

INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF JAMES FEAKE

Middlesex, 10 December 1596 (OS)

The inquisition indented, taken at Hollowell Street, in the parish of Saint Leonard in Shoreditch, in the County of Middlesex, on the tenth day of December in the thirty-ninth year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by God's grace Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., before Richard Sheppard, gentleman, one of the said Lady the Queen's coroners of her aforesaid County of Middlesex, on view of the body of James Feake, there lying dead and slain.

By the oath of John Bonus, Robert Braithwarde, Thomas Peters, John Carter, Alexander Baggley, Richard Awsten, John Hamson, Anthony Shippe, Robert Braye, Edward Awstall, John Wellbeloved, Charles Coniber, and Daniel Walker, good and lawful men of the same parish and of the four towns next adjacent to the same parish, sworn to inquire how, at what time, and in what manner the aforesaid James Feake came to his death.

Who say upon their oath that, whereas a certain Gabriel Spencer, late of London, yeoman, and the aforesaid James Feake were together in the dwelling-house of a certain Richard Easte, at the parish of Saint Leonard in Shoreditch aforesaid, in the said County of Middlesex, barber, on the third day of December in the aforesaid thirty-ninth year of the said Lady the Queen, between the fifth and sixth hours PM of the same day it so happened that diverse insulting and reproachful words were said and spoken between the aforesaid James Feake and Gabriel Spencer, by reason of which the aforesaid James Feake, having in his hand a certain candelabrum of copper called a candlestick, worth six-pence, which he then and there had in his right hand and held with the intention to throw it at the said Gabriel Spencer.

Whereupon the aforesaid Gabriel Spencer, having a sword called a rapier, of iron and steel, of the price of five shillings, being in the scabbard, with the aforesaid sword and scabbard then and there struck and beat the aforesaid James Feake, giving then and there to the same James, with the sword being in the aforesaid scabbard, a certain mortal wound, six-inches deep and two-inches wide, on the face—that is to say, between the pupil of the right eye, called the ball of the eye, and the eyebrows—penetrating to the brain.

Of which mortal wound the aforesaid James Feake languished and lived in languor at Hollowell Street aforesaid, in the aforesaid parish of Saint Leonard of Shoreditch in the said County of Middlesex, from the aforesaid third day of December, in the aforesaid thirty-ninth year of the said Lady the Queen's reign, until the sixth day of the same month of December, on which sixth day of December, in the above-said thirty-ninth year, the aforesaid James Feake died of the aforesaid mortal wound at Hollowell Street aforesaid, in the aforesaid parish of Saint Leonard of Shoreditch in the aforesaid County of Middlesex.

And thus the aforesaid Gabriel Spencer then and there, against the peace of the said Lady the Queen, etc., killed and slew the aforesaid James Feake in the aforesaid manner and way. And thus, and no otherwise nor in any other manner than is abovesaid, the same James Feake came to his death.

But what goods and chattels, lands, or tenements the aforesaid Gabriel Spencer had at the time of the aforesaid felony thus done and perpetrated the aforesaid jurors are wholly ignorant.

In testimony of which thing, the aforesaid coroner and the aforesaid jurors have alternately put their seals to this inquisition.

“Ben Jonson Convicted of Felony,” *The Athenæum* 3048 (27 March 1886):433.