on pulling her out of the water, he found a long piece of cord tied to one of her wrists. Upon her stating that the prisoner was her husband, he desired the latter to admit her into his barge, but the prisoner, with many oaths, refused to do so. Witness was then about to assist her into the barge, but the woman saved him the trouble, and sprang on board with the agility of a cat, after which she dived down through a hole in the deck and disappeared. The prisoner in the meantime was amusing himself by striking right and left at the witness ; and the latter finding himself unable to cope with him single handed, sprang his rattle, and three or four policemen of the N Division came to his assistance. After a desperate struggle, they succeeded in overpowering the prisoner, who was conveyed to the station house.

Sergeant Clarke of the N Division stated that the policemen who boarded the barge were headed by Inspector Tonge, and they had closed with the prisoner and nearly secured him, when he found an unexpected ally in the person of his wife, who suddenly reappeared upon deck, and made an impetuous attack upon the party. She stood up to the policemen like a man, and knocked them about with the skill and strength of an experienced prize fighter. Constable N53 nearly lost his life in the affray, having been thrust overboard, but, after sinking once to the bottom, he was extricated from his perilous situation, and dragged half drowned into the watchman's boat. The prisoner was very drunk, and but for the praiseworthy conduct of Taylor, both he and his wife would, in all probability, have been drowned.

The prisoner's wife was then called and, on being desired to give her account of the transaction, she said that she was in bed with her husband in the cabin, when she recollected that she had left something on the deck which she ought to have put away, and she went away for it ; but whilst groping about in the dark she missed her footing, and tumbled headlong into the canal. Her husband was awakened by her cries, and he came to her assistance, but unfortunately he was so excessively drunk, that instead of pulling her forward he pushed her back, and with the very best intentions, nearly drowned her.

The prisoner gave the same version of the affair, and added that he could have saved her without

aid, and the matter would have ended quietly, but for the officious interference of the watchman. Mr Bingham said that the conduct of the watchman had been highly meritorious, and although he would give the prisoner credit for not being wicked enough to make an attempt on the life of his wife, he had been guilty of a very serious offence in resisting and assaulting the officers in the desperate manner he had done. He should order him to pay a fine of £2, or to be committed to the house of correction for six weeks.

The prisoner was locked up, but in the course of the day his wife contrived to raise the money, and he was liberated.

54 10 April 1841

BUCKS EASTER SESSIONS

STEALING TOBACCO **James Peckett** was indicted for stealing a quantity of tobacco, of the value of £19, the property of Thomas Pickford and Joseph Baxendale, as carriers. Prisoner was in the employ of the prosecutors as a boatman, and it appeared from the evidence of three other boatmen, that he had acknowledged to them that he had taken a flannel jacket full of tobacco and hawked it about Stony Stratford. He had poured water on the residue to make up the original weight of the package. The jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

55 17 July 1841

NORTHAMPTON MIDSUMMER ASSIZES **James Atkins** was charged with stealing 4 lbs of tea, value 10s, the property of Messrs Pickford and Co.

Roger Fellows : I am in the employ of Mr Pickford, and on the 28th of June I put six packages of tea on board the prisoner's boat at Gayton. They were weighed and put into the warehouse for about three hours before they were put into the boat.

Elizabeth Fellows : I am the wife of last witness, and assisted him on the 28th June in putting down the weighings of some tea.

John Millingham : I am employed by the prosecutors. The prisoner's boat arrived here on the 29th of June, and he delivered to me six packages, nailed down and corded round. One looked as if it had been unnailed. They were weighed correctly as they came out of the boat.

John Tugwood : I am clerk to Pickford and Co. On the 29th of June, I weighed five packages of tea, and found four pounds deficient. I told the prisoner it was short weight. One of the chests (out of which two pounds had been taken) seemed to have been unfastened. There were three men on board besides the prisoner.

Joseph Combe : I am a boatman, and was steering the prisoner's boat on the 28th of June. When we got within two miles of Northampton, I saw the prisoner open a tea chest and take some tea out. The chest was taken to the cabin by **William Draycott**, one of the men.

