

## NEWS REPORTS RE: RICHARD FAIREY

### Hertfordshire Express 1825

Upon the presentation of a true bill against him, Richard Fairey was indicted for stealing, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1823 at Ippollitts, two sheep, the property of James Taylor.

James Taylor, farmer at Ippollitts, missed two sheep on Christmas Day 1823 about eight o'clock. They were in a hurdle yard in a field. I had 72 there within a week of losing the two. I saw them the same day in the evening at Mr Crane's the butchers at Codicott, about eight miles off. They were alive. Has no doubt they were the same sheep.

Robert Crane – is a butcher at Codicott. The two sheep on Christmas morning were brought by the prisoner who said he had got them to sell. He left them with me and said he would call again the following Monday morning. He did not come again and I had them cryed. Taylor came six days after and I shewed him the sheep which he claimed. Will not swear that the prisoner was the man who bought me the sheep.

Henry Crane – is son to the last witness. On the day in question, prisoner brought the two sheep and said to his father he had bought the sheep he had mentioned to him the day before. He left the sheep saying he would return on the Monday. I will swear to his person, though I never saw him before that day. He had a frock on.

Robert Rose, Constable – from a description of prisoner's person given by the Cranes, I suspected the prisoner whom I obtained a warrant against but did not apprehend him till the 1st of November 1825. I told him I apprehended him for stealing two sheep of Mr Taylor.

Prisoner said it was a long time ago and that a man gave them to him to sell who was to meet him to receive the money, but as he did not come, he concluded the sheep were stolen and therefore did not return to Crane for the money.

The Prisoner in his defence repeated the story told the Constable of a man having given him the sheep to sell.

The Jury returned a verdict of – *Guilty*.

The learned Judge told the prisoner that his life was not in danger but he might make up his mind to leave the country for the rest of it.

### Hertfordshire Mercury 1825

Richard Fairey was indicted for stealing at Ippollitts two wether sheep the property of James Taylor on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1823 – James Taylor, a farmer of Ippollitts proved that on Christmas Day 1823 he missed two sheep from a flock of 72 out of a yard on his premises. He had not seen them for five or six days before. On the evening of the same day he found the sheep at the house of Mr Robert Crane, a butcher living at Codicott, about five or six miles off. – Robert Green, the butcher, proved that the sheep were brought to him on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, in the morning, by a man resembling the prisoner, who was in company with a drover and left them with him, saying that he would call again next morning, but the witness never saw the man again. Witness, suspecting the sheep were stolen, had them cried in the neighbourhood and they were claimed by the prosecutor on the evening of Christmas Day 1823. Witness could not swear to prisoner. Henry Crane, son of the last witness, swore that the prisoner was the man who brought the sheep and left them at his father's premises on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1823. The prisoner left the sheep in the yard. The prisoner had no money and the witness's father let him have a beefsteak. Never saw the prisoner again until he was taken up about three weeks since at Hitchin. The sheep were given up to Mr Taylor. – Robert Rose, the constable, proved that he apprehended the prisoner on the 1<sup>st</sup> November last. He had been after him several times before. The prisoner had been residing with his parents at the poor house but immediately after the robbery had absconded. When witness saw the prisoner, he began to run but the witness pursued and overtook him at the distance of 30 yards. Witness told him what he was charged with. The prisoner said it was a long time ago; nearly two years; that the young man gave him the sheep to sell and that he had given them to Mr Craner who agreed to give him 25s 6d for each; that the young man promised to meet him to receive the money, but never did, and therefore suspecting they were stolen he did not like to come back to Codicott – the prisoner in his defence told the same story which he had told the sheep. No witnesses appeared on his behalf. – Mr Baron Hullock summoned up the case for the Jury. – The prisoner was found *Guilty* and sentence of death was recorded.