

## The Kentish Gazette April 28<sup>th</sup> 1818

### John Darby

1818 - April 20<sup>th</sup> - Found dead between Birchington and Reculver, John Darby of Birchington. It is supposed he was engaged in his occupation of smuggling and that alone he was brutally murdered by some Frenchmen for the sake of his watch and other property, which he was known to have had about his person.

The deceased had come from France with a French smuggling boat and lost his life while assisting to land the goods. He had returned to the larger boat in a smaller one when he was last seen alive. His body had a large cut on his head and the scalp was separated from the skull, with heavy bruising across his fingers. His watch, pocket book and a £5 note which he is known to have had with him, were all missing.

It is believed he was robbed and killed by the Frenchmen, whose names are at present unknown and who sailed away immediately.

An inquest was held and a verdict brought in as above. His three brothers went lately to the French coast and never returned, and are supposed to have drowned not many months since in the same delusive traffic.