William Butcher : I went with the police to apprehend the prisoner, and charged him before the magistrates. I took Combe into custody, and he told me he had nothing to do with it. Atkins and the other man took it. I told him he must go before the magistrates to satisfy them. He was sworn as a witness before the magistrates, without being examined as a prisoner.

The prisoner asserted that the whole charge was falsehood and spite. He called

Elizabeth Golding : I have known the witness Combe for some time. The men belonging to the boat have threatened the prisoner's life, and told him that he should not go with the boat.

His Lordship summed up the evidence, and the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

56 9 October 1841

COMMITMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION

Richard Stephenson, boatman, for one month, on non payment of £5, for having in his possession whilst on board a boat, the property of Messrs Pickford and Co, a crow bar and a corkscrew, for the purpose of obtaining wines, spirits, &c.

57 23 October 1841

INQUESTS taken before J W Cowley Esq, one of her Majesty's Coroners for the county of Buckingham :-

On the 20th instant, at Linslade, on view of the body of **Joseph Castledine**, aged nine years, who was the son of a boatman, and was driving the horse attached to his father's boat by the side of the canal near Linslade Bridge, on Monday last about half past six o'clock in the evening, when he accidentally fell in ; he was taken out of the water about a quarter of an hour afterwards, but all efforts to restore animation proved ineffectual, as life was quite extinct. Verdict : Accidentally drowned. It was thought by his father and others that he was on the wrong side of the horse, and was forced into the water by the rope.

58 5 March 1842

WORSHIP STREET On Wednesday last, Robert Jones, No 12 of the Northamptonshire Police, stationed at Weedon, was placed before Mr Broughton, the magistrate, for examination upon a charge of dangerously assaulting and wounding a canal boatman named **William Phillips**.

The prisoner arrived in London last Friday night with a warrant to apprehend a man named Penfold, and at a late hour was on the City Road Bridge, making some inquiries of a boatman called **Dick Wisdom**, when Phillips, who had been drinking, came up merely, as he alleged, to ask Dick when his boat was to start, but the prisoner pushed him away, and upon his asking what that was for, the prisoner drew his truncheon and felled him to the ground, inflicting a severe wound upon his head, and was then going away, but was stopped by a woman who shouted for the police, and gave him into custody. Phillips, who was found bleeding profusely, was conveyed to the hospital on the police stretcher, being unable to walk, and has since, much against his will, been detained in the hospital, the surgeon saying that his life would be in danger if he quitted it and were left to himself. The prisoner alleged in defence that while he was making inquiries relative to the business that brought him to London, Phillips came up drunk, and was very annoying and abusive, and after being repeatedly desired to go away, began squaring at prisoner and shook his fist in his face, and the prisoner said he considered himself justified in then striking him with his staff. Phillips, however, and two witnesses swore that he gave no such provocation, but on his speaking to Dick Wisdom, the prisoner pushed him away, and immediately afterwards struck him with his staff ; and Inspector Shackell, G Division, said the prisoner told him at the station house that he was sorry for what he had done, but said nothing of his having been abused and threatened.

Mr Broughton, after a long examination on Saturday, remanded the constable until Wednesday, and directed that his superintendent at Northampton should be informed of his situation, in order that another officer might, if deemed necessary, be sent up to take charge of his warrant and staff.

On Wednesday, Superintendent Young of the Northamptonshire police, attended before the magistrate. In answer to some inquiries respecting the police, he stated that Mr Goddard, formerly a Bow Street officer, was the chief of police of the whole county of Northampton, with seven superintendents in charge of the different districts. He gave an excellent character of the prisoner, and said that his further detention would cause serious embarrassment, for he was bound over as a principal witness at the assizes in two cases, one a burglary, and the other a case of extensive uttering of counterfeit coin, and was bound to be at Northampton on Thursday.

Phillips was in attendance from the hospital, of which he is still a patient, and it was proposed to arrange the matter with him by paying 50s as some compensation for the injury and consequent loss of time.

Mr Boughton expressed a strong opinion of the intemperate violence with which the constable had used his staff upon the man, who possibly might never recover from the effect of it. For the reason which had been urged, however, and the prosecutor consenting to what had been proposed, he would allow the matter to be so arranged, and he then discharged the constable out of custody.

