

ESSEX LENT ASSIZES 1808

This is a transcript of what was recorded at the Essex Lent Assizes between 7th and 10th March 1808 [ASSI 94/1608] concerning the theft of 27-Jan-1808. Reported briefly in the Chronicle published in Chelmsford on 10th March. No details of the trial survive.

puts himself. Jury say Guilty no goods to be transported beyond the seas for the term of seven years to such place etc

Essex The Jurors *for our Lord the King upon their Oath present that William French late of the parish of Stebbing in the County of Essex Labourer on the twenty Seventh Day of January in the forty Eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Defender of the Faith with Force and Arms at the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid eight Turkeys of the price of two pounds and six ducks of the price of twelve shillings of the Goods and Chattels of Thomas French Marsh then and there being found*

Gr Lar *feloniously did steal and take and carry away Against the Peace of our said Lord the King his Crown and Dignity.*

According to Wikipedia "...in the United States Grand larceny is typically defined as larceny of a significant amount of property ... often defined as an amount valued at \$200 or more ... often classified as a felony with the concomitant possibility of a harsher sentence ... the crime can be considered serious even for trivial theft. For example, in Virginia, Grand Larceny (a felony) occurs for a theft of only \$5.00 or more from a person, or more than \$200 if not taken from the person. The same penalty applies for stealing checks as for cash or other valuables."

The fowls were valued at £2 12s 0d in 1808. This is equivalent to £156 at 2007's prices or \$311 in mid 2008. The jurors were listed as follows:

True Bill

Thoms French Marsh
Mary Marsh
Abraham Boreham
William Olley
Samuel Washette
Joseph Garrett
William Revell

Seven Sworn in
Court
JM