

Somerset  
to wit.

The Examination of (a) Sidney Mills of Whitchurch  
in the County of Somerset Carter, William  
Miles also of Whitchurch Labourer, Mary  
Miles wife of Daniel Miles also of  
Whitchurch Labourer and George Ballard  
Police Constable stationed at Whitchurch

taken on Oath this 28<sup>th</sup> day of December  
in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty eight  
at Keynsham  
in the County aforesaid, before the undersigned one of Her  
Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, in the presence  
and hearing of John Miles

who is charged this day before me for that he the said John  
Miles

on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December  
One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty eight at (b) Whitchurch  
in the said County of Somerset unlawfully  
attempted to commit suicide by  
hanging

This Deponent Sidney Mills on his Oath  
saith as follows:—(c) I live at Whitchurch and  
am a Carter. I know John Miles.  
Last Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> I was part  
of the day in the company of the  
said John Miles. Between 7 and  
8 in the evening of the same day I was  
in his Brother's house where he lodges  
and John Miles was also there. I was  
leaning on the settle just inside the  
door and John Miles took from just

M.  
11 & 12 Vict. c. 42.  
Depositions of witnesses  
under s. 17.  
SHAW & SONS,  
Fetter Lane, London,  
Publishers of "The Justice of  
the Peace," a Weekly Legal  
Journal, price 6<sup>d</sup>., post free.  
(2-10-85.)

(a) Here describe the several witnesses with their abodes and businesses seriatim. (c) State the deposition of the witness, as nearly as possible in the words he uses. When his deposition is complete let him sign it.  
(b) Here describe the offence as in a warrant of commitment.

1 193 106

above my head a Shepherds crook  
which was hanging there and  
which he removed and said to  
me I will give you this in  
remembrance of me - I said where  
are you going then - He said not  
far I shall be back again directly.  
He went out of doors and I  
remained in the house, and shortly  
afterwards I heard hollowing and  
I ran out and found John Miles  
with a rope round his neck  
which was fastened to a clothes  
post in the garden. His feet  
were touching the ground but the  
rope was strained and tight round  
his neck and I cut it from above  
him. There were others there and  
after that I went away and Miles  
went in another direction some of  
the others remaining with him when  
I cut the rope John Miles fell down  
on the ground and staggered but he

223 1061

could speak. When he got up he  
said I will go and do it somewhere  
else and said to him if you  
wont come with me when I have  
persuaded you for your good I shall  
leave you and off he went.  
I do not know that he had had  
any quarrel with anyone, nor had  
he had too much beer, and I do  
not know why he should have  
done it I have known him for  
years but he has never suggested  
doing such a thing before and  
I cannot say whether he would  
attempt it again

X<sup>t</sup> by  
Prisoner You were quarrelling with your  
Brother whilst I was in the house  
raggling and cursing one another  
You <sup>both</sup> wanted to fight or something  
of the sort  
I did not hear your Brother say  
if you did not go out of the  
house he would give you some poison

(3)

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106

before the morning I heard him  
say you would have to leave the  
house Sydney Mills

William Miles <sup>Labourer</sup> Live at Whitechurch  
with my parents. I am a Brother  
of John Miles. Last Wednesday  
Evening the 26<sup>th</sup> I was at home  
and hearing a noise out in the  
street I went out and I there  
found my Brother John with  
his jacket off wanting to fight  
but I do not know with whom.  
I then got him into my Brother  
Charles house where he lodged  
I remained there and my Brother  
Charles twitted him about some  
money that he owed him and  
John said he would pay him  
as soon as he could and Charles  
said that was not good enough  
for him and John then chucked  
off his clothes and said to Sydney

(4)

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1071

Mills I will give you this crook  
in remembrance of me and Mills  
said to him when are you  
going be's going off and he  
said no I shall be back again  
present and shortly after  
hearing a noise we went out  
and found my brother hung  
up by a rope to a clothes post  
and Mills cut him down  
and we took the rope off his  
neck and sent it in the  
house by my brother's little boy  
he went in and John went  
away - my mother sent for a  
candle by my sister to look  
for him and shortly after my  
sister drew our attention to a noise  
which seemed like groaning  
and we went in the direction  
of it and found my brother  
hung up to another clothes post

5)

243

107

and I cut him down. When  
I saw him he was hanging and  
his feet ~~there~~ were not touching  
the ground. When I cut him  
down he fell on the ground  
and did not speak for up  
ten minutes afterwards. We sent  
for Police Constable Callard  
and kept him. He had not  
had too much to drink and  
he has never attempted such a  
thing before. I do not think he  
would have done it then if my  
brother Charles had not checked  
the money up in his face I mean  
by that about his owing him the  
money. The three pieces of rope  
produced by Police Constable Callard  
were in the garden when Callard  
came, one formed part of the  
clothes line <sup>two</sup> ~~one~~ part of his reins  
with which he drove ~~and one part~~  
~~of his whip~~