59 16 April 1842

Banbury Quarter Sessions were held on Saturday.

William Taylor, a boatman, was sentenced to ten years' transportation for stealing a boat line &c in the night from a boat in the Oxford Canal.

60 18 June 1842

INQUESTS taken before J W Cowley Esq, one of her Majesty's Coroners for the county of Bucks :-

On the 30th ult at Slapton, on view of the body of **Thomas Taverner**, the son of a boatman. Deceased was proceeding with his father in a boat down the Grand Junction Canal, on the 28th ult, when, in endeavouring to put the line off the mast, he fell into the water, and before he could be found, life was quite extinct. Verdict : Accidentally drowned.

61 6 August 1842

NORTHAMPTON DIVISION PETTY SESSIONS, 30th JULY

ASSAULT **Joseph Richardson** of Cotton End, boatman, was convicted of an assault upon John Chapman of the same place, labourer, and adjudged to pay the penalty and costs, amounting together to 11s.

62 17 December 1842

The following inquests have been lately taken before J W Cowley Esq, one of Her Majesty's Coroners for Bucks :-

On the 1st inst at Ivinghoe, on the body of **Edward Powell**, aged 16. The deceased was in the employ of **Isaac Smith**, a boatman, who was proceeding along the Grand Junction Canal to Aylesbury with a pair of boats. When they reached Procter's Wharf, about six o'clock in the morning, the master desired the deceased to go on and draw off Corbett's Lock. On the arrival of the boats at that lock he was missing. Smith immediately called up the lock-keeper, and shortly after found the body in the lock. Verdict : Found drowned. It was lamentable to find in this case that neither the master nor lock-keeper used any means whatever to restore life. They considered that the boy was dead, as he had been in the water, as far as they could guess, about a quarter of an hour. The body was merely placed on the top of the cabin, and conveyed to a public house about a mile off. The master and lock-keeper were reprimanded ; the latter excused himself by stating that he was guided entirely by the master, and that had he imagined life could be restored, he should not have known what steps to take, as he had no instructions. He certainly kept a drag. He had been a lock-keeper six years. The Coroner said he need not remain six days longer without instructions, as on his writing either to the Secretary of the Grand Junction Company or to the Humane Society, they would be forwarded immediately.

63 15 April 1843

On Thursday last, a man named **John Jones**, a boatman, was convicted before Thos Haggard and H L Stockburn Esqs, two of the magistrates of this borough, of having damaged a hedge in the Midsummer Meadow, belonging to the Town Council, by riding his horse through the hedge into the Houghton Road, and was fined, with costs, 11s 6d.

64 22 April 1843

DARING BURGLARY IN HERTFORD On Thursday, **Richard Budd**, a canal boatman, a brawny ill-looking fellow who has lost one eye, underwent an examination before Messrs Heale and Hamilton, and the Rev Wm Bingham, magistrates for Hertfordshire, upon a charge of burglary and robbery, committed on the 4th instant at the house of Mrs Field at the village of Chaldean near Hemel Hempstead. From the evidence of Mrs Field, an elderly lady, it appeared that her sister and nephew reside with her, but on the day mentioned her nephew was from home. At night, after she had retired to rest, the house was broken into by four men, who entered her chamber and, pulling her partly out of bed, one of them, believed to be the prisoner, threw the bedclothes over her and exclaimed, "You ----, if you make any noise, I'll still you". They broke open and ransacked the

cupboards, drawers and other places, and stole seven sovereigns and some silver, two guns, powder and shot, a powder flask, shot belt &c. The guns were described as a double barrelled percussion gun, maker's name "Knox, London", and a single barrelled gun, maker's name "Clark, London". The robbers regaled themselves with three bottles of wine and provisions before they left the house. Inspector Good, stationed at Hemel Hempstead, described the state in which he found the premises upon the alarm being given after the robbery. Sergeants Brennan and Redman of the Metropolitan police, G Division, stated that the prisoner, whose person was well known to them from his having been repeatedly in custody, was apprehended by them on Wednesday in London, and when informed of the charge upon which he was taken, he anxiously asked if they had taken "Green Sleeves", another of the boatmen known by that appellation. The prisoner was remanded.

