

# Newspaper Article - The Mansfield Murder - Derby Mercury - 1842

## Derby Mercury

Wednesday 12 January 1842

### THE MANSFIELD MURDER.

The unfortunate malefactor, Moore, continues in the same morbid temperament of mind, considering himself the "victim of love," and anxious to be made an example of for the benefit of society. He exhibits a great desire for religious instruction, and calls himself a Baptist, although he has not attended any place of worship regularly for several years. The afflicting intelligence was communicated to his mother by the Rev. Henry Kebbel, Incumbent of Kirby, near Leicester, in whose parish she resides. The poor woman was, as might have been expected, very much affected, and is expected over to have an interview with her unfortunate son. Moore can read and write, but only went to school three or four years. He stands 5ft. 7in. in height, has an oval visage, sallow complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, and a dimple in his chin. The expression of his face is not remarkable; rather quiet than otherwise. His person is rather thin, and his face pale.

We, says the *Nottingham Mercury*, have been favoured by the Rev. George Wood, Primitive Methodist Minister, Mansfield, with the following minutes of a conversation that passed between the prisoner and himself, during a visit he made to him whilst confined in the Lock-up, which our readers will peruse with considerable interest:—

Jones—It is now about two years since Mary Hallam and I formed an intimacy with each other. I was fond of work, it was a pleasure to me, and she would often bring her work into my shop and sit for hours with me whilst I was at work. When her affections began to get weaned from me, I then became miserable, and knew not what to do.

Minister—Did you ever attempt to do the girl any injury before the fatal night?

Jones—No! Sir, I never did: I was too fond of her, I

Jones—No! Sir, I never did: I was too fond of her, I could have laid my life down for her at any time.

Minister—Were the statements relative to your bad conduct to Mary Hallam and her mother true?

Jones—Sir, when I could not have the person whom I loved, I gave way to drinking: I had plenty of good clothes, but work, which was once a pleasure to me, became a burden; I pawned my clothes, and then they turned me out of doors. She then gave way to other young men. The neighbours often used to say, "Sam, Mary will have nothing to do with you," and often I heard of her walking with other young men.

Minister—How was it you did not contradict that part of the evidence relative to your attempting to throttle her?

Jones—Sir, I knew I was guilty of the murder, and I thought it better to let it go; I did not wish to wound their feelings any more. But, Sir, had I attempted to strangle her, do you think she ever would have walked with me again?

Minister—Did you premeditate the crime?

Jones—No, Sir, I did not.

Minister—Had you seen her that night before she entered your shop?

Jones—Yes, Sir, in the evening.

Minister—You agreed to meet then?

Jones—Yes, Sir.

Minister—What was your object?

Jones—I believed she was free from all young men, and I wanted her to give me her company afresh. She sat upon my knee, refused my suit, and told me to think no more about her. I began to potter the fire with the poker; she then placed herself upon a seat, and I took up a knife, got behind her, and did the deed.

The remains of the unfortunate girl were interred in the new churchyard, Mansfield, on Monday, in the presence of an immense concourse of people, who appeared to be deeply affected.

 Date: 1842

 Place: Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England