X<sup>d</sup> by  
Mason

I heard my Brother Charles say  
to you if you did not go out  
of the house he would give you  
some poison. I was holding

Charles at <sup>the time</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>mark</sup> X of  
William Miles

Mary Miles I am the wife of  
Daniel Miles <sup>Labourer</sup> who lives at  
Whitchurch - John Miles is my

son Last Wednesday evening  
between 7 and 8 I heard a noise  
in the street and saw my sons  
Charles and John they were  
ragging but not fighting and  
I got Charles in home and whilst  
in the street house Charles twittered  
John with what he owed him  
and said he had found many  
meals of victuals for him and  
wanted him to pay his wife what  
he owed - John took his clothes off  
gave them to me and said Mother

7

192

1081

take them up home. Shortly after  
hearing a noise we went out  
and found John hung up to  
a post and Sydney Mills cut  
him down and I went into  
my sons house again and  
sent my little girl for a candle  
she called my attention to a  
noise and with my son William  
we went in the direction and  
found John hanging to another  
post I cut the line and  
William cut the rope he was  
hanging by. I believe he did it  
because of Charles twisting him  
about the money he owed him  
He could not speak when he  
was cut down the second time  
he was some little time before  
he came to himself  
Mary Miles

8

242 108



George Calland Police Constable  
stationed at Whitechurch last  
Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> shortly before  
8 in the evening from information  
received went to Charles Miles  
garden and found John Miles  
on the ground on his face  
his brother William trying to  
make him speak Examined  
the prisoners neck and found  
a red and purple ring round it  
The prisoner appeared to be  
insensible to me The piece of  
rope I produce was laying on the  
ground by the side of the prisoner  
The other piece I produce I took  
from a post that was pointed  
out to me. They are both part  
of a rein. The other piece I produce  
I took from another post that was  
pointed out to me. It formed part  
of a clothes line. I have measured

The clothes <sup>hat</sup> ~~line~~ and I find that  
from where the rope to the was tied  
to the ground it was 7 feet 6 in:  
There is a wall close to this post  
and a footprint upon it the  
distance on the other post from  
where the rope was to the ground  
is 7 feet 4 inches. There are dirt  
marks on this post as though  
someone had scrambled up it  
I arrested the prisoner and charged  
him with hanging himself with  
intent to commit suicide and  
cautioned him as to what he  
said in the usual way. He said  
his brother threatened to poison  
him and he wished they had  
let him finish it. Shortly after  
when he wished his sister good  
night she asked him where he  
was going and he said to Keynsham  
She asked him what for and he

said for hanging himself then  
brought him to this Station

George Ballard

The foregoing depositions  
were taken before me

Newport Lyne.

Somerset

to wit.

John Miles stands charged before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Somerset

this 28 day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight for that he the said John Miles on the 26 day of December at (a)

Whitechapel in the said County of Somerset unlawfully attempted to commit suicide by hanging

And the said Charge being read to the said John Miles

and the Witnesses for the Prosecution,

being severally Examined in his presence, the said John Miles is now

addressed by me as follows: "Having heard the Evidence, do you wish to say anything in answer to the Charge? You are not obliged to say anything unless you desire to do so; but whatever you say will be taken down in Writing, and may be given in Evidence against you upon your Trial. And you are clearly to understand that you have nothing to hope from any Promise of Favour, and nothing to fear from any Threat which may have been holden out to you to induce you to make any admission or confession of your guilt, but that whatever you shall now say may be given in Evidence against you upon your trial, notwithstanding such Promise or Threat."

Whereupon the said John Miles saith as follows:— (b) I say it was my Mother's fault. I went to do it. The mark X of John Miles

I do not desire to call any other witnesses than those who have appeared taken before me. The mark X of John Miles

N. (11 & 12 Vict. c. 42.) Statement of the accused, under s. 18. SHAW & SONS, Fetter Lane, London, Publishers of "The Justice of the Peace," a Weekly Legal Journal, price 5 1/2d., post free. (2-5-87.)

(a) As in the caption of the depositions. (b) Here state whatever the prisoner may say, and in his very words, as nearly as possible. Get him to sign it if he will.

(No. 5)

Somerset Quarter Sessions

Taunton 1<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1889

The Queen  
on the prosecution of  
George Ballard  
— against —

John Miles  
Misdemeanor

Depositions &

Fred: E. Collett  
Keynsham