65 29 April 1843

CAUTION TO BOATMEN **Thomas Tilsley** was charged with committing an offence under the bye laws of the Oxford Canal Company. Defendant is a boatman at Hillmorton ; last week he took his boat into one of the locks on the canal, and drew the top paddles without closing the lower gates ; a full paddle entering caused such a rush of water as to force the gates to with considerable violence and damage them, besides wasting the water. The case was heard *ex parte*, defendant refusing to appear. Convicted in penalty and costs 40s.

66 1 July 1843

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS

STEALING SWANS **Thomas Osborne**, aged 22, and **John Davis**, aged 30, were charged with stealing four swans from a pond in Brockhall Park, the property of T R Thornton Esq.

Mr Miller appeared for the prosecution ; Mr Flood for Osborne, and Mr Macaulay for Davis.

William Thorneycroft lives at Dodford, and is employed in the gardens of Mr Thornton. On the 18th May last, there were four young swans in the park, and two old ones on the water. They were tame swans. Had cut the wings of all the four.

Benjamin Bull lives at Muscott, and has been employed by Mr Thornton. On Friday the 19th May last, he went into the park about half past four in the morning, and missed the four young swans. On the bank were blood and feathers, and the marks of men's feet. On the Sunday following, himself and two others were set to watch a hovel about half a mile from the pond. Saw a man go to the hovel, spread his smock frock on the ground, and take the swans up and put them into it. He then carried them off in the direction of the towing path. A boat was on the canal.

Edward Weatherley, a police officer of Long Buckby, tracked the blood to a hovel in the parish of Norton, where he found three swans and a swan's skin. Left them there and set some men to watch.

Benjamin Tall, parish constable of Buckby was, on Sunday the 21st May, on board a boat belonging to a person named **Shelley**. When it was near a hovel by Muscott Mill, he saw both the prisoners there. Osborne had a bundle in his arms, the contents of which he shoved over the hedge, and then ran away. Davis ran with him. In the course of that afternoon, he heard of the swans having been stolen, and remembering what he had seen, he caused the prisoners to be apprehended.

Cross-examined by Mr Macaulay : Is sure Shelley did not receive the swans from Osborne.

John Bull was watching the hovel on the 21st. About half past three, saw a man come to the hovel, pull off his smock frock, put it on the ground and place in it three swans, which he carried off towards the towing-path. Saw him throw the swans over the hedge, and the boatman's arms held out as if to receive them, but cannot say whether he received them.

Samuel Dix of Brockhall gave similar testimony.

William Adams, another of the watchers, saw one of the prisoners offer the bundle to the steersman at the boat, whose hands were held out to receive it. He drew them suddenly back, and the contents of the bundle were instantly thrown over the hedge into the meadow.

Mr Flood contended that there was no evidence that the swans were tame, and therefore the subject of a larceny. But he submitted that it was a question whether, if tame, the stealing of swans is a felony.

The jury acquitted both the prisoners, on the ground that the swans were wild birds.

67 2 December 1843

BOROUGH COMMITMENTS **John Barrett**, boatman, for 14 days, for neglecting his contract of service with **Joseph Adnitt**.

68 30 December 1843

An inquest was held on Saturday last at Long Buckby Locks, by Mr Hicks, deputy coroner, on the body of **William Riley**, a boatman. The deceased was with the boats at the locks about ten o'clock at night, and went into the public house adjoining the towing-path and had some beer. Upon coming out, he attempted to cross the locks to speak to a young woman who was waiting for him, when he accidentally fell into the locks. An alarm was immediately given, but owing to the darkness of the night, nearly 20 minutes elapsed before the body could be got out. Medical aid was immediately sent for, but he was quite dead. Verdict accordingly.

