LONG FORGOTTEN DETAILS OF THE TOM OTTER STORY

Notes and references

2. Notebook (c.1850) kept by Edwin George Jarvis, held at Doddington Hall.
3. The name ‘knobstick marriage’ derives from the staff or staves carried by churchwardens.
4. South Hykeham Parish Register, Lincolnshire Archives North+South Hykeham PAR/1/2. Otter married Martha Rowlinson in Eakring on 22 November 1804. Their daughter Mary was baptised in Hockerton on 23 December 1804.
5. Lincolnshire Archives, MB 1805 187+188
6. Now the B1190 and named Tom Otter’s Lane
7. A receipt for Dr Drury’s work on the Otter case and letter requesting extra expenses to cover the cost of two constables and horses for travel to Saxilby are held at Lincolnshire Archives, LQS/A/1/339/82-86. I do not believe that Dr John Drury, coroner, and Dr John Drury, printer, were the same person, but they may have been related.
8. Now no.319 on the High Street, this building is currently a Holland & Barrett shop. Above the modern shop frontage the facade is little changed and the inn sign can still be seen in the plasterwork.
9. Fellow banker, John Chapman of Bardney, claimed he had bought some of Otter’s tools as Otter was planning to leave the city immediately. The City Gaol was located on the east side of the Stonebow. At the time of Otter’s arrest work had begun on Lincoln’s new gaol, the building still stands on the corner of Broadgate and Monks Road.
10. No sharp implement was found at the crime scene, but John Chapman claimed that during dinner on the day following the murder Otter asked to borrow his knife, claiming to have lost his two or three days earlier – or could Otter have inflicted the wounds with the banker’s tool he was seen carrying on his journey with Mary to Saxilby? Ibid. Drury (printer) 1806.
11. County Hall was located in the grounds of Lincoln Castle.
12. A whitesmith works with metals, usually tin, and polishes or finishes metal goods. It is likely that Gazard worked with a blacksmith to produce Otter’s gibbet; whitesmiths often worked alongside a blacksmith.
13. Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury, 21 March 1806; the gallows stood at the junction of Burton Road, Westgate and Union Road, near to the Strugglers Inn, whose pub sign is of a condemned man with his arms bound awaiting execution.