69 30 December 1843

FELONY ON THE CANAL On Tuesday last, a boatman named **John Sanderson** was brought before the Mayor, E H Barwell Esq, G Baker, J Marshall and T Cook Esqs, charged with stealing a quantity of articles from a boat lying in the Nen near the wharf of Mr Barker, the property of **William Keen**. Keen resides at West Bromwich, and brings coals to Northampton. On Sunday night last he was returning to his boats from a public house, when he saw the prisoner coming out of the cabin. On seeing Keen, he stepped out of his boat into one lying next, and then into a third. Keen on entering his cabin found that it had been stripped of a quantity of provisions and wearing apparel. He followed the prisoner and asked him to return the goods without any more bother ; but the man swore at him, and took hold of the tiller as if to threaten him with violence if he came to the boat. Keen went for a constable and the prisoner was taken into custody ; the stolen goods were found in his boat. Prisoner's defence was that "he was very sorry, but he was in a state of beer at the time". He was committed to the Sessions.

70 6 January 1844

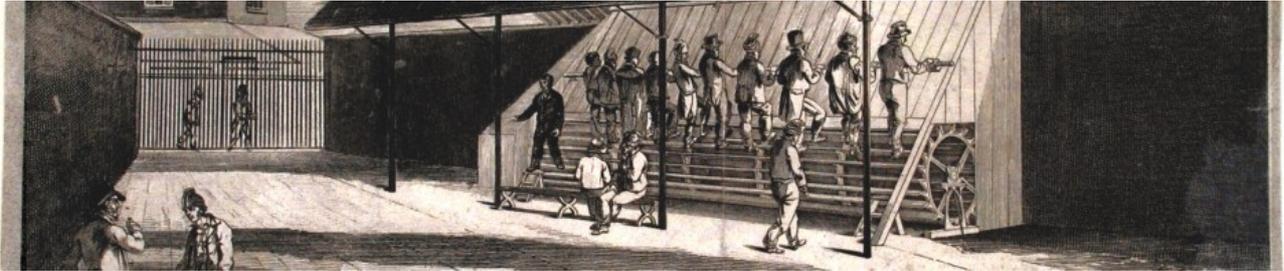
John Sanderson, a boatman, pleaded guilty of stealing 5 lb of sugar, a coat, and several other articles, the property of **William Keen** of West Bromwich. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

71 6 January 1844

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS

REPORT OF THE VISITING JUSTICES – THE TREAD WHEEL The report of the Visiting Justices upon the state of the Gaol was read. A prisoner named Hughes had effected his escape in October, and had not since been heard of. The escape was a consequence of the state of the gaol, and no blame was to be attributed to the Governor. Another prisoner had endeavoured to escape, but had been prevented. The Schoolmaster had conducted himself very well. He had four classes, and Mr Bishop, the Chaplain, who visited the school room every morning, reported favourably of the effect upon the prisoners. Few old offenders attended, but all the soldiers availed themselves of the opportunity of instruction, and many of the prisoners previous to trial and those for a short period of punishment. The new dietary seemed to work well. The magistrates were sorry to say that the Tread Wheel had not been made fit for use. The first plan had proved a complete failure. Mr Martin, the contractor, had tried a second and a third, with equal ill success. He was now trying a fourth experiment, which he was confident would answer, but the magistrates entertained no such expectation. Lord Spencer had that day received a letter from Martin apologising for his inability to complete the work by the Session as he had promised to do, on account of his being himself confined to the house with an abscess in the leg, and the impossibility of getting people to work during Christmas week. He promised however to proceed as fast as possible, and expressed his

conviction that the wheel would now answer. His Lordship observed that he believed Martin to be a good workman and an able engineer, but he did not happen to know how to make a treadwheel. In answer to a question from Lord Northampton, Mr Miln said the present plan was much more likely to succeed than the others ; but he had never seen a treadwheel constructed in this manner. A good deal of discussion followed, and it was at length resolved that the court should not take any steps in the matter till the 20th of January ; but that if no such progress should then be made as should be satisfactory to the magistrates, they ought to apply to some person of greater experience in the construction of such works. Lord Spencer stated, in the course of the conversation, that the magistrates had been informed, although not officially, that the treadwheel at Warwick was regulated by an apparatus which might be applied to the work at Northampton at a cost of from £70 to £80.



ROBBERY AT DAVENTRY **Richard Hartley**, aged 16, a boatman, was indicted for stealing 10s 6d, the property of Richard Dales Noble.

Mr Maunsell appeared for the prosecution.

Prosecutor is a stock dealer of Birmingham. On the 26th of October last, he arrived at Daventry, and seeing the prisoner in the street, enquired of him for a place where he could find a bed. Prisoner took him to the Swan, and they both slept together, In the night Noble observed the prisoner get out of bed, and it struck him that he was fumbling about his (Noble's) clothes. Prisoner was anxious to get up at daybreak, and when prosecutor rose, he found that his money was gone. He said to prisoner, "Oh dear me, I hope you have not robbed me?" "Oh dear me", replied the prisoner, "I would not rob a traveller for the world". They went downstairs together, and Noble told the landlord of his loss. Prisoner meantime went into the yard, and the landlord followed him, but met him coming back again. He sent for Farley, the constable, who searched him. He showed Farley five sixpences voluntarily, which he said was all the money he had. Farley, however, found another sixpence and a halfpenny upon him. Prosecutor swore that one of the sixpences, which was peculiarly marked, was one of those he had lost.

The Jury found the prisoner guilty, and the court sentenced him to one month's imprisonment, the last week solitary.

72 **16 March 1844**

MARKET HARBOROUGH

PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 12 Edward Little, 17, blacksmith of St Pancras, **Alfred Baston**, 18, boatman of Paddington, and William Grimes, 25, labourer of Ware, were charged by the governors of the Union House with refusing to perform the accustomed labour, after receiving casual relief. Defendants admitted the charge, and were committed for 14 days to the House of Correction at Leicester.

73 **5 October 1844**

OFFENCE AGAINST THE GRAND JUNCTION CANAL ACT **John Jevons** of Northampton, boatman, appeared upon a summons to answer a charge of **Benjamin Clarke** of Blisworth, of having on the 3rd instant at Milton unnecessarily opened the paddles of the 2 upper lock gates on the Grand Junction Canal, before he closed the lower gates, and thereby misspent the water thereof. It appeared in evidence, that the water being very scarce in the Canal, the lock-keepers had been

directed to prevent persons wasting the water by opening the paddles of the upper lock gates before the lower gates were closed, that Clarke saw Jevons doing so at one gate, when he cautioned him and desired him to desist, but that he persisted in doing it. That he also did so at the next gate and thereby necessarily wasted a great quantity of water. He was convicted, the full penalty is £10, but the magistrates mitigated it to £2 10s, which he paid.

74 1 February 1845

ROBBERY A boatman named **John Thompson** was accosted by a female of low character on Wednesday evening week, when she contrived to ease him of four £5 notes of the Leamington Priors and Warwickshire bank, with which she got clear off. The Nos are 864, 1518, 1579, 1719.

75 3 May 1845

On Thursday last, an inquest was held at the Guildhall in this town, before G Abbey Esq, on view of the body of **Thomas Hayes**, aged 22 years, a boatman of Brinklow near Coventry. The deceased arrived in the town the preceding evening with a bad cough and pain in his chest, and took lodgings in Meadow Court, where he died early the following morning. There were no marks of violence ; and it appeared from the evidence that he had been ill for some time at his own residence, and Mr Woods, the surgeon, from various symptoms, was of opinion that he died of consumption. Verdict : Visitation of God.

76 21 June 1845

GUILDHALL, JUNE 11

James Wheeler, a boatman, was charged by **George Daw**, a lad about 17 years of age in his employ, with beating him in a most brutal manner. It appeared that the lad was ordered to throw water on some fish lying on the top of the cabin, in doing which some of the water went over another person who was sitting in the boat, when his master struck him several times with a heavy horse whip. He was fined £1 11s 6d.

77 5 July 1845

MAN LOST

MAN LOST.
WHEREAS, SAMUEL DOUGLAS, boatman, has left his House, at BLISWORTH, his friends respectfully request that if any one know what has become of him, intelligence hereof be kindly given to Mr. Bell, of the Sun & Moon, at Blisworth. The last time he was seen was early in the morning of June 16th, near Gayton Wood, when he was dressed in a blue bag upper waistcoat, with white sleeves; light buff waistcoat, worsted cord breeches, gray stockings, and low ankle shoes. His age is nearly 60.